



A TALM
Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums

Humanities Grants for Native Cultural Institutions

*Sustaining the Humanities
through the
American Rescue Plan*

A New Approach to Funding

\$3.8 million awarded to 118
projects through a
partnership with the National
Endowment for the
Humanities

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A New Approach to Funding: Special Report and Evaluation

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A Message from the ATALM Board of Governors



The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is pleased to present this Special Report and Independent Evaluation of our *Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Grant Project*. ATALM embarked on this \$3.71 million project with a commitment to addressing the critical needs of tribal cultural institutions, many of which faced unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this initiative, we sought to provide essential resources and financial support to help Native cultural

institutions continue their invaluable work of preserving Indigenous culture, history, and knowledge. We also used the regrants program to help strengthen the grant writing and organizational capacity of cultural organizations new to grant-funded projects.

This project was particularly meaningful to ATALM as it allowed us to deliver immediate relief to Native communities and reinforce the resilience and continuity of Indigenous heritage for future generations. By offering regrants, ATALM empowered Native organizations to make impactful changes at the local level, ensuring that resources were directed where they were most needed. This approach enabled diverse, community-driven responses, from digitization projects and language revitalization programs to exhibitions that celebrate Indigenous culture and history.

Looking to the future, this project has demonstrated the effectiveness of ATALM's regrants methodologies as a model for foundations and government agencies that are seeking to provide targeted, smaller grants to Native organizations. Sustained funding through regrants is essential as smaller, under resourced Native communities seek to strengthen their infrastructure, adapt to evolving challenges, and build capacity for long-term cultural preservation.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its partnership and support. Through their trust and commitment, this project has helped preserve and revitalize the cultural foundations of Indigenous communities. We also are grateful for the 118 grantee organizations and commend them on the successful completion of innovative projects. We also are grateful to Dr. Miriam Jorgensen for conducting a thorough and independent evaluation of the project. Her findings give us hope for the future.

The ATALM Board of Governors

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*Special thanks to ATALM staff members **Jess Cordes**, Director of Special Projects and Grants and **Melissa Brodt**, Chief Operations Officer.*

ATALM's Commitment to Providing Funding to Native Communities

NEH SHARP funds were awarded to ATALM through a competitive application process. ATALM was one of 13 organizations to receive funding. It was selected because of its deep-rooted understanding of Indigenous cultural institutions, its dedicated and knowledgeable staff, and its robust infrastructure that supports efficient and culturally sensitive fund distribution.

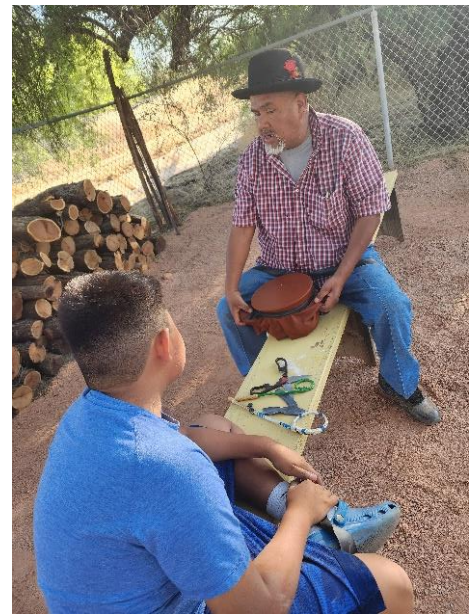
ATALM has worked closely with Native cultural institutions since its founding in 2010, gaining an unparalleled understanding of the unique needs, challenges, and goals of these institutions. ATALM's approach to regranting funds ensures that funds are directed to projects that align closely with each community's values and priorities, such as language revitalization, digital access, traditional knowledge preservation, and community resilience. ATALM's strong relationships with tribal leaders, cultural practitioners, and community members provide it with insights that allow for tailored and impactful grant-making.

ATALM developed a streamlined regranting process that established clear application procedures, reporting structures, and support systems, making it easier for tribal institutions to apply for and manage grant funds. ATALM's regranting model is designed to reduce barriers that may otherwise prevent smaller or under-resourced institutions from accessing funding, such as complex application requirements or high reporting demands. This infrastructure not only ensures that funds are distributed equitably and efficiently but also that they reach communities where they can have the greatest impact.

ATALM's staff consists of professionals with direct experience working with Native cultural institutions, which gives them a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing these institutions. This expertise allows ATALM's staff to provide tailored guidance throughout the grant process, from application assistance to project management support, ensuring that recipients can fully utilize the funds for maximum benefit. Staff members are trained in culturally respectful engagement and are sensitive to the diverse cultural protocols and practices within Indigenous communities, further strengthening ATALM's ability to work collaboratively with tribal organizations.

ATALM's regranting approach goes beyond simply providing financial assistance; it is focused on building capacity within tribal communities to ensure sustainable impact. By providing hands-on support, technical assistance, and training alongside funding, ATALM empowers grant recipients to strengthen their institutional capacity. This commitment to capacity building ensures that projects funded through ATALM not only address immediate needs but also contribute to the growth and resilience of tribal cultural institutions.

ATALM's successful track record has earned it a reputation as a reliable, effective, and culturally attuned regranting partner.



Project Overview and Objectives

With funding and support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, ATALM administered regrants of \$3.71 million to 118 Native cultural institutions across the nation. The primary objectives of the program were:

1. To stabilize and support Native cultural institutions facing economic hardship due to the pandemic.
2. To enable these institutions to continue vital work in preserving and sharing Indigenous culture, language, and history.
3. To create sustainable solutions that would strengthen tribal cultural infrastructure and increase access to Indigenous knowledge.

The program awarded grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to over 88 tribal institutions, each of which proposed innovative projects to address the specific needs of their communities.

Project Outcomes

Summarized below are key outcomes and successes that emerged from the program:

1. **Enhanced Resilience of Tribal Cultural Institutions** The program provided critical relief to tribal cultural institutions during a period of significant financial strain. These funds enabled institutions to retain staff, cover operational costs, and maintain essential services, ensuring continuity for the communities they serve. Many grant recipients reported that, without this funding, they would have faced severe cutbacks, which would have compromised their cultural preservation efforts and educational programs.
2. **Support for Diverse, Community-Centered Projects** The regranting structure allowed tribal institutions to tailor projects to their unique cultural and community needs. As a result, projects funded through the SHARP Grant program were highly diverse and reflective of each community's priorities. Projects included:
 - **Digitization Initiatives:** Many institutions invested in digitizing tribal records, photographs, and oral histories, ensuring these invaluable cultural resources are preserved for future generations.
 - **Language Revitalization Programs:** Several communities used the funding to support language preservation efforts, including developing language apps, conducting language classes, and recording elders for language documentation.
 - **Exhibitions and Educational Outreach:** Institutions developed exhibitions and public programs that celebrated Indigenous culture, provided historical context, and strengthened cultural identity within the community.
 - **Technical Infrastructure Upgrades:** Some grant recipients invested in technology upgrades to improve digital access and outreach, allowing tribal members to connect with resources remotely, an especially crucial need during the pandemic.
3. **Increased Access to Indigenous Knowledge and Resources** Through the support of the SHARP Grant, many institutions expanded their digital presence, providing online access to cultural materials and educational resources. For instance, digital archives and virtual exhibitions became vital tools for community engagement, allowing tribal members, students, and researchers to connect with Indigenous heritage from any location. The increased digital access has laid a

foundation for sustained engagement and outreach, ensuring that cultural resources are more widely accessible than ever before.

4. **Strengthening of Cultural Knowledge and Identity** A core success of the SHARP Grant program has been its role in reinforcing cultural pride and knowledge within Indigenous communities. The funded projects helped to strengthen community bonds, particularly during a time when isolation and social distancing challenged traditional ways of gathering and connecting. By supporting projects that preserved and promoted Indigenous identity, the program contributed to the resilience and revitalization of tribal cultural heritage, fostering a deeper connection between community members and their cultural roots.
5. **Building Capacity for Future Sustainability:** The SHARP Grant not only provided immediate relief but also contributed to long-term sustainability by enabling institutions to enhance their capacity. Many recipients invested in training, equipment, and resources that will continue to benefit their operations well into the future. This foundational support positions these institutions to apply for future grants, undertake larger projects, and grow their services to the community.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

While the program was overwhelmingly successful, some challenges were identified, providing valuable insights for future funding initiatives:

- **Logistical and Supply Chain Delays:** Some institutions faced delays in accessing equipment or supplies due to pandemic-related supply chain issues. This highlighted the need for flexibility in project timelines and budgeting for unexpected delays.
- **Capacity for Grant Management:** Some smaller institutions required additional support with grant management and reporting, suggesting that future programs could benefit from providing more technical assistance in these areas to maximize project success.



Future Directions for Funding Through Re grants

The success of the SHARP Grant program underscores the effectiveness of regranting as a model for distributing funding to tribal communities. The ability to regrant funds allowed ATALM to tailor support directly to the needs of individual institutions, facilitating a more equitable and impactful distribution of resources. Going forward, ATALM envisions expanding this regranting model to support even more tribal cultural institutions, focusing on long-term sustainability, innovation, and cultural preservation.

Continued investment in regranting will ensure that tribal archives, libraries, and museums have the resources necessary to preserve Indigenous culture and knowledge. By fostering community-driven projects that reflect local values and priorities, re grants empower tribal institutions to grow and thrive, ultimately strengthening the cultural heritage of Indigenous communities nationwide.

Independent Evaluation Report

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Executive Summary

By stewarding Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing, Indigenous cultural institutions help sustain Native communities and strengthen the sovereignty of Native nations. In 2020, the worldwide coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) challenged many of these vital entities to survive. Yet recovery itself raised new concerns: how could Native cultural institutions re-engage with their communities given concerns for citizen health, changes in citizen preferences for accessing knowledge, and their own capacity renewal needs?



The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) offered hope. Under its provisions, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received \$135 million for humanities-focused pandemic recovery support. NEH issued a call for proposals, to which the Association for Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) responded, and in October 2021, the agency announced that ATALM had been selected to participate in the Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) regranting program.

Ultimately, the ATALM-NEH SHARP collaboration provided \$3.71 million to 118 Indigenous cultural institutions over a two-year period. Grants were for one year, ranged up to \$50,000, and were awarded in two rounds of funding. Grantees—located in 29 states—included tribal governments (29%); tribal archives, libraries, museums, and cultural centers (34%); educational institutions (11%); and a wide variety of other nonprofit organizations (26%). Funded work included archival projects, broadcast media, in-person and web-based exhibits, collaborative projects, demonstrations, classes, language revitalization, publications, and more.

As desired, **grantees were better able to respond to and recover from the pandemic as a result of ATALM-NEH SHARP support.** Grant monies made it possible for Indigenous cultural institutions to retain or rehire staff, sustain their organizations through ongoing disruptions, and continue programming. Community engagement was a key theme for more than half the grantees. These efforts demonstrated the value of humanities programming and built Indigenous communities’ cultural, social, and political capital during a period of critical need for such assets. Still other projects better prepared grantee organizations to serve their communities post-pandemic. In the 2023 survey of grantees, 99 of 100 respondents reported that ATALM-NEH SHARP funds had a “substantial impact” on their organizations. The findings concerning COVID-19 response and recovery point to an important reason why.

Often, Indigenous organizations (and in particular small, rural, humanities-focused Indigenous organizations) are not “visible” to large government and philanthropic funders. **For grantees, increased visibility was a second key benefit of ATALM-NEH SHARP program.** Not only did 84% of 53 respondents to the 2024 grantee survey indicate that ATALM was “extremely understanding” of the Indigenous humanities sector, but data on grant size and the geographic and organizational diversity of grantees

demonstrate that ATALM was able to identify and support a wide array of entities, including ones that otherwise might not have received NEH funding. Certainly, some grantees already had strong regional or national profiles, but for others, the ATALM-NEH SHARP grants meant that they finally were “seen.” Relatedly, some Indigenous arts and culture organizations are unable to grow because they have limited capacity to seek support from government and philanthropic sources. **The ATALM-NEH SHARP program helped many grantees enhance their grant seeking and grant management capacities.** In particular, ATALM provided grantees with networking support, coaching, and technical assistance throughout the award cycle. In the 2024 survey, among grantees that reported a need for such guidance, 61% also reported that the program had been “extremely helpful” for developing the skills needed to write successful grant applications.

Grantees were not the only organizations to experience positive impacts. **The ATALM-NEH SHARP program also strengthened ATALM.** Prior to participating, ATALM had significant experience with large and complex grants but limited experience as a regrantor. Through the NEH SHARP opportunity, ATALM strengthened its capacity to identify and award a large number of grantees, ensure grantee reporting and financial compliance, and provide peer review and technical assistance. More than 90% of respondents to the 2023 survey (and more than 75% of grantees overall) commended ATALM’s administrative work. Negative feedback tended toward constructive criticism, emphasizing improvements ATALM could make if it engaged in similar regranting work in the future.

Through the NEH SHARP program, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums rose to the challenge of managing a large regranting program at a critical moment for the Indigenous arts, cultures, and humanities sector. Without doubt, ATALM succeeded in facilitating important impacts among its grantees: they achieved COVID-19 response and recovery aims, became more visible in the grantmaking environment, and grew their grantsmanship skills. More expansively, Native communities reaped the benefits of grantees’ projects in the form of stronger social and cultural ties. ATALM’s results point to a proof of concept—that it can be a valuable regranting partner for government and foundation funders in years to come.



Program Evaluation

By stewarding Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing, Indigenous cultural institutions—including tribal archives, libraries, museums, cultural centers, and arts organizations—help sustain Native communities and strengthen the sovereignty of Native nations. The worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, identified as a crisis in early 2020 and lasting well into 2022, threatened Native cultural institutions' ability to fulfill their vital roles. Stay-at-home orders, staff reductions, and the suspension of programs and operations challenged many to survive, especially through the longer periods of closure that were typical in Indigenous communities.¹ Recovery from the pandemic raised new concerns: how could Native cultural institutions re-engage with their communities given concerns for citizen health, changes in citizen preferences for accessing knowledge, and their own capacity renewal needs?

“Humanities Grants for Native Cultural Institutions,” a project of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), created hope and new opportunities. With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) “Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan” (SHARP) program, ATALM provided \$3.71 million to 118 Native organizations in 29 states over a two-year period. This evaluation report provides background on the ATALM-NEH SHARP program and highlights its achievements and impacts.



Background and Context

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed a \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus bill, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), into law in an effort to further alleviate suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and to support health, economic, educational, social, and cultural recovery. Through ARPA, funds were distributed across the departments, agencies, and bureaus of the U.S. government, generating funding streams to provide support to individuals, organizations, and institutions throughout American society. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), an independent federal agency that provides support to a variety of cultural, educational, and other entities that work to strengthen the humanities, received \$135 million in ARPA funds.

To best allocate this funding across the sectors it serves, NEH created several new grant programs, including a regranting program. ATALM—a nonprofit organization that supports the work of Indigenous cultural institutions, provides culturally relevant programming and services to its members, and promotes Indigenous cultural sovereignty—responded to the call for proposals. In October 2021, NEH announced that it had selected ATALM to be part of a cohort of 13 organizations engaged in humanities-focused grantmaking to arts and cultures organizations that been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Initially awarded \$3.26 million for its regranting program, NEH expanded its support of ATALM in 2022 by making an additional \$550,000 available for grantmaking. In sum, ATALM distributed \$3.71 million through the SHARP program. The application for ATALM-NEH SHARP grants was open for approximately two months in late 2021 and again in late 2022, and awards were made by March 2022 and 2023, respectively. Each grant was for a one-year period, with a minimum allowed value of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$50,000.

“The American Rescue Plan recognizes that the cultural and educational sectors are essential components of the United States economy and civic life, vital to the health and resilience of American communities. These new grants will provide a lifeline to the country’s colleges and universities, museums, libraries, archives, historical sites and societies, save thousands of jobs in the humanities placed at risk by the pandemic, and help bring economic recovery to cultural and educational institutions and those they serve.”

Adam Wolfson, NEH Acting Chairman

Overview of Grantees

The *National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965*, as amended, defines the humanities as including but not limited to the study and interpretation of:

language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

Within this overarching frame, as summarized in Exhibit 1, grantees' funded work included archival projects, broadcast media, in-person and web-based exhibits, collaborative projects, demonstrations, classes, discussions and forums, language revitalization, and publications. Re-granted monies could be applied to operating expenses, project costs, salaries, and staff retention related to the identified humanities-focused work.

