

NOTICES

NMAI Invites Applications for Contemporary Arts Program

The National Museum of the American Indian's Indigenous Contemporary Arts Program offers support to a wide range of arts activities with the goal of increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary American Indian arts.

NMAI considers the recognition of living artists of the Western Hemisphere and Hawaii to be of primary importance and will give awards to projects that strengthen the scholarship in this underserved field and create opportunities for new and innovative work.

Applications are accepted in three areas:

1. Exhibitions and Publications: Awards to support exhibitions, installations, publications and critical writing that interpret or present the work of contemporary Native visual artists to the public and encourage dialogue and critical commentary. At least one-half of the proposed project team (artists, authors, curators, etc.) must be American Indian or Native Hawaiian. Awards are given to non-profit or education-based organizations and range from \$7,500 to \$15,000 per project. Project budgets must show a minimum 50 percent match by the applicant organization or other anticipated sources. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2009.
2. Expressive Arts: Awards to support the creation and presentation of new works through the collaboration of two or more Native artists. Awards specifically will support the creation of new works for public performance that can include – but are not limited to – music, dance, spoken word, electronic media, costume design, mask-making, set design, performance art, photography, painting and other forms of expressive culture. This award is open to all indigenous peoples who hold citizenship in the Americas. Awards are in amounts up to \$10,000 each. Deadline: Jan. 15, 2009.
3. Artist Leadership and Emerging Artist Programs: The Artist Leadership Program enables indigenous artists to research, document, network and develop life skills to enhance artistic growth and strengthen career development. This two-part program includes a visit to Washington, D.C., to conduct research and receive professional training services, as well as an artist-facilitated community project to share the knowledge learned from the visit. Artists will receive contract awards of \$6,000 or \$7,000. The Emerging Artist Program seeks to enhance the artistic growth of emerging artists in high school and college through a research and training trip to Washington, D.C. The high school program awards the opportunity to the first-place winner in the U.S. Department of Indian Education's (<http://indianeducation.org/>) National Art Contest. Deadline: April 6, 2009.

Visit the National Museum of the American Indian website at <http://americanindian.si.edu/> for complete program guidelines.

RFP Link: <http://www.americanindian.si.edu/icap/>

President Signs NAHASDA Reauthorization Bill

WASHINGTON – In October, President George Bush signed into law H.R. 2786, which amends and reauthorizes the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA), the major federal act relating to American Indian housing and community development.

This milestone for American Indian housing comes after years of hard work by Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages, Tribal housing authorities and the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC).

"Dilapidated houses and overcrowded living conditions lead to weak school performance, poor health and contribute to a hopelessness that few Americans witness as part of their daily lives. By reauthorizing NAHASDA, Congress has demonstrated incredible dedication to improve the dire housing conditions that too many Native Americans face," said Marty Shuravloff, NAIHC chairman.

Originally enacted in 1996, NAHASDA consolidates several federal housing programs into a single formula-based block grant program. Built on the solid foundation of Indian self-determination law and policy, NAHASDA recognized Tribal authority to provide housing and related infrastructure to their members in a way that maximizes Tribal decision-making and flexibility in meeting housing needs and goals.

Maintaining the partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been essential to the successful implementation of NAHASDA. Passage of H.R. 2786 brings American Indian housing programs a big step closer to realizing the kind of self-determination and local decision making originally envisioned for NAHASDA.

"The Department of Housing and Urban Development has consistently supported the reauthorization of NAHASDA, which includes the Indian Housing Block Grant program and the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program. The refinements made to these programs in the act represent HUD's and others' dedication and commitment to provide decent, affordable housing in Indian Country," said Steven Preston, HUD secretary.

Last year, Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), chief sponsor of H.R. 2786, steadily guided the bill through both chambers to its final approval by Congress. Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND), chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, authored the final version of the bill in the Senate. Sen. Dorgan prioritized passage of H.R. 2786 to address what he sees as the severe housing crisis for American Indians.

"This bill is more than just a housing act – it will give Tribes more authority over their own land and truly help build stronger communities in Indian Country," said Dorgan.

A new component to NAHASDA is an amendment to Title VI, introduced by Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM), who has consistently applauded efforts to reauthorize NAHASDA.

"Tribes need adequate flexibility and autonomy to use Indian Housing Block Grant dollars effectively, efficiently and in a manner that makes the most sense for Tribal members' specific needs," said Pearce.

