

THE MICA GROUP

CULTURAL RESOURCE FUND

To: Tim Strafford, Association of American Railroads
From: Peggy Mainor, Executive Director, The MICA Group
Date: August 10, 2017

Cultural Resource Fund Quarterly Report April – June 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 funds grants to eligible Tribal Nations and State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs).

The MICA Group 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, April-June 2017

April Tribal Visit to Oglala Lakota Tribe
May Tribal Visit to Hopi Tribe
June Kellogg Foundation Meeting

Summary

CRF grants were not awarded during this quarter. Q9 was devoted to closing out the Phase 1 grants. CRF Advisory Board member Kak Slick presented a summary of Phase 1 at the NATHPO Conference. Twenty grants were highlighted in a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was very well received.

Phase 1 Closeout Highlights Presented at NATHPO:

- **Since its establishment in 2015, the CRF has distributed \$6.5 million in two rounds of grants**
- **CRF funds have leveraged \$600,000 in additional funding to date**
- **Total Tribal applications submitted (Phases 1 and 2): 338**
- **Total Tribal applications funded (Phases 1 and 2): 274**
- **84% of Tribal applications were funded**
- **100% of Phase I applications were funded**
- **Total SHPO applications funded (Phases 1 and 2): 52**
- **22 of the 52 SHPO grants awarded were for SHPO/Tribal collaborations**

MICA would be pleased to present the PowerPoint on Phase 1 to representatives of the railroads and FCC. As the entire presentation is too large to submit with this email, we include two examples from the presentation. The PowerPoint will be posted on the CRF website, and at least 10 new projects will be included in the "Featured Projects" section of the website. As of July 31, 2017, MICA has received 125 Phase 1 project reports.

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Karuk Tribe, Happy Camp, CA

Grant Amount: \$15,000

Project: Pamukunyafusayêepsha vúra uum yâamach ukyâahahitih: "Their Good Dresses Were Made Pretty"

The Karuk Tribe's Phase 1 project provided tribal girls with a year-long apprenticeship to teach them the skills necessary to create ceremonial regalia dresses, which usually take two years to make. As Karuk communities are spread 120 miles along the Klamath River, activities were offered in the Tribe's three main hubs to reach as many people as possible. To participate in the program, Karuk girls (apprentices) applied for a special grant made available with CRF funds to work with a mentor and a cultural expert to complete a dress. Youth and mentors were taken on field trips to gather seasonal materials, attended classes and workshops in their communities, and visited local museums to study and learn from historic examples. Classes emphasized the importance of dress regalia and the stories associated with them. Mentors and cultural experts received stipends for sharing their time, knowledge, and expertise with apprentices. The apprentices received an iPad mini to create a publicly available visual journal of their passage from novice to proficient dressmaker. Funds for dressmaking supplies — including deerskins, beads, and abalone — were made available to each apprentice,



augmenting seasonal materials gathered and processed with their mentors and cultural experts. A major outcome was the bonding that took place among the three communities, as well as connections with other tribes, including the Yurok, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua, and the Klamath Tribe, who shared information about dressmaking. Community members became excited and inspired about the project and joined the girls and mentors in gathering bear grass in the high country. The Tribe received a \$2,500 StoryCorps grant to travel to Ft. Bragg to gather abalone shells with a special use permit. Local museums offered docent services to allow the girls to see the fine work on older dresses up close. The group created a closed Facebook group. Two teams presented their dresses at the annual Tribal Reunion. Upon completion of all the dresses, awards will be given during at a special reception at the Karuk Tribe People's Center.



"It was a wonderful opportunity, and we all feel very grateful to have had the opportunity to spend time thinking, working, creating and connecting. Participants are still using the Facebook Group to communicate, and the groups are all still working on various collecting and processing trips on their own and have really come together as a support group for the apprentices and mentors. Community members not participating in the project have begun dresses for family members." – Bari Talley, Coordinator, People's Center, Karuk Tribe





Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Lansing, MI

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Project: *Protection and Interpretation of ezhibiigaadek asin (SANILAC petroglyphs)*

This project supported the creation of culturally-appropriate and moveable visitor barriers and a new all-weather kiosk to display recently completed Tribal/State co-designed interpretive signage. Area Tribes use the park and must be able to access the petroglyphs. The 240-acre park preserves Michigan's largest known concentration of petroglyphs, which have been under threat from weathering and vandalism.

The project's goals were to:

- Protect and honor a sacred site
- Strengthen tribe/state relationships
- Initiate site conservation
- Improve tribal and visitor experience
- Increase public investment in site protection and preservation

The project catalyzed numerous valuable new partnerships. One new partner, the Michigan Department of Transportation's Survey Unit, committed to providing LiDAR mapping services at no cost. The report noted that "the value of this incredible donation is estimated in the tens of thousands." The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provided \$4,000 to purchase the new kiosk. The Michigan History Museum (with tribal input), designed, built, and installed the barrier system and purchased a site wheelchair.



The grant also attracted new workgroup partners, including the Thumb Regional Historical Workshop (Sanilac, Huron, and Tuscola County historical societies), Michigan State University Department of Plant Biology, the Economic Development Corporations of Huron and Sanilac Counties, and a local Boy Scout Troop.

The energized workgroup has identified ambitious next steps for the project:

- Update the park master plan; justify preservation and infrastructure-related fundraising.
- With CRF Phase 2 grant funding, replace two pedestrian bridges over the Cass River.
- Collaborate with area Tribes on new park website and docent scripts to reflect new co-created interpretive language.
- Collaborate with area Tribes on an update of the 1971 National Register of Historic Places nomination and pursue state and national markers.
- Collaborate with the Tribes on public presentations and possible publications.
- Install additional co-designed interpretive signage throughout the park.
- Explore establishing a local Friends Group to assist with site protection and fundraising.

"We have some great news. Michigan DOT has partnered with us to provide the digital site mapping we wanted *for free*. This grant has really kick-started great partnerships! Our grant team is thrilled to





have attracted so much additional support, using the Phase 1 award as the catalyst.” --Michigan SHPO

The Michigan SHPO’s Phase 2 grant is underway: *“To our surprise and delight, our DNR Park Planner did extensive research and was able to identify bridges that suit our needs and will come in well under our original estimated budget. These will be installed in September with DNR, volunteer and Boy Scout labor. With this plan, we can smoothly complete all of the interrelated tasks proposed across Phases 1 and 2, and end up with a list of successes exceeding our original expectations.”*

Phase 3 Grants: Leveraging the CRF

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

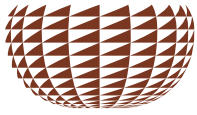
Phase 3 Track Timetables & Updates

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. Meeting scheduled for August, 2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities Update: NEH heard about the CRF Language Gathering, reviewed the CRF website, and watched videos of the Gathering on the 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. Unfortunately, the CRF was unable to sign the MOU that NEH offered for several reasons: Partnering with NEH would seriously delay Phase 3; the proposed MOU would have required that all final grantmaking decisions be made by the NEH Board of Directors, rather than the CRF Advisory Board; and NEH would have limited the amount of Phase 3 language grants to \$20,000, which would violate promises already made to the Tribes. MICA was able to steer NEH to another intermediary.

Track 2: Cultural Places Initiative – 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. The Getty Conservation Trust has pledged to contribute \$25,000 toward the conference, and Google Earth, \$5,000. We need to raise \$50,000 to conduct the conference. Several additional fundraising meetings are scheduled for August. 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, 2016.

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, 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 ninth 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
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The MICA Group