



Finlandia Foundation National

H A N D S A C R O S S T H E S E A S I N C E 1 9 5 3



70

**FIERCELY
FINNISH
SINCE
1953**



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Thomas Flanagan

Email: thomas.flanagan@finlandiafoundation.org

Finlandia Foundation National

254 N. Lake Ave. #852

Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone: 626.795.2081

Email: office@finlandiafoundation.org

FinlandiaFoundation.org

WELCOME! TERVETULOA!

We appreciate your interest in Finlandia Foundation National, the most important private source of support for Finnish culture in the United States.

Finlandia Foundation was founded by nine Finnish-Americans led by Yrjö and Leonora Paloheimo in Pasadena, California in 1953, and is still based at the site of their home. The goal of the founders was to encourage preservation of homeland traditions in the U.S., and “unite all Finland Friends in this country.”

Our non-profit, philanthropic organization supports cultural and educational programs; cultivates closer relations between Finland and the U.S.; and strengthens the bonds of friendship among Finnish-Americans and others interested in Finnish



culture and heritage, as well as contemporary Finland.

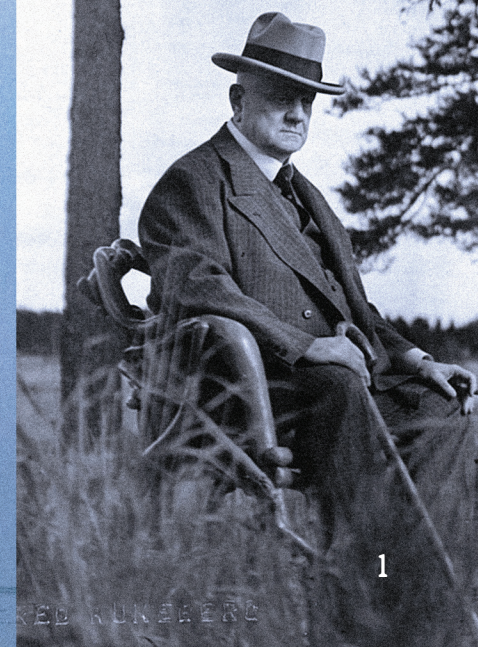
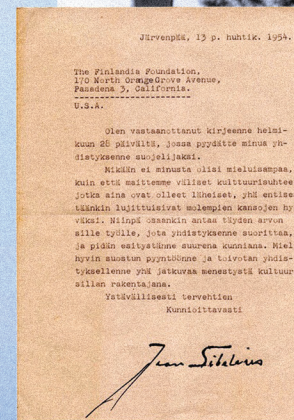
We are proud of our association with the first Patron of Finlandia Foundation, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, and our current Patron, internationally renowned composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen.

Finlandia Foundation provides grants, scholarships and touring and online programs designed to enrich the Finnish-American experience. The organization and its affiliates also participate in special programs of interest to Finnish America, such as the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jean Sibelius in 2015, and the centennial of Finland's independence throughout 2017. Each February we host National Sauna Week to build awareness and appreciation of the traditional Finnish bath.

Now, in our 70th year, we have assumed custody of the archives and artifacts of the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan.

We invite you to learn more about FFN on these pages and at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Anne-Mari Paster
President



SAVING FINLAND IN AMERICA

In March 2023, when Finlandia University announced that it was closing its doors, the trustees of Finlandia Foundation National acted immediately to safeguard the cultural and heritage assets of the institution. Founded in Hancock, Michigan in 1896 as Suomi College, it was home to the Finnish American Heritage Center and the largest assemblage of artifacts and archives related to the history of Finns in the U.S.

The inventory consists of more than 40,000 pieces of the past and includes print materials, oral histories, artwork and a wide range of objects, from personal goods carried from Finland to a significant Finnish glass collection.

Recognizing the importance of preserving and protecting the “Smithsonian of Finnish America,” FFN acquired the Heritage Center’s irreplaceable archives and items, as well as the Finlandia Art Gallery, Price of Freedom Museum, Finnish American Folk School, *Finnish American Reporter* and the retail store North Wind Books.

This is the first, critical step in a multi-phased plan for FFN’s project, “Saving Finland in America.” It includes securing the physical location of the collection, digitizing records to make them accessible to researchers across the globe and creating an endowment to ensure that these entities will thrive in the years to come.

