

2022 IMLS NA Enhancement Grant for Karuk Tribal Libraries

Narrative

1. Project Justification

Prior to Euro-American contact, the Karuk and neighboring tribes were considered among the wealthiest people in the state of California, flourishing with sophisticated land management practices and a thriving subsistence economy that allowed for sustained use of the area's rich natural resources. Today, they are among the poorest.¹ In a 2019 Census Data Report (SupportingDoc1) of Karuk communities 47.2% of Orleans residents were below the poverty line with a per capita income of \$13,579; 30.9% of Happy Camp residents were below the poverty line with per capita income of \$22,279; 19.5% of Yreka residents were below the poverty line with per capita income of \$26,909. Our three main communities are rural, underserved, and separated by 130 miles of winding, mountain roads subject to closure during winter floods, wildfires and landslides. Additionally, our Tribal communities are located in areas that have been identified by FEMA Census Tract (SupportingDoc2) as being very high for wildfire and relatively high hazard risk for earthquake and flooding; as well as rating relatively low Community Resilience, with 89.7% of Census tracts in the California having a higher resiliency rating. This speaks to the high priority these community collections are in need of preservation.

According to the California Department of Education's 2018-2019 Student Poverty data (SupportingDoc3), qualifying for free 62.1% of Orleans Elementary students, 59.8% of Happy Camp Elementary students, 85.7% of Happy Camp High School students; in Yreka schools ranged between 60.4% at Jackson Street Elementary and 83.3% at Yreka Community Day. The nominal State tax-based revenues funding our schools are cruelly insufficient to maintain adequate school infrastructure, e.g., library resources, and culturally responsive academic offerings, e.g., Karuk language. Unsurprisingly, our students' academic performance is among the lowest in the nation. Exacerbated by generations lost to genocide, illness, and Indian boarding schools, the near-complete loss of its Native tongue, material culture, and traditional knowledge and practices have rendered these communities a breeding ground for socioeconomic driven high rates of substance abuse and domestic violence.

Today, the Karuk are the second largest indigenous tribe in California. Our Service Area is rural, sparsely populated (6.87 per square mile), and located in both Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties (SupportingDocument4). The Karuk Tribe (Tribe) is comprised of 17 departments and services, including education, health and social services, child and family services, housing and energy assistance, and extensive natural resource management. Offices are located in the three main communities including Yreka (population 9,746); Orleans (598); and Happy Camp (844), where the tribal headquarters are located. Over 50% of the inhabitants of the Orleans area, and roughly 23% of the inhabitants of Happy Camp claim Native American ancestry.

Built with significant IMLS support, the Karuk Tribal Libraries and Archives (Tribal Libraries) have undergone extensive analog and digital development, and provide professional library

¹ <https://pages.uoregon.edu/norgaard/pdf/Continuing-Legacy-Norgaard-Reed-Van%20Horn.pdf>

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services in Orleans and Happy Camp. Partnering with the Community Computer Centers of our three main Service Area communities Tribal Libraries provide access to information, education resources, and services, e.g., reference assistance, student services, workforce development, and digital literacy skills. In 2018, the Karuk Tribal Libraries received a Memory Lab Network grant which provided extensive digitization training, and funding for a mobile digitization lab. Additionally, in 2019 we received a grant from California Revealed for a Train-the-Trainer workshop in Community Archiving Workshops (CAW) as well as small digitization grant as an incentive to preserve/make accessible recordings we catalog during the CAW. This Enhancement Grant would provide us funding to make these resources available to our communities to preserve community history and increase online access. Additionally, the funding will help us sustain valuable library facilities in each of our communities.

