



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group
Date: January 26, 2017

Cultural Resource Fund Report October – December 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.

Summary

During the 7th operational quarter (October-December 2016), the CRF offered a \$246,000 Public Education Initiative for State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs). The offering of this initiative fulfilled the SHPOs' stated number one priority issue -- increasing public understanding of the importance of historic preservation. All 41 eligible SHPOs participated. Checks were mailed in early December.

In October, MICA/CRF Advisory Board and staff conducted a major listening session on language revitalization at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) annual conference. Sixty-five tribal representatives participated. Also in early October, CRF Board and staff presented at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) conference in Phoenix.

In December, the CRF presented its language gathering, *Pathways to Fluency, Cultural Survival Through Language Revitalization*, at the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, NM. The gathering, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Lannan Foundation, was a huge success. Registration had to be closed at 200 attendees representing 83 Tribal Nations, due to capacity issues.

Significant Milestones, October – December 2016

October Presented at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference



Presented at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

Met with Ramin Taheri, Senior Adviser for Policy, U.S. Department of Education; Janis Dubno, fellow, Pay for Success Initiatives and Deirdre O'Connor, National Council on Crime and Delinquency re: CRF Partnership on language revitalization

Met with Susan West Montgomery, National Trust for Historic Preservation re: potential partnership on cultural site protection

November Met with language visionaries Dr. Christine Sims and Dr. Penny Bird, University of New Mexico, American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Institute

Met with Jim Enote, Executive Director Colorado Plateau Foundation re: matching funds

Met with Inee Slaughter, Indigenous Language Institute

Met with Laurie Betlach, Program Director, Indigenous Communities, Lannan Foundation

December Hosted *Pathways to Fluency: Cultural Survival Through Language Revitalization* for 200 Tribal representatives in Albuquerque, NM

Phase 3 Grants: Leveraging the CRF

Phase 3 will take longer than the previous two phases due to the CRF Advisory Board's desire to leverage the remaining CRF funding. To facilitate this, 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. Four 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
- 3) \$246,000 SHPO Public Education Initiative (partners: NCSHPO and Cultural Heritage Partners, American Express, U.S. Forest Service) **COMPLETED**
- 4) Cultural Centers Initiative

The first track, language revitalization, is well underway. Sixty-eight Tribes selected language revitalization as their number one cultural priority. Additional language track partners include the University of New Mexico's American Indian Language Policy Research and Teacher Training Center,



the University of Arizona's American Indian Language Development Institute, Aha Pūnana Leo Language Program (Hawaii), and many other national and international language organizations and scholars.

The CRF held a Kellogg Foundation-funded language visionaries meeting in August to set out a framework for our Phase 3 language initiative, and presented the framework to the plenary session (800 attendees) at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) Conference in early October. Sixty-five representatives of CRF-eligible tribes attended a half-day workshop and comment session on the proposed framework for Phase 3 grantmaking. The framework was well received and MICA received 53 written comments.

The long-anticipated CRF Language Gathering was held December 12-15 at the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque New Mexico. Despite bad weather in much of Indian Country, 207 Tribal members attended, representing 86 Tribal Nations. Additional input on the language initiative and framework was solicited and received. Twenty-six national experts presented on best practices in language revitalization. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education and the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education attended. One hundred evaluations were received, and they were outstanding. The following are a sampling of the written comments received:

- Best, most inspiring conference I have been to in my 20 years at Table Mountain Rancheria
- Glad to attend this conference. So glad scholarships were available! THANK YOU!
- Was terrific, especially all the feeding. A true Native experience!
- Everyone was so open about their experiences in their communities about language. It was like everyone had been waiting for this opportunity to convene and discuss language revitalization with such humanity and shared passion. I think this aspect of the gathering will be sending people back home with renewed energy and ideas.
- I had a great time. This was one of the most effective and productive conferences I have ever been to, and the great mix of people I met there. I made a lot of great connections and learned about the use of media and multi-pronged approaches. Thank you.
- This is my first time attending a conference like this and I LOVED it! The entire experience was very informative and positive.
- I found it extremely useful. It provided some useful ideas and opened my eyes. I am more inspired to go forward with our language revitalization efforts.
- Excellent! Inspirational! Need more time to explore info.
- I enjoyed the conference, and have learned a lot about where the other tribes are at in the process of revitalizing their languages. It also helped me to see where I am and where I need to go. All good. I thank all of you.
- My overall experience was wonderful. The Native people in attendance were great to be with.



- This was my first time attending a conference like this. Truly inspired by the stories told and tribulations shared – I feel stronger on the importance of our youth. Sessions were great. Very informational. Thank you.
- Wonderful!!!
- This conference was really excellent!! Elders should go first to eat.
- Let MICA send us to Hawaii to learn their teaching methods!!!
- Good experience, Very inspiring. Very meaningful. Very impressive group of presenters and experienced group language warriors!
- The information we received will greatly help us as we plan our language program. THANK YOU!!!
- Chi Miigwech for the opportunity to attend such an event where so many with the same goal have gathered!

Phase 3 Track Timetables & Updates

Track 1: Language Revitalization – No. 1 Tribal priority. A call with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to discuss matching funding for a CRF language initiative is scheduled for March.

Track 2: Cultural Places Initiative – No. 2 Tribal priority. This track will likely focus on GIS mapping.

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. Forty-one SHPOs (100%) opted to participate. Funds were expended for this initiative in late November/early December.

Track 4: Tribal Cultural Centers – No. 3 Tribal priority. This initiative is still in the early planning stages.

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
CULTURAL RESOURCE FUND

The MICA Group is pleased to present this report on the progress of the seventh 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