



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

## NEWSLETTER

### RECAPPING THE WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS SUMMIT WEEK

Last week was jam-packed with activity for Team NATHPO. Executive Director Valerie Grussing and Indigenization Advisor Stacy Laravie were able to attend several events around the White House Tribal Nations Summit, where President Biden and the Administration made several positive announcements for Tribes and their THPOs. As Stacy observed, it is always a place of celebration to see all the Nations and that we are still here. There is something powerful in seeing that. At the same time, Stacy and Government Affairs Advisor Ted Monoson participated in the Bureau of Land Management's Preservation Board Meeting, and on Friday Valerie and Stacy visited the National Museum of the American Indian's Cultural Resources Center. Here's a brief recap of the week.

### NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER STREAMLINING TRIBAL ACCESS TO FEDERAL FUNDING

On Tuesday, December 5, President Biden issued a new Executive Order to streamline the process of getting federal funding to Tribal Nations. This is a positive step in overcoming barriers Tribes routinely face in securing those funds. We also appreciate President Biden's acknowledgment of the fact that too many Tribes lack the capacity needed to even apply for federal funds, which this new Executive Order is intended to help alleviate. We hope to be able to reference and leverage this new order as NATHPO and THPOs advocate for federal funding to

support the work of Tribal historic preservation. You can read the White House's announcement around it [HERE](#), and you can read the order itself [HERE](#).

## **SACRED SITES, CO-STEWARDSHIP & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE (OH MY!)**

During the Tribal Nations Summit, the Administration made a [number of announcements](#) of interest to us, regarding issues on which NATHPO has been engaged.

The White House Council on Native American Affairs (WHCNAA) released their new Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites. You can read that new guide [HERE](#). In September, NATHPO [sent a letter](#) to the WHCNAA highlighting some key issues we hoped to see included. We are very pleased with this guide and hope you can make some time to check it out.

The Interior Department released its [second annual report on Tribal co-stewardship](#), which outlines implementation of [Secretarial Order 3403](#) and highlights the agreements that the Interior Department entered into in the past year.

Secretary Haaland also announced that the Department has published departmental guidance on the inclusion and protection of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) in decision making and scientific research. A [new chapter in the agency's Departmental Manual](#) formalizes IK as a foundational piece of the Department's mission and formally recognizes IK as one of the many important knowledge systems that contribute to the well-being of the United States and to the collective understanding of the natural world. This new chapter is intended to facilitate and encourage the Department's consistent, broad and equitable inclusion of IK internally and externally.

## **BLM PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING**

During the same week as the Tribal Nations Summit, NATHPO Indigenization Advisor Stacy Laravie attended and participated in the Bureau of Land Management's Preservation Board Meeting. Stacy was able to educate the folks from BLM about best practices for working with Tribes and how to make the Section 106 consultation process with THPOs as positive and effective as possible.

As the BLM continues to revise and update its [10-year Nationwide Programmatic Agreement](#), they will continue to consult directly with all Tribes.

We think the session was productive, and hope it marks both the beginning of a larger dialogue with BLM about how to make this process work best and can serve as a guide for having similar dialogues with other agencies throughout the federal government. We want to ensure the Section 106 consultation process works as well as possible not just on paper, but in practice as well.

## **VISITING NMAI'S CULTURAL RESOURCES CENTER**

On Friday, after a long week of events around the White House Tribal Nations Summit and the BLM Preservation Board Meeting, Stacy and Valerie were able to visit the Cultural Resources Center (CRC) at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). The visit was powerful and moving, as they received a glimpse of the staggering number of Tribal belongings housed at NMAI and discussed the practices in place to ensure those belongings are treated respectfully and ultimately returned home.

One of the biggest takeaways from the visit was that the CRC has a great deal of untapped resources for Tribes to both repatriate stolen belongings and ensure that ancestral belongings in NMAI's collection are treated respectfully, in a manner consistent with each Tribe's cultural practices. We are in the process of working with the CRC to help Tribes gain greater access to this resource and will have more information as those discussions unfold.

## **VISITING CHIEF STANDING BEAR'S STATUE**

On Friday afternoon, Valerie and Stacy joined with other members of Team NATHPO at the Statuary Hall in the US Capitol to see the statue of Ma-Chun-Nu-Zhe Chief Standing Bear, which was installed in the Capitol in 2019. Stacy is a direct descendant of Chief Standing Bear, and she took the time to educate us about several aspects of the statue that the casual observer would easily miss, including detail about his pipe tomahawk, which Stacy helped repatriate back to the Ponca people during her time as the Tribe's THPO. You can read our longer Facebook post of this powerful and moving visit to the Capitol [HERE](#).



