

CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER



Honoring Diversity & History
of California Indian People

Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2007
Volume 1, Issue 1

Up Coming Events:

- Native American Day at the State Capitol
- Acorn Day at the State Indian Museum
- National American Indian Heritage Month

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Greetings from the Task Force Chair

Since the 1970s, California Indians have pressed for replacement of the antiquated State Indian Museum, located in Sacramento, in the shadow of Sutter's Fort. Time and again, the (State's) lack of resources and shifting administrative priorities have hampered efforts to establish a new State Indian Museum. Now, with new energy and purpose, a partnership between California State Parks, the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Indian community is poised to create the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) in the Sacramento area - the State Capital of California.

Negotiations for land, outreach to the community, development of policies for care of Tribal Treasures to be entrusted to the Center, initial strategies for governance, fund-raising and operations are underway. It is important to remember that this is a heritage center and not a museum in the traditional sense.

The CIHC will be a place where California Indians can preserve and share their values, a place to tell their stories in their own way. It will be a source of pride for the California Indian community and a place to welcome all Californians, as well as guests from around the world. It will have within its walls traditional Tribal Treasures that are seen by contemporary California Indians representing their present every bit as much as they represent their past. For that reason, the CIHC will be a place where California Indian methods for caring for Tribal Treasures will establish common ground with traditional museum practices. It will be a place that will seek to support the development and operations of regional tribal museums. The CIHC will be a place where California Indians share their cultural values and Tribal Treasures with one another and all those welcomed at its doors. It will be a place with strong ties to the educational community, where California Indians can teach their values, their past, their present and their vision for the future. The CIHC will be a place well grounded in contemporary issues affecting California Indians and will not shy away from difficult issues. It will be a place fully integrated into the environment in which it sits, in a way that will intertwine the structure and the site with the story of California's first peoples.

The complexities of this project can seem daunting, but its rewards are profoundly important. Please join us as we make this vision a reality.

Larry Myers
Chairman
California Indian Heritage Center Task Force



Task Force Chair Larry Myers sitting on a bench located at the West Sacramento site.

Ayukii Haáwka 'AKU HE:YUNG Pasip-inyi
Haku Welcome Miiyu I ah quwe Howka
Hei Xhi-Yuk Meyihal Hestum Hello 'Ayekwi'

Task Force Member Changes



Newly appointed Task Force member Reba Fuller.

Reba Fuller Appointed to CIHC Task Force

Please join us in welcoming Reba Fuller as our newest Task Force member. Reba is a member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians. The reservation is located in the foothills of the Sierra Mountain Range in Tuolumne County, and has an Indian population of approximately 700 people. The tribe's strong spiritual and cultural ties to their ancestral lands have led Ms. Fuller to spearhead an effort to protect and preserve the tribe's ancestral land from destruction by development and abuse.

With the help of her community members, Ms. Fuller established the Central Sierra Me-Wuk Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee. As chairperson of this committee, she has brought federally recognized and non-federally recognized Indian people together to work on the protection and preservation of cultural materials and sacred sites.

Reba Fuller is recognized throughout the United States as a knowledgeable cultural resource specialist on repatriation issues and compliance with state and federal laws. Her organization was one of the first tribes in California to receive grants for repatriation from the National Park Service.

In her efforts to protect cultural resources, she has aggressively advocated with local, state and federal agencies to ensure local Indian involvement from the beginning of projects to their conclusions. Her commitment will benefit future generations.

Like many California Indian women who have become leaders, Reba Fuller is determined, articulate and strong-willed. She is also kind, sympathetic, understanding, and is a warm-hearted friend of all people.

Please join us in welcoming Reba Fuller to the CIHC Task Force.

Jack Norton Relocates to New Mexico

Jack Norton has recently resigned from the CIHC Task Force due to his relocation to the State of New Mexico. Although he will not be a member of the Task Force, he will continue as one of our key advisors. Jack has particular interest in this project, and will continue to serve on the Interpretive Themes subcommittee of the Advisory Group, review materials as our work progresses. We are truly grateful for all of Jack's effort thus far on the CIHC, and look forward to his continuing work on behalf of the project. 



Former Task Force member Jack Norton.

