



# L.I.G.H.T. FOUNDATION

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Leadership  Indigenous  Guardian  Honor  Teach 

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Subject: **Annual Evaluation Report of L.I.G.H.T. Foundation**

This is the annual evaluation report of L.I.G.H.T. Foundation (LF) for the calendar year 2023, pursuant to the formation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The following is a narrative account of LF accomplishments in 2023, including a description of activities. Separate attachments include an account of expenditures and LF's annual Form 990 tax return.

## Narrative Account

The funding cycles of various grants have greatly supported L.I.G.H.T. Foundation's work between January 01, 2023, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. L.I.G.H.T. Foundation (LF) operates within the boundary of the Colville Indian Reservation but has had the opportunity to collaborate with other organizations outside of the Reservation in the arena of Native Plant conservation. We employ 1 full-time contract employee and 1 part-time contract employee, with continued growth looking to develop additional hired employees. All of whom are Tribal citizens or Tribal descendants.

1. Executive Director, Joaquin Marchand
2. Project Coordinator, John Stensgar Jr.

Our foundation engages a range of ages and professions primarily so far in the Pacific Northwest region. LF's focus has been currently on two of our initiatives. The first, Roots for the Future, has an emphasis on the approach to educate and inform land manager and academic institutions of the important of native plants to Indigenous people and private landowners as well. The second initiative is entitled Secure Harvest, which identifies the status of food security, system, and sovereignty policies of Pacific Northwest tribes and determines the extent to which traditional food plant and medicines are included in them. Additionally, LF has written and submitted public response letters to four public comment periods over the course of 2023.

*Pursuing conservation of Native Plant and Medicine in the Pacific Northwest*

We currently have 3 more initiatives in addition to Roots for the Future and Secure Harvest. Those three include First Food Pollinators, Re-Seeding Memory, and Certified Indigenous. We have three basic approaches to these initiatives. These strategies are to cultivate those positive relationships between Indigenous people and landowners through habitat conservation and climate adaptation practices. We also seek to enrich our communities by providing hands-on-tools and support for teaching gathering traditions and honoring native plants in culturally appropriate ways. Finally, we aim to perpetuate ecological heritage of Indigenous people through intergenerational knowledge transmission and supporting traditional landscape practices.

Over the past year, John Stensgar, Jr. was hired as LF Project Coordinator at the mid-year. Since being hired to this position Mr. Stensgar has been serving as facilitator and co-creator of many of the L.I.G.H.T. Foundation strategies and policies, strategic planning, and advocacy of LF's mission. The primary functions of Project Coordinator are to build much-needed capacity in terms of administrative and financial management, fundraising and leadership skills.

## BACKGROUND & OUTCOMES

LF has been operating with a structured Board of Directors since January 1, 2022. In 2022 our Executive Director took advantage of an opportunity to take the first steps supporting youth education by partnering with Western Washington University and providing baseline training in native plant conservation at an academic training site in the Methow valley. The output of this partnership is to create a land stewardship model with Indigenous gathering practices and traditional food surveys of those lands in mind.

LF has moved in many areas and through collaboration has been able to advance the creation of a cohort of traditional educators, gatherers, and outside conservation agencies.

Below, is a list of the objectives from one of our 2023 grants, showcasing how we met them:

