



26TH ANNUAL
**NATHPO Conference &
Sacred Places Summit**
ALBUQUERQUE, NM | AUGUST 24TH-28TH, 2026

Agenda
Living Cultures, Living Landscapes

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Travel day. Hotel check-in starts at 4:00pm

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Registration and check-in for conference**
Evening (on your own)

Monday, August 24, 2026

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Registration for conference open**

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast (for site visit registrants)**

Preregistration (by Aug. 2) for the site visits and buffet lunch is required as they require advanced planning. Transportation provided.

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Load buses to depart for Petroglyph National Monument or Sandia Peak Tramway**

9:30 am – 11:15 am **Tour Petroglyph sites on your own**

10:00 am – 11:15 am **Tour Sandia Parkway & take tram to top**

11:15 am – 11:30 am **Load buses and depart for Hotel Albuquerque**

12:00 am – 1:00 pm **Lunch (Prior registration required)**

1:00 pm – 4:30 pm **Workshops**
 Section 106 Workshop (Alvarado ABC)
 NAGPRA Workshop (Alvarado Ballroom)

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm **Opening Reception with heavy appetizers**

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Tuesday, August 25, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration for conference open

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:00 am Welcome

- *Prayer, & Opening Remarks: Steven Concho, Tribal Secretary, Pueblo of Acoma*
- *Entrance of the Colors*
- *NATHPO Introductions: Board & Staff*
- *Moment of silence*

9:00 am – 9:45 am Keynote address: Brian Vallo (Pueblo of Acoma)

Founding director of the Pueblo of Acoma's Haakú Museum, cultural and arts consultant with institutions across the United States. He previously served as governor of the Pueblo of Acoma, as well as the director of the Indian Arts Research Center at the School for Advanced Research.

9:45 am – 10:45 pm Amendments to 36 CFR 800

Sean Hess, PhD, Cultural Resources Policy Analyst, Cowlitz Indian Tribe THPO; Wes Furlong, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund; Jessie Barrington (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians), Attorney, Partner/Chair, Tribal Nations Practice, Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC; Ira Matt (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Executive Director of Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations, NATHPO

10:45 am – 11:00 am Break (coffee, water, & tea)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Amendments to 36 CFR 800 - Continued

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch (provided)

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm NATHPO Announcements and Awards

- **Awards:** *Excellence in Tribal Historic Preservation, Lifetime Achievement*
- **Protecting Native Places 2026 awardees:** *Valerie Grussing, Executive Director of Legislative Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, NATHPO*
- **Day in the Life of a THPO:** *Stacy Laravie (Ponca), Indigenization Director, NATHPO*
- **Art is Advocacy:** *Creating Political Advocacy Postcard*
- **Land Area & Name Directory (LAND):** *John Swigart, Geospatial Director, NATHPO*

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Regional Tribal Breakout Discussion

- **Eastern (Franciscan-half room):** *Michael Kickingbear Johnson, Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribal Nation THPO*
- **Eastern Oklahoma (Franciscan-half room):** *Billie Burtrum, NATHPO Secretary/Treasurer, Quapaw Nation THPO*
- **Midwest (Alvarado FGH):** *Lakota Hobia (Citizen Potawatomi Nation), NATHPO Chair, Gun Lake Tribe (Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians) THPO*

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1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Regional Tribal Breakout Discussion (con'd)

- **Northwest** (Potters): **Nicholas Kager**, Coeur d'Alene Tribe Deputy THPO
- **Pacific** (Alvarado DE): **Buffy McQuillen**, NATHPO Vice Chair, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria THPO
- **Rocky Mountain** (Alvarado C): **Crystal C'Bearing**, Northern Arapaho Tribe THPO
- **Southern Plains** (Weavers): **Raphael Wahwassuck**, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation THPO
- **Southwest** (Turquoise): **Vacant; Valerie Grussing**, Executive Director of Legislative Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, NATHPO
- **Western** (Alvarado AB): **Warren Graham**, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation, Nevada THPO

