



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Norman S. Oberstein,
Lenz Foundation Chair

MISSION

The Lenz Foundation's long-range aim is to foster the growth and development of an authentic American Buddhism that takes its inspiration from the wisdom traditions of the East but adopts new forms, new approaches, and new applications that are uniquely suited to contemporary American society and culture. By developing and strengthening the emerging community of American Buddhist organizations, we seek to give birth to an American society that reflects the universal Buddhist values of compassion, mindfulness and wakefulness.

Dear Colleagues,

The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism was formed in 1998 to pursue the long-range vision of our namesake and founder: To foster the growth and development of an authentic American Buddhism that takes its inspiration from the wisdom traditions of the East, but adopts new forms, new approaches, and new applications that are uniquely suited to contemporary American society and culture. By developing and strengthening the emerging community of American Buddhist organizations, we seek to give birth to an American society that reflects the universal Buddhist values of compassion, mindfulness and wakefulness.

Whereas Dr. Lenz's tools were teaching, writing, music, and entrepreneurship, our tools—thanks to the generous bequest he left the Foundation—are grantmaking, capacity building, community, collaboration, dialogue, and innovation—starting with our network of more than 80 nonprofit organizations that are putting American Buddhist principles and practices to work to transform the fields of youth empowerment, violence prevention, education, criminal justice, health care, and business, among others; and increasingly extending into active partnerships with major institutions in these fields.

We are particularly proud of the work we have done in the last three years to challenge members of our network and ourselves to pursue innovation in the service of greater collective impact. From September 2013 through June 2014, we sponsored Contemplation, Collaboration, and Change, a nine-month, invitation-only training program produced by the Presencing Institute exclusively for Lenz Foundation grantees to gain expertise in launching and sustaining fruitful, socially impactful collaborations with each other and with partner institutions in other sectors. As a result of this groundbreaking program, we made grants to more than fifteen collaborations spanning a broad range of issues in social justice and education.

And in February 2015, Prison Dharma Network successfully completed repayment of a \$75,000 recoverable grant made under the Foundation's Pay It Forward program, a uniquely innovative initiative that provides capacity-building funds in return for a commitment on the part of the recipient to share their success with fellow members. Since then, we have increased our commitment to the Pay It Forward strategy with a \$100,000 recoverable grant to assist the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care to launch a two-year major development campaign.

In all of our work, we seek to advance Dr. Lenz's far-reaching vision for how American society could be transformed by Buddhist practices and ethics. As we move toward the second half of this decade, we will be exploring the role that mindfulness can play in the field of social justice and in the business context, where we believe a great opportunity for social transformation exists.

With very best wishes,

Norman S. Oberstein

Chair of the Board

The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism

Our Interest Areas

The Lenz Foundation funds transformative nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to reshaping their fields by applying and disseminating Buddhist principles and practices in their work. In particular, we are interested in the following funding categories:

The Lenz Foundation at a Glance

The Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism

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Norman S. Oberstein, *Chair*
Norman Marcus, *President*
Liz Lewinson, *Director*

Founded 1998

Assets under management
\$12,975,280

Grants made since founding
\$5,353,056

2014-15 Grants and distributions
\$614,665



In 2015, the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care received a \$100,000 Pay It Forward recoverable grant to support its "Champions of Compassionate Care" fundraising campaign.

Capacity-Building

We provide grantee training, charitable grants, and program-related investments/recoverable grants to support fundraising and organizational development infrastructure designed to help American Buddhist organizations achieve scale and sustainability.

Cross-Sector Collaboration

We sponsor training programs and make grants to American Buddhist groups to support collaborations with other Buddhist organizations and cross-sector collaborations with aligned non-Buddhist organizations.

Meditation and Society

We sponsor convenings and make grants for the purpose of applying and disseminating Buddhist contemplative disciplines in business, education, health care, social justice, science, and the arts.

Women in American Buddhism

We support innovative programs designed to advance the cause of women's leadership in American Buddhist communities and organizations.

