



ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS

Protecting Sovereignty • Preserving Culture
Educating Youth • Building Capacity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD ANNUAL TRIBAL MUSEUMS DAY CENTERS DIVERSE NATIVE HISTORIES, CULTURES AND LIFEWAYS

NATIVE COUNTRY, November 19, 2024 - Mark your calendars! The Association on American Indian Affairs (the Association) proudly announces the third annual Tribal Museums Day, kicking off on Saturday, December 7, 2024, with a live-streaming event that begins a weeklong celebration running through December 13.

Diverse Native histories and cultures come to life through the perspectives of the original Peoples of Turtle Island at Tribal Museums. Over 110 Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers across the country offer incredible opportunities for visitors to connect with the wisdom and stories shared by the primary experts of Native histories, cultures and lifeways: Native Peoples and their Nations. Each Tribal Museum invites guests to discover its unique story, providing a chance to learn about local histories and vibrant Native cultures. Visitors can also enjoy browsing Native-made art, books, food, and other items, making every visit an enriching and memorable experience.

To make planning easier, the Association offers a Tribal Museums Map featuring detailed listings and website links. Guests can explore hours, parking, and other details directly on each museum's website. "Everyone is welcome to experience Tribal Museums," said Shannon O'Loughlin, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Association's CEO and Attorney. "When visiting, engage with experts, ask questions, and take time to explore the museum's offerings."

For those unable to attend in person, the Association is hosting a live-streaming event on December 7 at 12 p.m. PT, from the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum in California. Emceed by Rory Wheeler, a citizen of the Seneca Nation and Association Board Member, the event will feature live interviews with wisdom keepers and insights from the participating museums. Tune in on the Association's YouTube, Facebook, or LinkedIn channels to celebrate this cultural showcase.

Museums participating in the live-streaming event in addition to Aqua Caliente Cultural Museum include the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center in Connecticut, the Tunica-Biloxi Museum in Louisiana, and the Choctaw Cultural Center in Oklahoma.

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6030 Daybreak Circle, Suite A150-217, Clarksville, MD 21029
(240) 314-7155 general@Indian-Affairs.org

- **Mashantucket Pequot Museum:** Teachers with ID receive free admission on Saturdays through the end of the year.
- **Tunica-Biloxi Museum:** Enjoy free admission from December 7-13, along with exciting door prizes.
- **Choctaw Cultural Center:** On December 7, attendees can experience Christmas-themed workshops, BINGO, photos with Santa, and a 20% discount on cultural center branded items. Complimentary gift wrapping with purchase is also available.

Other Tribal Museums and Cultural Centers may offer free or discounted admission, live cultural demonstrations, special exhibits, and holiday markets.

"The Choctaw Cultural Center is thrilled to be participating in Tribal Museum Day! We are grateful to the Association for including us in this celebration of Tribal Museums, so that viewers can experience a bit of Choctaw Culture," said Cheyhome Dugger, citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Director of Development & Membership at the Choctaw Cultural Center. "We will share culture throughout our campus, while highlighting Choctaw artists. We look forward to sharing the mission of the Choctaw Cultural Center and the educational opportunities provided at our institution."

Event partners include the National Museum of the American Indian, Native America Calling, and American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association among others. Visit Indian-Affairs.org for more details about Tribal Museums Day, including participating museums, special offers, and how to join the live-streaming event!

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Media Contact

CC Hovie, Public Affairs & Communications Director
CC@Indian-Affairs.org, 240-314-7155

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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