Let’s invest in the women and girls who are the backbone of our community

In Spring of 2021, the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona (WFSA) launched the Women and Girls of Color Fund to coincide with the annual grant-making program. This fund was established to invest in organizations led by and serving women and girls of color, with gender and racial equity as the ultimate goal. The fund demonstrates WFSA’s accountability to women and girls in Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities by way of unrestricted operating funds.

Let’s break down barriers faced by women and girls of color seeking funding:

1.6 percent of philanthropic dollars are going to non-profits serving women and girls. Less than one percent supports women of color.

This fund will take an asset-focused approach to address individual and community needs rather than a deficit-focused “fix-it” approach. This allows for a focus on the strengths of the community served and takes into account the circumstances of women and girls of color as nuanced beings with gifts and strengths that serve their communities and society.

Honor our uniqueness and innovation. A lot of us come from life experiences, and life experiences are the reason we do the work.”

Focus Group Participant

Source: The Women & Girls Index: Measuring Giving to Women’s and Girls’ Causes The Women’s Philanthropy Institute (WPI)
WFSA Women and Girls of Color Fund

Representation of women served
Members of the advisory committee for the Women and Girls of Color Fund represent many of the nuanced, holistic identities that make up women of color in Arizona. The committee members represent a range of racial and ethnic identities as well as professions and regions in Arizona.

Lived experience guides conversations
This committee also shares two considerable traits. First, they all have lived experiences as women and girls of color in Arizona - this includes trans women and girls and gender-nonconforming people of color. Second, they share a dedication to see the support of women and girls of color be intentional, culturally informed, and easily accessible.

Informed community conversations
In addition to seeking an advisory committee that reflects the breadth of experiences of women and girls of color in the state of Arizona, WFSA’s consultant has conducted two focus groups and several interviews with nonprofit organizations (collectively deemed “community conversations”). These community conversations have informed the shape and direction of the WFSA Women & Girls of Color Fund and will continue as the fund grows in size and impact.

A detailed report reflecting on those conversations was made available in early May 2021.

Join us as an inaugural member by committing to support women and girls of color today.

For more information, visit WomenGiving.org

Goals

The goal of this fund is to support work that takes into account the unique needs and circumstances of women and girls of color, including:

- Visibility
- Safe Spaces
- Representation

"It’s time to stop funding organizations like we want them to survive and start funding them like we want them to thrive"

Dr. Amalia Luxardo
WFSA CEO

For more information, visit WomenGiving.org