



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group
Date: July 25, 2016

Cultural Resource Fund Report April – June 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 previous operational quarter, MICA received Phase 2 applications from 168 Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers totaling almost \$7.9 million. During the fifth operational quarter, in April 2016, the Cultural Resource Fund Advisory Board approved 90 applications for funding, totaling almost \$3.5 million. Phase 2 checks were mailed in May and June 2016. Thus, in the 15 months since the MICA contract was signed, just under \$6.5 million of CRF grants have been awarded and distributed.

Significant Milestones, April-June 2016

April	CRF Advisory Board approve 90 Phase 2 grant applications
May	Met with Arthur "Butch" Blazer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, USDA, and Mike Kaczor, U.S. Forestry Service, re: Phase 3 site track partnership



- June Attended U.S. Dep't of Education, "Pay for Success" Conference re: Phase 3 language track partnership
Met with Stephanie Toothman, Associate Director, Cultural Resources Partnerships & Science, National Park Service, re: Phase 3 site track partnership
- June Met with Joe Watkins, Supervisory Anthropologist and Chief Tribal Relations & American Cultures, National Park Service, re: Phase 3 site track partnership
Site Visits: Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Acoma
Met with University of Arizona, American Indian Language Development Institute

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. Originally, the CRF Advisory Board planned to award up to 50 Phase 2 grants of up to \$50,000 each. As in 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, requesting a total of \$7,877,438.

Each application was reviewed by two reviewers and, utilizing a carefully designed scoring system, received a numerical score. Each application then received a 15-minute group review, in which the two reviewers presented their scores, and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal with the Tribe or SHPO's CRF Liaison. When consensus was reached, scores were averaged, and strengths and weaknesses recorded on a summary review form. Applications and summary review forms were transmitted electronically to the Advisory Board weekly.

On April 26, 2016, the CRF Advisory Board met to discuss and review the applications. Due to the overall excellence of the applicant pool, the Advisory Board decided to fund 90 grants, for a total expenditure of \$3,559,770. The Advisory Board decided to limit awards to \$40,000. Successful grantees were telephoned at the end of April. Awards were officially announced in early May. Checks were mailed in May and June, bringing the total of awards made and distributed by the CRF in 15 months to approximately \$6.5 million.

Phase 3 Grants: Leveraging the CRF and Matching Grants

Phase 3 will be divided into interest "tracks" based on the results of a Phase 1 survey. Three interest tracks have been approved, and a fourth is under consideration. The first track will be language revitalization. Sixty-eight Tribes selected language revitalization as their number one cultural priority.



Language track partners include the University of New Mexico American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center, the University of Arizona American Indian Language Institute, Aha Punana Leo Language Program (Hawaii), and several national and international language scholars. For a second track, Preservation of Important Cultural Places, partnerships with the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the U.S. Forest Service are being discussed. The third track will be Community Cultural Centers. Discussions about a fourth track, 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, lists of successful grantees in both Phases 1 and 2, 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.

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 fifth 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