

A stylized, flat-design illustration of a cityscape. In the foreground, there are dark green evergreen trees and a body of water reflecting the sky. The middle ground shows a dense city with various buildings, including a prominent tall skyscraper on the left. In the background, there are large, snow-capped mountains under a warm, orange and yellow sky. The overall style is modern and graphic.

# ATALM2026 NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

February 4, 2026

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# WELCOME

*Susan Feller, President & CEO, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)*

- Framing of the Planning Council's role
- How the Planning Council works (committees, expectations, opportunities)
- **CHAT PROMPT:**
  - Use the chat to share your thoughts on **"What are the most urgent issues ATALM2026 should address?"**

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# 2026 STANDING COMMITTEES

1. **Programming & Presenter Experience**
2. **Cultural & Community Experiences**
3. **Recognition & Honors**
4. **Engagement & Leadership Development**
5. **Tribal Library Council (TLC)**
6. **Pacific Island Delegates**
7. **Resource Development & Partnerships**
8. **Scholarships**
9. **Conference Volunteers**





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# ATALM2026: SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

*Melissa Brodt, Chief Officer of Operations, ATALM*

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# ATALM2026 DATES

- **Monday, September 21 – ATALM Summits**
  - Four focused, issue-based convenings
- **Tuesday, September 22 – Preconference Day**
  - Field Trips, Workshops, Special Interest/Affinity Gatherings
- **Wednesday September 23 – Conference Day One**
  - Conference Sessions + Opening Ceremony Breakfast, Guardian Award Luncheon, Major Evening Event
- **Thursday, September 24 – Conference Day Two**
  - Conference Sessions + Breakfast Sessions, Honoring Luncheon, Closing Ceremony



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# ATALM2026 HOTELS & CONVENTION CENTER

## **HOTELS:**

- Davenport Grand, \$169/night
- Doubletree by Hilton, \$150/night

## **MEETING SPACES:**

- Monday, Sept. 21 Summits –  
Davenport Grand
- Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 22-24 –  
Spokane Convention Center



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# CONFERENCE IMAGE & VISUAL DIRECTION

*Jess Cordes, Director of Programs, ATALM*

- What ATALM looks for when selecting a conference image
- Introduction to top six nominations
- Discussion





*Unknown title*

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Alfred (Al) Charles

Lower Elwha Klallam, Coast  
Salish

Al is a dedicated traditional artist who embodies the belief that his work conveys important teachings about Coast Salish tribal culture and history. In whatever medium he is immersed in, it is the ancestral spirit that guides Al on his journey as an obedient artist who strives to honor his relatives throughout the Salish Sea Territory.

One of Al's most admirable qualities is his constant vigilance to give back, and he is fondly recognized for doing what he can do with art to instill strength, beauty, inspiration, and integrity throughout our Tribal communities.

**THEME:**

**We Know What We Hold. We  
Know Who We Are.**



## *Ancestral Landscapes*

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Joe Feddersen

Confederated Tribes of the  
Colville Reservation

Feddersen's national reputation for brilliant artmaking, collaboration, and mentorship has established him as a cultural instigator whose art and community engagement have had a lasting impact on Spokane, the Northwest, and contemporary art.

Invested in tribal and artistic communities, Feddersen has continued to hold leadership positions in arts organizations and to curate portfolios and exhibitions for emerging artists.

