

## Agency Overview

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is a 56 year old agency of the State of Arizona. The agency receives and administers funds from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts and directs this funding to programs that contribute to the growth and stabilization of the arts, enhance student learning, nurture, and develop artists’ craft and skills, preserve the rich traditions of Arizona communities, and encourage participation by residents of all ages and abilities. Arizona has a rich and diverse arts and culture sector comprising artists, educators, arts administrators, community leaders, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving their communities through the arts. In pursuit of our mission to ensure all Arizonans can participate in and experience the arts, the agency considers these individuals and organizations our partners. In accordance with our enabling statutes, the agency is committed to a just and equitable distribution of arts-based resources and opportunities with an emphasis on racial and cultural equity and geographic parity.

## Tribal Consultation Activities

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
<b>Trust-Based Relationships</b> Build and maintain relationships at all points of engagement with the Arts Commission	Invitation to participate in the 27 <sup>th</sup> Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day	The Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) participated as exhibitor on 1/12/2022 for <b>500 attendees</b> to create awareness of the resources available for artistic, creative, and cultural work from the Arts Commission. <b>Engaged with 94 attendees directly</b> to provide materials of the grants and programs centered on the three areas of artist support, arts learning, and organizational support.
	Agency directive to develop and repair relationships with Tribal Nations and Native American arts and culture organizations	Agency connected with <b>7 new tribal cultural organizations</b> to the agency and its grantmaking, leading to <b>5 of these organizations receiving relief funding</b> , for a total of <b>\$47,500</b> going towards these new grantees.

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
<p><b>Resource Support</b> Provide support and enlist the interest of partner funders in resources dedicated to Tribal Nations and the Native American communities in Arizona.</p>	<p>Agency directive to allocate federal funds from the American Recovery Plan to support departments of and organization within the borders of Tribal Nations</p>	<p>Board of Commissioners approves recommended allocations, including <b>6 organizations</b> based in Tribal Nations, for a total of <b>\$65,000</b>.</p>
	<p>Facilitate resource opportunities with partner foundations, specifically the Flinn Foundation.</p>	<p>Recommended and assisted <b>3 Native organizations</b>, one from the Tohono O’odham Nation and one from the Yavapai-Apache Nation, to <b>receive one-time private funding for \$5,000</b> each.</p>
<p><b>Input Integration</b> Address existing programmatic impediments and integrate input generated into programming and decision-making.</p>	<p>Agency initiative to engage constituents in service of new general operating support grant for arts and culture organizations through input sessions.</p>	<p>Of the <b>48 artists and arts administrators engaged</b> during the Artist and Arts Administrators Input Sessions, <b>5 participants were Native American</b>, making up <b>10% of the participant pool</b>. These input sessions informed the creation of the pilot year for the Fiscal Year 2023 Creative Capacity Grant and will inform the creation of best practice materials and resources for organizations and artists to engage with each other, especially for artists of color.</p>

## Highlights

**FY2022 Grants to Tribal Cultural & Native-Led Organizations**

Organization	Tribal Nation or Location of Native-Led Organization	Name of Grant Awarded	Award Amount
<b>Ancient Pathways</b>	Hopi Tribe	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$5,500
<b>Arizona American Indian Tourism Association</b>	Native-Led Organization Based in Scottsdale*	Festival Grant	\$5,000
<b>Cook Native American Ministries Foundation</b>	Native-Led Organization Based in Tempe	Lifelong Arts Engagement Grant	\$10,000
<b>CRIT Museum</b>	Colorado River Indian Tribes	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$22,000
<b>Jackie Warledo Research Center</b>	Native-Led Organization Based in Tucson (part of the International Indian Treaty Council)	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$9,000
<b>Morning Star Leaders, Inc.</b>	Native-Led Organization Based in Scottsdale*	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$5,500
<b>Hopitutuqaiki (The Hopi School)</b>	Hopi Tribe	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$12,000
<b>Tohono O'odham Young Voices Podcast</b>	Tohono O'odham Nation	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$5,500
<b>Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Resource Center</b>	Yavapai-Apache Nation	Arizona Organizational Relief Grant	\$5,500
<b>Total Amount</b>			<b>\$80,000</b>

## FY2022 Grants to Tribal Cultural & Native-Led Organizations

### Grant Program

■ AZ Organizational Relief Grant ■ Festival Grant ■ Lifelong Arts Engagement



One of the main highlights for the Arts Commission for Fiscal Year 2022 was the connection of three Tribal Cultural & Native-Led Organizations with the Flinn Foundation. Through an existing partner grant, the Flinn Creative Communities Grant, the organizations below were **awarded \$5,000 each** to fund the following activities:

- **Tohono O’odham Young Voices Podcast**
  - Use to support 5 staff positions that are essential to operating the youth-based podcast show that focuses on sharing Tribal topics and stories of Southern Arizona and telling their own stories. Additionally, fund support the purchase new equipment and software

for better audio quality, maintain major distribution channels, and plans to coordinate a virtual youth startup podcast workshop.

