



OUTREACH
CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Outreach Initiative

Summary Outreach Findings Report

and GUIDING RECOMMENDATIONS

September 27, 2024
(Native American Day 2024)

CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Honoring Diversity & History
of California Indian People





“Keep language and traditions alive for our young people, and protect sacred sites.”

“Include ALL Tribes in California: Every tribe, every voice.”

“Elders, verbal history, and language need to be honored and taught.”

“I want people to understand how native cultures can be different. I think often people assume all natives are the same or vastly similar but in so many ways each tribe is so unique in their customs, food, geography, beliefs, story telling and beyond. I would love for that clarity when people leave the center ...

the “aha” moment.”



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These images depict five 'Acorn Cards' developed as part of the marketing efforts for the CIHC Outreach Initiative. These cards were designed to promote engagement and encourage participation. Each card features a unique QR code on the reverse side, directing individuals to various online resources such as the CIHC website, the engagement site, surveys, and the CIHC Acorn Artbook coloring page. Additional details about these marketing tools, as well as the overall marketing strategy for the CIHC Outreach Initiative, can be found in the accompanying 'CIHC Outreach Comprehensive Findings Report.'





Summary Outreach Findings and Guiding Recommendations



The '**CIHC Comprehensive Outreach Findings Report**' (Comprehensive Report) offers a detailed analysis of the California Indian Heritage Center's (CIHC) Outreach Initiative. This initiative was developed to engage effectively with diverse communities, utilizing various outreach mechanisms and information-gathering tools, including surveys, idea stations, virtual workshops, and video testimonies. These efforts were supported by a robust marketing and public relations campaign to maximize participation and reach.

This '**CIHC Summary Outreach Findings Report and Guiding Recommendations**' (Summary Findings Report) is a supplement to the Comprehensive Report by synthesizing key findings to identify overarching participant profiles, input themes, and guiding recommendations. This summary report comprehensively reviews all participants and their inputs through quantitative and qualitative analysis. It synthesizes multiple comments and responses into a collective understanding, in contrast to the Comprehensive Report's focus on individual inputs. Participant profiles were constructed using demographic and socioeconomic data from the CIHC Outreach Survey, supplemented by insights from other surveys, video testimonies, and event sign-in sheets. This combined detailed view provides a comprehensive understanding of the overall Native American affiliation of participants.

Key findings at a macro level reveal general sentiments, regional considerations, and success metrics of the outreach process. These findings are not just data points, but they represent the collective voice of the participants, shaping the direction of the CIHC project. Significant themes identified include importance of the site use and development, role as a place of healing, perpetuating culture, fostering togetherness, and serving as an educational resource. The report also emphasizes restoring and establishing trust in the CIHC project.

These findings inform guiding recommendations and emerging themes crucial to the project's success. Insights cover a range of issues, from inclusivity and tribal alliances to advocacy and the overwhelmingly positive response to participatory engagement. The Summary Findings Report concludes with a comprehensive list of ideas offered by participants through the Outreach Initiative categorized under collaboration and community involvement, cultural preservation, education, environmental issues, and more, ensuring a holistic approach to the CIHC's mission.

Summary Background

About the CIHC

The California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC) will be located on a 51-acre site at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The CIHC project, which has been in planning for decades, aims to represent the diverse California Indian community.

The vision of the CIHC is to honor 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.

The CIHC intends to partner with tribal communities, regional cultural centers and museums to present a statewide perspective on California diverse Indian cultural legacy. CIHC will enhance public understanding of the traditional and spiritual beliefs, practices, and contributions to promote dialogue between generations. CIHC will provide educational opportunities to research and understand California Indian history, cultures and impact of contemporary issues.



Summary Acknowledgments

The acknowledgments below represent CIHC Task Force members and agency oversight members currently overseeing the project for designing and developing the CIHC. A complete list of all previous Task Force members and individuals involved in earlier planning projects is available in the 'CIHC Comprehensive Outreach Findings Report.'

CIHC Task Force

In December 2018, the California Governor's Office issued Executive Order B-60-18¹ directing the State's Tribal Advisor to establish a task force to oversee the development of the California Indian Heritage Center. The Tribal Advisor established a CIHC Task Force of California Native American tribal and community leaders in 2019 to inform and lead the project until its completion. Members include the following designees, *listed alphabetically by last name*:

- Christina Snider-Ashtari, Secretary, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Chairman Tilford Denver, Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Chairwoman Corrina Gould, Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- Shirley Laos, Trinidad Rancheria
- Chairman Reid Milanovich, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Larry Myers, California Indian Heritage Center Foundation
- Chairwoman Erica Pinto, Jamul Indian Village
- Chairman Anthony Roberts, Yocha Dehe
- Vice-Chair Lorelle Ross, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Richard West, Autry Museum of the American West (Retired)
- Armando Quintero, Director, California State Parks
- Nakia Zavalla, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

State of California Project Oversight, Development and Management

(Listed by agency oversight)

- Governor Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
- Christina Snider-Ashtari, Secretary, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
- Loretta Miranda, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
- Michael Park, Executive Assistant, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs
- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Geneva E.B. Thompson, Deputy Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Armando Quintero, Director, California State Parks
- Liz McGuirk, Chief Deputy, California State Parks
- Brian Dewey, Assistant Deputy, California State Parks
- Leslie L Hartzell, Cultural Resources Division Chief, California State Parks
- Jennifer Cabrera, CIHC Project Manager and NSC Design Manager, California State Parks
- John Fraser, District Superintendent, Capitol District, California State Parks
- Catherine Truong, CIHC Support, California State Parks

1 "Governor Brown Signs Order to Establish California Indian Heritage Center Task Force." Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., December 20, 2018. <https://archive.gov.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2018/12/20/governor-brown-signs-order-to-establish-california-indian-heritage-center-task-force/index.html#:~:text=EXECUTIVE%20ORDER%20B%2D60%2D18&text=IT%20IS%20HEREBY%20ORDERED%20THAT,the%20California%20Indian%20Heritage%20Center.>

CIHC Architectural Design Team

Fentress Architects was chosen as the architectural firm to lead the design and implementation of the CIHC project. Fentress Architects is partnering with Amaktoolik Studios for Native American architecture consultation and tribal outreach, Dennis Hendricks from Tuolumne Band of Miwok Indians as the CIHC Tribal Liaison, and James Pepper Henry, Kaw Nation, and Director Emeritus of First American Museum in Oklahoma City for public engagement, outreach and expertise on museum operation and programming. The team brings over 35 years of experience in Native American outreach, public engagement and design throughout the U.S.



Fentress Architects

Since the firm's founding in 1980, Fentress Architects has master planned, programmed, and designed more than five million square feet for 52 museums, including gallery spaces and cultural and Heritage Centers. They work closely with all project stakeholders—the client, community members, museum curators, staff, administrators, trustees, museum planners, programmers, exhibit designers, and more—to generate a depth of understanding necessary to meet each client's ambitions and objectives in the areas of research, curation, programming, planning, conservation, visitor services, education, and fundraising. Fentress Architects is a global design firm that passionately pursue the creation of sustainable and iconic architecture. They create inspired designs that improve the human environment. Their designs have garnered over 600 awards and honors since their founding. The Fentress Architects team includes:

- Curtis Fentress, Principal in Charge
- Al Roberts, Project Manager
- Deborah Lucking, Museum Expert, Sustainability Lead
- Chris Wedel, Project Architect
- Charles Fentress, Senior Project Designer

CIHC Outreach Initiative Consultant Team

The CIHC Outreach Initiative and Findings Reports were prepared by Amaktoolik Studios and conducted as part of the 'California Indian Heritage Center Design and Development' project under the prime consultant contract to Fentress Architects.



Amaktoolik Studios

Amaktoolik Studios is a 100% Native American-owned firm that offers architecture, master planning, creative and interpretive design services, strategic planning, community planning, and tribal community outreach and engagement. The firm has an extensive history working with Native American communities across the country. The firm has worked with more than 50 tribes, Nations, Pueblos, and urban Natives, as well as for public organizations that serve these tribal communities and peoples. The firm focuses on projects that represent Native communities and peoples and improve Native American lives and communities. The Amaktoolik Studios team includes:

- Brian Fagerstrom (Bering Straits Native Corporation)
- Dennis Hendricks, (Tuolumne Band of Mewuk Indians)
- Lisa Jelliffe, Senior Strategist and Project Manager
- Cameron Washington, Videographer
- Meyo Marrufo, (Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians), Consulting Curator and Outreach Facilitator

Artist Team:

- Weshoyot Alvitre (Tongva Tribe of Southern California)
- Jacky Calanchini (Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians)
- Carla Marie Munoz (Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe)
- Meyo Marrufo (Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians)
- Ali Meders-Knight (Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria)
- Victorio Shaw (Karuk, Hupa, Yurok and Apache Mescalero)
- Eric Wilder (Kashaya Band of Pomo Indians)

Additional Design Team Members Participating in the CIHC Outreach Initiative

- James Pepper Henry (Kaw Nation), First Americans Museum
- Isabelle Minn, Placeworks
- Spencer Koehler, Placeworks
- Bill Smith, Storyline Studio





About the Outreach Initiative Findings and Next Steps

About this Summary Report

The ‘CIHC Summary Outreach Findings Report’ for the CIHC Outreach Initiative distills key insights and feedback gathered from California tribes, Native populations, and other stakeholders during an extensive outreach process. Building on the comprehensive findings of the primary ‘CIHC Comprehensive Outreach Initiative Findings Report,’ (Comprehensive Findings Report), this summary provides a concise overview of the essential perspectives within the findings that will guide the Heritage Center’s future design, development, and operation. It highlights the engagement strategies and collective input gathered and identified from the collective input from participants.

Comprehensive Findings Report

The Comprehensive Findings Report presents the extensive outreach initiative results and shares the process and information gathering from California Native tribes, non-California Native Americans, the West Sacramento community, and other interested organizations. The collected data includes both qualitative and quantitative findings from diverse tactics to ensure comprehensive input from California Native tribal communities. The report meticulously documents these findings without direct recommendations, serving as a foundational resource for developing specific recommendations in the next phase of the outreach process.

Definitions

Terminology and Inclusivity in Referring to Native American Populations

Various terms are used to refer to the Native American population, including but not limited to, ‘Native American,’ ‘aboriginal Native,’ ‘Indigenous,’ ‘Indian,’ ‘American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN),’ among others. The debate over the correct terminology is ongoing, even within the Native community. For the purposes of this report, the terms ‘California tribal communities,’ ‘California Native American,’ ‘California Indian,’ ‘California Native community/ies,’ and ‘Native peoples’ are used

interchangeably to refer to the population whose ancestral and aboriginal homelands are within the state boundaries of California.

Definition of the ‘Community’

In the CIHC outreach initiative context, “community” refers to the collective group of individuals belonging to tribal groups and Native populations across the state. This definition encompasses the geographical and demographic aspects of these groups and their shared cultural, historical, and social ties. It includes a diverse range of individuals such as tribal leaders, general members, youth, and elders, all of whom are integral to the California tribal community’s and Native peoples identity and ongoing cultural practices. In this sense, the community is viewed as a living, active body that engages with, responds to, and influences the outreach and planning processes of the CIHC initiative, ensuring that these efforts are reflective of and responsive to their unique needs and aspirations.

Inclusive Reference to California Native Populations

The reference to the California Native population within this report, and its complementary ‘CIHC Outreach Findings Comprehensive Report,’ is intended to be inclusive. It does not distinguish between federally recognized or non-federally recognized tribes unless specific input references this particular topic. This approach also applies to individuals associated with a tribal community, regardless of whether they are enrolled, not enrolled, or dis-enrolled. The same inclusivity is extended to tribes with reservation or Trust lands as well as land-less tribes. These complex topics are relevant to the inputs found throughout the outreach findings. However, for the purposes of referencing populations and organized groups of tribal communities, this report adopts an inclusive approach, treating all these distinguishable populations and organized cultural groups equally.

Previous Outreach Initiatives

Understanding the CIHC’s development involves reviewing the various outreach efforts over time that have shaped its planning, focusing specifically on community input and engagement. These outreach efforts highlight evolving strategies and significant milestones involving public and stakeholder input and includes:

- 1990: Statewide public meetings and questionnaires by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the National Parks Service.
- 1995: Oral interviews documented by Marilyn Rose Guider, titled ‘California Indians Speak Out About Museums.’
- 2005: Advisory Groups created by CIHC Task Force; regional meetings held.
- 2006: Project team visits museums and tribal offices; work sessions held.
- 2019: Stakeholder and community outreach by California State Parks.
- 2023-2024: Year-long comprehensive participatory outreach and engagement processes across the state in tribal communities and with California Indian and Native American people and other important advocates and stakeholder audiences.

