

Annual Report
California Indian Heritage Center Task Force
June 2004

Senate Bill No. 2063 (Brulte), enacted as Chapter 290, Statutes of 2002, established the California Indian Cultural Center and Museum Task Force within the Department of Parks and Recreation for the purpose of assisting the Department in developing a California Indian Cultural Center and Museum. The act required the task force to be convened on or before February 1, 2003.

The responsibilities of the Task Force are to advise and make recommendations to the Department regarding development of the cultural center, including its location, design, content, and governance structure. The act also requires the task force to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing its activities and progress.

This report summarizes the work of the Task Force for the calendar year 2003, and includes information regarding Task Force activities during the first four months of calendar year 2004.

Task Force Members Appointed – January 2003

Five public members of the Task Force were appointed by DPR and the Native American Heritage Commission. The four statutory members designated their representatives. A Chairperson was elected at the second meeting.

Task Force members appointed by California State Parks: representing northern, central, and southern California.

- Gen Denton (Ione Band of Miwok Indians) of Sacramento
- Loren Bommelyn (Tolowa) of Crescent City
- John Gomez, Jr. (Luiseno) of Temecula

Task Force members appointed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC): representing California Indian education and culture

- Cindy La Marr (Chairperson), (Pit River/ Paiute), of Sacramento
- Bill Mungary (Paiute/ Apache) of Bakersfield

Ex-officio members

- Michael Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
- Ruth Coleman, Director, California State Parks
- Larry Myers (Pomo) Executive Secretary, Native American Heritage Commission
- Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian

Seven Task Force Public Meetings Held – March, May, July, August, October 2003; January, April 2004

The first meeting served as orientation to the project and Task Force responsibilities. The second meeting was a two-day visioning workshop that reviewed previous studies and brought out the Task Force members' vision for the project. The two-day October meeting included a workshop sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation on non-profit organizations, partnerships, and governance in California State Parks.

Sub-committees Formed

The following subcommittees were formed to work on specific areas of Task Force responsibilities: Subcommittee on Vision, Site Selection, Master Planning, Traditional Practices, Programming, Foundations, and Governance.

New Name Adopted – August 2003

The Task Force voted to change the name of the project given in SB 2063 to better reflect the vision of the Task Force, and to avoid confusion with an existing museum that had a similar. The new name, *California Indian Heritage Center*, is now being used in most circumstances. The Task Force agreed to seek, through the Department of Parks and Recreation, legislation to officially change the name.

Statement of Purpose Adopted – October 2003

The full Task Force adopted the following 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.*

Statement of Vision Adopted – January 2004

The Task Force adopted the following vision statement that was recommended by its Subcommittee on Vision:

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.*
 - *Protect California Indian cultural resources.*
 - *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.*

Site Requirements Determined – May and October 2003

General site requirements were discussed at the May meeting during and after a visit to potential sites in urban and suburban settings. The Task Force Chairperson sent a letter to all Tribal Chairpersons soliciting input on the project and inviting them to propose an appropriate location for the center. No responses were received to this request.

DPR Project Team Established – January and September 2003

DPR Director directed resources to support a senior museum planner to coordinate the project, and a half-time curator who is experienced in working with the California Indian community. Two California Indian employees were recruited and hired through an agreement with the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University Sacramento. They conduct outreach with the California Indian community, provide logistical support to the Task Force meetings, and participate in project planning on a daily basis. Coordination of site and facility development is being handled by a DPR architect experienced in complex cultural projects. Other DPR staff members provide assistance as needed.

Communication System Established – March 2003

An Internet website linked to DPR's homepage was established so that the public can keep apprised of the project's progress. Public notice of future meetings and summaries of previous meetings are posted at www.ciccm.org. A database with both e-mail and U.S. mail contact information was established for maintaining contact with Indian tribes and interested individuals.

Funding Received – August 2003 and January 2004

California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) staff researched grant opportunities for the funding of Task Force expenses, and applied for several grants on behalf of the project. Although these were unsuccessful, CSPF underwrote the travel expenses of the Task Force members for the first four meetings, and for an opening reception to honor individuals that contributed to the 1991 California Indian Museum Study. At the Task Force's request, the State Parks Foundation set up a restricted account to receive money on behalf of the project. A subsequent letter from the Task Force to selected tribes resulted in a modest donation from Jackson Rancheria. In April 2004, California Indian Manpower, Inc. funded a portion of one Task Force member's travel expenses.

Community Outreach -- Ongoing

Project staff members participated formally and informally in numerous gatherings of California Indians to represent the project and form friendships. These included tribal events, the California Indian Conference, California Indian Basketweavers Association meetings, and statewide meetings on sacred sites and NAGPRA. The project provided an instructor and a basket exhibit for a one-week course for tribal museums sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the Karuk Tribe in Happy Camp, California.

Project Represented in Museum and State Park Venues -- Ongoing

Staff members represent the project and promote Indian participation in California museums by serving on the Board of the California Association of Museums, attending the Western Museums Association's conference track on Native Museums, and networking with professionals that work in Indian cultural centers and museums. Project staff members have also met with supporters of the State Park Regional Indian Museums in order to keep them apprised of upcoming changes.

Three Potential Sites Identified – December 2003 and January 2004

An invitation to submit a Letter of Interest nominating a site was sent by the DPR Director and Task Force Chairperson to local governments, California tribes, and potential partners such as universities and land conservancies. Ten site proposals were received and reviewed by a Task Force subcommittee and DPR staff, and presented to the entire Task Force at the January meeting. The Task Force selected three sites that most closely met the criteria of proximity to a population center and other cultural sites, and a natural setting with sufficient space for outdoor activities. The three site finalists are the Lake Natoma bluff at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge (south of Sacramento), and an area along the American River near downtown Sacramento.

Site Analysis– January, April 2004

Contract for demographic and financial analysis of the three potential sites was advertised in January was awarded to Market Value Planners. Three finalist sites were studied further over the next several months. A summary of the area market conditions, key site features and each site's potential to accommodate the project objectives was presented at the Task Force meeting on April 2, 2004. Public comment regarding the sites was heard at the same meeting.

6/04

ATTACHMENTS

1. Senate Bill No. 2063 (Brulte), enacted as Chapter 290, Statutes of 2002
2. List of Task Force Members current to April 2004