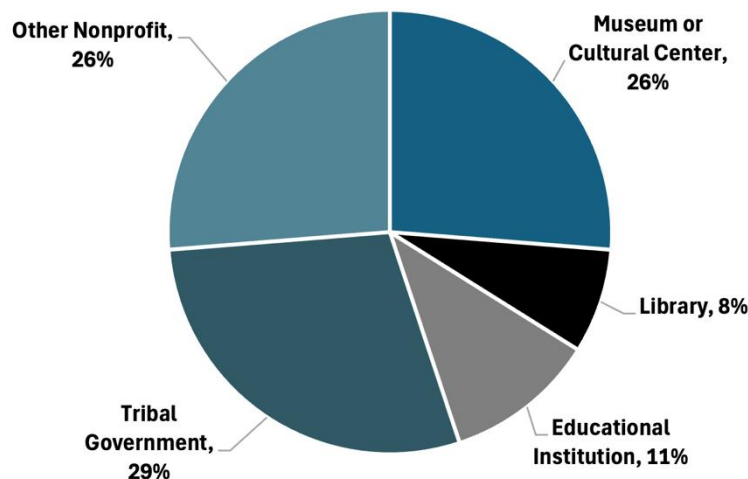
Exhibit 1. Types of Work Funded through ATALM-NEH SHARP Grants

Category	Components of grantees' work	% of grants
Historical	Oral and other histories	75%
Land	Food sovereignty and/or land sovereignty, including hunting, fishing, and agriculture	34%
Craft	Basketmaking, drum making, dying or painting, dressmaking or sewing, storytelling, and/or canoe paddling	40%
Digital Media	Photo, film or video, podcast or audio, and/or webinar or online resource	90%
Education	Print or books, languages, ceremonies, and/or presentations or workshops	98%
Audience	Youth, elders, and/or intergenerational engagement	99%

Another categorization takes account of the types of organizations funded. Archives, libraries, museums, and cultural centers—the types of organizations ATALM works with on a daily basis—made up 34% of the pool. It also included tribal governments (29%), educational institutions (11%), and other types of nonprofit entities (26%).

Despite its diversity, there are some noteworthy regularities within this otherwise diverse grantee population. As a result of the unique settler-colonial legal histories in Alaska and Hawai'i, for example, grantees in these states were more likely to be nonprofit organizations than elsewhere. And, when tribal governments received funds, they often were the recipients on behalf of their tribal historic preservation office or of a nascent archive, library, or museum.

Exhibit 2. Types of Organizations Funded through ATALM-NEH SHARP Grants

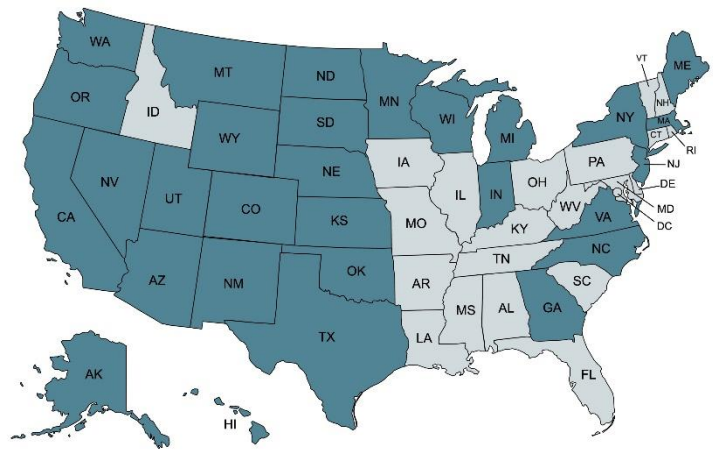


Geographically, grantees represent 118 Native organizations in 29 states. Significantly, 10 of 21 states that the ATALM-NEH SHARP program did not serve are among the 12 states where there are no lands held by a federally recognized Native population. In other words, the states ATALM did not serve are largely those from which Native nations were forcibly removed and, thus, organizational infrastructure to support Indigenous cultures, arts, languages, and humanities activities in those areas is limited.

Exhibit 3. Geographic Reach of ATALM-NEH SHARP Grantmaking

State	# of Grants
Alaska	10
Arizona	13
California	13
Colorado	1
Georgia	1
Hawaii	6
Indiana	1
Kansas	1
Massachusetts	1
Maine	3
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Montana	5
Nebraska	1
Nevada	3

State	# of Grants
New Jersey	1
New Mexico	12
New York	2
North Carolina	1
North Dakota	2
Oklahoma	12
Oregon	4
South Dakota	3
Texas	1
Utah	1
Virginia	2
Washington	12
Wisconsin	3
Wyoming	1



Impact on Grantees: COVID Response and Recovery

A core purpose of the ATALM-NEH SHARP program was to aid Native cultural and arts entities in coronavirus pandemic response and recovery through humanities-focused financial support. Reflective of this goal, numerous grantees explicitly included COVID response and recovery concepts in their project titles and project descriptions. That the monies actually served this goal is evident in final project reports and in feedback gathered through the 2023 and 2024 surveys of grantees. Many grant recipients specifically noted that grant monies made it possible for them to retain or rehire staff, sustain their organizations through ongoing disruptions, and continue programming.

“The ATALM-NEH grant provided financial support for the library to rehire the Computer Lab Technician to reinstate the mobile computer lab services and to implement new humanities programs.”

“ATALM-NEH had a major impact on our organization as the funding allowed us to employ new staff members. This was a major relief for our already burdened skeleton staff addressing the impacts from COVID-19 on our Indigenous, Native American, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, LGBTQAI2S+ communities. Thanks to the support given by ATALM-NEH, we were able to function more effectively and be of great service to our beloved communities with the programs we provided in 2023.”

“The funding enabled us and our partners at the tribal center to continue with COVID-safe humanities programming: an outdoor exhibition and intertribal cultural/humanities program. This was the first exhibition and outdoor event the tribal center hosted in 2.5 years, and it enabled the center to reengage its audiences. Our organization forged new, ongoing relationships and partnerships, and gained experience and insights on being flexible and adaptable in the face of uncertain or changing conditions (like a global pandemic), so that we’re still meeting project goals—even as the best laid plans are necessarily redesigned multiple times!”

“We are very appreciative of the opportunity to utilize this grant for the Cultural Center. It was essential in bringing people back to the Center for cultural events.”

Impact on Grantees: Visibility

Large funders can find it challenging to serve Indigenous organizations, especially if they are small. Various versions of the “visibility problem” are a key reason why.

- Most literally, small organizations are difficult for larger grantmakers to see—their leaders may not attend or present at national conferences, they may have few resources with which to market their organizations’ accomplishments, and/or they may lack the bandwidth or familiarity to apply for a grant from a government or large philanthropic entity.
- Relatedly, many grantmakers are not part of economic, social, and cultural spaces that include Indigenous people, especially those Indigenous community members who are engaged in grassroots humanities-focused work. As the new president of First Peoples Fund, Justin Huenemann, has put it, “Native peoples, cultures, issues, and opportunities are, for the most part, not a part of the philanthropic consciousness.”³
- Funding needs are another reason why small organizations may not show up on grantmakers’ radar screens. Smaller Indigenous entities may need only a small amount of funding relative to a donor’s typical grant, which means they are not even part of the calculus for many funders. As Alice Ng wrote in *Inside Philanthropy* in 2021, “Large foundations, much like large corporations, have an infrastructure geared toward dealing with other relatively large organizations.”⁴
- Finally, despite the advantages of diversification, some funders may consider small organizations to be too risky (because they rely on volunteer staff, require fiscal sponsorship, lack a formal office space, and so on) and thus decline to “see” them as possible contributors to their portfolios.



The result is that on an annual basis, only one in 20 larger foundations invest in Indigenous issues and fewer than one-half of one percent of large foundation giving flows to Native American causes and concerns.⁵ Organizations located in rural areas are similarly overlooked, with rural arts, culture, and humanities organizations experiencing particular disadvantage.⁶ In sum, Indigenous, rural, and humanities-focused entities are out-of-sight for most donors. Significantly, while these data describe the philanthropic sector, much of the same can be said about federal grantmaking to Indigenous humanities-focused organizations.

Regranting can be a solution, but it is most likely to succeed when the chosen intermediary is itself effective at uncovering promising candidates for the primary donor’s funds. Well-placed, plugged in, and entrepreneurial “peak organizations” are best fit this job description. Within the Indigenous cultural institutions sector, these characteristics easily describe ATALM.

“Sometimes external funding agencies do not appreciate how difficult it is to share experiences which have defined our communities. ATALM understood.”

For example, 84% of 55 respondents to the 2024 survey of ATALM-NEH SHARP grantees reported that ATALM was “extremely understanding” of the unique cultural, social, and economic dynamics that affect their institutions. Further, ATALM-NEH SHARP grant data demonstrate that ATALM was effective at reaching organizations with lower dollar-value needs: 43% of ATALM’s SHARP grants were valued at \$25,000 or less, and nearly 25% were valued at \$15,000 or less. The data concerning the geographic and organizational scope of ATALM’s SHARP grantmaking, which emphasize that ATALM was able to identify and support many different types of recipients, also suggest that, absent the regranteeing program, at least some might not have received funds from NEH. The *Lower Brule Lost History Project* and *Weaving Wellness: Connecting the Humanities and Healing* are two specific examples of work ATALM championed that, because of these projects’ smaller size and unique characteristics, might not otherwise have come to the attention of funders.

Exhibit 5. ATALM grant values

Grant amount	#	%
\$1-\$5,000	1	1%
\$5,001-\$10,000	15	13%
\$10,001-\$15,000	12	10%
\$15,001-\$20,000	9	8%
\$20,001-\$25,000	13	11%
\$25,001-\$30,000	5	4%
\$30,001-\$35,000	5	4%
\$35,001-\$40,000	9	8%
\$40,001-\$45,000	4	3%
\$45,001-\$50,000	45	38%

Lower Brule Lost History Project. \$13,742 is awarded to the Lower Brule Tribe to engage community members in a project to document and restore historical memory. The project will use the Tribe's historic archival materials which document the people, events and stories about ordinary life in the Lower Brule community since 1938. Community members will participate in reviewing materials and adding context to finding aids using Native words. Engaging the community will trigger collections, inspire new research, and restore pathways to history.

Weaving Wellness: Connecting the Humanities and Healing. \$50,000 is awarded to the Northern California Tribal Court Coalition for an intertribal project that uses Indigenous humanities content to support healing. Collaborating with Indigenous focus groups, tribal advocates, and victim service providers, NCTCC will identify, collect, and curate a collection of identity-based, cultural wellness materials so that Native victims of violence, their families, and their advocates can access culturally appropriate methods of trauma recovery, healing, and wellness.

Impact on Grantees: Increased Capacity

In her blog post, “Why Grant Writing for Nonprofits is Important,” experienced nonprofit grantwriter Haley Pavic notes that grants are valuable to smaller and emerging nonprofit organizations because they “allow for sustainable growth and new programs or projects.”⁷ She then adds, however, that “when many people start to learn about grant writing for nonprofits, they can be both surprised and overwhelmed by how specialized and complex the process can be.”

In the context of the ATALM-NEH SHARP grantees, an implication is that one of the reasons smaller Indigenous arts and culture organizations remain small is that they have limited capacity to seek grants from federal and state government and philanthropic sources. Thus, one of ATALM's goals with the SHARP program was to assist organizations that wanted to grow their capacity to apply for and manage grants. When queried directly about benefit, 75% of respondents to the 2024 survey (41 of 55) indicated that they needed to develop such skills.

Research also suggests that the best way funders can assist nonprofits to develop capacity for long-term success is to provide them with support beyond funding, including “networking, coaching, and advisory guidance.”⁸ This is exactly the approach ATALM followed in assisting grantees. ATALM focused on creating a collegial environment, so that applicants and awardees felt comfortable asking questions. It recruited and developed a team of peer reviewers who understood that their job was not to tear apart applications to but suggest ways to strengthen applicants' work. And, it focused communications on helping grantees achieve positive outcomes and meet program expectations.

In specific support of grantee training and professional development, ATALM:

- held webinars to inform and educate potential grantees on how to prepare a successful grant application
- developed a list of “Frequently Asked Questions” and answers
- developed an explainer document about what constituted humanities programming, so that potential grantees could better understand what work might qualify for funding
- shared a list of example fundable programs
- reviewed applicants' materials and provided feedback on how to strengthen their proposals
- collected and returned two rounds of peer reviewer feedback, so that grantees could improve their proposals if advanced
- tracked progress and helped grantees continue moving forward
- arranged for technical assistance and project management coaching according to grantee needs

Certainly, ATALM's efforts were not perfect. For example, some grantees found communication via the Submittable portal to be impersonal and awkward. Some felt that more direction should have been provided on how to address reviewer feedback. One commented that they had not received any guidance at all despite a desire for it. Nonetheless, 61% of the 41 survey respondents who indicated that guidance and training was desired reported that the ATALM-NEH SHARP program had been “extremely helpful” for developing the skills needed to write successful grant applications. Another 37% reported that the program was “somewhat helpful,” and only one grantee responded that it was “not helpful at all.” Testimony provides additional evidence of ATALM's success with skills development.

“The two rounds of feedback from reviewers was invaluable—it was very helpful in creating a solid proposal. ... It is one of the largest arts grants obtained in our college, so it has validated the work as substantive and important. It allowed me to follow up with an equipment grant and travel grant for this research.”

“This was my first grant, and the recommendations on how to improve my grant were very helpful. It built my confidence up.”

“ATALM-NEH certainly made a tremendous impact with its communication and application process. The reviewers and comment options were constructive. In submitting for grants, we get caught up in writing in the same tone or explanation of our programs. Providing that extra critique helped me to perform at a high level of grant writing. Thank you so much for the fantastic opportunity.”

Impact on ATALM: Development as a Grantmaker

ATALM is a leanly staffed, high-capacity organization with significant experience seeking and administering large and complex grants from both private-sector and federal entities. Prior to its participation in the NEH SHARP program, however, ATALM had limited experience as a regrantor. To build its capabilities, ATALM identified and purchased access to a grant management platform, Submittable, and worked closely with the platform’s design team to improve its functionality for ATALM’s purposes. ATALM also leveraged its resources and relationships to ensure: widespread outreach concerning the grant opportunity, accuracy in staff understanding of eligible projects, creation of a pool of peer reviewers, and recruitment of appropriate technical assistance providers. Finally, staff committed to responding quickly to applicants’ and grantees’ questions and to coaching grantees as needed on grant management and reporting. These investments led to a smooth, comprehensive, and effective regranting process and resulted in timely project completion for both ATALM’s grantees and for ATALM itself.

Survey results gathered via an initial survey in 2023 attest to grantees’ satisfaction with ATALM’s grant management processes. Among the 100 respondents,

- 100% agreed that the process for completing the applications was clear and appropriate.
- 95% agreed that the work and/or time required to develop a proposal was appropriate given the level of funding.
- 90% were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the Submittable portal.
- 97% agreed that communications from ATALM timely and helpful.
- 97% found comments from the peer reviewers useful.
- 92% found the technical assistance provided by ATALM staff and consultants useful.
- 97% found ATALM staff and consultants supportive, thoughtful, constructive, and accessible.
- 94% agreed that the reporting process was clear and reasonable.

Given the high response rate to the survey, even if there was upward bias (which would result if the most satisfied grantees were also the most likely to respond and if many of the 18 nonrespondents were dissatisfied with the grant process), the data would *still* indicate that the vast majority of grantees had a positive experience with ATALM as a regrantor.

“It was a streamlined process, and the instructions for grantees were clear. If there was a problem and special clarification was requested, it was provided quickly and without being made to feel stupid for asking.”

“I appreciated the support given by the ATALM staff and the ease of this process. In my experience of grant writing, applying for grant funds - ATALM has been very positive. I attribute this to the stellar communications via this portal. The ATALM staff were also very supportive. Thank you!”

While there were concerns about the Submittable processes, such feedback tended toward constructive criticism, emphasizing improvements ATALM could make if it engaged in similar regranting work in the future. For example, some respondents indicated that poor internet connectivity and aggressive spam filers hindered their effective use of the Submittable portal. Several reported a steep learning curve and suggested that more training on using the portal would be useful. A few others indicated that it was difficult to adjust to awards that were lower than the requested amount and that longer time frames would have been helpful.

Concluding Thoughts

In 2021, the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums rose to the challenge of managing a large regranting program for NEH at a critical moment for the Indigenous arts, cultures, and humanities sector. Without doubt, ATALM succeeded in facilitating important impacts among its grantees: they achieved COVID-19 response and recovery aims, became more visible in the grantmaking environment, and grew their grantsmanship skills. More expansively, Native communities reaped the benefits of grantees’ projects in the form of stronger social and cultural ties.

ATALM also succeeded in stretching and growing its own capacity for regranting. Together, the results for grantees and ATALM itself point to a proof of concept—that ATALM can be a valuable regranting partner for government and foundation funders. By leaning into its well-developed capacities as a networking and professional development hub for tribal and other Indigenous arts and cultures organizations, ATALM has shown that it can reach deep into Indigenous communities and identify Native organizations, tribal entities, and grassroots actors with the potential to develop and implement impactful arts, cultures, and humanities projects. ATALM also has demonstrated that it also has the financial and project management capabilities to support grantee success. Unsurprisingly, when ATALM-NEH SHARP grantees were asked whether, based on their experience with the program, they thought tribal cultural institutions would benefit if ATALM continued as a regrantor, 94% (50 of 53 respondents) said “yes.”



