



Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board

October 4, 2021

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum

Museum Director Bobbi Rahder and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons

Leadership, professional development, and organization structure

- Working on strategic short-term and long-term Cultural Center plans
- Updating the Plan of Operations with policies and procedures

Financial Stability

- Keeping Welcome Center Gift Shop open on Fridays from 10-4. In addition to Stewart Indian School t-shirts, caps, and coffee cups; we now sell Star Village Coffee from the Zuniga family in Reno; plant medicines made by Washoe tribal member Melanie Smokey; prints and cards by Steve Nighthawk and Michaela Jones; tule ducks by Joey Allen; books about boarding school history; and beadwork by local Native artists some of whom are Stewart alumni such as Linda Eben Jones, Carol Glazier, Kat Walker, Dale Bennett, and many others. We have made an agreement that all artists sign that says we follow the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 and we pay the artist the price they choose. We track all sales in a spreadsheet and will be moving toward a digital form of tracking merchandise and accepting credit card purchases in the future. All proceeds go to purchasing more art by local Native artists.
- We have talked with NIC and Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance board member Kelly Krolicki about reforming SISPA and adding Stewart alumni as board members so in the future we can apply for grants only available to organizations who have the IRS 501 c 3 tax exempt non-profit status.

Collections Stewardship

- Research requests - museum staff have completed 30 research requests.

- New donations of photographs, documents, and objects were made by 19 people, some of whom are Stewart alumni or family members.
- Collections work –to comply with Secretary of Interior Director Deb Haaland’s initiative, our priority is to organize and preserve all Stewart records we have on site as the Archives Program. Once this is completed and we have a process for researcher access through on-site research as well as digital research, we will focus on the records that are held at the National Archives repositories. We also are working closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to share Stewart’s records for the digital archive they are building with records from all the US boarding schools.
- We are working with the BIA office in Washington DC to become a repository so we can move the Stewart artifacts and records housed at the Nevada State Museum Curatorial Center to Stewart.

Education and Interpretation

- Made 8 presentations to various organization’s virtual meetings.
- Hosted 20 tours for a total of 331 people.
- Visitors signing in since December 2019: 3,832.
- Working with Cultural Advisory Committee on educational classes to offer when pandemic numbers make it possible for us to have classes. They are advising us about what type of classes they would like us to offer and potential teachers.
- Working with Arella Trustman, NYU graduate and member of Walker River Paiute tribal nation, on sharing with Stewart alumni and family members historical trauma information and resources for healing. She is also working with us to develop curriculum materials for teaching about boarding school history and Stewart Indian School history.
- Worked with Stewart alum Harriet Brady, Pyramid Lake Paiute tribal member and high school teacher, to develop educational materials.
- Working with Fredina Romero at the Nevada Department of Education to develop curricular materials for Nevada teachers on teaching boarding school and Stewart history.

Great Basin Native Artists Gallery managed by curator Melissa Melero-Moose

- Melissa curated new exhibit: BEADS: Indigenous Beadwork of the Great Basin that was displayed in the Cultural Center’s Great Basin Native Artists Gallery from April 23-October 22, 2021. Received many compliments from visitors and media attention.
- Melissa is working on a new exhibition of baskets by Native artists, to open that will be displayed from October 2021-June 2022.

Outreach

- Worked with Marty Meeden from Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California who recommended two high school Washoe tribal members as summer interns: Ebieny Crawford and Kayla Carrillo. These were paid internships, paid with cash donations to museum.
- Hosted Great Basin Native Basket Weavers Assn. workshops led by Leah Brady on May 15, June 12, July 24, and August 28. We will continue to host their workshops beginning January 2022.
- UNR Internship Program, fall semester 2021: intern is Stephanie Wrenn working for 20 hours. We have recruited Indigenous students for the paid internship from Western Nevada College Indigenous Student Assn. and UNR's Indigenous Student Services.
- We also are recruiting for Stewart alumni to serve as volunteers from Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe Tribe, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.
- Assisted Stevens family to hold Remembrance Run at Stewart Indian School on August 14th to honor Frank Quinn, Ku Stevens' great-grandfather, who ran away from Stewart to Yerington when he was eight years old. Ku is a Yerington Paiute tribal member and high school track athlete.
- Working with Fawn Douglas on Stewart history slide show for performance as part of UNLV Ah Wah Nee Exhibition and Symposium, Las Vegas, Nov.5th.
- Working with Visit Carson on new app to bring visitors to Cultural Center.
- Making presentation to Nevada Museums Association on October 8th.
- Working with Melissa Melero-Moose and Rebecca Snetselaar of the Nevada Arts Council on a way to set aside funding for Native artists.
- Developing an Archive Bag to send out to tribal communities to families who want to record oral histories of their relatives and information on how to preserve their family collections of photos, documents, and textiles
- Recording oral histories with Stewart alumni—most recent are Wilbur Maho, part of the 1966 Stewart Basketball Championship Team; and Charles Mullins, 1937-1944.
- Serving on Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Planning Council to plan upcoming tribal museum summits.
- Serving on working group for National American Indian Boarding School Healing Coalition Digital Archives to share boarding school records with other boarding schools.

Facility and risk management

- Looking for alternative funding to renovate Stewart bakery building for collection because Nevada Capital Improvement Program request was cancelled by Governor because of the state's economic problems.

- Giving presentation to Preserve Nevada board meeting October 9th to encourage them to include Stewart Indian School among their list of the 11 Most Endangered Places in Nevada. We are hoping they will be able to help identify funding to help us preserve the Stewart bakery building, auditorium, and old gym since we can't ask the state for another two years.
- Dr. Gregory Smoak from the American West Center at the University of Utah reports that he is still working on the revisions to Stewart's nomination to the National Park Service (NPS) for National Historic Landmark status. He said he will send the revisions to the NIC and NPS in October.

Communication and Marketing

- Posting weekly updates to Stewart Facebook page
- Sending news items to Travel Nevada and Visit Carson
- Updated Stewart website, including page on Great Basin Native Artists Gallery and In Memoriam page to post obituaries of Stewart alumni who have passed away.
- Media coverage: New York Times, Forbes, Reno News & Review, Reno Gazette Journal, Indian Country Today, National Council on Public History, First American Art Magazine, National Trust for Historic Preservation Savingplaces.org; Nevada Appeal, Nevada Business Magazine, Get Virtual, 5280 Magazine in Denver, Channel 2 News Reno, The Best of the Mountain West, Explore Magazine, Las Vegas Sun, Las Vegas PBS Outdoor Nevada, and Channel 8 News Reno.

Financial Report: Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021-June 2022)

- BA 2601 (Cultural Center & Museum operating budget)
 - \$123,199 General Fund
 - \$170,347 Dept. of Tourism & Cultural Affairs Transfer Funds
 - \$2,406 Cares Act Funding
 - Total Budget: \$295,952
- BA 3286 (Cultural Center & Museum's portion of Gift Fund from donations in checks)
 - \$80,904.18
 - Welcome Center Gift Shop (set up October 2020) Sales in checks
 - \$1,405.00
- Petty cash account and change account (set up in NRS 233A.300)
 - \$2,832.21