



For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Feller, Conference Chair
405-401-8293
susanfeller@msn.com or atalminfo@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS TO HOST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF 500+ ATTENDEES JUNE 3-7, 2012 AT THE HARD ROCK CASINO AND RESORT IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

Starting Sunday, June 3 and running through Thursday, June 7, 2012, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums will host the fifth International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums at the Cherokee-owned Hard Rock Casino and Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The conference provides unparalleled opportunities for archivists, librarians, museum staff, educators, students, tribal leaders, researchers, and community volunteers who wish to participate in nine pre-conference workshops and 60 conference sessions, as well as preservation labs, a career fair, poster sessions, exhibits, networking activities, and special events.

Programs are presented by 150 experienced leaders in the field of archives, libraries, and museums. Conference sessions cover digital projects, cultural tourism, collection management, fundraising, volunteer development, exhibit production, archives operations, digital storytelling, oral history, endangered languages, staff development, and model library and museum projects.

Pre-conference workshops are offered on preservation planning, archives processing, digital storytelling, community oral history projects, gallery exhibits for community spaces, securing collections and facilities, preparing grant proposals, and an introduction to Mukurtu, a free collections management software designed for the specific needs of indigenous collections.

Onsite workshops that run concurrently with conference sessions include an introduction to archives, writing and producing exhibit labels, caring for textile collections, funding opportunities, and culturally appropriate collections care.

Hands-on or interactive preservation labs cover environmental monitoring techniques, caring for audio and video recordings, building custom enclosures, working with fragile archival materials, and salvaging wet materials.

Evening events include a festive opening session, a light supper at the Philbrook Museum and a tour of its "Seeking the Sacred" exhibit, a cultural evening at the Gilcrease Museum, and a storytelling evening featuring "Trickster Tales" told by noted storytellers Joe Bruchac, Tim Tingle, and Greg Rodgers.

The opening session will celebrate the recent endorsement by President Obama of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a keynote by noted attorney and Native rights activist Walter Echo-Hawk. Mr. Echo-Hawk also serves on the board of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums and is the conference chair.

Funding for the conference is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and Cherokee Nation Enterprises.

A full schedule of events and sessions may be found at www.atalm.org. The event is open to the public with registration costs starting at \$250.00. For additional information, phone 405-522-3515 or email atalminfo@gmail.com.

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

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums is a not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of indigenous archives, libraries, and museums by advocating excellence in cultural programs and services, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. For more information, including a list of board members and previous programs, please visit www.atalm.org

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. For more information, visit www.ims.gov

About the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL)

Since 2006, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries has played a leading role in supporting national educational programs and services for tribal archives, libraries, and museums. As the official state library of Oklahoma, the Department commits resources to helping ensure quality library services for the state's large indigenous community. For more information, visit www.odl.state.ok.us

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