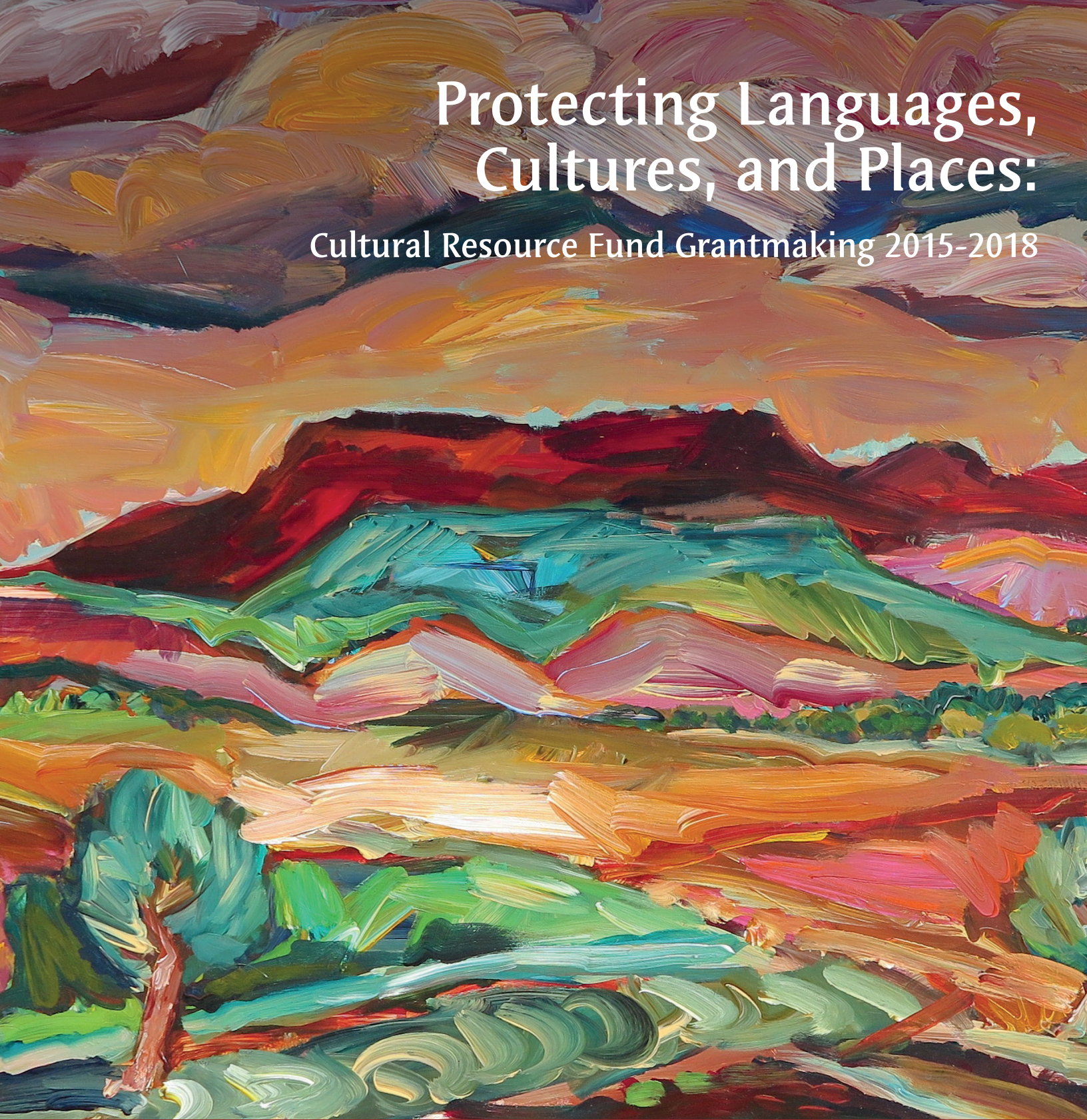


Protecting Languages, Cultures, and Places:

Cultural Resource Fund Grantmaking 2015-2018



CULTURAL RESOURCE FUND

THE **MICA** GROUP

***“We are beginning to look more and more
to our own people, communities, and history for solutions.
We have begun to trust our own thinking again.”***

Wilma P. Mankiller, *first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation and MICA Group founder*



A Message from the CRF Advisory Board

Since 2015, we have served as the Advisory Board of the Cultural Resource Fund, a grant program that has achieved extraordinary results in cultural revitalization and historic preservation in Indian Country and across the United States. The CRF has awarded 470 grants totaling \$9.4 million to 201 tribal nations and 41 states (58% of the tribes and 85% of the states in the continental U.S.), generating \$13.5 million in matching (cash) funding from government, industry, and private philanthropy. In recognition of the CRF's success, the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation nominated the CRF for a 2018 Innovations in American Government Award.