It is the duty and privilege of FFN to lead this effort for several reasons, including respect for the value of these cultural and heritage assets in telling the history of Finland in America; to allow future generations the opportunity to learn about and understand the past; and to put into context the contributions so many have made and continue to make to contemporary Finnish America.

FFN must raise substantial monies to support this new responsibility, in addition to funding our ongoing grants, scholarships and cultural programs. To complete this mission of “Saving Finland in America” we will need your help, and we welcome your contributions.

Learn more about the status of the project at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Among the 40,000+ treasures are:

- *Bibles from 1642—the first ever published in the Finnish language.*
- *Records from the American humanitarian effort to “Help Finland,” which was led by President Herbert Hoover during World War II.*
- *Finnish-American newspapers, dating to the late 1800’s.*
- *Oral histories of Finnish-Americans telling the stories of their lives and how they came to this country.*
- *The largest collection of Finnish riijys in the U.S.*
- *Original Marimekko dresses.*

 **2 “QUEEN CHRISTINA” BIBLES**
— the first printed in the Finnish language in 1642

 **400 HOURS OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS**

 **40,000+ HISTORIC ITEMS**
in the climate-controlled archives

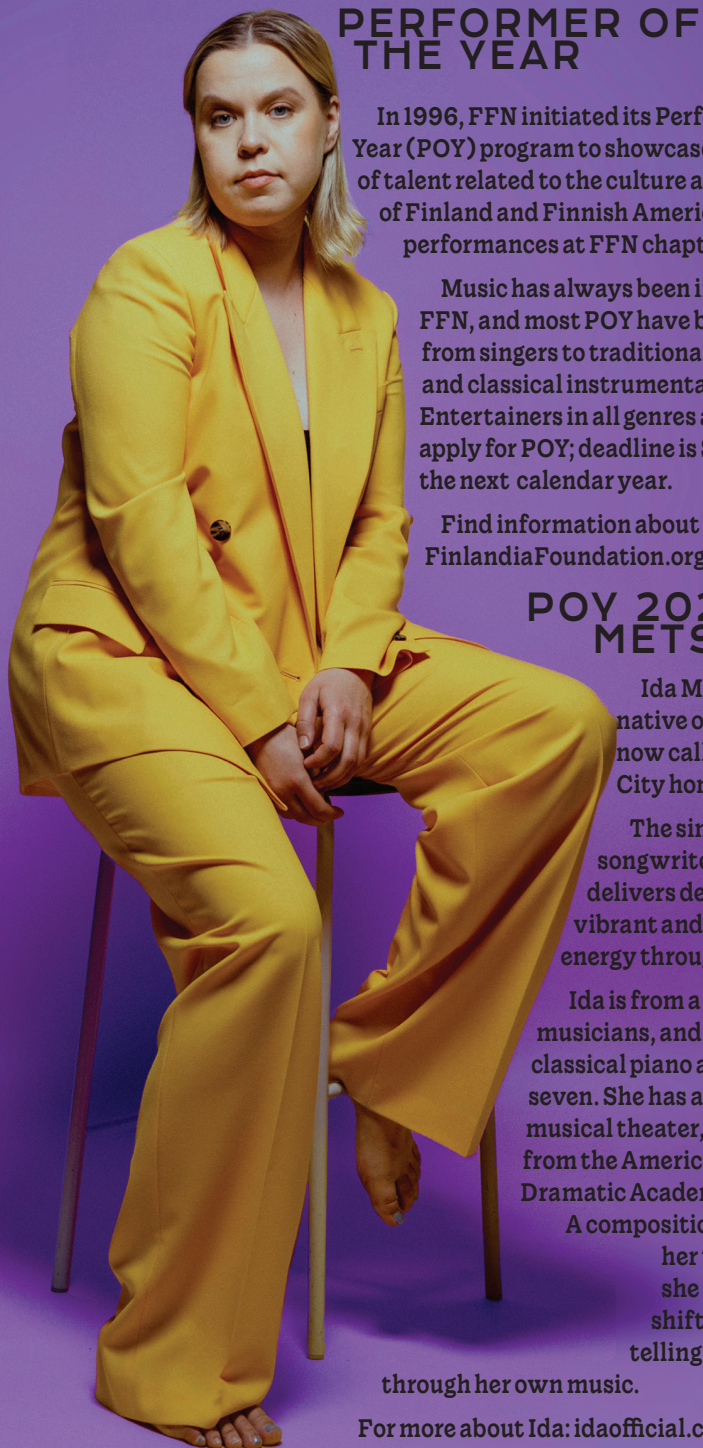
 **684 FINNISH-AMERICAN PERIODICAL TITLES**
some dating to the 1800s

