



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads  
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group  
Date: November 13, 2016

## **Cultural Resource Fund Report July – September 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**

The final phase of the CRF, Phase 3, has begun. Four initiatives are planned:

- 1) \$2 million Pathways to Fluency Language Initiative
- 2) \$500,000 Cultural Places Initiative
- 3) \$246,000 SHPO Public Education Initiative (partners: NCSHPO and Cultural Heritage Partners, American Express, U.S. Forest Service)
- 4) \$150,000 Cultural Centers Initiative

### **Significant Milestones, July-September 2016**

July	Met with Charlene Vaughn, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
	Met with Jill Norwood, National Museum of the American Indian re: Phase 3 Partnership on Tribal Cultural Centers
August	Met with Jill Norwood, NMAI, further development of Phase 3 Cultural Centers project



Outreach Trip to Arizona to scout locations for Phase 3 Language Conference, funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation; 3 Tribal Visits: Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai Tribes; met with Arizona SHPO re: Phase 3 Cultural Sites project

Language Visionaries Gathering: Held meeting of nationally known language visionaries in Albuquerque to advise and assist in planning Phase 3 Language Conference to be held in December 2016 in Albuquerque, funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Attended White House meeting hosted by Native Americans in Philanthropy

September Met with Cultural Heritage Partners re: Phase 3 SHPO Public Education Initiative

Met with Deirdre O'Connor, National Council on Crime and Delinquency re: proposed Phase 3 language partnership

## **Phase 2 Grants Closeout**

Phase 2 grant applications were emailed to our Tribal and SHPO mailing lists in October 2015, and applications were due on February 15, 2016. 168 completed grant applications were received, requesting a total of \$7,877,438.

Due to the overall excellence of the applicant pool, the Advisory Board decided to fund 90 grants instead of the originally contemplated 50 grants, for a total expenditure of \$3,559,770. The Advisory Board decided to limit awards to \$40,000 so that more grants could be awarded. Successful grantees were telephoned at the end of April. Awards were officially announced by email 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. Unsuccessful grantees were offered technical assistance in improving their Phase 2 applications. Approximately 20 unsuccessful grantees have requested technical assistance. Abstracts of successful Phase 2 grantees are posted on the CRF website, [www.culturalresourcefund.org](http://www.culturalresourcefund.org). The Phase 2 grantmaking process was completed in July, although technical assistance for unsuccessful grantees is ongoing.

## **Phase 3 Grants: Leveraging the CRF**

Phase 3 will take longer than the previous two phases due to the CRF Advisory Board's interest in leveraging the remaining CRF funding. To facilitate this, Phase 3 grants will be divided into interest "tracks" based on the results of Phase 1 surveys. Four interest tracks have been approved:

- 1) \$2 million Pathways to Fluency Language Initiative



- 2) \$500,000 Cultural Places Initiative
- 3) \$246,000 SHPO Public Education Initiative (partners: NCSHPO and Cultural Heritage Partners, American Express, U.S. Forest Service)
- 4) Cultural Centers Initiative

The first track will be language revitalization. Sixty-eight Tribes selected language revitalization as their number one cultural priority. 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](http://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