Created through a federal agency agreement, the CRF is administered by the MICA Group, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as an intermediary for governmental, philanthropic, and corporate funding to support under-resourced communities. Community self-determination and tribal sovereignty are at the center of our work. Participating tribes and states set their own priorities for cultural and historic preservation, empowering them to create innovative, successful projects. Distributed in three phases over three years, CRF grants have:

- Protected 52 significant cultural sites
- Supported restoration of traditional cultural practices at 47 tribes
- Supported and facilitated new tribal partnerships with 10 states and the Nature Conservancy
- Established four new tribal historic preservation offices
- Enabled 42 new geo-mapping projects, including several entire reservations
- Created a tribe-to-tribe mentorship program to document cultural sites
- Built or supported 65 state and tribal digital recordation and site data management platforms
- Supported the revitalization of 71 languages

The 566 grant applications received form a treasure trove of information about tribal and state cultural and preservation priorities, including the current status of hundreds of endangered languages. With a 92% project completion rate, documented by photographs and written reports, we have demonstrated timely, efficient, and effective grant making.

The CRF's greatest success has been in developing relationships. Focusing our grantmaking on supporting traditional knowledge and community well-being, as determined by those who live in the community, has engendered trust. Trust makes collaboration possible when overcoming obstacles, monitoring project success, and sharing best practices. It allows us to nurture new relationships between tribal nations and states and local communities, providing opportunities to work collaboratively on projects important to each. A foundation of trust, combined with hands-on technical support and grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 has proved to be the right formula for project completion on an unprecedented scale, generating tremendously beneficial results for participants.

The CRF has created a structure that works. Tribes, states, and national organizations have encouraged us to continue the fund. We seek to partner with a broader coalition to build on the successful CRF model and develop an on-ramp for significant and ongoing funding to protect our nation's precious, irreplaceable sites and the Native American cultures that nourish them.

Sam Cata
Ohkay Owingeh

Walter Echo-Hawk, J.D.
Pawnee

Marshall McKay
Yocha Dehe Wintun

Katherine Slick
Former New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

Dick Trudell, J.D.
Santee Sioux

Della Warrior, M.Ed.
Otoe-Missouria

W. Richard West, Jr., A.M., J.D.
Southern Cheyenne

Why is a Cultural Resource Fund needed?

Created in response to the federal government's need to channel funding to tribes and states for historic and cultural preservation, the CRF serves as an effective intermediary for funders who wish to work sensitively, creatively, and supportively in Indian Country. The CRF's relationships with federal, state and tribal governments bring opportunities for new partnerships to support tribal priorities. This booklet highlights representative examples of the 470 projects and partnerships the CRF funded over its first four years.

Why focus on culture?

