



AIANTA

American Indian Alaska Native
Tourism Association

Funding for Cultural Tourism: Examples

FEDERAL GRANTS

Federal grants are highly competitive. It usually takes several weeks, months and even years to build a strong proposal and gather all of the necessary information. (Note: Examples are from agency grant reports from 2016-2018; amounts are rounded up.)

Grants.gov

Start with Grants.gov to search for funding opportunities. I did a search for outdoor recreation and found 45 grants available from various agencies for everything from conservation to restoration and hunter education.

Economic Development Agency (EDA) is one of the largest funding agencies. They help tribes develop economic development plans, create businesses and build infrastructure and roads.

- EDA invested \$750,000 to construct an Arts and Business Incubator on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation
- It provided \$1.3 million to the Mohegan Tribe to renovate an existing facility to create the Mohegan Innovation Center.
- Provided \$500,000 to the Santo Domingo Tribe to renovate its historic Santo Domingo Trading Post as a tourist attraction and retail outlet for Native arts
- EDA awarded \$450,000 to the Navajo Nation to design its Ganado Shopping Center.

Housing and Urban Development's Indian Community Development Block Grant Program provides grants for use in developing tribal communities, including housing, construction of community facilities and economic projects.

- The Lac du Flambeau Tribe received a \$600,000 grant to construct a cultural center with a shared entrance to the Tribal Museum. The center includes space for arts education, a stage and seating for 1000 spectators. The Center would be a destination for cultural gatherings, tourism and performance.
- The Tejon Indian Tribe received \$600,000 to purchase a public building and convert it to a community center.
- The Citizen Potawatomi Nation received \$800,000 for a microenterprise program that will provide loans to Native American-owned businesses.
- The Fort Sill Apache Tribe received \$800,000 to construct a convenience store and gas station.

Health and Human Services - Administration for Native Americans (ANA) promotes self-sufficiency and cultural preservation by providing social and economic development opportunities.

- ANA has funded several tourism projects, Acoma Pueblo received an ANA grant to help build their Museum.
- Saint Regis Mohawk received \$2 million for a 3-year project to promote tourism, employment opportunities and economic development for their "Creating Akwesasne Tourism Industry Businesses and Jobs initiative."



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- The Muscogee Nation of Florida received \$237,000 for a 3-year project to develop a heritage site that includes a Tribal Council House adding agri-tourism and ecotourism with greenhouses, aqua farming and a walkway with signs that identify indigenous trees and plants and their traditional uses.

USDA Rural Development program offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to support essential services, including economic development and communications infrastructure.

- The Burns Paiute Tribe received a \$37,000 grant to develop a strategic plan for entrepreneurial development to increase cultural tourism and downtown development.
- The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe received \$200,000 to build a farmers market pavilion.
- The Fort Belknap Indian Community received a \$317,000 grant to help build a trading post, establish a cooperative to market and sell fruits and vegetables.
- The Karuk Tribe received over a million dollars to install fiber optic cables to build a wireless internet service connecting their homes and businesses.

National Endowment for the Arts funds programs that promote the creative capacity of our communities.

- NEA's Our Town program awarded the Oglala Sioux Tribe Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation \$75,000 to design a new cultural facility, pow wow grounds, and artist living and working spaces.
- Sealaska Heritage Institute received \$100,000 to conduct Native Alaskan arts and business classes designed to provide creative entrepreneurship opportunities.
- 4-Directions Development received \$100,000 to support their Native arts festival and training for artists.
- Alaska Native Heritage Center received \$50,000 for artwork and signage at their Center.
- The Akwesasne Mohawk received \$25,000 to engage local artists to develop public art and architecture that reflects their culture.
- The Sitka Sound Science Center received \$20,000 to create a totem pole.
- Folk & Traditional Arts awarded the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe \$10,000 to digitize and catalog archival materials for the Tribe's Museum & Visitors Center.
- The Challenge America program provided the American Indian Center in Chicago \$10,000 to support their Pow wow; Indigenous Solutions \$10,000 for a healing festival and the Trickster Gallery \$10,000 for an art show with work by Native American veterans.
- The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, working with the University of Oklahoma, received \$50,000 to support the design of culturally relevant housing.
- The Design Program awarded grants to non-Native groups that supported tourism development, including \$40,000 for an outdoor stage; \$10,000 to design a visitor center, bird viewing preserve and art installations and \$35,000 for landscape design.

NEA also funds state and regional arts councils that have funded tribal folk and traditional grants for arts to conduct performances and apprenticeships.

The National Endowment for the Humanities funds humanities programs for museums, archives and libraries; colleges and universities, public television and radio. Several tribal colleges have received funding for language and humanities projects that could also support tourism.



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- Sitting Bull College received \$99,998 for a three-year project to record, preserve and provide educational access to interviews with tribal elders who are fluent native speakers of the Lakota/Dakota language.
- The Minnesota Humanities Center created the Memory Map, a multimedia collection of resources designed to preserve the history of these ancient sites and understand the Dakota People's relationship to Minnesota. The map sparked the interest of visitors to many of these sites.
- A Challenge grant to Northwest Indian College's Coast Salish Institute helped build a new structure with language labs, video production areas, classrooms, archives and space for events.
- A Challenge grant also helped the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians construct a tribal museum and cultural center.

IMLS Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services

- The Yurok Tribe received \$50,000 to design and fabricate the central exhibit for the opening of the Yurok Visitor Center which would include an outdoor interpretive exhibit.

DOI's National Park Service has several programs that support tourism.

- The Historic Preservation Fund awarded the Pueblo of Isleta \$48,300 to locate and identify cultural resources.
- The Yavapai Apache Nation received \$14,000 for Tribal youth to document and map the route of their removal from homelands.
- The Seminole Tribe of Florida received \$48,000 for the preservation of a historic building.
- The Hualapai (Walapai) Tribe received \$55,000 to stabilize and repair the Osterman Gas Station, including renovating the structure into a welcome center.

DOI Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development has several grant and loan programs. Their business grants provide support for economic development feasibility studies.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) occasionally offers grants to support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment.