

April 25, 2022
**Nevada Indian Commission
Executive Director Report**

BUDGET

Nevada Indian Commission - 2600
FY2022 Starting Balance = \$ 352,074
Current balance = \$ 171,018

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum - 2601
FY2022 Starting Balance = \$ 295,952
Current Balance = \$ 80,381

Gift Fund
FY2022 Starting Balance = \$ 187,760
Expended = \$ 14,799

Totals as of 04/20/22 - The funding for NIC budget is 75% General Fund and 25% Transfer from Tourism. - The funding for SISCC&M budget is 38% General Fund and 62% Transfer from Tourism.

COVID-19

- Just 8 of our Tribal Nations continue to share weekly data regarding active cases. All of our reporting clinics haven't moved about 5 active cases for 30 days.
- The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum has removed safety protocols but has free masks for and sanitized in visible areas for our visitors.
- The NIC has received home test kits for staff.
- The NIC will host an ITCN COVID-19 Vaccination Outreach Event on Saturday, September 24 on the Stewart campus.

NATIVE VOTE

- In partnership with the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and All Voting Is Local, one more Tribal Nation is in the process of applying for a polling place on their respective reservation: Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe. With the recent addition of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, we are now up to 10 different locations on Tribal lands where Native Americans have greater access to vote.
- Also, alerted the Moapa Band of Paiute's Tribal Administrator about the opportunity to have their community members operate the polls, should they find local volunteers. Clark County will provide poll worker training once volunteers are identified.
- On Friday, April 29, I will present to the Legislature's Interim Legislative Operations and Election Committee about Native American Voter Engagement Trends, voter Engagement efforts, the challenges of the current voter registration process, and issues applying for voter services for Tribal lands, e.g., election day polling stations, drop off sites, early voting, etc.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) & US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION FUNDS

- Due to a spike in active covid cases in February, the Nevada Native American Community and Economic Development Planning Summit was postponed. The NIC and the University of Nevada-Reno School of Business emphasized the need to submit a letter of intent or a project narrative for a March 31 deadline established by the U.S. Economic Development Administration per its American Rescue Plan Indigenous Communities Notice of Funding Opportunity
- The Nevada Indian Commission has not been allocated any ARP funding to expend, however our agency continues to work with Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Sisolak, Bailey Bortolin, and GFO staffers Susan Brown and Shauna Tilley. During our last meeting, we are identifying common area of need, we might be able to focus state shared ARP dollars and distribute them using a process our Tribal Nations already follow for other state or federal funding.
- I have surveyed all our Tribal Nations for top three needs, should the State of Nevada allocate some ARP funds. Housing is the most often identified need for the majority (x/19) with additional suggestions for community center, early childhood development center, mining concerns, green energy policies and mental health services
- On March 3, NIC organized a meeting to explore potential allied needs that our Tribal Nations possibly might use Nevada ARPA funds. Tribal 15 leaders participated. On March 22 participated in an ARP follow up with Governor's Office staff and the Governor's Office of Finance.

US SECRETARY OF INTERIOR INITIATIVE INTO INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS

- On April 5, the NIC hosted four representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Education, and a member of the Department of Interior (DOI) Indian Boarding School Initiative Committee. In addition to a fairly lengthy tour of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, plus meeting one of our alumni—Mr. Frank Joe, our staffs engaged in an information exchange about the importance of the collections that are housed at the Nevada State Museum's Curatorial Center in Carson City, as they will help our staff comply with the US Secretary's initiative.
- Our staff reminded our visitors about our 2014 formal request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to become a curatorial center, so that all the items currently being stored by the Nevada State Museum as well as additional cultural items and belongs from our Tribal Nations can be housed on campus.
- The NIC's request to prioritize the Bakery Building on the State of Nevada's Capital Improvement Schedule has been rerouted the Governor's Finance Office which informed Brian Wacker of State Public Works that ARPA funds are available for this project. The \$5 million (former cost estimate) restoration of the Bakery Building will be presented at the June IFC meeting for approval.