Notes

¹ See, for example, “Native American Tribal Nations Take a Tougher Line on COVID-19 as States Re-Open,” *The Hill*, 21 June 2020, <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/503770-native-american-tribal-nations-take-tougher-line-on-covid-19-as-states/>.

² Finding ways to strengthen community ties was important because of the many ways the pandemic threatened them. For example, between April 2020 and July 2021, one of every 168 American Indian and Alaska Native children became orphaned, making them 4.5 times more likely to lose a parent or grandparent caregiver than white children; see Susan D. Hillis, “COVID-19-associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States,” *Pediatrics*, 148(December 2021), article 6: e2021053760, <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-053760>. Finding ways to strengthen sovereignty was important in the face of political challenges to the ways Native nations sought to protect their communities. See, for example, Kalen Goodluck, “Tribes defend themselves against a pandemic and South Dakota’s state government,” *High Country News*, October 2, 2020, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-covid19-tribes-defend-themselves-against-a-pandemic-and-south-dakotas-state-government/>.

³ Justin Huenenmann, “Native Americans: Out of Sight, Out of Mind,” in *Grantmakers in the Arts*, “Indigenous Perspectives on Equity in Philanthropy,” Fall 2012, <https://www.giarts.org/article/indigenous-perspectives-equity-philanthropy>.

⁴ Alice Ng, “Why Big Philanthropy Falls Short at Supporting the Grassroots—and How It Can Do Better,” *Inside Philanthropy*, 31 August 2021, <https://www.insidephilanthropy.com/home/2021/8/31/why-big-philanthropy-falls-short-at-supporting-the-grassrootsand-how-it-can-do-better>.

⁵ Native Americans in Philanthropy and Candid, *Investing in Native Communities: Philanthropic Funding for Native American Communities and Causes*, 2019, <https://nativephilanthropy.candid.org/reports/investing-in-native-communities-philanthropic-funding-for-native-american-communities-and-causes/>, Native Americans in Philanthropy, “Funding for Native Americans from 2006-Present,” 2024, <https://nativephilanthropy.candid.org/>.

⁶ John Pender, “Foundation Giving to Rural Areas in the United States Is Disproportionately Low,” Economic Research Service, US Department of Agriculture, 3 August 2015, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2015/august/foundation-giving-to-rural-areas-in-the-united-states-is-disproportionately-low/>.

⁷ Haley Pavic, “Why Grant Writing for Nonprofits is Important,” 5 June 2024, <https://lakewood.edu/2023/06/the-role-of-grant-writing-for-nonprofits/#/>.

⁸ Anu Malipatil and Lucy Brainard, “Building Nonprofit Capacity, Hand in Hand,” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 1 June 2023, https://ssir.org/articles/entry/building_nonprofit_capacity_hand_in_hand.

Appendix A: Selected Grantee Programs/Projects

Because the ATALM-NEH SHARP grantees' funded projects and activities were diverse, this appendix offers a closer look at seven grantees' work and supports a more nuanced understanding of the reach and impact of the ATALM-NEH SHARP regranting program. Case stories are drawn from the grantees' final project reports and highlight, in their own words, what they accomplished and the difference that ATALM-NEH SHARP monies made.

A full list of grantees can be viewed at
www.atalm.org/programs/past-programs/american-rescue-plan/

Akwesasne Cultural Center/St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Program or project: Advancing Cultural Knowledge and Skills through Intergenerational Programming

Grant amount: \$11,600

The Akwesasne community is part of several predominantly non-Native school districts. High school graduations are uniformed to follow a European practice. There was a time in history it was unsafe for indigenous people to practice their native heritage in any space. “The Traditional Graduation Outfit Workshop for Seniors and Parents” was created to encourage 2023 graduating senior students to show their indigenous heritage in non-Native spaces. We want to encourage our Native youth and young adults to embrace their cultural heritage in these spaces.

The targeted audience for our project was Mohawk graduating seniors and their parents from Akwesasne and surrounding areas. Students' ages varied as there are many programs in Akwesasne that help increase the high school graduation rate. Our oldest student was 21—a graduate, along with two others, from a local vocational school. Two students graduated from public school, and our youngest student was 16 years old, graduating from a homeschool program. The attending adult helpers were all working, so evening classes helped.

Akwesasne is a community of Mohawk residents finding their way within their community. Culture is a struggling entity that many fight to reclaim. Having traditional regalia available for graduation is a struggle because of the cost of ordering one. Not all patrons are able to afford such an expense. The Cultural Center wanted to offer this workshop for the students so they can embrace their culture during an important event. Their regalia is also an outfit they can reuse in future events. This allows Akwesasnoron to continue to embrace their heritage. Holding these classes at the Cultural Center allowed people to come together. Everyone had their own skills, and they were able to share their work with each other. Many people bonded and gained a friendship out of the course of the workshops—especially the children even though they came from different schools and were different ages. We just greatly appreciate the support and opportunity to give this workshop to our community.

Skills and lessons learned through the workshops funded through the grant include:

- Ribbon shirt/dress—The lesson consisted of students measuring themselves and learning to cut the patterns of the shirt to fit their form. They also learned how to use a sewing machine to sew ribbons on their fabric. Also, they learned how to use a surge machine.
- Leggings and breechcloth—The boys learned how to measure and cut a pattern for the leggings and breechcloth of their outfit. This was a decorative part of the outfit. Designs of both beading and ribbons were added.
- Yoke and cuffs—This workshop allowed students to create a yoke in their own design. This would be shaped, cut, beaded and sewn together.

- Kastowa class—Students were able to put together their own headdress. Students were able to custom fit their leather bands to the size of their head. Bands were sewn together and then feathers were added.
- Moccasin—Moccasins were cut to size. Vamps (moccasin tops) were beaded to their preferred design. Then all parts of the moccasins were hand sewn together.
- Turtle pouch—The pouch was made of leather and a mock resin turtle. This pouch was cut and sewn together with sinew.
- Feather fan—This class students were able to learn how to wrap feathers and design their own feather fan. After wrapping feathers, they then attach it to the fan and then cover it in leather and add fringe to their liking.

Alaska Native Heritage Center

Program or project: Batuk'enelyashi—Natural Dyes from Dena'ina Lands

Grant amount: \$49,808

In 2022, the Alaska Native Heritage Center (ANHC) collaborated on a project with the Alaska office of the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center (SASC-AK) to perpetuate and strengthen Alaska Native knowledges of natural dyes stewarded for generations. The Batuk'enelyashi: Natural Dyes from Dena'ina Lands project included research and experimentation, a weeklong outdoor workshop led and attended by Alaska Native artists and students, and the production of educational videos and booklets. Master Artist June Simeonoff Pardue (Sugpiaq/Iñupiaq) was the lead instructor for the project, assisted by her granddaughter and apprentice Destinee VonScheele and by SASC-AK Museum Specialist Dawn Biddison. In addition to being June's student, Dawn acted as the project manager, researcher, documenter/writer, videographer and editor. Key ANHC staff assistance was provided by Angie Demma, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, and Gregory Stewart, Grants Administrator.

The Batuk'enelyashi project was inspired by the work of renowned Yup'ik Elder and healer Rita Pitka Blumenstein, shared in the booklet *Earth Dyes/Nuunam Qaralirkai: Dyes for Grass Made from Natural Materials*, edited by Jan Steinbright and published by the Institute of Alaska Native Arts (1984). June was a student in the 1983 grass dyeing workshop taught by Rita, which added to June's knowledge about natural dyes learned from her mother Sophia Jane Johnson (daughter of Lucy Sagoonik and Daniel Bouchin) and from her own research over many years as an artist and teacher.

Dawn began work for the project in March with online and library research, conversations with June, and planning meetings with Angie for the workshop on ANHC grounds. In early May, after leaf buds began to appear near June's home outside of Sutton, in-person research, experimentation, and documentation began. June taught about sustainable harvesting and making and using natural dyes. Working with Destinee and Dawn, they harvested leaves and bark and defrosted hand-picked berries for dye baths, and they experimented with dyeing materials, including bearded seal intestine and commercially tanned moosehide, and with techniques like using baking soda as a modifier. June also began teaching Dawn how to hand-tan salmon skin and giving her homework so that could also be documented for the project.

After research and planning was completed, the project team held an outside workshop at ANHC in late May led by June and Destinee, where teaching and experimenting continued. There were four workstations set up for the instructors and 12 Alaska Native participants, an intergenerational group of artists and beginners. The long list of workshop supplies included aprons and gloves to protect clothing and hands; buckets, bags, pruning shears and peelers for harvesting; and for making and using dyes: pH paper, electric burners, pots, saucepans, potholders, spoons, tongs, strainers, bowls, mashers, measuring cups and spoons, alum as a mordant, cream of tartar as a mordant additive, baking soda and distilled white vinegar as modifiers, and paper towels. Students used a variety of plants to make dye baths and dyed a variety of materials. During the workshop, they harvested barks, leaves, dandelions and catkins. They also used defrosted blueberries, lingonberries (low-bush cranberries) and black currants harvested and frozen in the fall, and devil's club and stinging nettle buds harvested earlier in the spring and frozen. Students dyed a

wide variety of materials (some provided and some brought from home): birch bark, caribou hair, commercially tanned deer hide, commercially tanned Canadian moose hide, porcupine quill, rye grass, commercially tanned Atlantic salmon skin, sockeye salmon skin, bearded seal intestine, silk fabric, spruce root, and merino wool yarn. Documentation forms with information categories were provided to students for taking notes about the dyeing process and results and for attaching samples, to help them with their own future dyeing projects and to help them improve techniques while experimenting.

Over the course of the project, June shared cultural values, detailed instructions, experimentation techniques and recommendations, and artists participating in the workshop shared materials with others and their dyeing experiments. The collaborative work and documentation resulted in three educational resources made available on the project's Smithsonian Learning Lab website. Conversation, experimentation and workshop video footage yielded 15 tightly edited videos with extensive detailed notes as text in interstitial title cards and in lower thirds. The video titles are "Introduction," "Meet Instructor June Simeonoff Pardue," "Meet Apprentice Destinee VonScheele," "About Harvesting," "Harvesting Berries," "Harvesting from Trees," "Harvesting from Other Plants," "Dye Bath Recipes with Berries," "Dyeing with Berries," "Dye Bath Recipes with Tree Bark," "Dyeing with Tree Bark," "Dye Bath Recipes & Dyeing with Leaves," "Dye Bath Recipe & Dyeing with Cottonwood Catkins," "Dye Bath Recipes & Dyeing with Other Plants," and "Hand- Tanning Salmon Skin & Adding Dye." The videos are also available on the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center Alaska YouTube channel. The project website also provides a 46-page educational booklet that includes: a forward by June; an introduction by Angie; information on how to harvest plants for making dyes, general dyeing notes (covering general preparations, preparing materials for dyeing, dye bath additives, dye bath temperatures, dyeing materials, using a modifier, rinsing and drying materials, and supplies lists) and detailed dye bath recipes written by Dawn based on June's teaching; project photos; and eight pages for notes by readers. A 48-page booklet provides scans of annotated samples of materials dyed during the workshop. The website also includes PDFs about Alaska plants.

In addition to the project website, outreach included statewide distribution of professionally printed booklets and DVD sets to Alaska cultural centers, museums, archives, libraries, Indigenous education and immersion schools, Alaska Native tribal organizations and workshop participants. Extensive email announcements were sent out, and during that week Dawn gave a presentation and materials to a University of Alaska Anchorage art class taught by June. Also, Dawn was contacted by staff at the UA Museum of the North at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to include the booklet and video links in a new teaching activities kit being developed for an interdisciplinary citizen science project that will reach K-12 teachers throughout Alaska. Future plans include a youth workshop led by June and Destinee at the 2023 Elders & Youth Conference, which is part of the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention.

Essentially a teacher needs to let go and let the artist be the artist. Pass the knowledge along. Pass it down to the next generation. Pass it on to someone else. I think what I want to see in someone is that they can be as creative as they want. We have culture. Culture isn't stagnant. It doesn't stand still. And culture evolves.

–June Simeonoff Pardue

This workshop brought our community together to learn about history and traditional practices of the Sugpiaq cultures from June Pardue. It was an incredible opportunity for individuals to learn about connections between plants, animals, the land, and people in Alaska. We've been able to disseminate the published materials to about 150 entities around the state. This is going to provide information to a wide array of community members so that they can engage in the traditional practices of creating dyes from the materials they can find in their communities.

Autry Museum

Program or project: Reclaiming the Camino Indigeno—Native Life, Resistance, and Resilience in the Californias

Grant amount: \$50,000

The ATALM-NEH grant of \$50,000 supported the research, planning, and development of the project, “Reclaiming the Camino Indigeno: Native Life, Resistance and Resilience in the Californias,” which comprises an exhibition at the Autry from December 2023-June 2025, a companion virtual exhibition, and educational resources for teachers.

The Autry made good progress during the grant period on its project, and all activities outlined in our proposal for completion during the grant period were completed.

ATALM-NEH grant funding helped reaffirm and strengthen the Autry’s role as a vibrant center of humanities learning, conversation, and connection by supporting the development of an exhibition and educational resources that will tell an important California story that is not told and not known by most residents. Reclaiming the Camino explores Native connections and reconnections to land, culture and community despite the policies and efforts to disconnect them. Economic interests and racist ideologies motivated the settlement of the Californias. And to settle the Californias required disrupting the Native connections to land, culture, and community. Despite ongoing injustices to land and people of the land—revitalization and reclamation are underway today. ATALM-NEH funds created an opportunity for the Autry to reach out and connect with California Native communities to gather their narratives and include their first-person stories and perspectives in the formation, and eventual installation of, the exhibition. These first-person perspectives are at the very core of this exhibition.

Kimokeo Foundation (Wailuku)

Program or project: Ke Ala Kupuna—Hawaiian Cultural Education Program

Grant amount: \$50,000

The overall goal of the Ke Ala Kupuna is to educate youth who are fluent in the Hawaiian language about Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices by directly engaging them with Hawaiian cultural practitioners and to empower youth to be the next generation of Hawaiian cultural practitioners and leaders.

- Objective 1: To engage 40 youth in Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions while speaking only the Hawaiian language by February 2023.
- Objective 2: To document Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions in original literature created by 40 youth who are fluent in Hawaiian by February 2023.
- Objective 3: To digitize original literature about the Hawaiian cultural information for general public access by January 2023.

The goal of the program was to educate youth who are fluent in the Hawaiian language about Hawaiian cultural traditions and practices by directly engaging them with Hawaiian cultural practitioners and to empower youth to be the next generation of Hawaiian cultural practitioners and leaders. Kimokeo Foundation began the program by hosting focus group meetings and developing our education team in March and April 2022. We then hosted a total of five youth group sessions for this program. The sessions occurred in the spring, summer, fall, and winter of 2022 and the fifth session occurred in spring 2023. The original overall design of the program was to have an average of ten youth participate in each session and learn various Hawaiian cultural practices from cultural practitioners while being taught in Hawaiian. The practices that were taught included: uses of ti leaves, Hawaiian chant, understanding ‘awa, its history and the use of ‘apu for ‘awa, uses of niho ‘oki, ‘ohe kāpala, importance of Hawaiian outrigger canoes, their functions and ceremonies, and importance and functions of Hawaiian fishponds. During each session, youth were instructed about the practice, made different cultural crafts and documented the process using iPads and cameras. Under the guidance of the Hawaiian Scholar, they used this documentation to make printed and audio books which were uploaded to the Hānai I Ka ‘Ao webpage designed by our Graphic Information Technology Specialist.

Over the course of the program’s timeframe, we hosted a total of sixty youth who were fluent in Hawaiian and a part of Central Maui’s Hawaiian immersion program. These youth learned from nine Hawaiian cultural practitioners who are very knowledgeable of ‘awa ceremonies, Hawaiian chant, kapa stamp printing, canoe paddling, and Hawaiian fishponds. Some of the Hawaiian practitioners were sourced from community partnerships such as Kanu Ka ‘Ike which taught about the uses of ti leaves and Nā Maka Kahiko which taught about the art of ‘ohe kāpala and guided program participants in making these crafts for themselves. When appropriate, family and community members of the youth also participated such as when the youth learned about ‘awa and worked with their parents and a cultural practitioner to make their own ‘apu ‘awa (‘awa cup) for their family. The general public benefited as well from being able to view the audio books online.

ATALM-NEH grant funding has helped reaffirm and strengthen our organization’s role in the humanities in many ways. First, it created a great opportunity for Kimokeo Foundation to reflect on the lessons learned with our in-person Hawaiian language program and take the program to another level as by creating an online resource that serves the greater community. By supporting our Program Director’s position, the in-person program was able to physically be implemented and immediately benefited our youth in their learnings from authentic Hawaiian cultural practitioners. By supporting our Hawaiian Scholar’s position, this grant funding increased the rigor of our outreach materials and challenged us to regularly strive for these higher standards of using our language. By supporting our Graphic Information Technologist, this funding created a very unique opportunity for this talented upcoming Hawaiian graphic artist to demonstrate her skills and her passion for the Hawaiian language and culture through her artwork and inadvertently inspired youth in our program. Above all, ATALM-NEH’s support has enabled us to continue to achieve our non-profit’s mission and perpetuate our Hawaiian culture and language through our education program that benefited our upcoming generation of Hawaiian speakers as well as the general public. We are certain that through the online outreach connection, we will continue to positively inspire others to learn about our precious indigenous culture and language.

