

Frequently asked questions regarding a new State Indian Museum May 2004

What is the status of the new California State Indian Museum?

On August 27th, 2002, Governor Gray Davis signed Senate Bill 2063 establishing the museum under the jurisdiction of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation. It also established a Task Force to assist the Department by advising and recommending a location, design, content and governing structure for the museum.

Who is on the Task Force?

The Task Force has nine members, six of whom are California Indians. The Department of Parks and Recreation and the Native American Heritage Commission worked together in appointing the following Task Force members: Mr. Loren Bommelyn (Tolowa), Ms. Gen Denton (Miwok), Cindy La Marr (Pit River/Paiute), and Bill Mungary (Paiute/Apache). Ms. La Marr was elected Chairperson of the Task Force.

The State officials who will serve as ex-officio members include Ruth Coleman, Director of Parks and Recreation, Larry Myers (Pomo), Executive Secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission, Mike Chrisman, Secretary of the Resources Agency and the State Librarian

Is there money to pay for it?

The State's initial contribution of \$5 million dollars will enable the Department and the Task Force to get started. Funding for future phases will be needed over a period of years. It will come from a variety of sources, including the State, private organizations and individuals.

What will it be called?

The name designated by legislation is the California Indian Cultural Center and Museum (CICCM). Since then the Task Force has recommended that it be called the California Indian Heritage Center (CIHC).

Where will it be?

The site has not been selected. A twenty-eight acre site in the Folsom Lake State Recreation, overlooking Lake Natoma, was tentatively set aside for this purpose in the late 1970's but other sites will also be considered. One of the duties of the Task Force is to recommend a site by Summer 2004.

How long will the process take?

The Task Force held their first meeting in March 2003. One of its first orders of business was to review the extensive feasibility study written in 1991/92 for a State Indian Museum. It is expected that the results of this study can serve as a solid foundation for the Task Force to work on. The whole project will take a number of years to complete. We hope to conduct the work in phases so that at least a portion of the museum will be operational in a 3-5 year period.

Who can I contact for more information and what I can do to help?

Stay informed by checking the CIHC link on the State Park's website (www.parks.ca.gov) or www.ciccm.org. Give us your feedback and ideas about programs, potential funding sources, and services that the museum can offer.

Contact information:

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