**THEME:**  
**The Enduring Presence of  
Indigenous Knowledge**



## *Gathering Under the Stars*

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Joe Feddersen

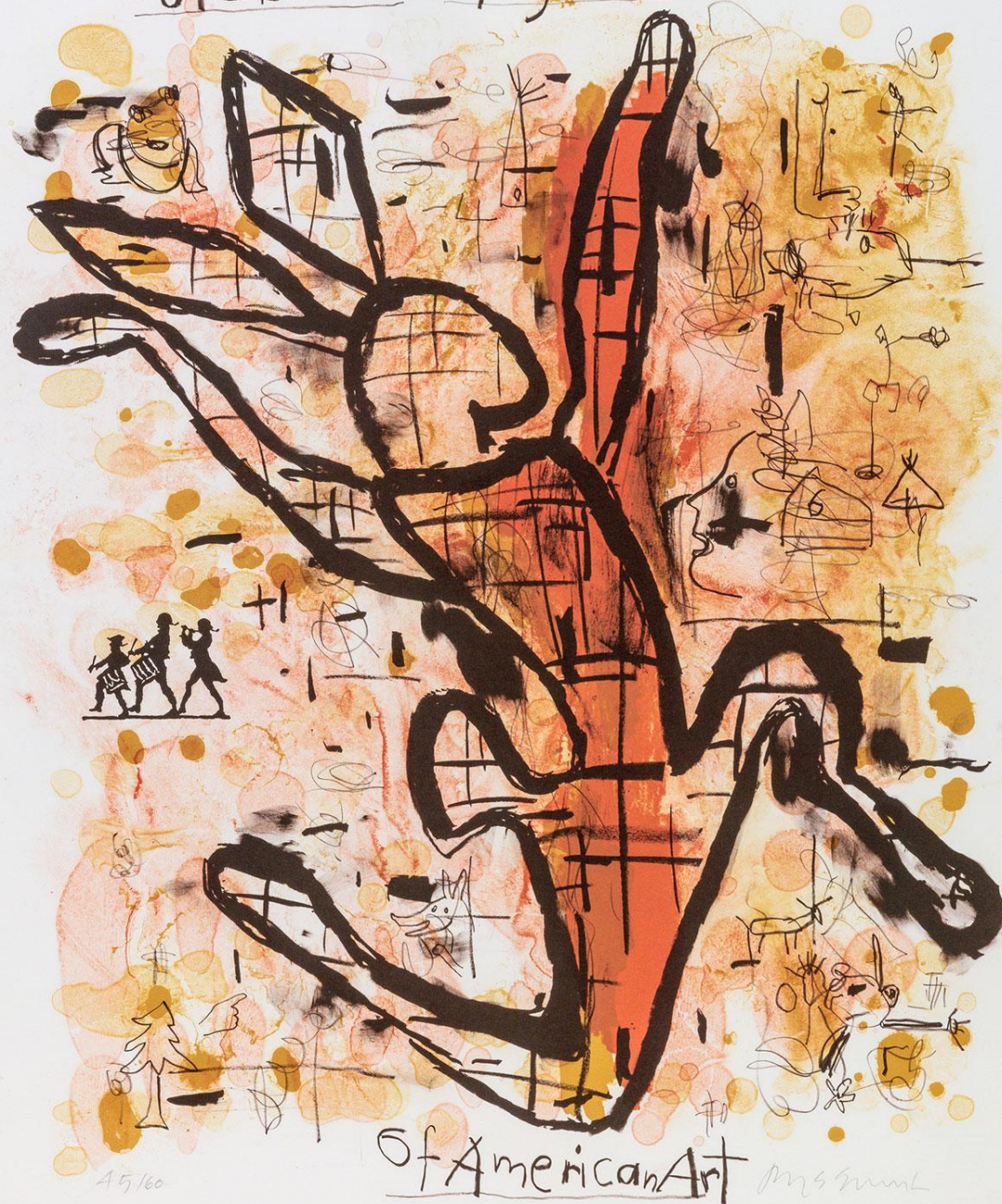
Confederated Tribes of the  
Colville Reservation

*Gathering Under the Stars* draws on Plateau visual traditions to reflect relationships between people, place, and the cosmos. The vessel form references both utility and ceremony, echoing the basket as a site of gathering of materials, stories, and community. The geometric patterns evoke star maps, mountains, and horizon lines, while the repeated human figures along the lower band suggest communal presence and continuity across generations. These figures stand together, grounded on the earth yet oriented upward, reinforcing the idea that knowledge flows between land, sky, and people.

**THEME:**

**Grounded in Place, Sustained by  
Community; Caring for Place,  
People, and Memory**

Celebrate 40,000 years



*Celebrate 40,000 Years*

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Juane Quick-to-See-Smith  
(1940-2025)

Confederated Salish and  
Kootenai Tribe / Métis and  
Shoshone descent

For Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), this piece is especially resonant. It speaks directly to the role of Native archives, libraries, and museums in reframing history, asserting Indigenous authority over time and memory, and challenging institutions to look beyond colonial anniversaries.

In the context of ATALM2026, "Celebrate 40,000 Years" offers a clear and compelling visual statement: Indigenous history does not begin 250 years ago.

**THEME:**  
**40,000 years / 250 years: Long  
Before, Long After**



## Warriors

George Flett (1946-2013)

Spokane Tribe

George Flett chose a page from the Congressional Record to place Indigenous presence directly on an official document of the United States government. The Congressional Record documents laws and decisions that have deeply affected Native peoples, often without their voices being included.

By drawing Native figures over this text, Flett reclaims the page as Indigenous space. The drawing reminds viewers that Native people have always existed within these systems and beyond them. This work transforms a government document into a living Indigenous record, asserting continuity, presence, and sovereignty.

**THEME:**  
**On the Record: Long Before,  
Long After**



*Women Warrior Black Star  
and Her Medicine Helpers*

**George Flett (1946-2013)**

**Spokane Tribe**

This image reflects our collective roles at this moment in time. Native archives, libraries, and museums are not neutral repositories. They are living institutions that carry responsibility for truth, for memory, and for the protection of Native sovereignty in times of uncertainty.

The woman warrior represents the people doing this work every day. Often women, often under-resourced, often unseen, yet moving forward with care and resolve. The medicine helpers reflect the collective nature of Indigenous memory work.

This image does not dramatize crisis. It affirms steadiness. It says that Native institutions are watchful, guided, and accountable.

**THEME:**  
**Guided by Responsibility,  
Protected by Collective Strength**

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# MOVING FORWARD & NEXT STEPS

## **KEY DATES:**

- February 12 – Program Committee Reviews Begin
  - March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5 – NPC Meetings
  - April 28 – Spokane Site Visit
  - September 21–24 – ATALM2026 Conference (Spokane)
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# ATALM2026 AFTER HOURS