This artwork was created especially for the 6th Annual Repatriation Conference by George Curtis Levi, who is a citizen of the Southern Cheyenne Tribe of Oklahoma and is also Southern Arapaho. This ledger art painting depicts how repatriation builds community and strengthens culture. It was painted on an antique mining document from Montana that dates from the 1890s.
The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country, formed in 1922 to change the destructive path of federal policy from assimilation, termination and allotment, to sovereignty, self-determination and self-sufficiency. Throughout its 98-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that strengthen sovereignty and diverse Native cultures, while working at a grassroots level with Tribes to implement programs that affect real lives on the ground.

The Association began 2020 with a bright future - working diligently to prepare the organization for its next 100 years of advocacy. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has stymied our efforts to build sustainable funding for the organization. Then, with the murder of George Floyd, Brianna Taylor, and the reckoning of the countless and nameless Indigenous Peoples who are murdered by law enforcement, and who go missing and are murdered through chains of human trafficking, we know we cannot let the pandemic weaken our voices. Instead - we must AMPLIFY OUR VOICES and run with joy towards our vision to create a “world where diverse Native American cultures and values are lived, protected and respected.” We cannot allow anything to stop us!

We cannot continue forward with the level of energy we need without you. We need your commitment, we need your time, we need your advocacy, and we need your investment to build a new path forward for the next 100 years. Now is the time to commit to the next 100 years of sovereignty, culture, education and capacity building. Now is the time we must amplify our vision for what we want for our future!

Any support you can provide will fund programs that protect sovereignty, preserve culture, educate youth and build capacity on the ground. In addition, the Association seeks members of its Legacy Council to build a sustainable endowment to fund the Association’s 100 Year Endowment Campaign. Together we can affect the change necessary to heal and strengthen Indian Country for the next 100 years. As we look to our 100th year anniversary in 2022, we ask you to continue your journey with us to amplify our desire for a diverse and respectful world. Take action to help us amplify our future!

Thank you for your commitment to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Frank Ettawageshik, Odawa
President of the Board of Directors
AMPLIFYING OUR FUTURE
THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS

A YEAR IN SUMMARY
Programs Supporting Cultural Sovereignty

See our program highlights for this year!

SCHOLARSHIPS. The Association began a partnership with the American Indian College Fund this year to administer the Association’s scholarships. This saved the Association administrative costs while continuing to provide scholarship funding to 27 undergraduate and graduate students from federally recognized and non-recognized Tribes, representing the Navajo Nation, Choctaw Nation, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Laguna Pueblo, Spirit Lake Tribe, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Osage, Menominee, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Tsimshian, and Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Two of these students graduated and the remainder continue their educational path!

SUMMER CAMPS. The Covid-19 pandemic changed how summer camps operated, this year and many were still able to provide a safe, fun and educational experience for Native youth by providing boxes to students’ homes with cultural kits and other opportunities. The Association granted funding to 4 Native Youth Summer Camps, serving 933 youth from Tribes across Indian Country, including Salt River Pima-Maricopa, White Mountain Apache, Sault St. Marie Chippewa, Hopi, Gila River, Hualapai, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort McDowell Yavapai, Jemez Pueblo, Navajo, Pascua Yaqui, San Carlos Apache, Tohono O’odham, Yavapai Apache, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, and Village of Ruby Nations.

100 YEAR CELEBRATION. Professor and renowned legal scholar Matthew Fletcher is drafting the Association’s 100 Year History as an educational tool about federal Indian policy advancement and the work of the Association. We are hoping that it will be released in 2022 during the Association’s 100 Year celebrations. However, the pandemic closed the Princeton Archives where are historic documents are kept. The publisher will be Michigan State University Press.

REPATRIATION CONFERENCE. The Association’s 6th Annual Repatriation Conference – Growing Community & Moving Forward after 30 years of NAGPRA – was the Association’s first virtual conference ever. The Association teamed up with University of Denver to deliver a successful conference with 730 registered participants representing Tribes, museums, foreign institutions, and the federal government, as well as artists, auction houses and the public. Scholarships for registration were also available and provided to 345 attendees from Native Nations and small museums.
REPATRIATION. The Association advocated for new legislation, including the Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act, and revisions to old legislation, such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, regarding the theft, looting and sale of Native American cultural heritage. We provided technical assistance and training for Native Nations and museums that had questions about NAGPRA and other opportunities to return culture – both tangible and intangible – back to their origin Nations. The Association responded to more than 200 telephone and email inquiries regarding Native American cultural heritage items from Tribal and non-Tribal parties.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE. The Association is part of a national Native organization coalition called #ProtectICWA. Together, we are working to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act from an onslaught of litigation from conservative think tanks that are using ICWA to overturn the constitutionality of federal Indian law – which would impose on all laws affecting the government-to-government relationship between Native Nations and the United States. A nationwide coalition of 495 Native Nations, more than 60 Native organizations, 26 states and the District of Columbia, 77 members of Congress, 31 leading child welfare organizations, and Indian and constitutional law professors agree ICWA is vital to the well-being of Indian children and the stability and integrity of Indian families today. The Association continues to participate as an Amicus member in the Fifth Circuit litigation, Brackeen v. Bernhardt case.

