



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES THE FIRST NATIONAL TRIBAL MUSEUMS DAY ON DECEMBER 3, 2022

TURTLE ISLAND, November 4, 2022 - The Association on American Indian Affairs (the Association), celebrating its 100-year anniversary serving Indian Country, is proclaiming the first Saturday of December as the first national "Tribal Museums Day." Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers provide significant educational opportunities for the public by sharing wisdom and stories that are told by the experts themselves – Native American Elders, academics, researchers and citizens.

"We don't learn American history in school. Instead, we are taught the story of Europeans coming to the Americas," said LaDonna Harris, Citizen of the Comanche Nation and Founder and President of Americans for Indian Opportunity. "I am happy to celebrate the Comanche Nation Museum and National Tribal Museum Day! We need to hear each Tribe's unique history and worldview. Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers provide us the opportunity to tell our own stories, share our values, and contribute Indigenous knowledge for the wellbeing of our planet and all peoples."

Much of United States history has removed the voices of Native Americans. Native American history and culture can never be understood without perspectives of the original landowners of Turtle Island. There are currently 574 federally recognized Native Nations and approximately 400 other Tribes, Bands and Communities recognized by state and local governments. Each Nation is diverse in its history and relationship with the United States; and each Nation has its own governance systems, language and cultural practices. Each Tribal Museum will have a unique story to share. Not only can visitors learn more about local histories and Native cultures, they can also purchase art, books, food and other Native-made goods at Tribal Museums.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our relatives to celebrate their Tribal Cultures and the general public to learn more about us," said Shannon Martin (Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians), former director of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, and project coordinator and emcee for the streaming event. Shannon says that participating Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers may offer free admission, special exhibits, gift shop discounts, art markets and cultural demonstrations.

Some participating museums include the Bay Mills Indian Community's Gnoozhekaaning History Museum in Brimley, Michigan; the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska's Angel De Cora Museum in Winnebago, Nebraska; and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian's Museum of the Cherokee Indian

in Cherokee, North Carolina. A full list of Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers will be available at Indian-Affairs.org on November 7, 2022. Event partners include the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, the National Museum of the American Indian, Americans for Indian Opportunity, and Koahnic Broadcasting, among others.

For those without an opportunity to visit in-person, the Association will be hosting a live streaming event on Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. (ET) from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico's Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

"As advocates for proper public education about Native Peoples, the Association is proud to commemorate our 100th Anniversary by giving back to those that work so hard to protect our Indigenous stories of survival and renewal," said Shannon O'Loughlin (Choctaw) CEO & Attorney for the Association.

For more information about visiting a Tribal Museum or tuning in to the live streaming event, visit Indian-Affairs.org.

Participation is free for Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers and the Association is providing marketing materials and other programming support.

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Indian Country protecting sovereignty, preserving culture, educating youth and building capacity. The Association was 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 100-year history, the Association has provided national advocacy on watershed issues that support sovereignty and culture, while working at a grassroots level with Native Nations to support the implementation of programs that support Native Peoples.

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