Kimokeo Foundation would like to express our deepest gratitude to ATALM for allowing us to share our indigenous culture with our youth and general public. We plan on continuing this program into the future because it has proven to be a valuable way of fulfilling our non-profit’s mission and its impact will last for years to come. Mahalo (Thank you).

Modoc Nation

Program or project: Modoc Nation Relocated, Resilient, Revitalized—Opening the Doors to Our Culture Exhibit

Grant amount: \$49,853

The goal of the grant project was to create an exhibit for the citizens of the Modoc Nation and the local community that would create an educational experience providing information, insight, and history into the Modoc Nation. The goal was a multi-dimensional exhibit that provides historical information of the Modoc War; displaying of cultural items and artifacts; and preservation of historical documents and photos.

The grant project included preserving, perpetuating and advancing the culture of the Modoc Nation, for its citizens and the visitors to the exhibit. The citizens of the Modoc Nation met at their Annual Meeting in May 2023 and the exhibit was a point of pride and an emotional awakening of history and culture. In addition, the Modoc Nation Youth camps had access to the exhibit and displays provided a new awakening to our young people. The opportunity for an exhibit to reach all generations of our people and provide a lasting impact is irreplaceable. The exhibit was an inspiration to at least two other tribes in our local vicinity by showing how an exhibit can be a first step to providing cultural and historical information when a museum or cultural resource center is not in the plans in the immediate future.

The funding provided by ATALM-NEH absolutely made the vision of a Modoc Nation cultural exhibit come to life. This exhibit provides history, a home for culturally significant items, information and most importantly pride for the citizens and Cultural Preservation staff of the Modoc Nation. This exhibit has opened the door to discussion about the Modoc Nation,

past, present, and future. The visitors to the exhibit have an understanding of who the Modoc Nation was and is; it is a connection for the Modoc Nation citizens to who they are.

Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia

Program or project: Rappahannock Tribe Virtual Museum Digitization Outreach—Connecting Citizens and Scholars through Historical Materials

Grant amount: \$25,088

The goal of this project was to develop a virtual exhibit of 20th century stories of significance to the Rappahannock Tribe and the Continent. The exhibits will be developed with the Tribe's collections of documents, photographs, records, and artifacts, as well as materials from Tribal citizens and their families.

Through August 31, 2023, the cataloging of historical correspondence, photographs, official documents, invitations, and newspapers dated from 1890s to 2000s has been completed. Over 800 of these items have been digitized and added to the Past Perfect Museum Management Software with metadata. We are using the PP System to digitally organize the documents and photographs to make access to these items easier for everyone.

The archives space itself has been organized with new storage shelves and boxes for the physical materials to be kept. Most of the older items have been placed in folders and boxes broken down by decade. Work is continuing into more modern photographs and events. The physical archives were organized, with photographs grouped together physically and placed in archive safe, acid free folders into boxes by themselves. The newspapers, correspondence and other documents are organized by decades for their collections—with the exception of the Selective Service collection, which were already grouped together so we chose to leave them together.

A finding aid template was developed for the archives to use and have available to the public on the Tribal website upon its completion. This finding aid is one document with each collection broken down with a brief overview for each section and the history of the tribe at the time.

In addition to the general archives work the intern compiled a video concerning the members of the tribe in the armed forces for WWII as well as an exhibit panel “Honoring Our Heroes: They Would Not Bow.” She also connected the exhibit panel with selective service collection in the PP System. This exhibit, along with other panel exhibits developed with materials from the archives, travel to other organizations when requested. We were not able to finalize and publish our online museum due to unexpected delays with the development of a new website, and also due to underestimating the amount of time it would take to process the documents and photos in our archives.

The goal for the archives is to be a usable space for the tribe and those wanting to learn about their history. Moving forward, the aim is to make the archives library a functional space for the public. The Tribe aims to have a physical museum soon, and the archival library will allow tribal citizens and scholars to research and decide which items, documents, photos, and objects to use in this future online museum space.

Intern Comments: “Working in the archives has been such a wonderful experience. The most challenging part was not being familiar with the history and people involved. I have learned so much since my work started but identifying old photographs from the late 1800s has been the hardest part of this job. I learned a lot about what it takes to start up an archival library. Working with the tribe has been such a rewarding experience and getting to know such a rich history has been the highlight of my job with the Rappahannock Indian Tribe.” “Working in the archives has been such a wonderful experience. The most challenging part was not being familiar with the history and people involved. I have learned so much since my work started but identifying old photographs from the late 1800s has been the hardest part of this job. I learned a lot about what it takes to start up an archival library. Working with the tribe has been such a rewarding experience and getting to know such a rich history has been the highlight of my job with the Rappahannock Indian Tribe.”

We began our work to process our library and museum collections with an IMLS Basic grant, which funded some equipment, storage materials, and an assessment by an archival consultant. The ATALM- NEH funding allowed us to build on that start and to begin digitizing our collection. While it didn't allow us to complete the creation of a virtual museum, it did allow us to better understand the tribal citizens' needs and therefore gives us new thoughts and plans for the virtual site.

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Program or project: Preserve the Voice—A Community-Based Approach to Documenting History

Grant amount: \$6,244

The goals of this program were to engage 300 individual participants during outreach and complete eight instances of outreach between April to July 2023. In addition, our goal was to complete a minimum of 15 visual storytelling productions of personal Community member's history. Prior to COVID, community members were engaged in sharing their histories, stories, and ways of life through audio/visual tools. The goal of these funds was to restart this program by filming, recording and preserving community member's personal materials. Outreach was conducted to targeted audiences to promote involvement and to demonstrate equipment available to complete oral stories by individuals. We achieved a majority of our goals but fell short on getting as many youth involved as we had hoped.

Elders and Seniors were re-engaged in the program after the program was closed during COVID. We were able to regain previous participants and gain new participants. While youth are hard to engage, we successfully provided outreach to the youth in the community to bring awareness of the program and demonstrate audio/visual tools and other resources available at the library.

Funding assisted us to restore some cultural programming that was suspended due to COVID. Cultural historic preservation is vital for our community and documenting community member stories for future audiences is crucial. We were able to introduce new audio/visual tools to our targeted audience to assist in making their storytelling more comfortable and easier to understand. In addition, we created a "podcast" type product to entice youth community members to tell their stories as well. Overall, funds were used to get the Community excited again and reengaged in telling their history and perspective as a Native American.

Appendix B: 2023 ATALM-NEH SHARP Grantee Survey

ATALM conducted an initial survey in support of program evaluation in 2023. It primarily focused on grantees' experiences using the Submittable platform but also invited open-ended reflections on the grant program more generally. One hundred of 118 grantee organizations responded to the survey.

Q1. Was the process for completing the applications clear and appropriate?

Option	#
Yes:	100
No:	0
No response:	0

Q2. What could ATALM do to improve the application process?

- A more advanced notice of having an extension to the grant. Towards the final six weeks of the project we were feeling pressure to rush ahead and get things wrapped up. Here at our cultural center we make certain to have all grant related reports completed to weeks in advance. By the time we saw the notice of the grant being extended we felt that it was too late in the game to turn the ship around. Other than that we were very satisfied with the process.
- Clarify the process of redrafting the grant application when the amount funded is less than what was originally requested.
- Give additional time to execute the grant objectives. Other needs were not met due to time constraints of grant.
- Hard to improve a good system.
- I appreciated the support given by the ATALM staff and the ease of this process. In my experience of grant writing, applying for grant funds - ATALM has been very positive. I attribute this to the stellar communications via this portal. The ATALM staff were also very supportive. Thank you!
- I did not submit the grant, but I do not believe there were complications.
- I don't have any suggestions. It was easy to apply and make changes.
- I don't know anything to offer for improvement. Most funders have a much more arduous process with very little available help. This went very well, and the process was user-friendly.
- I feel that the process was very helpful and user friendly. I appreciated the patience of the staff and granting officer when we were unsure of how to maneuver through reports, extensions and budget issues.
- I really do see any room for improvement in the application process. It was very easy to use and quick to navigate.
- I think it was a pretty clear process that was easy to use and navigate.
- I thought the application and reporting process was easy and concise, thank you!
- I thought the application process was great and very streamlined.
- Initially, we understood that we were not eligible but later learned that we were. A bit more clarity in this area was all we noticed might need to be addressed.
- It was a smooth process for us thank you.
- It was a streamlined process and the instructions for grantees was clear. If there was a problem and special clarification was requested, it was provided quickly and without being made to feel stupid for asking.
- It was difficult in the beginning because notifications from submittable were not coming through because of firewall and spam filters. There were times I got confused because information delivery was delayed.
- It was very efficient and easy to use.
- It's actually one of easiest applications and reporting formats I've ever seen
- It's not complicated, so as long as the guidelines are very clear, I don't have any suggestions.

- Make it easier to find the reporting forms.
- Submittable is an easy tool to use along with the ATALM application requirements.
- No changes
- No recommendations. Staff were extremely responsive to questions.
- Not much honestly. Our team rarely uses Submittable, so it was one more portal for us to manage credentials for but otherwise the forms were easy to navigate.
- Nothing comes to mind that could be improved. Very appreciative of the review process and ability to make improvements to our application based on reviewer comments.
- Nothing comes to mind. It was very straightforward, with relevant questions.
- Nothing it was clear
- Nothing stands out that I think would improve the process. It went very smoothly.
- Nothing. I am impressed by the detailed and easy-to-read guidelines, the speed and friendliness of responses from ATALM, and the thorough communication throughout.
- Nothing. The process was simple and uncomplicated.
- On an additional positive note: The communication was very helpful and timely, when questions arose.
- Overall, the process has been very transparent and as a Grants Administrator, I so appreciate the email reminders for payment, reports and other key items.
- Process was great
- Seemed clear and straight forward.
- The administrator who submitted our original application is no longer with FAM. We are unable to provide information on the application process, as we were not involved.
- The application process for the NEH grant was simple and easy to follow. The submittable platform may need a slight improvement regarding the placement of button navigation.
- The application process is fairly easy and everything is structured to be able to add thoughtful responses to the application.
- The application process is fine.
- The application process was clear and straight-forward. We were surprised that travel expenditures were not allowed as part of the work as it was a critical component to bringing our communities back together post-pandemic. We would recommend making the requirements and disallowed expenses very transparent.
- The application process was clear. I do not have any suggestions to improve the process.
- The application process was fair and comfortable to navigate. Quick responses to questions and assistance were offered during the grant cycle. Very helpful staff and easy to work with and communicate with.
- The application process was straight forward and clear expectations.
- The application was clear and easy to complete.
- The application was pretty straightforward, with essential instructions for completion provided at each step of the grant application process. ATALM staff were very prompt, patient and knowledgeable when their assistance was needed.
- The application was very clearly outlined, and instructions were easy to follow.
- The entire process was easy to navigate, and Jess answered any questions promptly and clearly. I don't see anything to improve.
- The online meeting was very helpful in understanding the application process. We do not have any improvements to suggest at this time.
- The portal for submission could be more user friendly and allow more people to access it.
- The process was clear and not overly burdensome; [I have] no suggestions for improvement!

- The process was clear, and we had no issues. Perhaps, grantees could be able to load videos on the final report but not a big issue.
- The website looks like it could be improved to be clearer [about] how to connect to resources.
- The whole process was quite efficient, as it was run by a computer program - but that also gave it a sense of unreality. While there were opportunities to email and chat with people, the prevailing sense is that the computer leads the way. This was most evident in the grant award announcement. We were grateful to receive funding—but the email was a form letter that informed us we were getting about half of what we requested, with no further instructions or advice related to how we might reconfigure our plan and budget to fit into the program structure. This is not the fault of your staff. You, too, are caught up in the computer process. Humanizing the front page of the program would help—providing contact links there, and also a download button for the submitted proposal, and flags where information has changed—anything that keeps the sense of one group of people working with another group of people.
- This process has been the most user-friendly program that I have encountered to date.
- This was our organization's first time applying for a large amount and the application process along with the second review from the committee was tremendous helpful so to me you guys did a great job and I do not have any recommendations for the application process.
- We found no problems with the application process.
- We had a change in staffing between the application process and the final report. Our very experienced grant writer had no problem with the application. Our new staff completed the final report.
- We had no concerns with the process.
- We have no suggestions for improvement of the application process.
- We have nothing to suggest for improving ATALM's application process.

Q3. Was the work and/or time required to develop a proposal appropriate given the level of funding?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	95
No:	5
No response:	0

Q4. How do you rate your experience with the Submittable Grants platform?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Very satisfied	48
Satisfied	42
Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	4
Unsatisfied	2
No response:	4

Q5. Please explain your answer.

- A great platform to work with! Very user friendly and easy to navigate and track workflow.
- An interface training resource would be useful. I think using the platform again would be OK, but I found it difficult to navigate in the beginning.
- A lot easier to use than trying to use the Grants.gov.
- A more simplified way to have collaborators added would be nice. We had some technical issues on this part of the platform. However, compared to other grant platforms, this was the most straight forward.
- Adding a collaborator and them accessing the platform was a little funky but we figured it out.

- appreciate that it auto-saved often, eliminating much worry about losing progress. sometimes I'd try to get into the system from the link that I used to submit the grant originally, and I couldn't find my way to the awarded grant. I'd usually have to find the email reminder in order to access the grant management area. not sure how to resolve this!
- Because Submittable is used for a lot of different applications, we were glad to use it for this particular application process because we are familiar with the platform, and it is easy to use. Thank you!
- Because this was my first time using Submittable, it took a little getting used to, like any other platform would take. Now, at the end of things, I think Submittable serves its purpose well. I especially appreciate being able to look back at all my submissions and communications. I don't recall if there was any training specifically on how Submittable works at the beginning of the grant period. If not, that might be helpful for future applicants. I especially appreciated the quick response I received when I sent inquiries via Submittable.
- Clear and easy to navigate.
- Clear communications and grateful to the reminders received in my email with links to the portal. A very user friendly and easy process which was greatly appreciated. Thank you.
- Clunky. Not intuitive.
- Ease of use, clear instructions, fillable forms, responsive staff, accessible forms and grant information, fast payment, everything was super. :-)
- Easy and everything saved well.
- Easy to access and follow.
- Easy to navigate the site and find necessary forms etc. I like the way the information is provided; it took me a minute to figure out to scroll to the bottom of the application form to find the other forms but after that it was easy.
- Easy to use and straightforward.
- Easy to use.
- Every past communication was easy to find although I struggled a little in accessing final forms to be completed.
- Fairly easy to complete. We have difficulty with connectivity in the area where our museum is. Therefore, many of the reports must be completed at odd times for submission.
- Generally, I liked the platform. There were times it was not as intuitive as I thought originally, but overall, I thought I was a solid grants portal.
- This was my first time using submittable as a platform. I had just a little bit of navigating problem at first, just because it was new to me. Once I figured out where everything was within the platform, I found it user friendly.
- I appreciate how the platform automatically saves your work and the user face is easy to navigate.
- I did not have much interaction with Submittable, other than report input. I couldn't judge interaction satisfaction on that.
- I feel that it was confusing to navigate at times and difficult to find necessary information, but I also attribute that to being a first-time user. My collaborators had difficulties navigating as well.
- I found the application process through submittable very intuitive. Although communications after the awarding of the grant were harder to track on the platform, and it was not always clear where to find things.
- I have used Submittable in several contexts, and it is easy to use.
- I like having everything in one place rather than trying to search back through emails, for example.
- The only improvement I can suggest is making more use of the "Awards and payments" tab. Ours just says "Transaction history is not available for this submission."

