



October 10 | 5:30PM | World Forestry Center

About SAGE – [WeAreSage.org](http://WeAreSage.org)

A society grows great when its elders plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.  
~ Greek Proverb

SAGE sparks the imagination and commitment of people over fifty who believe in generational equity: each generation has the responsibility to give forward and improve the quality of life for the next. To accomplish our work, we raise awareness about major challenges facing future generations with a focus on education, the environment, and the economy. We also connect people to resources and opportunities to get involved, and we train and support people to actively engage in social causes and nonprofit organizations. SAGE works across generations because we need each other and the future needs all the advocates it can get.

### **The Event**

The SAGE Awards attracts a diverse crowd of business and community leaders and supporters to honor a leader whose service and advocacy embodies the mission of our work. This year, we are proud to recognize our founder, Ward Greene. For more details, visit: [WeAreSage.org/awards](http://WeAreSage.org/awards).

### **Ward Greene**

In 2011, Ward Greene woke up one morning having had an especially vivid dream. He dreamed he was late for the first meeting of SAGE. In his dream, SAGE was a fully formed organization that engaged older adults as advocates for the future. He and our other founders were inspired by this dream, and so they formed SAGE. Ward has since served as our President and volunteered over 7,500 hours and significant funds to make our work possible. He has led SAGE with all his heart, enabled us to engage over 20,000 people in our work, and believed in and supported many people to pursue their own dreams through SAGE.

From the start, Ward welcomed people to SAGE with care and love. In our first two years, he baked dozens of chocolate cakes with the recipe from his grandmother and served these cakes at our Socials for guests to gather and brainstorm ways to make a difference. During our Socials, Ward left one chair open to represent the future, reminding us of the importance of connecting across generations.

After he baked all these cakes, Ward hosted our first major event – the 2013 Visiting SAGE with Marc Freedman talking about elders who pursue second acts for the greater good. Later, he organized seven more of these events featuring Nick Kristof on pathways to make a difference, Bob Putnam on creating opportunity for kids, Paul Hawken on reversing climate change, Van Jones on

bridging divides, Sylvia Earle on protecting oceans, Donna Beegle on alleviating poverty, and David Brooks on building community.

Ward co-created all our other programs, including:

- **Connect & Engage** discussions and workshops to help people turn their ideas into action. We have organized well over 100 events to help people find meaningful pathways to give forward, and we have promoted service and advocacy roles with over 30 nonprofit partners that strengthen education, restore our environment, and promote economic opportunity.
- **Legacy Fellowships** engage leaders over a nine-month program to launch their own community benefit projects. Like Ward, many people have a dream to contribute in a unique way, so we created a program to help them pursue it. Over seventy fellows have graduated and led major projects such as creating a public park, raising thousands of dollars for college scholarships, and launching nonprofits like the Eco-School Network, which engages over 38,000 students each year in school sustainability, and Earth Day Oregon, a foundation that raises money each year for over 80 nonprofits in Oregon.
- Some fellowship projects have evolved into **SAGE Teams**, which engage groups of people to pursue a common cause for several years. Ward has been a major force behind all our teams. Our Parkrose Mentors and Diamondback Readers currently engage nearly 40 mentors and tutors to help over 65 middle and elementary-aged students learn English and math. Our Vision 2030 team has reached over 6,500 students to learn about our region's climate goals, solutions, and jobs. Our Citizen Project has involved nearly 2,000 people in meaningful events to build bridges across political divides. Ward has also helped form our emerging leaders action board to engage people of all ages in building a brighter future.

In addition to SAGE, Ward has supported many more people and organizations. As a veteran lawyer, he has mentored hundreds of young people, served as a leader for the Campaign for Equal Justice and as President of the Multnomah Bar Association and Vice President of the Oregon State Bar, and he helped form the Sustainable Future Section of the Oregon State Bar. Ward also served on the board of the Albina Opportunities Corporation to create jobs and wealth for under-served communities, and he has been a long-time champion for nonprofits such as Eco-School Network, Elders Action Network, and Literary Arts.

Ward has lived a legacy and influenced countless people. The night he had his dream was the beginning of something monumental. Even Ward couldn't have imagined all the good that would come from his burst of insight coupled with his deep commitment to promote generational equity.