



To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads  
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group  
Date: May 4, 2017

## **Cultural Resource Fund Quarterly Report January – March 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 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.

### **Significant Milestones, January – March 2017**

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| January  | Met with the National Park Service                     |
|          | Met with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency |
|          | Met with Native Americans in Philanthropy              |
| February | Met with National Council on Crime and Delinquency     |
|          | Cultural Resource Fund Advisory Board meeting          |
|          | Met with Getty Environmental Trust                     |
|          | Met with ESRI  |
|          | Project site visit to Lower Brule and Standing Rock    |
| March    | Site visit to Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota, Minneapolis |



Conference Call meeting with Google Earth

Site visit to Oklahoma, including meetings with ATALM, United Keetoowah Band, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and Bacone College

### 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 - in development

### Phase 3 Track Timetables & Updates

Track 1: Language Revitalization – No. 1 Tribal priority. W.K. Kellogg Update. Our WKKF program officer has retired. The proposed WKKF implementation grant decision will be delayed as MICA works with a new program officer.

The CRF was contacted by the National Endowment for the Humanities, which had heard about our Language Gathering, reviewed our website, and watched videos of the Gathering on the CRF website. NEH proposed a partnership in which it would contribute \$1 million in grant funding to the CRF. NEH suggested that we work over the summer on a cooperative agreement that will be presented to the NEH board at their November meeting. If the CRF decides to wait for NEH, this would significantly delay the offering of the language track grant opportunity.

Track 2: Cultural Places Initiative – No. 2 Tribal priority. This initiative, which we hoped to release in March 2017, has been delayed due to the election. The National Park Service, which originally promised support of \$35,000 for a cultural places gathering to be conducted prior to the Phase 3 grant offering, is now limited to a maximum of \$10,000 for support of any conference. We have requested the \$10,000 from NPS and have broadened our search for additional funders, including the Shakopee Tribe. The Getty Conservation Trust has pledged to contribute \$25,000 toward the conference, and Google Earth, \$5,000. We need to raise \$75,000 to conduct the conference. 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. All 41 eligible SHPOs opted to participate. Funds were expended for this initiative in late November/early December. One SHPO submitted an application after the deadline date. This grant (\$6,000) is not reflected in the attached financial report.

Track 4: Tribal Cultural Centers – No. 3 Tribal priority. This initiative is still in the early planning stages. It is possible that this track will be cancelled, and the funding added to Tracks 1 or 2.

### **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, 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 eighth 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