- I like how the forms auto save anytime you leave the screen. The process for finding your grants was a little difficult.
- I really like it. I had a bit of a harder time because I came into the grant after it was already started, so I had a hard time locating the original files here in our system, but Submittable was a huge help in being able to catch up on what was done and already submitted.
- I was satisfied with my experience with Submittable.
- It always takes me a little time to find what I'm looking for, but that is likely because I only log in once every several months, and have to re-remember where to find forms, etc. It would be nice, if after a draw-down request is completed and submitted, an email would be sent to the completer with a pdf of the submission, for our records.
- It is a user-friendly platform.
- It is user friendly, and I have had no issues.
- It seems repetitive. Perhaps requesting disbursement on a quarterly basis.
- it was clear and easy to use. Might have been better if the form needed was at the top.
- It was fairly seamless. I imagine there are probably ways to streamline it even further, but it has been some time since we submitted our application.
- It was kind of confusing getting multiple people set up on submittable to work on the same grant.
- It was very helpful to have a history of funding requests, the application and reports, all in one area so if there was any need to reference prior information, it was at my fingertips. The red alerts also were helpful to see what we might have been overdue in submitting. However, our red alerts were related to funding requests that were due after our project was completed so we ignored those alerts.
- It was very helpful to have the entire history of forms and communications in one central location for our reference.
- It was very intuitive and easy to use.
- It wasn't overly complicated. It did have a learning curve, but once you became familiar it wasn't so hard at all.
- It would be beneficial to the ORSP office if the Principal Investigator (PI) could also have access/login to the Submittable system for the project reporting component.
- It's a good system. I wish we could add collaborators to the whole application file, rather than each task.
- It's a user-friendly platform.
- It's incredibly easy to use. Any issues I had were user errors and the ATALM staff was quick to respond and assist.
- It's reasonably easy to use but not 100% intuitive. Sometimes have to roam around looking for what I'm to do next.
- Just as above, it could be more user friendly when allowing collaborators or other people to use the platform. I just tried to add a collaborator to this page and wasn't able to.
- Like the ability to work with collaborators.
- Living in a rural, isolated area it can be a challenge to work with these kinds of systems where internet services are not always working.
- Many of our funders use Submittable. It is a clear and easy process and I like that you can see all forms and submissions anytime.
- Now that we understand the system, it is easy to use.
- Once we were able to develop a login the use of the site was very easy, and we had no trouble working with it.
- One of the more user-friendly platforms.

- Overall, the platform has been easy to use. Once I became acquainted with the tabs and how the contents are arranged in each tab, I really appreciated being able to see all the documents that had been submitted as well as the messages, forms, and reviewer's notes. Greatly appreciate the transparency and accessibility!
- Overall, I found the platform itself easy to navigate and to complete. I was unable to open the link to the form on my first couple of attempts, but I reached out to the email provided and received a prompt response and new link the same day from the ATALM grants provider. So also, great customer service!
- Overall, the portal is easy to get into and fairly intuitive. Also, I appreciate the reminder emails that come in to keep me and the Project Director on track.
- Please inform me when you are sending a payment by email.
- Please see the answer to the previous question: "What could ATALM do to improve the application process?"
- Pretty straight forward.
- Requesting funding was not always intuitive but we were able to learn the system fairly easily.
- Responses were given to our questions in an appropriate and clear manner.
- Submittable Grants platform is easy to navigate and not overly complicated.
- Submittable is an easy navigable site for grant applications, we appreciate the ease and clarity.
- Submittable is easy to access and use.
- Submittable streamlines everything in a clear and concise fashion. I appreciate the interface not being overly complex.
- The initial setup was a little cumbersome, but it was fine after that.
- The one trouble I have with Submittable is that messages always go into my spam box despite my efforts to adjust my email settings. This is minor but sometimes results in me missing messages from funders or not responding in a timely fashion.
- The platform is fairly intuitive and easy to use.
- The platform is straightforward and easy to navigate.
- The platform's simplicity is what I enjoyed, but the placement of buttons made it a little hard to navigate, such as the unnecessary buttons at the upper top. Overall, not too much to complain about, and I certainly enjoyed using this platform.
- The process was clear and accessible.
- The Submittable grants platform is extremely easy to use. I love that it automatically saves every few seconds. It's very intuitive.
- The Submittable Grants platform was easily accessible.
- The Submittable Grants platform was easy to use.
- The Submittable platform is easy to use.
- The Submittable platform was user friendly and allowed for viewing of past actions from beginning to end.
- The Submittal Grants platform was clear and simple to interact with. I did not have any problem understanding what I should do and how I should do it. I liked how all the forms are in one place, and I could see what had been completed and what still needed to be completed. I could also review forms that had already been completed. I was satisfied with the Submittal Grants platform.
- The system is user friendly. Easy to review report forms and due dates.
- The website was easy to use, but only receiving requests for drawdowns, reports etc. electronically can be challenging to remote communities where we often have problems with our email and internet service.
- Things were clear and easy to find on the platform. Having the forms organized was very helpful and helped to keep on track with reporting. It made submission easy. One thing is I wish it was a bit easier for us to

download copies of our drawdowns, I had to send a copy to our finance department. I found a work around by printing using my browser and saving as a pdf.

- Very User-Friendly!
- We are a small organization with limited expertise in computers and we could understand how to navigate the Submittable Grants platform. It was straightforward and when we had question, Jess Cordes responded quickly and concisely.
- We found it easy to use.
- We had a change in staffing between the application process and the final report. Our very experienced grant writer had no problem with the application.
- Our new staff completed the final report, and learned much about what information was needed as we wrapped up our projects. We were relieved that the only obstacles were our data gathering to satisfy specific questions. There were no technical glitches on the Submittal Grants platform, and we greatly appreciated its user-friendly setup.
- We had no problems whatsoever with the platform. It worked seamlessly.
- When I had made a mistake and let the grant officer know she quickly provided guidance on how to fix it and re-opened the portal to the form I needed.
- Whenever I had a question, I received a very timely response, and the submission process was very easy.
- Your online forms are cumbersome.

Q6. Were communications from ATALM timely and helpful?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	97
No:	1
No response:	2

Q7. Were comments from the Reviewers useful?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	97
No:	3
No response:	0

Q8. Was the technical assistance provided by ATALM staff and consultants useful?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	92
No:	2
No response:	6

Q9. Were ATALM staff and consultants supportive, thoughtful, constructive, and accessible?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	97
No:	1
No response:	2

Q10. Was the reporting process clear and reasonable?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	94
No:	5
No response:	1

Q11. Did the ATALM-NEH Humanities Grant Program have a substantial impact on your organization?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Yes:	99
No:	1
No response:	0

Q12. Please provide any additional comments and/or suggestions below.

- A suggestion we have would be to host a monthly webinar for awardees to discuss how to submit monthly reports and to build a relationship with NEH. A comment we have about gaps in events, specifically our drumming and singing events is due to death of a Tribal Elder, we adhered to cultural protocols and were unable to do drumming and singing events while Tribal members were in mourning for 40 days.
- Again, we'd like to say wóphila thánka. This funding came at a much-needed time: after other projects had finished and before others started. It provided an excellent way to bring our community back together, and it helped set a new standard in how the mentor-apprentice model can be applied to our unique context.
- Askwali—Thank You for the services you provide to our communities and always planning ahead on what is needed. Your staff is always diligently working toward providing those resources willingly. I appreciate the networking the organization does to help new organizations to feel welcomed in this field.
- ATALM-NEH certainly made a tremendous impact with its communication and application process. The reviewers and comment options were constructive. In submitting for grants, we get caught up in writing in the same tone or explanation of our programs. Providing that extra critique helped me to perform at a high level of grant writing. Thank you so much for the fantastic opportunity.
- ATALM-NEH had a major impact on our organization as the funding allowed us to employ new staff members. This was a major relief for our already burdened skeleton staff addressing the impacts from COVID-19 on our Indigenous, Native American, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, LGBTQAI2S+ communities. Thanks to the support given by ATALM-NEH we were able to function more effectively and be of great service to our beloved communities with the programs we provided in 2023. THANK YOU!
- I felt that there should have been more communication on due dates for drawdowns, reports etc. One email message sometimes is not enough when you live in a remote community and often have internet and email issues. A follow up phone call may have been good a few times throughout the project. But the process was easy and effective, and ATALM was accessible if needed.
- I just really want to thank the ATALM staff for being so supportive, especially during this time while I have been fighting stage 4 cancer.
- I selected "no" on reporting clarity as it there have been some difficulties in understanding the monthly funding reimbursements in light of a withholding of 10% while also receiving a March/April request for funds. We will be notifying the grants team via email but wanted to comment. It was not clear if we were to request our final funds in the March request or wait until the report, as both came to all grant recipients (I'm assuming) and not just those that received extensions?!?
- I truly can't thank Jess Cordes enough for all of her help and support during my start up and transition into the grant. This grant helped our put our Cultural Department into almost every family of our Nation in one form or another. It helped bring us out in front of people in the community and on our staff. ATALM in general was great to work with and I really look forward to working with them again in future funding.
- It would be beneficial to grant recipients if ATALM staff could host a zoom of informational webinar for project directors and collaborators on how to navigate submittable and find all necessary forms. I also think it would be helpful if collaborators could also receive email updates on due dates and timelines.
- Mahalo for the support. It was a game changer for us.
- Other than a sincere thank you, no additional comments or suggestions. Deeply appreciative.

- Our Squaxin Island Museum team is extremely thankful that we have such a supportive resource during our difficult time of losing an integral longtime staff member who passed away.
- Our team is so grateful for the support provided through this program. It helped us build on work that has been in place for several decades and brought together many generations of Alaska Native people to learn about the important traditions of utilizing natural dyes and connecting with lands.
- Please see the answer to the previous question: "What could ATALM do to improve the application process?"
- Please show me the balance of the grant and how expenditures were approved.
- Thank you ATALM-NEH for providing Indigenous Beginnings the opportunity to help awaken the passion for rediscovering traditional values and culture for the people that have attended our workshops. This experience has opened our eyes to think more about new impactful ways to share our way of life. We are grateful to have had this opportunity because it has brought attraction to our organization and build bridges for our staff and the tribal governments cultural departments to connect. figw'icid.
- Thank you for this Grant and helping us Record Archive and Save our history.
- Thank You for this opportunity for us to continue our Humanities activities, culture and connections to our people. We are sincerely grateful!
- Thank you for this opportunity. This funding made a very exciting community project possible and will be enjoyed for years to come.
- Thank you so much for funding our project. I have a deep appreciation for the Submittable website. It was easy to have everything I needed at hand for reports, drawdowns, and even the grant verbiage itself was accessible and easy to find when I needed to remind myself of verbiage, etc. Also, I was late a few times, and the staff reminders were VERY helpful to me.
- Thank you so much for this opportunity and we greatly appreciate the grant. It has already had an impact on our Museum.
- Thank you to ATALM staff and NEH program officers for supporting tribal institutions during this time!
- Thank you, thank you again for helping us launch our program!!
- The ATALM-NEH Humanities Grant award was critical to the overall success of our Pathways Indigenous Arts Festival, and it allowed us to showcase the cultural music, dance and attire presentations by various artists throughout the duration of the event.
- The ATALM-NEH Humanities Grant has done so much for the NN Library, we were able to encourage more cultural knowledge and help individuals rekindle and ignite their love for traditional Navajo weaving. Being able to establish culturally based programs and events, rather than feeling like we have to focus on literacy and not on language and culture, as we would want to preserve and promote Diné Language and Culture.
- The funding was so important for us to expose our tribal members to Modoc history and culture. Without this funding that would not have been possible.
- The funding we received for an outdoor S'Klallam Connections Garden/cultural convening place and cultural programming has had a tremendous impact already. We have been able to secure other funding for additional/complimentary programming and the Tribal community is very excited about the possibilities of ethnobotany and culture classes involving plants that are significant to the S'Klallam people. ATALM has been a terrific partner: Flexible, creative, and very encouraging! We hope to continue working together - it has been an excellent experience for us!
- The grant provided resources that reached throughout a large reservation, numerous age groups and was enthusiastically received by tribal members. As the Fort Apache Historic Site continues to undergo restoration, the feedback from the program participants provided by this grant award will provide important input on the future direction of the most important historical site of the Western Apache Tribe.
- The information to have our accounting department fill out was unclear. I would have liked an easier way to add users to the process. I was unsure how to add additional people to the system.

- The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture is grateful to ATALM-NEH for this critical funding to explore and advance the knowledge of and relationships with the Spokane Tribe, and to enhance the education of residents and visitors to Eastern WA of the importance of the Spokane Tribe to our museum location and to the region itself. This first work at recording elders' recollections will be invaluable as we pursue appropriate land acknowledgment language and permanent installations on the museum campus.
- The peer review did cut a lot of funding from our planned activities but the flexibility to our redirect was very impactful and useful to accommodate issues that were specific to our tribal barriers.
- The two rounds of feedback from reviewers were invaluable - it was very helpful in creating a solid proposal. The grant definitely has had a positive impact on our organization in several ways. Firstly, there has been minimal institutional investment in supporting Native arts—so this was definitely a kind of wake-up call—because it is one of the largest arts grants obtained in our college. So, it has validated this work as substantive and important. It allowed me to follow up with an equipment grant and travel grant for this research. Another aspect is that this grant is larger than almost all of the grants that the tenure track faculty have obtained, and the PhD level adjunct faculty have been lobbying for access to apply for research grants which have been reserved for tenure tracks—so it is helpful to demonstrate that we aren't just goofing off. Academia is at a tipping point now, and adjuncts are really between a rock and a hard place—so this kind of validation is quite useful. This grant/project has been a bit of a magnet in that I have been going around MT talking about the project and seeking collaboration, and two of our larger museums now have been increasing participation with us on Native exhibits & the associated activities.
- These funds allowed us to offer several interesting and engaging cultural programs for our small village. We very much appreciate the funding support.
- They were very easy to work with and it was great to go through this all with them. This was my first grant.
- This funding has enhanced the programming and delivery for particular aspects of our Exhibits, which continue to draw visitors from the Albuquerque region, the United States and even internationally. Additionally, this funding directly ties to our mission to advance Pueblo culture and history with dignity and respect while we are able to inform and engage in fun and innovative ways through our programming.
- This funding made a world of difference in our archival library. We were able to hire an intern to digitize all of our historical ephemera collection, and to begin digitizing our modern (past 20 years) collection. Thank you!
- This grant allowed us to help three other organizations start story projects. If the organizations were only going to do their projects for the life of the grant, I would say the grant period needs to at least double in length. But each organization plans to carry on gathering stories, so I'm excited about that and consider the project a success.
- This grant enabled us to provide services that otherwise would not have been available to our students. Hopi traditional arts are endangered, and this funding allowed us to train new practitioners to help keep them alive.
- This grant funding helped us to meet our mission to preserve and perpetuate cultural traditions
- This grant helped me to not take for granted the humanitarian aspect of the work we do to repatriate and rebury our ancestors. That was very much appreciated.
- This grant provided an amazing opportunity for our community, and we thank you for that.
- This process was made easy by ATALM, the staff and the platform. We are grateful for the funding and for the impact it had on our organization. Because of the funding, we were able to secure funding from our tribe to make the digitization technician a fulltime permanent position. Something that would have helped us to stay on track would be a spending plan for the grant. This was definitely impacted by our organization, but we were not able to spend as early as we wanted, which is why the extension time was so greatly appreciated! Also, as a younger/greener grant writer, I would appreciate a little bit more check-ins. This isn't for everyone, but I feel like the additional check-ins via a quick phone call or zoom in addition to the drawdowns and reports would be helpful. Perhaps an option for people to opt in for this? Thank you so very much! We were able to start our archives expansion into the digital realm.

- This was our first experience with an ATALM and NEH grant, and we were very grateful for this opportunity. Of note, it's a bit confusing when the reviewer comments don't agree with each other and therefore it's difficult to understand what path to take so perhaps a program officer can highlight what areas we should focus on amongst the comments.
- Very appreciative of ATALM and Submittable in with working with our organization. Wado wado.
- Very appreciative of the opportunity to utilize this grant for the Cultural Center. It was essential in bringing people back to the Center for cultural events.
- We appreciate ATALM's continued engagement and support of First Americans Museum and look forward to continuing our work together.
- We are grateful for the opportunity to work on this project.
- We are grateful to have received this funding and hope the documentary we produced was the kind of result ATALM was seeking.
- We are very grateful for this grant. It provided us an opportunity to add culturally relevant content to our program's offerings.
- We are very grateful to ATALM-NEH for this opportunity. It enabled us to do a new project which will continue to be helpful for us in the future. The communications and online system were great. We really appreciated the conciseness of all information needed. The payment process was very easy to complete as well. Thank you again for helping us make a difference with our indigenous people in our community. Aloha.
- We couldn't have completed this project without the support of ATALM-NEH
- We now have a little cultural room-museum, inventory, engagement, repatriation display and more. Thank you!
- We really appreciate the support for the important work we do for our community and the general public in providing access to quality educational/cultural/historic knowledge and resources related to the Wampanoag people and other indigenous communities.
- We really appreciated this opportunity that allowed us to grow and strengthen our humanities programs. The work that we were able to accomplish is allowing us to move forward in a positive and efficient manner as we carry out our humanities projects.
- We were able to accomplish so much in such a little time. The community loved all the programming that we were able to host because of the of the grant. Thank you so much.
- We were able to develop great informative content to share with many people now and in the future!
- We were very pleased with the clarity and ease of working with ATALM and NEH throughout our entire grant process. The grant reporting process allowed us to stay on track on a monthly basis and was not too overwhelming. It was a great experience, and it made a great impact for our programming. We are extremely grateful to have been recipients of ATALM and NEH.
- We would not have been able to develop our oral history interviews and videos without support from ATALM.
- Wendy Tawater and Bryant Celestine were the original stakeholders for the grant application process. They both left the organization and I, Cera Williams, Interim Grants Director, and Rochellda Sylestine, Language Programs Coordinator, stepped in where they left off. The transition of personnel was easily accessible thanks to ATALM staff, and we were both able to continue reporting and carrying out the goals for this project.
- With grant funds, we were able to devote a substantial amount of time working with the descendants of the residents of Post, the village that was flooded 100 years ago despite repeated protests from the Tribe. At some point, the descendants took over the leadership of the project planning not just activities we proposed in the grant application but adding a healing process that never occurred after the initial loss of the village. They continue to work together as a more cohesive community and taking on the challenges of community development as their responsibility.
- Your support is greatly appreciated!

