



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development

**AWARD DATE:** 2017-Q2

**ADDRESS:** 953 E. Juanita Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85204

**CONTACT:** (480) 545-1298; <http://www.ncaied.org/>

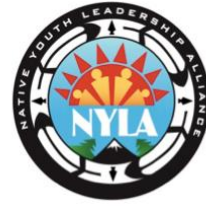
**GENERAL GOALS:** We at the National Center are proud of our work to advance the economic interests of Indian Country. Due in no small part to help from supporters like you, we are putting our motto – “we mean business for Indian Country” – to work.

**SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

This award was used as support for operational expenses and programs.

For more information please see the attached report from National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Native Youth Leadership Alliance  
4362 Salt Spring Drive  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
www.nativeyouthleadership.org



## Grant Report – Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

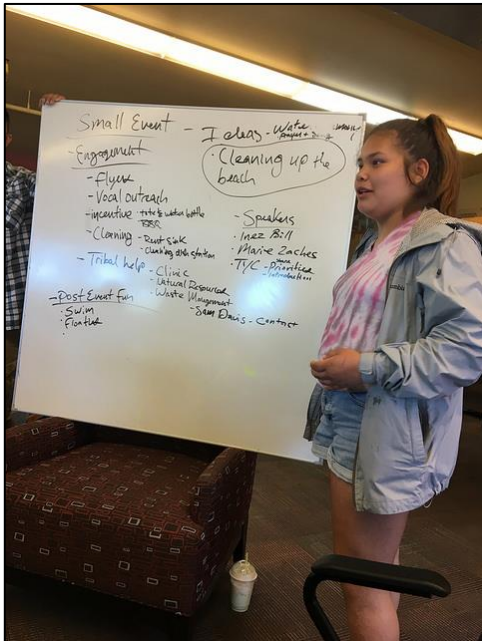
Project Name: Tulalip Youth Leadership Training Pilot Program – Young Fellows

Grant Amount: ██████████

Dates: January 2016 – June 2017

### Original Project Plan

Native Youth Leadership Alliance (NYLA)'s foundational program is our 24-month Fellowship Program for Native young adults ages of 22 and 32, primarily from Tribal Colleges. This Fellowship is focused on building individual leadership skills by assisting fellows as they complete their own community-based development plans. Through this Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund grant we planned to develop a pilot program with the Tulalip Youth Council to engage them in a Fellowship Program curriculum modified for their ages and abilities. The programming plan included two multi-day retreats, mentorships between youth and a member of the NYLA Leadership Team, and a group webinar to help youth work toward their goals. Our goal in the new Young Fellows Program was to support young Natives in developing their physical, spiritual, and emotional wellness, and also to inspire them to set and achieve their own academic and community leadership goals.



## Results

NYLA was successful in modifying our Fellowship program for younger Natives, holding two Tulalip Youth Council Retreats and a one-day forum. The first Retreat, a 3-day event in December 2016, included six NYLA facilitators and supported 10 Tulalip Youth Council members, ages 12-17. The second Retreat, a 2-day workshop held in June 2017, included five NYLA facilitators and supported 6 Tulalip Youth Council members, ages 9-17 (and one baby). The Native Youth Leadership Alliance Forum on September 25, 2016 in Tulalip, WA was a kick off event held in conjunction with the 63th annual Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Conference at the Tulalip Resort.

The first Retreat was timed to support Tulalip youth that were



new to the Youth Council, and focused on building their leadership capacity and on community building. Activities started with Tulalip youth leading NYLA mentors during a canvassing session where we were advertising the youth training to the Tulalip community. As the retreat progressed, the youth felt empowered by seeing other native young men and young women that were just a few years ahead of them practicing our common cultural beliefs. A workshop on “Indigenous Public Speaking” was especially powerful, as it helped the young people own their voice and open up to the group. Our facilitators immediately identified the need to go in depth with public speaking, so there was extra time spent for each participant to practice speaking in front of the group three different times each. This proved to be helpful, we observed transformational change, especially in confidence, projecting voice and posture. The Tulalip youth engaged in activities and workshoping that had them interact and team build with each other. One of the sessions included ‘speed networking’ where they worked with each other for one-minute intervals until they had the opportunity to work with everyone. This started slow but before we knew it, the Youth Council chambers was buzzing with conversation and mind maps were developed around long/short term academic goals. The

To plan the second Retreat, NYLA solicited ideas from the youth themselves. Based on their suggestions, the focus of this training was strategic planning and personal planning. Activities involved an emphasis on college planning support, including a visit to University of Washington Seattle Campus. The youth also received individualized training in creating film media, per their request, which supported their efforts in capturing stories of Tulalip Tribes elders. Another

workshop, focused on environmental justice, supported the youth in their plan to include recycling options at the Canoe Journey stop at the reservation.

Three aspects of this project were very impactful:

- 1) Teaching young people healthy ways to communicate and modeling those methods has a substantial impact. We did this through the Indigenous Coaching Model. If a young person's home life isn't the greatest they recognize and empower themselves to use thought-provoking questions to find the solution on their terms. They can also model healthy communication with themselves and basically become coaches. That aspect is very innovative and new.
- 2) The next important factor was showing the Tulalip Youth Council real strategies to develop their goals by breaking down an issue and empowering the young leaders to find the tangible action plan to follow. This gets the team working together and thinking critically while also understanding healthy ways of holding one another accountable.
- 3) Lastly it was super beneficial for other young natives to meet people from other indigenous nations. It reflects our interconnectedness and encourages the young people to expand their horizons and start thinking about how can we work together as natives on much larger scale.

#### Lessons Learned / Next Steps

Communication is an ongoing challenge, especially since NYLA deals with tribes and nations in various locations, all with their own set of historical and cultural differences. Our staff takes time to learn each tribe's level of comfort with external partners, and builds trust slowly so that our youth development programs are seen as a compliment to their current efforts. Trust-building is a delicate process, and will continue to be a struggle that we will have to work through. Our staff uses multiple styles of communication and builds alliances with youth and tribal members in order to build positive, long-term relationships with the tribes we support. This slowed down our activities under the grant, but by the end of the term we were able to successfully build trust and hold youth leadership events at Tulalip Tribes.

In the future, we will strive to make the workshops and retreats more entertaining. We plan to build on the successes of this pilot program, and continue to support youth at Tulalip Tribes, Native youth from the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indian (ATNI) Youth Forums, and eventually expand this program to other areas of the country. There are three tribes in California who we are now planning to work with to bring this same program to their Youth Councils.

#### In Conclusion:

This pilot project was a huge success as we develop programs and projects to work in depth with our Native Youth. We send our heart-felt thank you to the Tulalip Community for the support of this work. As we continue to build off of this foundation, we will continue to meet the needs and wants of our youth. Although there are many short-term impacts, we are very interested continuing to evaluate the long-term impacts. We have only begun to touch on what Tulalip



youth are capable of and we are committed to continuing our long-term relationship building with Tulalip Youth.

























**Native Youth Leadership Alliance**

*Invests in young Native American Leaders to spark  
culturally based community change*

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