



## **Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board**

**January 18, 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 new policies and procedures

### **Financial Stability**

- Keeping the Welcome Center Gift Shop open on Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. We have 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.
- Commissioner Kelly Krolicki is inviting new Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance board members. Once the board is in place the by-laws can be changed so SISPA can apply for grants that are only available to 501 c 3 organizations, which will benefit the museum.

### **Collections Stewardship**

- Working with National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition working group to add Stewart records to Digital Archive.
- Completed scanning of Stewart newsletters and posted to Stewart website:
  - *The Warpath*—Sept. 22, 1978; March 30, 1979; April 20, 1979; Nov. 2, 1979; Feb. 8, 1980.
- Completed 5 research requests.
- Accepted 1 donation into Stewart collections. Grinding stones from Dale Bennett, Washoe.
- In compliance with Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland's initiative to document the students at all US boarding schools, we are collecting and compiling information from Stewart collections and BIA Stewart collections, as well as what is housed at the National Archives in San Bruno, CA. Information that is not confidential because of the Privacy Act will be shared in the Stewart Archives Collections through finding aids, on our touchscreens, and uploaded to the collections databases.

- We are working with the BIA Curator in Washington, DC to become a repository so we can move the Stewart BIA collections housed at the Nevada State Museum's Curatorial Center back to Stewart.

### **Education and Interpretation**

- Working with alumni to display a red dress to educate the public about Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women. This will be displayed in the Research Room.
- Adding a traditional Northern Paiute dress made by Stewart alumni to the Stewart in Transition display in permanent exhibit gallery.
- Made presentations/tours to 3 organizations.
- There were 109 visitors from Dec. 1-January 18, making the total number of people who signed the sign-in sheets at **4,666** since the soft openings in December 2019 (taking into account being closed for five months in 2020 and closed for the holidays from Dec. 20-January 2, 2022).

### **Great Basin Native Artists Gallery**

- Melissa Melero-Moose curated a new temporary exhibit for the Great Basin Native Artists Gallery called *Inheritance: Basketry and Art of the Great Basin*. Exhibit runs from November 12-June 3, 2022. Melero-Moose says, "This basketry exhibition will cover an array of mediums from woven willow cradleboards and basket hats to paintings, drawings, and poetry all showing how basketry is interwoven into the Indigenous consciousness from generations before and generations to come." Artists include Ben Aleck, Leah Brady, Loretta Burden, Rebecca Eagle, Sandra Eagle, Karma Henry, Micqaela Jones, Everett Pikyavit, Rachel Wilson, Norma Darrough, Elaine Smokey, Lois Kane, Bernice Steele, I.J. Wilson, Flossie Christensen Bennett, Jennie Dick, Lucy Parker, Topaz Jones, Maureen Self, Steve Nighthawk, Betty Rogers, and Mike Williams.

### **Outreach**

- Recruiting Indigenous students at Western Nevada College and University of Nevada at Reno for paid internship at museum this semester and summer.
- Planning Governor announcement and memorial recognizing Larry Hale's contributions to Stewart Indian School. Mr. Hale, (Paiute/Miwok/Kickapoo/Sac and Fox), worked at Stewart Indian School for 40 years before retiring. He was a volunteer at the museum. He passed away January 12, 2022.
- Provided Letter of Support for Urban Roots request to the National Trust for Historic Preservation grant called "Telling the Full History." This grant would provide travel funding to interview Stewart alumni to record stories.
- Partnering with University of Nevada at Reno's Anthropology Dept. on grant they received from the Nevada Humanities Council. Our museum will host Indigenous youth for one week this summer to teach them about Stewart Indian School. They will record oral histories of Stewart alumni. The final project is an exhibit and video documentary with the interviews.
- Providing information table at Nevada Museum of Art to honor Jean LaMarr's art exhibit and Community Forum, 5 pm March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- Hosting Sacred Circle Health Clinic board meeting, Goshute Tribe, July 27, 28, 29 from 9-4 pm. During the meeting breaks the participants will tour the museum and gift shop. Chair Rupert Steele will be in attendance.
- The Stevens family from Yerington, parents of Ku Stevens the track athlete, propose to do another Remembrance Run this June, but from Yerington to Stewart. Runners will bring offerings to put on graves at Washoe cemetery. They would like to invite Governor Sisolak, the two senators who support Ku's efforts, Deb Haaland, some tribal council representatives from Nevada tribes. The idea is to hear about the progress being made on the DOI initiative to document the students.
- Working with Visit Carson to put together a concept for a permanent exhibit at Reno Tahoe Airport about Stewart Indian School and the museum.
- Working with Visit Carson on participating in an outdoor art festival in May.
- 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.
- Serving on Planning Council and grant reviewing for Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums.

