



Native American / Native Hawaiian Museum Services

Sample Application MN-256129-OMS-24

Nisqually Indian Tribe

Amount awarded by IMLS:	\$210,798
Amount of cost share:	\$0

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's Language Resource Center will use storytelling to further revitalization and preservation efforts of their endangered language by translating cultural practices and drafting and publishing five short stories and an animated episode into the Nisqually language. The books and animation will be created through the professional services of a book designer, illustrator, Coast Salish artist, and character animator, and will be utilized by language program staff and teachers in both Tribal and surrounding community public school language classes. The books will also be distributed at community events, workshops, and classes, and added to the Nisqually Book App. As a result of this project, more Tribal members will have strengthened connections to Nisqually culture and language.

Attached are the following components excerpted from the original application.

- Narrative
- Schedule of Completion

When preparing an application for the next deadline, be sure to follow the instructions in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program to which you are applying.

Project Justification

Goal

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's project addresses IMLS's Goal 1: Champion Lifelong Learning: Objective 1.1: Advance shared knowledge and learning opportunities for all.

Objective

The Nisqually Indian Tribe's project addresses IMLS's Objective 1: Support the preservation and perpetuation of Indigenous languages and traditional cultural practices.

Strengthen Language and Culture

This project will strengthen Nisqually Indian Tribe Language and Culture Program's services by participants learning the Nisqually Language, speaking, and writing as well as learning traditional Nisqually Indian Tribe teachings. Being able to learn the native language will enable tribal members to learn, share and engage with others throughout their lives, from generation to generation. Also, this opportunity will increase the number of native speakers.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe Language Program staff teaches the Nisqually Language in the Tribal Early Learning Program, Head Start, Yelm Community Schools, Bethel School District and North Thurston school district. The books developed through this project will be utilized as a supplemental teaching about Nisqually Language and Culture Since Time Immemorial.

Identified Need

The purpose for this grant is to fund a project that will help the Nisqually Indian Tribe revitalize and preserve the cultural practices of the Nisqually People and their language. Activities included in the project are: 1) translate cultural practices into the Nisqually Language and draft short stories for each to publish a series of five books with one animated episode; 2) create a longhouse learning space within the Nisqually Library; 3) implement the teachings provided in the books as sessions to the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs; 4) implement the teachings in open community sessions; 5) provide public school language classes to create awareness of the Nisqually Language and Culture.

UNESCO identifies the Lushootseed Language as an endangered language. The Nisqually Language is the Southern Lushootseed dialect, therefore, endangered (UNESCO 2011 *Atlas of the World's Language in Danger* (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000187026>)). Nisqually has not been spoken fluently for 40 years. This means 2+ generations have not carried fluency, and many parents/guardians do not have advanced Nisqually Language competencies. The books will offer a way for parents/guardians and children to learn together.

In a Nisqually Language Program review, Dr. Christopher Horsethief identifies the following key objectives that align with the goal of this project:

- Foster a Nisqually language learning environment and resources that lead learners through acquisition stages through their lives
- Provide organic language interactions
- Provide opportunity for parents and children to learn together
- Expose language learners to the Nisqually Language and cultural traditions
- Promote community interaction between learners and other learners as well as other community members
- Develop curricula and supporting materials to teach the Nisqually Language
- Increase the visibility of Nisqually cultural traditions
- Provide apps to provide another means to bring the Nisqually Language to the community

Based on the surveys collected at Nisqually Language Dinner events, the Nisqually Indian Tribe Community strongly desires to learn and revitalize its Nisqually Language.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe is determined to preserve the Nisqually Language and culture for present and future generations to come. The current challenge for the Nisqually Indian Language Program is creating opportunities for tribal community members to teach, learn, and share cultural traditions and language.

Currently, our language is taught in the tribal Head Start program and three local school districts (Yelm Community Schools, Bethel School District and North Thurston School District). The Nisqually Tribe has established and maintained programs with local school districts to introduce and teach the Nisqually language to students at every academic level. These collaborative efforts have gained steady traction and respect among community leaders and educators. The interest shown in language, art, and general Native culture indicates a continual craving for more connection to Native communities that have seemed mysterious or extinct to many for so long.

