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Women's Forest Congress UPDATE

April 2023

WFC Needs Financial Support

WFC is truly a grassroots effort and currently not under any one organization's umbrella. We were formed together by women in the for-profit, non-profit, public agency, and academic sectors from varying backgrounds and diverse perspectives. And we are committed to continuing.

Your financial support is needed and critical to continue the momentum. Your immediate support will directly support and ensure the continued success of the Women's Forest Congress movement. Throughout 2023, the Women's Forest Congress will engage and act upon the [Declaration and 10 resolutions](#) from the October 2022 event. Specific activities will include but are not limited to: WFC strategic engagement and operations, ongoing communications and marketing, quarterly virtual gatherings, and supporting the volunteer-led Steering Committee, Advisory Council, and Working Groups, as well as the overall movement to position and learn from women as leaders in the forest community.

We are exploring options for the future, and all the options require some level of resources. **If you or your organization is interested in supporting the Congress, especially in this time of transition, [donate today](#) or [reach out to us](#).**

WFC Invites Leadership Applications

The Women's Forest Congress is inviting applications for open seats on the Steering Committee and Advisory Council. Both leadership groups currently have three (3) open seats. Student representation is sought for the Advisory Council. Both groups seek additional involvement of women from groups and with identities that are not well represented and are underserved in the forest and forest products sector, including women of color, non-binary individuals, and those with experiences beyond the United States. Submit your online application [here](#) by April 30.

- The [Steering Committee](#) is made up of **a diverse group of women who provide insight, leadership, and lend their collective experience and expertise** to ensure the Women's Forest Congress is a resounding success. Members lend specialized expertise and advice, serve as an independent sounding board, help with fundraising, act as

contribute to the planning of quarterly events. Additional information about Steering Committee member responsibilities is available [here](#).

- The [Advisory Council guides – and advises – the Steering Committee in planning, implementing, and delivering impactful outcomes](#) from the Women’s Forest Congress. This group of visionary, practical and supportive women serve as advocates for the broader effort and ensures representation from a diversity of backgrounds, organizations and views. The Advisory Council brings unique knowledge and skills to augment the Steering Committee, with the goal of launching and building out the Women’s Forest Congress. Additional information about Advisory Council member responsibilities is available [here](#).

Please note membership in these roles is flexible and individuals represent themselves not their organization(s). If you have any questions or would like to provide application information in an alternative format, please contact: Katie Fernholz, 612-414-8041, katie@dovetailinc.org.

WFC Blog

This month, we are happy to **feature a thoughtful blog by Terry Baker, CEO of the Society of American Foresters**. Terry was one of the few men to attend the Women's Forest Congress in October and he [speaks](#) to his roles during the event "to listen and to support."

Be sure to check out our full suite of [WFC blogs](#). And if you’re interested in being a guest blogger, please [let us know](#).

What's Happening Across the WFC Community?

As with any grassroots movement, relationship building and community are critical to success. WFC is no different. We are grateful for our entire community and network. Here’s how some of these community members are taking WFC “on the road.”

- During the recent Michigan Society of American Forester’s (SAF) Spring Meeting, **approximately 25 women gathered to network and determine future opportunities for women-specific networking and breakout session topics within Michigan SAF meetings**. Brenda Haskill, Forest Marketing and Outreach Specialist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, noted “the event attracted many students, who were encouraged to continue participating as they launch their careers in the forest sector.”

We’d love to hear about other events within the WFC community. [Reach out](#) to us with your ideas and event locations/dates.

WFC Resolution of the Month

Throughout 2023, the WFC will feature a “Resolution of the Month.” In recognition of Earth Month, we’re featuring Resolution #10 throughout April - **“APPLY models and frameworks to generate and realize solutions to the greatest forest challenges that are built on women’s strengths, such as inclusive, collaborative, and multi-scale holistic thinking.”** [Check out page 7](#) of the WFC Declaration to read the full resolution for addressing the greatest forest challenges. Do you have an example you’d like to share? Connect with us via

Fun Fact of the Month

#DYK According to the [Arbor Day Foundation](#), “trees provide shade and cool our cities by up to 10 degrees, which can help prevent heat-related deaths in urban areas.” **With approximately 80% of Americans living, working, and playing in urban areas, trees are critical to public health and public welfare, among many other benefits.** WFC was super excited to see that the Biden-Harris Administration [announced](#) the availability of \$1 billion in grant funding last week, ensuring equitable access to trees and green spaces in urban forests.

THERE IS A NEED - ARGUABLY TODAY MORE THAN EVER - FOR DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES TO HELP ENSURE THE HEALTH AND FUTURE OF FORESTS.

Questions about the Women's Forest Congress? [Email](#) us.



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