12th Annual Repatriation Conference
Tending the Fire – Sustaining the Journey Home
February 2027 | Virtual
Every Thursday & February

Call for Session Proposals
Proposals due on Monday, October 12, 2026
by 5 p.m. Eastern Time

The Association on American Indian Affairs is seeking proposals for panels, workshops, training and other sessions that will support the 12th Annual Repatriation Conference theme "Tending the Fire – Sustaining the Journey Home." The Conference will be completely virtual and take place Thursdays and Fridays in the month of February 2027.

Conference Theme.
The fire has been fed—now we tend to the flames to prepare for the journey home.

Repatriation is the return of Native bodies and cultural heritage to Native Peoples' control. The Association on American Indian Affairs is an international leader providing training, critical thinking, and strategies for the return of Ancestors, as well as tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The Association's Annual Repatriation Conference brings a wealth of expertise and opportunities together for anyone working to protect Native Peoples' cultural heritage.

"Tending the Fire – Sustaining the Journey Home" builds on the momentum of past Repatriation Conferences and calls us to look toward the future. The 12th Annual Repatriation Conference will give practical training in areas of domestic and international repatriation, critical thinking opportunities to develop strategies, networking breaks to build relationships, and intergenerational healing tools to support a healthy working environment, to build capacity for Native Nations, allies, and institutions.

The Association welcomes all Conference attendees to this fully virtual conference that is intended for Native Nation and Native Hawaiian Organization leaders, practitioners, Elders and representatives, museums, institutions, government agencies, academics, attorneys, collectors, artists, cultural preservationists and others engaged or interested in the return of diverse cultural heritage.

Call for Session Proposals.
To build this diverse virtual community training event, we are asking for your support as an educator, expert, or practitioner to submit your idea for a session proposal that is in alignment with the theme of the Conference: Tending the Fire – Sustaining the Journey Home. The theme asks us to look to the future to build capacity so that we can sustain our work to complete repatriation.

If your panel submission is accepted, each presenter will receive free registration to attend the full Conference event!

Session proposals must be submitted on the form provided. You can submit your form with this **LINK**.

Proposals are due by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday, October 5, 2026**.

Sessions will be selected based on relevancy to the theme of the Conference and the criteria below:

Panel presentations must meet the following criteria:

1. The session must be relevant to the Conference theme: Tending the Fire – Sustaining the Journey Home. The theme asks us to look to the future to build capacity so that we can sustain our work to complete repatriation.
2. The session adds value to repatriation practice by providing new and interesting information about repatriation efforts – whether those efforts are pursuant to NAGPRA, international repatriation, trafficking, return of tangible or intangible cultural heritage, which could include language, items, knowledge, seeds, or efforts taking place to protect Native cultural heritage domestically or abroad.
3. The session is interactive and involves the audience to develop skills, strategies, networks and collaborative efforts.
4. The session provides respectful dialogue, even where there may be controversy or disagreement.
5. The tone of the session will be in alignment with anti-racism, social justice, human rights, decolonization, de-systemizing, and truth-telling.
6. The session must involve collaborative efforts among diverse parties.
7. The session shall provide take-away tools to achieve successful repatriation.
8. Each panelist will participate in onboarding in the online platform and must have reliable internet and appropriate technical support to present successfully.

The following information is required for all submissions that you will provide in the form at this link:

- The title of the session;
- The type of session proposed (Workshop, Panel, Roundtable, Other);
- The name, affiliation or title, and email address for each session participant;
- A brief abstract of the session for the program (not to exceed 50 words);
- A detailed description of the session (not to exceed 500 words);
- Learning outcomes (2-3 statements, 100 words max);
- How the session meets the theme of the Conference;
- How the session provides interactive training and provides take-away tools;
- How much time is needed for the panel or workshop (a typical session will be 1 hour and 30 minutes long, which should include at least a 20-minute question and answer period or open discussion. However, shorter or longer sessions may also be proposed);
- Do you have day or time requests for your presentation, considering that the Conference will take place live every Friday in February 2027;
- Proposal history (if presentation was used in the past at another event); and
- Providing your consent to be recorded.

Examples of sessions may include:

- ✓ Repatriation Success Stories that Inspire and Guide Future Efforts

- ✓ Decolonizing Repatriation Practices within Institutions
- ✓ Building and Maintaining Capacity with Limited Resources
- ✓ Changing Research Practices, Western Ideology and Science
- ✓ Consultation and Diplomacy Strategies
- ✓ Coalition Building
- ✓ International Repatriation
- ✓ Utilizing Legal Strategies in areas of Repatriation
- ✓ Effective tactics in the return of private collections
- ✓ Repatriation of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Presentations will be reviewed and selected based on their relevancy to the theme of the Conference and ability to meet the requirements. After your proposal is submitted, you may be contacted for further information or revisions.

The Association may ask that your session be amended to support the Conference agenda and theme. Decisions on panel sessions will be completed on or about December 1, 2026.

Once accepted, presenters must provide the following final information by December 14, 2026.

- Provide final titles and descriptions of the session and names, biographies, and photos of all panel members;
- Register for the Conference by Monday, January 4, 2027. Registration will be free for approved presenters, which will provide full access to the entire virtual Conference.
- Presenters that do not provide requested information by the deadline or fail to register timely will be removed from the program.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a public conference, and all sessions will be recorded and used for educational purposes. Contact the Association at general@Indian-Affairs.org or (240) 314-7155 if you have questions.

For the most up-to-date Conference information, please see our webpage at Indian-Affairs.org/12thannualrepatriationconference.html

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL NOW!