SACRED SITES. The Association participated in Amicus briefs against the Trump Administration regarding the decrease in size of the Bears Ears National Monument. Our CEO provided testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples, about Sacred Sites destroyed with the building of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. The Association further provided written comments on changes to the National Environmental Policy Act. The Association continues to research ways to protect known Sacred Sites, including the Big Medicine Wheel Site in Wyoming.

JUVENILE JUSTICE. The Association worked with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Annie E. Casey Foundation regarding the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and began research into the scope of Indian Country juvenile justice programs and alternatives to detention.

COMMERCIAL SALE OF SENSITIVE CULTURAL HERITAGE. The Association issued 190 Auction Alerts identifying 1,117 potentially sensitive cultural and sacred items belonging to Tribes that were up for auction in foreign and domestic sales.

98th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CULTURAL EVENT. The Association held its 98th Annual Membership Meeting and Cultural Event virtually this year with the theme “Envision the Future” showcasing young and emerging Native artists. Special guests were Author Tommy Orange (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes); actor, singer and writer Shaun Taylor-Corbett.
(Blackfeet); actor and professor Kimberly Guerrero (Colville/Salish-Kootenai/Cherokee); writer and creator Azie Dungey (Pamunkey and African-American); writer, comedian and actress Siena East (Choctaw); YouTube influencer, video producer and writer Raquel Quinones (Spirit Lake Dakota); hoop dancer Patrick Willie (Navajo); musician Raye Zaragoza (Japanese-American, Mexican, Indigenous); and photographer, printmaker and designing artist Ryan Young (Two Spirit-Ojibwe). The event can be seen on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eicMsl78NZU&t=19s).

PUBLIC EDUCATION. The Association provided public education through webinars and its new live and streaming Native news talk show called Red Hoop Talk. Since its creation in April 2020, Red Hoop Talk has reached tens of thousands of viewers with 29,752 views on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter combined.

SOCIAL MEDIA. The Association increased its social media presence this year on all social media platforms. The Association gained 3,584 followers on Facebook, 6,031 followers on Twitter, 5,310 followers on Instagram, 838 followers on LinkedIn and increased website visits by 74% from last year. This year the Association started spreading Native awareness on the new platform TikTok. The Association has 827 TikTok followers.

Our social media handles are:
Facebook  https://www.facebook.com/AssociationAmericanIndianAffairs
Instagram https://www.instagram.com/associndianaffairs/
Twitter  https://twitter.com/IndianAffairs
LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-on-american-indian-affairs/
TikTok  https://www.tiktok.com/@americanindianaffairsorg?lang=en
The Association's income was down just over 7% from 2019’s $522,270 revenue (not including investment income), and program expenditures were 80% of total expenses for 2020. The Association’s continued growth in programs has showed stronger commitment through increases in foundation funding sources. However, there is still a need to develop sustainable sources for operations capital that will grow the capacity of the Association’s important programs in Indian Country for our next 100 years.

Public donor contributions were 49% of total revenue and the largest source of revenue for the Association. Legacy gifts provided 21% of revenue. The 6th Annual Repatriation Conference provided 26% of revenue.

Total expenses in 2020 were $476,834. The percentage of program costs were 80%, showing efficient and above ideal spending. General and administrative costs were 18%. Fundraising expenses were 2%.
Total program expenses in 2020 were $381,838. Funds dedicated to the Repatriation and Sacred Sites Programs were $116,588; program costs for the Indian Children and Youth Programs were $250,850; and other program costs were $14,400.

The majority of the Association’s assets are restricted funds that can only be used for program purposes, and not for capacity building of the organization. These restricted assets include $632,340 held in an endowment for our Native American graduate and undergraduate scholarships.
Amplifying Our Future
THROUGH THE COMMITMENT OF
OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 DONORS
No matter what level of contribution you are able to make,
we cannot continue our efforts without your commitment!

SELF-DETERMINATION Level
$25,001 - $50,000
Poarch Band of Creek Indians

FORTITUDE Level
$10,001 - $25,000
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

ACCOUNTABILITY Level
$5,001 - $10,000
Ben Plucknett Charitable Trust

RESPECT Level
$1000 - $5,000
Mendon F Schutt Family
Cengage Learning
Venture Communications
Arising Fund of the Marin Community Foundation
Dee Ann DeRoin
Holly Vincent
Native American Rights Fund
Joshua Spear
Bernstein & Associates NAGPRA Consultants
Susan Gendron
One Little Independent Records
Ed Cohen
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Judith M. Buechner
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Aubrey McKean
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Leon Pinheiro
Jane Safer
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$500 - $999
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James Barsoum
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Barbara Joy Silverstein
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Derrick Nursey
George Cloward
Greater Goods
Andrew Bond
Kristin Burke
Jane Burr
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Kira Davis
Andrea Devereux
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth
Cameron Koube
Matthew MacMillan
Liz Quinn
Andrew Rayment
Jake Seltzer
Alexander Tait
Michael Yester
Sara Younkin
We give continued thanks to all of our donors, including the 796 Native and non-Native individuals who donated between $1-$249 this year! Thank you!
Every dollar supports and strengthens Cultural Sovereignty for the next 100 years!

