

## Performance Description

**Project Purpose:** Preserving Language, Memory, and Lifeways: A Continuing Education Project for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Native American Librarians is intended to provide quality educational opportunities to tribal and non-tribal archive, library and museum staff, resulting in improved delivery of services to American Indians as well as increasing collaboration between tribal and non-tribal archive, library and museum staff.

**Activities or services carried out:** The Western Council of State Librarians appointed the Oregon State Library to serve as sponsoring host for the 2009 National Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums which took place in Portland, OR from October 19 through October 23, 2009. This continuing education opportunity was modeled on and incorporates Native experiences for both tribal and non-tribal archive, library and museum staff.

### Accomplishments to date:

In the six months since the previous report the 2009 National Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference has been held. All activities leading up to the Conference listed in the previous report have been completed. This report will focus on the Conference and will include the conference evaluation and other pertinent items as attachments.

### 2009 National Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference

Activity	Date	Attendance
Six Preconference Sessions	October 19, 2009	136
Concurrent & Plenary Sessions	October 20-22, 2009	505
Gala Reception at the Portland Art Museum and Oregon Historical Society with Tribal Dancers	October 20, 2009	169

### Location:

The preconference and conference sessions were held at the Red Lion on the River in Portland, Oregon along with the hotel rooms for the majority of participants. Overflow hotel rooms were available at Oxford Suites and Holiday Inn Express, both within a mile of the Red Lion on the River. Meeting room charges were waived and participants were provided with complimentary parking and Internet access as well as transportation to and from the airport. A gala reception was held at the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Historical Society in downtown Portland that participants could attend for an additional fee and participants were bused to that location. Additional events were available for participants to attend on the Monday prior to the conference, Wednesday evening and Thursday after the conference had ended. Those events required an additional fee, as did the preconference sessions.

**Conference Materials for Participants:**

Each participant received a messenger-type tote bag with the conference logo that contained the conference program book, a note pad and pen, and a map of Portland. Each attendee also received a hard cover copy of the Absolutely True Story of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, which was donated by Little, Brown and Company. Little, Brown and Company also sent each participant ten paperback copies of the Sherman Alexie title.

**Marketing:**

A number of e-mail messages were sent from the Conference Director, Malissa Minthorn-Winks during the year prior to the conference. Those messages were to announce the conference and keep possible participants up-to-date about the progress of conference planning. We estimate that those e-mail messages were sent to a list of approximately 5000 people. A postcard was sent to 2623 potential participants in April of 2009 announcing the opening of registration. Conference planning committee members also distributed those postcards. The conference website: <http://www.tribalconference.org> was consistently updated and was the location for all current information regarding the conference.

**Exhibitors:**

There were 24 companies and organizations who exhibited from Monday afternoon through Wednesday afternoon. An all conference reception was held Monday evening in conjunction with the opening of the exhibits. There was a significant charge for exhibit space (\$750.00) which was waived for two organizations as a courtesy. The conference schedule was arranged so that refreshment breaks were held in the exhibit area and were an extended length to allow for interaction between exhibitors and participants. See conference program for listing of exhibitors and location in the facility. Information pieces about sponsorship/exhibit opportunities were sent to one thousand potential exhibitors and sponsors in early 2009. See pages 7-11 of the program book for layout of exhibits and exhibitor information.

As a result of a suggestion from the previous conference, we arranged for craft vendors to staff tables in a central area of the conference. They were provided with just a table and chairs but were not charged for the table. They were required to be affiliated with a tribe and the crafts had to be hand made. 10 craft vendors participated.

**Poster Sessions:**

Twenty-seven posters featuring the projects of IMLS-funded Tribal Enhancement Grantees were featured at the conference, as well as seven non-IMLS posters that were featured in the same location. The poster sessions were held adjacent to the Exhibits so they benefited from the refreshment breaks and the extended break periods. Attached is a listing of the IMLS Enhancement Grantee poster sessions, the additional seven are described on page 32-33 of the program book.

