

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum

Museum Director Bobbi Rahder and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons

Report to Nevada Indian Commission Board: February 22, 2018

Leadership and Organization Structure

- Developed Cultural Center Plan of Operations
- Determined hours of operation and staffing needs to request funding in next legislative session
- Created Cultural Center Advisory Subcommittee
- Planning May 3, 2018 Blessing Ceremony for Cultural Center
- Working with Cultural Center Advisory Subcommittee on mission/vision statement and values
- Working on strategic short-term and long-term Cultural Center plans

Stewart Indian School Living Legacy

- Participated in talks on Stewart Master Plan and made revisions to Gallagher Interpretive Framework
- Helped with American Indian Achievement Award Banquet
- Conducted six tours of campus
- Participating in Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference
- Planning a Cultural Center Alumni Booth for Stewart Father's Day Powwow to share information and new exhibit design
- Planning the Stewart Alumni Recognition Reception for June 14, 2018

Financial Stability

- Worked on FY 2018 budget projections (BA 2601)
- Purchasing new laptop and preservation supplies
- Purchasing supplies and furnishings for cultural center with Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding
- Discussing possible grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities to create new collection storage facility

Collections Stewardship

- Received research records from Samantha Williams, PhD Candidate
- Collected historical items from several Stewart buildings for collections
- Working on 20 research requests
- Creating a comprehensive Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Stewart Indian School Collection Timeline and then will develop a strategy to request those collections be returned to Stewart
- Researching at the Nevada State Museum Curatorial Center to document the BIA collection, and other uncatalogued items, for possible inclusion in the history of Stewart exhibit being designing

- Looking through old records for a comprehensive list of Stewart's students, years of attendance, tribal affiliation, and whether they graduated.
- Accepting new donations and cataloging into PastPerfect
- Surveyed and documented collections at other repositories with Stewart materials
- Digitizing Stewart yearbooks and newsletters to post on Stewart website and will make copies for alumni

Education and Interpretation

- Attended State of Nevada Board of Examiners Meeting on February 13, 2018 to answer questions regarding Gallagher contract to help us design a permanent Stewart history exhibit for the Cultural Center
- Applied to US Department of State, Communities Connecting Heritage to become an international partner for future exhibits and speakers
- Met with several geologists to identify the different stonework in the Stewart buildings; creating a brochure and children's activities
- Setting up Volunteer Program: application form, two volunteers
- Setting up Internship Program: activate this fall
- Revising tour forms online for both tours and presentations

Outreach

- Sharing documents and resources with Billie Jean Guerrero at the Pyramid Lake Museum and Michon Eben at Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Facility and Risk Management

- Met with Brian Wacker at State Public Works Division (SPWD) and H&K Architects on Cultural Center construction; reviewing plans, clearing building
- Processing documents found when basement vault was opened
- Met with Buildings and Grounds to discuss needs for collection storage

Communication and Marketing

- Presented at Carson City Cultural Arts Commission on January 24, 2018
- Creating calendar of historical Stewart photographs to sell as fundraiser at powwow
- Designing Carson City Christmas ornament to honor Cultural Center building in 2019
- Reviewing Stewart marketing plan and working on a branding plan for Cultural Center; possibly apply for TravelNevada marketing grant in April
- Participating in Reno Art Town event on July 22, 2018
- Updating website and social media with Cultural Center funding and future plans