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Fireside Chat: Congressional Efforts to Protect Native Places

Governor Raymond Aguilar, Jr., Santo Domingo Pueblo
Senator Martin Heinrich (NM-D)
Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández (NM-D)

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm Break (coffee, water, & tea)

3:45 pm – 4:10 pm Sovereignty in a Shifting Landscape: Uplifting Histories of Indigenous Resilience in the Reconstruction Era Southeast

Malinda Maynor Lowery (Lumbee), Emory University Professor of History and Faculty Director, Center for Native American Studies; **Ashton Pemapanik Dunkley** (Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape), Project Researcher at Emory University's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies; Ph.D.; **Brook Bauer** (Catawba) Associate Professor, University of Tennessee Knoxville; **Abiodun Ademiluwa**, Ph.D. student at Emory University, Graduate Digital Media Coordinator at Emory's Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies; **Beth Michel** (Tohono O'odham/Navajo/Hopi), Senior Associated Director, Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies, Emory University

4:10 pm – 4:55 pm West Coast Tribal Cultural Landscapes Work

Dana Goodson, Senior Program Manager, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation; **Ana Canter**, THPO Assistant and GIS Specialist, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria; **Lezlie Heckel**, Indigenous Knowledge & Life Ways Technician, Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People; **Nakia Zavalla**, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Culture Liaison, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

4:55 pm – 5:00 pm Housekeeping/Closeout

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Business Dinner (Franciscan)

Open only to NATHPO members & prospective members (THPOs & staff); required pre-registration.

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Wednesday, August 26, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration for conference open

8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:00 am Exploring Recommendations for Navigating Archaeological and Sensitive Donations to Collecting Institutions

Elysia Poon, Executive Director, Indian Arts Research Center, School for Advanced Research; *Tim Wilcox* (Diné and Tewa), Archaeologist; *Lillia McEnaney*, Archaeology Seminar Project Manager, Indian Arts Research Center, School for Advanced Research

9:00 am – 9:40 am The Native American International Museum Exchange (NAIME) Program: A Global Repatriation Model

Nicholas Bruscato, International Relations Specialist, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Dept. of the Interior; *Sarah Glass*, Senior Program Officer & Tribal Liaison, Office of Museum Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services; *Martha Only A Chief*, NAGPRA Coordinator, Cultural Resources Division, Pawnee Nation

9:40 am – 10:20 am O'Odham Cultural Landscapes: Connecting Oral Traditions

Reylynne Williams, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Gila River Indian Community; *Barnaby V. Lewis*, Elder, Gila River Indian Community; *Shane Anton*, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; *J. Andrew Darling*, Ethnography Lead, Logan Simpson

10:20 am – 10:30 am Break (coffee, water, & tea)

10:30 am – 11:00 am Importance of Technical Comment Letters for Policy and Litigation Purposes

Wes Furlong, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund; *Ira Matt* (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) Executive Director of Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations, NATHPO; *Jessie Barrington* (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians), Attorney, Partner/Chair, Tribal Nations Practice, Cultural Heritage Partners, PLLC

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Living Landscapes at the Intersection of Material Culture and Repatriation

Kimberly Charlie, ATHPO Advisory Board Member, Pueblo of Acoma; *Kathy Felipe*, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Pueblo of Acoma; *Christopher Garcia*, ATHPO Advisory Board Member, Pueblo of Acoma; *Bonnie Leno*, ATHPO Advisory Board Member, Pueblo of Acoma; *TobieMae Patricio*, ATHPO Cultural Monitor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Karl Pedro*, ATHPO Advisory Board Chairman, Pueblo of Acoma; *Stephanie Vicente (Riley)*, Tribal Consultant, Pueblo of Acoma; *Matthew C. Sanger*, Tribal Liaison, Repatriation Office, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; *Marissa Shaver*, Tribal Liaison, Repatriation Office, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch (provided)

