FY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Utah Division of Indian Affairs

MISSION

The Utah Division of Indian
Affairs' mission is to promote
positive intergovernmental
relations and the governmentto-government relationship
between the State of Utah and
Utah's American Indian Tribes.

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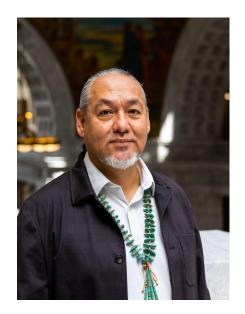
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The Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement collaborates internally and aligns with the Utah Governor's office to create a vibrant place for all state residents to thrive.

Each of our seven divisions and two offices strive to achieve three overarching goals through unique programs that serve all corners of Utah.

- 1 Create opportunities for community understanding and civic engagement throughout Utah.
- **2** Ignite curiosity, creativity, and passion for learning and service.
- **3** Preserve, protect, and activate Utah's historical and cultural treasures.





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Dominique Talahaftewa **Tribal Cultural Liaison**

TRIBAL VISITS

Regular tribal visits have allowed Tribes and the state of Utah to engage in direct dialogue, foster understanding, and build trust. During the past year, DIA has facilitated and attended 17 meetings with tribal governments.

During FY23, DIA visited with the Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservation, the Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, the Navajo Nation, the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the Ute Indian Tribe, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. We continue to work on setting up a visit to the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe.

Tribal visits have created a platform for open communication. Through face-to-face interactions, state and Tribal leaders have been able to discuss critical issues, express concerns, and explore common goals. This direct engagement has helped bridge the gap between tribal communities and state government, leading to enhanced understanding and cooperation and a more productive relationship between the state and Utah's eight Tribal Nations.



PRIORITY SUCCESS SPEAK YOUR PIECE PODCAST



James Toledo, program specialist, and Brad Westwood, senior public historian (now retired), developed a podcast series on the Native American boarding school system. They believed it was crucial in shedding light on an important part of Utah and American history.

By listening to these personal experiences and historical context, listeners better understand the experiences of Native American children. The podcast provides insight into these schools' lasting impact on Native American communities and families.

Utah, in particular, has a distinctive history with Native American education and boarding schools, making it a pertinent location for exploring and discussing this topic. Personal accounts from Utah's Native American community brought a local dimension to the podcast.

CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS: CONSULTATION SUCCESS



Facilitation

UDIA has facilitated the Utah Tribal Leader meetings on a regularly scheduled basis. Through these meetings, state agencies and non-governmental organizations have been able to share information and tools with Tribal leaders that could be beneficial to their respective communities.

The statute that governs the operation of the Utah Tribal Leaders is being reconsidered. Tribal leaders have suggested that the way the statute is currently written may need updates, with the aim of more effective, efficient, and beneficial meetings with Tribal governments. Therefore, in collaboration with Tribal leaders, UDIA will look for ways to improve this process so that the communication between the state, its agencies, and Tribal governments can contribute to better state-Tribal relationships.

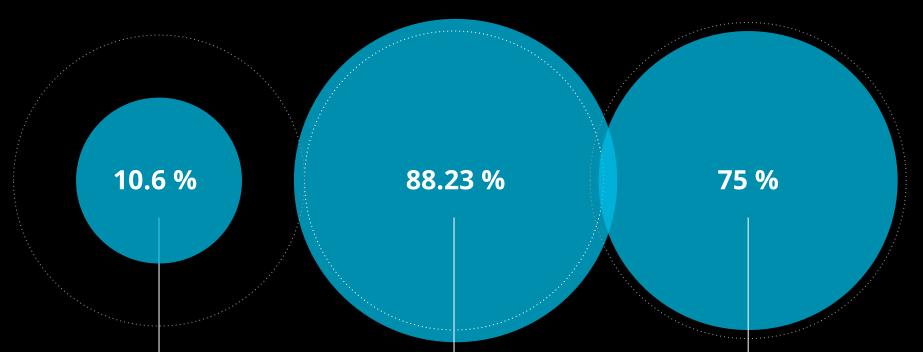


Utah State Flag Redesign

Dominique Talahaftewa served as the contact between Tribal governments with the More Than A Flag initiative, led by the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement.

In her role as the division's Cultural Liaison, Talahaftewa ensured that the Native American contribution to the history of the state of Utah was recognized and considered in the redesign process.





YOUTH ATTENDANCE

UDIA assists the eight Tribal Nations of Utah in preserving culture and growing communities by measuring the percent of attendees participating in the Youth Track of the Governor's Native American Summit.

TARGET: 30% ACTUAL: 10.6 %

LIAISON GROUP

Assist the eight Tribal Nations in preserving culture and interacting effectively with Utah state agencies by managing an effective liaison working group as measured by the percent of mandated state agencies with designated liaisons actively participating to respond to tribal concerns.

TARGET: 70 % ACTUAL: 88.23 %

TRIBAL LAND VISITS

Represent the State of Utah by developing strong relationships with Tribal members by measuring the percent of tribes personally visited on their lands annually.

TARGET: 80 % ACTUAL: 75 %

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FINAL NOTES | DUSTIN JANSEN

The Division of Indian Affairs has been active in promoting a better working relationship between the state of Utah and the eight sovereign Tribal governments. Our efforts are aimed at building relationships of understanding between the state and Tribal governments. The projects and accomplishments detailed here demonstrate the work effort and successes.

Lt. Gov. Henderson has been tasked by Gov. Cox to take the lead in Indian affairs with the state. The Lt. Governor's visits to Native communities, and her efforts to understand Tribal priorities, has been instrumental in creating strong relationships with Utah's sovereign Tribal Nations.

With continued work and support from the Cox/Henderson administration, the state's relationship with Tribal leaders will continue to improve and make it easier to have effective cooperation, collaboration and communication. We are excited to continue forward with this mission.

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