## [NATHPO Community Calendar & Job Board & Grant Opportunities](#)

Stay current on important happenings using our new [Calendar of Events](#), and post your own to share! And let us know if you have a job posting you would like to share and we'll post it on our [Community Job Board](#). AND don't forget to browse our listing of relevant [Grant Opportunities](#).

### [Save The Date! 2024 NATHPO Annual Conference](#)

The 24th Annual NATHPO Conference will take place August 12-16, 2024, at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. [Stay tuned for more details](#) and be sure to mark these days on your calendars!

*Thank you for all you do to protect culturally important places that perpetuate Native identity, resilience, and cultural endurance, and to empower Tribal preservation leaders.*

*Valerie J. Grussing*

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NATHPO Executive Director

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## ***PROTECTING NATIVE PLACES***

THPOs: this is your organization! Your participation and support through membership and dues make our work possible. **JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!** Founded in 1998, the Association is a national non-profit membership organization of Tribal government officials who implement federal and Tribal preservation laws.

12/22/2023



# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **UPCOMING NPS DEADLINES**

**THPO Grant Reports And Accomplishments Reports Due to NPS:** As the year comes to a close, it's time for THPOs to submit their annual reports to the National Park Service. NATHPO does not have a role in this, but we are sending this reminder as a service. Please find all necessary information in an email THPOs received from Lea Anne Chapman on behalf of the NPS THPO Program. **Please respond to that NPS email with questions or for assistance.**

On Sunday, December 31, the 2023 Annual financial forms are due. On January 31, 2024, the following items are due: FY 2022 Grant Closing/Final, FY 2021 Grant Closing/Final, 2023 Annual Accomplishments Report. All eligible reimbursements on the expiring grants must be drawn down from ASAP by December 31.

You can also access a rundown of what is required, as well as some resources and contact information for help completing your reports [HERE](#).

## **NAGPRA RULE IS FINAL**

This month, the Department of the Interior [published its final rule](#) for revisions to the NAGPRA implementing regulations. The rule becomes effective January 12, 2024 and final comments to the Office of Management and Budget must be submitted by that date; instructions for commenting are in the [Federal Register notice](#) of the final rule.

Our Repatriation Advisor is comparing the final rule to [NATHPO's January 2023 comment letter](#), and we will share as soon as we can this updated analysis of where we go from here.

In November, the NAGPRA Review Committee finalized and approved its 2023 Report to Congress, attached here. Of note is that the Committee adopts NATHPO's requests in [our 2022 testimony](#) before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs that the Government Accountability Office conduct evaluations related to federal agency compliance with the requirements of 25 U.S.C. 3002, implementation of the civil penalty provisions, NAGPRA grant program, and costs of proposed regulatory revisions.

## **APPLY FOR A TRIBAL HERITAGE GRANT**

The National Park Service's [Tribal Heritage Grants Program](#) (THG) is now accepting applications for competitive grants. National Park Service's Tribal Heritage Grants Program focuses on protecting oral histories, plant and animal species important in tradition, sacred and historic places, and enabling the establishment of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Congress has appropriated \$720,000 for the THG Program. Applications are due February 20, 2024.

## **REQUEST A MEETING ON APPENDIX C RECISSION**

ICYMI, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is [in the process](#) of rescinding Appendix C to come into compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. It is expected that USACE would instead rely on ACHP's regulations and joint USACE/ACHP guidance for implementation of Section 106. The Army intends to coordinate with Tribal Nations and ACHP throughout this rulemaking effort. NATHPO has already submitted comment on

this matter [and has met with](#) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the USACE to advocate on behalf of Tribal Nations and their THPOs. You or your Tribe can request your own meeting with OMB [HERE](#), and you can read a primer on the issue from the Native American Rights Fund's Wesley Furlong [HERE](#).

## **WATCH THIS SPACE: UPCOMING NATHPO JOB OPPORTUNITY!**

In early January, NATHPO will be publicizing a job posting for a 3-year position for our [Land Area & Name Directory \(LAND\) Initiative](#). This person will be responsible for crafting both LAND's underlying database and the application users will interact with the database, so the preferred candidate must be technically competent and have a good understanding of user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) design. We will be sure to share the position with all of you in a newsletter, in addition to publicizing it on our website and social media networks, so please, keep an eye out and share the posting with your networks when it is finalized. We are beyond excited to launch this project, and look forward to working with each of you to ensure it is Tribally driven and serves your needs.