- On April 6, during a walking tour of the campus, I explained to Mr. Gregory Anderson, the BIA Associate Deputy Directory how the Stewart campus is now partially owned by the state while the balance of the land is under the jurisdiction of the Washoe Nation. Further, I shared that the cemetery which has long been associated with the school and does include unmarked gravestones, is on Washoe property. I again emphasized how important the documents at the curatorial center are for our staff to determine who attended Stewart, when, and their Tribal affiliation. Mr. Anderson shared that his team believed that the documents at the curatorial center did contain some personally identifiable information (PII) therefore, further input from DOI is needed prior to the NIC getting access to the records.
- Mr. Anderson outlined that his team would meet the third week in April to review the inventory found at the Nevada State Museum's Curatorial Center and develop a unified report which will be submit to the legal team working DOI Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland.
- Though our staff wanted immediate access to the documents and eventually to all the items at the Curatorial Center, the visit went well. Mr. Anderson and his team were very complimentary about the cultural center, our commitment to our alumni and elders, our work on the Secretary's initiative. He offered to suggest to his supervisors that an in-person trip to the Stewart Indian School campus by additional BIA/DOI leadership would be of value not just to advance the Boarding School initiative, but to explore the model for preservation efforts that the NIC has undertaken.
- On March 29, the NIC staff met with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) staff of Deborah Parker (Tulalip Tribes) Chief Executive Officer, Samuel Torres, (Mexica/Nahua) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Stephen Curley (Diné/Navajo Nation) Director of Digital Archives. During that meeting we learned:

*This month, the Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland will release a list of the boarding schools that were funded by the federal government. This information was gathered by the DOI from records housed at the American Indian Records Repository in Lenexa, Kansas.

*NABS staff shared that the Omnibus Bill passed by Congress includes \$7 million allocated to DOI for the Secretary's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and its comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of Federal boarding school policies. This funding will complete the historical research and documentation and begin the work to identify and protect the remains of those identified.

*NABS staff also shared news from the National Archives Central Plains Branch in Kansas City that they were changing the access rule from 75 years from the date of the record to 100 years. NABS staff said that such a decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Archives demonstrates a shift to restrict access to records and is not a coincidence. NABS staff agreed to circulate a group letter from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Digital Working Group to send to DOI

Deputy Director Brian Newland expressing concern about the changes in BIA and National Archives policies to restrict access to boarding school records.

- March 28, the NIC staff met with Nevada State Museum staffers to prepare for the upcoming visit by BIA / BIE personnel.
- April 5, the NIC staff hosted four people who work for the Department of Interior / Bureau of Indian Affairs or Education: a residential life specialist, two records & information management specialists and an archeologist
 - *Besides touring our Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum, we exchanged information about the importance of the collections housed at the Nevada State Museum's curatorial center in Carson City
 - *I explained that the campus now is partially owned by the state while the balance of the land is under the jurisdiction of the Washoe Nation of Nevada and California. Further, I shared that the cemetery which has long been associated with the school, does include unmarked gravestones, and is on Washoe property.
 - *I offered to seek permission for the Washoe Nation so that the group might visit cemetery linked to the 90-year operation of Stewart. However, the representative from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, declined for the group.
- April 7, Mr. Gregory Anderson, the Bureau of Indian Education Residential Life Specialist and Associate Deputy Directory/ Tribally Controlled Schools, returned to campus
 - *We had a follow up discussion about the next steps toward our agency getting the collections from the State's curatorial center. Mr. Anderson said that his team would reconvene the third week in April and a comprehensive report about the findings in Carson City, would be sent to DOI Deputy Director Newland's legal staff.
 - *Mr. Anderson said his report would include positive information about the offers and the operation of the cultural center, along with the work our staff has done to be prepared for the Boarding School Initiative.
 - *He did mention that the collections at the curatorial center did have some documents which contained personally identifiable information (PII) which would need to be resolved prior to the NIC receiving those records.

INDIAN EDUCATION

- On February 11, Executive Director met with Nevada Assembly Member Natha Anderson to outline issues with the Native American Fee/Tuition Waiver and the potential solutions to be addressed through the 2023 Legislative Session.
- Currently, state residency must be established to qualify for the waiver however, many Native American from at least four of our Tribal Nations: Washoe, Sho-Pai, Goshute and Timbisha have learners attending Nevada high schools, without state residency.

- Three workshops have been held for the *American Indian Language Development Institute* of which the NIC was awarded and is administering a grant. The Institute will serve to revitalize Tribal languages as Tribal language speakers have been recruited, prepared, and trained toward the goal of promoting, enriching, and enhancing activities and strategies to deepen knowledge for American Indian educators, and ultimately advance education for American Indian students.
- Helped garner support for the Nevada System of Higher Education vote on March 3 to award an honorary degree to Carrie and Mary Dann. These Western Shoshone land rights activists challenged the federal government over uses of their traditional land, in a case that reached the United States Supreme Court as *U.S. v. Dann*. NSHE unanimously approved.
- Provided Governor Sisolak's communication teams with biographical information on Native American Women to highlight during Women's History Month

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION STAFFING

- Office Coordinator / Admin III Sarina Nez (Washoe/Northern Paiute) started Feb. 21.