- Happy Camp: **People’s Center Museum, Library & Archives**, established in 2002, reopened to the public March 3, 2022, and will resume regular hours from Monday-Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; **Happy Camp Community Computer Center**, 1 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- Orleans: **Panámnik Tribal Library and Community Computer Center**, is now open with community access from 1–5 p.m., Monday through Friday. This library partners with the Humboldt County Library, which provides Bookmobile services twice a month. A drop box and pickup service is available for those unable to meet the bookmobile schedule. A Little Free Library is located in the parking lot island.
- Yreka: **Karuk Education Center**, located in the **Karuk Housing Authority’s** Indian Housing Development, reopened on March 3, 2022, Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11:00-6:00 p.m.
- Internet: The **Sípnuuk Digital Library, Archives and Museum** (Sípnuuk, English: *storage basket*): went live in March 2016. Our mission is to manage, share and enhance understanding of Karuk history, language, traditions, natural resource management and living culture. The digitized, cataloged products of the proposed project will be housed in Sípnuuk and made available to the global community using council-sanctioned, culturally and socially-embedded sharing protocols using a Mukurtu CMS platform. This virtual library resource is currently IMLS funded Sípnuuk Division Coordinator (0.40 FTE) and a Sípnuuk Library Technician (0.20 FTE). Organized under the Eco-Cultural Revitalization Branch of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Sípnuuk (storage basket) is one of five Píkyav Field Institute divisions and has become a central educational resource for our underserved communities and schools (“píkyav” is Karuk for “fix it” as we identify as the Fix the World people).

The Karuk Tribal Libraries help bridge the digital divide by providing community access to the Internet with computer centers, library resources and reference support. These facilities provide a safe space for our community members and provide opportunities and support for learning and knowledge development, health and wellbeing, community development, and economic development.

Community requests for digitization resources and digital library services are increasing, with teachers and parents have been requesting access to Karuk Curriculum throughout the pandemic. In 2021, the Slater wildfire destroyed over 175 houses in Happy Camp, and this community digitization effort could help restore/share some photos between families. Additionally, the geographic distance to library

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services underscores the Karuk Tribe's need for accessible library materials via a tribally sanctioned and controlled computer platform.

Significant to this Project is the training received by Tribal Library staff training and equipment granted through IMLS from the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation, Memory Lab, California Revealed and StoryCorps over the past several years, which provides the staff the skills and equipment needed to complete the work successfully. Participating community members will gain the skills to digitize prioritized collections with ongoing access to Karuk MemoryLab equipment through appointment. The Project will expand and enhance the Tribal Libraries with strengthened partnerships with the three tribal communities, as well as create new and historic digital and cultural resources; and increase access to both physical and virtual resources following established best practices and Karuk protocols. The Community Archiving and MemoryLab workshops provided will help community members digitize, preserve and provide online access to materials to enhance understanding of Karuk history, language, traditions, natural resource management and living culture following the cultural protocols of the Karuk Tribe and in support of the missions of the Karuk Tribe, Department of Natural Resources, People's Center and Karuk Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums

2. Project Work Plan

From September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2024, our Project will increase community access to digitization equipment and technology education with six objectives.

- a. Community Archiving Workshops. Provide training the community to catalog, inventory, prioritize and digitize personal collections for preservation and sharing by hosting 2-day Community Archiving Workshops in each of our three Tribal communities twice a year. Outreach and promotions for the workshops will be in our Tribal Newsletter (4 per year) as well as social media, email, community bulletin boards and word of mouth. Success will be measured comparing pre- and post-Project assessments of changes in knowledge, behavior and conditions, e.g. Do you currently have digital preservation plan for your media assets?
- b. Memory Lab Access by Appointment. We will provide access to digital equipment provided by MemoryLab Network in each community through appointment. Our Karuk MemoryLab equipment will visit each tribal community at least twice a year. Memory Success will be measured by comparing the logged usage, inventory of the digitized items, participant survey. We will create and develop an Instruction Manual for digitization with Karuk Tribe's digital preservation protocols throughout the Project.
- c. Community Collections Surveys. We will distribute and collect Collections Surveys at each workshop/appoint to identify location and scope of community collections to priorities. We will also identify people who are interested in volunteering for our digitization projects and possibly helping to administrate the Sípnuuk Digital Repository.
- d. Outreach and Communication. We will be promoting this project throughout the years, with flyers, social media, emails, community bulletin boards and word of mouth.

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- e. Library Services to Communities. Maintain and promote community access and services at Karuk Tribal Libraries, Archives and People's Center Museum. Increase access to community collections through the Sípnuuk digital repository by uploading digitized items from the workshops as well as existing digital assets. Data will be collected on new log in requests, as well as Google Analytics monthly reports. Train identified volunteers for the Libraries, Museum and/or Sípnuuk site administration and will keep a log of their hours. We will attend IMLS meeting and grant reporting as specified in award letter.
- f. The Sípnuuk Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed in 2014 to develop the site from the ground up; identify collection needs; establish Tribal Council-sanctioned, culturally-embedded sharing protocols; guide Intellectual Property policies; and provide cultural and administrative oversight and direction to Sípnuuk staff. We are currently planning to reorganize that oversight under a developing Pikyav Field Institute Advisory Council consisting of members from tribal departments and libraries, community representatives, cultural practitioners and Tribal Elders for strategic planning for long-term sustainability.

3. Project Results

Best practices for digital preservation will be taught by tribal libraries staff to tribal communities. Our progress will be measured comparing a representative number of completed pre and post-activity assessments of changes in knowledge, behavior and condition, e.g., existing vs. learned digitization knowledge and use (both following workshop trainings and at Project end), and using assessment data to guide Project activity modifications, judge unforeseen negative impacts or risks, and evaluate the objective's activities in meeting its intending goals.

Accessibility and Content will enhance accessibility to and increase the content of our community collections. Digital resource access is key, and our intended goal here is to improve the Sípnuuk site in such a way that our target audience will more likely use it to preserve and share digital assets. Progress will be measured comparing pre and post-Project assessments of changes in knowledge, behavior and condition, whereby the emphasis here will be placed on changes in behavior: Have you digitized/ preserved any personal collections in the past three months? Have you used any of this new knowledge in the past three months? If yes, how confident did you feel using (scale rating). Potential risks include uploading culturally sensitive materials: however, as per our established protocols, new resources are first uploaded to our secured folder: Karuk Needs Review. Possible conflicts will be identified by our Tribal reviewers.

An Instruction Manual and videos for training equipment use with Karuk Tribe's digital preservation protocols for MemoryLab digitization equipment usage will be created.

Success will be measured comparing pre- and post-activity assessments. Each year, digitization products from the community archiving workshops as well as existing holdings will help

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populate and expand our Sípnuuk digital repository. Success can be measured by community participation in the archiving workshops and use of the digitization equipment. We also expect to see site user increase on our Sípnuuk site as will be documented using Google Analytics and the Mukurtu site.

Outreach and communication will include promotional materials distributed through email, social media, community bulletin boards and word of mouth. Products also include 4 Tribal newsletter articles on the Community Archiving Workshops and MemoryLab opportunities.

Library, archives and museum services will be maintained and expanded at the People's Center Museum and Karuk Tribal Libraries. We will continue to upload newly digitized items, as well as existing collections, to expand the collections on the Sípnuuk digital repository, as well as the access and usage.

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Activities by Objective	Schedule of Completion: Year One											
	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
1. Community Archiving Workshops												
a. Present 2-day training on inventory, prioritization and digitization to each of 3 communities, twice a year. Collect training evaluations.		Y		HC		O		Y		HC		O
b. Prepare for training, register participants, and make improvements based on previous experience and evaluations.	x		x		x		x		x		x	
2. MemoryLab Access by Appointment												
a. DIY supported appointments followed by evaluation. Provide training and support to community members on use of equipment using best practices.	O		Y		HC		O		Y		HC	
b. Create and develop an Instruction Manual for digitization with Karuk Tribe's digital preservation protocols	x		x		x		x		x		x	
3. Community Collections Surveys												
a. Distribute Collections Surveys at each workshop/appointment to identify location and scope of community collections to prioritize.	→											
b. Survey and ask participants to find those interested in volunteering in digitization efforts and/or learning more about uploading to and managing the Sípnuuk Digital Library Archives & Museum.	→											
4. Outreach and Communication												
a. Promotional materials, flyers through social media, emails, community bulletin boards, word of mouth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
b. Tribal Newsletter Articles – 4	x		x		x		x		x		x	
5. Library Services to Communities												
a. Maintain and promote community access and services at Karuk Tribal Libraries, Archives and People's Center Museum.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
b. Upload newly digitized and existing collections to the Sípnuuk Mukurtu site. Track data on patrons, items and usage.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
c. Train identified volunteers for the Libraries, Museum and/or Sípnuuk site administration.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4. Pikyav Advisory Committee (PAC)	Not set as we are currently identifying the members and structure of the committee											
a. Participate in development of new PAC, attend meetings												
Attend IMLS meeting as specified in award letter												
Grant Reporting as specified in award letter												

HC = Happy Camp

O = Orleans

Y = Yreka

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Activities by Objective	Schedule of Completion: Year Two											
	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
1. Community Archiving Workshops												
a. Present 2-day training on inventory, prioritization and digitization to each of 3 communities, twice a year. Collect training evaluations.		Y		HC		O		Y		HC		O
b. Prepare for training, register participants, and make improvements based on previous experience and evaluations.	x		x		x		x		x		x	
2. MemoryLab Access by Appointment												
a. DIY supported appointments followed by evaluation. Provide training and support to community members on use of equipment using best practices.			Y		HC		O		Y		HC	
b. Work on Instruction Manual for digitization with Karuk Tribe’s digital preservation protocols	x		x		x		x		x		x	
3. Community Collections Surveys												
a. Distribute Collections Surveys at each workshop/appointment to identify location and scope of community collections to prioritize.	→											
b. Survey and ask participants to find those interested in volunteering in digitization efforts and/or learning more about uploading to and managing the Sípnuuk Digital Library Archives & Museum.	→											
4. Outreach and Communication												
c. Promotional materials, flyers through social media, emails, community bulletin boards, word of mouth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
d. Tribal Newsletter Articles – 4	x		x		x		x		x		x	
5. Karuk Tribal Libraries, People’s Center and Sípnuuk Services												
d. Maintain and promote community access and services at Karuk Tribal Libraries, Archives and People’s Center Museum.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
e. Upload newly digitized and existing collections to the Sípnuuk Mukurtu site. Track data on patrons, items and usage.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
f. Train identified volunteers for the Libraries, Museum and/or Sípnuuk site administration.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4. Pikyav Advisory Committee (PAC)	Monthly or quarterly schedule? Will follow whatever structure is set up.											
a. Participate in development of new PAC, attend meetings												
Attend IMLS meeting as specified in award letter												
Grant Reporting as specified in award letter												

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Digital Products Plan

Type

We will be digitizing images, audio files, moving images, artworks, research, curriculum, item inventory and metadata. We will not be developing software or programming languages plates, etc. Quantities will be dependent on the Community Archiving Workshops and MemoryLab usage as well as on staff time to process. We have two part-time staff members, so with keeping the libraries and museums services, as well as providing training on digitization, we are hoping to get some volunteers who can help. We have a lot of already digitized material that needs to be processed as well. The Karuk K-12 Curriculum also needs to be maintained with latest versions. We will strive to process at least 10 items at week, for an additional 520 items.

Availability

The digital library will be housed and managed on the cloud-based service Pantheon.io with an address sipnuuk.karuk.us, a platform-as-a-service (PAAS) that runs on RackSpace servers worldwide. Some materials will be made publicly available. Others will be managed and shared with specific families, researchers and individuals, including members and descendants of the Karuk Tribe. All materials will be made available, depending on access protocols, through modern browsers. Many more materials are available to registered site users (those who have requested a log-in and password), which allows us to verify that the person requesting is “real” and not a bot. The Mukurtu CMS platform has a Communities Structure that allows us to limit access to certain items only to those approved. An example is the Karuk K-12 Curriculum, where teachers and parents are pre-approved for access to curriculum which includes the answer keys. Another example is the photos of Karuk holdings at the Chicago Field Museum are available to the field Museum Community only until we get a Memorandum of Understanding in place between the Tribe and the museum. Items that may have access issues are put in the Karuk Needs Review community and brought to our advisory committee for discussion.

Access

The majority of materials we will digitize, create, or re-purpose will be owned by the Karuk Tribe. For those items belonging to Karuk tribal community members, we will secure property status through our established policies and forms, including Deeds of Gift, Protocol with Agreement for the Intellectual Property Rights of the Karuk Tribe: Research, Publication and Recordings to provide internal Karuk access. This will affect those materials and images that may be externally owned. When this is not possible, we will seek permissions to provide internal Karuk access through the copyright holder. However, by using Mukurtu CMS, we will be able to maintain tight control over materials that have copyright or IP constraints. We consider public access to be its own cultural protocol, and materials that are covered by this protocol will be rights cleared or not available for public access. We upload videos to Vimeo, but do not make it available to the public unless we have been approved to do so.

Sustainability

Sípnuuk will preserve the content, structure and functionality of the files through migration to newer formats or other preservation strategies, where feasible. Sípnuuk, with the assistance of Kanopi Studios and powered by Mukurtu CMS, will provide basic services including secure storage, backup, management, and fixity-checks. Organizational funds are committed to the long-term sustainability of the digital assets. We have several storage devices with automated data backups in 3 locations, upriver, downriver and across the river, as well as what we have online.

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