Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Department of Language and Culture

Department History and Introduction

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe, a United States Federally Recognized Tribe since 1978, created the Language and Culture Preservation Office which later became Language Development Office in 1997 with the emphasis of revitalizing and developing further language resources. Shortly after opening its doors, the department began to offer Yaqui language classes ranging from beginning level to Master Apprentice. In 2009, the department grew to its current capacity, which provides services and programming in language and culture to all community members placing an emphasis on recruitment of youth to join in on learning our elder's ways of life, language, culture, history and traditions.

Today the department continues the work of many knowledgeable elders who have contributed in the establishment of the department and critical programming and services that it now offers with the inspiration provided through cultural introspection we look to making our Hiak Lutu'uria more accessible and useable for the members of the Pascua Yaqui Constituency.

To guide its work of preserving, protecting and transmitting the world knowledge of the Yaqui People, the staff of the department has constructed a future vision and mission rooted in cultural perspective that inspires and provides purpose and direction for our work.

Philosophy and Department Structure

In our Culture we recognize the Hekka'apo or Ramada as a unifying symbol physically located at the center of every Yaqui Community. The most basic function of the Hekka'apo is to provide shelter from the elements, but we can also visualize it to represent for us the celebrations of Yaqui Life and Culture. Yaqui people congregate to the Ramada to participate in spiritual devotion, to celebrate new beginnings, to honor the ways and beliefs of our Ancestors, and to unite as one community.

Vision: Itom Hiak Lutu'uria Yooriwa Into Nakwa
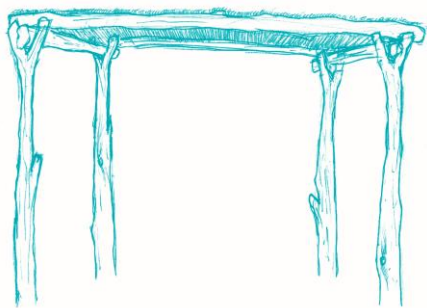
Our Entire Community Loves and Respects Our Hiaki Truths.

Mission: Yora'ata Itou To'osahaka'u.

The mission of the Department of Language and Culture is to empower our community to respect the Language, Culture, Traditional Arts and History. With the knowledge passed down by our Elders, we preserve and share our Hiaki Way of life.

-Department of Language and Culture 2013

The cultural value of this structure is so highly regarded as a source of knowledge that our Department has adopted the Hekka'apo to communicate these shared values and serve as our organizational framework. Each basic Hekka'apo is constructed with Naikim Hu'upa Taka'aria or four wooden post to support and stabilize the structure. Each of the Hu'upa Taka'aria, for our department has significant value as they represent for us Language, Traditional Arts, Culture and History. These four posts of knowledge then become the inspiration for our 4 departmental programs. We believe through our Elder's teachings that for our Community to remain healthy, we must be strongly rooted in these elements. Much like the original purpose of the hekka'apo we strive to recreate that essence through our Cultural programs, inviting community to actively participate in learning about Yaqui Life and Culture.

Naikim Hu'upa Taka'aria

Itom Hiak Noki *Language*

Our language is how we communicate and understand our world-view and identity. Through the words of our elders we understand who we are.

Itom Sauwa'u *Traditional Arts*

Our traditional arts are the creative expression of ourselves. It is the visual, auditory, and textural representation of who we are, whether it is poetry, images, ceremony, symbolism, embroidery, flower making, music, song or other art form, it defines us as a people.

Itom Hiak Etehori *Culture*

Our culture lies within everyday things that we do. It is the environment we live in and is how we relate to one another. Our culture is reinforced and brought to life by our language, identity, rituals, gatherings, food, stories, art and many other aspects.

Itom Hiak Lutu'uria *History*

Our history is the recognition of the journey of our people throughout time. Through the resonating voices of our elders we gather their testimony and their knowledge and by sharing it, we honor each generation throughout time.

Programs, Purpose, Outcomes and Performance Measurements

Itom Hiak Noki *Language*

Purpose: The Wepul Nokhiawai, Wepul Hiapsi Language Program is a community based program that exists with the sole purpose of preserving and perpetuating the Yaqui Langauge for all Yaqui People.

Outcome: The Wepul Nokhiawai, Wepul Hiapsi or One Sound, One Heart Language Program supports the preservation of the maternal language of the Yaqui people by the collection, documentation and creation of resources both in the written and spoken form of the Yaqui Language. The program also upholds the responsibility to the transmission of the Yaqui language by creating learning opportunities that bring awareness, knowledge and exposure of the Language to its tribal members all the while supporting individual development and their growth in their ability to use our Yaqui language to communicate in every day to day life**.**

Performance Measures:

➢ Increase the volume of language instructional resources available in the DLC Archive database.
➢ Increase the ease to accessibility to language instructional resource materials
➢ Increase the ease of accessibility to language instruction and enrichment programs for Yaqui members in Yaqui Communities.
➢ Increase the support provided to inter-tribal departments and community stake holders
➢ Develop the Wepul Nokhiawai Wepul Hiapsi Yaqui Language Curriculum

