



Fresno Free College Foundation Annual Report September 1, 2003 - August 31, 2004

FFCF Mission

Fresno Free College foundation is a community-based membership organization dedicated to the principles that the well-being of the community is measured by the respect that it shows for the civil liberties, intellectual and artistic freedom of its citizens, and that the exercise of this freedom enriches the individual and society as a whole.

Since 1968, the Foundation has provided a flexible and responsive institutional structure for fostering the intellectual and political growth of the community. The Foundation is recognized by the State and Federal governments as a charitable and non-profit corporation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code. Operational funds are derived from annual membership dues and from contributions. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors. Day-to-day operations are in the care of an elected president as outlined in the by-laws of the organization, and paid staff.

The Foundation operates both a general fund of discretionary monies disbursed by the Board and special funds for which underwriting is independently sought and earmarked funds accepted. Each fund is independently responsible for generating monies toward project activities, but fiscal activities are monitored by a CPA and the Foundation Board. In the past, the Foundation has received underwriting from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the California Council for the Humanities, the California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles, the County of Fresno and the Central California Forum on Refugee Affairs.

The Fresno Free College Foundation accepts and disburses monies through several funds: KFCF, Ananda, Civil Rights Defense, Philip H. Stephens Handicapped Students, Gallery 25, Line on Line Cultural Magazine, the William Saroyan Society and the Central Mountain Waters Tibetan Refugee Fund. The Board of Directors has sole authority over the General Fund. The other funds are under the guidance of special committees which operate under authority of the Board. The FCC license for KFCF - 88.1 FM in Fresno is held by the Foundation under authority of the Board of Directors.

The Foundation office and KFCF Studio are located at 1449 N. Wishon Avenue in Fresno, California 93728. Our mailing address is PO Box 4364 Fresno, CA 93744. We are on the worldwide web at www.kfcf.org and our email address is kfcf@kfcf.org.

KFCF 88.1 FM

KFCF 88.1 FM began broadcasting on June 9, 1975, and, at that time, was the only public electronic medium serving the Fresno area. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day with 50,000 watts of equivalent effective power from a transmitter site at Meadow Lakes, 30 miles northeast of Fresno in the Sierra Nevada. With a elevation of 5,200 feet, the signal can be received as far north as Modesto and as far south as Bakersfield, as well as in many Sierra foothill communities.

Pacifica Radio station KPFA 94.1 FM in Berkeley is KFCF's affiliate / network. KPFA has been broadcasting since 1949 and provides a majority of KFCF's programming. Pacifica is a landmark of community radio, providing diverse programming involving public affairs, music and the arts. Over the years, KPFA programmers have won every major award in broadcasting. KPFA is owned and operated by the Pacifica Foundation, which also holds the license to radio stations KPFK in Los Angeles, KPFT in Houston, WBAI in New York and WPFW in Washington, D.C. The Pacifica Foundation also operates the Pacifica Radio Archive of programs dating as far back as 1949.

Pacifica encourages and provides outlets for the creative skills and energies of the communities in which it broadcasts, with a commitment to produce programs that contribute to a lasting understanding between nations and individuals of the world. Pacifica stations are dedicated to the distribution of information and art for the enlightenment of the communities they serve.

Ananda Fund

The Ananda Fund has been providing financial assistance to needy children in Orissa, India for 32 years. Initiated by Ralph and Polly Victor in Seattle, Washington, the fund's sponsorship was undertaken by the Foundation when the Victors moved to Fresno. The program is coordinated by Joyce Victor. Professor Samson Moharana of Utkal University is responsible for the operation of the financial assistance program in India. In the past year, the Ananda Fund has continued to successfully provide scholarships to children from tribal families, whose parents are farmers with uneconomical small size landholdings and share croppers. These children would not otherwise be able to attend school for lack of proper clothing and books.

Fresno Poets Association Fund

The Fresno Poets Association was organized to provide a forum for Fresno poets, aspiring poets and poets with national reputations who would provide programs for the literary, artistic and intellectual interests of the community. The programs are held at the Fresno Art Museum. Programs of the Poets Association are recorded on video tape and made available to FPA members. The poetry events have included local writers such as Peter Everwine, Phil Levine, C.K. Hanzlicek, Dixie Salazar, James Baloian, Wendy Rose and Jean Janzen, and recognized writers from around the nation.

Gallery 25 Fund

Gallery 25 is a cooperative of women artists from the Fresno area. Its principle purpose is to promote the work of women artists. The gallery came under Foundation sponsorship in 1984 and is very active with member and guest show artist showings.