### **Facility and risk management**

- Brian Wacker at State Public Works said that the CIP project to renovate the bakery building for collection storage is being included in CIP project requests for the 2023 Legislative session.
- National Historic Landmark Application update from Dr. Gregory Smoak: He is still finalizing the revisions to the application.

### **Gift Shop**

- To support local Native artists, we purchased art from: Katherine Walker, Washoe; and Joey Allen, Fallon Paiute Shoshone. We also purchased coffee from native owned business (Zuniga family) Star Village Coffee. We also added new Stewart gear including embroidered hats, keychains, fleece scarves, long sleeved shirts, and aprons.
- Gift shop volunteers put together a raffle from gift shop merchandise. Drawing was Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and the total number of raffle tickets sold was \$60.00

### **Communication and Marketing**

- "Governor Apologizes for Nevada's Role in Indigenous Schools," Sam Metz, *AP News*, Dec. 3, 2021.
- "Sisolak Offers Support to Tribal Leaders amid Federal Boarding School Investigation," by Jazmin Orozco Rodriguez, *Nevada Independent*, Dec. 3, 2021.
- "Nevada Governor Apologizes for State's Role in Forced Assimilation of Native Youth," *Red Lake Nation News*, Dec. 7, 2021.
- "Nevada Governor Acknowledges State's Role in Native Boarding School, Backs Tribal Community," Gustavo Sagrero, *KUNR Public Radio*, Dec. 8, 2021.

- "Investigation into Nevada Boarding School," by Paul Boger of *KNPR Public Radio*; interviewed Stewart alums Gloria McDonald, Dale Bennett, Teri Burns, and Ron Lewis.
- "Meeting the Women of Ah'-Wah-Nee, *Double Scoop Arts in Nevada* podcast interview of Melissa Melero-Moose by Kris Wagner, Dec. 10, 2021.
- "'I Have a Purpose': Ku Stevens, Remembrance Run Organizer named Reno Gazette Journal's Citizen of the Year," *Reno Gazette Journal*, Dec. 26, 2021.
- "Getting Eyes on Native Art: An Indigenous Artists Collective Hosts Gallery at Stewart Indian School ," *Reno News & Review*, Jan. 14, 2022.
- Posting weekly updates to Stewart Facebook page
- Sending news items to Travel Nevada and Visit Carson City
- A new Carson City-Reno-Tahoe regional app called MOPO includes a Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum site that we will keep updated about events and exhibits.
- Working with Visit Carson's new Cultural Arts Manager, Debra Soule, to include museum events and exhibits are listed on a community-wide calendar.

**Financial Report:**

**BA 2601 Fiscal Year 2022 Budget (July 2021-June 2022)**

\$123,199 General Fund

\$170,347 Transfer of funds from Dept. of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

\$2,406 Cares Act Funds

Total FY 22 budget: \$295,952

Current Balance: \$127,504.81

**BA 3286 Cultural Center & Museum's Portion of Gift Fund**

\$75,316.51 donations via check and purchases

\$2,599.00 gift shop sales via check

Total: \$77,915.51

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

Balance: \$1,182.57