### **Scholarships:**

Scholarships were awarded to 91 conference attendees and included conference registration and in some cases, travel and lodging costs. Scholarship recipients were required to complete an application and submit a letter of recommendation to the Scholarship Committee. The scholarships were awarded based on the recommendations of a panel of four tribal members who reviewed the applications. Scholarship recipients are noted in the Attendee Roster section of the program book.

### **Special Events:**

In addition to the guest speakers at each plenary session and lunch, three additional special events were offered.

- Monday evening after the opening reception award winning musician Arvel Bird performed at the conference venue.
- Tuesday evening a gala reception was held in downtown Portland at the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Historical Society. Each venue provided hors d'oeuvres and beverages as well as local tribal dancers, The Canoe Dancers from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Generation Dancers from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla. The exhibit *Oregon is Indian Country* was on display at the Historical Society and the Native American gallery was open to visitors at the Portland Art Museum. Participants paid a fee to attend this event.
- Wednesday evening several movies related to the Oregon tribes were presented at the conference venue.

### **Conference Staffing and Partners:**

Early in the process of planning and implementing the conference a Memorandum of Understanding was created and signed by the principle partners in the project: Western Council of State Libraries, Oklahoma State Library, BCR, Oregon State Library, and Tamàstlikt Cultural Institute. The roles of each of those organizations were as follows:

- Western Council of State Libraries-IMLS Grantee
- Oklahoma State Library- Grant Project Director
- BCR-Grant Fiscal Agent
- Oregon State Library-Local Project Manager, Conference Co-Host
- Tamàstlikt Cultural Institute-Conference Director, Conference Co-Host

In addition to the principle partners, a planning committee of forty was assembled from state libraries in western states, Oregon tribes, Oregon archives and museums, and American Indian Library Association members. Those organizations who contributed staff time and other resources are listed on page 56 of the Conference Program Book.

### **Conference Program:**

94 speakers presented fifty-six 1 or 1.5 hour programs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. There were seven sessions in each of the eight time slots over the three-day period. These programs were selected from proposals submitted to the Program Committee. We were also honored to have a welcome from Kathryn Harrison, elder from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde as we were meeting in their homeland. Roberta (Bobbie) Conner, director of the Tamàstlikt Cultural Institute of the

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla served as MC for the Conference. We were also honored to have a Veteran Color Guard to post and retire the flags. Chief Warren Brainerd of the Coquille Indian Tribe led that Color Guard.

At morning plenary sessions we featured Dr. Phillip Cash on Tuesday and Billy Frank, Jr. on Wednesday and lunch. Luncheon speakers were Cheryl Metoyer on Tuesday and Russell Means on Thursday. On Wednesday Alyce Sadongei presented awards at lunch. Information on speakers is available in the program book.

**Awards:**

Eight awards were presented at lunch on Wednesday. The awardees were selected through a nomination process and those can be found on pages 4 and 5 of the program book.

**Evaluation:**

Six weeks after the conference had ended a mass e-mail was sent to our mailing list to announce the opportunity for attendees to complete an on-line evaluation of the conference. The evaluation was similar to the evaluation done after the 2007 National Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference for comparison purposes. The evaluation report is enclosed with this report and the local project manger has retained the raw data.

**Lessons Learned:**

The first week of November the planning committee held one last conference call to discuss the lessons learned from the conference. Those lessons are listed here:

- Make sure the conference planning committee has broad representation from tribal community, archives, community, library, and museums.
- Scholarships: make the second round more defined. Track scholarships from one conference to the next so same people aren't always getting scholarships.
- Working with a variety of tribes: clarify roles and tasks back and forth, make sure there are backup plans for everything.
- Awards: start nomination process earlier, at least 9 months. Publicize nominations more widely, track previous winners.
- Begin organization earlier and be very organized from the beginning.
- Make sure everyone on the committee is familiar with the appropriate protocol.
- Overbook the craft vendors due to no shows, stay in constant contact with craft vendors.
- Assign point of contact for each area of the conference: e.g. vendors, craft vendors, awards, etc.

**CERTIFICATION**

In submitting this report, I certify that all of the information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

MaryKay Dahlgreen  
Project Manager