

IMPROVING DIGITAL INCLUSION AND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

National Tribal Library Broadband Council Inaugural Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2021, 1:00 p.m. CT

Members Present: **Mary Alice Ball**, Dean of Library and Academic Technology, Washington College; **Melissa Brodt**, Director of Programs, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; **Hannah Buckland**, State Library Program Specialist, MN Department of Education; **Jessica Cordes**, Special Projects Administrator, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; **Davida Delmar**, Senior Program Coordinator, Native Nations Institute, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona; **Susan Feller**, President & CEO, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums; **Miriam Jorgensen**, Research Scientist, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona; Merida Kipp, Administrator, Yakama Nation Library; **Amy Oliver**, Public Affairs Officer, Visitor & Science Center Manager, Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory; **Stuart Ott**, Chief, Enterprise Infrastructure Services, Department of the Interior; **Matt Rantanen**, Director of Technology, Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association; **Colin Rhinesmith**, Associate Professor and Director, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons University; Angela Siefer, Executive Director, Digital Inclusion Alliance; **Sandra Tharp-Thee**, Co-Founder, 3-Cedar Consulting; **Joan Timeche**, Executive Director, Native Nations Institute, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona; **Nicole Umayam**, Digital Inclusion Library Consultant, Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records; **Marijke Visser**, Senior Policy Advocate, American Library Association; **Nancy Weiss**, General Counsel & Project Liaison, Institute of Museum and Library Services; **Winoka Yepa**, Senior Manager, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts.

Members Absent: **Kurtis Bullchild**, Archivist, Nisqually Tribe; **Madeline Flood**, Salinan Tribe; **David Haff**, Art Program Specialist, Mayo Clinic; **Joe Horse Capture**, VP of Native Collections & Curator of Native History and Culture, The Autry Museum of the West; **Elizabeth Kallenbach**, Anthropological Collections Manager, University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History; **Keiki Kawai'ae'a**, Director, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College, University of Hawai'i at Hilo; **Mike Kelly**, Head, Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College; **Jolyana Kroupa**, Instructor of Navajo Language | Development Director, ASU/Stanford/Phoenix Indian Center; **April Lindala**, Professor of Native American Studies, Northern Michigan University; **Traci Morris**, Executive Director, American Indian Policy Institute; **Elayne Silversmith**, Librarian, Smithsonian Libraries and Archives/National Museum of the American Indian.

Welcome and Introductions:

Susan Feller, President and CEO of the Association of Tribal Archives and Museums welcomed attendees to the first National Tribal Library Broadband Council (NTLBC) Meeting and provided an overview of the Council's purpose to develop a prioritized Action Plan. Each attending Council member provided brief introductions to the group. Susan noted that attendees had received an entire roster of NTLBC members to review and requested that members notify the group if they had additional suggestions for council members.

Digital Inclusion in Native Communities Survey Update:

Susan Feller introduced the Digital Inclusion in Native Communities Survey, stating the new survey is based on an instrument used in 2014, and includes recommendations provided by Council members. The survey was distributed to Tribal Librarians on September 1, 2021, and will close on October 1, 2021. Incentives, such as swag bags and gift certificates, are being utilized to boost participation and data return. The survey may be found here:

[Improving Digital Inclusion and Broadband Infrastructure in Native Communities Survey](#)

Digital Inclusion Summit – October 19, 2021

Roster of Attendees:

Melissa Brodt, Director of Programs for the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums stated that around 340 people have registered for the Summit on October 19th. Susan Feller added that Council members have received a copy of the roster and requested that Council members extend invitations as they see fit. [Roster of Summit Attendees](#)

Agenda

Susan Feller reviewed the agenda and process of the upcoming Summit. She stated that Summits are typically three hours long and begin with a welcome and blessing from **Walter Echo-Hawk**, ATALM Board Chairman and President of the Pawnee Nation. **Dr. Miriam Jorgenson** will provide a preliminary report of survey results. Melissa Brodt will demonstrate how to use Jamboard (a digital interactive whiteboard) before participants break out into Listening Sessions which focus on six specific topics including:

- 1.) Professional Development and Technical Support
- 2.) Technology Labs and MakerSpaces
- 3.) Expanding Support for Technology
- 4.) Community Outreach/Access to Public Computers and Broadband
- 5.) Software and Devices
- 6.) Policy and Engagement

There will be three, 30-minute rounds of Listening Sessions. Participants are prompted to make “sticky notes” to answer a series of questions. Listening Session are then followed by a small break and Reports from the Field. **David Delmar** from Native Nations Institute will proceed to lead the group through five-minute Report-Outs from each Listening Session. The Summit will conclude after **Joan Timeche** of Native Nations Institute leads the group through a series of Poll Questions which will prioritize Strategic Action Items.

Angela Siefer suggested that the Community Outreach/Support Session include a discussion aimed at assisting interested attendees in signing up for discounts and subsidized broadband programs. Susan stated that the moderators could encourage the participants to sign-up for the programs. Angela added that asking participants to share their experiences and challenges would also be valuable to the Listening Session. Susan agreed that it was a good idea and pointed out that one of the goals of the project was to identify and provide access to recommended resources.

Jamboard Practice Session

Melissa Brodt led NTLBC members through a Jamboard demonstration and practice session. [Tribal Library Broadband Council Meeting Practice Jamboard](#)

Reports from the Field

Using the NTLBC Practice Jamboard, Council members provided suggestions for the Summit's Reports from the Field. "Reports From the Field" are short, high-impact sessions (typically seven minutes) that share useful information.

Suggested "Reports from the Field"



Nancy Weiss explained her comment regarding connecting the Summit to the National Arts and Humanities month, stating that although the summit is focused on Digital Inclusion, promoting the month could be beneficial.

Susan Feller and Nicole Umayam identified **Carson Block's** report on IMLS funding to help Tribal libraries assess their technology labs as a beneficial Report from the Field. Nicole added that the Broadband 101 Training and Learning Experience would also be useful information.

Susan asked **Marijke Visser** if she would like to present on the new FCC rulemaking process. Marijke accepted and added that it would be good timing to use the time to get answers to questions regarding the new rule, as well as changes to definitions and eligibility requirements. Susan remarked that it was a stellar idea and added that the topics could also be incorporated into one of the focus groups. **Nancy Weiss** stated that she would like to help with that discussion and explained that the FCC had requested that IMLS focus on engagement and dissemination.

Susan asked **Nancy Weiss** if there were any topics from the IMLS Broadband Council Summit that would be useful to the Digital Inclusion Summit. Nancy replied that an IMLS discussion of its evaluation processes and a highlight of NTIA activities could also be helpful Reports from the Field.

Mary Alice Ball suggested a Report on Washington College’s Mellon grant project centered around community curation. She mentioned that the project provides a bookmobile style truck full of equipment needed archiving and digitizing. The project focuses on African American community of Maryland’s Eastern Shore but could be adapted to serve Indigenous communities as well. Susan pointed out that the presentation could also include other mobile technology projects like the Hopi bus that was funded by IMLS.

Angela Siefer informed the group that her “sticky note” suggestion includes the possible topics the NTIA presentation could cover but wanted to make sure that the topic did not overlap with Marijke’s presentation.

The Emergency Connectivity Fund was also noted as a potential Report.

