



Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board

June 2, 2023 - January 18, 2024

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum:

Museum Director Bobbi Rahder and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons

Leadership, professional development, and organization structure

- Getting feedback from Cultural Advisory Committee on their goals for 2024 strategic plan
- Advertising for Education Coordinator position to teach classes and manage group visits
- Bobbi asked to serve on Travel Nevada 3D Cultural Corridor Steering Committee with Visit Carson City
- Updating the Plan of Operations with new policies and procedures

Financial Stability

- Keeping the Welcome Center Gift Shop open on Fridays. Includes Stewart gear: t-shirts, hoodies, coffee cups, and caps. We also purchase art from local Native artists who sign an agreement that we follow the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990. All proceeds go to purchase more art from local Native artists. We purchased art from these artists since the last report: Parker family; Leslie Eagle, Joey Allen, Darlene Graham, Jasmine Kennison, Richard Seukteoma, Monica Sigala, Jacqueline Rickard, Theo Steele, Gracie Dick, Raelyne Thomas, Melanie Smokey, Sierra Murphy, as well as Dale Bennett's book "Together We Endured: A Washo Memoir of Foster Homes & Family;" and Nancy Raven's book "Wuzzie Comes to Camp"
- Applied for National Endowment for the Humanities grant as part of team of other museums and archives in Nevada to share collection finding aids online. Will be notified spring 2024
- Applied for National Endowment for the Humanities grant in collaboration with Department of Interior to hire researcher to collect and digitize Stewart school records housed at National Archives in San Bruno, CA. Will be notified January 2024

Complying with Department of Interior Boarding School Initiative

- Working with BIA to approve SISCCM as repository for Stewart items in storage
- Working with National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to document the students who attended Stewart to create digital archive of records; to be completed spring 2024

Collections Stewardship

- We accepted the following 13 donations to the permanent collections: hymn book, Navajo program book, course of study book, Wa-Pai-Shone Co-op handbook, weaving loom from Stewart, office chair from Stewart, sand painting by an indigenous artist, two small silk screen prints by Navajo artists, a miniature pine needle basket, miniature clay pot and 2 donations of Stewart related photos
- Volunteer Renee Kolvet is working on creating student and subject files for the archives
- Intern Kay Remington completed scanning a large scrapbook of Stewart related photos and a loan of archival documents and photographs from the Stewart Community Baptist Church. Kay is currently working on scanning a Stewart related scrapbook on loan from the Nevada State Museum
- Volunteer Beverly Mobley completed researching unidentified Stewart student artwork on exhibit. Also, Beverly compiled a list of Korean War and Vietnam veterans who attended Stewart
- Volunteer Kathy Geiser compiled a list of Stewart students and employees who served in WWII. In addition, Kathy transcribed all the Stewart Indian School Trail Stops. We are currently working with Guide by Cell to create QR codes for each Trail stop. The codes will take visitors to a transcription and historic photos for each stop
- Completed 27 research requests. The requests included information on the following Stewart students: Della Decker, Teresa Lena Silver Henry, Melva Blackeye, Stella McCloud Raymond James Redner, Delbert Holley, Marilyn Cypher, Dewey Sampson, Bud Meyers, Wade Large Sally and Donald Melendez, members of the Strozzi family, Robert Tso, Aletha Tom, Chester and Annie Kahn, Melva Blackeye, and Stella McCloud
- Contacted by an interpretive guide at the Saint-Mihiel American cemetery in France (an American Battle Monuments Commission World War I cemetery). Assisting them with research on a Western Shoshone soldier named William Taylor
- Conducted an history interview with Stewart alum John Burns
- Reviewed and revised a list of items in the SISCCM's permanent exhibit on loan from the BIA. The BIA is working on extending the current loan agreement
- Working on entering contacts (donors to collections) into Past Perfect collections database
- Completed the following 4 professional development webinars: working with volunteers in collections, deterring the deterioration of paper, developing exhibits, and photo preservation
- Working on completing a professional development certificate in collections management from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
- Working with Erin Fehr from the American Indians in WWI Centennial to add tribal affiliations to the Stewart students who served