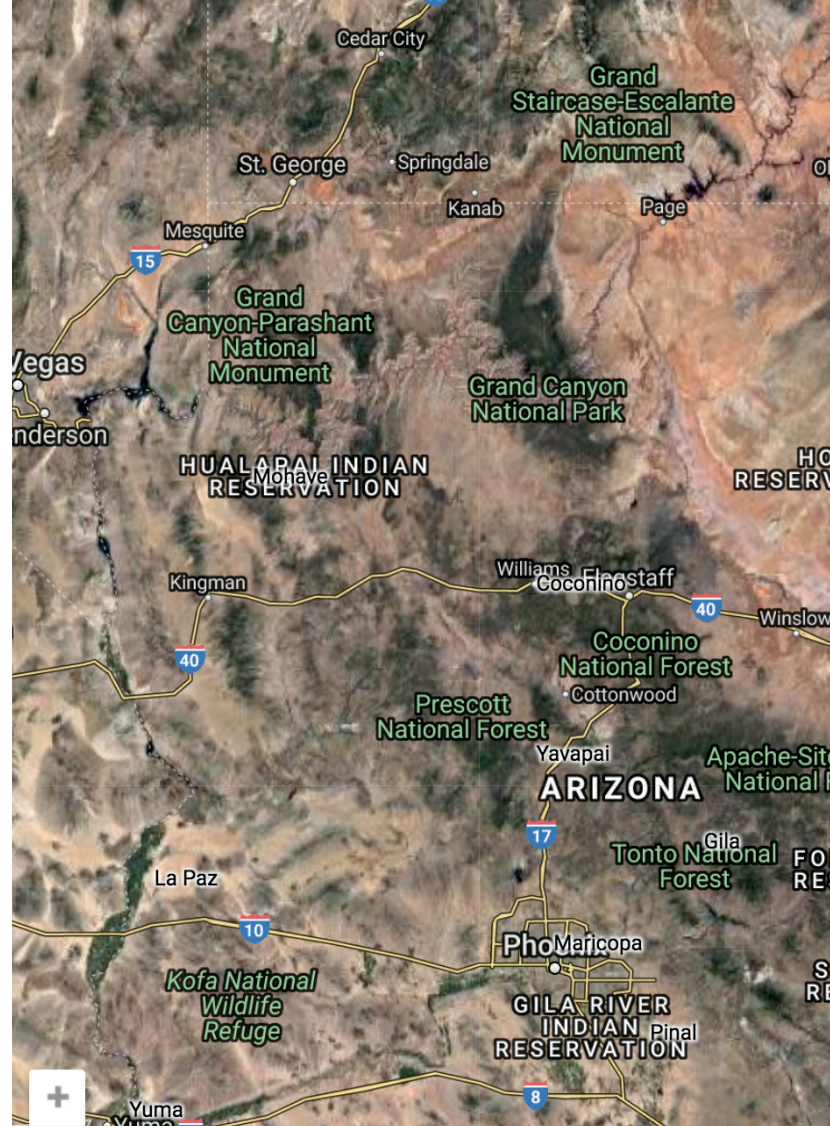
In response to a 2015 CRF survey, tribes overwhelmingly listed language revitalization as their top cultural priority, with protection of cultural places and cultural education following closely behind. CRF grantmaking honors these priorities as described below:

Language Revitalization. Native cultures today are a testament to the resilience of indigenous people, who have withstood historic efforts to erase their cultures, and modern pressures to assimilate. Although Native communities face major challenges, studies have conclusively shown that revitalization of language and culture has tremendously beneficial effects on their members' physical and mental health. In addition to our grantmaking, and at the request of many tribes, the CRF created a technical assistance program, *Next Steps*, that is currently supporting 22 tribes in restoring their languages.

Protection of Sacred, Cultural, and Historic Places. As people of place, Native people view language, culture, and site protection as indivisible. States and tribes must act quickly to address the effects of climate change and impending national infrastructure projects, which threaten irreplaceable cultural and historic places.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires consultation with tribes and states in the planning stages of projects that may adversely affect historic and cultural places, giving them a voice as decisions are made. Through our site-protection grantmaking, technical assistance, and mentorship programs, the CRF supports tribes in coming to the consultation table with the data they need to protect and, if necessary, effectively advocate for siting alternatives early in the planning process.

Cultural Revitalization. The CRF supports communities in restoring and revitalizing cultural activities important to them, such as expanding cultural education for youth, building outdoor learning centers for teaching traditional knowledge, rebuilding traditional social gathering sites, and re-establishing growing places for traditional foods.

