

Museum: Lifetime and Twanat awards

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The award honors individuals whose efforts on behalf of Native Americans serve as an example for all Americans.

Both of this year's recipients were honored for their lifelong work in promoting the history, arts, culture, language and lifeways of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere; as well as their support of the importance of tribal museums, programs and initiatives throughout the United States.

"These years at the museum the word Twanat above the door has been interpreted to me as 'to follow,'" Ms. said Woody.

"It has come to my understanding that in order to follow we had instruction to do so from our ancestors and the One Who Made Us. These are teachings and precepts on the best way to live and care for our little relatives, the traditional foods and the life around us on the precious land. It also means we need guidance and our leadership is brought up at a young age to watch and learn from our leaders."

Ms. Woody says of the Twanat recipients, "Leaders like Roberta Conner and Rick West are descendants of great leaders, like Chief Joseph's brother Ollikut and Society of Southern Cheyenne Peace Chiefs.

"They are the leaders who work for the future leaders that are to come. That is what these two leaders embody. They follow the ancestors and work for our community today and the future."

Ms. Conner has been the director of Tamástslíkt Cultural Insti-



Roberta Conner, Twanat honoree, addresses the gathering.

tute, the 45,000 square foot museum on the Umatilla Reservation near Pendleton, since its opening in 1998.

The institute serves three goals: provide accurate representations of Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla cultures and histories; perpetuate tribal knowledges; and contribute to the tribal economy.

It is the only tribally owned interpretive center on the Oregon National Historic Trail and one of a handful on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Ms. Conner currently serves on the Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and Ecotrust, Oregon Community Foundation, and Nixyáawii Community Financial Services Boards of Directors. She is a former chair of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Board of Directors.

W. Richard West Jr. is founding director and director emeritus of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and president and CEO emeritus, ambassador of Native Communities of the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. West served as chair of the board of directors of the American Alliance of Museums from 1998 to 2000; and vice president of the International Council of Museums from 2007 to 2010.

His current board affiliations include The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums; Cheyenne and Arapaho Business Development Corporation; International Coalition of Sites of Conscience; Denver Art Museum; The MICA Group; and UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability.

Ms. West previously served on the boards of the Ford Foundation, Stanford University, and the Kaiser Family Foundation. He has been awarded 10 honorary doctorate degrees.

"Tribal museums do not exist to encase objects of dead cultures," Roberta Conner said.

"Tribal museums are not red washing the history others have told. Instead, tribal museums are giving voice and venue to living cultures and histories that have not been told or have been omitted, erased, sanitized and altered by 'the victor.' Museums and libraries are institutions of public trust and tribal museums are just that. Individual tribal cultural identities are formed in the longhouse, the sweathouse, the hunting grounds, the fishing sites, the digging and gathering places. The tribal museum functions as an intermediary between the visitors and community that wants to learn about the culture and history and the people who live the culture and continue to make the history."

Mr. West said, "Built to the demanding and high standards of the Smithsonian Institution. With the museum's uniquely powerful and telling architecture, exhibitions, and public programming, the Museum at Warm Springs has always been at the forefront of what tribal museums and cultural institutions can be and the broader public impact they can have.

"You and I need to be sure that this gemstone of a tribal museum is protected, for the sake of all of us, for the future. The Museum at Warm Springs, of course, has tremendous relevance and import to the Warm Springs, Wasco, and

Northern Paiute peoples. It affirms and honors their cultural perseverance and historical tenacity from a deep past through the present and into the future."

Lifetime achievement

George W. Aguilar Sr. (Wasco) was honored with the museum's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Aguilar is an elder and lifelong resident of the Warm Springs Reservation who won the 2006 Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction for his book, *When the River Ran Wild! Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and the Warm Springs Reservation*.

The book, which also received the 2006 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, has been widely praised for its well-researched and clear-headed blending of tribal traditions and customs, written history, and personal recollections. It is the first book on the heritage of the Warm Springs people to be written by a tribal member. Aguilar raised his family in Warm Springs, is a Korean War veteran and has worked as a laborer, fisherman, logger and construction manager.



W. Richard West and Paul Cash Cash at the Gala.

A large photograph of Medardo, owner of Villas Market, standing in his store. He is wearing a dark polo shirt with a logo and jeans. The store is filled with various goods, including bags of rice and canned goods. Colorful streamers hang from the ceiling.

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Owner, Villas Market
Lowered his bills, now he can offer more to his community.