 **175 TITLES OF FINNISH PRINT NEWSPAPERS**

 **72 FINNISH-AMERICAN MICROFILMED NEWSPAPERS**

PLUS PHOTOGRAPHS, SHEET MUSIC, AND CORRESPONDENCE





PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

In 1996, FFN initiated its Performer of the Year (POY) program to showcase the variety of talent related to the culture and traditions of Finland and Finnish America at live performances at FFN chapters.

Music has always been important to FFN, and most POY have been musicians, from singers to traditional folk, jazz and classical instrumental artists. Entertainers in all genres are welcome to apply for POY; deadline is September 1 for the next calendar year.

Find information about POY at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

POY 2023: IDA METSBERG

Ida Metsberg is a native of Finland who now calls New York City home.

The singer/songwriter/musician delivers deep, meaningful, vibrant and nourishing energy through her songs.

Ida is from a family of musicians, and began studying classical piano at the age of seven. She has a background in musical theater, and graduated from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York.

A composition class helped her to realize that she wanted to shift her focus to telling her own stories

through her own music.

For more about Ida: idaofficial.com

LECTURER OF THE YEAR



Encouraged by the success of the Performer of the Year program, in 2006 FFN introduced its Lecturer of the Year (LOY) for the purpose of sharing the history and culture of Finland and Finnish America.

Since its inception, FFN chapters have hosted LOY on topics ranging from the Winter War to Jean Sibelius, folk traditions and cooking demonstrations. In 2017, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence, five Centenary Lecturers spoke about a variety of topics related to Finland's history and identity.

Presenters on relevant subjects are welcome to apply for LOY; deadline is October 1 for the following calendar year.

Find information about LOY at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

LOY 2023: SUZANNE MATSON

Suzanne Matson is a poet, author and English professor at Boston College. Her much-acclaimed fourth novel, *Ultraviolet*, is the story of three generations of women and "the complexities of marriage, motherhood, aging, and the end of life."

In her LOY program, Suzanne talks about Finnish identity as a writer, and reads from her works. She has found that audiences are interested in talking about the process of turning personal and public history into literature.

The Oregon native achieved a BA in English from Portland State University, an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington and a PhD in English, also from Washington.

For more about Suzanne: suzannematson.com

ARTIST OF THE YEAR ERIC AHO

Finlandia Foundation welcomes Eric Aho as its inaugural Artist of the Year. The new program recognizes the enormous talent of Finnish-American and Finnish artists in any media, including painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, weaving or other realm.

Eric is an American painter with Finnish heritage who lives and works in Vermont. His paintings focus on nature and forest scenes. In interviews and discussions, Eric never misses an opportunity to note his Finnish heritage as an influence on his work and inspiration.

Eric earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Massachusetts College of Art, and received a Fulbright scholarship for graduate studies at the Institute of Art and Design in Lahti, Finland.

His work is found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, the Museum of Fine Art in Boston and the Denver Art Museum. Eric is represented in New York City by DC Moore Gallery, and he is associated with well-known galleries in Santa Fe, Jackson Hole and elsewhere.

For more about Eric:
ericaho.com



YOUNG LEADERS BOARD

In early 2021, FFN launched an initiative to encourage participation by active and involved individuals so the organization will not only survive but thrive for the benefit of future generations. The Young Leaders Board (YLB) is a volunteer effort that complements the work of FFN to accomplish its goals and mission.

The YLB is comprised of a panel of nine individuals from different fields who are interested in contemporary Finland. Members may have Finnish or Finnish-American roots, or may simply be curious about Finland and Finnish America. YLB offers a means of pursuing and advancing those interests under the umbrella of FFN.

Members are millennials from across the U.S. with a range of expertise, from finance to marketing. They take their commitment seriously, and meet virtually on a regular basis.



They have established a YLB presence on LinkedIn and Spotify, and individual members serve alongside trustees on various FFN committees, offering their fresh perspectives and suggestions.

YLB has met with Ambassador Mikko Hautala and staff in Washington, D.C. With the Embassy of Finland, YLB has established the Young Finnish Americans Club, and together they are producing a series of virtual and in-person programs.

Find the YLB LinkedIn and Spotify links at the Young Leaders Board page at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

YLB members meet virtually and have met in New York City, Seattle, Florida and Washington, D.C.



GRANTS

FFN annually awards funds to support projects related to Finnish-American and Finnish history, heritage, arts, culture, research, preservation and more. Grants have assisted films, musical recordings, festivals, concerts and the restoration of historic buildings. In 2023, FFN awarded \$123,000 to 34 recipients in amounts to a maximum of \$5,000.

FFN invites high-quality projects on a competitive basis that relate to the past,

present or future of Finland and Finnish America, and are characterized by many of the following:

- receives favorable attention and has a high profile and visibility
- will be experienced by many people
- appeals to all Americans, not only ethnic Finns
- involves worthy activity for children and young adults to promote an interest in Finnish and Finnish-American culture by future generations

- has multiplier or leverage qualities
- can be replicated or become a permanent addition to the cultural life of a community
- is well planned and implemented
- involves service of volunteers
- has a detailed budget, income and expenses
- adds to the body of research about Finnish and Finnish-American culture
- if applicable, includes a marketing plan for sales of items or event tickets

Grant application deadline is January 17.

Specifics and the application are available at the FFN website.

Brief descriptions of previous grant award projects and scholarship recipients appear in the spring editions of *The Finnish Line* available at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Shortly after it was founded 70 years ago, Finlandia Foundation established its scholarship program. It was named for Jean Sibelius and directed to music students only. That changed in 1991, when eligibility opened to full-time undergraduate and graduate students in all academic disciplines who are enrolled in accredited post-secondary schools in the U.S. and Finland. In 2023, FFN awarded \$66,000 to 29 students—American, Finnish and dual citizens—with scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 1

Find details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

The first scholarship was awarded in 1956 to Einojuhani Rautavaara. He was a student at Helsinki's Sibelius Academy, and applied his funds toward study at The Juilliard School in New York City. Rautavaara (1928–2016) would go on to become one of Finland's most important composers.



P.J.C. LINDFORS LEGAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Pertti Lindfors, a Finnish-American attorney in San Francisco, established the Lindfors Legal Studies Fund to encourage cross-cultural study and understanding by law students in Finland and the United States.

An eligible candidate is:

a Finnish citizen who has completed at least one year of studies at a law faculty in Finland or in the EU, and has either applied to and is awaiting acceptance to, has been accepted to, or is currently enrolled in a law school within the U.S. that is approved by the American Bar Association.

OR

an American student who has completed at least one year of studies at a law school in the U.S. and has either applied to and is awaiting acceptance to, has been accepted to, or is currently enrolled in the law faculty of a Finnish university.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: October 1 and February 1

Find details and the application at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

SOIVA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CAMP

"Music begins where the possibilities of language end."

Jean Sibelius



In English, soiva loosely translates to "sounding forth" (a joyful noise like the ringing of a bell).

Finland has a strong reputation for, and appreciation of, culture and the arts, including music instruction, composition and performance.

FFN supports that tradition through Soiva International Music Camp, a summertime learning opportunity and cultural exchange for students from Finland and the U.S. Founded in 2008, Soiva was held in Minnesota, with the exception of 2016 and 2019, when it traveled to Järvenpää, Finland, at Kallio-Kuninkala, which is affiliated with The Sibelius Academy Music Centre.

The in-person Soiva camp was suspended due to the Covid pandemic, and is currently being reorganized. FFN plans to restart Soiva in 2024. Watch for details at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](https://finlandiafoundation.org).



SALOLAMPI FINNISH LANGUAGE VILLAGE

Salolampi is a unique learning program of Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota. Students are immersed in a Finnish experience, from the authentic architecture to meals, activities and the Finnish treats that stock the shelves of the camp store.

Days are filled with language, music and art led by instructors from the U.S. and Finland, plus traditional sauna, sports, games and dips in Turtle River Lake.