Areas of growth in organization	Accomplishments
1. LF will further develop organization and capacity building efforts for in areas of communications, financial practices, public outreach, internal employee practice and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website development &amp; ongoing improvements</li> <li>• Secured \$2,000,000 insurance policy with The Hartford</li> <li>• Financial software updated and ongoing.</li> <li>• Complete required IRS 990 form for tax year 2022.</li> <li>• Completed first Employee Policy Manual (EPM)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed first Communication Plan and Policy</li> <li>• Completed Financial Policy and Practices</li> <li>• Successfully completed 3 contracts and Memorandums of Agreement.</li> <li>• Created LF Advisory committee which held 3 meetings</li> </ul>
2. LF will inform land managers and academic institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the Public Interest Environmental Law conference in March 2023 at University of Oregon, with LF contributing to panel on climate vulnerability, native plant adaptation, and Tribal laws</li> <li>• LF presented at 10 meetings in 2023 that dealt specifically with plant restoration and conservation</li> <li>• LF was the featured speaker at Gonzaga University's Climate Institute to discuss Rights of Nature</li> </ul>
3. LF goals to create collaborations and working groups to secure inclusion of culturally appropriate native plant species in restoration and reforestation projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have provided 4 letters of comment to enhance better forest practices, water conservation, identifying critical environmental concerns with the Bureau Land Management, and provide recommendations to the international carbon and nature credit markets</li> <li>• Proposed rulemaking: L.I.G.H.T. Foundation Support for Proposed Designations under WA 173-201A</li> <li>• SD VISta Nature Framework - Public Consultation for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities</li> <li>• Proposed rulemaking: BLM conservation and landscape health comments</li> <li>• Comment on CTC 4-7 Forest Practices and CTC 4-9 hydraulic practices proposed amendments</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-presented with WSU extension for demonstration of restoring Inchelium red garlic</li> <li>• Created a traditional Knowledge Keepers platform for resources that is on our webpage for signup</li> <li>• Finished a food security survey as part of collaborative effort with Bluesky Minds nonprofit in the NE Washington counties</li> </ul>
4. LF Executive Director will keep daily records of day-to-day operations, board approved polices, and working with approved board resolutions	LF has proposed and approved 5 resolutions in 2023 and conducted 4 board meetings
5. LF will conduct community outreach and move to work with outside agencies	LF has established relationships with 4 outside agencies with Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) and letters of support
6. LF will provide information disbursement through in person and via electronic means in the area of native plant conservation	<p>Ongoing activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LF has created public website, <a href="https://thepnwlf.org">https://thepnwlf.org</a>, and given group presentations the public and at academic institutions Create online platform for knowledge keeper participant forms</li> </ul>
7. LF will begin to create hiring process and contract partnerships.	LF has created Payroll Policies and a Wage Scale which were created by ED, in conjunction to EPM

## MEASURING SUCCESS

These sets of knowledge are applied through active participation on the land within the proper seasons, utilizing the gathered materials, through traditional oral teachings, and through relationships established with partner organizations. This knowledge is shown in various individualized ways to the community, through public and academic presentations, social media, and newspaper articles.

Administrative objectives are measured by three stages of policy adherence. First being creation of needed policy and administrative documents, approval of documents by our Council of Guides (i.e. Board of Directors) and Yearly administrative review by the executive team, administrative team and governmental teams.

## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

LF embarked on the 2023-2024 year as our second year of operation. Our location currently is Elmer City, Washington which is in the heart of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Our founder is Amelia Marchand, who is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, who convenes LF's all-volunteer Advisory Team. Our Indigenous-led organization is comprised of 3 board members from various tribes (Apache and Colville Tribes).

Our administrative team of the organization is made up of our Executive Director, and in 2023, a Project Coordinator was also hired. Together, they have been developing projects and collaborations in all the major areas of our initiatives for the L.I.G.H.T. Foundation.

Our three-member Council of Guides is made up of two women (Apache and one Colville) and one man (Colville). The Executive Director, is a Colville Tribal member, with a background in finance, business, and public policy. A former Executive Director of a Native language immersion school on the Colville Reservation. He also has a combined 20 years experience in government and federal contract management, administrative policy creation, social services, and managerial director in the areas ranging from health and human services to corporate accounting/finance.

L.I.G.H.T Foundation was organized in 2022 and created to support native plant conservation and restoration of native plant gathering traditions for Pacific Northwest Tribes, Native American plant conservation and traditional cultural plant species. We are meeting our purpose and are working very hard to improve our success and capacity. We are a group of dedicated, passionate, resourceful, and intelligent people who always find a way to continue our good work.

Please contact me if you have any questions. way̓ x̓ast s̓x̓əl̓x̓ʕalt (have a good day)!

Sincerely,



Joaquin Marchand

Executive Director

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