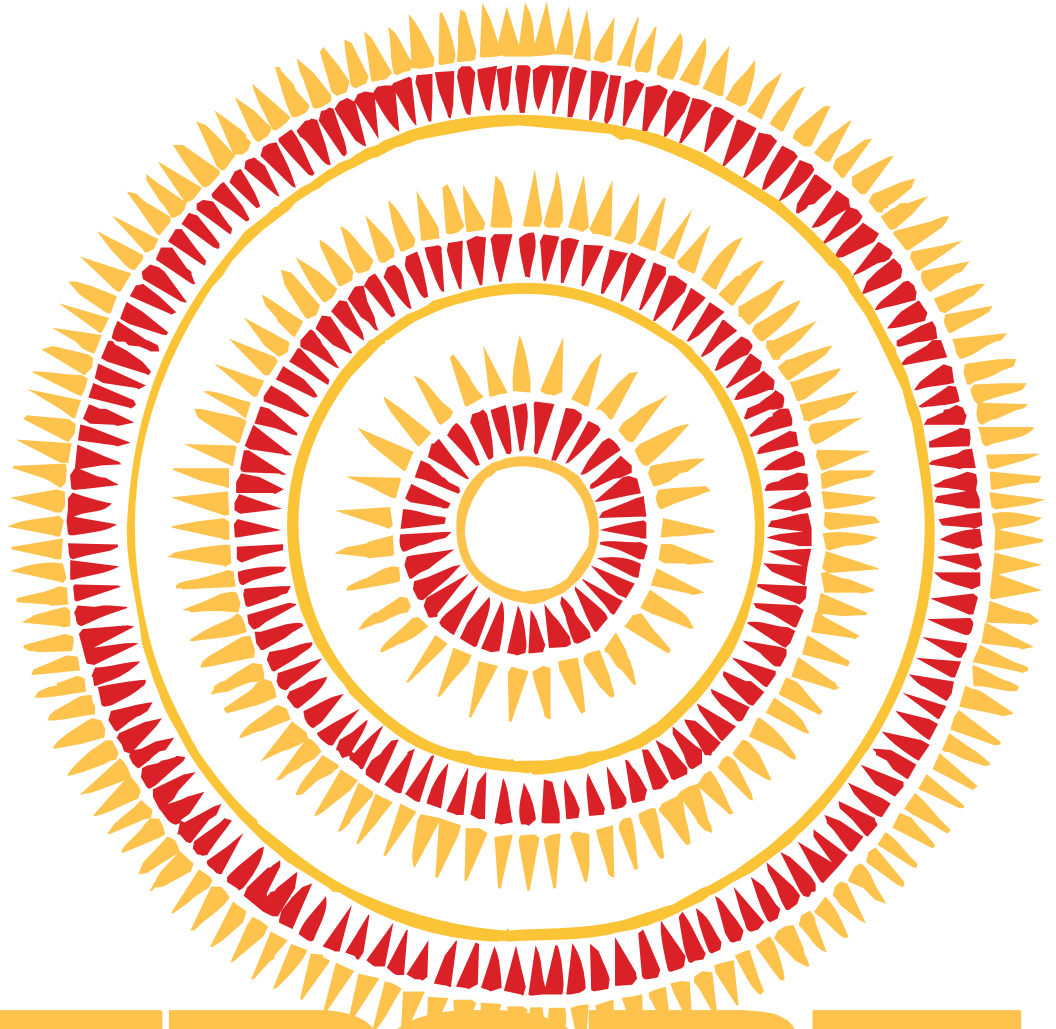


American Indian Institute



REPORT
2004

Mission

The mission of the American Indian Institute is to preserve the ancient wisdom and cultural heritage of North America's Native people, and to promote a greater understanding of that wisdom among all people. The Institute achieves its mission by serving as the administrative agency and support source for the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, comprised of grassroots spiritual leaders from Indian nations throughout North America. The American Indian Institute recognizes traditional Indian wisdom as an endangered human resource that is relevant to today's world and that may hold keys to our common survival.

