

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Tribal Consultation Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

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.

In 2022, the Arizona Commission on the Arts established its Tribal Consultation Policy and the first to do so out of the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies in the United States. In 2023, the Arts Commission established the Tribal Relations Manager position, to act as the formal liaison for the agency with the 22 Tribal Nations within Arizona.



Tribal Consultation Activities

Goal	Objective	Activity & Performance Measure
Trust-Based Relationships Build and maintain relationships at all points of engagement with the Arts Commission	Invitation to participate in the 28 th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day	The Arizona Commission on the Arts participated as an exhibitor on 1/11/2023 for 550 attendees to create awareness of the resources available for artistic, creative, and cultural work from the Arts Commission. Engaged with 113 attendees directly to provide materials on the grants and programs the agency offers in the areas of artist support, arts learning, and organizational support. Additionally, the newly appointed Interim Executive Director Jacky Alling was able to attend and interact with the constituents in attendance.
	Agency directive to develop and repair relationships with Tribal Nations and Native American arts and culture organizations	Agency met with staff for Yoemem Tekia Museum & Cultural Center, who serve to preserve and uplift the culture of the Pascua Yaqui. Staff provided information on the different funding options for the organization, from arts learning funding, which they were awarded in Fiscal Year 2023, to general operating support.
	Invitation to provide informational workshop for Tribal youth at the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Mid-Year conference	The Arizona Commission on the Arts participated in a “speed dating”-esque workshop format, providing information to 35 Native youth about the programs of the Arts Commission and understand from their perspective what arts and culture looks like in their community. With the agency’s Arts Learning department emphasizing Creative Youth Leadership, the workshop provided space for

		discussion of how the Arts Commission can support their work within their Tribal Youth Councils as well as their own practices.
	Invitation to attend a performance of Ballet Arizona's Native American Hoop Dance Class initiative	The Arts Commission attended a performance that shared the progress made by Ballet Arizona on their community initiative in providing Hoop Dance classes in their studio space. The program was initially spearheaded by Ginger Sykes-Torres, a Board Member of the organization and an international award-winning hoop dancer. In connection with the attendance at this event, the Arts Commission was able to hear about the current funding streams for the program and what resources/support the organization would need to continue the program as it expands to needing an advanced class, moving beyond their current capacity to hold beginner and intermediate classes in hoop dance.
Resource Support Provide support and enlist the interest of partner funders in resources dedicated to Tribal Nations and the Native	Agency directive to allocate federal funds and state funds to organizations and government entities within the borders of Tribal Nations	Commissioners approved recommended allocations, including 6 organizations based in Tribal Nations, for a total of \$55,040.

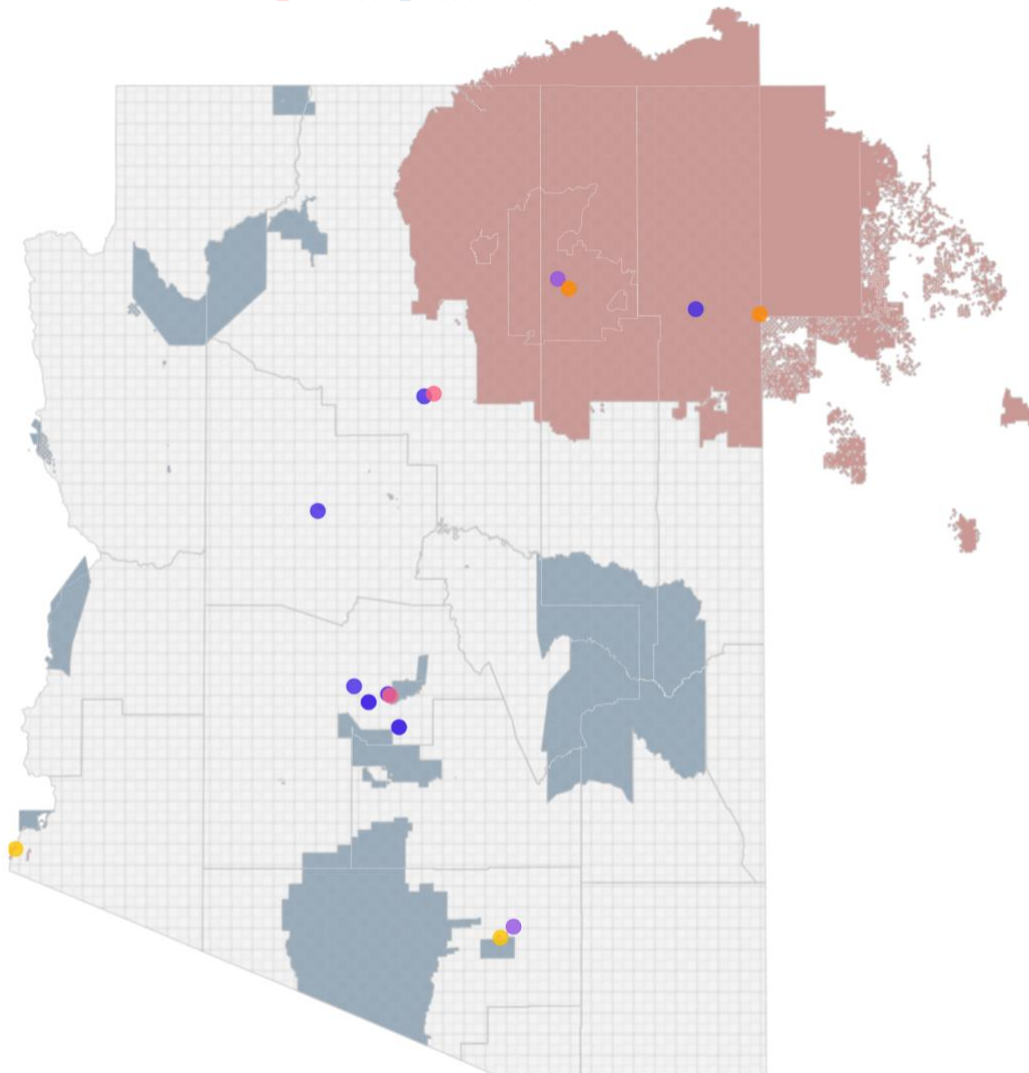
American communities in Arizona.	Agency directive to allocate federal funds and state funds to Native individuals within the borders of Tribal Nations and outside of them	Agency approved grants to individuals, including 5 individuals who are citizens of Tribal Nations within Arizona, who received a total of \$7,500. All awards to 13 Native American individuals totaled to \$13,500.
	Facilitate resource opportunities with partner foundations, specifically the Flinn Foundation.	Recommended and assisted 2 Native-led organizations, one from the Hopi Tribe and one from Navajo Nation, to receive one-time private funding of \$10,000 each.
Representation & Integration Ensure equitable representation within the Commission and integration of consultation policy into Arts Commission structures.	Properly establish liaison role into the agency's staff structure.	Created the Tribal Relations department and the Tribal Relations Manager as a full-time position.
	Have at least one Commissioner who is Native American.	In April of 2023, Governor Hobbs appointed Monica Buckle from Camp Verde to the Commission. Monica Buckle is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