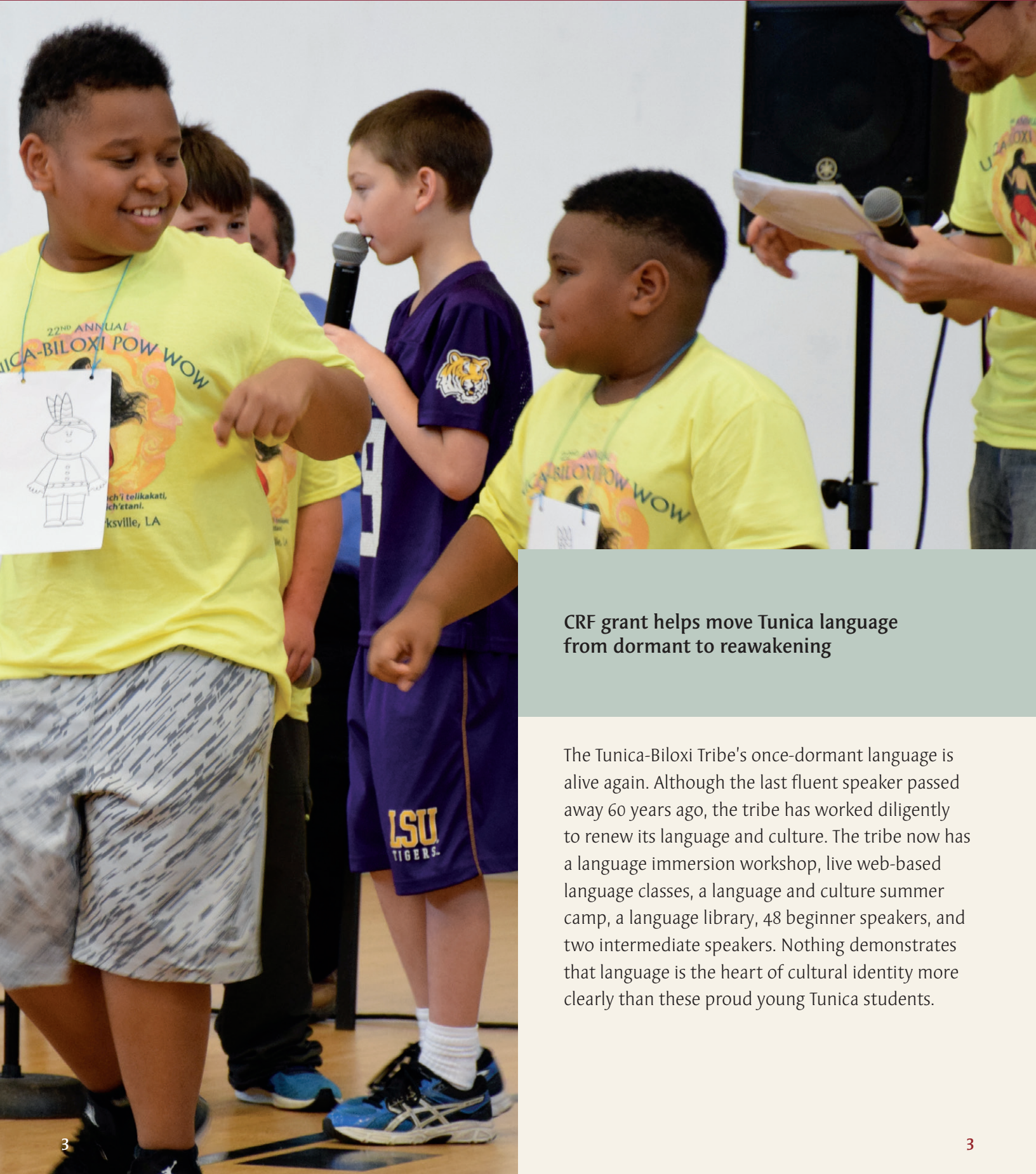


Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community create online tribal consultation toolkit

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, in partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, developed and implemented a dynamic on-line Government-to-Government Consultation Toolkit that provides maps, contact information, and protocols to facilitate federal and state agency consultation with Arizona tribes. Government agencies and industry now have a single resource for identifying tribes with which they must consult before beginning infrastructure projects in Arizona, avoiding construction delays and the costly consequences of failing to follow the legal requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

"The CRF nurtured our language project at a critical time in its formation and has made a positive impact on our community. The status of the Tunica language has been moved from a 'dormant' to a 'reawakening' language."

– John Barbry, Tunica-Biloxi Language and Cultural Department



CRF grant helps move Tunica language from dormant to reawakening

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe's once-dormant language is alive again. Although the last fluent speaker passed away 60 years ago, the tribe has worked diligently to renew its language and culture. The tribe now has a language immersion workshop, live web-based language classes, a language and culture summer camp, a language library, 48 beginner speakers, and two intermediate speakers. Nothing demonstrates that language is the heart of cultural identity more clearly than these proud young Tunica students.