A 20+ Year Adaptation

Around 20 years have passed since the work sessions that guided the development of the CIHC ‘General Plan,’ a significant document for the Heritage Center’s development. Since then, major social changes and challenges within the California Indian tribes and Native community’s visions of the Heritage Center have developed. Additionally, advancements in how cultural centers and museums and their design and operations have drastically evolved, not to mention the changes in technology. For example, universal access and communications were in their infancy 20 years ago. Another critical distinction between the outreach methodologies employed during the initial development of the ‘General Plan’ and the current initiative is the transition to a more participatory, bottom-up community engagement approach.

Next Steps: Reflective Analysis and Forward Planning

The next steps in the use of the outreach findings includes review of the original ‘General Plan’ from 20 years ago and compare it with recent community outreach findings. This will identify new ideas, discrepancies, and suggestions for updating existing plans.

Prioritizing current views ensures the Heritage Center is relevant and responsive to evolving cultural dynamics and museum practices, meeting contemporary community needs and visions.



Comprehensive Analysis of **ALL** Participants and Inputs

The CIHC Outreach Initiative effectively engaged various categories of participants and collected a broad spectrum of inputs through a strategic array of outreach methods. The CIHC outreach events included CIHC-hosted events, Tribal-hosted events, virtual workshops, video testimonies, piggyback events, and tabling events, culminating in a total of 931 participants, with an extended reach of 6,350 when including additional **impressions**. ‘Impressions’ refer to the broader audience impact created by the CIHC’s presence and engagement in various activities, ensuring visibility and awareness beyond direct participation.

Importance of Understanding Participants and Inputs

Understanding the characteristics of participants and the diversity of inputs significantly enhance the value of the CIHC Outreach Initiative reports by providing a comprehensive context for interpreting its detailed findings.

By identifying that a large majority of participants are Native American, with a substantial portion being California Indians, the report can accurately reflect the perspectives and needs of these communities, ensuring that the findings are relevant and culturally informed. Additionally, the varied inputs—ranging from quantitative surveys and idea stations to qualitative video testimonies and virtual workshops—offer a multifaceted view of community priorities and concerns. This diverse data collection approach ensures that the findings reports capture a broad spectrum of opinions and experiences, enriching the analysis and making the conclusions more robust and actionable. The detailed participant breakdown and extensive input types validate the findings and provide a nuanced understanding of the community’s vision, challenges, and aspirations, ultimately guiding more effective and culturally sensitive decision-making for the CIHC’s future development.

PARTICIPANTS + IMPRESSIONS BREAKDOWN

ALL Events Including CIHC-Hosted, Tribal-Hosted, Virtual Workshop, Video Testimonies, Piggybacking & Tabling Events

Total Participants <i>w/o non-CTHC Piggybacking Events or Tabling</i>	
CIHC Hosted Events (via sign-in sheets)	179
Tribal Hosted Events (via sign-in sheets)	381
Virtual Workshop	16
Video Testimonies (75)	82
Piggyback Events - CTHC	
CTHC	
Fresno & Chukchansi	134
Palisades & Stewart	44
Manzanita	49
Jamul	52
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	937

Impressions via Piggybacking & Tabling Events <i>w/o CTHC</i>	
Piggyback Events	4,994
Tabling	425
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	5,419

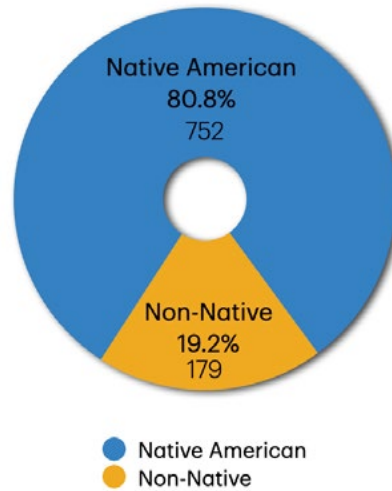
Total Participants & Impressions
937 + 5,419 = 6,356

Participants

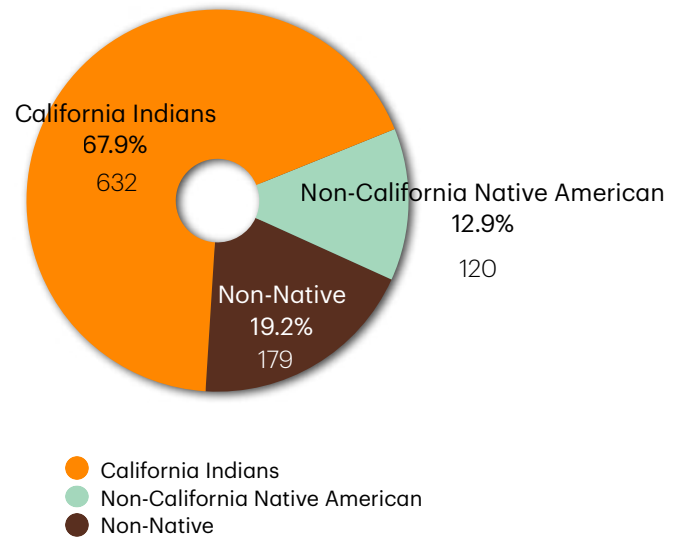
In the context of the CIHC Outreach Initiative, 'participants' refer to the individuals who directly engaged in the various outreach events including CIHC-hosted events, Tribal-hosted events, virtual workshops, video testimonies, and the California Truth and Healing Council (CTHC) piggyback events. 'Direct' input comes from participants whose specific characteristics, such as Native American status, were recorded, allowing for a realistic accurate count. In contrast, attendees at tabling and piggyback events such as the Yurok Salmon Festival, Native American Day, Native Arts Expo, or Honored Elders Day, for example, could not be individually measured or identified.

Regarding participants, a total of 937 participants directly engaged in the outreach activities, with an extended reach of 6,356 when including additional impressions. Among the 937 participants, the majority (80.9%) identified as Native American, with 68.1% being California Indians and 12.8% non-California Native Americans. This breakdown highlights the significant representation of California Indian participants in the initiative, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are well-represented in the findings. The active involvement of these participants provide a robust foundation for gathering comprehensive community inputs and insights.

NATIVE AMERICAN AND NON-NATIVE PARTICIPANTS



CALIFORNIA INDIAN, NON-CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN, AND NON-NATIVE PARTICIPANTS



Inputs

In the CIHC Outreach Initiative context, 'Inputs' refer to the feedback and data collected from participants through various outreach methods. These inputs were gathered via surveys, idea stations, video testimonies, panels, and virtual workshops. The direct data collected includes quantitative responses (such as numerical data from surveys) and qualitative feedback (such as narrative data from video testimonies and idea stations).

Inputs are essential components of the outreach process, serving as the primary data source for understanding community perspectives. In total, they encompass 33,783 individual responses and comments, with the majority collected through surveys (26,889).

Other significant contributions include 6,318 comments from idea stations and 525 comments from video testimonies provided by 82 interviewees. These inputs reflect a diverse demographic, predominantly from California Indians, and provide a comprehensive view of community needs, preferences, and cultural priorities. This extensive data collection forms the foundation for the CIHC's outreach findings.

COMBINED

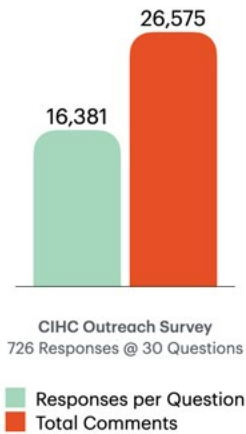
Responses + Comments

INPUTS (<i>direct*</i>)	Type	Total
Surveys	Qualitative & Quantitative	26,889
Idea Stations	Qualitative & Quantitative	6,318
Virtual Workshop	Qualitative	51
Video Testimonies	Qualitative	525
TOTAL		33,783

*Indirect inputs are also considered in various forms which come from activities such as conversations, observations, and learned experiences over the course of the outreach initiative.

SURVEYS

Responses vs. Comments Evaluated



SURVEYS RESPONSES & COMMENTS	Total Survey Responses	Total responses per question	Adjusted for multiple comments per question response
CIHC Outreach Survey	726	16,381	26,575
Friends of CIHC Survey	10		279
Veterans Survey	11		25
Artists Survey	2		10
TOTAL	749		26,889

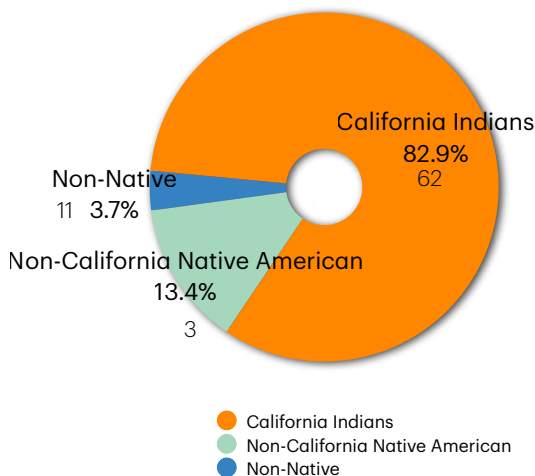
IDEA STATIONS

Responses vs. Comments Evaluated

INDIVIDUAL BOARDS	Votes	Write-in responses	Adjusted for multiple comments per write-in	Total
Most Important Services & Programs	1,814	96		1,910
Top Site Uses, Programs, Services, Amenities & Activities	1,608	67		1,675
Common Attributes Among All California Tribes & People	626	91		717
Unique Differences	259			259
Wish Tree		443	1,314	1,757
TOTAL	4,750	697	1,314	6,318

VIDEO TESTIMONIES

Responses vs. Comments Evaluated



DETAILS	
Total Interviewees	82
Total Interviews (7 doubles)	75
Number of Interview Events	18
Total Time of Interviews	9 hours, 59 minutes
Total Pages Transcribed	190
Total Words Transcribed	84,437
California Indians	68
Non-California Native American	11
Non-Native	3
Current Tribal Council Members	22
Former Council Leaders	5
Serving on the CIHC Task Force	2
Recognized Tribes	55
Unrecognized Tribes	10
Total Comments/Ideas	525+



In summary, the Participants and Inputs analysis reveals that participant engagement was robust and predominantly Native American, with a strong representation from California Native people. Inputs received were comprehensive, covering quantitative and qualitative aspects, reflecting community priorities and feedback on a wide range of insightful contributions. The detailed responses from surveys and idea stations highlight specific community needs and preferences, while video testimonies provide in-depth personal insights.

Overall, the CIHC Outreach Initiative successfully gathered a wide array of inputs from a diverse participant base, offering valuable insights into community perspectives and priorities. This comprehensive engagement underscores the importance of inclusive and varied outreach strategies in capturing the nuanced views of the community.

