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MEDIA RELEASE

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The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Announces Round Two Recipients of the American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Native Institutions

34 Native Cultural Institutions Receive Over \$500,000 in Humanities Funding to Recover from the COVID-19 Pandemic

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums (ATALM) has awarded an additional \$550,000 in funding to help Native Cultural Institutions recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and provide humanities programming to their communities. Funds were provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 passed by the U.S. Congress.

During Round One of “Sustaining the Humanities through the American Recovery Plan” (SHARP), 84 Native Cultural organizations representing 25 states were granted awards. With additional funding from the NEH, 34 Native cultural institutions will receive support for staff retention, general operations, humanities-based programming, and cultural activities. Overall, the ATALM-NEH SHARP grant program has provided a total of \$3.71 million in 118 grant awards for Native Cultural organizations representing 29 states.

“The National Endowment for the Humanities is grateful to the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums for the association’s important work in administering American Rescue Plan funding to help Native American cultural institutions recover from the pandemic,” said NEH Chair Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo). “These grants provide valuable humanities resources to tribal communities and represent a lifeline to the many Native heritage sites and cultural centers that are helping preserve and educate about Indigenous history, traditions, and languages.”

Grantees were selected by an independent Peer Review Panel and include Tribal governments and Native nonprofit organizations, as well as higher education institutions and non-native nonprofit organizations working in partnership with state or federally recognized tribal entities. A list of grantees is available at www.atalm.org

“Native communities are continuing to feel the impact of COVID-19,” said ATALM Board Chair Walter Echo-Hawk. “We are grateful to the NEH for recognizing the unique ways Native communities are experiencing this pandemic and we are pleased to have this additional opportunity to provide ongoing support.”

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is an international association dedicated to preserving and advancing the language, history, culture, and lifeways of Indigenous peoples. Founded in 2010, ATALM maintains a network of support for Indigenous cultural programs, provides professional development training, enables collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions, and advocates for programs and funding to sustain the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations. To learn more, visit www.atalm.org

ABOUT THE NEH SHARP PROGRAM

NEH’s “Strengthening the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan” (SHARP) grants provide emergency relief to help offset financial losses sustained by humanities organizations over the last 18 months. They allow cultural and educational nonprofits to retain and rehire staff, maintain operations essential to their missions, and rebuild programs and projects that have been disrupted by the pandemic. The humanities activities they support include education, preservation and access, public programming, digital humanities, and scholarly research.