Appendix C: 2024 ATALM-NEH SHARP Grantee Survey

ATALM conducted a second survey in support of program evaluation in 2024. It focused on grantees' impressions of the program as a whole and offered numerous opportunities for open-ended comments. Sixty-one grantee organizations responded to the survey, although the core respondent group consisted of 55 grantees (six grantees only answered a few of the initial questions).

Q1. Tribe/Organization name

Suppressed.

Q2. Name and Title of person completing the survey

Suppressed.

Q3. Role in the ATALM-NEH grant project

Suppressed.

Q4. Email

Suppressed.

Q5. May Dr. Jorgensen contact you if she has questions? Please include a phone number if you are willing to participate in a one-on-one discussion.

Suppressed.

Q6. How familiar are you with the ATALM-NEH SHARP grant program from which your organization received funding?

Option	#
Very familiar	23
Somewhat familiar	36
Not familiar at all	0
Other	2

Q7. To what extent did the grant program contribute to your organization?

Option	#
Extremely positive	44
Positive	11
Neutral	0
Negative	0
Extremely negative	0

Q7a. Please provide at least one example of how the program impacted your organization.

- Able to retain staff and develop/gather archival and ethnographic information of immense value to the Tribe.
- An example of funding impacted our community was in the narrative where youth and adult men came together in the drum making class and instructions provided by the elder men as to what is expected from a Yavapai. The change results is [that] there is a program offered every week where some men come together and learn new songs and the young women are taught where they are use. This grant we were able to show the unique values and contributions of humanistic of the community participation.
- An exhibit was established to provide historical information and cultural items our citizens had never seen before. Created pride.
- Because of this funding, we were able to build connections with members of our community who are culture barriers and language experts. Building these relations not only increased the relevance of our NCTCC App content, it also allowed us to build connections and community interest in our work.
- Due to the funding provided, we were able to hold workshops that allowed the community to come together again. During these times, participants were able to learn, grow, and share stories in a meaningful, culturally significant way. Funding also supported museum supplies that aided in showing the community and others those artifacts of importance that may not have been able to be seen otherwise.

- During a time of instability directly following the COVID-19 pandemic, the SHARP funds relieved the stress of justifying maintaining proper environmental controls for a building that wasn't seeing any public visits. These funds acted as a bridge until the museum could return to normal operations.
- Enabled us to create the position of Language and Culture Specialist and to hold history sessions with our tribal Elders.
- Equipment purchased made it possible to provide the most up to date information on museum exhibits.
- Funding supported the development of the exhibition, "Reclaiming El Camino: Native Resistance in the Missions and Beyond," which opened on December 9, 2023.
- Gives the community college additional funding.
- Humanities/Arts funding is very difficult to obtain - this project was invaluable for creating links between MSU and artists in our region. It promoted discussion and visibility and has provided opportunities for students to interact with artists.
- Igiugig Tribal Library was able to help three other communities start local story projects. So the grant helped our organization help someone else. Part of our grant was to have the stories translated into local languages. Because the story projects are on-line, our community members and the Alaska Native community in general are strengthened by the gathering and preservation of stories told in our own voices, in our own language.
- In round one of the funding program, we were able to retain our humanities activities. We just received another round of funding, in which we will use to provide our tribal citizens a display of traditional regalia in our new cultural center/museum/library.
- It helped up revive the connection with our Elders. We learned and laughed were able to record so much history from our communications.
- It provided our graduating seniors the opportunity to have pride in their culture. By being taught how to make every piece of their traditional regalia and then to walk in it at graduation, was very impactful for our students' self-worth and identity.
- It supported organizational operations including allowing us to upgrade our aged computer that will "improve our overall capability."
- It was very useful to be able to facilitate tribal participation in public events.
- Receiving funding through this program was instrumental for increasing staff to reduce burn out with the huge amount of services we were providing to our beloved communities.
- The funding allowed the Tribal archive to begin researching and publishing details of tribal life 80 years ago, recorded in Tribal Council minutes and resolutions. For tribal elders, for the Chairman and Tribal Council, and for many others in the community, seeing history associated with their leadership and their families was a revelation. And now they want this initiative to continue into the present day.
- The funding enabled us and our partners at the tribal center to continue with COVID-safe humanities programming: an outdoor exhibition and inter-tribal cultural/humanities program. This was the first exhibition and outdoor event the tribal center hosted in 2.5 years, and this enabled the center to reengage their audiences. Our organization forged new, ongoing relationships and partnerships, and gained experience and insights on being flexible and adaptable in the face of uncertain or changing conditions (like a global pandemic), so that we're still meeting project goals—even as the best laid plans are necessarily redesigned multiple times!
- The funding enabled us to keep staff on salary and provide the public with a full complement of services.
- The grant allowed us to create important and necessary communications with twenty-seven tribal governments about historic video located in the archives. These connections are important in our discussions about potentially sensitive information moving forward.
- The implementation of the seed library and the new humanities programs that are culturally relevant are a positive addition to the current library services. The new programs brought new and returning patrons to the library increasing the number of visits to the library to continue to use the library services. Increasing patron

visits to the library and library mobiles to use the services and programs is an important goal of our library. I feel that the grant funds have provided for our library meeting that goal. Thank you!

- The program helped create multiple educational resources for the community and awareness of the Tlingit language.
- The program offered Heritage Students to interact with Elders in our Yakama Nation Community. The storytelling element of the program will be in the Cultural Museum Archive, with representation from Elders who have not previously contributed.
- The programming allowed artists to provide demonstrations and feedback on their particular artwork directly to audiences, both engaging and informing them on various aspects of contemporary Native art. This is invaluable to relay Native culture in a personal and dynamic manner, giving it context and depth from the lived experiences of the involved artists.
- This funding allowed for continued humanities during a time when most programs were shut down. It contributed directly to a new and exciting project of building a replica canoe for a museum.
- This grant allowed us to develop programming that we have been discussing internally for almost a decade now. Specifically, the ability to develop our own oral history questions and protocols as well as curriculum for a Washoe History course.
- This grant program has allowed us to start an oral history project about how COVID-19 impacted our culture. This was the start of a massive project for our community to preserve culture, plan for resources to help with well-being, and, more importantly, collect data and archive these testimonials for future use.
- This grant provided funding for supplies for our upcoming pow wows. These items will enrich the experience of our Tribal members and help them to make connections to other Tribal members.
- This grant was the single most transformative project grant we've had in years. It allowed us to create an outdoor cultural center and convening plaza for Tribal artisans, non-Tribal guests, and supported the work of Tribal culture bearers through intergenerational workshops and programs.
- This project embraced an indigenous, place-based understanding of what making something publicly accessible means. The footage was shared personally with those represented in the film to guarantee that they and their families would continue to have access. The footage was brought back to the communities in which it was shot so that the places from which it came would be honored and those most connected to the lands and seas that were filmed would benefit from understanding of a place then and now. Panels were held following screenings so the community could hear those filmed now alongside other community members.
- We could not develop our exhibits, or archives without a Collections Plan. Now we have one!
- We created an online catalog of our basketry collection: <https://apiai.catalogaccess.com/home> I think there is some community excitement about the results of the project and there is interest in continuing the work that was started by the grant.
- We have had excellent feedback on the documentary we produced, although had some internal challenges completing it on what turned out to be a tight timeline. We were able to make connections with additional organizations and achieve some new levels of media exposure.
- We hosted our first tribal exhibition at our newly acquired Iowa and Sac & Fox Mission Museum. We also started virtual and in-person programming reaching many new tribal members.
- We increased our capacity by creating online and tangible resources to expand our reach with the art workshop we undertook. Typically, we have 12 people in each workshop, and we were able to reach more exponentially thanks to our project and partners.
- We now have a web presence other than just a website.
- We started a traditional Navajo Weaving workshop back in June (2023), July (2023), and February of this year as well. We certainly opened up ourselves to the public so that we can also focus on cultural preservation and knowledge for people wanting to tap in and learn more about our Weaving traditions as beginners.
- We were able to continue a project that otherwise would not have moved forward.

- We were able to develop programs that impact Native communities, artists, and culture bearers by engaging with critical topics of our time through thoughtful conversation and planning.
- We were able to digitize and preserve many of our archival documents and images - some as old as 100 years.
- We were able to do a project that we had never done before and partnered with a scholar whom we learned a great deal from.
- We were able to hire a videographer and we were able to record 7 Native Mi'kmaq speakers to help preserve the native language.
- We were able to launch an effective Education department with equipment, educational supplies, and honorariums for several artists that participated in workshops for schools.
- We were able to offer our flagship program that has become a staple in Zuni youths' childhood. We were able to implement our culturally informed curriculum that uses our culture, strengths, history, and local resources to show Zuni youth that they can live happy and healthy lives while connected to our traditions.
- We were able to provide community programming that was reflective of our Dakota/Nakoda culture, which served to not only revitalize our culture but also create discussion around identity and indigeneity. As a result of this funding, the library is now seen as an inclusive space and a hub for humanities programming.
- We were able to provide humanities and arts programming that highlights Native American world views for two years in our various markets and festivals.
- We were able to save tens of thousands of pages of humanitarian works that could have otherwise been lost to the elements at any time.
- We were able to start a website which will allow us to continue our future language program
- We were able to tell a very important story in the history of the Cherokees by telling a more in-depth history of ranching in Indian Territory.
- We were able to work closely with descendants of the village of Post. The tribe was forced by the federal government to lease the land where the village was located to the power company so that electricity could be generated for communities south of Post. Two families were forced to leave a community that had provided a strong network of supports based on family and tribal tradition, give up their homes and possessions, and relinquish a way of life that had supported them for generations. The story is little known and the pain of what occurred 100 years ago continues to have a negative impact on the descendants of Post.
- With the funding we were able to have time with some of the community elders
- With the help of the ATALM-NEH Sharp Program funds, The Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians was able to hire a credentialed librarian/archivist.

Q8. To what extent did your understanding of humanities-based programming change as a result of your participation in the grant program?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
To a great extent	14
Somewhat	21
Not at all	4
No change	16

Q8a. Please share how your perception(s) of humanities programming was influenced.

- Because our grant didn't cover travel or gifts, I learned quite a bit about humanities funding as I found other grants to fill in those gaps. Previously I was more familiar with NSF funding. As I explored these additional funding sources, I gained a better knowledge of the kinds of humanities programming that other institutions have undertaken.
- Expanding on a different topic that had a tremendous impact on the area helped us see how important certain situations can have a major impact on history, as in our case, Will Rogers.

- Humanities programming should relate to actual people, places and events rather than agendas. This project was a case study in how to make this effective.
- I am new to the organization so my knowledge was limited, but now it has greatly expanded.
- I am new to this field, and I am learning a lot. I am very grateful for this opportunity to apply and received the support I did. This was my first grant, so I am happy it went well.
- I got a broader view of how the humanities is defined in relation to our program.
- I have been familiar, but it was helping my staff understand the humanities programming that not only assists from NEH; it can be done consistently and every day.
- I have personally never worked under a humanities-based programming, so it was a new experience for me. I really appreciate that the program centered community and allowed us to base our work in this framework.
- I learned that measuring the impact of humanities-based projects like ours is a challenge!
- I started this position with experience in humanities-based programming.
- I think what really changed was how I viewed these programs and the opportunities they create the engage Tribal Members in unique ways (as both teachers and students). I see this as empowering Washoe Tribal members to write their own story and reclaim their own story through their own words and through a Washoe specific lens.
- I was able to experience the connection between culture and community through humanities programming. Long-term partnerships, community collaborations, and other cultural resources were developed throughout our grant period that we didn't have prior.
- Increasing Native American and Native Hawaiian visibility by sharing our stories and perspectives further humanizes our existence among mainstream non-Native audiences.
- Integrating tribal entities like, for example, a cultural museum, can be more challenging to navigate due to community obligations and shifting responsibilities in the tribal community, but through this flexible funding, the efforts of community inclusion were able to be well-supported. My perception of humanities programming changed due to the structure of the ATALM proposal narrative, which was reasonably detailed, but not overly restrictive. Offering funding through entities like ATALM, which understands Tribal Nations, encourages a culturally responsive approach due to their understanding that elements of program control can be directly offered to underserved community members who may not have academic credentials, but who offer a plethora of traditional knowledge and who thrive in their roles as mentors, leaders in programming elements and as community liaisons.
- It is the connection to our Elders, making sure that we have a way to record their history their memories for future generations, and the pictures, recordings, and laughter.
- It justified our work
- It was heavily influenced by our community and how our community sees our language and cultural ways of life. I had to actively change the way I presented educational materials and flyers for events so that the age range or the target audience could have a greater understanding.
- It was influenced by the use of our traditional language, histories to tell our own perspectives and have that shared by others.
- Some of our staff was still confusing humanitarian with historical, but they now have a much clearer understanding of these two realms.
- The disciplines of the humanities provide a mirror to examine the negative past experienced by so many tribal nations.
- The eagerness to learn from the students, and the eagerness to share from the artists, was inspiring and motivating. There was a wave of sharing from students following an artist's storytelling.
- The grant did bring humanities-based programming into focus for me. This was my first NEH grant application and it's nice to have a clearer idea of what is considered humanities. My first thought during the application

process was how could this work help to improve collections and preservation needs at APIA. After some reiterations the aim of my application shifted more towards involvement with traditional knowledge keepers rather than my initial need of preservation and conservation.

- The IPCC strives to develop interactive exhibits that engage visitors on multiple sensory levels, fostering a deeper understanding of Native American cultures. We incorporate multimedia elements, such as videos, audio recordings, and interactive displays, whenever possible to make the exhibits more engaging and informative. Live artist demonstrations, lectures, and hands-on learning opportunities around the exhibits further enhance the presentations. The funding directly supported our ability to engage stakeholders in a multi-faceted way, which informs our programming moving forward.
- There are facets to the humanities. This project revealed that there is much, much more going on than what people see. There is a history that we have been unable to share but are working on making it more known.
- Through attending the ATALM conference sessions and developing our Collection LAN.
- We have long implemented humanities-based programming, which is part of our mission.
- We learned to focus on the public learning and education aspects of our work and why it is important to communicate and share our project results.
- We learned/realized the role that modern technology can contribute to the learning of our ancient language.
- We realized the extent to which tribal participation in events is very effective in furthering the public's understanding of the Sand Creek Massacre.
- What was most significant for us was the incredible support and encouragement we received from both the Tribal community and the wider external community, which is hungry for authentic ways to connect with S'Klallam arts and culture. It was a win-win-win for the Tribe, the Foundation, and for the general public.
- With my experience implementing the grant initiatives I have learned the concepts of humanities programs. I feel that the humanities programs are designed to teach a topic in-depth for a holistic approach to include history, philosophy, language, art, and religion for a better understanding and appreciation of life's practices.
- With this grant the librarian was able to work with the cultural department. The unity of coming together where the two is in line in the preservation of the community.

Q9. To what extent did the program demonstrate ATALM's understanding of the unique cultural, social, and economic dynamics of Native cultural institutions?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Extremely understanding	46
Somewhat understanding	7
Not understanding at all	2

Q9a. Please elaborate on how the program demonstrated an understanding of the needs of Native organizations or how it could do better.

- The program was pretty streamlined, easy to apply and easy to administer.
- ATALM uses individuals and project examples that resonate with Natives.
- Providing an opportunity to work with ATALM for the grant work was exceptional and reduced the need to explain the rationale for Native-Centered programming and how it would be delivered.
- I do the financial reporting.
- It was good to get this help to interpret our history, but we had to cut the travel part of our project out because it was not allowable.
- We focused heavily on the cultural and social aspect, in turn, that also helps with the economic portion because our weavers can learn and sell their works or create gifts for family or friends too.
- Humanities is such a wide range, and each region has their own nuances. This funding allowed us to share that.