As the interest and positive impacts grow within school programs, ample opportunity is present for further reach. Current language teachers are constantly receiving training and being introduced to students of various forms who genuinely enjoy all they are offered. Teaching the language through animation and print further increases access for tribal and community students. These tools also reinforce and enhance classroom experiences and family interaction.

Young community members are somewhat unfamiliar with traditional teachings such as preparing for a ceremony and experiencing a Potlatch, caring for elders, Nisqually cultural etiquette, and Nisqually storytelling. The content in the books will align to address this need. There are limited opportunities for the Nisqually community to come together and this project will bring together the community for a Potlatch.

The Vision for the Nisqually Indian Tribe is:

sq^wali?abš - People of the Grass Country, People of the River, Nisqually Indian Tribe, we are strong, proud, resilient, and sovereign. We are connected to the past as we look to the future with optimism and confidence. We draw strength from taq^wu?ma? our sacred mountain, our sacred river, and the natural world for sustenance. We exercise our inherent rights to provide opportunities for our people, ensuring a safe, healthy, and happy place for all. We protect and conserve our natural resources and defend our treaty rights secured by our ancestors. Our economic base sustainably supports our tribal members and surrounding communities. Our elders pass on their wisdom and traditional ways to our youth. Our people work together to help each other thrive, perpetuating our home and culture now and for the next seven generations.

Creating books to teach Nisqually Language and culture through storytelling aligns with our tribe's vision and culture principle: *"Our Nisqually way of life is a set of traditions, a way of knowing that is transferred through activities, ceremonies, and formal and informal teachings. Returning to our cultural traditions strengthens our capacity to fight for treaty rights and self-govern."*

Target Group

The project's target group is the entire tribal community, especially youth, as well as the surrounding school districts.

Project Beneficiaries

The proposed project will primarily benefit Nisqually Indian Tribe's 850+ community members. Although the Nisqually Tribe's community members and Pacific Northwest Native Americans in general are the primary beneficiaries, anyone who is interested in learning the Nisqually Language will have the ability to learn about our culture, history, and language, such as students, teachers, researchers, and scholars.

Project Work Plan

Activities

This Project Team will create a series of 5-books and 1 animated episode that will enable the Nisqually Tribe to revitalize and preserve traditional practices. We would utilize the expertise of our Project Team to write the narrative for the series.

They will create fundamental language books to learn the foundation of traditional teachings and the Nisqually Language with word lists, pictures, phrases and/or stories and upon approval from the Nisqually Council, the books will be published and available on the Nisqually Book App.

Having this knowledge available and easily accessible in picture books and eBook form will greatly benefit our tribal members by strengthening their connection with their Nisqually culture and language, and, importantly, help revitalize our language and keep it from becoming extinct. The books will be given out at community events, workshops, and classes, schools and added to the Nisqually Book App.

Risks

There are multiple risks when implementing a project that involved cultural and linguistic knowledge. The risks and mitigations are:

- 1) The loss of data would be a risk to the project. Foreseeing this risk, all data collected will be backed up to an external hard drive and the tribe's internal server.
- 2) Assembling a team that will accept the task of bringing language to life. Hiring Nisqually tribal members with the technical and artistic skill will bring the passion to this project
- 3) Ensuring that timelines can be adhered to as much as possible with the coast salish artist, book illustrator and animator. Allowing their vision as an artist to come to fruition is not always on tap as some may want it to be.

Much like writer's block, we must anticipate that the Project Team will encounter a hurdle or two throughout this project. Fortunately, Nisqually has resources, such as counseling and recreational programs, that can aid artists in addressing these hurdles safely and holistically.