- **Yavapai-Apache Nation Cultural Resource Center**
  - Use to support the reestablishment of regularly scheduled arts workshops hosted by the Yavapai-Apache Nation's Culture Department in support of the advancement of Yavapai and Apache art. The workshops will focus on traditional arts such as dress making, beading, gourd creative art and drums, pottery, traditional dance, metal sculpture, and other relevant arts related activities, with special effort to engage youth and young adults. Funds will go towards supplies as well as stipends for Elders, traditional artists, and other experts in Yavapai and Apache art for instructing, displaying, and sharing historical knowledge on art and culture.
- **Jackie Warledo Research Center, part of the International Indian Treaty Council**
  - Use to continue preserving the records for the work of the International Indian Treaty Council and its affiliates to be publicly available. The archival process for the materials is and will continue in a way that is more aligned with Indigenous historical accounting—storytelling. Student interns are intended to be engaged from Tohono O'odham Community College, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University, who have interest and would benefit from engaging in the unique process based in an entirely Indigenous research setting.

## Recommendations from Tribal Representatives

In reference to what is described in the Challenges section of this report, the recommendations below stem from the initial outreach done to assist in granting pandemic relief funds to cultural departments of Tribal Nations and the arts organizations within their borders. These recommendations informed the foundational policy for the Arts Commission:

- The Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) build into its policies, procedures, and practices specific outreach and eligibility notification to the organizations part of and within Tribal Nations.
  - Many participants were introduced to ACA through this relief funding outreach, all who were either not familiar with the agency's existence and/or did not believe they were eligible.
- ACA formalize and normalize communications with Tribal Nations, so that Tribal Consultations are based in trust and partnership, not solely compliance. Additionally, not all relationships with Tribal Nations should be held with one staff member.
  - Without knowledge of ACA as an entity and the funds possibly available to their organizations/government entities, representatives expressed that they were essentially being excluded from these funding sources and opportunities.

- ACA policy and procedures include space for advocacy of the arts and cultural expressions of the Tribal Nations in Arizona in the Arts Commission's spheres of influence, with respect for cultural concerns and practices of each Tribal Nation.
  - Due to the positionality of the Arts Commission as a state arts agency, ACA has connections with both private and public funders and policymakers in local, state, regional, and national settings. ACA can act as a facilitator in connecting Tribal Nations to resources for support of their arts and culture activities while also acting as supporters to the strengthening of Tribal capacity in service of self-governance and self-determination, within the limits of its abilities.
- ACA address existing programmatic impediments to working directly and effectively with tribes. Also, any input generated through both formal and informal tribal consultation should be integrated into the processes of program development and decision-making.

## Revisions to Tribal Consultation Policy

Since this is the first time that the Arizona Commission on the Arts has had a tribal consultation policy, and it is the first state arts agency to have one (of the 56 serving the states and jurisdictions of the United States), the creation of the policy itself happened during Fiscal Year 2022 and thereby did not experience any revisions.

On June 23, 2022, the Arts Commission's Board of Commissioners approved this foundational policy, which now formalizes the work done by the Arts Commission and expresses the due diligence the Arts Commission must have when building relationships and developing partnerships with the Tribal Nations in Arizona in recognition of their sovereignty and self-determination.

## Challenges

Challenges faced by the Arts Commission while responding to the pandemic compounded challenges faced since the Great Recession, when the loss of staff members with relationships to organizations within Tribal Nations resulted in broken relationships. In Fiscal Year 2011, the agency provided general operating support to the cultural departments/centers for 5 different Tribal Nations. From FY2013 until FY2021, the Arts Commission funded only one cultural center for a single Tribal Nation. The Arts Commission has not and will not overcome this challenge in one fiscal year. The agency has, however, effectively diminished its potential to impede our responsibility to the Tribal Nations of Arizona.

In accordance with enabling statutes, the agency is committed to a just and equitable distribution of arts-based resources and opportunities, therefore, it is imperative that funding must go to Tribal Nations in service of their communities. As circumstances permitted, Arts Commission staff made initial contact by cold call with several Tribal Cultural Organizations identified through research. While this is not ideal, nor the only way the Arts Commission will engage, staff were able to build groundwork

with those organizations that were open and staffed at that time. An inability to contact an organization also provided precious information to the Arts Commission, as agency staff learned that many of cultural centers were temporarily closed in service of ensuring the health of their community and would likely not have the capacity to engage in an application and funding process.

The directive of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided to the agency, both directly from the federal government through the National Endowment for the Arts and from the State of Arizona's ARPA allocation, prompted the Arts Commission to re-introduce the agency to organizations that were funded by the agency prior to 2013, and build a better sense of how the Arts Commission can serve the unique needs of each Tribal Nation within Arizona.

### Contact Information

For questions or more information, please contact the Tribal Liaison:

Anna Needham (Red Lake Ojibwe)

Artist Programs Coordinator

**Phone** - (602) 771-6526

**Email** - [aneedham@azarts.gov](mailto:aneedham@azarts.gov)