



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

Date: Aug. 17, 2023

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND INVITES MEDIA TO 2023 CHECK DISTRIBUTION

NAHF Funds Projects in Nine Michigan Communities

The Native American Heritage Fund (NAHF) invites members of the local media to the NAHF 2023 Check Distribution, held Friday, Aug. 25, at noon at FireKeepers Casino Hotel Ballroom in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The NAHF continues to be a unique, one-of-a-kind initiative that assists Michigan's K-12 schools, colleges, universities and local units of government with the costs of projects that promote positive relationships and accurate information about the history and role of Michigan's Indian Tribes and Native Americans in the state.

The 2023 NAHF grants include:

- **Baraga Area Schools** – \$6,000 to integrate Ojibwe language and culture in the school environment by creating Cultural Liaison on staff; implementing signage, hosting Pow Wow's and other cultural activities.
- **Chippewa Hills School District** – \$66,446 to rebrand signage, floors, athletic facilities and apparel with new "Golden Knights" mascot imagery.
- **Manistee Area Public Schools** – \$142,585 to rebrand signage, website, athletic facilities and athletic uniforms with new "Mariners" mascot imagery.
- **Meridian Charter Township** – \$15,000 to replace hateful imagery by installing a new sign at the entrance to Sower Blvd off Okemos Rd.
- **Pellston Public Schools** – \$6,000 to create, administer and use a new bilingual website designed and built by students to allow them to interact and grow with Native and non-Native community members.
- **Petoskey Schools** – \$2,925 to purchase new track uniforms with rebranded school mascot that replaced the previous Native American mascot.
- **Port Huron Area School District** – \$162,943.90 to replace and rebrand the current mascot at Michigamme and Roosevelt Elementary Schools and High School.
- **Sandusky Community Schools** – \$74,604.08 to rebrand athletic equipment, signage and athletic uniforms with new "Wolves" mascot imagery.
- **Watersmeet Township School District** – \$3,845 to implement a mini teaching Pow Wow event using best practices around Indigenous knowledge to promote positive relationships between the school district, Tribe and local government.

EVENT INFORMATION:

WHAT: Native American Heritage Fund 2023 Check Distribution

WHEN: Friday, Aug. 25 at noon

WHERE: FireKeepers Casino Hotel Ballroom

1177 East Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49014

Please send media inquiries or interview requests to speak with NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck to media@nhbp-nsn.gov.

For questions regarding the NAHF grant process, please contact Calhoun County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott at 269.781.0966.

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About The Native American Heritage Fund

The NAHF was established in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and the State of Michigan. The amendment allowed for a portion of NHBP's annual state revenue sharing payment to be deposited into the NAHF.

The fund serves to promote positive relationships between public and private K-12 schools, colleges, universities, local units of government and Michigan's federally recognized Native American Tribes. The NAHF provides resources to help improve curricula and educational resources related to Michigan Indian history, as well as to replace or revise mascots and imagery that may be deemed as offensive to or inaccurately conveying the culture and values of Native Americans.

For more information visit: nahfund.com.