STEWART FATHER'S DAY POWWOW

- See written update by Sarina Nez, NIC Office Coordinator

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS / ONGOING PROJECTS

- On February 15, participated in Joint Interim Committee on Government Affairs meeting to update and outline AB264, a policy designed to promote collaboration between State Agencies and Indian Tribes of Nevada
- On March 10, the NIC co-sponsored the first University of Nevada Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAPRA) Symposium which included expert panelists from local Tribal Nations and community leaders to share experiences and lessons around the NAPRA. Several Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) participated/attended, along with Tribal Chairs, and staff from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Lands, and the Governor's Office.
- Supporting four Tribal Nations: Washoe, RSIC, Pyramid Lake, and Summit Lake as they work with Nevada Senator Rosen on the pending Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act, including participating in Feb 25 meeting
- Facilitated the draft of, and submission of a letter from the Nevada Division of Water Resources to the Department of Interior's Western Regional Director to support the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute request for attorney's fees and litigation support.
- On January 29, Executive Director provided a land acknowledgement for *The Art of Jean LaMarr Symposium: I Heard the Song of My Grandmother: Art and Indigenous Feminisms*. At this gathering, artists, writers, and curators considered how activist art subverts stereotypes and continues to advance the rights for Indigenous women.
<https://www.nevadaart.org/art/exhibitions/jean-lamarr/>

- ITCN request for Domestic Violence Prevention using space; Met with B&G Deputy March 23
- Connected organizers of the June 10-11 Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Las Vegas Training with area Tribal leaders and community experts to participate
- Helped arrange location for Dr. Myrton Running Wolf (Blackfeet), Assistant Professor of Race and Media at the Nevada to film on location in the Old Stewart Indian School Gymnasium.
- Observed, supported another Tribal Nation collect its Tribal belongs from the University of Nevada via the NAGPRA.
- Co-drafted and successfully submitted Governors' Interstate Indian Council resolution to support all congressional efforts to pass legislation approving the *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act* to hold the federal government accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies
- Scheduled Stewart Gym on March 25-27 for first youth basketball tournament held on campus since September 2019
- Planning for Remembrance Run 2022 or RR2 for August 14; NIC will hold arrival ceremony for runners which will include greetings from several dignitaries
- April 13, Lieutenant Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead and her family visited the Stewart Indian School. A professional educator, the Lt. Governor and her guests toured the cultural center.
- Identified and connected three Native American behavioral experts to join the Nevada Veterans Service staff at the American Association of Suicidology's 55th Annual Conference. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Nation, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Sho-Pai Nation of Duck Valley will participate in this premier, national gathering of experts and resources for preventing suicide at no cost to their respective Tribal governments.
- Submitted on-line request with Noble Studios, Travel Nevada's new website host/maintenance vendor to add NIC land acknowledgement to: <https://nevadaindiancommission.org/>
- See addendum regarding submitted priorities by Commissioners

STANDING MEETINGS

- * Governor's Cabinet
- * Tribal Stakeholders Coordination Call organized by the Nevada Tribal Health Preparedness Coordinator
- * National Delegation Staffers (Senator Catherine Cortez-Mastos and Senator Jacky Rosen)
- * Naval Air Station-Fallon Withdrawal Updates, including the Intergovernmental Executive Committee
- * Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)
- * Internal Executive Branch on Lithium Topics
- * University of Nevada NAGPRA Working Group

- * Environmental Justice CAT
- * Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition Tribal Communities Steering Committee
- * Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council
- * Weekly meeting with Governor's Office Liaison
- * Nevada Joint Military Affairs Committee Meeting
- *Governors' Interstate Indian Council (GIIC)

MEDIA / PRESENTATIONS / OTHER OUTREACH

- Feb 16 Interview: Regina Cole, Forbes writer re: SISCC&M
- Feb 21 Interview: Joaquin Cotler, Futuro Media Group re: SISCC&M
- Feb 24 Tour, presentation and listening session with Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
- Feb 28 Presentation to Carson City Democratic Men's Committee
- March 18 Presentation and listening session with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Equity Committee
- March 21 Meeting with NDOT and Federal Hwy Administration staff regarding the development
of *NDOT Organizational Tribal Best Practices and Policy*
- March 23 Participated in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the State Superintendent of Public
Instruction's listening session on Meeting the Safety, Mental, and Behavioral Needs of Nevada
Students and Educators
- March 30 Interview: TravPRO/ Travel Nevada Insights re: SISCC&M
- March 30 Interview: Jeniffer Solis, Nevada Current re: Native American Voting Rights
- March 31 Provided historical context and current impacts at the Nevada Museum of Art's
Community Forum: Reckoning with Nevada's Boarding School Past. This event provided an
opportunity to learn about and discuss this history and the traumatic legacy that remains and
included a performance piece done by five Native American girls based on the Art of Jean
LaMarr.

04/19/22 _ noon