

THE CULTURAL CONSERVANCY

OUR MISSION

The Cultural Conservancy (TCC) is a grassroots native non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring indigenous cultures, empowering them in the direct application of their traditional beliefs and practices on their ancestral lands.

SCOPE & CONSTITUENCY

Our scope is global and includes all indigenous peoples around the Earth. We choose to “think globally and act locally,” by first focusing our work with California Indian communities. We then work with a growing network of native peoples throughout the world: Native Americans and First Nations in North America, indigenous peoples in other regions of the Americas and Pacific Islanders.



RABBETT STRICKLAND

WORKING TOGETHER

We receive regular requests for assistance and proposals for collaboration on a wide range of cultural and environmental issues and topics. Contact us if you are interested in participating in one of our workshops, receiving assistance on an important native issue, sharing resources and information, or learning more about our projects and work.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PROTECTING ANCESTRAL LANDS

Wintu sacred sites on Mount Shasta in northern California; traditional lands for the Kogi people of Colombia; a rare and endangered California Indian native plant gathering site in Santa Rosa, California; Ohlone sacred sites in the Presidio National Park, San Francisco, California; Mojave sacred sites in Arizona

TRAINING & CAPACITY-BUILDING

Support for Hawaiians and California Indian basket weavers in land trusts, conservation, and resource management; instruction in audio/video recording for the Southern California Tribal Digital Village (Kumeyaay/Luiseño/Cupeño), the Southern Paiute and Cahuilla; workshops for the National Park Service and Society for Ecological Restoration in working with native communities and bridging native and western science



REVITALIZING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Restoration of the Mojave Creation Songs and the Southern Paiute Salt Songs



RESTORING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Repatriation of over 600 legacy recordings of endangered languages to over fifty tribes throughout the US

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Production of several events ranging from indigenous lectures, art shows, cultural demonstrations, and traditional food tastings, to American Indian musical concerts and Tibetan sand mandala ceremonies

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

In collaboration with Pacific Islander artist “Tonu” Shane Eagleton, TCC promotes the work of indigenous artists through art shows, auctions and uses the artists’ work for education, outreach, and fundraising

CURRENT PROGRAMS

STORYSCAPE PROJECT

Our Storyscape Project works with indigenous communities to protect, restore, and revitalize endangered stories, songs, languages, and lands through current ethnographic recordings, the restoration and repatriation of historical audio recordings, and technical assistance for tribes to protect their own cultural legacies.



MEDIA TRAININGS

We offer media education and media production workshops for youth and adults. They include media literacy, digital storytelling, digital filmmaking, audio production, post-production, and intellectual and cultural property rights. Participants challenge media stereotypes by creating digital stories that express their own experience of being Native American. We can assist in setting up media kits, production studios and media labs.

INDIGENOUS HEALTH/NATIVE CIRCLE OF FOOD

Recognizing the seriously unbalanced state of American Indian health, we resolve to promote and disseminate a reintegrated vision and holistic practice of native health and healing for the 21st century. We are committed to Renewing American Indian Nutrition, Food, and Ecological Diversity (RAIN FED) through educational workshops, creating urban and rural native gardens, restoring traditional ecological knowledge and foodways, and bringing native foods back into our daily diets.



RAFT

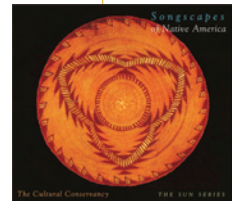
The Renewing America’s Food Traditions (RAFT) project of Slow Food USA brings seven of the country’s most prominent education, conservation, and food organizations together to identify and restore America’s endangered heritage foods. TCC is partnering with RAFT to record and document the unique food traditions of Native American communities in the United States.
www.slowfoodusa.org/raft/index.html

THE SALT SONG TRAIL PROJECT

In collaboration with Vivienne Jake (Kaibab Paiute) and Matthew Leivas, Sr. (Chemehuevi), founders of The Salt Song Trail Project of the Native American Land Conservancy, we work to maintain, revitalize, and pass on the cultural knowledge and oral literature of the Salt Songs of the Southern Paiute nation and the trail they describe. Through workshops, recordings, events, and providing audio/video recording equipment, TCC has trained Paiute digital storytellers to document healing ceremonies and interviews with elders along the sacred geography of the Salt Song Trail. The project is creating a living documentary for future generations.

SONGSCAPES OF NATIVE AMERICA

This is the first compilation CD of Native American music produced by TCC in partnership with Stillwater Sound. The songs on this album represent a rich diversity of tribal traditions, from the Great Plains of the Dakota nation to the desert canyon lands of the Shoshone and Navajo, from the coastal bluffs of Native California to the mountain winds of the Peruvian Andes.



To buy the DVD and the CD online and for more information go to www.nativeland.org

THE SALT SONG TRAIL: BRINGING CREATION BACK TOGETHER

Winner of the Best Documentary Short, 2005 American Indian Film Festival and Award of Distinction, 2005 Indian Summer Film Festival

This award-winning short documentary, produced by TCC, is about the healing power of the sacred Salt Songs of the Southern Paiute people. These songs are complex oral maps that outline a trail that is both geographic and spiritual. The songs are used in memorial ceremonies, for cultural revitalization and as a spiritual bond for the Southern Paiute Nation of the Southwest. The film explores the historical and spiritual journey and purpose of the Salt Songs and documents a healing ceremony at the Sherman Indian School.



ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Melissa Nelson, Ph.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), President

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Dennis Martinez (O'Odham/Chicano), Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network

Yolanda Nuñez, M.A. (Apache/Diné/Chicana), Health and Cultural Advocate

Jacquelyn Ross (Pomo/Coast Miwok), traditional food gatherer, writer, artist

Enrique Salmon, Ph.D., (Raramuri), ethnoecologist, educator, activist

Martha Macri, Ph.D. (Cherokee), University of California, Davis

Leanne Hinton, Ph.D., Linguist, University of California, Berkeley

Malcolm Margolin, Publisher, Heyday Books/News from Native California



STAFF

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Bernadette Zambrano, Native Foods Coordinator

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FUNDING & HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Funding comes from donations by foundations, tribes and individual contributions. All of our projects need financial support and all donations are tax-deductible.

To support our work with indigenous communities, visit our website: www.nativeland.org/donate or send a check by mail. Contact us:

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preserving and revitalizing indigenous cultures and their ancestral lands