## **IN THE NEWS**

[The Globe and Mail](#) | For boys who died at North America's first residential school, reburial offers peace to the living and dead

[New York Times](#) | In Death Valley, a Rare Lake Comes to Life

[American Alliance of Museums](#) | A Journey of Healing: Creating Co-Stewardship with Tribal Communities

[The Berkshire Eagle](#) | Our Opinion: A tribe and a museum demonstrate the work and respect needed for reconciliation

[Nevada Current](#) | NV tribes will not appeal most recent lithium mine ruling

[Evanston Roundtable](#) | Preservation Commission urges state, NU to involve local tribes in Ryan Field rebuild

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12/28/2023



# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS**

## REFLECTING ON 2023



### The Storyteller

*Winter is a time for gathering together and sharing stories and memories from long ago. Wishing you a wondrous holiday season and blessed new beginnings from the NATHPO team.*

*(Original art created for NATHPO by Stacy Laravie (Ponca), watercolor and pen)*

A lot happened in 2023 here at NATHPO, and as the year comes to a close, we take a few moments to look back on the year in gratitude, celebration, and anticipation of an exciting 2024 to come.

**More THPOs!** With the addition of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony, the number of Park Service-approved THPOs swelled to 221 this year. We know of multiple applications currently in the works and look forward to welcoming even more THPOs in 2024.

**FY 2023 THPO Funding Increase!** Necessitated by the growing number of THPOs as well as the increasing workload, we went flat out on Capitol Hill to increase the Congressional appropriation for THPOs in the Historic Preservation Fund. We were thrilled to see an unheard-of 44% increase and hear about the positive impact this made for so many of you! We won't be letting up for FY24.

**23rd Annual Conference BACK IN PERSON!** This February, NATHPO held [our 23rd annual conference](#) hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians at the Harrah's Cherokee Hotel & Casino Resort. It was great to have folks back in person again for the first time since the start of COVID, and we're already gearing up for our [24th annual conference](#) at the Ho-Chunk Gaming Resort in the Wisconsin Dells August 12-16, 2024.

**Staffing Up At NATHPO:** We added several new faces to the team at NATHPO this year. Stacy Laravie (Ponca) joined as our Indigenization Advisor, marking the first former THPO to join the staff in its 25-year history. We also welcomed back Ted Monoson as our Government Affairs Coordinator and added Matt Fuehrmeyer as our new Communications Specialist. We're grateful for the work the expanded team has been doing and look forward to all they'll do in the new year.

**Protecting Native Places:** 2023 was the second year for NATHPO's Protecting Native Places grant program. We started this program last year, with the help of our partners at The Wilderness Society and the Wilburforce Foundation. These \$5,000 grants to member THPOs can be used to support their work to ensure that Tribal cultural resources and places are managed and protected, including the incorporation of traditional knowledge, from upgrading mapping technology and document preservation to building structures and creating opportunities for education on Tribes' connection to and the importance of preserving ancestral lands. You can learn more about the Protecting Native Places grants and see the list of 2023 recipients [HERE](#).

**Active Role in Federal Initiatives and Rulemakings:** NATHPO eagerly participated in a number of anticipated and overdue federal efforts this year, and looks forward to continuing to engage with Administration and agency leadership on staff on improving consultation, accountability, and protection of Native places. 2023 efforts have included:

- Updating [NPS guidance on Bulletin 38](#) (TCPs),
- Revising the [implementing regulations for NAGPRA](#),
- [USACE rescinding Appendix C](#),

- ACHP's [Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects](#) and forthcoming [policy on Indigenous Knowledge](#),
- The White House Council on Native American Affairs' [Best Practices Guide on Sacred Sites](#).

**White House Tribal Nations Summit:** Earlier this month, NATHPO Executive Director Valerie Grussing and Indigenization Advisor Stacy Laravie were able to attend several events around the White House Tribal Nations Summit, where President Biden and the Administration made several positive announcements for Tribes and their THPOs. As Stacy observed, it is always a place of celebration when the Nations gather. There is something powerful in seeing that we are still here.

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### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

As we prepare to close the book on 2023 and look forward to 2024, we would be remiss not to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. We wouldn't be able to do the work we do supporting Tribal Nations, their THPOs, and other community members doing the sacred work of protecting and preserving Tribal Nations' sacred places and cultural heritage without our members, funders, partners, and supporters who help make NATHPO possible.

We know that this work is important to you, and we will continue working to earn your support. If you would like to make a donation before the end of the year to support our work elevating and uniting Tribal voices in cultural and historic preservation, **you [can click here to make a tax-deductible contribution to](#)**

**NATHPO.** We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. EIN: 74-2893040.

Thank you so much for all you are doing, have done, and will do to support NATHPO, THPOs, and the work of protecting Native places!

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