Vision

In the custom of traditional indigenous peoples, the American Indian Institute attempts to consider its actions in the long view. Looking seven generations into the future, we see a world in which the cultures and traditions of indigenous people are respected for the wisdom they hold for the Earth and all its peoples. We pursue this vision by supporting the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth as it teaches, motivates, and celebrates traditional Indian peoples today. Specifically, we envision ourselves as facilitators of gatherings of traditional peoples, promoters of healing of Indian communities, and supporters of efforts to educate non-Indians about the wisdom and harmony inherent in the traditional indigenous worldview.

Site of the August
2004 meeting of the
Institute Board, the
Flying W Bar Ranch,
Island Park, Idaho



What Made 2004 So Important?

The 32-year history of the American Indian Institute is the story of the long, patient endeavors required to build trust and understanding among groups with vastly diverse interests and world views. The Elders remind us that our history is an important first step in our wisdom guided journey that will take many generations to complete.

Even in that light, the accomplishments of 2004 seem quite significant for a number of important reasons. Here are a few highlights.

In March, we received a three-year grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to help finance capacity building and board development efforts.

In May we received a three-year program grant from the Ford Foundation to support our core program area: the annual International Council of the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth. That grant helps support council gatherings, efforts to bring additional Elders into the Traditional Circle, and efforts to share the wisdom of the Elders with members of mainstream cultures around the world.

In 2003 we learned that the good and generous Helen Dunbar of Sedona, Arizona had decided to support the Institute with a significant bequest. Helen passed away on June 21, 2004 leaving the Institute a legacy that will go into the Institute's endowment and continue to support our work in perpetuity. A further tribute to Helen appears on page 6 of this report.

The year also saw the establishment of the American Indian Institute Advisory Board made up of dedicated and experienced individuals whose work on behalf of the Institute will surely bring continued growth and financial wellbeing.

Throughout this report you will discover additional significant facts about the progress 2004 brought to the Institute. I submit this report with my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year one more successful step in a journey of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Barb Croisant
Board Chair

2004 International Elders and Youth Council Turtle Mountain, North Dakota, August 10-15

This was the second time the Circle has gathered at Turtle Mountain, the first being in 1993. There was both a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the second meeting based on the local impact of the first one and the maturing influence of the Elders and Youth Circle on its members over the years. Qualitative differences were noted in the camp itself and in the general organization of events over a five-day period. Excellent food provided a balanced diet that is uncommon in large groups in isolated areas.

There were a number of new delegations including one from the Oglala Sioux and another from Northern Cheyenne as well as many new individuals from across the United States and Canada. One of the new delegates was the great-grandson of Cochise, the famous

Chiricahua Apache leader of the late 19th century. He had the bearing and manner of a chief befitting his lineage. A true chief does not seek self aggrandizement but commits himself to the welfare of the people. That characteristic is evident in both speech and action. Our Apache guest personified that quality, making a significant impression upon the Circle.

The Council's objective is to serve as a principal source of reinforcement of traditional values for participating Elders and delegates and as a forum for traditional youth development. Testimony to the success of this year's program can be found in the following statement from Art Cisneros, a Chumash delegate from California, who attended the Council for the first time. He underscores its importance both for delegates who seek the underpinning of their heritage and for those who hold the heritage and who are committed to its continuation through the youth.



Danny Beaton photos
taken at the 2004
Turtle Mountain
International Council

“The Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth embodies the most inspirational and effective method of teaching that I have ever experienced. The process of incorporating speaking, ritual and ceremony, song and dance involving Elders, youth and their entire families is the most touching, heartfelt and therefore the most memorable of learning experiences. The emotional breakthroughs and inspirational healing of body, mind and spirit could only happen in this setting on sacred earth with the power of love imbued in every moment.