Nisqually Language Project Team:

Nisqually Language Resource Center Manager – Nancy Jo Bob – Devise plan, Implement and manage project – Nisqually Project Team

q̣ʷatələmu (Nancy Jo Bob) is an enrolled member of Lummi Nation, a descendant of the house of stətɪləm, a Jamestown S'kallam ancestral chief, and a descendant from the house of ʔalabəɫ, a Duwamish ancestral Chief named Doctor James. She is currently the manager of the Nisqually Language Resource center. q̣ʷatələmu (Nancy Jo Bob) earned a BA in Elementary Education with a K-8 teaching endorsement and K-12 special education endorsement. She also earned a Master of Arts in Education from a collaborative program between Antioch University Seattle and the Muckleshoot Tribal College. Her master's research resulted in writing a teaching guide, *How to Integrate Coast Salish Culture and Languages within Tribal School Classrooms*. q̣ʷatələmu (Nancy Jo Bob) focuses on researching and revitalizing the Coast Salish Languages and implementing language education protocols. She has also assisted many Western Washington tribes in creating and designing tribal Language Programs, certification programs, media/technology development programs, graphics and art design for language materials and curriculum, and orthography assistance. q̣ʷatələmu (Nancy Jo Bob) an ambitious Native American woman with 23 years of experience working with Western Washington State and lower British Columbia first languages. She is always looking to enhance the daily efforts of native

language revitalization. q̣ʷatələmu (Nancy Jo Bob) co-founded the Ancestral Languages Indigenous Voice Empowerment (ALIVE) Alliance 15 years ago. She facilitated collaboration among tribes to provide inter-tribal skill development and has trained more than 35 tribal members to become a teacher in their tribal language.

Vice Chair Nisqually Tribe – Antonette Squally – Support for devising and implementation of plan – Nisqually Project Team

(saliʔ ʔəsʕubiliçəʔ) Antonette Squally is a certified Nisqually language teacher who has dedicated more than 16 years to restoring, revitalizing, and teaching the Nisqually language and culture.

Antonette has diligently worked to pass the Nisqually language on to the next generation of Nisqually members. Antonette is a Nisqually tribal member and has served for two terms on the Nisqually tribal Council. She currently holds the Council position of Vice Chairman.

She has worked in language teaching and preservation for Puyallup Tribe and their tribal school, Chief Leschi. Antonette is a leader in language development at Nisqually and is working towards certifying upcoming Nisqually language teachers.

Book Designer – Renée Remlinger-Tee – Nisqually Project Team

Renée has 10 years of design firm experience, project management, creative team coordination, print production management, marketing, new business development. She has 10+ years of combined librarian experience with Nisqually Tribal Library, Seattle Public Schools' Native American Education Program Library, specialized business, and academic libraries. She has co-produced print books with a self-published author and has a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree.

Positions required for the project:

Nisqually Language Character Animator

Coastal Artist/ Carver Book Illustrator

Nisqually Language Book Illustrator

Sequence of Project Activities and schedule of completion

Activity	Start	End	Staff
Hire Illustrators, Animator and Book Designer	7/1/2024	7/15/2024	Nisqually Language Resource Center Manager
Purchases iPads and digital design software. Finalize equipment check-out process for art team	7/1/2024	7/5/2024	Nisqually Language Resource Center, IT Dept.
Begin creative writing process for book series and animation: script writing & storyboarding - create the concept and character designing	7/1/2024	3/1/2025	Project Team
Project Team weekly meeting	7/1/2024	6/30/2024	Project Team
Complete hardware and software training and required equipment checkout	8/1/2024	8/9/2024	Nisqually Language Resource Center, IT Dept.
Begin voiceover recordings	9/30/2024	5/3/2025	Project Team
Begin designing the background for books, animation, and illustrations	8/9/2024	5/3/2025	Project Team
Meet with Legal to draft copyright	9/2/2024	9/6/2024	Project Team
Submit and edit the first of 5-book series	9/30/2024	10/11/2024	Language Editing Team
Submit and edit the second of 5-book series	11/29/2024	12/13/2024	Language Editing Team
Submit motion design for animated characters	11/29/2024	12/13/2024	Art & Animation Team
Submit and edit the third of 5-book series	1/31/2025	2/14/2025	Language Editing Team
Submit animated background scenes	1/31/2025	2/14/2025	Art & Animation Team
Animated video 1 st draft	1/31/2025	2/14/2025	Art & Animation Team
Submit and edit the fourth of 5-book series	3/31/2025	4/11/2025	Language Editing Team
Submit final voice over recordings	3/31/2025	4/11/2025	Language Editing Team
Submit and edit the fifth book of 5-book series	6/20/2025	6/27/2025	Language Editing Team
Publish 5 Nisqually language books	6/30/2025	7/1/2025	Nisqually Language Resource Center/Nisqually Tribe
Publish Nisqually Language Animation Video	6/30/2025	7/1/2025	Nisqually Language Resource Center/Nisqually Tribe
Final Report	6/30/2025	7/1/2025	Nisqually Language Resource Center Manager

