



Executive Director of Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations:

Ira Matt

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Mr. Ira L. Matt, a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, has over 25 years of experience in Tribal relations, cultural heritage protection, and Indigenous policy across Tribal, federal, and nonprofit sectors. His work centers on advancing Tribal sovereignty, Indigenous self-determination, and the protection of sacred places.

Prior to joining NATHPO, Ira held dual federal appointments as Assistant Director at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Director of Native American Affairs at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). At OSTP, he led the development of the agency's Indigenous Engagement and Tribal Affairs program within the Executive Office of the President and supported the White House Council on Native American Affairs in interagency efforts to elevate Indigenous Knowledge, improve federal consultation practices, protect sacred sites, and uphold Tribal treaty rights.

During his federal service, Ira was instrumental in the development of the 2023 ACHP Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects and the 2024 ACHP Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation, as well as the Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation. In recognition of his leadership, Ira received both NATHPO's inaugural Federal Changemaker Award and ACHP's inaugural Diversity Achievement Award in 2024.

Earlier in his career, Ira served his own Tribe for more than 15 years in multiple roles, including Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Archaeologist, and Wildland Firefighter. He later advanced Tribal interests through leadership positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Federal Preservation Officer and at the Department of Energy as a Tribal Affairs Program Manager.

He holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa College of Law and both a master's and bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Montana. Ira is a proud husband and father of three daughters, grounding his work in a deep commitment to family, community, and future generations.