The sense that we are all family coming home to be renewed, invigorated, inspired and loved was truly beautiful and deeply gratifying. All participants benefited immensely from the field of energy created by our mutual love for each other, our Mother Earth and all of our relations in nature. Everyone I spoke with or who shared of themselves during our time together was filled with strength, confidence and optimism about what we as a community can and must accomplish through love of one another and all of creation. I know of no university, school or workshop that could be as fulfilling and effective in transforming a human being to full potential. My prayer is that everyone on earth could have an opportunity to experience such a loving village community dedicated to healing and inspiring everyone who steps into the circle, and who acknowledges and embraces the spirit in all things. The world would be in balance again, and we could create a healthy home for ourselves and for generations to come.”

- Art Cisneros, Chumash Spiritual Leader, August 2004



Other Institute & Traditional Circle Programs

2004 marked the twelfth year since the Traditional Circle directed the Institute to develop a program to help stem the tide of addiction and violence among Indian families throughout Indian country. It marked the eighth year since the first *Healing the Future* programs were launched with the help of several Native communities in Montana and the Gila River community in Arizona.

Healing the Future constitutes a prime example of what can be accomplished when indigenous wisdom and perseverance are financially sustained by the Institute. Guided by Elders from the Traditional Circle, this intergenerational program combines traditional healing and ceremonial experiences with indigenous intervention and counseling activities to build on the strengths of Native communities to care for one another. To date, the program has been introduced in the four directions: in Montana, Arizona, Washington, and Maine.

The Gila River *Healing the Future* program is the only one for which funding was available in 2004. Program leaders there tell us that other programs have been transitory both in effect and duration, and that they expected *Healing the Future* to be the same. They credit our perseverance and sensitivity to the cultural dynamics of their community for the success of the program.

Initial inspiration for *Healing the Future* came from Traditional Circle Elder (the late) Phillip Deere, Muskogee/Creek Spiritual Leader, who was an indefatigable teacher and proponent of traditional wisdom as a basis for Native American cultural and spiritual survival. In one of his memorable quotes he said: *"If there is but one, any one, of my Indian children who wants to go back home, back to our tradition, I will take that hand. I will guide that hand home with me."*

Cross-Cultural Outreach programs such as *Wisdom Speakers* help amplify the traditional Indian voice across cultures globally as well as nationally. Over the years, the Institute has helped organize and fund

Young Pima women learn cooperation at the first *Healing the Future* camp at Gila River.



delegations of indigenous people of North America to travel to every continent to address audiences at such venues as the UN General Assembly, the International Environmental Summit, Rio de Janeiro, the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders, London, Moscow and Kyoto, the Fourth World Wilderness Conference, Denver, CO, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 2004 Elders from the Traditional Circle played key roles in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York; the opening ceremonies of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.; the Bioneers Conference in San Francisco, California; and the 6th Annual Native Gathering of the Americas, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Montana Youth Leadership Program brings Indian youth into contact with traditional Elders from throughout Montana and the four directions. Programs prepare new leadership with a focus on traditional protocol, ceremonial knowledge, peace maintenance, mediation skills, historical perspectives, diplomacy and personal integrity.

In July of 2005 a week-long Youth Council will be conducted at a secluded tipi encampment high in the Tom Miner Basin in the Paradise Valley south of Livingston, Montana.

The Sacred Sites Initiative began as the Traditional Circle was first forming at the Headwaters of the Missouri River. At the time, the vision for the future included securing culturally significant sites for traditional indigenous ceremonies and related uses. In 2004 the Institute participated in securing such a site in Guatemala and began work on doing the same in Arizona.



The Healing the Future families of the Gila River Community identify the Superstition Mountains as a culturally significant area for their people.

Helen Dunbar Edelen Lucas September 21, 1909 – June 21, 2004



Thank you Helen.