Highlights

Fiscal Year 2023 Agency Grantmaking

<i>Total Grantees</i>	17 grantees
<i>Total Amount Awarded</i>	\$79,165 awarded
<i>Total Number of Arizona Tribal Nations Funded</i>	4 Tribal Nations funded

Grant Name ■ AOG⁵ ■ CCG⁴ ■ FEST¹ ■ FFG³ ■ YAE²
Grantee Status ■ Grantee ■ Not Grantee



Organizations & Government Entities

Grantee	City	Tribal Affiliation	Grant Awarded	Award Amount
Arizona American Indian Tourism Association	Scottsdale	Native-Led Organization	Festival Grant ¹	\$5,000.00
Cocopah Indian Tribe's Parks & Recreation Department	Somerton	Cocopah Indian Tribe	Youth Arts Engagement Grant ²	\$6,540.00
Hopi Arts & Education Association	Flagstaff	Hopi Tribe	Festival Grant	\$5,000.00
Hopi Tribe Economic Development Corporation	Flagstaff	Hopi Tribe	Flinn Foundation Follow-On Grant ³	\$10,000.00
Hopitutuqaiki	Kykotsmobi	Hopi Tribe	Creative Capacity Grant ⁴	\$16,000.00
HUBitual Learning and Outreach	Window Rock	Navajo Nation	Flinn Foundation Follow-On Grant	\$10,000.00
Jackie Warledo Research Center	Tucson	Native-Led Organization	Creative Capacity Grant	\$5,625.00
Yoemem Tekia Foundation	Tucson	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Youth Arts Engagement Grant	\$7,500.00
Total Organizational Grantees		8	Subtotal	\$65,665.00

Individuals

Grantee	City	Tribal Affiliation	Grant Awarded	Award Amount
Alyssa Barreda	Scottsdale	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Artist Opportunity Grant ⁵	\$1,500.00
Cy Adams	Prescott	Outside AZ	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Deborah Brooks	Chandler	Outside AZ	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Dominique Hunter	Chandler	Outside AZ	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Jon Luther	Phoenix	Outside AZ	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Karen Begay	Flagstaff	Navajo Nation	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Kasmin Wauneka	Ganado	Navajo Nation	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Roshan Spottsville	Glendale	Navajo Nation	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Shawn Patterson	Phoenix	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Artist Opportunity Grant	\$1,500.00
Total Individual Grantees		9	Subtotal	\$13,500.00

¹ [Festival Grants \(FEST\)](#): support in-person, virtual, and hybrid festivals.

² [Youth Arts Engagement Grants \(YAE\)](#): support arts learning projects for young people that occur outside of traditional school hours.