Each spring, FFN awards scholarships for the summer sessions. In addition, students may be eligible for a travel stipend from FFN.

Finnish is one of 15 languages in the summer program for seven-to-18-year-olds, and one of the six cultures with architecturally representative settings.

Villagers may enroll for one-two- or four-week sessions, or the four-week high school credit program.

Find more information at FinlandiaFoundation.org.

*"Thank you for the kind gift.
I had so much fun at Salolampi...
I loved going to the sauna and
making new friends. Kiitos!
Love, Henrik"*





Boston Ballet
Artistic Director
Mikko Nissinen
sat with
FFN for a
Finnposium
interview.

FINNPOSIUM

FFN presents a variety of virtual chats, webinars, musical and other programs related to Finland and Finnish culture in the U.S. through the Finlandia Foundation YouTube channel.

The internet provides a format for a kind of virtual version of the symposium enjoyed by the ancient Greeks: a post-banquet program of music, conversation, dancing and refreshments.

Finnposium is a free, virtual symposium offering programming produced by FFN; collaborative content created with other organizations; and select, relevant presentations from additional sources.

In Conversation is a series of interviews with entrepreneurs, authors,

athletes, musicians and other interesting Finns and Finnish-Americans.

There are special concerts and short musical features; cooking demonstrations by the "Two Finn Cooks;" National Sauna Week programs; and webinars with experts in the U.S. and Finland, as well as the Embassy of Finland in the U.S.

You're invited to subscribe to the FFN YouTube channel, and share our programs with family and friends. It's available free of charge, 24/7, 365 days a year at: youtube.com/c/finlandiafoundationnational.

"Finlandia Foundation's online programming has been amazing. Such a wonderful, stimulating combination of arts, education, entertainment, and just plain fun." Anni Efthimiou



NATIONAL SAUNA WEEK

The last week of February is National Sauna Week, so declared by FFN to celebrate the heat-and-steam bathing method that is unique to Finland, which estimates 3.3 million saunas for a population of 5.5 million.

Sauna is the most widely known Finnish word in the U.S., where its popularity is growing—although not all are true to the authentic Finnish sauna experience.

This annual event spreads awareness and appreciation of the culture and tradition of sauna, a centuries-old,

integral part of life in Finland and Finnish America.

FFN presents a full week of free, live, online programs related to sauna history, benefits and trends, plus author talks, cooking videos and surprises. In addition, FFN chapters host events in their communities with mobile saunas, food, activities and displays about sauna.

FinlandiaFoundation.org has a wealth of sauna resources and information, and Sauna Week programs are online at: youtube.com/c/finlandiafoundationnational.

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL: OUR 70th YEAR

Finlandia Foundation National has been fiercely Finnish since 1953; we champion our culture and heritage across the United States by supporting educational opportunities and promoting diverse, relevant and enriching programs.

Finlandia Foundation National, Inc. is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees who serve three-year terms. The board meets twice yearly to conduct FFN business. FFN staff consists of an executive director, operations manager and communications manager.

Membership in Finlandia Foundation is open to all friends of Finland. The FFN network currently has nearly 60 chapters in 24 states and Washington, D.C. Individuals may also join FFN for a small, annual fee.

Individual chapters are the grassroots of Finlandia Foundation. Affiliation with FFN provides the connection to other groups and individuals with goals and objectives that are similar or complementary to those of the Foundation.

Membership in FFN is mutually beneficial:

- Chapter participation in a mature, well-endowed national organization with international connections offers tangible and intangible benefits derived from strength and common purpose.
- FFN benefits from a broad and representative roster of organizations with shared interests and a desire to help to fulfill its mission through participation, communication and financial support of its programs.

Chapters:

- are independent, self-governing organizations that are solely responsible for their own affairs and membership.
- may support the work of the FFN through contributions, organizing and sponsoring meetings, lectures, exhibitions, concerts, entertainment and social functions.
- identify their affiliation with the national organization through use of the FFN logo

and name, and gain visibility through the FFN website, social media and print and e-newsletters.

- organize and plan their activities independent of FFN and other chapters.
- are encouraged, but not required, to incorporate as an independent organization in their home state, under the name "Finlandia Foundation, (name of local community) Chapter."
- are non-profit organizations and should have articles and bylaws consistent with FFN bylaws.
- are active sources for new FFN trustees, program development, ideas, suggestions and talents to help FFN meet its objectives.

