



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES 10TH ANNUAL REPATRIATION CONFERENCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING ON THE NEW NAGPRA REGULATIONS

Native Country, U.S.A., Friday, October 4, 2024 - The Association on American Indian Affairs (the Association) is proud to announce that registration is open for its 10th Annual Repatriation Conference, themed "*Igniting Change*."

The theme *Igniting Change* reflects the Association's commitment to sparking meaningful progress in repatriation efforts. By addressing the harms of the past and pushing for accountability and collaboration, the Association aims to inspire transformative change in the way institutions engage with Native Nations. This year's conference will focus on creating new pathways for collaboration, implementing updated laws and regulations, and ensuring the return of Ancestors, their burial belongings, and sensitive cultural heritage.

The Association expects 400 attendees at this three-day in person conference hosted by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in Marksville, Louisiana at their Paragon Resort on February 25, 26 & 27, 2025. This year's conference will offer comprehensive interactive training on the new Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) regulations, which went into effect in January 2024, provide strict timelines, deference to Native Traditional Knowledge, and robust consultation. The conference will also focus on international repatriation, illicit trafficking and other issues concerning the protection of Native cultural heritage.

"This year we have changed the structure of our annual conference. By coming together in-person, we can provide engaging small group trainings and workshops on the new NAGPRA regulations," said Shannon O'Loughlin, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Association's CEO and Attorney. "Attendees will engage directly with the new regulations and learn best practices for implementation with the guidance of experts, ensuring they walk away with practical, actionable insights."

Native Nation officials and representatives can register to attend for free. Early bird registration rates are available through December 2, 2024. A limited number of exhibitor and vendor spaces are also available for the three-day conference. There will also be a special

cultural event and opportunities to visit the Tunica-Biloxi Cultural & Educational Resource Center.

Visit Indian-Affairs.org/10thannualrepatriationconference for more information on registration, hotel room block details, sponsorship opportunities, and exhibitor and vendor registration.

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The Association on American Indian Affairs is the oldest non-profit serving Native 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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