

# About the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)



## MISSION

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is an international organization that serves the needs of those who work to protect and advance cultural sovereignty.

## ATALM WORKS TO:

- ◆ Raise public awareness of the contributions and needs of indigenous cultural institutions through its international network of partners, both indigenous and non-indigenous;
- ◆ Provide culturally responsive services and programs through regional and national training events, web resources, and individual consultations;
- ◆ Partner with national organizations that provide training and services related to archives, libraries, and museums to incorporate indigenous perspectives into programs and services; and
- ◆ Serve as an advocate for indigenous cultural institutions with tribal leaders, funders, and government officials.

## VISION

*ATALM will ensure that every tribal nation will have its own archive, library, and museum to house locally its historical photographs, literature, songs, stories, and language recordings; its treaty documents, legal histories, historical data, ethnographies, and traditional information pertaining to each tribe. This critical body of knowledge—along with oral traditions and traditional art and artifacts—will be preserved and made readily accessible in a central locale and in a culturally appropriate manner. Materials will be housed in appropriate facilities and managed by professionally trained staff, thereby ensuring the political and cultural survival of tribal peoples in the 21st Century and beyond.*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ◆ To operate from a position of integrity and accountability.
- ◆ To be the very best stewards of funds available to us.
- ◆ To be effective and passionate advocates for the cultural sovereignty of all indigenous nations.
- ◆ To be inclusive, respectful, and welcoming of everyone.
- ◆ To support the efforts of organizations that work to meet the needs of tribal archives, libraries, and museums.
- ◆ To have diversity in our officers and board.
- ◆ To strive for excellence in everything we do.

## Governing Board

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**Mary Ellen Meredith**, Treasurer, Board Chair Emerita, Cherokee National Historical Society

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**LaDonna Harris**, President, Americans for Indian Opportunity

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**Tim Tingle**, Author, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

**Della Warrior**, Director New Mexico Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

## Advisory Council

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**Kevin Gover**, Director, National Museum of the American Indian