VIDEO TESTIMONY PARTICIPANTS



55.5% BETWEEN 35 & 64 YEARS OLD
75% HAVE SOME HIGHER EDUCATION
 7.2% OVER 75 15.4% WITH UNRECOGNIZED TRIBES
 530 ALWAYS LIVE IN CALIFORNIA 73.8% IDENTIFY AS NATIVE AMERICAN
31.5% ARE ELDERS **OLDEST = 87**
726 PARTICIPANTS
 73.3% LIVE IN CALIFORNIA ALL THEIR LIVES
 30 VETERANS **MEDIAN AGE = 50**
YOUNGEST = 10 25 LIVE OUT-OF-STATE
 536 NATIVE AMERICANS **4.2% VETERANS**
HIGHEST NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY ZIP CODE = SUSANVILLE
3.7% YOUTH UNDER 18

Summary Characteristics Profile of Participants

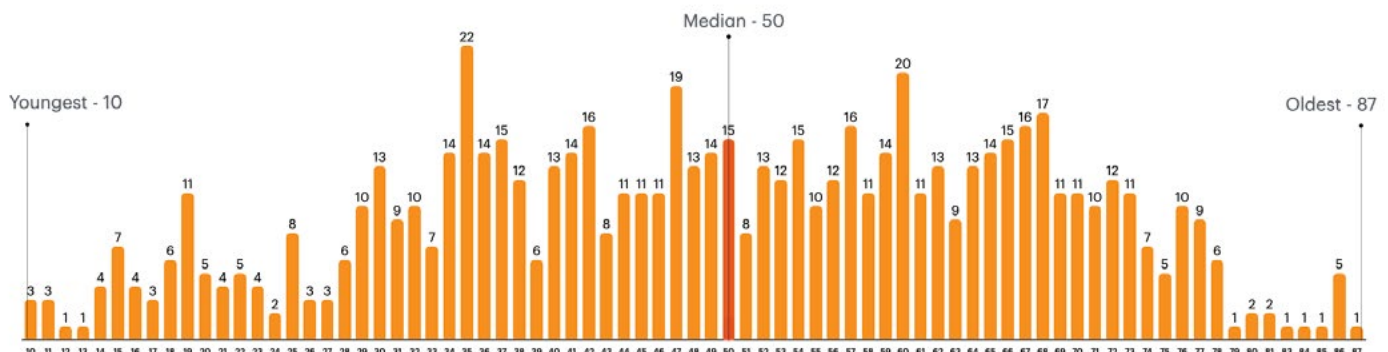
Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile

The demographic and socioeconomic characteristics profile presented in this section represent the participants from the primary 'CIHC Outreach Survey.' The survey served as the primary instrument for capturing detailed demographic data, including age, education, veteran status, residence, and Native American identification. As such, it provides a comprehensive overview of the individuals who contributed their perspectives and insights. This profile can be considered a representative sample of the overall body of findings from all inputs and participants, offering a foundational understanding of the diverse community engaged in this outreach effort. The understanding of these characteristics is crucial for contextualizing the feedback and recommendations gathered, ensuring that the findings reflect the varied backgrounds and experiences of the respondents.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile:

- Age Distribution:** Out of 705 respondents, the majority (55.5%) are aged between 35 and 64. Youth under 18 constitute 3.7%, and individuals over 75 make up 6.2%. The median age is 50, with respondents ranging from 10 to 87 years old.
- Education:** Among 713 respondents, 24.3% have some college education without a degree. A notable 75% possess higher education qualifications, from some college to doctoral degrees. Those with less than a high school diploma, largely youth under 18, represent 25% of respondents.
- Veteran Status:** 4.2% of 706 respondents are veterans, a group that holds special significance in Native communities.
- Elders:** Of 585 respondents, 31.5% identify as elders. Elders are highly respected in Native culture, often consulted for their wisdom and knowledge.
- Duration in California:** Among 733 respondents, 73.3% have lived in California all their lives, 15.6% for over 20 years, and 2.1% do not currently reside in the state.
- Zipcode Analysis:** Of 725 respondents, 97.5% live in California, with 18 living out of state. The survey covered 251 unique zip codes, with '96130 Susanville' being the most frequently mentioned.

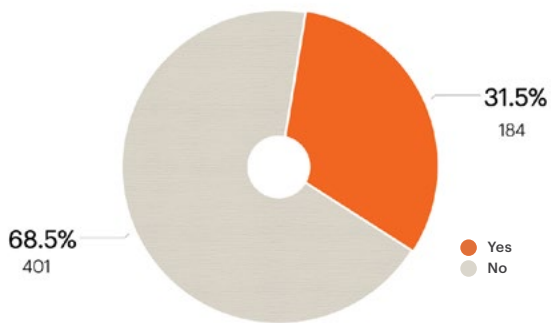
AGE DISTRIBUTION



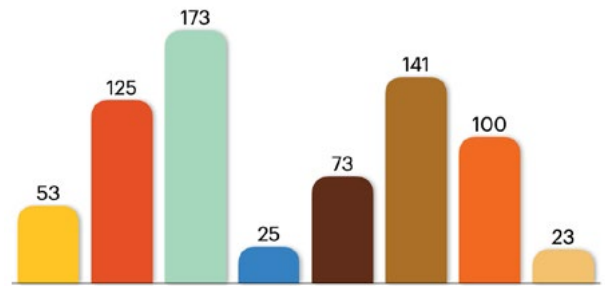
Demographic and Socioeconomic Findings Diagrams

Represented from the CIHC Outreach Survey

ELDERS

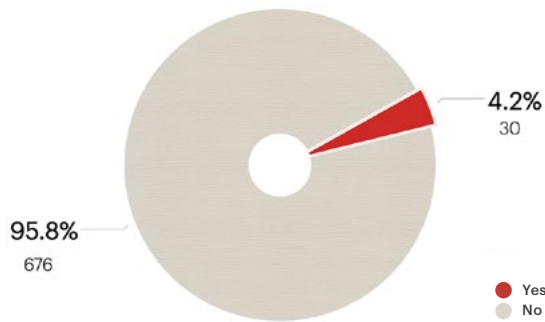


EDUCATION

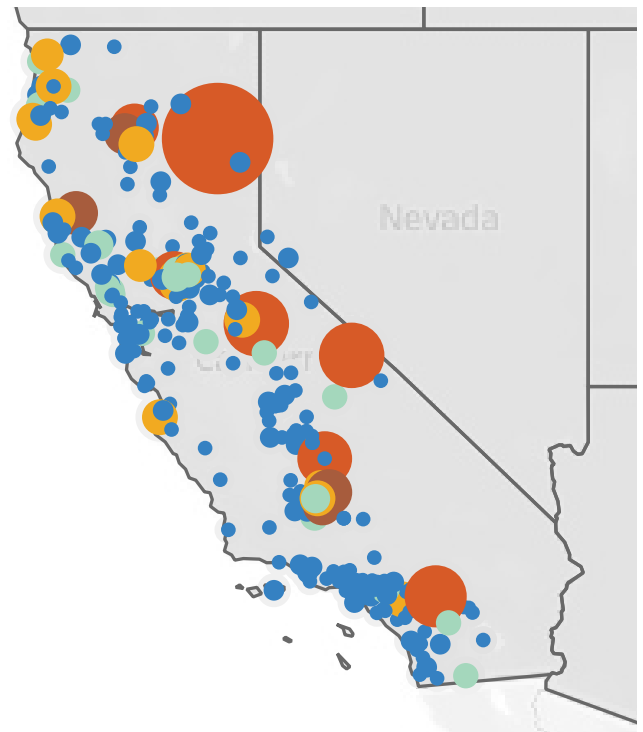


- Less than high school
- High school or GED
- Some college, no degree
- Vocational school
- Associate degree
- Bachelor degree
- Master degree
- Doctoral degree / PhD

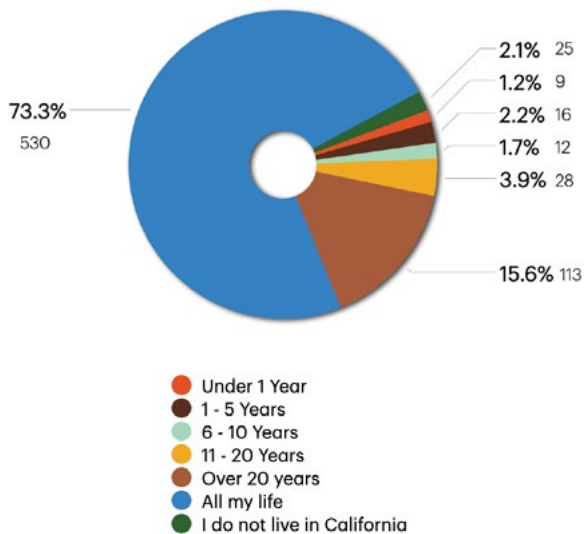
VETERANS



WHERE PEOPLE LIVE



LENGTH OF TIME LIVING IN CALIFORNIA



General Sentiments

The CIHC outreach initiative gathered an extensive range of sentiments from tribal communities and Native American people across the state. Sentiment analysis is invaluable for understanding the nuanced perspectives and emotional responses of tribal communities and Native American people regarding the CIHC project. By capturing feedback and highlighting areas for improvement, sentiment analysis provides a comprehensive view of community support, concerns, and aspirations, ensuring the development of a culturally inclusive and representative Heritage Center.

The **sentiments expressed are often emphasized through punctuation and word choices**, adding depth to the community's feedback. Exclamation marks in comments like "Protecting sacred burial grounds everywhere!!!" and "Simplicity and beauty!!!" convey strong positive emotions and urgency. Question marks indicate curiosity or concern, as seen in "Will it create jobs that our homeless, single mother, unemployed Natives will be first in line to receive?" Ellipses suggest contemplation or ongoing processes, exemplified by "Living story..." The use of all caps emphasizes strong feelings and urgency, such as "YOUTH + ELDERS = WE CAN DO A LOT!" This extra level of analysis, highlighting how information is delivered, provides valuable insights into the intensity and emotional weight of the community's sentiments, enriching the overall interpretation.

The feedback, **primarily positive**, underscores the strong support and excitement for the CIHC project. Participants expressed deep appreciation for the inclusive nature of the outreach initiative, which directly engaged tribal communities and Native people, fostering a sense of inclusion and respect for their voices. The outreach process received overwhelmingly positive responses, with comments highlighting the initiative's effectiveness and engagement such as, "**The events and the turnout and the participation was significant...people were willing to participate because they felt they had a voice. It wasn't delivered**

like, 'We are bringing you something that we were gonna build for you and then present to you.' It was more like, 'We're gonna build this, but we're gonna build it with your participation, with your ideas, your opinions about how this will represent the California tribes.'"

Additional sample positive feedback about the outreach process included:

- "Thank you for asking our People for their opinions."
- "I'm already starting that process right now with some other commissioners and different people, so I'm very excited. I'm ready for this thing to get off the ground, get funded, let's break some ground."
- "We were sent an invitation and we're happy to join. And driving up here just was a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Natives and learn more about this project."
- "I think that it's great because there's so many different native tribes in California that we have to really get out there. **I appreciate you guys for coming to this side of the mountains cause sometimes our people in this valley get left out of meetings in the Sacramento area.**"
- "I think it's great. And I think this commission that they got with [individual names of the CIHC Outreach Team] are doing a wonderful job."

The community's **optimism** and support for the project are palpable. Many participants expressed their gratitude, highlighting comments such as, "Thankful for the elders," and "**I am confident it will be a success.**" This sentiment of support is further emphasized by the appreciation for cultural preservation efforts, with statements like, "Protect sacred burial grounds everywhere!!!" and "Simplicity and beauty!!!" The community's desire to instill cultural pride and knowledge in the younger generation is evident in remarks such as, "Teach the kids as early as kindergarten so they never take a back seat and be proud!"

The outreach has also uncovered a **deep sense of hope and future-oriented thinking** among community members. The aspiration to revitalize and preserve cultural heritage is reflected in comments like, "**We are the beginning of California,**" and the call for intergenerational collaboration, "**YOUTH + ELDERS = WE CAN DO A LOT!**" This hope is further embodied in the community's vision for the CIHC as a place where the unique differences and rich diversity of Native cultures can be celebrated and understood, exemplified by the statement, "I want people to understand how Native cultures can be different. I think often people assume all Natives are the same or vastly similar but in so many ways each tribe is so unique in their customs, food, geography, beliefs, storytelling and beyond."

Constructive feedback also suggests a crucial component in shaping the project's direction. Community members stressed the importance of inclusivity and equitable representation. Comments such as, "**Address equity issues within the community,**" and "Inclusiveness of stakeholder ideas/wants/needs," reflect a clear desire for the CIHC to be a space that truly represents and serves all Native peoples, including those non-federally recognized tribes. Participants emphasized the importance of preserving Indigenous history and culture according to the wishes of the communities themselves, and the need for the project to help the public learn about the true history of California Native communities and people.

While the feedback was **overwhelmingly positive**, some comments balanced praise with concerns, highlighting the need for ongoing engagement and careful consideration of various issues. For example, the comment "Living story..." suggests the dynamic and evolving nature of cultural narratives, while questions like "**How do we articulate the importance of Mother Earth to the greedy developers?**" indicate the challenges of addressing environmental concerns within the project.

Additionally, the significance of the Governor's apology at the CIHC project site was mentioned, reflecting the community's complex feelings towards reconciliation efforts.

Negative sentiments, though minimal, highlight systemic challenges and barriers faced by the community. Comments such as, "Barriers to initiatives that better conditions of the tribes and people," and "Legal and policy challenges that prevent fair and equitable consideration," indicate ongoing struggles for recognition and equitable treatment. These sentiments underscore the frustrations within the community regarding the persistent inequities and challenges faced by non-federally recognized tribes.

Other areas of negative sentiment include concerns directed at the outreach process even though the great majority had positive remarks. Some of the negative comments about the outreach included, "The outreach process seemed rushed, and there wasn't enough opportunity for in-depth discussion on important topics." Additionally, some felt that the initiative did not fully capture the diverse perspectives within the community, as expressed by one participant: "I'm concerned that the outreach didn't adequately represent all voices, particularly those from smaller or less vocal communities." Further feedback highlighted worries about repeating past mistakes: "I feel like we're going to start reinventing the wheel when it's already been done," and the lack of continuity in engaging long-standing community members, "A lot of those elders were in that meeting too when they were younger, and they did it 30 years later when they were older. And now a lot of them are gone and I'm afraid that the ones that are here aren't being involved."

