

The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

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NATHPO Awarded Prestigious Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

(Washington, DC) - Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) will create and present the National Native Museum Training Program to benefit tribal museums. Tribally operated museums are primarily developed with the mission to preserve, perpetuate, and revitalize the cultural and historic heritage of native peoples. Most of these organizations are staffed by local tribal members who have not had the opportunity to participate in formal training in museum operations. Funding will support workshops in the areas of interpretation, education, collections care, and conservation. NATHPO will also coordinate a convening of tribal museum directors to share insights on community engagement and funding sustainability. Funding will also support internships for existing and future tribal museum personnel who will enhance their skills through hands-on experiences in established museums throughout the nation. NATHPO was awarded \$401,365 with a match of \$427,600.

"With this support from IMLS, we will be able to develop and provide a variety of educational and leadership development opportunities for those committed individuals who work in the field of tribal museums and cultural centers. These cultural institutions play a critical role in tribal communities -- both for local members and for the greater public -- and are an important component of cultural preservation and rejuvenation," stated Bambi Kraus, NATHPO president.

Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services stated, "The 21st Century Museum Professionals program promotes leadership at our nation's museums and ensures excellence in the services that benefit the American people. With today's grants, scores of staff serving hundreds of institutions, from zoos to art museums all across the country, will become expert in emergency planning and conservation, developing standards-based school resources, promoting economic tourism, and collaborating with their communities."

The 21st Century Museum Professionals program supports a range of activities, including professional training in all areas of museum operations and leadership development. Museum professionals need high levels of knowledge and expertise to allow museums to play their essential role in the education of the American public: preserving our rich heritage and transmitting it from one generation to the next. In partnership with schools, community organizations, and other cultural institutions, the 21st Century Museum Professionals program helps museum professionals update their knowledge and skills.

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For this funding cycle of the 21st Century Museum Professionals program, there were 52 applications seeking over \$10 million for their projects. Of the 52 applications, nine (9) awards were made that totaled over \$1.6 million that will be matched with over \$1.8 million in non-federal funds and services.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 15,000 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a "Nation of Learners" because life-long learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convenings, research and publications, the Institute empowers museums and libraries nationwide to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build twenty-first-century skills, and increase civic participation. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: <http://www.ims.gov>