³ [Flinn Follow-on Grants \(FFG\)](#): a collaborative initiative, wherein the Arts Commission recommends to Flinn Foundation potential candidates for funding and invites qualifying rural and BIPOC-centered arts and culture organizations to apply. Funding for the grant program fluctuates year-to-year.

⁴ [Creative Capacity Grants \(CCG\)](#): provide general operating support to nonprofit organizations (both incorporated & unincorporated with a fiscal sponsor and municipal or tribal government entities whose primary mission is to produce, present, teach, or serve the arts.

⁵ [Artist Opportunity Grants \(AOG\)](#): support Arizona artists as they take advantage of specific, unique opportunities that have the potential to significantly impact their professional growth.



New Tribally-Specific Organizations Engaged with Agency

A highlight of Fiscal Year 2023 for the agency was the entry of new organizations from different Tribal Nations into our grantee pool. For the first time in recent history, organizations/government entities from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Cocopah Indian Tribe applied for Arts Commission grants. Establishing these relationships and delivering grant funds in support of arts learning programs serving the youth of these two tribes represents a massive shift for the agency:

- Cocopah Indian Tribe – Parks and Recreation Department
 - A Youth Arts Engagement Grant (YAE) was awarded to the tribe to assist in the creation of a digital art and printmaking program focused on Cocopah youth. The program aims to preserve artistic and cultural traditions, while teaching through the medium of digital art and printmaking. Participating students learn new skills while centering tradition and its connection to the futures they want to build.
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe – Yoemem Tekia Foundation
 - The Yoemem Tekia Cultural Center & Museum in Tucson received a Youth Arts Engagement Grant in support of after-school programming for young tribe members. This work centered on cultural transmission, recognizing the need for the passing down of ceremonial practices and traditions. Through this classes, Pascua Yaqui youth gain an understanding of traditional dance and the importance of sewing and embroidery to day-to-day life. Both classes were held in English and Yaqui, with assurance that it was vital to introduce vocabulary in order for the Yaqui language to live on and thrive.

Recommendations from Tribal Representatives

The Arizona Commission on the Arts has integrated and ongoing practices to ensure input and feedback from constituents directly affected by any changes to current programs and services, as well as any pilot programs of the agency. Additionally, this is embedded in the policies section of the Arts Commission's Tribal Consultation Policy stating: "The Arts Commission will seek and integrate, to the best of the agency's ability, input generated from tribal consultation into the agency's program development and decision-making processes before undertaking any action or policy that will, or is reasonably believed to, have the potential to affect a tribal community or its members." With upholding that policy, the agency received the following recommendations, both formally and informally shared:

- The agency needs to continue to repair/reestablish relationships neglected or discontinued after recession-era budget balancing efforts in the legislature eliminated the Arts Commission's ongoing General Fund appropriation and swept its \$20 million endowment between 2009 and 2012. To date, neither funding stream has been restored. The absence of ongoing funding from the state has affected how Tribal Nations view the agency's stability and reliability as a funder/partner.
- The Arts Commission should start traveling to communities again—safely and with consideration of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic—in order to directly connect with the people who make up the communities.
- The agency should provide/sponsor artistic entrepreneurship training workshops for artists based in Tribal Nations as well as Urban Native communities.
 - This recommendation arose from conversations with the Hopi Tribe Chairman, Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma, who shared the need for this type of training, with special emphasis on how artists can engage in online spaces.
- The Arts Commission has an obligation to advocate on a national level for legislation or policies that serve the interest of the 22 Tribal Nations in Arizona. Additionally, the agency should leverage its national and federal connections.
 - This statement stems from a representative recommending that the Arts Commission use its positionality as a state arts agency to engage in conversations around the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, especially in the ability to expand the powers of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. Tribal Nations have expressed the need for additional policy that gives the National Parks Service the ability to genuinely enforce the laws set out by the Act.

Revisions to Tribal Consultation Policy

Revisions to the Tribal Consultation Policy can be found below. These revisions intend to assure that procedural commitments can be applied to individual artists, creative workers, and cultural bearers, who all directly impact the communities they are from:

- The Arts Commission will ensure equitable representation of Native Americans in grant applicant pools, with recognition of the diverse locations these individuals are from. Emphasis will be placed on soliciting applications from those who are members and citizens from any of the Tribal Nations of Arizona.

Challenges

Challenges faced by the Arts Commission stemmed from a tumultuous first and second quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 for the agency. Due to the unexpected vacancy of the Executive Director position in October 2022, planned staffing changes, including those related to the transition of the Tribal Relations Manager to take on the full responsibilities of that role, were delayed and limited the agency's capacity to implement the work on the originally planned timeframe.

The Arts Commission overcame this challenge through the strategic focus on starting to build a foundation to our relationships with Tribal Cultural Entities, organizations, and individuals who had not known of our funding and resources that are available to them but have never been explicitly shared as an option for them prior to this outreach. By taking this approach, the Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Relations objectives focus on strengthening those blossoming connections and expanding the impact tribal consultations can have in these communities.

Contact Information

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