Wepul Nokhiwai Wepul Hiapsi Yaqui Language Program
> Beginning Yaqui Language
> Intermediate Yaqui Language Program
> Lunch Time Language Classes
> Old Pascua Community Language Classes
> Master Apprentice

Guadalupe Language Program
> Guadalupe Adult Yaqui Language Classes
> Youth Yaqui Language Classes
> Frank School Cultural Enrichment Classes

Vahi Voo'o Hiawai Radio Program
Translations and Presentations upon request

Itom Sauwa'u *Traditional Arts*

Purpose: Traditional Arts Program is a cultural enrichment program which perpetuates the Yaqui Traditional Arts through the teaching of skills and understanding of Yaqui Culture.

Outcome: To provide the accessibility to the teaching of Elders, necessary tools and resources needed to enhance student and community personal growth in the knowledge of our Traditional Arts with the outcome of supporting personal interest to become a knowledgeable and active cultural participant or supporter of Yaqui Culture.

Performance Measures:
➢ Increase the cultural knowledge & skills
➢ Increasing the student's outlook of cultural traditions into self-pride
➢ Increasing the available TAP tools & cultural resources
➢ Increase the transmission of cultural knowledge from Elder to student

Programs and Services:
Ili Nanam Program (Girls Youth Group)
Neokai Hiawai Program (Music Program)
Traditional Arts Barrio Libre
Yo Hoara Program (Youth Kolencia Program)
New Pascua and Guadalupe

Itom Hiak Etehori into Hiak Lutu'uria *Yaqui History and Culture*

Purpose: History and Culture enrichment program exist to collect, conserve and continue to share our Itom Yoo'o Lutu'uria or our Respected Yaqui Truths

Outcome: The History and Culture enrichment program supports the research, and preservation of all Yaqui stories of history and culture relevant and needed for the cultural and cognitive growth of students allowing them at a basic level to first handedly experience and at higher levels to critically analyze from a Yaqui Perspective the truth of our ancestor and elders. By collecting and studying the stories of our elders culture and history, including first hand documents, photographs, and other historical items, students are able to deconstruct and reconstruct for themselves a personal interpretation of Yaqui Peoples history and Culture.

Performance Measures:

- ➢ Increase the yearly participation of History and Culture events.
- ➢ Increase the participation of eminent persons and elders and their contributions to history and culture resources.
- ➢ Increase the use of technology in history and cultural presentations
- ➢ Increase the volume of updated history and culture relevant and instructional resources stored in the DLC Archive database.
- ➢ Increase the ease of accessibility and to History and Culture instructional resource
- ➢ Increase the ease to accessibility to History and Culture Enrichment programs and services for all Yaqui members.

Programs and Services:

Pima Community College History and Culture of the Yaqui People Course
Ili Vachiam Youth Program

Walking Through our History Youth Mentorship Program
Community Presentations and Workshops
Research and Development of History and Cultural Resources
Cultural Consultation Upon Request

Miss Pascua Yaqui Program

Purpose: The Program maintains a tradition of empowering young Yaqui women to achieve their personal and professional goals, while providing a forum in which to express their opinions, intelligence and talent reflecting our Tribal principles, values, language, culture and traditions.

Outcome: The Miss Pascua Yaqui Program participants through mentorship, personal and academic support and leadership skills will achieve personal growth in the ability to serve as representative, role model and provide community service for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

Performance Measures:
- ➢ Increase Female Elder Mentorship
- ➢ Create a personal development plan for Titleholders focusing on Yaqui Language, History, Culture
- ➢ Collect and Track Academic progress every 41/2 weeks to ensure Titleholder Academic Success
- ➢ Conduct monthly meetings with titleholders and parents to ensure support and retention

Department Administration

Purpose: Language and Culture Administration is a supportive structure within the Department of Language and Culture that creates, establishes and follows processes for all budgetary, accounting, office management and efficient day to day operations of the department. In addition to organizing and management of all student and community activities of the department, the DLC Administration places a high priority on the collection, recording, documentation and management of data to drive the direction of the department.

Outcome: Language and Culture supports the professional and personal development, structure and organization of the department staff and department policies and procedures in order to establish efficient and exemplary service to the Yaqui Community in the areas of Yaqui Language, Culture, History and Traditional Arts.

Performance Measures:

- Increase the collection of community input in respect to barriers of accessibility and adequacy of services to align department direction based on the analysis of data from community, inter-Tribal departments and supportive organizations that provide services that increase Tribal Nation Building.
- Develop a community based Cultural Framework Model to guide curriculum of Language and Culture enrichment programs.
- Increase the support services provided to community, inter-tribal departments and community stake holders
- Increase the organization and policies and procedures for efficiency of day to day operations, as measured by the completion of the Department Organizational Handbook that includes all aspects of Department business.
- Increase the opportunities of Professional Development of all DLC staff members