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Announcement of Opportunity

Cultural Exchange Program with Pueblo Indian Communities

Program Title: Written in Rock (WIR): Collaboration among Azerbaijani and Pueblo Indian Communities

Supported by: Museums Connect 2012-2013, a program of the American Association of Museums (AAM)

Collaborators: National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution’s Office of Policy and Analysis, and the Gobustan National Historical Artistic Preserve, in cooperation with Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Sacred Sites

Program Description: Six members of Pueblo Indian communities and six individuals from Azerbaijan will be selected to participate in Written in Rock, an innovative and exciting educational and community outreach project that spans ten months and includes two weeklong study trips in two locations; one in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and one in Gobustan, Azerbaijan. The 12 participants will be chosen for their demonstrated passion for and engagement in their home communities, as well as their enthusiasm for cultural exchange.

During the weeklong study trips – Fall 2012 in Azerbaijan, Spring 2013 in Albuquerque – participants will learn about petroglyphs (a.k.a. rock carvings) at the Gobustan Preserve and the Petroglyph National Monument. They will train with archeologists and professionals specializing in petroglyph research, conservation, and site management; they will learn basic preservation and recording techniques and the different interpretations of what the rock carvings mean. Participants will also be immersed in the local culture and learn about the unique history, arts and customs of each region.

Participants will accumulate knowledge and material about petroglyphs and the regional cultures that they will shape into collaborative projects that serve their communities and the broader public. These community projects will engender connections among the people and petroglyphs of Azerbaijan and the Pueblo Indian Nations through personal/professional relationships and the creative use of technologies.

Eligibility: Pueblo Indian individuals, age 18 or older, who are able to travel internationally are invited to apply. Preference will be given to candidates who:

- Have Tribal ancestral ties to the region surrounding the Petroglyph National Monument (PNM)
- Reside in or around Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Have working knowledge of current social media technologies
- Are currently enrolled or are graduates of culture and heritage-related academic programs (e.g. Anthropology, Native Studies, Art History, and Cultural Studies) OR are Tribal community members who have a demonstrated interest in and knowledge of petroglyphs and their value in culture
- Possess a collaborative spirit and interest in learning about other cultures
Time Commitment: The *Written in Rock* program begins in September 2012 and officially ends in July 2013. Participants will commit to two weeklong study trips, one in Azerbaijan and one in Albuquerque. When not travelling, students are expected to communicate with one another and complete activities as assigned. In addition to travelling, successful candidates should expect to dedicate 2-10 hours a month to the project. Participants will also design and implement one community project in each country, which may require more time and effort.

Tentative Travel Dates (one week in each location):*
1. Azerbaijan: October 14–20 or October 21–27 or November 24–30
2. New Mexico: March 9–15

*The program covers the cost of travel. More information on travel details and exact dates will be provided shortly after the selection process.

Physical Demands: The program involves moderate to vigorous physical activity. Participants will be outdoors studying petroglyphs at the Gobustan Preserve and the Petroglyph National Monument. Participants will hike rocky environments and be exposed to the elements.

Deadline: Monday, August 20, 2012, 11:59 pm

Notification: Selected applicants will be notified via email two weeks after the deadline.

How to Apply: Please visit OP&A’s website—http://www.si.edu/opanda—to download an Application Package. Candidates must send their completed applications to OP&A via email or mail.

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