A loving daughter of Arizona and benefactor of the American Indian Institute, Helen D. Lucas, died peacefully at her Sedona home at the age of 93. She was the daughter of Joseph and Helen McNallan Dunbar and spent her childhood in Yuma where her father was associated with the Yuma Ice Plant. She graduated from Our Lady Of Peace Academy in San Diego and attended the University of Arizona, Tucson, earning her degree in Archaeology in 1931. Helen returned to AU for her teaching credentials and taught at the grade school in Yuma. She married Alexander Edelen in 1937, and lived in Mexico for three years before that marriage ended. In 1982 she married Capt. Frederic D. Lucas and they made Sedona their home. He preceded her in death in 2000.

Helen was spirited woman, petite and always beautifully dressed, quick to laugh, loved margaritas, and was a conservative Republican, devout Catholic and member of Delta Gamma and the DAR. An avid fan of the Arizona Diamondbacks, she spoke of going to Coast League games with her mother starting at age 3. She loved the Grand Canyon's North Rim and hated what has become of the once peaceful and elegant South Rim.

She loved Arizona and was a life-long student of its history, in particular that of the railroads, and the American Indians. She would often board the Santa Fe train in San Diego and ride to Chicago where she shopped for a few hours and then returned on the Union Pacific train the same day! Always a Streamliner and always First Class! She reminisced about the beautiful Fred Harvey train stations, the beautiful landscapes and wonderful conversations she had on the trains.

Helen had a sincere interest in the Native People of Arizona and often recalled her parents' kindness to the Indians in the Yuma area and her mother's stories as a teacher in Gallup. She collected Indian jewelry, rugs, baskets and pottery and was an outspoken supporter of their continued struggles for justice and fairness. Helen proudly wore her magnificent jewelry every day.

After learning of the work of the Two Circles, she agreed to include the American Indian Institute in her estate planning. She revered the Native People, and fully agreed that their traditional culture must be saved for all mankind. We will honor Helen and our traditional Elders by carrying on this important work with enthusiasm and dignity.

Thanks to the Many Who Helped in 2004

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2004 Financial Statements

Statement of Assets, Liabilities & New Assets As of 12/31/04

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 135,670.17
Cash - Elders	2,459.77
Total Current Assets	\$ 138,129.94
Fixed Assets	
Computer	\$ 300.00
Computer - Dell 1	1,496.00
Computer - Dell 2	1,398.00
Leasehold Improvements	9,023.83
Library	160.90
Office Furniture	978.71
Program Equipment	25,247.99
Vehicles	18,593.00
LESS Accumulated Depreciation	-44,458.67
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 12,739.76
Other Assets	
Art Investments	\$ 140,325.14
Organizational Costs	2,460.68
Endowment Fund	69,061.65
Endowment Life Insurance	2,932.42
Total Other Assets	\$ 214,779.89
Total Assets	\$ 365,649.59
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 82,847.00
Restricted Funds	55,283.00
Temporary Restricted Funds	145,316.27
Current Activity	82,203.32
Total Equity	\$ 365,649.59
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 365,649.59

Statement of Activities As of 12/31/04

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Corporate Grants	\$ 21,423
Foundation Grants	153,550
Individual Donors	293,908
Publications/Products	110
Interest, Dividend, Investment Income	1,121
Gain (loss) on Investments	694
Miscellaneous Income	921
Total Revenue, Gains & Other Support	\$ 471,727
EXPENSES	
Direct Program Expenses	\$ 228,199
Operating Expenses	
Bank Charges & Fund Management Fees	454
Consultants	22,996
Debt Services - Required	4,656
Fund Development (Travel & Lodging)	6,776
Insurance	14,793
Miscellaneous	338
Office Supplies	3,764
Postage & Freight	1,172
Printing & Publication	1,494
Professional Fees	1,125
Public Relations	733
Payroll Expenses	88,900
Rent	1,800
Taxes & Licenses	7,174
Telephone	5,066
Vehicle Expense	84
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 161,325
Total Program & Operating Expenses	\$ 389,524
NET	\$ 82,203



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