



# WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE

A Sovereign Tribal Nation

**(Approving Grant submission and Authorizing the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to start work on National Park Service Tribal Heritage Ethnographic Study at Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School at Fort Apache, Arizona )**

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- WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe (“Tribe”) of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation provides, at Article IV, Section 1(a) that the Tribal Council (“Council”) shall exercise the power, “To represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe...”; and
- WHEREAS,** The White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe") is a federally recognized American Indian tribe holding undiminished original rights to and ongoing jurisdiction over that portion of its aboriginal territory reserved for the exclusive use and benefit of Tribal members and known as White Mountain Apache Tribe Trust Lands and as the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation"); and
- WHEREAS,** The beauty, diversity, and significance of these tribal trust lands is amply reflected in cultural sites, objects, and traditions that serve as sources of vitality, inspiration, orientation, identities, and senses of place and connectivity for Native American people, communities, tribes, and nations; and
- WHEREAS,** Mark Altaha and Dr. Nicholas Laluk and seek council approval to submit a collaborative grant for ethnographic research with Anthropological Research LLC at the Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School at Fort Apache, Arizona; and
- WHEREAS,** White Mountain Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel have worked with Anthropological Research LLC in the past and have formed very trusting, respectful and responsible research affiliations; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel will also work with Fort Apache Museum (*Nowike Bagowa*) personnel to identify potential individuals to interview; and
- WHEREAS,** This oral history project will document the recollections of White Mountain Apache individuals who attended the Theodore Roosevelt School from 1923 to the present, and include group and multi-generational interviews when appropriate; and
- WHEREAS,** The oral history project will consist of up to 40 hours, or 15 semi-structured, open-ended oral history interviews, with White Mountain Apache people including multi-generational and group interviews. Interviews will be recorded with audio and visual recording equipment when consent is provided; and

**WHEREAS,** The study participants will sign an Informed Consent Form explaining the terms of study including the Project Purpose, Explanation of Procedures, Confidentiality, Compensation, Benefits and Risks; and

**WHEREAS,** The Theodore Roosevelt School also bonds the community together in shared experience. It is common to find multiple generations within a single family that have ties to the Theodore Roosevelt School. Similarly, experiences at the Theodore Roosevelt School link tribal members to each another, and connects White Mountain Apache Tribal members to members of various tribes through their common understandings of boarding school life. As such, the Theodore Roosevelt School has taken a front seat in the White Mountain Apache Tribe's collective identity and heritage; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the people who attended the Theodore Roosevelt School in the past are now elderly and have not shared many experiences about the school. The Tribe feels their stories must be preserved before they pass on, in order to educate future generations of White Mountain Apache people about their history, heritage, and identity; and

**WHEREAS,** Much of White Mountain Apache history in reference to boarding school experiences and life has been written by non-Apaches and does not effectively nor fully represent Apache perspectives about Apache culture and history; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe has taken control of the school and school grounds, and reimagined its place within the Tribe's history and identity. Theodore Roosevelt School has become a symbol of White Mountain Apache peoples' self-determination and sovereignty; and

**WHEREAS,** White Mountain Apache Tribal-members Mark Altaha and Dr. Nicholas Laluk are continually advocating for more inclusive and sovereignty-based research that allows White Mountain Apache Tribal members to tell their own history and stories to continue to decolonize the anthropological and archaeological discipline; and

**WHEREAS,** The Tribe asserts all sovereign and beneficial ownership rights to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and to all materials and information obtained or derived from those lands, including cultural resources and associated information, images, and other data and media, except where these rights have been explicitly divested by the Tribe through processes resulting from free, prior, informed consent; and

**WHEREAS,** If the grant is awarded, planning and research will begin in April-May 2021 for preliminary interviews to be conducted with identified individuals, and the main project will begin December 2021 and end July 2023 with submittal of all project materials for archiving at the White Mountain Apache THPO.

**WHEREAS,** The Tribal Council has reviewed this request and finds that research project will help the Tribe tell its history from its own perspectives, and is in the best interests of the Tribe and its members.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby gives permission to the White Mountain Apache Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel Mr. Mark

**Resolution No. 04-2021-65**

Altaha and Dr. Nicholas in collaboration with Anthropological Research LLC personnel Maren Hopkins and Michael Spears to submit a grant application for, and begin the above-discussed ethnographic research project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Ramon Riley, Beverly Malone, Anne Skidmore, and Cline Griggs will act as advisors throughout the research project to provide guidance and recommend potential interviewees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that interview data collected during the ethnographic project will be shared between the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that at the research team will develop a booklet or pamphlet for the community that summarizes key themes discussed during interviews. The pamphlet will be professionally printed on high-quality, gloss paper. Printing for 200 copies is included in budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that information provided during interviews including quotes and paraphrases, will be used in preparation of technical reports and interpretive materials authorized by the White Mountain Apache Tribe under the stated intent of this project. Any future deliverables related to this research must be approved by the White Mountain Apache Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event this Resolution directly conflicts with the Tribal Constitution, Tribal Ordinances, or any material facts concerning the issues presented are later found to be false, this Resolution shall be deemed null and void and have no legal effect

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby directs that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall supersede and govern over the conflicting subject matter

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairwoman, or in her absence, the Vice-Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution

The foregoing resolution was on APRIL 7, 2021 duly adopted by a vote of for, ELEVEN against ZERO, and ZERO abstentions by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it under the enumerated powers listed in Article IV, Section 1 of the WMAT Constitution, so ratified on September 30, 1993, and federally recognized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman

4/8/2021

Date



Doreen T. Numkena, Tribal Secretary

4-8-2021

Date