LIVING LEGACY DONORS
Thank you to the amazing and committed individuals and families that have left their lifetime legacies to support Indian Country programs!

Lillian Pearl McCoy, 2002  Lillian Frances Johnson 2008  Dorothy R. Sanford, 2013
Culbreth Sudler, Jr., 2006  Margaret Lindstrom, 2011  Helen Mattin, 2017
Walter J. Zimmerman, 2006  Paul F. Luenow, Jr., 2011  William Burke, 2019
Dorothy E. Hons, 2006  Muriel Terry Wilson, 2012  H. Raymond Almy, 2019
Hazel M. Johnson, 2007  Beverly B. Howell, 2013  Anne Stehle, 2020

What lifetime legacy would you like to leave to Indian Country? Please consider leaving a gift in your will or estate so that your commitment to the Association on American Indian Affairs and Indian Country may live on. Estate gifts can reduce (and even eliminate) the amount of estate taxes your beneficiaries will owe. Let us share your life with Indian Country!
Amplifying Our Future
THROUGH STRONG GOVERNANCE

The Association on American Indian Affairs is governed by an all-Native Board of Directors from all over Indian Country. The Board of Directors provides oversight and direction for the programs and operations of the organization. The Board assesses the organization’s programs at least every two years and works to implement recommendations from the assessment to actively strengthen the health of the organization at every opportunity.

The Board meets at least four times per year, with at least two of those meetings face-to-face. However, because of the pandemic, we were unable to meet in person. All Board meetings were held through video conferencing. In 2020, the Board held four meetings: January 16, May 28, July 30 and December 3.

The Association’s Annual Membership Meeting is where members of the Association can take an active part in the governance of the organization by voting in new Board of Director members, adopt and revise bylaws and support other governance activities of the organization. This year, the Association’s 98th Membership meeting was an all-virtual event: “Envisioning Our Future: 98th Annual Membership Meeting & Young and Emerging Artists Showcase” held on November 21. During the membership meeting, members re-elected three of our current directors whose terms ended at the end of 2020. Those three were Frank Ettawageshik (Odawa), Alfred Ketzler (Athabascan) and Jonathan Perry (Wampanoag).
STAFF
Shannon O’Loughlin, Choctaw, Executive Director & Attorney
Colleen Medicine, Anishinaabe Kwe, Program Director
Timothy Devine, Odawa, Cultural Sovereignty Fellow
River Kerstetter, Oneida, Social Media
Van Tran, Program Assistant
Moss CPA, Financial Manager
Addie Rolnik, Juvenile Justice
Erin Namovicz, Juvenile Justice
Andrew Meyer, Repatriation
Kansas Begaye, Navajo, Office Administration
Kamryn Yanchick, Intern
Emily K. Andrews, Intern
Ivy Devadas, Quapaw, Intern

VOLUNTEERS
RaeLynn Butler
Anne Amati
Morgan Atkins
Tim Begay
Raelynn Butler
Sheila Gabe
Deanna Byrd
Gail Dabaluz
Megan Noble
Shane Anton
Colleen Medicine
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Lynda Knowles
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Shannon Martin
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Christine McCleave
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Lauren Norman-Brown
Kirk Perry
Lylliam Posadas
Vernon Roote
Martin Schultz
Todd Scissors
Brett Shelton
Jodi Simkin
Aaron Sims
Jenny Slagle
Greg Smith
Wendy Teeter
Rebecca Tsosie
Kaden Walksnice
David Weeden
Jael Whitney
Lisa Woodward
Mervin Wright
Peter Yucupicio

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS
The Council holds a wealth of knowledge and various interests, prominent in their fields and are allies of Indian Country. The Council’s main initiatives consist of raising the profile of the Association’s work, assisting in planning fundraising events, and supporting the programs and initiatives of the Association.

Nadema Agard, Cherokee/Lakota/Powhatten
Gail Bruce
Jane Safer
Gloria Steinem
Kimberly Guerrero, Colville/Salish-Kootenai/Cherokee
John Haworth, Cherokee
Dennis Hirschfelder
Alli Joseph, Shinnecock
Hattie Kauffman, Nez Perce
Josh Spear
Kerry Kennedy
Dr. Francesca Kress
George Stonefish, Lenape
Jody Naranjo, Pueblo
Tommy Orange, Cheyenne & Arapaho
Shaun Taylor-Corbett, Blackfeet
Lynn Taylor-Corbett
DeLanna Studi, Cherokee
Kathleen Wall, Jemez Pueblo
Martha Redbone, Cherokee/Choctaw
Howard B. Teich
Curtis Zunigha, Delaware
Amplifying Our Future for the Next 100 Years
Through our Vision, Mission and Goals

VISION
The vision of the Association is to create a world where diverse Native American cultures and values are lived, protected and respected.

MISSION
The mission of the Association is to lead the grassroots fight to protect Native American Cultural Sovereignty.

GOALS
The Association’s goals are to protect sovereignty, preserve culture, educate youth and build capacity.

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