

Native American Handicrafts Discussion Forum
Teams Video Conference
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM ET; September 5th, 2024

Purpose:

On Thursday, September 6, NPS CSP hosted the fifth Native American Handicrafts Discussion Forum to bring NPS Commercial Services Program (CSP), NPS Office of Native American Affairs, DOI Indian Arts and Craft Board (IACB), NPS concessioners, and cooperating association representatives together to share updates, challenges, lessons learned, and resources currently available to support the purchase and sale of Native American Handicrafts in NPS concession and cooperating association run retail stores park service-wide.

Meeting Notes:

NPS Office of Native American Affairs, Michael Lyndon

Mike Lyndon with the NPS Office of Native American Affairs shared his insight from Grand Canyon National Park's robust cultural demonstration program, Artists in Residence program, and work with concessioners to sell native arts and crafts featuring the rich and diverse artist community in the area. He shared ways that folks who are looking to get involved can showcase and support local indigenous artists in ways that are representational and authentic to the region.

DOI Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Kenneth VanWey and Meridith Stanton

Ken VanWey and Meridith Stanton with the DOI IACB reviewed updates and improvements to the [source directory and search tool](#) of American Indian and Alaska Native arts and crafts businesses to assist those looking to find artwork to sell in retail operations. Ken also reviewed recent updates to the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA) through the proposed Amendments to Respect Traditional Indigenous Skill and Talent (ARTIST), which included expanding the definition of what would be covered as an Indian Product, allowing for non-Indian labor to work on Indian Products, and creating a new certification trademark for certification.

For more information, you can visit the following webpages or reach to Ken and Meridith at iacb@ios.doi.gov.

- [Committee Accepting Comments On Discussion Draft Bill To Update Indian Arts And Crafts Act](#)
- [Upcoming listening sessions](#)

Concession Native American and Native Alaskan Handicrafts Retail Programs and Outreach

- Aramark, Eric Flanigan

Eric Flanigan with Aramark discussed efforts at Grand Canyon North Rim to work with the 11 tribes of Grand Canyon through efforts alongside Clarendia Begay, a Navajo tribal elder. His experience engaging with Clarendia as a consultant has allowed them to expand their product offerings and be in compliance for each tribe, ensuring they have products, certificates of authenticity, signage, and biographies for the artists.

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- Xanterra, Jill Marsh

Jill Marsh with Xanterra shared her experience visiting the Santa Fe Indian Market in August which features nearly 1,000 artisans representing about 100 tribal affiliations. Jill also shared challenges she is noting in sourcing native handicrafts; for example, finding younger weavers keeping to traditional style, navigating a digital shift in the marketing landscape, and understanding the pricing process for certain goods.

- Guest Services, Rod Taylor

Rod Taylor with Guest Services discussed their retail and outreach program in Mount Rainier to engage young artisans. Through their program, they are helping artisans develop their businesses, convey more information around their art, and provide more opportunities to engage with visitors and the public.

For those who were unable to attend this meeting, NPS CSP intends to hold additional discussion forums to continue these conversations and introduce new topics.

Upcoming Native American Handicrafts Markets:

- Scottsdale Native Art Market – [Home \(namfam.org\)](https://namfam.org)
- The Heard Museum – [Heard Museum | Celebrating Indigenous Creativity](https://www.heard.org/celebrating-indigenous-creativity)