- ATALM made it easy to manage this grant.
- ATALM / Jess were awesome in administrating this grant opportunity. I needed quite a bit of leeway as I renegotiated time and labor, and Jess was very accommodating with that. I really appreciated the flexibility.
- This program was not geared around programming as much as it was to try and save Mi'kmaq Nation cultural language.
- Its approach was very flexible allowing for changes that resulted in public programs and documents that more than fulfilled their intended goal. While we had a humanities scholar work with the project, the real experts were the community members whose collective memory of what occurred 100 years ago was shared with respect and care. Sometimes external funding agencies do not appreciate how difficult it is to share experiences which have defined our communities. ATALM understood.
- The program was instrumental in understanding our needs in the areas of privacy of esoteric knowledge.
- The ATALM-NEH SHARP Program has established a trusted Indigenous worldview and understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems which is demonstrated in their delivery of services.
- We were able to pay stipends to Native Language speakers and Native Artists. The requirements were not ridged, which allowed for the flexibility that Indigenous-based community work requires.
- The process was seamless, to the extent that we had almost complete freedom to follow the path we chose in our project proposal. Also, ATALM staff quickly responded to questions. The minor issue was the fact that all interactions were by text. Tribal relationships are most effectively carried out through personal contact.
- I believe the narrative presented explained in detail what we were going to do. The need was there to get the young people involved.
- This funding allowed us to determine what was most meaningful to our Tribe and develop programming to meet those needs as well as set a foundation for additional work to be completed. In the time since completing our project the Washoe Tribe has been approached by documentary film makers and local school districts to aid them in their efforts. The big thing here is that having gone through this process we have tangible products to base future projects upon/provide guidance.
- We had community experts from Akwesasne come in and teach the classes. I don't see how we could improve this part of the process.
- We were able to receive funding for what we knew to be the solutions and strengths of our community. We were not prescribed anything.
- The ATALM Organization is very understanding, sensitive, and supportive to the needs of Native American-Indigenous communities, they are willing to assist in providing opportunities to meet the goals of the Archives, Libraries, and Museums. ATALM provides opportunities for Tribal organizations to provide literary services and practices to preserve cultural life ways of the indigenous people. ATALM is so supportive, they extend a helping hand for aspects of managing and implementing a grant initiative.
- The program had great communication; I was appreciative of emails being answered quickly.
- The program allows for a variety of needs to be met.
- ATALM provided great feedback on the initial project application. The comments of the reviewers helped us think about what we needed to change to make our project a success. As the project director, I had not overseen a project of this scope before, and ATALM's administrative organization and support were very helpful. I especially appreciated the quick feedback when I had questions.
- ATALM is directly aligned with the needs of Native organizations, as it advocates for the preservation and dissemination of indigenous culture and history.
- With this Grant we were able to drive to Elders that could not get out. We could provide a comfortable please to visit and share memories. Have the equipment to record our visits.
- ATALM was very understanding when extensions were requested as Elders and community was having a hard time.

- NGOs on Native Reservations are constantly evolving to better serve the people.
- Your support should demonstrate to the NEH that ATALM understands the needs of Native cultural institutions.
- Their emphasis on serving Native Hawaiians aligned with our goals as well.
- It recognized our work as important and funded it! Although the process of acquiring funds still felt cumbersome at times.
- Each organization is different and has different needs and challenges. The attention to these differences demonstrated understanding of our needs.
- Funding specific to tribal organization and their development.
- Great job providing targeted funding that helped Native orgs.
- ATALM provided program guidelines from within which our cultural projects based on humanitarian practices could be conducted.
- I believe that the program understood that Native organizations operate differently as sovereign nations therefore they were more open-minded of tribal humanities-based projects.
- It was flexible in allowing an extension of time due to involvement of tribal elders in the program
- We were able to work closely with the Cherokee Nation on this project and address an issue that has been less discussed, the early settlers.
- The program was not prescriptive—it trusted the Tribe to do important work in a way that benefited the Tribe.
- The model we created for the structure of the workshop was one we can replicate in the future in that we were able to pay our workshop instructor and an apprentice for their leadership. We were also allowed more time to finish our workshop products after collecting more data than initially we intended.
- My perspective is that it was the importance of partnerships that ATALM reinforced.
- I'm not sure this project could have been fully realized or as successfully executed without ATALM's support and guidance. ATALM uniquely understands the assets, benefits, constraints, and possible exigencies of working with Tribal communities. Consequently, I felt like I had incredible support for creative problem solving when hitting the inevitable program snag or needing advice. ATALM understood the horrendous effect COVID has had on Native culture bearers and the importance of raising up the next generation. We were able to accomplish so much more with ATALM's supportive and informed guidance.
- The program asked lots of questions, not only showing us their desire to know more, but also their level of interest in what we were doing.
- I think ATALM has done an outstanding job of assessing needs and then providing ways to meet those needs.

Q10. In addition to providing funding, ATALM sought to help organizations gain skills in developing successful grant applications. To what extent was the program helpful to you in this area?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Extremely helpful	25
Somewhat helpful	15
Not helpful at all	1
No guidance needed	14

Q10a. Please elaborate on any guidance you received and if it contributed to your understanding of the proposal writing process. Do you have recommendations for how we could do better?

- Staff was accessible and helpful. Conference speakers very helpful.
- It was good to get input, but I think we knew what we wanted to do and ATALM understood with the writings I was able to submit. Their encouragement and surprise second round of funding made this partnership even better!

- After award, there was quite a bit of correspondence that was helpful.
- ATALM encouraged us to apply for the Arts and Culture Council Cohort where we learned a lot more about grants.
- Having changed jobs just before the application period closed, I wrote my grant application in a hurry. It was pretty rough in spots. The two rounds of grant reviewers' comments were very helpful in identifying the weak spots and getting them better organized and expressed.
- ATALM staff were like cheerleaders, encouraging us and always being willing to offer advice if asked.
- During our reporting we were guided through this process carefully and it helped us feel confident.
- I was not personally involved with the grant writing process, but from what I understand there was good guidance during the process.
- Since the librarian is familiar with humanities, I felt I was okay and what I would present.
- ATALM has been incredibly supportive at all levels of the application process and all the way through final reports. We greatly appreciate the responsiveness and technical assistance from ATALM.
- This was my first grant and the recommendations on how to improve my grant was very helpful. It built my confidence up.
- Guidance was provided during pre-award.
- ATALM assisted our library by providing some recommended edits to enhance our proposal. In addition, they provided technical assistance for the Submittable platform.
- Training videos can help.
- This was the first grant I've applied for. It's daunting, but this process was incredibly easy, and the staff was responsive and helpful.
- ATALM's reviewers gave helpful feedback to help us strengthen our proposal.
- ATALM was very supportive, as the organization allowed us to adjust the scope of the project to accommodate changing program and staff needs.
- The Grant was easy to follow and keep on track. The wording was not confusing.
- when ideas were put on paper it was helpful to know that they wanted to see our opportunities succeed and guidance of how to improve and strengthen the request would help us to be approved.
- The proposal process was easy and straight forward, requiring a minimum of "jumping through hoops."
- We did not receive any guidance.
- The intro meeting about the program was very helpful in understanding how to proceed with the application.
- ATALM was very helpful in the reporting aspect. We are well versed in successful grant applications.
- The guidance provided helped us comply with the requirements of the grant guidelines. It helped us understand how to develop a humanitarian approach and what activities to include which enhanced our project impact with the community both during the project and post project through memorial signage.
- The ATALM team was open to receiving and answering questions, they gave us suggestions and ideas to better our project and grant application.
- We were able to use the technical skills of the young adults to help the elders with the programming.
- We are going through a major museum renovation, and this was the first exhibit enhancement in years, and it has helped us prepare more grants.
- We very much appreciated the jury's comments. Very helpful to demystify the process and get feedback and the opportunity to improve.
- Eligibility requirements were difficult to interpret.
- I definitely appreciated reading the evaluations of our proposal - the comments and analysis were uniformly thoughtful, specific and ultimately helpful.

- The guidance we received was just again to clarify historical vs humanitarian.
- ATALM provided a streamlined way to write grant narratives, budgets, budget descriptions and schedules for humanities-based grant proposals.

Q11. What is your level of experience with applying for federal granting?

Option	#
Extensive (10 or more federal grant applications)	21
Moderate (5 or more federal grant applications)	19
None (0 federal grant applications)	13
No response	2

Q12. By comparison to federal granting programs, was the ATALM-NEH SHARP application:

Option	#
Much easier to complete	23
Easier to complete	14
About the same	2
More difficult to complete	0
Not applicable—I have no experience with applying for federal grants	13
No response	3

Q12a. Use this area to provide information on what you found helpful or believe should be improved.

- Conference sessions great!
- The ATALM-NEH SHARP application was processed directly with Native American Tribal needs already understood. It allowed the proposal to quickly move to a deeper level of process in the context of programming, without repeating or explaining specific needs that are common to reservation communities specifically. One improvement to the grant would be to differentiate between Native American Urban settings and Native American Rural settings, particularly the need for additional travel funds, and/or meal provisions for programming.
- The State and organizations like ATALM have made the application writing very easy and since funds were allocated, we applied with our narrative and budget form too. I think by comparison its more tedious to write for the federal funds, which will be an entirely different process than what has been allocated by the different entities. We are up for the challenge!
- The response time for questions was much quicker. Correspondence was much easier and felt much more smooth than other systems.
- This was the second federal grant I had written. The other was an NEA grant written around the same time. Both were accepted for the full amounts!
- The ATALM crew is very approachable and feel like allies, not antagonists. I felt like I could be candid about challenges I was experiencing w/o being penalized.
- I wish every grant went through Submittable. It was very easy to follow.
- The application was not complicated, and [the] information required was concise.
- The process was seamless, but a bit sterile without direct human contact.
- Not quite sure. Since we have a Grants person in finance, it was important for that person be aware of how to accept and apply the funding when coming in and her role. The librarian does not have that information an it is necessary for her to access the finance division.
- I believe on of the biggest things ATALM was able to do is mitigate barriers and work with us to ensure even though we would not get the full requested amount that we were still able to access funding.
- This was one of the most accessible proposals we did. Thank you!

- The application was easy to complete, it was not as extensive as a federal grant application. However, the Submittable portal was difficult to use. I personally did not have authorization to access Submittable, therefore communicated with the ATALM Grant Team through the grants email. My supervisor however, had difficulty accessing Submittable. I feel that the timeline for composing and submitting a grant application could be lengthened, due to Tribal government regulations and process for submitting grants.
- questions and concerns that arose were promptly looked into and given consideration if we fell short of goals as our facility is different from others. Improvements would be to keep the paperwork short and not having to refill the information that is already shared on previous paperwork.
- This proposal and budget were so streamlined and easy to fill out compared to NEH applications!
- We received funding for only one component of our application, and communication about why would have been helpful.
- Federal grants are never easy to manage. And even harder to report upon. I'm very grateful for ATALM's staff for the assistance with the grant portal.
- Very simple, straightforward application.
- Less repetitive information requests, user friendly format, IT help and yuck review and comments prior to final submission. Very professional and courteous.
- There seemed to be a better understanding of the needs of tribal organizations and tribal elders in carrying out its goals.
- I found the process straight forward and not overly cumbersome.
- We've submitted 0 federal grant proposals, but that doesn't mean we haven't started several of them! We ultimately decided our time was better spent elsewhere, as federal government grant applications are too time-consuming and onerous for smaller organizations with capacity constraints. The ATALM-NEH SHARP application by contrast was something we felt confident that we could tackle--and ATALM staff were helpful in answering questions along the way.
- The webinar and ATALM staff were helpful
- Clarity on eligibility requirements.
- I felt the application was easier to complete because it asked for information and analysis that was meaningful, relevant, and interpretive - not just quantitative justifications or dry metrics. I really had to think about what the program we proposed was going to do and how it would likely be conducted and to what ends. It was a smartened-up application, compared to many federal granting programs I've worked with (HUD, DOJ, etc.).
- The grant application was phenomenal, and I wouldn't change a thing.

Q13. What is your assessment of the Submittable online grant application portal? Did it make your application:

Option	#
Much easier to complete	22
Easier to complete	17
About the same	9
More difficult to complete	3
Much more difficult to complete	0
No response	4

Q13a. Use this area to provide information on what you found helpful or believe should be improved.

- I thought the application was fine with Submittable, but there were times in which the email notifications from Submittable didn't come through and were filtered as spam. Other than that, I found the platform to be fairly easy to navigate.
- Site visits to other projects would help.

- The Submittable online grant portal was easy to navigate, facilitated direct communication (not having to navigate my institutional email), and was a great and accessible repository for all of the grantwork.
- Compared to other systems that we have used, I think this was the easiest to navigate. We did have a few issues adding team members to collaborate but had it figured out in the end.
- As an artist, I am very familiar with the submittable platform.
- Grants.gov is hell - Submittable was much easier to navigate.
- I really can't think of anything that would need improvement.
- Once I got used to it, the Submittable was easy to navigate.
- Again, I did not apply for this grant, but I have applied through the submittable process before, and it was extremely simple and straight forward.
- This is a very slick operation. Having a button on the home page that took us directly to our submission document would have been very helpful—as well as a notification flag when new messages come in.
- It was little difficult at first. We made several calls to the Jesse person I believe to give directions.
- Filling out applications versus uploading files can be difficult at times. I think the biggest difficulty I have is when the box is too small to read an entire paragraph and I have to reread multiple times to minimize redundancies (I don't recall if this came up but character limits are also a nuisance—going between a word document and an online portable often requires additional edits which helps to keep things concise but also loses some of the meaningful things I would like to express as an applicant).
- I actually did not submit the grant application. The grants manager for the Hopi Tribe submitted the grant application. We had difficulty utilizing submittable. We could not see the comments coming from the grant reviews and complete the required documents upon receipt of the grant award notice. We also had difficulty adding authorized personnel to Submittable.
- Even though I have not applied for other federal funding, I really like the Submittable portal throughout the whole grant process. I like how everything could be found in one place and there as a running record of all our interactions.
- I was able to answer all of the questions and explain everything we were able to successfully complete with our Elders.
- I found myself very apprehensive when going into submittable because the whole process of the grant was a portal that only the grant writer had access to, so it seemed that I did not absorb what submittable is all about.
- We have more than one grant through Submittable. Sometimes getting the right one got confusing and took a little time.
- It was very helpful to readily access all forms of communication and submissions via this website. It was used often for references beyond the regular reporting that was required.
- Submittable is difficult to navigate and not intuitive for the user. pages are hidden behind tabs and often times staff does not know how to access the portal.
- There was a little bit of a bump getting familiar with Submittable, but overall, I found it to be a user-friendly platform.
- I did not see anything that needed to be improved with the Submittable portal.
- I think Submittable is accessible and easy to navigate.
- This is one area that could use more attention. It was not very user friendly and required too much time to use.
- It was a very simple process.
- Generally, I found Submittable to be a good portal, with only the rare challenge.
- It was perfect.

Q14. Do you wish to add any comments on how the application process could be improved? Or anything that you specifically liked?

- I liked how flexible this program was. Unlike most grants, it simply helped us maintain what we already built instead of requiring us to build something new.
- I appreciated the guiding tone of everyone at ATALM, their encouragement, flexibility, and guidance. Additionally, I appreciated the comments on the proposal, which helped shape the activities and the general programmatic goals of the grant.
- Give the grants award numbers.
- Notifying programs when the funds have been transferred over would be great! I understand Jess is busy, but we would appreciate word so that we can work with our fiscal sponsors as they do take time as well to complete their processes. All in all, we would recommend other tribal libraries to apply for funds that ATALM makes available.
- This was a great opportunity, and we are thankful for that.
- I liked that ATALM had work arounds for submitting requests for funds and progress reports since our grant administrator wasn't always available.
- It is excellent the way it is. Thanks so much for the opportunity!
- The work completed as a result of this grant resulted in a beginning of the healing process which never occurred for residents and descendants of Post. The community is now making plans for the future which we fully support.
- Both submittal and the staff were very understanding and helpful throughout the process. They provided alternatives and guided us through modifications and our concerns.
- This grant opportunity was very well suited for our Indigenous based programming because it was flexible and straight forward.
- One issue for us related to the fact that we received half of what we proposed. We were happy to receive anything, of course, but this did force considerable changes and we had to abandon some of our goals. The problem is that we received no information about the cut—whether it was simply math, or whether the reviewing committee thought some elements might be dropped. A little more detail in why we didn't get the whole amount would have helped.
- I tried to add as much as I could in the sections above. One thing that was difficult with our project in particular was that staff time was not approved, and so in order to work on the project, we had to meet after hours with the project team. Personally, this added a lot to my plate as it related to project administration and reporting (not a complaint but something I would like to bring up for further consideration as many Tribes are limited by capacity in various ways and this could be a potential factor limiting Tribes from expanding humanities-based programming).
- Nia:wen (Thank you) for the opportunity to help our youth find pride in their culture and have joy in being indigenous.
- We just greatly appreciate the support and relative ease with grant application portal and reporting requirements.
- My suggestion is to try a different platform for submitting grant proposals and reports. In addition, to extend the timeline for submitting the grant proposals and the term of the grant, due to the Tribal Government process for accepting and processing the grant award within the Financial Management system in order for the grant project to begin, this is a timely process.
- I appreciated the reviewers' specific comments.
- No, I want to thank ATALM again for its assistance and understanding throughout the process.
- I really appreciated this grant it helped me learn from my Elders in our Tribe. It was wonderful.
- I liked that there is a portal, and access only by passwords.

