



N.A.H.F.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE FUND

315 West Green Street, Marshall, MI 49068

For Immediate Release:

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Native American Heritage Fund Announces First Grant Recipients NAHF Funds Projects in Belding, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo

At its July 13 meeting, the Native American Heritage Fund Board selected projects in three Michigan communities to be the fund's first ever grant recipients.

The 2018 grants approved include:

1. Belding Area Schools - \$334,690.60 to support the replacement of equipment, apparel and signage following the revision of the school's mascot from Redskins to Black Knights.
2. City of Battle Creek - \$3,377.50 to assist with removal and replacement of a stained glass window medallion in City Hall.
3. City of Kalamazoo - \$76,765 to assist with the removal of the Fountain of Pioneers and site improvements at Bronson Park.

Six other applications are still under consideration by the NAHF Board for possible funding in 2018.

Michigan's K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and local units of government were eligible for funding through the NAHF to defray 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 fund, which was approved in 2016 as part of the Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact between NHBP and the State of Michigan, allocates a portion of NHBP's state revenue sharing payments to the NAHF.

The NAHF Board is composed of: Chairperson: Jamie Stuck (NHBP Tribal Council Chairperson); Vice Chairperson: Dorie Rios (NHBP Tribal Council Vice Chairperson); Secretary Elizabeth Kinnart (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Citizen); Treasurer: Melissa Kiesewetter (Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights Tribal Liaison/Native American Specialist); Board Member: Kimberly Vargo (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Vice Chairperson).

For media inquiries, or to request an interview with NAHF Board Chairperson Jamie Stuck, please contact NHBP Director of Communications and Public Relations Judi Henckel at 269.704.8361.

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

Attachments: NAHF logo

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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 (NHBP) 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: at www.calhouncountymi.gov/government/native_american_heritage_fund_board