



CITY EXPERIENCE

Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission 2024 Annual Report

Commission's Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Mayor and the City Council as advocates for the Native American people of the Greater Tulsa Area on matters—facilitating unity and understanding—within communities and with local, state, and federal governments. With the goal of creating a strong, prosperous, self-sustaining Native American community, the Commission advises and advocates for the use of City resources for the development of matters of importance to the Native American community.

Activities to Note for 2024

- Working with Tulsa Parks Department to apply for a National Park Service Grant to improve Dream Keepers Park. Fundraise for this matching grant from the tribes and the corporate community to assist in creation of a “cultural destination” for Native Americans in Tulsa. The city was awarded the Grant in October, and we continue to work with the Parks Department on the next steps.
- Student of Excellence Awards awarded in May to top Native American students in Tulsa Public Schools.
- Planned and Executed a City-wide Native American Day celebration on October 14th. Worked with the Mayor's Office and City Council to secure a joint Native American Day proclamation.
- Initiated a review of bylaws for the Commission and a re-work of them to more closely match the City Ordinance. Currently working with City Legal to accomplish this task.
- Facilitated the meeting of the Parks Department and the Muscogee Creek Nation to advance the City's wish to give the culturally significant land back to the Muscogee Creek Nation on which the Council Oak sits. Voted and penned a letter from all commissioners to support this action by the city.
- Held our annual Dream Keeper Awards Ceremony for significant Native Americans in the community that have contributed to their culture and community, (see picture below) in Native American Heritage month.
- Chair and Vice Chair met with Tulsa's Design Studio to discuss their plans for Zink Lake and their desire to work better with tribal nations.
- Chair met with Chair of the Asian Affairs Commission to help them plan for an event and discuss how to obtain sponsors.



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- Purchased Muscogee Creek Nation, Cherokee Nation, and Osage Nation flags to maintain at City Hall and the Commission's meetings.

Goals for 2025

- Active Engagement:
 - Survey needs of Native Americans throughout the greater Tulsa area and work with City Council, Mayor, and local agencies to address needs.
 - Be available to assist citizens with needs that involve Native American tribes.
- Collaborative Approaches:
 - Continue to work with Tulsa Parks Department for the renovation of Dream Keepers Park in collaboration with our community and tribal partners.
 - Continue to work with other Commissions to promote cohesiveness.
- Strengthen the Commission:
 - Continue to work on the bylaws to rid them of inconsistencies between them and the Title V Ordinance.
 - Fill Commission vacancies with individuals that will participate in commission goals and activities and continue the effort to diversify the tribal nations that are represented on the commission.

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Dream Keeper Award Winners and Commission - GTAIAC