Contemplation, Collaboration, and Change

A collaboration training program for Lenz Foundation grantees and their partners in social change

In 2013, the Lenz Foundation engaged Presencing Institute to conduct an 18-month training program for Lenz Foundation grantees on the topic of how to create successful cross-sector collaborations, and in 2014 the Foundation awarded a series of grants to 17 proposed collaborative projects that grew out of this training program. Subsequently, the Foundation commissioned Presencing Institute and the social innovation firm **richmedium** to conduct a year-long study following these collaborations to identify common factors that determined their success or failure. The study launched in February 2015 and runs through the end of the year.

To receive a copy of the study prospectus or to join the mailing list to receive a copy of the study results, contact **richmedium** CEO Richard Landry at rlandry@richmedium.net.

Awakened Leadership: Mindfulness in Business Conference 2016

In collaboration with the New York University Department of Global Spiritual Life and Stern School of Business, the Lenz Foundation is pleased to announce Awakened Leadership: Mindfulness in Business 2016, June 1-3, 2016, in Los Angeles on the Loyola Marymount campus. In this 2-1/2 day conference we will explore how skillful leadership starts with the self and then naturally expands outward into our organizations, businesses, employees, consumers, and shareholders. Through this shared learning in mindfulness and its application to organizational development, we will open a pathway of work and cooperation between the Foundation's network of grantees, their local business and community leaders, and others from the corporate community that will continue beyond this time together.

For further information on this conference, contact the Lenz Foundation at info@fredericklenzfoundation.org.

Current Grant Activity

For a complete listing of Lenz Foundation grant activity, visit our website: fredericklenzfoundation.org.



In 2015, the Lenz Foundation sponsored angel Kyodo Williams as Distinguished Guest Lecturer at Naropa University.



Through its Women in Buddhism grantmaking program, the Lenz Foundation supports Honoring the Path of the Warrior, which assists female veterans in transition back to civilian life.

COLLABORATION GRANTS

Cure Violence/CeaseFire Illinois and Shambhala Chicago (Chicago, IL)

\$20,000 for “Uncovering Safe Spaces Within and Without,” a program to help transform Chicago to a peaceful, kind, and awake society by training 200 CeaseFire staff and 450 high school freshmen in mindfulness meditation and giving them the tools to deal with emotion and stress.

Brown University, Prison Mindfulness Institute and Inward Bound Mindfulness Education Inc. (RI and MA)

\$9,000 for “Training the Leaders of the Future through Community-Engagement Internships,” providing undergraduate students in Contemplative Studies with community engagement internship opportunities, bringing contemplative practices to bear on real-world issues.

Dawn Mountain and Institute for Spirituality and Health (Houston, TX)

\$12,500 for “Meditation Station: Taking Practice to the People,” a portable, staffed, contemplative environment introducing meditation and mindfulness to people wherever they are in Houston.

Insight Meditation Society, Spirit Rock Meditation Center, New York Insight Inc. and East Bay Meditation Center (East Coast/West Coast)

\$20,000 to (1) build an Insight Meditation teacher training curriculum for a diverse and multicultural audience and (2) increase the cultural competence of current Insight Meditation teachers.

Inward Bound Mindfulness Education Inc. and Brooklyn Zen Center (MA and NY)

\$5,000 for the “Open Mind Youth Initiative,” offering two immersive residential mindfulness meditation retreats for youths aged 16-24, with the aim of supporting a new generation of diverse, heart-centered leaders who are prepared to respond to the challenges of our time.

Loyola Marymount University and Insight LA Inc. (Los Angeles, CA)

\$20,000 to support the “Mindful Nature Program,” raising awareness about the environment and inspiring responses to ecological concerns by using mindfulness, Buddhist precepts and yoga.

Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science Inc. and The Lineage Project (New York, NY)

\$5,750 for the “Mindful Village Project,” a pilot for a long term program to bring the basics of Buddhist methods of contemplative awareness, self-regulation and self-healing to at-risk youths in the New York City school district.

Naropa University and Center for Contemplative Mind in Society Inc. (CO and MA)

\$20,000 for a “Roundtable on Contemplative Practice, Social Change and the Future of Higher Education” to be held in March of 2016 for leaders in contemplative education and higher education thought leaders.