CIHC Task Force

Mr. Larry Myers (Pomo), Chair
 Ms. Cindi Alvitre (Tongva)
 Mr. Tim Bactad (Kumeyaay)
 Mr. Michael Chrisman, Resources Agency
 Ms. Ruth Coleman
 Ms. Gen Denton (Miwok)
 Ms. Reba Fuller (Me-Wuk)
 Ms. Susan Hildreth
 Mr. Bill Mungary (Paiute/Apache)
 Mr. David Quintana, Resources Agency designee

CIHC Project Team

Rob Wood (Cherokee), Project Coordinator, CA State Parks
 Cathy Taylor, Superintendent Capital District, CA State Parks
 Maria Baranowski, Project Manager, Senior Architect, CA State Parks
 Sarah Fonseca, Project Assistant, CA State Parks
 Julie Holder (Kumeyaay), Outreach Coordinator, CA State Parks
 Warren Westrup, Chief, Real Properties & Acquisitions, CA State Parks

Telling Our Stories

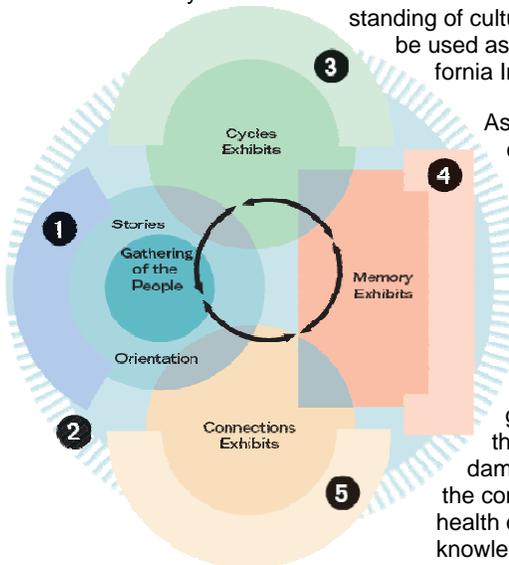
“THESE WORDS IDENTIFY & REFLECT CALIFORNIA INDIAN CULTURAL INTERPRETATION, ISSUES, PERSPECTIVES & STORIES.”

The Circle Diagrams are the result of participation from California State Parks, the Native American Heritage Commission, the CIHC Task Force, a Planning Consultant team and a community of advisors, including California Indian cultural specialists. It is this effort that has helped to broaden the scope and context for development of educational programs, as well as the overall vision of the California Indian Heritage Center.

During the early workshops, it became apparent that the significance of the wording and the meaning of language being developed did not offer the nuance or sentiment of the California Indian voice. The words became the first hurdle this project would encounter. Finding the correct words, context and sentiment was the beginning for this collaboration.

It is important to everyone, including the California Indian community of cultural specialists and Indian advisors, that the Center reflect the words, stories and history of California Indians. The California Indian community has worked to develop, organize and identify key elements that are consistent within California Indian communities. To this end, the understanding and significance of the Circles is a first element in allowing the California Indian community a forum. These words identify and reflect California Indian cultural interpretation, issues, perspectives and stories. With these words we begin to develop the California Indian voice--a voice with the clarity of Indian understanding, and a voice to reflect the “telling” of our history.

It has always been a lack of an Indian voice that creates the conflict and has been the historic and fundamental misunderstanding of cultural perspectives. This Indian voice and its context, is a guiding principle, and will be used as a consistent touchstone for review. What all stakeholders agree on is the California Indian worldview must always take precedence in the development of the CIHC.

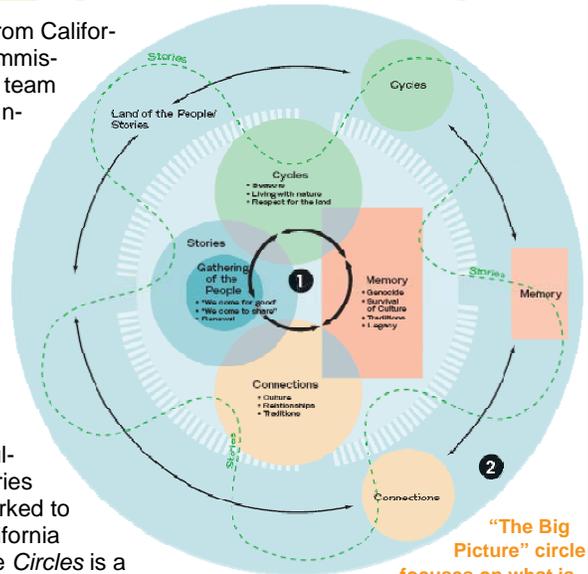


The “Indoor Program Components” circle shows what spaces and physical elements will be needed to tell the story.

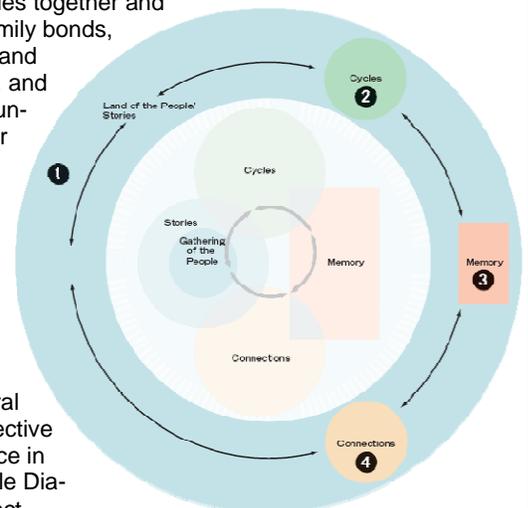
As the master planning process moves forward, the programming of content will continue to sharpen and become more specific. This will ultimately lead into the educational and programmatic design for the facility and its exhibitions. While this CIHC development process is based on standard models of design and basic principles of development and architecture, the essence of this project lives in the hearts and history of the California Indian Communities.

Tradition among California Indian communities is to honor the seasonal cycles. These celebrations bring communities together and allow for organizational alliances, family bonds, trade, the sharing of basket weaving and gathering skills, as well as storytelling, and the identification of travel routes. This fundamental Native worldview is important for the continuity of cultural traditions and the health of California Indian communities. Acknowledgment of these cycles and their importance is additional validation of continuity in the understanding of cultural and historic identity.

These Circle Diagrams include a variety of elements from each community; this demonstrates a range of cultural diversity, as well as the similarity in traditions. These cultural customs aid in establishing the California Indian account of cultural organization, political structure and spiritual beliefs. Until now, this Indian perspective has been historically disregarded, yet this worldview is of fundamental importance in understanding the dynamics and structures within Indian communities. The Circle Diagrams help identify and illustrate key themes, and they will guide the CIHC project team in future planning and design of the Center.



“The Big Picture” circle focuses on what is the story the CIHC will tell.



The “Major Outdoor Content Areas” circle shows what will be required for the content elements in order to tell the story.

Collections



Painting by Harry Fonseca, "The Discovery of Gold in California" 1978. Donated to the CIHC November 2005 by Janet Webb of Sacramento.

We were very proud to receive our first gift to the California Heritage Center in November 2005. It is a Harry Fonseca painting, the "The Discovery of Gold in California," painted in 1978. This mixed media painting, using a California Indian rock art figure as its central theme, is a fitting way to begin the CIHC collections program. Sadly, Mr. Fonseca passed away in December 2006 and cannot be present to celebrate this momentous occasion with us. However, through his work, his spirit will always be with us. Like much of Mr. Fonseca's work, this painting interprets California Indian cultural themes in present light.

Mr. Fonseca's painting will be joined with the California State Parks Collections that are being transferred to the CIHC. The collection, which has been referred to as the Statewide Ethnographic Collection, consists of magnificent baskets numbering in the thousands, as well as regalia, finely chipped obsidian, ground stone, ceremonial

objects, pottery, and other examples of fine art.

Currently, Brian Bibby is conducting an in-depth inventory of the California Indian basketry at the State Museum Resource Center in West Sacramento. Due to be completed by this summer, the inventory is focused on updating the State Collections database (called The Museum System or TMS). Information being recorded for each basket includes culture, dates of manufacture, collection/purchase and accession into State Parks collection, materials used, weaving technology, description and any references in publications. Mr. Bibby has accessed the State's original donor records and, in some cases, discovered information that was previously listed as unknown.

For more than a handful of baskets, Mr. Bibby has located the names of the weavers and even their photographs. One of those women is Lily Tom. Miss Tom was a student of Miss Gertrude White who taught at Big Bend and Hat Creek in the late 1890's. Miss White's sister, Lottie White, donated the collection of Northeastern California baskets to State Parks in 1962; the collection included Miss Tom's basket and photograph. The basket is delightful in the fact that Miss Tom wove her name into it. According to the donor records, the photo was taken when she was nineteen. Previous to this inventory, the basket and photograph were located at two different State Park units and their association was lost. Now the picture and basket are linked electronically in the database so that any person researching one item will automatically be directed to the second item. It would be interesting to find out if any of Lily Tom's relatives are still in the area and find out more about the life of this young woman.



