



The MBF At-a-Glance

The mission of the MBF is to increase the public's understanding of the legal system, to promote civic education, public participation and respect for the law, to improve the quality and administration of the legal system, and to support programs and projects related to the MBF's purpose.

Purpose of the Civic Education Fund

- The MBF is dedicated to increasing civic education and participation across a broad spectrum of citizens through grants, special projects and events.
- Goals include helping educate voters to better understand the justice system and understand the importance of an independent and impartial judiciary.

News – our signature project

- The MBF Board developed a video series on democracy issues to reach a larger audience than we have ever reached before. The Board saw this as a significant way to advance civic education, establish the MBF in the nonprofit community and share with MBA membership the function and value of the foundation.
- \$50,000 has been earmarked for this project, which is being produced in partnership with MetroEast Community Media.
- The target audience is middle and high school students and the general public.
- The videos are now airing on cable access television and available on the MBA website, YouTube, specialty bars and various educational, news media and civic groups' websites.
 - **The Court System and The Courthouse videos**
 - The videos have just won top honors at the NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors) Government Programming Awards: The Court System won 1st place in the Public Education category and The Courthouse won 2nd place in the Community Awareness category.
 - A number of lawyers, judges and courthouse staff appear in The Court System and The Courthouse videos in interviews or as actors.
 - The MBF has enlisted Classroom Law Project to develop a classroom discussion guide to accompany the videos.
 - Next steps include creating a distribution plan to get the videos into teachers' hands.
 - Just released, **Voting 101** is a short video about the importance of voting and how to register to vote and a PSA-style piece: "I vote because."
 - The voting videos are intended for young voters and new voters and have a youthful host and a snappy vibe.
 - Content was developed with input from Bus Project and League of Women Voters.
 - The final videos are in production and address **civic engagement** and **responsible civil discourse**.
 - City Club and mediator Jim Park were involved with content development.
 - Urban League has expressed an interest in using the videos for community discussion and outreach and may help with the development of a toolkit for discussion groups.
 - Secretary of State Kate Brown has expressed interest in the videos and how her office can use them in conjunction with her own civic education project.
 - MBF involvement included:
 - Hon. Adrienne Nelson
 - Peter Glade
 - Ed Harnden
 - Cashauna Hill
 - Jim Westwood
 - Tom Sand

Grants

- MBF grants are far-reaching, making an impact through schools, voter forums, voter registration programs, elder education seminars, student filmmaking contests, leadership training programs and citizenship classes.
- Since 2006, the MBF has given approximately 30 grants totaling over \$250,000 to 10 local nonprofits, including Bus Project, Classroom Law Project, Elders in Action, League of Women Voters, MetroEast Community Media, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) and the YOUthFILM Project.
- Grants are given to nonprofits whose programs advance civic education and engagement.
 - Access to justice programs fall outside the purpose of the Civic Education Fund
 - The MBA fundraises for the Volunteer Lawyers Project and supports the Campaign for Equal Justice and other access-to-justice efforts.
- The MBF would like to broaden its impact in the community and expand its grant making to organizations that have not previously applied. Letters of inquiry are accepted through the end of January, full proposals due in March and grants announced and funded in May.
- Past grantees include Bus Project, Classroom Law Project, Elders in Action, League of Women Voters, MetroEast Community Media, Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR) and the YOUthFILM Project.
- **2012 grant recipients**
 - **Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)** received \$5,000 for its “Voter Education Project” that provides monthly classes to newly naturalized citizens to educate them about the voting system and civic engagement.
 - **Bus Project Foundation** was awarded \$9,000 for its “Democracy Cup” which engages young professionals and educators to teach high school students about civic participation and voting and engages the students in a competition to register peers, family and neighbors to vote.
 - **MetroEast Community Media** was granted \$2,600 to produce additional episodes in its “The Courts and You | Legal Logic” series, a public affairs-styled show that will help educate the public about the valuable role of the judiciary.
 - **Classroom Law Project** received \$12,000 for its “We the People” new teacher workshop and book group, expanding to 60 teachers not previously involved in the program.
 - **YOUthFILM Project** was awarded \$1,000 to pay for film equipment and production advice for student filmmakers and screening-related expenses for the annual Law Day-themed student filmmaking contest and screening event at the Hollywood Theatre.
 - **League of Women Voters of Portland** was granted \$1,400 for its “Voter Education Forums for the 2012 Primary and General Elections” which provide unbiased, nonpartisan candidate and ballot measure forums, taped and broadcast online and on cable access stations.

Events

- President Ed Harnden and Barran Liebman LLP recently hosted 100 guests at the 2012 MBF Social to thank MBF donors, offer viewings of the civic education videos, introduce 2012 grantees and award CourtCare campaign trophies.
- The MBF is planning to host a social event in East County in early 2013 as part of its outreach to east county lawyers, small firms and solo practitioners; a combined effort with the MBA, this will be an opportunity to share about the foundation and encourage eastside lawyers to serve on MBA and MBF committees, attend special events, etc.

Fundraising - the legal community makes it happen!

- Continued support for the MBF will allow us to reach our largest audience ever through the video series and at the same time continue to provide grants to area nonprofits whose missions match our own.
- The MBF just concluded a successful development drive, raising \$45,000 for the 2013 grant cycle.

CourtCare

- CourtCare is a project of the MBA, operated by the Volunteers of America (VOA Oregon), with a downtown location and a soon-to-be operational location in the new East County Courthouse.
- The MBA runs an annual campaign which raises most of the funds needed for the program. Again, the generous support of the legal community makes it possible.