

June 2021

Here's What We're Watching ...

Summer has arrived in Montana! I hope you all are looking for places to stay cool this upcoming holiday weekend.

At the Women's Foundation of Montana, we are keeping busy this summer and would love to share some of what we have been up to in the videos below.

Last week we hosted a **2021 legislative session recap** with **Montana Women Vote** and **Montana Budget and Policy Center**. We learned about the top policy priorities of each organization, the impact that some of the new legislation will have on Montana's families, and how to stay connected to policy change efforts. As a nation, we celebrated Juneteenth as a federal holiday. In recognition of Juneteenth, **Montana's Black Law Students Association** and the **Montana Innocence Project** hosted a **virtual panel** about Mass Incarceration and the 13th Amendment. June is Pride month. In the spirit of pride, we share a video from The **Montana Two Spirit Society** with you.

Looking ahead to July, **Big Sky Pride** will be held in Helena July 11-17. And **Red Ants Pants Music Festival** is happening July 22-25. A portion of the proceeds from the **Red Ants Pants Music Festival** supports **Red Ants Pants Foundation**, a Women's Foundation of Montana grantee.

Happy summer everyone! Enjoy getting out, building community, and discovering our beautiful state.

Sincerely,



Kylie Gursky
WFM Program Officer
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Women's Foundation of Montana Hosted a Webinar

Montana's 2021 Legislative Session Recap

Montana's 2021 Legislative Session wrapped up in April. The Women's Foundation of Montana was joined by grantees, **Montana Women Vote** and **Montana Budget and Policy Center**, to discuss what legislation passed, what failed, and what that means for Montana's families. The organizations talked about what will do to continue to affect policy, create change, and how you can get involved.



In honor of Juneteenth

Mass Incarceration & the 13th Amendment

On Thursday, June 17th – In recognition of Juneteenth, **Montana's Black Law Students Association** and the **Montana Innocence Project** hosted a virtual panel. Alicia Miles, Director of Admissions at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law, moderated the panel, and it featured Courtney Smith, the **Montana Racial Equity Project's** Criminal Justice Initiative Lead, Akilah Lane, a Civil Rights Staff Attorney with the **ACLU of Montana**, and SK Rossi, the founder of **Central House Strategies** and the former Director of Advocacy and Policy at the ACLU of Montana.



June is Pride Month

What is Two Spirit?

The Montana Two Spirit Society formed in 1996 through a joint effort by Pride Inc. (Montana's LGBT advocacy organization) and the Montana Gay Health Task Force to conduct an annual Two Spirit Gathering.

Over the years, the Montana Two Spirit Society has brought more awareness about Two Spirit and Native LGBTQ.”

David Herrera, a Montana Two Spirit Society leader, shares the story of Two Spirits in the Indigenous Community.



Here's What We're Looking Forward To ...

Red Ants Pants Music Festival, held every July

If you like music, local food, beer, sunsets, agriculture, and the rural Montana landscape, you should probably come to the **Red Ants Pants Music Festival**. Held every July in a cow pasture just outside of White Sulphur Springs.

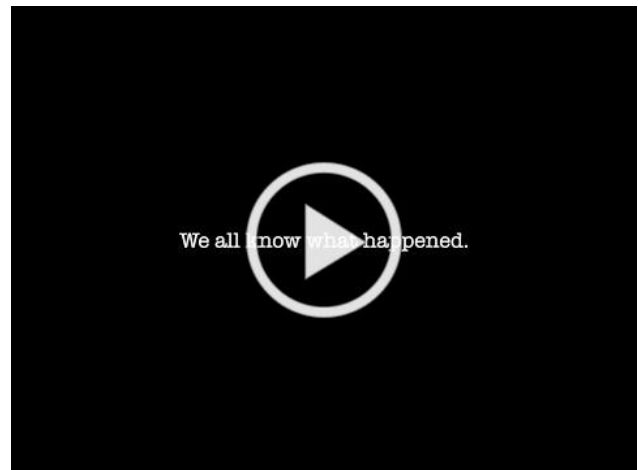
We started this event to bring people together. Something about the landscape of the festival and the goodwill of the attendees results in a pretty unique and worthwhile experience. A portion of the proceeds from this event goes to fund the **Red Ants Pants Foundation**.



Big Sky Pride Happening July 11-17, 2021

As we wrap up Pride Month, we wanted to share with you events still happening around the state this summer.

Big Sky Pride will be held in Helena next month. Events are scheduled throughout the entire week of July 11-17, 2021. Find your favorite event [here](#).



Have You Updated your PowerHouse Profile Lately?

One great feature of the **new Powerhouse Montana website** is the ability to edit your own profile. Make sure your information is up-to-date [here](#).

PowerHouse Montana, an initiative of the Women's Foundation of Montana, is an online platform designed to connect Montana women to the mentors and resources they need to succeed. Learn more and sign up at powerhousemt.org.



**Support Montana
Women and Girls!**

Together we can empower Montana women and girls to pursue their dreams.

Give Now

About the Women's Foundation of Montana

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a program of Montana Community Foundation and on a mission to advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for our girls. Learn more at wfmontana.org.



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION