



Linking Circles VI IFIP Annual Conference

“Weaving a New Path in Philanthropy”

**May 7-8, 2007
Levi Strauss Foundation
San Francisco, CA**

FROM: Evelyn Arce-White, Director for International Funders for
Indigenous Peoples (IFIP)
RE: *Linking Circles VI: Weaving a New Path in Philanthropy*
DATE: May 7-8, 2007 at Levi Strauss Foundation in San Francisco, CA
CONTACT: Email: evelyn@internationalfunders.org
Tel. 1-518-358- 9500 Fax. 1-518-358-9544

Dear Funder,

I hope that you will be able to join members of the philanthropic community on May 7-8, 2007 at the Levi Strauss Foundation in San Francisco, California for the sixth annual conference of International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP). Please “Save the Date” for your opportunity to learn about an array of engaging topics that will assist donors in better understanding the interconnectedness of economic sustainability and the preservation of traditional lifeways.

This year’s conference will be a special event as IFIP celebrates and embarks on its leading work as a newly recognized and independent organization. IFIP’s recent designation as a federally recognized non-profit organization is a fitting way to recognize seven years of serving as a forum for donors in realizing the importance of supporting Indigenous sustainable projects and communities around the world.

IFIP will also be celebrating its first annual conference being held on the West Coast. I am pleased that the Levi Strauss Foundation has offered to host the event at its San Francisco headquarters and for the opportunity that it provides for California-based donors to attend. I look forward to meeting many new donors for the first time.

The theme for our sixth annual conference, “*Weaving a New Path in Philanthropy*,” was chosen to symbolize the interrelatedness of our work and how we must all work together to achieve our goals. The act of weaving represents strands that cross over and under each other, it not only produces beautiful, well-woven textiles, but in some Indigenous communities, the patterns mirror the social and economic history of the community and the weaver’s life experiences. It best depicts the universal view of many Indigenous communities how all things are interconnected.

For the first time, the annual conference will include three main tracks to better assist donors in learning about a particular area. The tracks will discuss the following topics as they relate to Indigenous philanthropy: Methodology and Best Practices, Policy and Governance, and Emerging Issues. There will also be a funders-only session that will provide specific recommendations and guidelines for donor portfolios, as well as preliminary events that will be held prior to the official opening of the conference. These will give many conference participants a chance to take part in an informal welcoming reception, a Sunday night movie night and other events.

One of our confirmed keynote speakers is Q’orianka Waira Qoiana Kilcher, Indigenous activist and actress that recently appeared in the acclaimed movie “The New World” with Colin Ferrell. Q’orianka is currently producing a documentary in collaboration with Amazon Watch, highlighting the 35 year long struggle of the Achuar people of the Peruvian Amazon against multinational oil companies. Other invited speakers are President Evo Morales, First Indigenous President of Bolivia and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus.

I am delighted that this year’s annual conference is scheduled to be our most exciting and successful event so far. I am thankful to the Planning Committee for their efforts and support. They include: Jose Malvido of SEVA Foundation, James Stauch of Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Cindy Pierson of Levi Strauss Foundation, Tia Oros Peters of Seventh Generation Fund, Joshua Mailman of Mailman Foundation, Anne Corcos of SEEDS, David Rothschild of Goldman Environmental Foundation, and Tanya Hosch of Foundation for Young Australians.

For registration information contact:

Evelyn Arce-White
IFIP Director
evelyn@internationalfunders.org
P.O. Box 1040
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Tel. 1-518-358- 9500 Fax. 1-518-358-9544
Website:www.internationalfunders.org

Sponsored by: Levi Strauss Foundation, The Christensen Fund, Kalliopeia Foundation, Livingry Fund, Tides Foundation, Ford Foundation, Mitsubishi International Corporation Foundation and The Mailman Foundation

Funding and Solicitation Not Permitted