



Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board

April 18, 2022

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum:

Museum Director Bobbi Rahder and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons

Leadership, professional development, and organization structure

- Bobbi was appointed by Governor to serve as a member of the Historical Records Advisory Board. This board advises state on grants to preserve historical records.
- Exploring funding sources to hire additional staff.
- 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.
- The Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance has new board members. The board will meet April 26th to approved revised by-laws. Once the revised by-laws are approved, SISPA can apply for grants that are only available to 501 c 3 organizations, which will benefit the museum.

Complying with Department of Interior Boarding School Initiative

- Staff from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) visited the museum and the Nevada State Museum Curatorial Center to review the BIA Stewart collections. We asked them to give us access to the collections and to approve SISCCM as the repository for the Stewart collections.
- Met with team from National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to discuss the obstacles to documenting the students who attended the boarding schools because of new privacy laws and new directive at the National Archives.

Collections Stewardship

- Working with National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition working group to add Stewart records to Digital Archive.
- Completed 18 research requests.

- Accepted donations into Stewart collections: an arrow made by Ira Coffey, Burton Pete beaded eagle, grinding stones, and two cradleboards.

Education and Interpretation

- We worked with two University of Nevada-Reno (UNR) service-learning communications students who each completed a 24-hour internship helping with various projects. We also worked with one UNR museum student who is completing a 100-hour internship helping with collections preservation projects. We will be working with a University of Nevada-Las Vegas graduate Public History Indigenous student who will help us document the students who attended Stewart Indian School. UNLV will pay for the graduate student's time and housing to be here this June.
- Melissa Melero-Moose gave Anya Montiel, History and Culture Curator for the Smithsonian, National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) a tour of museum. Anya contacted us about possibly making the permanent Stewart exhibit into a traveling exhibit that would be shown at NMAI in Washington, DC. Anya is talking with her NMAI colleagues to get the project approved.
- The red dress and Paiute collar made by Janice Stump and Linda Eben Jones (Northern Paiute) to educate the public about Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women has been installed in the Research Room.
- Adding a traditional Northern Paiute dress and Paiute collar made by Stewart alumni to the Stewart in Transition display in permanent exhibit gallery.
- Made presentations/tours to 21 organizations.
- A total of **5,239** people have signed the sign-in sheets 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 extended the *Inheritance: Basketry and Art of the Great Basin* in the Great Basin Native Artists Gallery. The exhibit now runs from November 12-September 30, 2022. Melero-Moose added new pieces from Rebecca Eagle, Sandra Eagle, Topaz Jones, and Elizabeth Manuelito.
- The next exhibit Melissa will curate in the GBNA Gallery will be a Stewart alumni show, October 2022-May 2023.

Outreach

- Planning Grand Opening of SISCCM for Saturday June 18th, 10-10:30 am. Making program, invitations, press release, gifts for speakers.
- Larry Burton coordinated a Travel Nevada grant training on behalf of AIANTA in the museum classroom April 14th. The training by Sherry Rupert, CEO of AIANTA, and Ben Rupert, Secretary/Treasurer for Nevada's Indian Territory. The meeting was both in person and zoom. The workshop is a partnership between AIANTA and Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to reach out to communities along the California National Historic Trail in Nevada to identify tribal interest in tourism development.
- The Reno-Tahoe Airport has a new airport board and is expanding their plans for showing exhibitions of local cultural heritage sites. They requested a Stewart Indian School exhibit to be displayed at the airport. This exhibit will be 1000 square feet of wall space, and four display cases, in the Departures Art Gallery Concourse C, Nov. 22, 2022-Jan. 23, 2023.

- Misty Stevens, mother of Yerington Paiute High School track athlete Ku Stevens, is organizing for the Second Remembrance Run August 13-14. Delmar Stevens asked me to get permission from Deputy Director William Quenga at State Prisons to cross prison lands as part of the Remembrance Run. Sent him the map and route. Ku Stevens received a Dreamstarter Grant from the Billy Mills Academy to pay for the expenses of the second event.
- 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.
- Provided information table at Nevada Museum of Art to honor Jean LaMarr's art exhibit and Community Forum March 31st.
- 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.
- 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 Stewart Auditorium and Old Gym will be presented as Capital Improvement Project requests for the 2023 Legislative session.
- Brian Wacker has been meeting with the Governor's Finance Office (GFO) to use American Rescue Plan funds to renovate the Stewart bakery/post office building for museum environmentally controlled collection storage. It has been approved from GFO and submitted to the next Interim Finance Committee meeting in June for approval.
- Working with Markus McEntee at State Public Works to install two electric charging stations in museum parking area. Work will be done this summer.
- 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: Theo Steele, Goshute; Sol Martinez, Bhie Cie Ledesma, Te-Moak Shoshone and Washoe; Dayl Roach, Washoe;

Gracie Dick, Paiute; Katherine Walker, Washoe; Joey Allen, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone; Raelyne Thomas, Pyramid Lake Paiute; and Ira Coffey, Paiute/Shoshone. We also purchased coffee from native owned business (Zuniga family) Star Village Coffee.

- In response to concerns raised by Commissioner Wadsworth at the January NIC board meeting, Bobbi surveyed 46 Stewart alumni to ask about whether the Stewart gear sold in the museum gift shop should have the letter S, Stewart Braves, and the Stewart Braveshead on them. All people surveyed said yes. That is what the team was called and it was their team. This situation is the same at other Indian boarding schools who still operated: Sherman Indian School has Sherman Indian Braves with Braves head mascot; Haskell has the Fighting Indians and an Indian Braveshead they trademarked for all their gear. In the Stewart permanent exhibit Stewart alumni shared their stories of how they survived assimilation by making their own community through band, athletics, and social gatherings. We are here to serve the alumni—it is their school, their museum, and their stories. If the majority of the people surveyed say they want to see the Stewart Braveshead on the Stewart gear that is what we will do. We respect those who have a different opinion.

Communication and Marketing

- Updated Stewart Indian School website.
- Participated in Zoom interview with Regina Cole from Forbes Magazine, 2-17-22
- 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: \$80,468.43

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

\$71,073.98 donations via check and purchases

\$4,242.95 gift shop sales via check

Total: \$75,316.93

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

Balance: \$2,613.53