Portrait of Lily Tom c. 1890, about 19 years old.



This tiny basket measuring about 2" x 4" was made by Lily Tom, Achumawi-Atsugewi, c.1900. It was donated by Lottie White, Lily Tom's teacher, in 1962.

This is only one example of some of the discoveries that have been made during this inventory. As of this newsletter, over 3,600 basket records have been updated; consultants who have contributed their knowledge include Ivan Jackson (Modoc), ethno-botanist Margaret Mathewson, Mary Carpelan (Shasta), Ralph Shanks, Justin Farmer (Diegueno), and Professor Catherine Fowler (University of Nevada, Reno). Upon completion of the physical inventory, Mr. Bibby will write a report on the collection which will include suggestions and recommendations for what needs to be done for the care and storage of the baskets.

We are currently working to create new office and exhibit space at the current California State Indian Museum for the CIHC effort. When it is completed, we will be displaying examples of the CIHC collections from areas throughout the state on a rotating basis. Visitors to the State Indian Museum, including many thousands of school children, will learn about the CIHC's development, the richness, diversity, and cultural significance of what will be included at the center. Stay tuned. 

CIHC Governance & Non-Profit Formation

“ALL PEOPLE NEED TO CARE FROM DEEP WITHIN THEIR HEARTS”



LINDA BLUE, MIWOK STATE INDIAN MUSEUM PARK AIDE

To meet one of its mandated responsibilities, the CIHC Task Force appointed a Governance subcommittee in January of 2004. This subcommittee reviewed and evaluated a number of organizational models with an eye toward finding the right fit for the CIHC. In particular, the Governance subcommittee was committed to finding a partnership model for the governance of the CIHC which would bring together California Indian people with the Native American Heritage

Commission and California State Parks to make the CIHC a reality, and to provide for its ongoing operations and growth.

At the core of this partnership is the development of a non-profit corporation which will be the operating support entity for the Center, and will assist in raising needed funds to design and construct the facility and support ongoing operations. To this end, the California Indian Heritage Center

Foundation was recently incorporated as a California non-profit, public benefit corporation. The next step for the CIHC Foundation is to file the federal tax-exempt application in order to secure a 501 (c)(3) status so that our donors may receive tax exemption for their contributions to the Center. Once that is done, the incorporating board will meet to adopt bylaws and to elect the Board of Directors for the newly formed Foundation.

Happening concurrently with the formation of the nonprofit is the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the selection of a business planning consultant to work with the Task Force and project staff on the development of a Business Plan for the new Center. This Business Plan will focus on identifying the fund development needs and feasibility for funding of design and construction, as well as the ongoing operations of the Center. The Business Plan will also identify key market areas and audiences for the facility, and guide the Foundation in developing an effective marketing program for the Center. Finally, the Business Plan will address the long term staffing needs of the Center, and will make recommendations concerning the best hiring methods, as well as target compensation levels for the various staff positions that will lead the facility.

Site Specifics



The proposed West Sacramento site location.

For the past several years, the Task Force has been engaged in finding a suitable site for the CIHC within Sacramento, the political center of California. The Task Force has confirmed the importance of settling in an area near water and natural surroundings, yet near an urban core. Sites along the American River, within the City Sacramento, were identified however negotiations for the assembly of land were not successfully reached. Recently, a nearby site at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, located within the City of West Sacramento was brought forward as a potential location. A tour was arranged by representatives from city staff and attended by Task Force site selection sub committee members, Larry Myers and Bill Mungary, Randy Yonemura Advisory Group member, the EDAW consultant team and CIHC staff members. Discussion with the local community, flood control agency representatives, natural and cultural resource staff and environmental permitting agencies is underway to determine if this land is appropriate for the CIHC. A staff report will be presented to the Task Force on August 30th, 2007.

