



Report to the Nevada Indian Commission Board

November 24, 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

- Putting together packets of information about Stewart Indian School students for Governor Sisolak's Summit with tribal leaders at Stewart on December 3rd.
- 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 Indian Advance 1899-1903
 - The Nevada American 1913 & 1915
 - The New Indian 1903-1905
 - The Indian Enterprise 1917-1918
 - The Sierra Redskins 1940-1945
 - The Stewart Sagette 1953-1957
 - The Warpath 1972-1980
- Completed 16 research requests.
- Accepted 2 donations into Stewart collections. One donation included two framed pencil drawings possibly done by Stewart students. The second donation was a collection of

beaded baskets; one basket was made by a Wa-Pai-Shone Co-op artist Rachel Wilson, 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

- Made a permanent display in Research Room about the Remembrance Run by Kutoven Stevens, Yerington Paiute track athlete, that was held at Stewart Indian School on August 14, 2021. Working with Paige Bethmann, Mohawk/Oneida director/producer from New York, who is making the documentary film *Remaining Native*. "This film is a story about Indigenous resilience, reclamation, and pride as 17-year-old cross country runner, Ku Stevens, runs the 50-mile escape route his great grandfather took as he fled from Indian Boarding School at only 8 years old. Ku's run comes in the wake of the first federal investigation into Indian Boarding Schools."
- Made a permanent display about Orange Shirt Day on September 30th and what it means to honor and remember all the children who attended boarding schools in the US and Canada.
- Working with alumni to display a red dress to educate the public about Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women. This will be displayed in the Storytelling Room.
- Adding a traditional Northern Paiute dress made by Stewart alumni to the Stewart in Transition display in permanent exhibit gallery.
- Hosted 30 social studies teachers from Washoe County School District on Nov. 4th, to hear presentations by Fredina Romero, NV Dept. of Education; Linda Eben Jones, Stewart alum from 1966; and Harriet Brady, former Stewart student and current Pyramid Lake High School teacher. Presenters provided resources and boarding school stories for teachers to share with their students about the boarding school experiences.
- Made presentation about Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum to Nevada Museum Association Annual Meeting Oct. 8th.
- Made presentation about Stewart Indian School to UNLV Preserve Nevada Oct. 9th.
- Special Nevada Day Event: museum was open Oct. 30th from 1-5 pm, including beading demonstrations by Dale Bennett, Linda Eben Jones, Janice Eben Stump, and Kathy O'Day Yazzie; and basket weaving demonstration by Loretta Burden. We had over 200 visitors, but kept our Covid-19 protocols in place to make sure everyone remained safe.
- Made presentations/tours to 18 organizations.
- There were 725 visitors between September 27th to Nov. 24th, making the total number of people who signed the sign-in sheets at 4,557 since the soft openings in December 2019 (taking into account being closed for five months in 2020).

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

- Hosted film crew at Stewart Indian School from the Las Vegas Indian Center on Nov. 18th, including Rulan Pete, the executive director, Tammi Tiger, board member, Ryan Boone, former UNLV NASO president, and 2 videographers. They are making a video to promote American Indian civic engagement, particularly voting.
- Worked with Stewart Cultural Advisory Committee member Fawn Douglas to provide photos of Stewart for UNLV Ah-Wah-Nee performance at the Paul Harris Theatre called *We Danced We Sang Until the Matron Came*, named after a painting by artist Jean LaMarr as part of Fawn's curated exhibition and symposium, Nov. 5th.
- 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

- Compressor on HVAC system still being installed.
- Bat removal and cleanup from both cultural center and welcome center is ongoing.
- Looking for alternative funding to renovate Stewart bakery building for collection storage because CIP was cancelled by Governor due to COVID pandemic.
- National Historic Landmark Application update from Dr. Gregory Smoak: He is finalizing the revisions and will send the final revised version when it is finished and submitted to the National Park Service.

Gift Shop

- To support local Native artists, we purchased art from: Dale Bennett, Washoe; Gracie Dick, Northern Paiute; Mary Burnette, Pyramid Lake Paiute; Wesley Dick, Northern Paiute; Melanie Smokey, Washoe & Yomba Shoshone; Katherine Walker, Washoe; Micqaela Jones, Temoak Shoshone; Ben Aleck, Pyramid Lake Paiute; Dayl Roach, Washoe. We also added new Stewart gear including embroidered hats, keychains, fleece scarves, long sleeved shirts, and aprons.

Communication and Marketing

- 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.
- Stewart Indian School was named as one of Preserve Nevada's 2021 Most Endangered List, Oct. 19th. Hopefully this will help draw attention to Stewart's Master Plan and the need to raise funds to renovate all the buildings at Stewart and make them self-sustaining.
- *Reno Gazette Journal* article called "Basket weavers struggle to keep Native American culture" about the Great Basin Native Basket Weavers Association led by basket weaver Leah Brady, Oct. 29th. Leah held her basket weaving workshops at the museum over the summer.
- Stewart alumni and bead makers Linda Eben Jones, Janice Eben Stump, and Dale Bennett, and were interviewed for Capital Arts Initiative Nevada Neighbors Video, on YouTube Nov. 5th.
- *New York Times* article, "To Honor His Indigenous Ancestors, He Became a Champion," by Kurt Streeter, Nov. 17th. Article about Stewart and Ku Stevens, the Yerington track athlete and the Remembrance Run, as well as Ku's win as state champion at the Nevada state interscholastic competition and the fastest high school cross-country runner in all of Nevada.
- Working with Visit Carson's new Cultural Arts Manager, Debra Soule, to make sure our 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: \$207,382.07

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

\$76,504.18 donations via check

\$2,451 gift shop sales via check

Total: \$78,955.18

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

Balance: \$557.18