Time, Financial, Personnel, and Resources Needed to Carry Out Activities

<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Financial</i>
Nisqually Language Character Animator	.5	\$46,800
Nisqually Language Book Illustrator	.5	\$46,800
Nisqually Language Coast Salish artist/carver	.20	\$11,900
Benefits	1.2	\$32,983
Professional Services (Book Designer)		\$30,000
Supplies		\$5,000
Equipment (non-capital) 2 iPads 12.9 inch 6 th generation – 512 GB		\$3,200
IMLS Required Meeting		\$3,000
Language Materials		\$15,000
Indirect Costs		\$50,500

Tracking progress

The IMLS Project Team will meet weekly to discuss progress and next steps. We will distribute a survey via Microsoft forms on the Nisqually Language website and during the celebration Potlatch. We will also ask the Nisqually Language App developer to track downloads from the apps. We will monitor implementation of the materials by creating a database of materials used for community and school teachings. We will also measure usage by having any one obtaining a resource to fill out a distribution form.

Sharing project’s results

Our project results will be shared with IMLS at the end of the project and to the tribal community by inserting an announcement in the tribal newsletter, on the tribal website, and at community events.

Project Results

Creating Nisqually Language books will result in providing community members the chance to learn and practice the Nisqually Language and cultural etiquette and practices. Overall, the books will help revitalize and Nisqually Language as well as preserve the Nisqually People’s cultural practices and language through the following outputs:

- Providing resources that help lead learners through acquisition stages through their lives
- Provide opportunity for parents and children to learn the Nisqually Language together
- Expose both Nisqually Indian Tribe’s community members and the general public, especially schools, to the Nisqually Language and cultural traditions
- Promote community interaction between learners and other learners as well as other community members
- Increasing the visibility of Nisqually traditions in both the Nisqually and broader community

- Increasing access to Nisqually Language learning resources through digital versions of the five print books and an animated app

In addition, the Nisqually Language Program staff will use the books as part of its curricula. For example, staff will implement the teachings provided in the books as sessions to the Head Start and Early Head Start Programs and in open community sessions as well as in public school language classes to create awareness of the Nisqually Language and Culture.

Nisqually will ensure that both the printed books and animation are secure and accessible. Through these activities, the Nisqually Language and cultural practices will be increased and preserved for generations.

Intended Audience's Knowledge and Skills

The Nisqually Language is a blessing preserved for the Nisqually people by our ancestors. It is within our lands, waters, forests, and daily life. Our language is spiritual and must be treated as such. It cannot be separated from our traditional beliefs and practices. Our language is who we are. It creates a whole person comprised of the spiritual, mental, physical, and cultural aspects within the Nisqually family and tribe. Therefore, it is imperative all Nisqually people have access to comprehensive language resources that reflect the beauty of our history, philosophy, cultural practices, and values. Tribal members will have more opportunities to learn our language through print and video animation. In addition, with the animation, digital versions of the books available online, more community members, within the tribe as well as across the Pacific Northwest and beyond; will have access to learning the Nisqually language.

Tangible Products

The project's tangible outcomes include five Nisqually Language books—both print and digital versions and one animated video.

Sustained Project Benefits

With this project, we will be able to sustain and revitalize our Nisqually Language and enrich the culture and confidence of our people. It is crucial for any community of an endangered Indigenous language to embrace learning it to preserve it.

Nisqually tribal community members will be able to access the print books at future Potlatch events and in the Nisqually Language Program Resource Center as well as the Nisqually Tribal Library. They will also be able to access digital versions of the book and an animated app on their electronic devices.

In addition, Nisqually Language Program will incorporate the books into its planned curricula to teach the Nisqually Language in classes in the Nisqually community and in schools throughout nearby school districts.