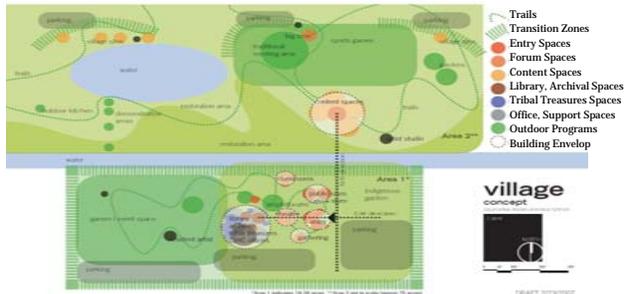
Running parallel to site selection is the work of the Advisory Groups with the EDAW team. After three workshops and several sessions with a core review group coordinated by Julie Holder, *The Developing Vision: Interim Planning and Program Report* has been drafted and should be published in September

2007. It will be presented in final draft to the Task Force at the August 30th meeting and posted on the CIHC website at www.EDAW.net/CIHC. This developing vision has worked to broaden a context for the development and design of a Heritage Center that defines California Indian perspectives and values, through the Native Voice. With these words, a series of Circle Diagrams begins to convey how and what stories will be told and how the Center will be designed around these words. At the third Advisory Group Workshop, three concept diagrams have been developed based on the themes, programs and spaces identified in the document. These ideas will be moved forward into the master planning process when the West Sacramento site is confirmed. (continues on page 6)

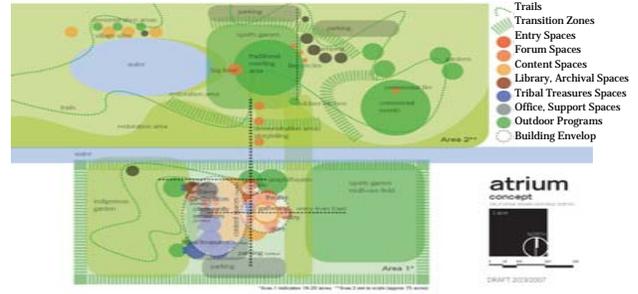


Task Force member Bill Mungary looking towards the American and Sacramento rivers confluence from the proposed West Sacramento site.

Site Specifics - cont'

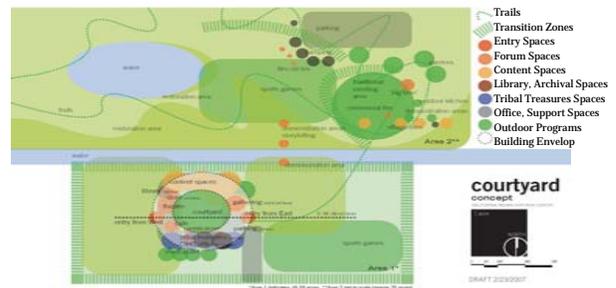


The Village Concept



The Atrium Concept

The three conceptual images are representing— the **Village**, the **Atrium** and the **Courtyard**. Although the concepts vary, there are similarities in the massing of spaces and relationships of areas to one another. All three concepts create a series of organic structures, rather than one single structure that give an idea of “clusters” of buildings, or that of a village. The areas for keeping and caring for the tribal treasures are unique in their own setting. Their relationship to the outdoors is carefully considered, recognizing their connection to the land. The development of the public spaces and entrance will be inviting yet unique in the architecture and relationship to the land, so that visitors will be informed of the central message that will be told in the first person, Native Voice. When the site is confirmed, this work will be the basis for the development of the *Site Master Plan*.



The Courtyard Concept

State Indian Museum State Historic Park

The **California State Indian Museum (SIM)** displays exhibits and artifacts illustrating the living cultures of the state’s first inhabitants. California’s indigenous population, one of the largest and most diverse in the Western hemisphere, was made up of over 150 distinct tribal groups who spoke at least sixty-four different languages. Before the arrival of the first Europeans, California Indian population estimates were between 500,000 to over a million.

California Indian cultural artifacts in the museum include basketry, beadwork, clothing and exhibits about the ongoing living traditions of various California Indian tribes. Many photographs of family, friends and memorable times have been donated for use in the museum to highlight California Indian contributions to the community. The museum features a hands-on area, where visitors can try their hand at using Indian tools such as the pump drill, used for making holes in shell beads and other materials. Also the mortar and pestle used for grinding acorns which was a staple in the Native diet. In addition, SIM also sponsors the Honored Elders Gathering, Acorn Days, an Arts and Craft Fair as well as several other community



The State Indian Museum.

events.

SIM is currently under renovation. New tiling, carpet, paint, signage for the exhibits and a new retail area are scheduled to be done by the end of the year. The pond areas will also be cleaned and landscaped to include Native California plants especially those important to basketweavers. The Regional Indian Museum area was renovated to make space for offices and a meeting room for the new California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC). Ileana Maestas is the new Curator for SIM; she is also working with Brian Bibby on an inventory of the California Indian baskets housed at the State Museum Resource Center in West Sacramento. She can be reached at 916-324-8043 or imaestas@parks.ca.gov.