- It was simple and streamlined, and ATALM reps were quick to respond to emails.
- I greatly appreciated the streamlined application process.
- ATALM's staff were very helpful throughout the duration of the grant, and we appreciated ATALM's additional support after the close of our grant.
- It was very simple and straight forward. Compared to other applications which are extremely detailed. The additional questions/feedback from reviewers was helpful in further explaining our intentions for implementing the grant. It was a pleasure working with the staff, ASAP and Submittable. I'd apply again in the future, if we have a project that aligns with ATALM-NEH SHARP or similar federal grants.
- Nothing to add.
- The ease in which the entire process was conducted. This was the most helpful having interactive guidance and support to increase our applicant confidence in our project approach and ability to share the outcomes publicly.
- I wish that eligible expenses and project ideas were available via submittable or easier to access because I don't recall seeing those listed and/or am having a hard time finding such a list.
- As I mentioned above the submittable app should be easier to use.
- We are extremely grateful for the grant and helping us tell this important historic narrative of the Cherokee Nation. Thank you for all your help as we made adjustments throughout the process.
- I hope we have more opportunities to apply for ATALM-NEH SHARP grants. It was a well thought out program and easy to navigate. Staff at ATALM was very helpful along the way with any questions and concerns.
- The process was streamlined in such a way that it was not overwhelming.

Q15. Did you encounter any problems or delays in your project?

Option	#
Yes, we had many difficulties with our project	2
Somewhat, but we were able to pivot and move forward	20
No, the project moved forward as proposed	18
No response	15

Q15a. Please describe any problems you experienced and how they were addressed.

- One of our "Lead Elders" for our project passed away during the grant period. It was a difficult loss, but we maintained connection to her work and will honor her when our archival project is complete. Additionally, scheduling of the Elders with the young people was a challenge, so we transitioned to group meetings with everyone present.
- Difficulty in getting the student help that I thought would be easy to get. Challenges in getting funding for travel and gifts. Challenges in retrieving video footage from first videographer (done) challenges in successfully making contact with artists to schedule interviews. Much more time needed for networking than anticipated. Trouble with advisory board getting along. All of these issues have been resolved, mostly through patience and establishing a good network of curators who helped vouch for us with the artists - which led to filming the interviews. We are at the point of editing the interviews and building out the website which we anticipate having done and available to the public sometime in the summer.
- Getting members of New Post to get engaged was slow in the beginning. But once Plans started to take shape, the community took ownership.
- First, the grant project was off to a late start due to the Hopi Tribal Council accepting the grant award, the financial management system, and the hiring process for the library staff was a timely process. Due to this timely process, the initiative was off to a late start and grant funds were not being expended. Which lead us to requesting an extension on the grant. We were so grateful for the extension, so that we could complete our project.

- Everything took longer than we thought it would! We addressed this challenge with patience, and thankfully to ATALM, a project extension!
- We had interruptions in the implementation of the project.
- The grant was in two parts the first part was an opportunity for community members to learn preservation process with a conservationist and we didn't have as many people sign up as I would have liked so that was on two occasions. Also the original list of elders that were to be interviewed changed midway as our community had a huge loss of elders this past early and late fall. we had to extend the grant and begin searching for different elders to be interviewed and the completion was done.
- Our digitization vendor had a equipment issue, which delayed the process by a couple months and caused a funding discrepancy. That said, it did not affect the outcomes of the grant.
- Project needed more time due to tribal elders & their health problems. We were given more time and moved forward.
- It took us a little time to coordinate the consultant experts and the exhibit firm, but it worked out great.
- I tried to select "somewhat, but we were able to pivot", but the form won't let me. Our project timeline changed multiple times due to COVID closures, shifting partner schedules, and availability of exhibition spaces. We were able to pivot. We fabricated an outdoor, pop-up, IMAX-style exhibition venue, and scheduled the exhibition and outdoor humanities/cultural program during a time of year when the local weather was guaranteed to be comfortable and dry.
- The prolonged impacts of Covid played havoc with scheduling some of the cultural activities and also impacted the preparation of the outdoor garden/convening area: Finding excavators, masons, and other tradespeople needed for getting the site done and getting on their schedules was a challenge. Also, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Chairman, Jeromy Sullivan, died suddenly, which threw scheduling for another loop. I deeply appreciated ATALM's moral and practical support and flexibility, allowing us to adjust scheduling and make necessary modifications.
- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our organization experienced staff turnover.

Q16. Was the ATALM/NEH SHARP program adaptable and responsive in the event your project needed to be modified?

Option	#
Extremely responsive	38
Somewhat responsive	4
Not responsive at all	0
Not applicable—no project changes were needed	11
No response	2

Q16a. Please elaborate on any changes you needed to make to your project and how they were resolved.

- We would re-submit a narrative or amended narratives so that the project would stay up-to-date and knew the dos and don'ts.
- Easy communication and corrections when we needed to make changes.
- Construction delays at both sites the traveling exhibition was going to go caused delays in the project. But we pivoted by opening at the Mission Museum first which turned out great!
- Time extensions—ATALM was very accommodating.
- We did not use all funds in our fringe benefits line item, and they worked with us to move those funds to another line item.
- Yes, they allowed an extension on our project when we needed it.

- We dropped some goals, cut the time in half and narrowed the scope of the project. The process and substance of the research and outreach did not change.
- We were able to request and receive an extension for both project implementation and reporting. ATALM/NEH SHARP was incredibly supportive and responsive.
- Yes, the ATALM Grant Team were very supportive of any changes that occurred while implementing the grant initiative. They reiterated their willingness to assist in any way possible during the grant period.
- We just needed more time but felt very supported. The interim report was helpful because it held me accountable half-way through the project.
- Where practical, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center stayed within the grant period to execute this work but pushed some events out to accommodate artist schedules. The IPCC is grateful for ATALM's support and guidance before, during, and after the grant process and for allowing us to revise the initial scope of work.
- We had a financial overage, and the ATALM staff helped us reallocate funds for other needs in the grant.
- I had a question, and it was answered extremely quickly.
- They understood that we had staff change therefore the project manager changed, so they were helpful and answered questions about reporting and such.
- We were given an extension of time.
- They were patient and helped us through the process.
- We needed an extension because the scope of our project grew based on participant excitement and interest.
- I regularly contacted ATALM staff with updates and questions. They answered quickly, positively, and always with practical solutions for any challenges. Over-all our project went smoothly and was very successful, but I very much appreciated the consistent and reliable support of the ATALM staff.
- We just needed a few extra days due to our Executive Director being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. They were quite flexible and great to work with.
- We needed an extension to our deadline that was granted swiftly.

Q17. What is your level of experience with managing federal grant funds?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Extensive (10 or more federal grant applications)	16
Moderate (5 or more federal grant applications)	25
None (0 federal grant applications)	12
No response	2

Q18. By comparison, the ATALM-NEH grant program was:

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
Much easier to complete	14
Easier to complete	18
About the same	10
More difficult to complete	0
Much more difficult to complete	0
Not applicable—I have never managed a federally funded project	11
No response	2

Q19. How satisfied are you with the communication and support received during the grant management phase?

<u>Option</u>	<u>#</u>
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Very satisfied	41
Satisfied	9
Somewhat satisfied	2
Neutral	1
Somewhat dissatisfied	0
Dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0
No response	2

Q20. Overall, how satisfied are you with the ATALM-NEH SHARP grant program?

Option	#
Very satisfied	44
Satisfied	9
Somewhat satisfied	0
Neutral	0
Somewhat dissatisfied	0
Dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0
No response	2

Q21. Based on your experience with the ATALM-NEH partnership, would tribal cultural institutions benefit from a continuation of funds being awarded through ATALM?

Option	#
Strongly agree	50
Somewhat agree	2
Do not agree	0
Neutral	1
No response	2

Q22. What improvements would you suggest to enhance future ATALM grant programs for tribal communities?

- Allow travel expenses to be covered.
- Allowances for staff time to be budgeted without having to create a new position or specific hire for a single project. I think a longer performance period would have been helpful but again we were given an extension.
- Assign better grant numbers
- At this time, I have no suggestions and appreciate that you are collecting this survey information to gauge the results of the program.
- Clarity on the types of partnerships that will support project completion.
- Continue to offer this opportunity to Tribal Communities
- Creating a survey of the differences in needs (i.e. transportation, gifts for community participants) that differ, particularly in the context of rural/urban community settings.
- Easier collaboration and perhaps breaking up the points of contact. Some organization have separation of duties. For example, a Project Director, an Authorized Representative, a Financial Point of Contact.
- Find a way to make the initial steps in the process less impersonal. It might be fine the way it is in government and business, but a crucial aspect of life here is social interaction.
- I am not that experienced with grants but I really thought this was great learning experience.

- I honestly cannot think of an area for improvement, from the grantee side of the equation. This grant was a genuine pleasure to shepherd through ATALM.
- I know federal dollars are complex but getting the funds up front are much easier than having to do regular invoices
- I would like to know what other tribal cultural institutions did with their grants.
- I would suggest a longer timeframe for the completion of grant projects to develop stronger continuity and program sustainability.
- If ATALM becomes a partner for granting agencies, I would support an increase in ATALM staff so applicants and awardees have a direct connection and contact with a known individual, like a case manager or program officer.
- Inform possible grantees of upcoming grant opportunities far in advance so that we may begin to plan and prepare for a grant initiative based on the upcoming grant opportunity, especially for fast paced grants. Otherwise lengthen the term for submitting a grant application, and lengthen the term of the grant, due to the Tribal government process for grants.
- It was a great experience and I have shared with other Tribes about how wonderful the experience was!
- Keeping tribal libraries in mind, especially for collection development, culture and language preservation, promotion, and education. The allowance of fiscal sponsors to assist the library was a great touch too!
- Make more funding available.
- Make the awards larger.
- Making accessing funds less cumbersome.
- Maybe change the amount awarded (increase) also maybe change the perspective of the funding to help fund different challenges that we find in Native communities.
- More funding for projects.
- More funding for tribes.
- More funding is, of course, the most critical need for tribal communities. Email updates on free training opportunities would be helpful - I know it's on the website, but we're all busy and forget to check...
- More opportunities.
- None. We had a wonderful experience!
- Perhaps have online webinars for newbies to guide them through the grant app process.
- Workshops and certification programs. Alaska covers a lot of ground and for tribal organizations and smaller museums trainings are just not available in the state. Other than the annual conference it would be amazing to see smaller workshops for about 15 people to get specialized training.
- Workshops in digital stewardships for Native communities.

Q23. Are there specific resources or support services that you believe would contribute to the success of future grant-funded projects?

- Allow for travel funds.
- For our project, no. We knew what we wanted to do, where the information was, and how to conduct the process.
- How best to articulate project scope.
- I am sorry I am not that experienced.

- I believe that a Grant Director gathering of various grants would be useful at two intervals of the grant (close to the beginning and then in the middle of the grant cycle). Maybe an online communication blog for grant directors would be useful for troubleshooting and/or encouragement.
- I know this is far-fetched but maybe a better look at the housing and facilities that some collections are in and guidance or funding to make small improvements.
- I think that it could be very helpful to have a monthly or quarterly PI web meeting to discuss how things are going, and how people are troubleshooting problems.
- If awards were to be a on a continuation basis, a conference for grantees to learn of changes and updates would be most beneficial.
- Integrate Native language materials, written and digital.
- Interactive communication with ATALM during project implementation is always helpful and promotes effective project management.
- It took me a little bit to get comfortable with Submittable, so maybe a live or recorded tutorial of some kind would be helpful.
- It was very easy to get withdrawals throughout the process, which is very important in getting everyone paid.
- It would be helpful if the ATALM grant could support sending grantees to the ATALM conference, as our experience of the conference furthered our understanding of the importance of native cultural institutions and helped jumpstart our program planning for the year ahead.
- Just more available dollars! :)
- Maybe a workshop!
- Maybe adding an "available grants" page to the Resources page on the ATALM website to list the growing number of programs available.
- More ATALM staff.
- More capacity development and fundraising development opportunities.
- Opportunities to connect with other grantees. Virtual sessions to highlight grantees.
- Perhaps a website or Facebook site where tribal cultural institutions could share what they were doing and learning.
- Perhaps have online webinars for newbies to guide them through the grant app process.
- Perhaps some advance training on the reporting requirements on Submittable.
- Perhaps the ability to have one on one calls with ATALM staff, if needed, to sort out any issues that may arise. And this may already be an option.
- The establishment of a Native American-Indigenous library volunteer organization would be great. To assist with administrative level work, assisting with keeping data, marketing, seeking resources for library program development, tracking evaluations, etc.
- Travel budgets.
- Yes.

Q24. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with the ATALM-NEH grant program?

- Again, thank you for allowing us to have this opportunity.
- Grateful to receive the funding which was instrumental for our programs. Thank you.
- Great partnership and collaboration to broaden our reach!
- Great program! We hope it continues and we are able to utilize the NEH for our benefit as well. For now, working with ATALM and our fiscal sponsor was extremely helpful! I think being able to mention it to other tribal libraries whose processes might be difficult will benefit them as well.

- I am very appreciative of the opportunity, and really looking forward to finishing it up!
- I feel this was a wonderful experience.
- I just want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to connect with community members on a good level of communication. Also, this gives us a chance to see the reflections of what the museum means in the community.
- I would again like to express my gratitude for the ATALM opportunity. The reverberations from the grant continue to inform my scholarship and community work and continues to strengthen our tribal and community relationships. Thank you.
- I would strongly urge the NEH to continue partnering with ATALM. The organization's leadership and staff proved themselves to be outstanding grant partners and were a joy to work with. They deserve every accolade and warm words of appreciation for all the heavy lifting they did.
- It was a pleasure working with the staff and the grant process. The monthly budget reports helped keep us on track with spending as well.
- It was a positive experience
- It was wonderful and I would love to partner again soon.
- On behalf of the Culture/Language Resources Department for the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA, thank you!
- One of our delays was the unexpected delays in launching our website. It was resolved but only after we had to take time to raise more funding.
- Please offer this again.
- Thank you for the support!
- Thank you so much for taking that leap of faith in our abilities to work with the NEH on such an important project. Your efforts to work together changed our funding dynamic and enabled us to get our project done that will impact the preservation of our tribal history for generations to come. I often look for partnerships that I can collaborate with to change the old ways of funding when it comes to Indian Country. Funding has changed, the government has changed, and we must change too!
- The ATALM Grant team is super supportive and very approachable. Quyana—thank you for the opportunity!
- The ATALM-NEH grant providing financial support for the library to rehire the Computer Lab Technician to reinstate the mobile computer lab services and to implement new humanities programs that complimented the new seed library made a positive impact on our current library services. On behalf of the Hopi Tribe Department of Education and Workforce Development Public Library, I extend gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the ATALM-NEH grant project. The grant showcased an elevated level of library services with the added funding for staff and library programs/activities. Askwali—Thank you!
- The program was very beneficial to us, even though the budget wasn't huge. Thank you for your service in administering the grant!
- This project had great value in several ways. It re-engaged elders with a time that many of them recall as children and brought back long-hidden memories at a time when oral tradition has been severely compromised by modern lifeways. Tribal members were amazed at how much of life 80 years ago was the same today. And the Chairman and Council found that issues they routinely face today were the same their ancestors had to deal with long ago. And we, the grantees, discovered quickly that we had vastly underestimated the amount of information available. In the 1940s, people relied on speech and writing for information, and documents from that era are much more detailed than in succeeding years. Thus, we all learned something significant and lasting, and we will continue to look for support to keep this initiative going.
- Very positive experience.
- We are very humble for the opportunity to collaborate with ATALM/NEH they have guided us through our early stages of development for our learning center. We strive to achieve success as we are shown it is possible.

- We are very thankful for the support ATALM-NEH has provided to the Poeh, and we make it a point to represent ATALM-NEH in a professional manner.
- We look forward to continued involvement.
- We were extremely pleased with the outcome of our project, our partnership, and the guidance provided by ATALM.
- We were grateful for some deadline extensions as we worked through the process and the quick responses gave us a great sense of comfort that it was all going to work out, which it did. Your team did a great job with this grant process.

About the Evaluator and Report Author

Miriam Jorgensen is Research Director for the Project on Indigenous Governance and Development, formerly the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, and its sister program, the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona. Dr. Jorgensen received her BA in economics from Swarthmore College, MA in human sciences from the University of Oxford, and MPP and PhD from Harvard University. Her areas of specialty are Indigenous governance and economic development, with a particular focus on the ways communities' social and cultural characteristics affect development. Her work has addressed issues as wide-ranging as welfare policy, policing and justice system development, enterprise management, financial education, asset building, and philanthropy. She is a co-author of *The State of the Native Nations: Conditions under U.S. Policies of Self-Determination* (Oxford University Press, 2008) and editor and co-author of *Rebuilding Native Nations: Strategies for Governance and Development* (University of Arizona Press, 2007). She has been a Visiting Scholar at the Washington University Schools of Law and Social Work; has served as an instructor in economics at Harvard University and Washington University; teaches in the Native Nations Institute's executive education program for tribal leaders; is a former member of the Swarthmore College Board of Managers.

