



STAHS

SILETZ TRIBAL ARTS & HERITAGE SOCIETY

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My name is Stephen Reichard and it is my honor to serve as the capital campaign director for A Campaign for A Place for the People. In 1954, under the auspices of the Western Oregon Termination Act, and in a final effort by the federal government to “kill the Indian and save the man,” and with a payment of less than \$800 per Tribal member, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were terminated and ceased to exist for a generation... until Restoration – without a land base – in 1977.

A generation of cultural transmission was lost to the Siletz Tribes. And I say tribes because the Siletz Indians represent 38 separate tribes and bands speaking more than ten distinct languages. That loss of a generation of cultural transmission has been profound. In fact, it is said in Indian Country – which experiences the worst health and the highest rates of suicide and addiction in the nation - that culture is healing.

Developing a cultural heritage center for the practice, conservation and restoration of the cultures of the Siletz Indians has been among the Tribes very highest priorities since Restoration in 1977.

The Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society, a tribally-chartered 501 c 3 organization, has launched a \$2.5 million capital campaign to build what the Tribes are calling A Place for the People. That \$2.5 million will be matched 3:1 by the Tribes. We are seeking \$750,000 from the Lottery funding. We estimate that this project will generate 89 direct construction jobs and a further 201 induced jobs for a total of 290 jobs. It will be a center of healing for the more than 6,000 members of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. And it will serve as an educational resource for the State of Oregon in conformance with the requirements of Oregon’s unique Tribal History/Shared History law requiring the inclusion of a Native American curriculum for all school children in Oregon. We ask for your support for this critical project. Rep. Gomberg submitted the request for the project and that he is available to speak with any members of the committee who might have questions.