Noteworthy, there were counterpoints to some of this negative sentiment about the outreach process especially related to the issue of previous input from planning efforts completed in past years versus this new outreach process and gathering new input. For example, one participant shared, "I've been a tribal chair and I'm also an elder. In this outreach program over the previous months, one thing that bothered me was hearing people say that 'Elders and spiritual leaders have talked about these issues before, but nothing was done and why are we asking for more and reinventing the wheel?' However, I believe we now have leaders and elders with valuable knowledge. Even though we weren't around in the fifties, forties, or thirties, we still share the same history."

Overall, the general aspirations and goals of the community are clear. Participants envision the CIHC as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange and community building, where cultural presentations, gatherings, and community events can thrive. Statements like, "Cultural presentations and gatherings," and "Monthly market with Native vendors," highlight the community's desire for the CIHC to be a space that fosters cultural preservation and community unity.

In summary, the sentiment analysis from the CIHC outreach initiative paints a picture of a community that is passionate, hopeful, and deeply invested in the success of the Heritage Center. The positive and optimistic feedback underscores strong support for cultural preservation and community development, while constructive criticism highlights important areas for continuous engagement and improvement. The collective enthusiasm and support from these communities are vital, ensuring that the CIHC will be a source of pride and cultural enrichment for all.



The Outreach Process Measurements of Success: Regional Considerations

The outreach initiative process embarked upon by the CIHC was a remarkable journey, demonstrating the effectiveness of a well-structured outreach strategy tailored to the unique characteristics of diverse geographic regions. This process involved a series of Tribally-hosted and CIHC-hosted events across California, each characterized by distinct regional features and community dynamics.

In **rural** areas, the outreach events hosted by tribes exemplified efficiency and deep tribal involvement. The commitment from tribal leadership to host these events was swift, bypassing sometimes lengthy intertribal governmental approval processes.

Detailed planning and promotion of these events were executed seamlessly with tribal staff, ensuring robust participation from tribal members. These gatherings were enriched by cultural sharing, where culture bearers presented songs, dances, and cultural stories and blessings. These events provided engaging atmospheres that encouraged active participation in information-gathering activities.

A shining example of a successful multi-tribal collaboration was the Task Force hosted event held at the CIHC project site in West Sacramento. This event demonstrated the power of a collective effort, with multiple tribes pooling resources and organizing the event to reflect the unique characteristics of the Sacramento region. This collaborative spirit underscored the strength and unity among tribes when working towards common goals.

In **Northern California**, the Tribally hosted events mirrored successes seen in other areas. The CIHC Outreach effort was warmly welcomed, with strong support from both the host tribes and neighboring tribes. These events were promoted as multi-tribal gatherings, ensuring a rich exchange of cultural and communal engagement.

In contrast, scheduling events in **Southern California** posed challenges. Despite initial verbal commitments from five different tribes, these events were ultimately not scheduled. This highlighted a need for more tailored engagement strategies in this region.

Another characteristic in planning events were requests from several tribes to host singular tribal events, which resulted in lower attendance, contrasting with the multi-tribal gatherings that included neighboring tribes.

The CIHC Community Outreach process, through adaptable and region-specific strategies, successfully engaged diverse tribal communities and Native people across California. It highlighted the importance of tailored approaches in addressing regional needs, fostering cultural sharing, and encouraging collective participation. This process not only facilitated meaningful dialogue and collaboration among tribes but also laid a strong foundation for future initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting Native heritage as well as future continuous dialogues about the Heritage Center.

FINAL OVERALL OUTREACH EVENT LOCATION MAP



2023-2024 CIHC OUTREACH EVENTS
(Listed by type of event then by date)

Tribal Hosted Events

1. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Tribal hosted event, Black Oak Casino Resort, Tuolumne, April 17, 2023
2. Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribal hosted event, Scotts Valley TANF, Concord, July 27, 2023
3. Susanville Rancheria Tribal hosted event, Susanville, August 16, 2023
4. Redding Rancheria Tribal hosted event, Redding, August 17, 2023
5. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation hosted event for the Patwin Tribes, Brooks, September 7, 2023
6. Tejon Tribe Pow Wow, Tejon Indian Tribe, Bakersfield, September 23, 2023
7. Bishop Paiute Tribe hosted event, Bishop, October 11, 2023
8. Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribally hosted event, Banning, December 4, 2023

Piggyback Events

1. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Fresno State University, Fresno, February 17, 2023
2. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Chukchansi Gold Resort and Casino, Coarsegold, February 18, 2023
3. Society for California Archaeology, Oakland, March 17 - 18, 2023
4. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Olympic Village, Palisades Tahoe, May 1, 2023
5. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Stewart Indian School Culture Center and Museum, Carson City, NV, May 2, 2023
6. Honored Elders Day, State Indian Museum, Sacramento, June 3, 2023
7. California Indian Basketweavers' Association, Middletown Rancheria, June 30 - July 1, 2023
8. Yurok Salmon Festival, Klamath, August 19, 2023
9. California Native American Day, State Capitol, Sacramento, September 22, 2023
10. Western Museums Association, Pasadena, October 6 - 7, 2023
11. Acorn Day, State Indian Museum, Sacramento, October 14, 2023
12. Native Arts Expo, Mendocino, October 27 - 28, 2023
13. Gathering Under the Stars, California Indian Nations College, UCR Palm Desert, November 4, 2023
14. American Indian Chamber of Commerce, Disneyland, December 1, 2023
15. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Jamul Casino, Jamul Indian Village, December 15, 2023
16. CTHC Quarterly Meeting, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Boulevard, December 16, 2023

Tabling Events

1. California Tribal Nations Summit, Sacramento, February 6, 2023
2. California Nations Indian Gaming Association, Sycuan Casino Resort, El Cajon, February 14 - 15, 2023
3. Landscape is Homeland Festival, San Francisco, April 22, 2023
4. Native Arts Festival, Berkeley, June 10, 2023

CIHC Hosted Events

1. Task Force Outreach Launch Event, Sacramento, March 23, 2023
2. Sacramento Regional Tribes Workshop, CIHC Site, West Sacramento, June 4, 2023
3. West Sacramento Neighborhood Workshop, CIHC Site, West Sacramento, June 4, 2023
4. Chumash Indian Museum, Thousand Oaks, November 13, 2023
5. Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, November 29, 2023
6. Virtual Event, March 8, 2024
7. Monterey Event hosted by Middlebury Institute of International Studies & UCB, Monterey, March 9, 2024



Regional Characteristics Findings

California tribes and Native people share common characteristics, but they also exhibit a remarkable diversity influenced by geographic and historical factors. Insights from participants highlighted these distinctions. (The findings and statements in this section are drawn from the ‘CIHC Outreach Comprehensive Findings Report,’ which contains supporting data and evidence.)

Geography

The geographic region and natural topography differentiate tribes. For instance, tribes in arid desert areas face challenges like water scarcity. In other regions, water challenges arise from water being diverted—referred by some participants as ‘stolen’—from their lands. Another geographic consideration involves tribes with reservation lands spanning multiple states, creating complex government-to-government relations and presenting unique, burdensome challenges. Numerous other examples of geographic topics related to regional characteristics also exist and were discussed by participants during the outreach initiative.

Historical and Current Impacts of Trauma

Historical traumas have left indelible marks across the state and within different regions. For example, in the Gold Rush areas, genocide policies were explicitly aimed at removing Native people to benefit miners and settlers. For example, “During 1850, California passed a law that said you can go out and shoot any native people in California. It was something like \$5 for an adult scalp and 25 cents for a child.” Along the coast, tribes were enslaved by Spanish missionaries during their settlement. The Owens Valley tribes experienced theft of waterways and flooding of tribal lands to supply major metropolitan areas with water. In the northwest, the decimation of salmon populations nearly obliterated vital sustenance sources for tribes.

Economic Disparities and Resource Exploitation

Economic opportunities vary widely among tribes. Tribes near major cities often have gaming enterprises that provide significant revenue, creating a disparity between ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots.’ Tribes in more rural areas often lack these opportunities, leading to social disparities. Furthermore, tribes in resource-rich areas were often terminated to facilitate development projects, such as national parks or waterway construction for aqueducts.

Relations with Neighboring Communities

Relations with neighboring communities also differ. Some tribes enjoy good relations, fostering cooperative endeavors. However, others face contentious and divisive relations. A notable example is a tribe sharing a city that maintains an active ‘sundown’ policy, which underscores ongoing racial tensions and discriminatory practices.

Urban vs. Rural Dynamics

A clear distinction exists between Native American populations in major metropolitan areas and elsewhere. Many California tribal members elect to live in cities as opposed to their tribal areas or reservation lands if their tribe happens to have reservation land and housing opportunities. In addition, urban areas are diverse, with Native Americans from outside California contributing to the demographic mix. In addition, tribes whose ancestral homelands lie within these metropolitan areas were most often terminated, making it easier for public land takings and resource exploitation. One participant emphasized, “Our historical experiences shape our identity and connection to the land.” This connection underscores the importance of landback movements and the preservation of cultural resources. It is crucial to respect and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of Native American communities, which is deeply intertwined with the land. This appreciation can lead to the development of cooperative tribal-public policies, in addition to land stewardship and sustainable practices

integral to Native American culture. In *conclusion*, the diverse characteristics of California tribes and Native people paint a complex picture for the future Heritage Center. These distinctions are critical to acknowledge in the design and development phases, as well as in future outreach initiatives. As one participant eloquently put it, “Once you start talking the truth, you start healing.” Understanding and addressing these unique regional characteristics will be essential in creating a space that truly reflects the rich tapestry of California Native American community.

Inclusive, Equity Among All Native Tribes and Peoples

The community engagement process illuminated a common theme among participants: the urgent need for the Heritage Center to **embody inclusivity and equity among all California Indian tribes and people**. The discussions and feedback gathered during the community outreach and engagement process have coalesced around several key categories that are crucial for ensuring the Heritage Center embodies the values of inclusivity and equity. These categories reflect the diverse realities and experiences of the California Indian community and highlight areas where the Heritage Center should focus its efforts to foster a sense of belonging, representation, and fairness.

Balancing Historical Contributions and Contemporary Voices

A recurring theme in the discussions was the need to balance the contributions of those involved in past planning with the fresh perspectives of new generations. Participants from younger generations or those who may not have been involved in previous planning, have felt their voices have been discounted or overshadowed by those who have been part of earlier planning processes. One participant expressed concern over “reinventing the wheel” when much foundational work has already been done: “I feel like we’re going to start reinventing the wheel when it’s already been done.” Conversely, newer participants feel their contributions are often overlooked, which makes them feel inconsequential. This underscores the need for the Heritage Center to validate and incorporate contemporary voices alongside historical contributions, ensuring that all generations feel heard and valued.

Inclusivity Across Tribal Recognition and Membership Status

Participants emphasized the importance of representing both federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes, ensuring that all voices are heard. One participant noted, “It feels to be alone when negotiating with all these agencies,” highlighting the isolation felt by non-federally recognized tribes in the broader policy landscape.

Enrolled tribal members and those who are unenrolled or disenrolled also need representation. The survey shows that a significant portion of participants identified as members of non-federally recognized tribes, pointing to the need for the Heritage Center to acknowledge these diverse identities.

Self-Identified Native Americans and Regional Diversity

The inclusivity narrative also extends to self-identified Native Americans and those from rural tribes. One participant articulated the challenge of geographical and social marginalization: “The wedge feds have put between recognized and non-federally recognized tribes.” This sentiment underscores the need for the Heritage Center to bridge these divides and foster a sense of belonging for all.

Gaming and non-gaming tribes, as well as those from different regional locations, have unique experiences and perspectives. The sense of “out of sight, out of mind” was voiced by participants who feel disconnected due to their remote locations. Ensuring that these voices are included is vital for a truly representative Heritage Center.

Inclusion of Non-California Native Americans

Participants also highlighted the importance of including non-California Native Americans who have lived in the state for significant periods, and often their entire life, often due to federal assimilation and removal policies. One community member stated, “Inclusivity of all tribes and Native Americans in some way,” reflecting the desire for a broader, more inclusive approach that recognizes the diverse histories and experiences of all Native peoples in California.

Addressing Land and Reservation Status

The issue of land and reservation status emerged as another critical area for inclusivity. The Heritage Center must represent tribes with land and reservations as well as those who are landless. One participant poignantly noted the challenges faced by landless tribes: “Why do we need to keep telling the same story and asking for the same things when nothing ever happens.” This highlights the ongoing struggle for recognition and equitable treatment.

