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GREATER MONTANA FOUNDATION GRANTS

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The Greater Montana Foundation has granted nearly \$300,000 for 2012, issuing a \$40,000 challenge specifically for commercial broadcast stations, intended to supplement news and public affairs coverage of interest to Montanans. Grants also support a broad variety of TV, radio and internet programs, internships and programs at the state's universities, along with a new \$20,000 board-led initiative for an oral history of Montana broadcasting, according to Randy Morger, Fort Benton, Chair of the GMF Board of Trustees.

“We hope the challenge to commercial broadcasters will allow them to expand their coverage of the election, as well as the 2013 legislature and other critical issues. Grants to Montana PBS for a collaborative effort with Montana's public radio stations and the University of Montana School of Journalism supports a website, Montana Public Media, which provides an independent focus on election issues and candidates this year. Our grants are intended to encourage communication through electronic media on issues, trends and values of interest to Montanans and these programs are especially important during an election year and 2013's legislature,” Morger said.

The first 2012 grant to a commercial station, KBZK, Bozeman, will fund \$14,500 in expenses for news reporter Suzanne Philippus, to participate in the National Science Foundation's 2012 Journalist deployment to Antarctica. One of only three reporters selected by NSF, Philippus will report on scientific research supported by NSF's Office of Polar Programs, producing a seven part series of news packages and a Face the State program.

The Board also elected officers and board members: Officers re-elected were: **Chair Randy Morger, Fort Benton**; Vice Chairs Sarah Etchart of Helena and Dr. William Whitsitt, Oklahoma City, OK, Secretary Steve Browning of Helena and Treasurer Jerry Black, Shelby. Sidney Armstrong, Helena, serves as a trustee and as executive director. Other board members re-elected include: Fred Flanders, Helena, Vic Miller and Monty Wallis from Billings; Ron Davis of Butte; Norma Ashby of Great Falls; **Dan Snyder, Kalispell** and Darlene Craney and Brody Craney, both of River Heights, UT.

Founded in 1958 by pioneer broadcaster Ed Craney, the Greater Montana Foundation awards feature innovative new programs, as well as on-going partnerships with a number of Montana organizations and institutions.

For further information: <http://www.greatermontana.org>

(Grants list by community attached)

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(By community, statewide grants listed where organization HQs are established)

Special Statewide Initiatives

Commercial broadcasters challenge: \$40,000 for grants to commercial broadcasters for special programs which promote the Greater Montana Foundation's mission to encourage communication on issues, trends and values to present and future generations of Montana. A broad variety of programs will be considered and applications are accepted at any time. See <http://www.greatermontana.org> for more information.

Oral History of Montana Broadcasting. \$20,000 for a board-led project to research, identify and interview those broadcast pioneers who over the years have contributed to excellence in Montana radio and television, and to preserve their stories in perpetuity.

Billings

MusEco Media and Education Project: \$3,000 for *Green Smarts with the Green Man*, a series of one minute long vignettes focused on a lighthearted, positive conservation message, broadcast on KTVQ television and Montana PBS, along with a web-based broadcast.

Bonner

Montana Broadcasters Association: \$30,525 for the EB Craney "Excellence in Broadcasting" 50th Anniversary Commemorative award program and \$2,000 to support continuing professional education.

Bozeman

Friends of Montana Public Broadcasting System: \$50,000 to continue support for a wide variety of Montana TV programs and for 2012 Election Coverage. This will include documentaries and investigative reporting, with a new website, Montana Public Media, with aggregated content, including debates, candidate profiles and an ad watch

series, featuring online and broadcast partnerships with Montana public radio stations, along with election night coverage.

Montana State University School of Film and Photography: \$2,000 for the Hugh Galusha-Ed Craney scholarship award.

One Montana, a program of the Rural Landscape Institute, \$3000 for the *Graying of Montana*, a conference co-sponsored with the Wheeler Center about the effects of Montana's aging population on a variety of areas. The grant is for live-streaming of the keynote speech via the internet to satellite conference locations around the state.

Universal Voices, \$2000 to support *Montespana*, the first in a planned series of documentaries featuring musicians around the world collaborating via the internet without meeting each other in person. The first film features a unique collaboration between a Montana rocker and a Spanish gypsy flamenco guitarist.

Great Falls

Lewis and Clark Foundation. \$15,000 for a documentary film, *Or Perish in the Attempt: Wilderness Medicine in the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, based on the book by Dr. David Peck on this subject. Produced by Craig Wirth, the film will explore various aspects of wilderness medicine as it was practiced in the 19th century, highlighting key medical problems faced by the Lewis and Clark expedition. It will also focus on Native American medicine of that time.

Helena

Home Ground News: Changes and Choices in the American West. \$10,000 to continue support for Brian Kahn's statewide award-winning public affairs radio program which features in-depth interviews with Montanans whose life experiences enrich the listeners' understanding of our cultural heritage.

Helena Civic TV: \$10,000 for Montana Heritage Tour, a partnership of Helena Civic TV and the Montana Historical Society. This project will select small rural museums, and make six 30 minute videos during the first year. Highlighting Montana history through its rural museums, the series will also promote tourism and increase visibility of MHS in rural areas. Videos will be offered to commercial and public TV channels throughout the state and to the 50 cable channels. DVDs to view and for sale will be available at MHS and in the local museums and can be uploaded to the internet.

Helena Civic TV: \$10,000 for Global Positioning, a bi-weekly public affairs television series about Montanans' engagement in the international community. The program aims to expand citizen awareness for international economic and cultural connections between people and businesses in Montana and the world, while stimulating citizen dialogue about economic development and the exploration of trans-national opportunities. Global

Positioning will also serve in part as an educational outreach tool for the Montana Center for International Visitors, Bozeman.

Montana Historical Society. \$33,475 of a \$600,000 six-year pledge to support Museum modernization and expansion, including establishment of the E.B. Craney studio and broadcast production facilities at MHS.

Society of Montana Broadcast Legends, \$1500 to support the annual Awards Luncheon and to video it for broadcast. The awards recognize excellence in Montana broadcasting, honoring those who have played an important role by exhibiting extraordinary creativity, professional dedication, encouragement of newcomers and pride in the industry. The program also hopes to encourage young people to remain in the state and seek a career in broadcasting.

Missoula

University of Montana Department of Radio-Television. \$36,500 for a number of programs, including the Legislative News Service, reporting by students from the 2013 Montana legislature; student summer internships, the annual student documentary, and other on-going productions such as *Business: Made in Montana*, and *Montana Journal*, a 30 minute TV news magazine.

University of Montana Broadcast Media Center. \$15,000 in continued funding for Montana Public Radio News, which provides local news programming on MTPR. This includes the Montana Public Media website for Montana election news produced by MTPR and its partners Yellowstone Public Radio and Montana PBS.

University of Montana O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West. \$5,000 for **Mountain West News** (formerly Headwater News) a daily on-line web-based aggregator news service focused on important issues in the region, with daily news summaries and links to important news stories. \$10,000 for **Mountain West Voices**, radio and multi-media stories produced by Clay Scott, Helena, about Montana individuals and communities, whose goal is to connect Montanans to the place they live and to each other.

For further information: <http://www.greatermontana.org>

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