



MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

NOVEMBER NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH 2016

Gvivquodi Tsundail, (Dear Friends in Cherokee)

First I want to acknowledge all our native brothers and sisters who are gathering at Standing Rock to Protect the Missouri River from the pipeline.

Standing Rock Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault said, "This started with prayer, this started with ceremony. I there's a spirit rising in all of us across this nation, across this world saying, 'Enough is enough.' I'm not the one that's doing all of this. It's beyond people. It's the creator is taking over."

At the Museum we honor native customs and our custodial role in caring for Mother Earth. Every year over four thousand school children learn how the Coast Miowks lived in Marin county on the village site in Miwok Park and cared for the natural resources with respect for their home. In May we hosted presenters at an environmentally theme lecture "Mother Earth Speaks" at the museum to look at current practices and challenges with a contemplation of historical land practices.

We are very grateful to our members and supporters and we want to make sure we enhance your membership to the best of our resources. We have included a questionnaire and we hope you can take some time to tell us how we can improve membership participation in our exhibits and lectures. Our members are our advocates and we are proud of your participation in helping us maintain the Museum of the American Indian's mission of educating the public and honoring the diversity and richness of native cultures.

I was asked by a friend to look at the web site of the Mitchell Museum in Chicago. I was struck by the description of their museum.

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of only a handful of museums across the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history, and culture of Native American and First Nation peoples from throughout the United States and Canada. It promotes public understanding of cultural diversity through first voice perspectives.

I knew that MAI was the only Native American Museum in the Bay Area, but "only a handful of museums across the country" was a revelation and reaffirmed the need and importance of the continuance of our work. The Museum hosts two culturally dynamic exhibitions a year and lectures and events, weather permitting. We have hopes to build a new educational center in Miwok Park, replacing the old building moved by the Kiwanis 50 years ago, and create a vibrant new center that celebrates art and culture.

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MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN



We are sending out smoke signals to all our members to renew your membership and help us find Sponsors.

The Museum needs support to continue our work in the Bay Area teaching about native culture and art through our school field trips and culturally rich exhibitions.

Please help us become more sustainable and financially stable.

Please consider the many ways you can contribute:

- You can donate securely online through PayPal, where you can do a one-time donation or set-up a monthly donation.
- You can send a check payable to: Museum of the American Indian.
- Your contribution can be multiplied with employer's donation programs. Check to see if your employer has one.

In 2017 MAI will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Thank you to all the members, supporters, directors, teachers and volunteers over the last 50 years who have made this possible.

In gratitude,

Colleen Hicks, Executive Director
MAI Board of Directors
MAI Staff