Commitment to Equity and Social Justice

Participants stressed the need for equity initiatives that support marginalized groups and ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities. One participant succinctly captured this sentiment: “Address equity issues within the community.” Importantly, there exists a distinctly ‘marginalized within marginalized’ concept, where various additional layers of marginalized groups and people exist under the bigger umbrella of the marginalized ‘Native American’ community.

This multi-layered marginalization further underscores the need for comprehensive and nuanced approaches to equity and inclusion within the Heritage Center.

In conclusion, the voices of outreach participants clearly call for a Heritage Center that represents an inclusive and equitable approach in all aspects. While complex in seeking this inclusivity, by honoring the diverse identities, histories, and experiences of all Native tribes and peoples, the Heritage Center can become a beacon of unity, healing, and empowerment for the entire Native American community.



Place of Healing

Participants in the outreach and engagement process have shared deeply personal and insightful perspectives on the pervasive reality of historical traumas among California Indian people and Native American communities at large. These traumas, rooted in over 200 years of systematic oppression and violence, continue to impact individuals, families, and tribal communities today.

One of the emerging themes from these discussions is the creation of a new, safe space within the California Indian community to openly talk about and share the impacts of historical traumas. As one participant noted, “Healing through cultural identity, language, and relying on family” is essential. Another participant emphasized the importance of this open dialogue by stating, “Capture the stories from our Elders before they’re gone. Start now for when this museum is finally complete - do that now! Show this history and share with others.”

Community members have voiced the importance of movements through activism, education, and truth-telling. They stress the need to reframe educational narratives to reflect the true history of California Indians and Native Americans nationwide, highlighting the ongoing generational impacts of past injustices. Participants have pointed to the significance of uncovering truths surrounding the atrocities committed at boarding schools, the genocides, and the enslavement of Native people through the mission systems and Gold Rush, and many more atrocities. They have also discussed the forced removals, stolen lands, and broken treaties that advanced European settlers during westward expansion and the mission expansions before. One poignant comment encapsulates this sentiment: “Tell the true history of what really happened to the Indigenous people.”

Participants have acknowledged the state’s recognition of these wrongs, including the governor’s apologies and subsequent actions aimed at addressing these historical injustices. They see these steps as vital to the healing process but recognize that much work remains to be done. One participant remarked, “Importance of Governor’s apology at CIHC project site” as a meaningful step towards reconciliation.

In light of these discussions, the **Heritage Center is envisioned by the community as a crucial place of healing.** Participants have shared their hopes for the Heritage Center to encompass physical spaces, programs, services, counseling, and resources that promote togetherness and support truth-telling. They believe the Heritage Center should be a beacon for tribes and individuals on their path forward to healing, offering the tools and support needed to address and overcome the traumas of the past. As one community member expressed, “A place to come together, share stories, food, hope, and strength” is essential for the healing journey.

Other participants emphasized the need for truth and healing initiatives, stating, “Healing is the action, truth is the motivation,” and “Once you start talking the truth, you start healing”. This narrative, enriched by the voices of those who participated in the community engagement process, underscores the profound need for healing and the vital role the Heritage Center can play in this ongoing journey.

The Site and Location

The outreach findings identify extensive input from participants that encompass several critical themes related to its location: the historical and cultural importance of the site and its symbolism, the profound connection to the river, the envisioned communal gathering space, the need for balanced development, the essential honor and respect for local tribes, and the deep-rooted connection to nature and environmental stewardship. These key categories reflect a unified vision for a center that deeply respects and celebrates the area’s rich cultural heritage, highlighting the significance of recognizing and valuing Native American stewardship of nature through Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and sustainable practices.

Critical Importance of the Place

The chosen site for the future Heritage Center is more than just a location; it is a place rich in historical and cultural significance. This confluence of rivers holds deep symbolic value, representing the merging of histories, cultures, and communities. Historically, the site was a hub for gathering, trade, and ceremonies, and it continues to be a testament to the ancestral tribes who frequented it. One participant articulated, “Connection to the land is very important. We have been here for centuries, and this site reflects our continuous presence and history.” Another highlighted, “It’s important to understand the significance of this site to our ancestors and how it was used for cultural gatherings and trade.”

Symbolism and Historical Use

The historical use of the confluence as a place for gathering, trade, and ceremony is deeply significant. The site symbolizes unity and shared purpose, bringing people together. Participants expressed concerns about the depth of understanding regarding the site’s historical and symbolic importance. One noted, “I have a lot of concern about how much thought and study and sensitivity has gone into really understanding the significance of the site, its historical symbolism to the ancestral tribes and people whose homelands were

there.” This underscores the need for comprehensive historical and cultural education as part of the site’s development.

Connection to the River

The connection to the river is fundamental to the site, both historically and in the present day. Traditional practices, such as gathering plant materials, still occur here, emphasizing the need to preserve both the plants and the accessibility and privacy for these activities. One participant stressed, “Traditional plants and the gathering of traditional plant materials that still happens on the site is seen as critical and has to be preserved.” Participants envision the river as a place for educational and ceremonial gatherings, offering opportunities for teaching and learning about cultural practices.

Connection to Nature, Care of Nature, and Tending of Nature

The findings from the outreach process underscore the deep-rooted connections between Native American cultural practices and environmental stewardship. Central to these findings is the concept of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), which embodies the wisdom and practices developed over thousands of years. TEK is not just a collection of environmental management techniques; it is a holistic approach that integrates the gathering of traditional plant materials, restoration, and healing of the land, and the cultural narratives that connect people to nature. This knowledge ensures the sustainable use of natural resources for sustenance and traditional lifeways, demonstrating a symbiotic relationship between the community and their environment.

These interconnected themes highlight the significance of recognizing and valuing Native American stewardship of nature. Origin stories and cultural practices reveal how deeply embedded the care-taking of nature is within their heritage. The acknowledgment of TEK by broader society represents a crucial step in validating the expertise and contributions of Native people in environmental conservation. The sustained care of nature by Native communities has preserved biodiversity and ecosystem health, showcasing a model of sustainability that modern practices can learn from. These findings emphasize that the integration of TEK and traditional practices is essential for effective environmental stewardship and the continued vitality of cultural heritage.

A Place Where People Come Together

The envisioned Heritage Center is designed to be a place where people come together to gather, trade, and celebrate. It aims to honor local tribes and incorporate their perspectives, ensuring their voices and traditions are central to the project. One participant highlighted the need for “A gathering space for tribal people,” emphasizing dedicated areas for community bonding and cultural exchange. Another mentioned, “**Eat, talk, laugh and share stories. Visit family and learn with them. Breathing deep and being joyful,**” illustrating the center as a space for communal life and shared experiences.

Balancing Development

Participants stressed the importance of balanced development that respects the site’s cultural and environmental significance. There is a clear call for development that integrates traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable practices. “The concept of ‘Land Stewardship’ as

opposed to ‘land exploitation’” was a recurring theme in the discussions. The development plan should include interpretive components that educate visitors about the cultural and natural heritage of the site, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding. As suggested, “Interpretive activities and demonstrations are best. Outdoor areas should have plenty of interpretive signage and should be beautiful.”

Honoring the Local Tribes

The process of the CIHC project and the final development and its building, site, programs, and services must honor the local tribes, recognizing their historical and ongoing connection to the land. Continuous engagement with tribal communities is essential to ensure that their cultural protocols and traditions are respected. “Continued work with tribes for blessing the grounds” and “Community input as you’re doing now and getting community out on the land to connect with it, honor it, bless it, and set intentions for what the space was and what it will be” were some of the ways suggested to maintain this respect.

The collective vision for the future Heritage Center is one that deeply respects and honors the site’s historical, cultural, and environmental significance. It is envisioned as a place where the local tribes’ perspectives are paramount, where traditional practices are preserved, and where educational opportunities abound, fostering a deeper connection to the rich cultural heritage of the area.



Perpetuate Culture

The CIHC is envisioned by the community as a beacon of cultural perpetuity, restoration, and preservation, reflecting the collective hopes and needs expressed by its community members. Cultural revitalization stands at the heart of the aspirations shared by participants during the CIHC outreach initiatives. Through a profound commitment to preserving and celebrating heritage, Native communities strive to ensure that their languages, traditions, and histories are not only remembered but actively lived and experienced by future generations.

This commitment and vision to perpetuate culture is organized into the following key thematic areas, each addressing critical aspects of cultural continuity: Symbolism of Culture, Preservation, Restoration, Perpetuation of Culture, Educational Initiatives, Cultural Events and Gatherings, Historical Injustices, Connection to Land, and Preserving Heritage Practices and Sites.

Symbolism of Culture

The community envisions a Heritage Center that “radiates cultural vibrancy” in every aspect, serving as a sanctuary for individuals reconnecting with their roots. Whether helping children connect to their culture or offering a space to rediscover heritage, the design should aim to be unforgettable. One participant remarked, “We want the design to be unforgettable, a place where every element tells a story and connects us to our heritage in a profound way.” This vision seeks to balance minimal impact on the land while creating a proud symbol for the California Indian community.

Cultural Preservation

Participants emphasized the necessity of preserving and revitalizing their cultures and languages. Elders’ and speakers’ invaluable knowledge was highlighted as critical, with calls for each tribe’s language to be included through video or audio recordings by Elders or local speakers. One participant poignantly remarked, “**Language is culture!**”

The recognition of currently non-federally recognized tribes, as exemplified by one participant’s hope for their “Tribe to be recognized,” reflects a broader longing for acknowledgment, respect, and cultural restoration.

There is a strong call for a consolidated resource hub for cultural activities and events, addressing the current inconsistency and scatter of information. This center should expand cultural awareness and knowledge among tribal communities, especially for those who have lost touch with their heritage or have never been exposed to it. People express a desire for support in reclaiming lost traditions and languages.

Restoration

Cultural restoration is a key demand from the community, with a strong desire for the Heritage Center to be a hub where people can reconnect with their culture. Many feel there is currently no place or anyone to turn to for cultural connection. Interactive activities at outreach events underscored this need, with comments such as “Teach the kids as early as kindergarten so they never take a back seat and be proud!” and “Capture the stories from our Elders before they’re gone.” The community wants the center to ensure that these vital aspects of culture are not only preserved but revitalized and reintegrated into everyday life.

Educational Initiatives

The role of education in cultural revitalization and preservation is paramount. Participants envision the CIHC as “A place for all California Natives to gather and educate the general population of our uniqueness and differences.” This vision extends to educating non-Native individuals about Native culture and traditions, fostering greater understanding and respect.

Cultural Events and Gatherings

Preserving and revitalizing culture involves vibrant community activities and events. Participants express a desire for more frequent cultural gatherings, such as “Have more Big Times,” and proposed regular events like a “Monthly

market with Native vendors.” These gatherings examples are seen as vital for maintaining and celebrating cultural practices. Furthermore, they call for initiatives that include “infrastructure, state parks, natural resources,” emphasizing the integration of cultural events with environmental and infrastructural efforts.

Historical Injustices and Truth and Healing

Addressing historical injustices is an essential component of cultural revitalization. The Governor’s apology was highlighted for its profound significance, with participants noting the “Importance of Governor’s apology at CIHC project site” and its symbolic impact “under the oak tree.” This act of recognition and apology is a crucial step towards healing and reconciliation. Additionally, there is a call to “Tell the true history of what really happened to the Indigenous people,” ensuring that the narrative of Native history is accurately represented and acknowledged.

Cultural Connection to Land

The connection to ancestral lands and the environment is deeply ingrained in Native cultures. Participants emphasized the importance of “Ancestral lands” and addressing “place names” as part of their cultural revitalization efforts. Environmental conservation is also a priority, with sentiments such as “Water is life” and a focus on sustainable practices like “Initiatives including environmental protection, fish and wildlife, operations and business.”

Preserving Heritage Practices and Sites

Preserving cultural practices and heritage sites is integral to revitalization efforts. The importance of arts and crafts was underscored through calls for “Cultural presentations and gatherings,” an “Art room,” and “Children’s programs - traditions (song, dance, basket weaving).” Ceremonial practices, particularly the role of fire, were highlighted with mentions of the “Ceremonial aspect of fire” and the significance of the “Firekeeper.”

Through these multifaceted efforts, Native communities are actively working towards a future where their cultures are not only preserved but thrive, contributing to a richer, more inclusive understanding of history and identity.

The CIHC is envisioned to be shaped by the voices of the community, who envision it as a multifaceted institution dedicated to the symbolism, preservation, restoration, and perpetuation of California Indian culture. They ask for a place of learning, reclaiming, and celebrating heritage, ensuring that the rich cultural legacy of Native communities continues to thrive for generations to come.