Breakout Room Key Questions

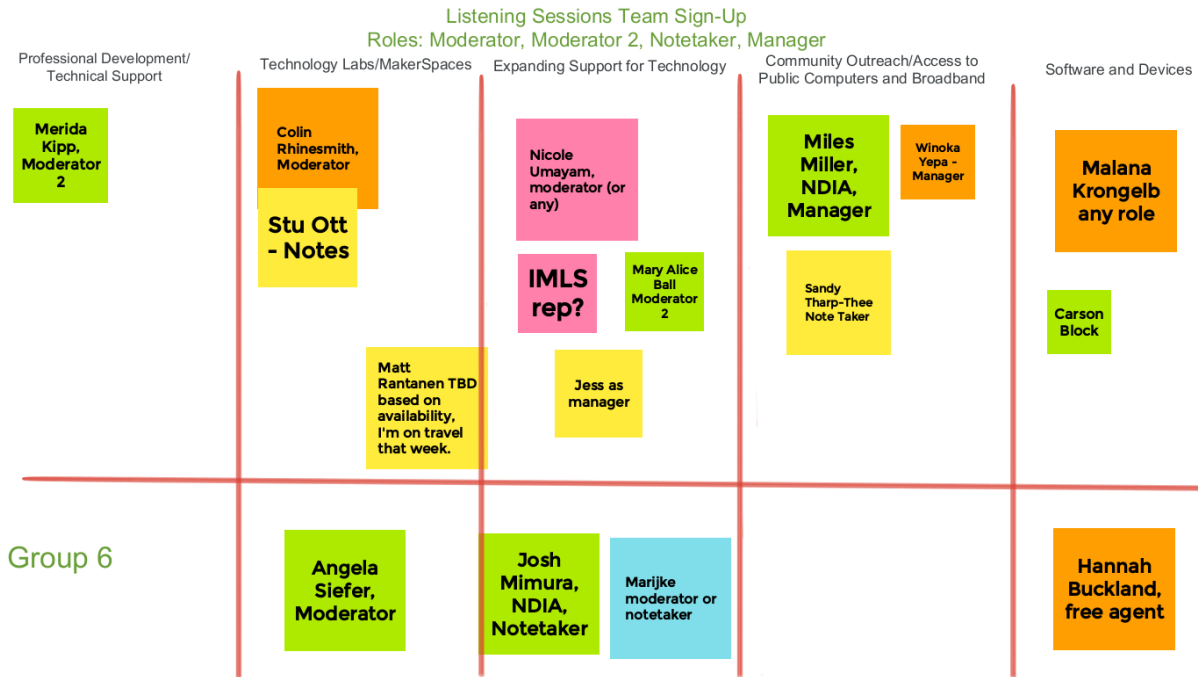
Susan Feller and **Melissa Brodt** provided a list of Key Questions for each of the Listening Sessions and asked Council members for feedback. The following changes were suggested:

- Group 3 – Expanding Support for Technology was changed to Expanding Financial Support because Mary Alice Ball pointed out that the questions were focused on funding.
- **Joan Timeche** suggested that Group 2 Key Questions should also ask participants what types of technology participants currently use and what works well.
- **Nancy Weiss** suggested a question regarding how organizations are engaging with Tribal leadership and policy engagement. **Colin Rhinesmith** recommended that a sixth Policy and Engagement group be added to the Summit Listening Sessions. Council members outlined a few possible question topics such as:
 - How to navigate tribal, non-tribal governmental, and non-profit bureaucracy; what tables do you need to be at
 - How to increase awareness of current and new grants or programs?
 - How to tap into federal resources?
 - NTIA funding distribution and e-rate
 - How tribal libraries can reach out to broadband leaders
 - What are the barriers that prevent engagement?
- **Nicole Umayaum** suggested questioning that identifies the barriers that organizations face in engagement with Tribal leaders. She elaborated that many libraries lack professional development opportunities, consistent staffing, etc.
- **Matt Rantanen** asked the group for resources, templates, and case studies of DIY MakerSpace programs. Susan replied that the resources could be added to the Digital Inclusion Toolkit.

Key Questions as amended

Focus Groups:

Melissa Brodt discussed the roles of team members and provided a sample script. Council members signed up for teams and roles using Jamboard.



Updated [Digital Inclusion Team List](#). To sign up, use this [form](#).

Strategic Priority Polls:

At the end of the Summit, participants are asked to prioritize Key Actions. A list of 10 proposed questions were proposed for Council review. Members voted to either Keep, Delete, or Modify a list of ten priorities as identified by Tribal Librarians and other Stakeholders. The Council voted to Keep #1, #2, #5, and #6 as written. Numbers 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were modified based on discussion. Susan notified Council members to email their suggestions for Priority Action Items as well as Key Questions by Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

- [List of Priority Action Items as amended](#)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. CT.

Note: Register for the Tuesday, October 19 Digital Inclusion Summit [here](#).