



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group
Date: April 15, 2016

Cultural Resource Fund Report January – March 2016

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 allows for grants to be made to eligible Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs).

The MICA Group applied and 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.

In March 2015, the FCC issued its "List of Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers Eligible for Grants from Positive Train Control Cultural Resource Fund."

Summary

During the fourth operational quarter, January 1-March 31, 2016, MICA focused on the Phase 2 grant applications, which were due February 15, 2016. MICA received completed applications from 168 Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers totaling \$7,877,438. Phase 2 awards will be made in May 2016. When Phase 2 awards are completed, \$6 million of the CRF will have been expended in the first 15 months since the MICA contract was signed.

MICA was awarded a \$391,000 W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to be used for planning a Tribal Gathering for a large Phase 3 Language Revitalization Initiative.

Significant Milestones

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| January | Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums (ATALM) partnership finalized
Met with Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to discuss partnership |
| February | 168 Phase 2 Applications received
W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded \$391,000 planning grant to MICA to fund development of CRF Language Revitalization Initiative
CRF Advisory Board meeting
Met with Aha Punana Leo Model Language revitalization program |



March Met with White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE)
Advisory Board member Kak Slick had follow-up meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Arthur “Butch” Blazer

Phase 2 Grants

Phase 2 Grant applications were emailed to our Tribal and SHPO mailing lists in October 2015, and applications were due on February 15, 2016. Phase 2 will fund at least 50 grants of up to \$50,000 each. Similar to Phase 1, Phase 2 applications could be submitted for a broad range of cultural projects. SHPOs were strongly encouraged to have Tribal partners. 168 completed grant applications were received totaling \$7,877,438. Reviews are almost completed. Awards are expected to be made in May 2016. Approximately \$2.5 to \$3 million will be awarded, bringing the total of awards to be made by the CRF in 15 months to approximately \$6 million.

Phase 3 Grant Applications: Leveraging the CRF and Matching Grants

Phase 3 will be divided into interest “tracks” based on the results of a Phase 1 survey. Two interest tracks have been approved. The first track will be language revitalization. Sixty-eight Tribes selected language as their number one cultural priority. Language track partners include the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), the University of New Mexico American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center, and several national and international language scholars. We hope to announce other exciting language track partners in our Fifth Quarterly Report. Partnerships with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service have been discussed for a second priority track, Preservation of Important Cultural Sites.

Discussions about a possible Phase 3 SHPO Initiative are ongoing.

CRF Outreach

The CRF website, www.culturalresourcefund.org, is continually updated. The site provides introductory fund information, grant application forms, a list of successful grantees, project profiles, liaison contact information, Advisory Board and administrative profiles, funding structure information, timelines and FAQs. It also provides direct contact access to CRF staff.

A list of all Phase 1 projects funded and a “Featured Projects” page is posted on the CRF website.

MICA began electronic CRF email “News Update” blasts in September. A second blast was sent in December and two blasts were sent in March to advise eligible Tribes of the availability of ATALM conference scholarships and to announce the Language Legacies Grants (a non-CRF language grant opportunity).



THE **MICA** GROUP

CULTURAL RESOURCE FUND

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.

Fund Disbursements

No fund disbursements were made this quarter.

Conclusion

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Mainor
Executive Director
The MICA Group