Perpetuate Culture

The overarching request from the community is for the Heritage Center to perpetuate culture comprehensively. This involves considering all possibilities for cultural perpetuity and planning for capacity building and long-term sustainability. People want the center to be a place where cultural knowledge is actively transmitted and celebrated, fostering a sense of continuity and belonging. This long-term vision is integral to the community's requests, as reflected in the sentiment analysis found within the 'Acorn Wishes': "Cultural preservation for the next 7 generations. My great-grandkids to know about their greats, greats, greats before us!"

By embodying the elements of Symbolism of Culture, Preservation, Restoration, Educational Initiatives, Cultural Events and Gatherings, Historical Injustices, Connection to Land, and Preserving Heritage Practices and Sites, the outreach findings represent a collective voice from participants that CIHC should aim to be an all-encompassing institution dedicated to the holistic perpetuation of California Indian culture. This comprehensive approach ensures that the rich cultural legacy of California Indian communities and people continues to thrive for generations to come.

Togetherness, Gathering

Participants envision the future Heritage Center as a vibrant embodiment of "togetherness" and "gathering," serving as a hub for connection and community. Togetherness and gathering are deeply rooted in Native American culture, where being united with one's family and community is not only a tradition but a necessity for cultural preservation and mutual support.

This sense of unity transcends familial bonds, fostering connections among various tribes, aboriginal cultural communities, and regional groups, both within local territories and across long distances. Participants believe that the Heritage Center should reflect this interconnectedness, creating a space where people can come together to celebrate their shared heritage, learn from one another, and strengthen their communal ties. One participant expressed the hope for "a place for all California Natives to gather and educate the general population of our uniqueness and differences," underscoring the importance of a communal space for cultural exchange and education.

Additionally, participants highlight the significance of events like 'Native American Day,' where tribes from across the state gather to be honored. They emphasize the need for the Heritage Center to support a variety of gatherings, whether for ceremonies, learning, or simply enjoying each other's company. They envision a place that is welcoming and comfortable, where people can come together for all types and sizes of events. As one participant remarked, "Importance of gathering in a place that feels welcoming, safe, and the ability to share and celebrate."

Participants also stress the importance of the Heritage Center to be a safe space where Native people encounter no barriers to being part of the community. They also want the design of the spaces and environment to prioritize comfort, ease, and a sense of belonging, promoting healing and well-being.

There is a strong desire for areas dedicated to private ceremonies and spirituality, ensuring that individuals have the space for introspection and traditional practices. One participant noted, "Provide spaces for important cultural ceremonies and practices." Another emphasized, "Healing is the action, truth is the motivation."

Moreover, participants want the center to offer places for experiencing fun and joy together, reflecting the common characteristics of humor and camaraderie prevalent among Native people. In fact, one participant shared that they were involved in an exhibit on the very topic of Native humor who said, "We had an exhibit that was called Indian Humor that we curated and exhibited in our gallery. It was quite great. People loved it."

Participants envision spaces where artists and traditional artisans can come together to create, such as weaving or processing traditional plants and foods like acorn gathering and processing. According to one participant who asked for, "Workshops on traditional arts/crafts, songs/dance, and traditional lifeways and skills," noting these are essential for the center. Additionally, another participant suggested, "Monthly market with Native vendors" to foster community engagement and enjoyment.

In essence, participants want the Heritage Center to be a beacon of togetherness and gathering, nurturing the bonds within families, communities, and tribes, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage and traditions of California Indian and Native American people. Their vision is for a place that honors their needs and desires, creating an inclusive and enriching environment for all.



All Things Education and Learning

The outreach process for the CIHC project has illuminated a profound and unified call for education and learning experiences, which have emerged as the most common themes, second only to cultural components. Participants have emphasized the critical need for education that intertwines deeply with cultural context, advocating for a comprehensive approach that encompasses truth-telling, learning and relearning, and educating both the public and the tribal community.

General Public Education

For the general public, there is a strong consensus that the educational narrative should be driven by the California Native American people themselves. This ensures that the authenticity and integrity of the Native educational voice is preserved. One participant noted, “It is crucial for not only preserving our culture but also sharing and teaching the public.”

Participants highlighted the importance of truth-telling and reteaching, correcting historical inaccuracies, and providing a more honest representation of Native American history and culture. There is also a call for school curriculum to defer to Native American sources for educational content, ensuring that students receive a more accurate and respectful understanding of Native heritage. As one participant emphasized, “Teach the kids as early as kindergarten so they never take a back seat and be proud.”

Tribal Community Education

Within the Native American community, education is viewed as a vital means of preserving and perpetuating cultural identity. Teachings passed down through generations, particularly from elders, are seen as invaluable. One elder eloquently expressed this sentiment: “Capture the stories from our Elders before they’re gone. Start now for when this museum is finally complete - do that now! Show this history and share with others.”

These traditional teachings encompass spiritual and cultural traditions, as well as language preservation, forming the bedrock of community education.

Truth-Telling Education and Learning

The importance of educational programs was repeatedly emphasized, with a particular focus on truth-telling and relearning. As one participant stated, “Tell the true history of what really happened to the Indigenous people.” This highlights the community’s desire to correct historical narratives and ensure that future generations understand the true history and contributions of Native Americans. Another participant added, “Teach our history in public schools - and work to remove Indian mascots!”, underscoring the need for educational reform that respects and accurately represents Native American culture.

Traditional Teachings and Spiritual Practices

Additionally, there is a strong emphasis on the role of traditional teachings and spiritual practices. One community member shared, “Our history, story, songs, connection with each other,” emphasizing the interconnectedness of cultural elements in education. The desire for a place where people can connect with their ancestors was echoed by another participant who said, “A place where people can research their ancestors and Native ancestry.”

Interactive and Immersive Learning

The community’s feedback also highlighted the importance of interactive and immersive learning experiences. “Interactive and immersive learning: responses underline the importance of hands-on, engaging educational formats such as workshops, live demonstrations, and interactive exhibits.” This approach ensures that education is not only informative but also engaging and memorable.

Environmental and Ecological Education

Environmental and ecological education also emerged as significant themes. Participants expressed a desire for programs that teach traditional ecological knowledge and the importance of environmental stewardship. As one participant noted, “To remember Indian ways how we took care of our land, generations then so after.”

Educational and Collaborative Hub

Participants envision the CIHC as a place where Native cultures are not only preserved but also actively shared and celebrated. They want the center to provide a platform for teaching and learning, where knowledge is exchanged between generations and communities. This collaborative environment is seen as crucial for supporting the ongoing movements of reconciliation and the increasing awareness and acceptance of Native cultures. As one participant expressed, “There is increasing awareness, acceptance, acknowledgment of Native cultures.” Moreover, the desire for interactive and immersive learning experiences is clear: “Participate in the process of basket weaving, hear languages.”

In essence, the outreach findings underscore a collective aspiration for an educational framework that honors and promotes California Indian and Native American voices, ensuring that both the public and the tribal community benefit from a richer, more truthful understanding of California Indian heritage. This approach not only preserves cultural identity but also fosters a deeper appreciation and respect for California Indian and Native American history and traditions among all audiences.

Restoring Faith and Establishing Trust: The Imperative of CIHC

The CIHC project stands as a monumental opportunity to restore faith and establish trust among California Indian people and Native communities in California. For decades, the lack of tangible progress in the development of the CIHC project has generated a pervasive sense of skepticism and disappointment. Many community members have shared their frustration and disappointment, which has sometimes led to sentiments of apathy and anger. This is a common theme heard throughout the outreach process.

The longevity and lack of delivery have in some cases created a negative impression about the project. One participant shared, “Why do we need to keep telling the same story and asking for the same things when nothing ever happens?” This sentiment resonates with broader historical traumas such as broken treaties and other mis-truths, making it imperative for the CIHC to succeed. The completion of the CIHC will not only serve as a symbol of hope and pride but will also offer a renewed belief in the development and progress of the Native community.

Delivering on the promise of the CIHC is essential not only for the project’s success but also for validating the state’s commitment to honoring its promises.

The CIHC must become a powerful symbol to the general public, reflecting the enduring presence, importance, and respect of California Native communities. One participant emphasized this by saying, “We are the beginning of California.” This statement underscores the importance of the CIHC as a place of truth-telling, where the rich histories and contributions of Native peoples are celebrated and acknowledged.

Furthermore, the CIHC must address the apathy and anger that have built up over the years. Delivering the CIHC is about more than meeting a deadline; it is about rebuilding trust and demonstrating that the voices of California tribal communities’ matter. As one participant noted, “Healing is the action, truth is the motivation.” The CIHC will stand as a testament to this truth, offering a place for cultural preservation, education, and community engagement.

Lastly, in order to restore faith and trust among the California Native Community and the State of California, the CIHC project must move forward in a timely and sequential manner. The call to “just get it done” echoes the urgent need to address the decades-long frustrations and deliver on promises made. By completing the CIHC, the state will not only fulfill its promise but also create a lasting symbol of hope, reconciliation, and pride for California tribal communities and Native people.

Location as a Single Destination

Situating the CIHC in a single location in West Sacramento offers notable advantages, particularly in terms of unity and representation. The central location can serve as a powerful platform for government-to-government relations, effectively advocating tribal interests and hosting important gatherings like Native American Day and Tribal Summits.

Envisioning the CIHC as a cultural embassy enhances its role, creating a space that represents and advocates for the cultural heritage and contemporary expressions of Native American communities. However, the distance from various parts of California poses significant challenges, with findings that indicate that the further the Heritage Center is from tribal communities, the less relevant and engaging it becomes. This perception leads to decreased support, particularly in southern regions. Even communities an hour away from Sacramento have expressed the need for more than one location, highlighting the challenge of ensuring the CIHC serves all California tribes and Native people effectively. Moving forward, it is crucial to balance the symbolic and practical needs of the CIHC to create a Heritage Center that truly represents and serves the diverse tribal communities across the state.

Pros:

One of the advantages of situating the CIHC in a single location in West Sacramento is the opportunity it offers for unity and representation. The central location provides a powerful platform for government-to-government relations, where tribal interests can be advocated effectively near the seat of state government. It symbolizes a place where important gatherings can be held, fostering a sense of togetherness among California tribal nations. Rather than visiting various state offices, having a dedicated location that symbolically represents tribal territory allows for a more profound and respectful representation of tribal heritage and sovereignty.



Envisioning the CIHC as a cultural embassy further enhances its role and significance. As one community member expressed, “I imagine the center as a sort of cultural embassy of sorts, museum, and educational space that showcases the richness of our heritage.” This concept of a cultural embassy creates a space that represents and advocates for the cultural heritage and contemporary expressions of California tribal communities. Another community member echoed this vision, stating, “The concept of a cultural embassy is to create a space that represents and advocates for the cultural heritage and contemporary expressions of California tribal communities.”

The CIHC, in this light, not only serves as a museum and educational space but also as a dedicated location that reinforces its role as a central, unifying, and sovereign entity.

Cons:

Conversely, the location’s distance from various parts of California presents notable challenges. Feedback from outreach efforts indicate that the further away the Heritage Center is from tribal communities, the more it is perceived as inconvenient and almost irrelevant.

This perception often correlates with a decreased level of engagement and support for the project found throughout the outreach process. For example, for tribes located further from Sacramento, there has been a recurring sentiment that the Heritage Center is too far, which can lead to a perceived disconnect and a reduced level of care for the project.

Outreach events in distant regions, particularly in southern regions, faced significant hurdles. Despite numerous efforts, the success of these events was often limited, necessitating reliance on piggybacking on other events to gather support.

In areas just an hour away from Sacramento, comments still surfaced about the need for more than one location. This feedback underscores a critical challenge: the mission of the CIHC to equally serve all California tribes and people is perceived as less effective if the center is not easily accessible to those living further away.

Moving Forward

This recognition of both the pros and cons of the CIHC’s location is crucial for future discussions regarding programming and services. Ensuring the center can equally serve California tribes, regardless of their proximity to West Sacramento, will be an essential consideration in the next phases of development. Balancing the symbolic and practical needs of the CIHC will help in creating a Heritage Center that truly represents and serves the diverse tribal communities across the entire state of California.

A Place of Resource

Participants have voiced a strong desire for the center to serve as a vital resource for reconnecting individuals with their culture, supporting movements of reconciliation, and fostering awareness, acceptance, and acknowledgment of Native cultures. The feedback gathered indicates a clear vision for the CIHC as a comprehensive hub where people can explore and reclaim their cultural identities through various means and resources.

