


MBF Announces 2018 Civic Education Grant Awards

by Pamela Hubbs

Office and Foundation Administrator

The Multnomah Bar Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$39,195 to seven area nonprofits for programs that educate people of all ages about the justice system and encourage civic engagement. Grants are made from the MBF Civic Education Fund and reflect the generous support of lawyers and law firms in the community.

 **Elders in Action** was granted **\$5,200** for Civics 101, a five-session hands-on leadership training in advocacy to build a strong cadre of seniors who are civically engaged, understand the city, county and state government systems and can advocate for themselves and their peers.

Healthy Democracy, a new recipient, was awarded \$5,000 for the Multnomah County Citizens Initiative Review, which brings together representative groups of citizens to fairly and thoroughly evaluate ballot measures and provide voters with information, which includes publishing a written citizens' statement in the Multnomah County Voter's Guide.



League of Women Voters of Portland was granted **\$5,000** to expand their Voter and Civic Education programs, including civic education panel discussions, voter registration services, candidate and ballot measure forums, unbiased, nonpartisan Voter's Guides in English and Spanish, and outreach to more communities, particularly to ethnically diverse and economically disadvantaged communities.



MetroEast Community Media was awarded **\$4,495** to create "Checks and Balances," a two-minute Spanish-language video that explains our system of checks and balances, the responsibilities and functions of each, the challenges the system faces today and why an understanding of the three branches of government is vital to being active and purposeful participants in our democracy.



Northwest Family Services (NWFS) was granted \$7,000 to support the educative function of Peer Court and expand the program to David Douglas and Portland Public schools. High school student volunteers and program graduates serve as attorneys and jury members in a courtroom setting to hold youth accountable for first-time misdemeanor offenses.



Saturday Academy received \$5,000, to provide tuition assistance for low-income middle school students to attend in Kid Lawyer Camp and Mock Trial Classes, a summer camp that provides a fun, hands-on, in-depth learning experience about the judicial system, incorporating mock trial, speech and debate, forensics and journalism.



Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees was granted \$7,500 to update and expand the curriculum for the Voter Education Project, providing group classes and individual sessions to ensure newly naturalized citizens - particularly people of low income, refugees and asylees - have an understanding of the American voting system, are registered to vote and have proper access.

For more information about the work of the MBF, visit www.mbar.org/foundation/ or contact Pamela Hubbs (503.222.3275, pamela@mbar.org).