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12:15 pm – 12:35 pm Acoma Model of Consultation

Steven Concho, Tribal Secretary, Pueblo of Acoma; *Ira Matt* (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) Executive Director of Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations, NATHPO

12:35 pm – 12:45 pm Perspectives on Tribal Historic Preservation in Practice

Michael Spears, Principal, MOS Research, LLC and Designated Campus Colleague, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm 36 CFR 800 Amendments Q&A with THPOs Panel Discussion

Moderated by: *Ira Matt* (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) Executive Director of Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations, NATHPO

1:50 pm – 2:35 pm Managing Tribal Data: Successes, Barriers, and Needs (FAIR+CARE)

Shasta Gaughen, Executive Director, Pala Environmental Dept./Pala Band of Mission Indians; *Sarah Whitcher Kansa*, Executive Director, The Alexandria Archive Institute/Open Context; *Richard Begay*, THPO, Navajo Nation; *Beau Duke Carroll*, Interim THPO, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; *John Swigart*, Geospatial Director, NATHPO; *Stephen J. Yerka*, Historic Preservation Specialist, THPO, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

2:35 pm – 2:45 pm Break (coffee, water, & tea)

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Areas of Tribal Importance

Garet Couch, TribalGIS

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm Tribal Cultural Resource Monitoring: Building Capacity Through Collaborative Training

Sean Scruggs, THPO, Fort Independence Indian Reservation; Instructor and Curriculum Development Consultant, Archaeology Southwest; *Shannon Cowell*, ARPA Director & Preservation Archaeologist, Archaeology Southwest

3:20 pm – 4:20 pm Living Cultures, Living Water: Lessons from 14 Years of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project

Isaac Gutierrez, Cultural and Water Resources Field Lead, Santa Clara Pueblo; *Danny Naranjo*, THPO, Santa Clara Pueblo; *Kim Charlie*, Cultural Advisor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Bonnie Leno*, Cultural Advisor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Chris Garcia*, Cultural Advisor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Everett Garcia, Sr.*, Cultural Advisor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Karl Pedro*, Cultural Advisor, Pueblo of Acoma; *Ka-Voka Jackson*, Director/THPO, Hualapai Tribe; *Carrie Cannon*, Ethnobotanist, Hualapai Tribe; *Stewart Koyiyumptewa*, THPO, Hopi Tribe; *Erick Laurila*, Principal, Logan Simpson; *Ulysses Reid*, Lt. Governor/THPO, Pueblo of Zia; *Howard Pino*, THPO, Pueblo of Zia; *Fermin Lopez*, THPO, Pojoaque Pueblo; *Zachary Nelson*, Upper Colorado Basin Regional Archaeologist, Bureau of Reclamation; *Kristin Bowen*, Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions Regional Archaeologist, Bureau of Reclamation

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Wednesday, August 26, 2026 (con't)

4:20 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Ceremony Retreat of Colors
5:15 pm	Begin loading buses for IPCC
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Buses depart in rotation
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Culture Night with Dinner and traditional craft demonstrations <i>Traditional Meal provided by Pueblo of Acoma</i>
8:00 pm	Buses begin departing IPCC
8:00 pm – 8:45 pm	Buses depart in rotation



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Thursday, August 27, 2026

Sacred Places Summit Site Visits

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| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 am – 9:15 am | Load buses and depart for Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum
Stop at scenic overlook |
| 10:15 am | Arrive at Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum |
| 10:30 am – 11:45 am | Staggered Guided Tours |
| 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Lunch (provided) |
| 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm | Depart Sky City (film shown on buses) |
| 4:00 pm | Arrive at Hotel Albuquerque |
| Dinner on your own | |
| 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm | No-Host Optional Evening Event: At Tablo Flamenco with karaoke |

Friday, August 28, 2026

No formal programming or meals.

Thank you for attending the NATHPO 26th Annual Conference!

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