Reconnecting with Culture

The context of participants input highlight a significant movement among California tribal communities and Native people to reconnect with their culture and heritage. This positive shift is also reflected within the broader public, with increasing awareness around truth-telling, addressing historical traumas, reclaiming culture, and efforts towards cultural revitalization and preservation. The drive for reconnection is fueled by resources such as DNA research, books, films, and other forms of art and humanities, which shed light on how people and families became disconnected from their cultural roots.

There is a strong call for the CIHC to become a central place where California Indians and Native Americans can research their ancestry and gain a deeper understanding of their heritage. One participant expressed, “There seems to be a renewal of reconnecting with one’s own culture.” Another emphasized the importance of documenting experiences and knowledge: “It’s important to people like me who are searching for connection to their heritage. It’s important to document the native people’s experience living in the area over time.”

Support Services for Preservation and Cultural Reclamation

Participants want the Heritage Center to offer support services to help individuals reclaim their cultural identities. This includes providing access to collections deemed appropriate by tribal communities and Native families, as well as conservation services, programs, and facilities dedicated to the care of cultural artifacts and languages. The CIHC is envisioned as a place where people come to teach and learn together, both physically and remotely. One respondent highlighted the importance of such a space: “A place where people can research their ancestry.” Additionally, the emphasis on preserving and sharing knowledge is evident: “We want to preserve our culture, languages, artifacts, and educate our people.”

Tools and Resources

Feedback indicates a desire for the CIHC to be equipped with the systems and tools necessary to serve as a comprehensive resource. This includes technologies such as video and audio recordings for language revitalization and personnel who can help people navigate systems, policies, and paperwork related to cultural preservation and heritage projects, including assistance with grant applications, legal documentation, and administrative support.

Participants see the Heritage Center as a resource for individuals as well as tribal nations, providing the necessary support to foster cultural connections and growth. One comment emphasized this multifaceted role: “A place that is a resource to people as well as tribal nations.” Another participant expressed the importance of interactive educational formats: “Interactive exhibits with hands-on activities.”

Language Revitalization:

The Heritage Center should provide technologies such as video and audio recordings for language revitalization.” This would include recording elders speaking their native languages, creating digital archives, and developing educational materials to support language learning.

Personnel and Support Systems:

Participants emphasized the importance of having personnel who can help people navigate systems, policies, and paperwork related to cultural preservation and heritage projects. This includes assistance with grant applications, legal documentation, and administrative support.

Interactive Educational Formats:

The feedback highlighted the desire for interactive exhibits with hands-on activities that engage visitors in learning about Native cultures. Examples include interactive maps, digital storytelling stations, and augmented reality experiences that bring historical events to life.

Access to Collections and Conservation Services:

The CIHC is envisioned as a place where individuals can access collections deemed appropriate by tribal communities and Native families. Conservation services, programs, and facilities dedicated to the care of cultural artifacts and languages are essential components.

Research and Documentation:

The center should provide resources for people to research their ancestry and gain a deeper understanding of their heritage. This includes access to historical documents, genealogical tools, and databases that document the native people’s experience living in the area over time.



Emerging Themes and Insights from CIHC Outreach Initiative

The CIHC Outreach Initiative has been a comprehensive effort to gather insights and perspectives from California Native communities and people. Through a series of structured outreach events, casual conversations, and observations, the initiative has uncovered a wealth of information that is both insightful and critical to the project's success. This process has not only highlighted well-documented needs and aspirations but also brought to light several nuanced issues and emerging themes. These findings, learned through the careful watch of current issues and direct engagement with community members, provide a deeper understanding of the complexities and dynamics within California Native communities.

The following topics explore key themes that have emerged from the outreach process. These include observations about the confusion surrounding the CIHC's name, the impact of skepticism from past unmet promises, the importance of immediate tangible actions, examples of similar successful projects, the significance of tribal alliances, the diverse areas of focused interests among tribes, the varying openness to external advocates, and the inclusivity of non-California Native American stories. Each of these themes is rooted in the genuine voices and experiences of the community, reflecting both challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the CIHC.

Name of CIHC

The name "California Indian Heritage Center" sometimes creates confusion among stakeholders. During the outreach initiative, it was noted that this confusion often arises due to the similarity with the "California Indian Museum and Cultural Center" located in Santa Rosa. To address this, it may be beneficial to consider a more distinct name that better captures the essence of the center's mission and incorporates a traditional cultural expression. A unique name that speaks to the cultural richness and heritage of California Native people, while emphasizing the center's dedication to preserving and promoting these cultures

and histories, would enhance clarity and brand recognition. Revisiting the name with an emphasis on traditional cultural expression can help the CIHC clearly communicate its purpose and foster a stronger connection with the community.

"Naysayers"

Naysayers are individuals or groups who express skepticism or opposition towards the project and its individual initiatives. Every significant project faces criticism and doubts, and the CIHC is no exception. Addressing concerns from naysayers is crucial for the project's success. These naysayer individuals may have valid points based on past experiences, such as promises unfulfilled or initiatives that did not materialize. Engaging these critics in meaningful dialogue can provide insights and potentially convert opposition into support. Their feedback can highlight areas needing more robust communication, transparency, and demonstration of the project's commitment and feasibility.

An Immediate Gesture Will Go a Long Way

Taking immediate and tangible actions can significantly bolster the CIHC's credibility and demonstrate seriousness. Past decades of planning and promises may have led to skepticism, so concrete steps—such as initiating small, visible projects or community events—can showcase the center's commitment and progress. These actions can build trust and signal a break from past inaction, fostering a sense of real and immediate engagement with the community.

Examples of Similar Projects Elsewhere

Highlighting successful similar projects from other states, tribes, or national initiatives can serve as powerful examples of what the CIHC aims to achieve. Studying these examples can inspire confidence in the project's potential and provide models for best practices. These case studies can illustrate the benefits of Heritage Centers in preserving culture, educating the public, and fostering community pride.

Conducting additional research into the referenced projects and places by participants and found within the body of input—whether they are examples of interpretive design, methods of exhibiting and honoring segments of the community (such as California Native Veterans), or ways of communicating interpretive components (such as experiences and places of 'healing')—can be highly beneficial. Other examples include traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) practices and places for traditional native gardens and farms. This research can offer valuable insights and guidance for the CIHC.

Tribal Groups Have Important Cultural Alliances

The importance of alliances among tribal groups, such as those of the Patwin and Kumeyaay for example, cannot be understated. These tribal cultural groups and alliances strengthen the collective voice and advocacy efforts of California Native communities. Recognizing and fostering these relationships within the CIHC project can enhance collaboration and ensure a more comprehensive representation of diverse tribal interests and histories.

Areas of Focused Interests Are Too Diverse

The diversity of focused interests among tribal groups presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Rather than attempting to interpret these varied interests under a single narrative, the CIHC should develop processes that allow tribes to tell their own stories. For example, the environmental efforts of the Karuk Tribe differ significantly from the recognition struggles of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Providing platforms for each group to share their unique perspectives and initiatives will enrich the overall narrative and respect the distinctiveness of each tribe's experiences.

Openness to Advocates and Supporters

The CIHC should navigate the varying degrees of openness among tribes toward external advocates and supporters. Some tribes may welcome allies in their advocacy efforts,

while others may prefer to operate independently. Understanding and respecting these preferences is essential for building trust and ensuring that external support is provided in a manner that aligns with each tribe's values and objectives.

Inclusivity of Non-California Native Americans

Incorporating the contemporary stories of non-California Native Americans within the CIHC can enrich the center's narrative and reflect the broader Native experience. This inclusivity can help bridge connections between California tribes and the wider Native American community, fostering a more holistic understanding of Native American heritage and contemporary issues.

By addressing these intuitive issues surfaced through the outreach process, the CIHC can create a more inclusive, responsive, and representative Heritage Center that honors the diversity and history of California Native peoples while engaging with the broader Native American community.

Positive Response to Participatory Engagement Process

The participatory outreach and engagement process of the CIHC Outreach Initiative, characterized by its bottom-up input strategy, received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community. This inclusive approach has been instrumental in building trust, fostering collaboration, generating awareness and excitement, and ensuring that the voices of California tribes and Indian people are heard and valued. Many participants have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of the CIHC.

Participants praised the outreach efforts for being culturally respectful and inclusive. Comments such as, "I really appreciated the opportunity to provide my input," and "The events were well-organized and made me feel like my voice mattered," highlight the community's optimism and support for the project. The appreciation for cultural preservation efforts is evident in statements like, "It was wonderful to see such a focus on our traditions and heritage," and "The engagement process has been very inclusive and respectful of our culture."

The participatory engagement process has also been lauded for its effectiveness in reaching a broad audience. Participants have requested more outreach and opportunities to be involved, indicating a strong desire for continued engagement. For example, one participant stated, "Please continue these outreach events; they are vital for our community," reflecting the community's commitment to ongoing participation and engagement.

Another participant expressed the importance of ongoing engagement, saying, "The community events have brought us closer together and allowed for meaningful conversations about our future." This highlights the community's desire for the CIHC to continue educating the public and promoting the unique aspects of each tribe.

The enthusiasm for the participatory engagement process is further evidenced by comments calling for its continuation and expansion. Statements like, "I feel more connected to my heritage through these events," and "We need more opportunities to share our stories and traditions," emphasize the need for sustained and equitable engagement. These comments reflect a collective

aspiration for the CIHC to be a dynamic and inclusive space that continues to evolve with ongoing community input.

The success of this outreach process can serve as a benchmark for a long-term program for the future Heritage Center. Adopting this form of community-wide, consistent participatory process ensures that important communication, togetherness, and community-building concepts are continuously reinforced. By embedding these practices into the core operations of the CIHC, the center can maintain a strong connection with the community and foster an environment of collaboration and mutual respect.

In summary, the positive response to the participatory engagement process, has been a significant impact in the CIHC project. The community's enthusiastic feedback and calls for continued involvement underscore the success of this approach and the importance of maintaining strong, ongoing connections with California Native peoples as the project moves forward.



Long-List of Ideas

This section compiles and categorizes a wide range of ideas and opinions gathered from participants throughout the CIHC Outreach Initiative. While comprehensive, it is not exhaustive. For a complete understanding of the extensive recommendations, refer to the Comprehensive Findings Report.

The insights recommended by participants and listed in the following ideas have been organized into key themes to ensure comprehensive representation and effective project development. The categories include Collaboration and Community Involvement, Community and Gathering Spaces, Cultural Preservation and Practices, Education and Historical Accuracy, Environmental and Land Issues, Government and Funding, Health and Well-being, Recognition and Support, Technology and Modern Elements, and Youth and Future Generations. Each category encapsulates the diverse perspectives and innovative suggestions provided by the participants, highlighting the collective vision for the California Indian Heritage Center.

Collaboration and Community Involvement

- Collaboration on education and genocide studies.
- Collaborative efforts among tribes to maintain sovereignty.
- Collaborating with local organizations.
- Community-driven development of CIHC.
- Community-driven narrative and governance.
- Community engagement and ownership.
- Community-led governance and operation.
- Emphasizing community unity, collaboration, and input in CIHC development.
- Ensuring proper representation and education.
- Gathering space for tribes to share stories and feel comfortable.
- Involving youth in cultural education and activities.
- Long-term involvement and support for CIHC.

- Native-led governance of cultural centers.
- Personal commitment to CIHC project and its significance.
- Political advocacy.
- Political advocacy platform.
- Supporting contemporary native arts and educating about contemporary native cultures.
- Tribal control over cultural materials and input in project development.
- Vision for impact.
- Vision of the CIHC as a community-driven project reflecting the living culture of California tribes.

Community and Gathering Spaces

- Barrier-free experiential learning.
- Ceremonial and community spaces for pan-tribal gatherings.
- CIHC as a place for field trips, educational outreach, and community events.
- CIHC as a place to gather, teach children, and emphasize oral tradition.
- CIHC as a place for ceremony, governance, and family connection.
- CIHC as a “one-stop shop” for cultural learning and practice.
- Continued stewardship of the land and its plants.
- Creating spaces for family contributions and preserving personal and tribal histories.
- Cultural festivals and live demonstrations.
- Desire for roundhouse and sweat lodges at CIHC.
- Desire to see archives, traditional art, language centers, and resources for tribes at CIHC.
- Emphasis on the sacredness of the land and its plants.
- Importance of outdoor spaces for gatherings.
- Importance of preserving natural spaces, plants, and traditional foods.
- Permanent spaces for ceremonies and gatherings.
- Pool, camping areas, and picnic benches.
- Providing gathering spaces for ceremonies, dancing, singing, and drumming.
- Recreational facilities.