Location and Parking:

The California State Indian Museum is located in the downtown area of Sacramento at 26th and K Streets.

Traveling on I-80, from San Francisco, take Business 80/ Hwy 50 east. Take the Business 80 exit (north towards Reno) to the N Street exit. Travel straight on 30th Street, then turn left under the freeway at L Street and travel on L Street to 26th Street. Bus parking is available on L Street by Sutter’s Fort. Metered automobile parking is available on 26th and K Streets.

Schedule of Events

Including the CIHC Project Calendar & State Indian Museum Events

CIHC Project Calendar

- August 30, 2007—**Task Force Meeting.**
- Mid September 2007—**RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Business Plan**
- Fall 2007—**Adopt MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the CIHC site.**
- Mid October 2007 - **RFQ (Request for Qualification) for the General Plan**
- Winter 2007/2008—**CIHC Master Plan completion**

September

- August 11 through September 11—**Wearable Art.** Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.
- Through September 14—**Two Spirit Nation: Creative Measures.** C.N. Gorman Museum, UC Davis, CA.
- Through September 14—**Two Spirit Nation: Creative Measures.** C.N. Gorman Museum, UC Davis, CA.
- Early September—**Annual CA Indian Days Celebration.** Balboa Park, San Diego, CA.
- September 1—**Rock Art at Night. Pre-registration required.** Maidu Interpretive Center, Roseville, CA. (Center entrance fee free to Native people)
- September 1 through October 11—**Maidu Echoes from the American River.** Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.
- September 8—**Artist Reception: Larry Rodriguez.** Maidu Interpretive Center, Roseville, CA. (Center entrance fee free to Native people)
- September 22 & 23—**Ohlone College Pow Wow "Big Time" Cultural & Health Fair.** Ohlone College Campus, Fremont, CA.
- September 28—**Native American Day at the State Capitol.** West steps of the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA.



Linda Blue (Miwok), Park Aid at the California State Indian Museum located in Sacramento, CA.

October

- October 20—**Acorn Day.** State Indian Museum, Sacramento, CA.
- October 27—**Treasure Trinket Basket making. Fee for class, call to register.** Maidu Interpretive Center, Roseville, CA. (Center entrance fee free to Native people)

November

- November—**National American Indian Heritage Month.**
- November 2—**Inter-Tribal Arts Marketplace.** Autry National Center, Los Angeles, CA.
- November 10—**Elders Dinner & Inter-Tribal Gathering.** Eureka, CA.
- November 23 & 24—**Arts & Craft Fair.** State Indian Museum, Sacramento, CA.

"WE NEED TO TEACH OUR YOUTH ABOUT TRADITIONS. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING CALIFORNIA INDIAN PEOPLE TOGETHER."

RANDY YONEMURA, MIWOK

December

- December 1 & 2—**Holiday Markets.** Demonstrations and sales of Native American art. Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.
- December 8 & 9—**Holiday Markets.** Demonstrations and sales of Native American art. Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.
- December 15 & 16—**Holiday Markets.** Demonstrations and sales of Native American art. Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.



Project Coordinator Rob Wood, Advisory Group members Maury Morning Star and Paulette Hennem; and an elder waiting for the salmon during the Salmon Festival in Klamath, CA.

The CIHC Newsletter is the official newsletter of the California Indian Heritage Center. It is published by California State Parks. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide updates about programs and initiatives of the California Indian Heritage Center and the State Indian Museum. For membership or any other information, contact (916) 324-8112 or email CIHC@parks.ca.gov. To request the newsletter or further updates visit www.CIHC.parks.ca.gov.

CIHC Statement of Purpose

The California Indian Heritage Center honors the diversity and history of California Indian people by preserving cultural and tribal traditions, nurturing contemporary expressions, and facilitating research and education, for California, the nation, and the world.



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CIHC Vision Statement

(adopted by the Task Force in January 2004)

Under the guidance of California Indian people, the California Indian Heritage Center will:

- Present a statewide perspective on California's diverse Indian cultural legacy.
- Honor the contributions of California Indians and promote dialogue between generations.
- Enhance public understanding of traditional and spiritual beliefs and practices.
- Collect and present traditional and contemporary California Indian artistic and cultural expressions.
- Partner with tribal communities and regional cultural centers and museums.
- Provide educational opportunities to research and understand California's Indian history, cultures and the impact of contemporary issues.
- Be recognized as a treasured California destination that enriches public life.



www.CIHC.parks.ca.gov or (916) 324-8112



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