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Women's Forest Congress UPDATE

March 2023

March 15 Event Videos and Resources Now Available

[Watch](#) videos from the March 15 virtual gathering, where we celebrated Women's History Month and the *Importance of Storytelling*. We reunited with the amazing Women's Forest Congress community and celebrated the history-making inaugural Women's Forest Congress event, as well as learned how to effectively use storytelling in our work and daily lives. Check out our [Padlet](#) site for more storytelling resources from our guest speaker, renowned author and storyteller, Caroline Brewer.

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 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 advocates for the Women's Forest Congress and help increase visibility, commit to attending the Congress events, lead/facilitate Working Group activities, and 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

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, WFC's blog features two powerful and unique stories, in word and visually.

Lauren Bissonette, Forest History Society librarian, [shares](#) experiences from the history-making inaugural Women's Forest Congress. Then, [take a stroll](#) through the Women's Forest Congress graphic recordings to learn how "visual mapping (is) a powerful tool for long-term projects."

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](#).

Feeling Generous?

We are 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 to continue the momentum. 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.

Your immediate support will ensure we can continue sharing our ongoing communication pieces, plan and host virtual events, support the volunteer-led Steering Committee, Advisory Council, and Working Groups, and more.

Fun Fact of the Month

Women's History Month is celebrated every March, and this year's theme focused on storytelling and "celebrating the women who tell our stories." Indigenous peoples' elders utilize storytelling to pass traditional knowledge and wisdom to younger generations. The University of Florida is partnering with the originating Tribes and Nations and the [Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums](#) to create the [Archive of Native American Oral History](#) - a digital collection representing over 6,000 oral histories from over 160 Indigenous communities. Read more about it [here](#).

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



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