Pennsylvania SHPO and the Seneca Nation obtain the first National Register of Historic Places listing for a Native American Traditional Cultural Property in Pennsylvania

"A very deserving property has now been documented, and a little-known story of Native Americans in Pennsylvania will live on for generations to come."

—Keith T. Heinrich, Historic Preservation Specialist, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

Although many know that indigenous peoples once called Pennsylvania home, they believe that was in the long-distant past. Most are surprised to learn that a small tract of land along the Allegheny River, the Cornplanter Land Grant, was home to a thriving Seneca community until 1964. In gratitude for bringing a peaceful end to conflict during the Ohio Indian Wars, a portion of the original Seneca homeland was granted in 1791 to Seneca war chief Cornplanter and his descendants, where they lived until being forcibly removed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create a designated flood zone. With the strong support of the Seneca Nation and a CRF grant, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office is documenting the significance of the Cornplanter settlement by listing this property in the National Register of Historic Places as the first Native American Traditional Cultural Property in Pennsylvania.

Kiowa Tribe's Culture Camp and Language Fair seeds \$376,000 federal grant

"Following the initial CRF grant, we were awarded a \$376,000 federal language grant. The idea began with, and was funded by, the CRF Phase 1 proposal."

—Amie Tah-Bone, Kiowa Tribe Museum Director

A CRF grant supported the Kiowa Tribe Museum and Kiowa Language and Culture Revitalization Program in holding the first-ever Kiowa Language Fair and Mini Culture Camp. The goal of the fair and camp was to provide meaningful opportunities for tribal youth to learn who they are as Kiowas and to practice their language. Surprising everyone, over 100 Kiowa youth attended. The Language Fair stimulated the idea for an ambitious new language program funded by the Administration for Native Americans.





Pueblo of Acoma completes emergency repairs to the San Esteban del Rey mission, one of the world's 100 most-endangered sites

"The project brought people together to start conversations about how important the Mission is to them and gave them hope that they could save their own places."

–Damian Garcia, Acoma Pueblo
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Michigan SHPO and the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe partner to protect and interpret the Sanilac Petroglyphs

The San Esteban del Rey mission church, begun in 1640, stands as a testament to Acoma ancestors who were enslaved and gave their lives in its construction – and to those who survived. World Monuments Watch lists the mission as one of the 100 most-endangered sites in the world. A CRF grant supported the Pueblo in replacing a deteriorating wall and improving the failing roof on the mission's convent complex, which was damaging the interior and causing major hazards for visitors.

"The CRF grant created a rare opportunity to foster understanding and collaboration between diverse stakeholders. The state and the tribe have a new appreciation for one another."

–Stacy Tchorzynski, Archaeologist, Michigan Department of Historic Preservation

The Sanilac Petroglyphs, the only known rock carvings attributable to Native Americans in Michigan, have been damaged by weather and vandals for many years. Working closely with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office conducted a site assessment that found 100 additional carvings. A CRF grant allowed the state to protect the petroglyphs while honoring the tribe's need to access the site, with culturally appropriate, moveable visitor barriers and a new all-weather kiosk, strengthening tribal relations and improving visitor experiences at the site. The grant team attracted new partners, ranging from the Michigan Department of Transportation Survey Unit (which provided terrestrial LiDAR services worth tens of thousands of dollars at no cost) to county historical societies and a local Boy Scout troop.



La Posta Band of Mission Indians creates a tribal historic preservation office, cultural site registry, and a new teaching partnership with UC San Diego

"These grants allowed us to reassert sovereignty over important prehistoric sites that otherwise might have been destroyed. The grant was a big step in taking ownership of archaeological resources on our reservation."

—Bobby Bolger, La Posta Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Three CRF grants enabled the La Posta Band to establish a Cultural Site Registry of all known archaeological sites on the reservation, train 27 new cultural site monitors, and establish a tribal historic preservation office, allowing the tribe to take over management of its cultural sites from the State of California. During the survey process, 24 previously unknown prehistoric sites were found. The tribe also created a pilot field school with UC San Diego to demonstrate best practices for archaeologists working with indigenous communities. UC San Diego has made the field school an annual program, and there is already a waiting list for this summer.



Colorado SHPO partners with three Ute Tribes and receives \$2.2 million NSF grant to teach traditional Ute STEM knowledge

"There is no doubt that the CRF grant supported the acquisition of an additional 200-plus funders during our museum expansion, and was used as a matching gift for two very large Colorado foundations."

