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STATE OF NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION

Stewart Indian School Preservation Project Update for the January 15, 2015 Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting Submitted by: Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer I, Nevada Indian Commission

- NIC collaborated with the Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception for the 1964 Indian Princesses Committee to host the Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception for the Centennial Indian Princess Contestants on October 30, 2014 at the Gold Dust West Hotel and Casino in Carson City. The event honored the ladies who were contestants in the 1964 Centennial Indian Princess Contest and 15 out of the original 22 princesses or their representatives attended the event which was sold out. The Committee worked hard to secure funding for the event and one idea is to donate proceeds from the one-time event toward the preservation of the Stewart Indian School (see attached pictures of the event).
- The Stewart Advisory Committee had an entry in the 2014 Nevada Day Parade to commemorate Nevada's Sesquicentennial Birthday. After receiving multiple requests from the native community, NIC met with Ken Hamilton from the Nevada Day Parade Committee to discuss having an all American Indian Division in the parade. The suggestion was well received and on November 1, 2014 11 native floats participated in the parade and it was very successful. The NIC float had over 40 individuals representing Stewart Alumni and the 1964 Centennial Indian Princesses. The 45' trailer used in the parade was donated by Paiute Pipeline and the company also donated a truck and driver for the event (see attached pictures of the parade).
- The 2014 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction was held Saturday, November 15, 2014. The event, now in its fifth year, recognizes people in the state who have positively influenced the lives of American Indians. The following individuals received awards at this year's event: American Indian Community Leader of the Year – Aletha Tom, Chairperson, Moapa Band of Paiutes; American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year – Paula Smith, Juvenile Probation Officer, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year – Calista Cruz, student, Coral Academy, Reno, NV and Contributor and Supporter of the Year – Ben Rupert, Firefighter, City of Reno Fire Department. The Pyramid Lake Honor Guard participated as well as the Red Hoop Drum group and Elmer Atlookan provided the entertainment. Also, this is the third year the event has sold out and it grossed \$7,860 which is a record amount for the event. Lastly, a special thanks to all of the NIC Commissioners for attending the event.
- The Stewart Indian School marketing video has been completed and was premiered at the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction in November 2014. The video has been linked to the Stewart Indian School website and a copy was included in the time capsule to commemorate Nevada's Sesquicentennial birthday celebration. NIC also continues to increase posts to the Stewart Facebook page. If you're a Facebook user please take a moment to "like" the Stewart Indian School Page. At the last meeting it was reported that we had 837 "likes" and that our goal was to have 1,000 "likes" by the end of the calendar year. As of January 9, 2014 Stewart has 904 "likes" which is short of our goal, but still great progress for the page.

- NIC has applied for a FY15 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grant in the amount of \$15,000 to hire a professional interviewer/historian to compile oral histories of Stewart Indian School alumni and former employees. NIC has also applied to the NV150 Foundation in the amount of \$20,000 to fund an additional 15 oral histories. Audio recordings of the interviews will be transcribed, catalogued and archived at the State of Nevada Indian Commission, State Library and Archives and Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno. These interviews may be used for research or used in a publication or a documentary, museum exhibition, dramatization or other form of public presentation. Recordings, transcripts, catalogs, photographs and related documentary materials may also be posted on the Stewart Indian School website.
- In December 2014 NIC sent out an e-blast, posted to the Stewart website and Stewart Facebook page, a year-end gift plea to benefit the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. Gifts could be made by either check or credit card on-line. The plea raised \$50.00 and the funds have been deposited into the Nevada Indian Commission gift account for the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. NIC will send out a plea again this year with reminders toward the end of the calendar year.
- NIC is collaborating with the Stewart Facility Buildings and Grounds on the implementation of projects related to the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan. In keeping in line with the historic aspects of the Stewart Indian School, replica of an original bench detailed in the Preservation Plan was installed August 2014. Since then, Buildings and Grounds has ordered 2 additional benches which should be installed soon. Also, in fall 2014 over 80 trees were replanted and Buildings and Grounds is currently working on restoring the original front entrance gateway to the Facility. Both projects are also included in the Preservation Plan.
- NIC is working on upgrading the Stewart Indian School website and revising/printing the Stewart Indian brochure and rack cards. Also, a new Stewart Indian School Trail sign has been purchased and will be placed along the alternate ADA accessible Trail route.
- The 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held June 19-21, 2015. The event has received a Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 and a Nevada Arts Council Grant in the amount of \$3,944.00. The Head Staff for the event have been confirmed and the Carson City Visitors Bureau will be designing and printing the flyer again this year at no cost.
- Stewart-related legislative bills (Included in Executive Director Report)
- In March 2014 the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) received a Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Grant in the amount of \$180,000 to fund the structural and seismic retrofit of Building #1 (future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center). On December 16, 2014 NIC met with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to discuss the status of the grant. At the meeting, NIC asked for a grant extension because according to State Public Works Board (SPWB) the entire project is structural and seismic and all work has to be completed at the same time. NIC submitted a Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) request to supplement the grant funding and unfortunately it was not included on the CIP list submitted to the Governor's Office. An alternate use of the grant funding was presented to SHPO at the December 2014 meeting which was to develop a set of detailed construction documents for the building. On January 5, 2015 the CCA Board met to discuss revising the scope of work. The request was approved, but only up to the \$137,000 level that was included on the preliminary estimate from H&K Architects. They voted to make available the remaining \$43,000 of unspent CCA grant funds for redistribution to another project. If our final project numbers come in higher than the \$137,000 quoted in the preliminary estimate from H&K Architects then NIC can re-apply for the remaining grant funds.