



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group
Date: November 6, 2017

**Cultural Resource Fund Quarterly Report
July– September 2017**

Background

In May 2014, the Federal Communications Commission and seven Class I freight railroads signed memoranda of understanding to create a \$10 million Cultural Resource Fund (CRF) to address issues relating to Positive Train Control construction. The CRF funds grants to eligible Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs).

The MICA Group was selected to serve as Administrator for the CRF and signed a contract with the railroads in February 2015. MICA's application included a proposed Advisory Board, consisting of national leaders in Indian Country and a state historic preservation expert, to guide the initiative.

Significant Milestones, July-September 2017

July	Tribal Visit to Kootenai Tribe, Montana Phase 1 Grant Completion and Reports Due
August	Tribal Visit to Santa Clara Pueblo Meeting with Kellogg Foundation Meeting with Indigenous Language Institute
September	No milestones this month

Summary

No CRF grants were awarded during this quarter. Q10 was devoted to closing out the Phase 1 grants. 156 Phase 1 close-out grant reports have been received to date. Twenty-five Tribes and SHPOs requested extensions, and 54 reports remain outstanding. Two grants were cancelled, and the grant funds were returned to the CRF. We hope you will click on the attachment to this email to view "What Tribes and SHPOs are Saying About the CRF."

So far, Phase 1 has leveraged \$3,417,567. This number will increase as additional reports are received and reviewed. This number is solely cash, and does NOT include in-kind, donated services, or the monetary value of staff time.

Phase 2 Grants Closeout Reports

Phase 2 closeout reports are due December 31, 2017.



Phase 3 Grants: Leveraging the CRF

Phase 3 grants will be divided into interest tracks based on the results of a Phase 1 survey that solicited the tribes' and SHPOs' cultural and historic preservation priorities. Three interest tracks have been approved:

- 1) \$2 million *Pathways to Fluency* Language Initiative (partners: W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Lannan Foundation)
- 2) \$500,000 Cultural Places Initiative (partners: Getty Conservation Institute, Google Earth, Lannan Foundation, National Park Service)
- 3) \$246,000 SHPO Public Education Initiative (partners: NCSHPO and Cultural Heritage Partners, American Express, U.S. Forest Service) **COMPLETED**

Phase 3 Track Timetables & Updates

Track 1: Language Revitalization – No. 1 Tribal priority. The proposed WKKF implementation grant decision has been delayed. Our original W.K. Kellogg Foundation program officer retired. Our replacement program officer left WKKF in August. We met with WKKF staff in August. We expect to receive an invitation to submit an implementation grant proposal.

The National Endowment for the Humanities proposed a partnership in which it would contribute \$1 million in funding to the CRF. NEH suggested that MICA and NEH work over the summer on a cooperative agreement that would be presented to the NEH board at their November meeting. Unfortunately, the CRF was unable to sign the MOU that NEH offered, for several reasons: the proposed MOU would have required that all final grantmaking decisions be made by the NEH rather than the CRF Advisory Board; NEH would have limited the amount of each Phase 3 language grant to \$20,000, which would violate representations already made to the Tribes; NEH stated that they would be unable to work with Tides, MICA's fiscal sponsor at that time. MICA was able to steer NEH to another intermediary.

Track 2: Cultural Places Initiative – The Tribal Cultural and Sacred Sites Gathering, *Respecting Place*, will be held December 12-15 in Albuquerque. Presenters include, Esri, Google Earth, DIY Drones, Ground Penetrating Radar, Getty Conservation Institute, and many others. We were able to offer 50 scholarships for Tribal members to attend. We have received the following contributions and pledges:

Getty Conservation Institute \$25,000

Google Earth \$5,000

Lannan Foundation \$20,000

National Park Service \$4,000

Track 3: SHPO Public Education Initiative – No. 1 SHPO priority. The CRF funded a \$246,000 SHPO educational initiative in partnership with NCSHPO, Cultural Heritage Partners, the U.S. Forest Service, and American Express. All 41 eligible SHPOs opted to participate. Funds were expended for this initiative in late November/early December 2016.

Track 4: Tribal Cultural Centers – No. 3 Tribal priority. Cancelled.



CRF Outreach

The CRF website, www.culturalresourcefund.org, is continually updated. The site provides introductory fund information, lists of successful grantees in both Phases 1 and 2, project profiles, Advisory Board and administrative profiles, funding structure information, timelines, and FAQs. It also provides direct contact access to CRF staff.

We plan to continue outreach efforts to allow all Tribes and SHPOs to have access to current information and stay up to date on the latest CRF developments.

Conclusion

The MICA Group is pleased to present this report on the progress of the ninth quarter of the administration of the Cultural Resource Fund. MICA is honored to serve as Administrator for the CRF and continues to endeavor to distribute the CRF's assets in a fair, prompt, and meaningful way.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Mainor
Executive Director
The MICA Group