Find chapter and individual membership application information at: FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Finlandia Foundation National, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to FFN are tax deductible. Gifts may be made as unrestricted donations or directed to specific programs.



FFN receives no public monies and the success of its programs depends on the generosity of donors.

FFN administrative expenses are generously supported by the Paloheimo Foundation, which matches gifts to Finlandia Foundation dollar-for-dollar (up to \$100,000 annually).

There are many ways to support the programs and mission of Finlandia Foundation National:

- Make a one-time gift.
- Become a monthly donor; have your gift automatically debited.
- Inquire about joining the Chairman's Challenge, a multi-year commitment.
- Honor your loved ones with a tribute in words and pictures on the FFN website and the Centennial Family Tree.
- Give a gift of stock, make a planned gift or discover other donor options.

Make a gift online at: FinlandiaFoundation.org

Mail your donation to:
Finlandia Foundation
National
254 N. Lake Ave. #852
Pasadena, CA 91101

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

ALASKA

- Anchorage Suomi Finland Club

ARIZONA

- The Finnish American Club of Tucson
- Finns & Friends of Phoenix

CALIFORNIA

- Finlandia Club of Sacramento Valley
- Finlandia Foundation Berkeley
- Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation
- Finlandia Foundation San Francisco Bay Area
- Finnish-American Home Association, Sonoma
- House of Finland, San Diego

COLORADO

- Finlandia Foundation Colorado, Denver

CONNECTICUT

- Finnish American Heritage Society, Canterbury

DELAWARE

- Delaware Valley Finnish Americans, Newark
- New Sweden Alliance, Yorklyn

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Finlandia Foundation National Capital

FLORIDA

- Finlandia Foundation Florida, Lantana
- FinnsConnect South Florida

GEORGIA

- Atlanta Finland Society, Inc.

ILLINOIS

- Finnish-American Society of the Midwest, Chicago

MAINE

- Finnish American Heritage Society of Maine, West Paris
- Finnish Farmers Club, Monson
- Finnish Heritage House, South Thomaston

MARYLAND

- Finlandia Foundation Baltimore Area

MASSACHUSETTS

- Cape Ann Finns
- Finlandia Foundation Boston
- Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod
- The Finnish Center at Saima Park, Inc., Fitchburg
- The Finnish Heritage Society/Sovittaja, Rutland

MICHIGAN

- Finlandia Foundation of Michigan, Royal Oak
- Finlandia Foundation National, Lake Superior, Marquette
- Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan, Coopersville
- Finnish Center Association, Farmington Hills
- Finnish Theme Committee of Hancock, Finlandia Foundation Copper Country

MINNESOTA

- Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities/FinnSource
- Finnish Americans and Friends, Hibbing
- Kaleva Building Corporation, Virginia
- Finlandia Foundation Northland, Duluth
- Red River Finns, Moorhead

MONTANA

- Finlandia Foundation Montana, Missoula
- Finn Club of Helena
- Finnish Family of Kaleva, Roberts

NEW YORK

- Finger Lakes Finns, Spencer
- Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan

OHIO

- Finnish-American Heritage Association of Ashtabula County
- Finnish Heritage Museum of Fairport Harbor

OREGON

- Finlandia Foundation National Astoria
- Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific, Portland

PENNSYLVANIA

- Finlandia Foundation Pittsburgh
- Finnish American Society of the Delaware Valley, Philadelphia

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Sons and Daughters of Suomi, Black Hills

TEXAS

- Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Fort Worth
- Finnish Language School of North Texas, Dallas

UTAH

- Finlandia Foundation Utah, Provo

VIRGINIA

- Finlandia Foundation Tidewater Virginia

WASHINGTON

- Finlandia Foundation Inland Northwest, Spokane
- Finlandia Foundation Seattle
- Finlandia Foundation Suomi, Bellingham
- Finnish-American Folk Festival of Naselle
- Swedish Finn Historical Society, Seattle



**Finlandia
Foundation
National**

A F F I L I A T E



Finlandia Foundation National
254 Lake Ave. #852 Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626.795.2081
Email: office@finlandiafoundation.org
FinlandiaFoundation.org 2023