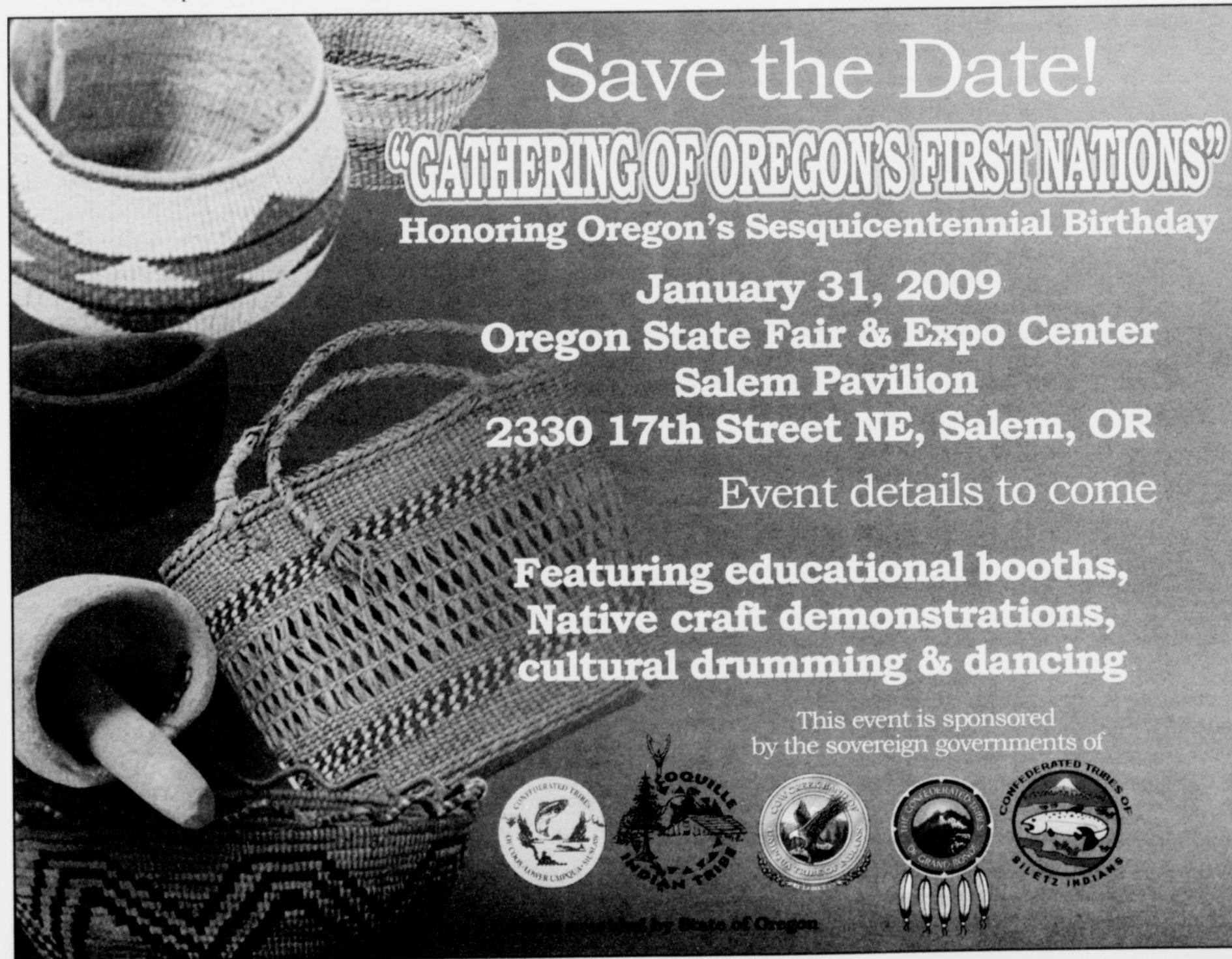
The NAHASDA amendments had broad bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress.

"Given the great need for improvements in housing stocks for Alaska Natives and Indian Tribes nationwide, these changes offer the hope of substantially increasing the availability of quality housing to Native people in the near future," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who is vice chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

"NAIHC is grateful for the outpouring of support from a broad coalition of Tribal leaders nationally and the many Tribal housing partners that helped in the final push to get this bill passed before the end of the 110th Congress. We couldn't have accomplished this without their support," said Paul Lumley, NAIHC executive director.

NAIHC assists Tribes and Tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities, Alaska Native villages and Native Hawaiian communities.

NAIHC ... "A Tradition of Native American Housing" – www.naihc.net.



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"GATHERING OF OREGON'S FIRST NATIONS"

Honoring Oregon's Sesquicentennial Birthday

January 31, 2009

Oregon State Fair & Expo Center

Salem Pavilion

2330 17th Street NE, Salem, OR

Event details to come

**Featuring educational booths,
Native craft demonstrations,
cultural drumming & dancing**

This event is sponsored
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