- Roundhouse, arbor, or dance floor at CIHC.
- Shelters for the homeless.
- Significance of powwows for fellowship and cultural preservation.
- Spaces for language classes, cultural practices, and community gatherings.
- Vision of a united place for tribes to come together.
- Vision of the CIHC as a “one-stop shop” for cultural learning and practice.
- Vision of the CIHC to facilitate healing and respect for the land.

Cultural Preservation and Practices

- Addressing contemporary issues like abuse and addiction connected to historical trauma.
- Basket weaving exhibits.
- Centralized place for historical documentation and genealogy.
- Connection to ancestors and restoration of the site’s historical significance.
- Continued stewardship of the land and its plants.
- Cultural embassy.
- Cultural revival workshops.
- Cultural responsibility and advocacy.
- Cultural trade routes and fostering economic and cultural exchange among tribes.
- Cultural representation.
- Cultural festivals and live demonstrations.
- Cultural preservation.
- Documenting and preserving traditional laws, customs, and languages.
- Educating about the significance of traditional medicine and natural resources.
- Emphasis on contemporary native art alongside traditional forms.
- Incorporating language revitalization programs.
- Integrated language revitalization programs.
- Importance of traditional practices like salmon fishing, basket making, and canoe building.
- Interactive and experiential learning spaces.
- Interactive and multi-sensory exhibits.
- Living cultural exhibits.

- Multifaceted educational programs featuring traditional and modern practices.
- Natural trails and traditional plant preservations.
- Oratory hallway.
- Preserving cultural trade routes and fostering economic and cultural exchange among tribes.
- Providing a native perspective on history.
- Protecting artifacts from flooding.
- Technology and media wing for digital preservation.
- Traditional ecological knowledge and its integration into art and daily life.
- Traditional native houses.
- Use of technology for storytelling.
- Vibrant basket weaving traditions.

Education and Historical Accuracy

- Addressing historical wrongs and misconceptions about Native Americans.
- Addressing the political and social challenges faced by non-federally recognized tribes.
- Advocacy for the recognition of Native American classical history.
- Augmented and virtual reality in cultural storytelling.
- Comprehensive historical education.
- Comprehensive representation of all tribes.
- Comprehensive representation of tribal nations.
- Correcting historical inaccuracies about tribal names and events.
- Digital storytelling and interactive exhibits.
- Educating about the history of massacres and genocides in California.
- Educating non-natives about Native American history, cultural trauma, and historical events.
- Educating youth about taking care of the earth.
- Education as a central focus at CIHC.
- Education for youth starting from early school years.
- Educational partnerships with schools.
- Educational programs on modern native issues.
- Experiential and interactive learning spaces.

- Highlighting the diverse cultures and histories of California tribes.
- Hollywood historical tie-in.
- Historical contextualization.
- Historical trauma from boarding schools affecting language preservation.
- Inclusion of local histories and survivor stories.
- Interactive and dynamic educational programs.
- Interactive and tech-integrated learning environments.
- Living history programs.
- Multifaceted educational programs featuring traditional and modern practices.
- Narrative choices in cultural storytelling.
- Not sugarcoating historical facts.
- Oratory hallway.
- Representing true history of the tribe.
- School partnerships for native history.
- Storytelling using advanced technology.
- Teaching younger generations about their history.
- Technology in preserving traditional crafts.
- Unusual insight on historical trauma and genetic memory.
- Use of technology for storytelling.
- Vision of the CIHC to facilitate healing and respect for the land.
- Youth knowing their roots and history.

Environmental and Land Issues

- Addressing concerns about the floodplain and levee at the new CIHC site.
- Addressing high rates of teen suicide and mental health care for tribal children.
- Addressing the impact of growing population on Native traditions and the environment.
- Addressing contemporary issues like abuse and addiction connected to historical trauma.
- Authentic cultural representation.
- Connection to ancestors and restoration of the site's historical significance.
- Continued stewardship of the land and its plants.

- Dam removal on the Klamath River to restore fish populations and river health.
- Educating about the significance of traditional medicine and natural resources.
- Emphasis on the sacredness of the land and its plants.
- Environmental awareness and action.
- Environmental and cultural immersion.
- Environmental and cultural survival.
- Environmental connection.
- Environmental integration.
- Environmental stewardship programs.
- Honoring the land and the people of the Tejon Indian Tribe.
- Importance of preserving natural spaces, plants, and traditional foods.
- Natural trails and traditional plant preservations.
- Resilient design focused on environmental sustainability.
- Significance of land reclamation and economic development for tribes.
- Sustainable tribal architecture.



Government and Funding

- Commitment to long-term engagement.
- Community-driven narrative and governance.
- Cultural responsibility and advocacy.
- Digital storytelling and interactive exhibits.
- Government funding.
- Historical contextualization.
- Inclusion of non-federally recognized tribes.
- Political advocacy.
- Political advocacy platform.
- Political advocacy platform with resources and training.
- Veterans memorial integration.
- Veterans recognition.

Health and Well-being

- Addressing high rates of teen suicide and mental health care for tribal children.
- Addressing contemporary issues like abuse and addiction connected to historical trauma.
- Educating about the significance of traditional medicine and natural resources.
- Vision of the CIHC to facilitate healing and respect for the land.
- Wellness and healing through cultural practices.

Recognition and Support

- Addressing high rates of teen suicide and mental health care for tribal children.
- Advocacy for educating professionals about tribal history.
- Commitment to long-term engagement.
- Comprehensive representation of all tribes.
- Correcting historical inaccuracies about tribal names and events.
- Educating about the significance of traditional medicine and natural resources.
- Emphasis on contemporary native art alongside traditional forms.
- Inclusion of non-federally recognized tribes.
- Interactive and experiential learning spaces.
- Long-term involvement and support for CIHC.

- Native-led governance of cultural centers.
- Providing a native perspective on history.
- Recognition and education about contemporary native cultures.
- Representing true history of the tribe.
- Support for the CIHC project.
- Veterans memorial integration.
- Veterans recognition.

Technology and Modern Elements

- Augmented and virtual reality in cultural storytelling.
- Digital storytelling and interactive exhibits.
- Interactive and dynamic educational programs.
- Interactive and tech-integrated learning environments.
- Living history programs.
- Multifaceted educational programs featuring traditional and modern practices.
- Technology and media wing for digital preservation.
- Technology in preserving traditional crafts.
- Use of technology for storytelling.
- Virtual reality experiences.

Youth and Future Generations

- Barrier-free experiential learning.
- Cultural education for youth starting from early school years.
- Engaging youth with elders to ensure the transfer of cultural knowledge.
- Interactive and experiential learning spaces.
- Involving youth in cultural education and activities.
- Multifaceted educational programs featuring traditional and modern practices.
- School partnerships for native history.
- Teaching younger generations about their history.
- Youth knowing their roots and history.

“I want people to understand how Native cultures can be different. I think often people assume all Natives are the same or vastly similar but in so many ways each tribe is so unique in their customs, food, geography, beliefs, story-telling and beyond.”

– Tribal Participant



CA NATIVE LANGUAGES NEED TO BE PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED HERE. IT SHOULD HELP BRING ATTENTION TO NATIVE CULTURES AND PRACTICES.

HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT TELL TRUTH SUCH AS BOARDING SCHOOLS, MASSACRES, INDIAN SLAVERY

AUTHENTIC PERSONAL STORIES OF NATIVE PEOPLE WITH VIDEO AND AUDIO. FOR NON-NATIVES: HOW TO BE A GOOD ALLY. A PLACE TO BUILD LONG-LASTING CONNECTIONS WITH OUR RELATIVES FROM OTHER TRIBES AROUND THE STATE.

PRESERVING NATIVE FEELING LIKE YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU DID BEFORE YOU WENT IN

COUNTER THE STEREOTYPE THAT ALL NATIVE PEOPLE ARE 'GONE'. HOW THEY FED THEIR FAMILIES.

HISTORY AND STORYTELLING IS IMPORTANT. A WELL-ROUNDED IDEA OF ALL CA TRIBES.

DEFINITELY LIKE TO DISPEL STEREOTYPES. DISMISS STEREOTYPES.

FOODS AND CRAFTS OF INDIVIDUAL TRIBES. RECOGNIZE SONGS OF THE TRIBES. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO EDUCATE OTHERS ON OUR CULTURE.

INFORMATIONAL. NATIVE PEOPLE ARE SMART. I WOULD LOVE AN EMPHASIS ON TRADITIONAL STORYTELLING.

A COMMON MISCONCEPTION IS THAT ALL TRIBES HAVE CASINOS AND GET MONEY. HOW THE ARCHITECTURE EXPRESSES AND RELATES TO NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND PERSONS

HOW WE ADAPT TO OUR ENVIRONMENTS PAST AND PRESENT. WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE ARE THRIVING

ALL INCLUSIVE FOR NATIVES NOT JUST CERTAIN TRIBES. HOW NON-NATIVE PEOPLE CAN HELP US PRESERVE OUR CULTURE

HOW NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL PART OF CA CULTURE. KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE.

KNOW, CITE KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY OF NA PEOPLE. BREAKING OF STEREOTYPES

A SPACE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TO COME TOGETHER. FIRST AND FOREMOST I BELIEVE THE CENTER SHOULD BE FOR CA INDIANS

WE STILL EXIST AND ARE ACTIVELY FIGHTING TO PRESERVE OUR CULTURE EVEN IN A MODERN WORLD. A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS.

STORIES PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION ARE IMPORTANT FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

ACHIEVE A GREAT UNDERSTANDING OF NATIVE PEOPLE. HOW TO HONOR THE LAND AND NATIVE PEOPLE

WE NEED NARRATIVES OF SURVIVANCE THAT HELP US TO IMAGINE A WAY FORWARD IN SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR /THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE-BOTH PAST AND PRESENT.

NOT EVERYONE WHO IS NATIVE LOOKS LIKE THE MEDIA STEREOTYPE OF NATIVE. INFORMATIONAL

HOW EDUCATED NATIVE CULTURE WAS AT THE TIME. SHARING THE INDIGENOUS HISTORIES, STORIES, AND CULTURE IN A SAFE SPACE.

RESPECT FOR NATURE. ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATION FOR NATIVE YOUTH THAT ARE FUN.

HOW NA CULTURE AND PEOPLE HAVE INF. STORIES OF RESILIENCE.

HISTORIES OF THE CA TRIBES. HOW TO BE A GOOD ALLY. CA INDIANS SHOULD WALK AWAY WITH A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND

KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE WITH REAL LIFE STORIES TO TELL ALWAYS LEAVE AN IMPRESSION. WE WERE BORN HERE, LIVED HERE, AND WILL ALWAYS BE HERE. NATIVE YOUTH ART EXHIBITS, TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT THE CULTURES SO THEY CAN KEEP THEM ALIVE

I WANT PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW. HOW TO HONOR THE LAND AND NATIVE PEOPLE

HOW MASSACRES AFFECTED US AND WHY IT HAPPENED. HISTORIES OF SURVIVORS

TO KNOW THAT CULTURE LIFEWAYS NEVER. WE ARE STILL HERE AND WE ARE THRIVING!

TELL THE STORIES ABOUT HOW CHILDREN WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR PARENTS. FOR NON-NATIVES: 'WE ARE STILL HERE'

A GOOD PLACE TO LEARN ABOUT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR HERITAGE. DISPEL THE IDEA THAT NATIVE CULTURE & PEOPLE ARE A PART OF HISTORY

STORIES OF HOW THEY LIVED AS A SOCIETY, FOUGHT AS A SOCIETY. A SENSE OF BELONGING AND COMMUNITY

EDUCATE ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF NATIVE AMERICANS: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE. WANT PEOPLE TO FEEL LIKE THEY LEARNED SOMETHING NEW

ABOVE ALL I HOPE IT WILL INSPIRE YOUTH TO BE PROUD AND HAPPY TO HAVE SOMETHING THAT REPRESENTS THEM

"I want people to understand how native cultures can be different. I think often people assume all natives are the same or vastly similar but in so many ways each tribe is so unique in their customs, food, geography, beliefs, story telling and beyond. I would love for that clarity when people leave the center ...

the "aha" moment."

"Elders, verbal history, and language need to be honored and taught."

"A sense of belonging and community. I want people to feel closer and connected to their culture, especially if they feel lost."

"Include ALL Tribes in California: Every tribe, every voice."

"Our pride and the love of family and culture and our gratitude to our ancestors and those that came before us."

"Keeping language and traditions alive for our young people, and protecting sacred sites."



OUTREACH
CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

CALIFORNIA **INDIAN**
HERITAGE
CENTER

Honoring Diversity & History
of California Indian People