



Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board

March 17, 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

Financial Stability

- Participated in hearing of Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittees about museum's budget for FY 2022 and FY 2023. Governor Sisolak actually increased our funding in his recommendations.
- Using the grant funds and donations to replace state budget cuts in the FY 2021 museum budget.
- Received another \$10,000 donation from Nathan and Sandy Miller.
- Keeping Welcome Center Gift Shop open on Fridays from 10-4; getting new merchandise and posting to Stewart Facebook page and website.
- Setting up Friends of the Museum group as a 501 c 3 non-profit IRS tax exempt organization for fundraising.

Collections Stewardship

- Research requests –museum staff have completed 12 research requests
- New donations –a bench and photographs from Bob Wright, photographs and student drawings from a descendant of employee Zelia Taylor, and books from various donors for the research room.
- Collections work –organizing a large-scale scanning project of the Stewart newsletters and scanning a glass plate negative donation. Volunteers have been organizing, re-housing, and labeling negatives and historic documents.

Education and Interpretation

- Working on educational classes to offer when pandemic numbers make it possible for us to have classes.

- Working with Arella Trustman, NYU graduate student and member of Walker River Paiute tribal nation, on curriculum materials for teaching about boarding school history and Stewart Indian School.
- Creating children's version of the Stewart Stonework Scavenger hunt.
- Recording oral histories with Stewart alumni.

Wa-Pai-Shone Gallery managed by Great Basin Native Artists

- UNR Internship Program, 100-hour intern, spring semester 2021, Nadine Angel is working as Wa-Pai-Shone assistant to help organize GBNA's mailing lists and artist biographies.
- Melissa is working on a new exhibition of beadwork by Native artists, hopefully to open in April or May 2021.

Outreach

- Participated in Propelling Nevada Reno-Tahoe Airport exhibit, with items made by Wa-Pai-Shone Coop in the 1940s and linking to new contemporary art Wa-Pai-Shone Gallery as part of collaboration with Sierra Arts Foundation and Cultural Alliance Nevada. Posted to Facebook and TravelNevada and Visit Carson.
- Working with Melissa Melero-Moose and Rebecca Snetselaar of the Nevada Arts Council on a way to set aside funding for Native artists.
- Working on a series of podcasts by alumni with Christopher MacMahon at UC Santa Barbara on various topics.
- 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
- 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 CIP was cancelled by Governor.
- Governor also cancelled the CIP projects for the Stewart auditorium and old gym.
- Update from Dr. Greg Smoak on the National Historic Landmark application to the National Park Service:

Communication and Marketing

- Posting weekly updates to Stewart Facebook page
- Sending news items to Travel Nevada and Visit Carson
- Updating Stewart website