–Susan Beyda, History Colorado

The Ute Indian Museum celebrates the history and the living culture of Colorado's first peoples. The Ute Mountain Ute, Southern Ute, and Ute Indian Tribes collaborated with History Colorado to shape the design of a new building and exhibits. A CRF grant supported the design and installation of a new exhibit showcasing Ute traditional knowledge. The exhibit provided the basis for a STEM outreach project, funded by a \$2.2 million NSF grant, that will travel to Colorado reservations and museums and is expected to reach 128,000 learners.



Nez Perce Tribe creates interactive, hands-on educational curriculum for tribal children

"The curriculum has educated Nez Perce youth about their language, the importance of their traditional stories, and what it means to be a Nez Perce."

–Mario Battaglia, Nez Perce Tribal Ethnographer

In recent years, Nez Perce children, as with many tribes, have become disconnected from their ancestral culture. The Nez Perce language is struggling, and traditional cultural sites are not widely known in the community. In response, the tribe designed an interactive, hands-on curriculum connecting Nez Perce stories about the land, language, and culture with lesson-specific field trips to five important legend sites. Participating students have demonstrated increased comprehension in the Nez Perce language. Interest in the project has been so high, the tribe is considering publishing the stories to raise funds to expand cultural education. The project also received a \$4,500 Idaho Humanities Council grant.



South Dakota SHPO and five tribes join forces to geomap 68 prehistoric sites

"The gathering of this significant data will greatly enhance the ability of state, tribal, and county officials to protect or avoid burial sites during development projects."

–Ted Spencer, Director, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office

Solely with a CRF Phase 2 grant, the South Dakota SHPO, with the support of the Rosebud Sioux, Crow Creek Sioux, Cheyenne River Sioux, Lower Brule Sioux, and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate surveyed and geo-mapped 68 important prehistoric burial sites and discovered 16 new sites in five counties. The identification and survey of these sites, some of which are 10,000 years old, honors these sacred places and helps protect them from damage related to infrastructure development.



Eastern Shawnee Tribe creates outdoor classroom for the tribal community

"The outdoor classroom will aid in healing wounds from the historical trauma of boarding schools and the loss of traditional learning in nature."

–Brett Barnes, Eastern Shawnee Cultural Preservation Department Director

Indigenous knowledge and lifeways have been passed from one generation to the next through storytelling, demonstrations, and community activities for thousands of years. When these lifeways were disrupted by relocation and the forced removal of Native children to boarding schools, it became difficult to continue to transmit knowledge and culture in traditional ways. The Eastern Shawnee Tribe's outdoor classroom will give the tribe the capacity to create a nation of outdoor learners, providing opportunities to experience and discover knowledge and cultural heritage through nature. Educational and tribal events conducted in the outdoor classroom will include language classes, recycling sessions, learning labs, tree identification, animal tracking, traditional uses of medicinal herbs, and environmental demonstrations such as milkweed seeding.





CRF Success Factors

- Respectful of tribal sovereignty; tribes set their own priorities
- Advisory Board of respected national leaders
- Extensive outreach and encouragement through emails, phone calls, and visits
- Annual conferences focusing on best practices in cultural revitalization and site protection
- Advisory Board members and staff maintain open communication, regularly attending tribal and SHPO regional and national conferences
- Frequent reporting to government and corporate stakeholders
- Dedicated website
- Quick grant turnaround (approximately six weeks)
- Final reports required from all grantees; 92% of projects successfully completed to date
- Technical assistance for unsuccessful applicants
- Phased-in grantmaking process rewarded success and encouraged project completion

About the MICA Group

Our Vision:

The MICA Group envisions a world in which indigenous and minority cultures have a voice, equitable resources, and the capacity to flourish; where indigenous knowledge systems are recognized as inherently valuable world resources. We envision a just world that honors the dignity of each human being.

Our Mission:

To assist governments, communities, and their partners in building social and economic capital and systems of change through innovative, sustainable, and culturally appropriate strategies.
To raise awareness about the importance of honoring cultural diversity and indigenous ways of knowing to create a just, humane, and sustainable world.

For more information:

www.micagroup.org

www.culturalresourcefund.org

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