Current Grant Activity

New York University Global Spiritual Life and Stern School of Business (New York, NY)

\$20,000 for the "Mindfulness in Business Initiative at NYU," a year-long pilot project to develop a robust Mindfulness in Business Initiative at NYU with scalable, replicable mindfulness curricula and training modules. In addition, the Foundation has contracted with NYU for \$100,000 to produce the "Awakened Leadership Conference" in June, 2016.

New York University, New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care Inc., Brooklyn Zen Center and Auburn Theological Seminary (New York, NY)

\$12,000 in support of the "Mindfulness Fellowship Program at NYU," a semester-long, service-learning experience to foster/develop the next generation of mindfulness leaders through internships and bi-weekly discussion-based learning sessions.

Prison Mindfulness Institute and the Berkeley Initiative for Mindfulness in Law (RI and CA)

\$20,000 for the "Mindful Justice" program, which aims to transform the criminal justice system into one that embodies the values of interconnection, compassion, dignity of the individual, and a belief in the fundamental goodness of all humans via the adoption of mindfulness-based programs.

Sonoma Mountain Zen Center and Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts (Northern CA)

\$7,500 for the "School Mindfulness Project," a pilot 10-week Mindful Art Program for students and staff of the Santa Rosa Charter School for the Arts to reduce stress, increase self-compassion, improve student achievement and foster artistic creativity and self-expression through mindfulness techniques.

University of California at Berkeley (CA)

\$30,000 for a national Consortium For Mindfulness in Legal Education to coordinate/facilitate incorporating meditation and other contemplative practices into the training of law students and practicing lawyers as a means of increasing wellness, developing emotional intelligence and focus, and fostering pro-social emotions.

Stone Soup Café, Mandala Café, Inc. and Unity Tables, Inc. (MA and NY)

\$17,500 for its "Unity Tables Community Café Incubator," mobilizing Buddhist groups to help reduce hunger by providing an alternative model to the soup kitchen, and at the same time building community including socioeconomic and ethnic diversity.

Northern California Shambhala and MBA Project Inc. (Northern CA)

\$2,000 for "Teaching Mindfulness to Youth -- A Diverse Exploration," a one-day workshop to deepen the wisdom and skills necessary for teaching mindfulness and compassion programs to diverse populations of young people.

PAY IT FORWARD RECOVERABLE GRANT PROGRAM

New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care (New York, NY)

\$100,000 Pay It Forward recoverable grant in support of its "Champions of Compassionate Care" campaign, a two-year multifaceted fundraising campaign with the goal of doubling their fundraising revenue.

WOMEN IN BUDDHISM

As a core teaching, Dr. Frederick P. Lenz emphasized that the empowerment of women in American Buddhism is the key to creating an enlightened American society. The Foundation makes four annual grants totaling \$10,000 in support of programs that champion the cause of women's leadership in American Buddhist communities and organizations.

OTHER GRANTS

Naropa University (Boulder, CO)

An ongoing program of annual payments totaling \$41,833 to support merit scholarships, graduate assistance, and the Lenz Residential Fellows and Distinguished Guest Lecturer programs, with additional support from the Lenz Foundation's \$200,000 endowment.

City of Hope (Los Angeles, CA)

\$1,000 for a meditation and yoga program for seriously ill cancer patients and their caregivers.

Friends of the Western Buddhist Order Bay Area (San Francisco, CA)

\$2,500 in support of the Western Buddhist Teachers conference ("Exploring Issues of Relevance, Heritage and Innovation for Today's Teachers") taking place June 1-5, 2015.

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System Foundation (Great Neck, NY)

\$1,000 to conduct a landmark study, with the David Lynch Foundation, of veterans with PTSD, providing the basis for implementing alternative medicine treatments for patients suffering from PTSD and other chronic mental health conditions.

Peace on the Street (New York, NY)

\$10,000 for general operations in support of a combination martial arts/community Zen meditation center aimed at disadvantaged youths in the inner city. The goal is to provide a vehicle to reduce violence in the inner city, in the lives of the participants and in their community as a whole.

San Francisco State University (San Francisco, CA)

\$2,000 to support its Mindfulness and Compassion: The Art and Science of Contemplative Practice conference taking place June 3-6, 2015, the inaugural event of SFSU's newly founded Contemplative Studies Initiative.