PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CALL FOR LETTER OF INTEREST

SIAM PROGRAM
SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS ARTS MASTERY

SIAM GRANTS FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY:

The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at The Evergreen State College
The SIAM* program, Supporting Indigenous Arts Mastery, is designed to help community colleges, 4-year colleges and universities (both public and private) achieve some of its goals to support cultural arts of Tribal communities within the institution’s own service region. Modeled after the work of the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at The Evergreen State College, SIAM is designed to support the outward facing public service work colleges and universities may already be doing, or wish to do with Tribal communities to support cultural visual arts.

About the Longhouse:
The mission of the Longhouse is to support Indigenous arts and cultures. You can read more here [www.evergreen.edu/longhouse](http://www.evergreen.edu/longhouse).

Every partnership is unique. While institutions do not need to have a comprehensive public service plan already in place, it should have a team of dedicated staff of professionals and leaders and Tribal partners committed to the successful support of proposed projects focusing on cultural arts as defined by a Tribe or Tribes. The institution and the Tribe(s) should have the capacity to deliver the programming described in your letter as well as provide evaluation and institutional documentation of expenditures.

Cultural arts can be multi-disciplinary or focused on a particular type of art deemed to be important for the Tribe(s) by the Tribe(s) and taught by master artists who can bring other Tribal artists into the circle of artistic mastery as explorers, learners and apprentices. The intention is to create artistic paths to ensure sustainability of the artform(s).

*SIAM is a Salish term for a learned elder and simultaneously a term of respect for learned ancestors.
Available grants are up to $30,000 per institution, per year, which is renewable for longer projects. Project budgets should focus on contracts with master artists, supplies and materials, as well as support for learners/apprentices. It may include rental, support for meals during workshops, mileage, lodging as well as some salary support and goods and services for the institution team managing the project. Projects can be matched with other funding sources from institutional, state, and national resources.

Materials required for letter of interest:

- Letter of interest specifically addressing:
  - project outcomes.
  - measurable objectives and the activities proposed to meet those objectives.
  - proposed structure for implementation and oversight of the project including implementation of activities and tracking project objectives.

- Letter of support and commitment from one or more entities within a Tribe such as a museum/cultural center operated by the Tribe, Tribal Council, or other official Tribal divisions or committees.

- If Tribes have identified master artists for the project, include:
  - images of work samples,
  - resume outlining years of experience,
  - importance to the art form,
  - apprentices taught.

- Proposed Budget with general line items of expected expenditures and a budget narrative outlining the rationale for the proposed budget.
Letters of interest and letters of support can be e-mailed to:
Laura VerMeulen, Longhouse Director
vermeull@evergreen.edu
Questions can be directed via e-mail or phone 360 867 6413.

Awarded institutions will be expected to submit a W9 outlining who receives the funding and develop an evaluation plan for the activities during the grant period. The evaluation plan will address documenting the success in meeting the objectives of the proposed activities and track progress toward stated outcomes of the proposal. Photos and video documentation of activities is encouraged.

Successful institutions will demonstrate a philosophy of service, respect, and consultation with Tribes that elevates autonomy, agency, and expertise of Tribes in their work to support and advance artistic mastery in their communities.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Submit your letter today.