Education and Interpretation

- A total of **12,958** people signed the sign-in sheets since the soft openings in December 2019 (closed for five months in 2020 for covid and closed for the holidays from Dec. 15-Jan. 2, 2024)
- School tours: 334 students
- Group tours: 26
- International visitors: 49
- Presentations: 9
- Great Basin Basket Weavers workshops: 2
- Remembrance Run: 100

Great Basin Native Artists Gallery

- "Creating Story: Artwork of the Stewart Alumni," November 2023-February 2024
- Curator Melissa Melero-Moose is curating new exhibit for spring 2024

Outreach

- Misty, Delmar, and Ku Stevens held the third Remembrance Run for August 11-13. The runners camped at Yerington Friday August 11th, started the run August 12th, ended at Stewart August 13th. The theme was Culture Cures, and included cultural dances, presentations, and activities at Stewart, as well as visiting the cemetery
- Melanie Smokey conducted a Tea Party on Thursday October 26th in the classroom space; serving tea and sandwiches and taught about the plants she uses to make her herbal teas
- Hosted Great Basin Native Basket Weavers for 2 workshops
- Stewart Indian School exhibit "We Remember Your Sacrifices, You are Not Forgotten: the History and Art of Stewart Indian School" was displayed at the Truckee Parks and Recreation Community Center from July-September 2023, and the Lilley Museum of Art, UNR, from Nov. 9-30. Stewart alum held a roundtable discussion and showing of Home of the Braves documentary Nov. 17th
- Sponsored UNR museum studies intern: Kiana Vance, member of Te-Moak Battle Mountain tribe
- Sponsored Annie Delgado, UNLV Indigenous graduate student who will do research on Stewart student records at San Bruno National Archives
- Working with Governor's office in Southern Nevada to display Stewart traveling exhibit, working on date in spring 2024
- Displaying Stewart and Washoe artifacts at the Washoe Tribal Health Center in Gardnerville through March 2024
- Providing photos and documents on Stewart's history to Jessica Epstein working with Paige Bethmann on Remaining Native documentary
- Working with City of Carson City and Ben Rupert of Warriors Path to create signs on Prison Hill Trail that will tell the history of Stewart Indian School and the history of the Stewart "S"
- Working with Samantha Williams (author of Stewart book) on a new book project highlighting the Stewart student writings. Samantha is working with Stewart alumni Frank Joe, Aletha Tom, Ron Lewis, and Kym Arias who were interviewed for the book
- Partnering with Nevada Museum of Art (NMA) and a Lily Foundation Grant to work with Native traditional plant specialists to install an Indigenous garden at NMA and a medicinal garden at Stewart

Facility and risk management

- Work is proceeding with H+K Architects, State Historic Preservation Office, and State Public Works to renovate Stewart bakery/post office building for environmentally controlled collection storage using American Rescue Plan funds of \$1,145,320. Final construction documents will be submitted January 2024, with completed project by 2025
- Working with State Public Works and architects to design how to renovate Stewart's old gym with state funding from the Capital Improvement Program; the architects will meet with Stewart alumni to get input on the building's design and purpose
- National Historic Landmark Application update from Dr. Gregory Smoak. The National Park Service is working to complete the application revisions

Communication and Marketing

- Updating Stewart Indian School website
- Posting updates to Stewart Facebook page and Stewart Instagram account
- Working with Tourism Dept. staff for press releases, social media, and marketing
- Posting information to Carson City-Reno-Tahoe regional app called MOPO
- Continuing to update Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum's page on AIANTA's NativeAmerica.travel website

Financial Report:

BA 2601

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget (July 2023-June 2024)

\$267,618 Transfer of funds from Dept. of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

\$161,059 General Funds

\$428, 677 Total FY 24

\$298,040.94 Current Balance (as of January 18, 2024)

BA 3286 Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum's Portion of Gift Fund (CAT 69)

\$29,994.14 donations via check and purchases

\$11,057.95 gift shop sales via check

Total: \$41,052.09 (as of January 18, 2024)

SISCCM Petty Cash and Change Account (authorized by NRS 233A.300)

Balance: \$970.78 (as of January 18, 2024)