Philip Stephens Fund

The Philip Stephens Handicapped Students Fund was established in 1977 to assist handicapped students at California State University, Fresno. Since that time grants and loans have been provided at the campus as well as providing grants to the CSUF Disabled Students Services for purchase of computers.

Lineonline.org

Lineonline.org is an electronic fine and folk arts journal for the Fresno cultural scene. Founded by Juliana Harris, a local artist. The journal provides an ongoing service that features profiles, articles and commentaries about the visual and performing arts in Fresno.

William Saroyan Society

The William Saroyan Society is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the world renowned author. The WSS sponsors several annual events in the community to celebrate the life and work of Saroyan, and educate the public about his legacy through radio programs, city walks and public educational events at Fresno State University and elsewhere.

Fresno Free College Foundation Events in 2004

Amy Goodman

Fresno was the first stop on Amy Goodman's "Exception to the Rulers" book tour. Over a thousand people packed the Satellite Student Union at Fresno State University (the largest audience ever in that venue) to hear the host of Democracy Now! talk about the failings of corporate news media and the growing media democracy movement in communities around the country. Amy was accompanied by her brother, co-author David Goodman, and members of the DN! crew.

Intermountain Music Festival

The lovely foothill site of the Intermountain Nursery was the backdrop for the KFCF Music Festival. The event featured music from numerous local artists including Native American flute, Bluegrass, Country Rock and Roots Americana.

Sitar Concert

Jay Kishor was the featured artist in a Sitar concert held at the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum. Jay Kishor is an accomplished Sitar player whose work ranges from classical Indian ragas to jazz-fusion compositions.

Wolk Garden Concert featuring Paul Kamm and Eleanor MacDonald

Paul Kamm and Eleanor MacDonald are a northern California based duo who feature folk and folk-rock compositions to powerfully and sweetly express important political themes and ideas of our current society. The setting was the lovely tree-studded and flowery Wolk Garden in north Fresno where people enjoyed refreshments, the company of one another and a great original music.

California Performance Review Commission Broadcast

KFCF hosted a live statewide broadcast of the Fresno hearing of the State of California Performance Review Commission. The Commission is reviewing the structure of the state's governance including boards, commissions and regulatory agencies. The day-long program was broadcast was anchored by KPFA news reporters Larry Bensky and Brian Edwards-Tiekert, and featured numerous interviews and analysis of the issues.

FFCF Annual Banquet featuring Larry Bensky

The Annual Banquet this year featured Larry Bensky, National Affairs Correspondent for Pacifica Radio and host of Sunday Salon on KPFA/KFCF. Larry provided an analysis of the 2004 election campaign. The Foundation gave our Free Speech Award to two courageous local people. One was to Vida Samiian, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, for organizing a lecture series dealing with issues of peace and war in the Middle East, and standing strong under pressure from right-wing political forces at the University. The other Free Speech Award was given to Ken Hudson of Peace Fresno, who was unjustly arrested for organizing a local peace rally and fought back.

New California Media Expo and the Tamejavi Multicultural Festival

KFCF participated actively in two gatherings in Fresno to celebrate and strengthen ethnic diversity in the media and in local culture. The NCM Expo featured media and community organizations from throughout California gathering to refine their art and enhance working together. Tamejavi involved many local cultural organizations in performances and workshops.

Fresno Free College Foundation Board of Directors

Rych Withers, President

Computer Engineer

Deborah Speer, Vice-President

Journalist

Sue Kern, Secretary

Superior Court Attorney

Diane LaRue, Treasurer

Drug Rehabilitation Counselor

Gerry Bill, Director

Sociology Professor, FCC

Mark Hernandez, Director

Computer Consultant

Waldo Porter, Director

Asst. City Manager, Retired

Stan Poss, Director

CSUF Professor, Retired

Ali Rezapour, Director

Physician

Rand L. Stover, Director

Radio Engineer

Alex Vavoulis, Director

CSUF Professor, Retired

FFCF / KFCF 88.1 FM Staff

Vic Bedoian

FFCF Executive Director / KFCF Program Director

Cathy Lindeboom

Executive Assistant

Rand Stover

Chief Engineer

Rych Withers

Operations Manager

Board Committees

Fundraising - Sue Kern, Chair

Programming - Stan Poss, Chair

Governance - Mark Hernandez

Development - Gerry Bill, Chair

Debbie Speer

KFCF Representative to KPFA Station Board