

To: Mike Lindberg and Kathleen Cody

From: Lawretta Morris  
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and the Southwest Indian Art Market organizers are signing a memorandum of understanding tomorrow, Tuesday, August 20 to agree to cooperate in developing a Northwest Indian Market in Portland. It will be on the same scale as the Indian Market in Santa Fe. The Northwest Indian Market will emphasize the spectacular art of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and northern California, and include Native art from other regions as well. The Indian Art Market has the support of the city of Portland. We will write a press release on Tuesday for release Wednesday, August 21, announcing the agreement. We would like to quote you. May we suggest the following:

**"We are looking forward to this great event coming to our city. Indian art is among the best in the world, and Northwest Indian artists deserve this opportunity to showcase their work."**

Please fax us permission to use this generic quote, or provide us with a statement that you would prefer. We need to have it by 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Since I'm in Santa Fe, please call me on my cell phone 503-970-1961 or leave a message in my room at Homewood Suites, 505-988-3000, or Fax 505-988-4700.

*"Quote" from  
MDL to  
run in  
Santa Fe  
paper and  
POX paper.*



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mike Lindberg, Commissioner  
1220 S.W. Fifth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 823-4145  
FAX: (503) 823-3017

**TELECOPIER COVER SHEET**

DATE:

8/19/96

TO:

Lawretta Morris % Homewood Suites

FROM:

Kathleen Cody

Commissioner Lindberg's Office  
FAX: (503) 823-3017

SUBJECT:

Quote from Mike Lindberg

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT (Including Cover Sheet):

2

COMMENTS:

The quote looks good - go ahead  
with it. Call if we can assist  
further.

RESPONSE REQUIRED:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ or No ☒

8/14  
 → Kathleen Cady  
 we need to meeting  
 follow-up meeting  
 with Mayor's office  
 out + 1st meeting  
 race  
 The  
 Paula

"Dream of Spiritual Strength," a statue by Jim Jackson, a Northwest sculptor and Klamath Indian, would greet visitors to the proposed Northwest Indian Art Market in downtown Portland. Tribes hope to launch the event on Memorial Day weekend 1998. The statue now stands at the downtown Hilton Hotel.



BRENT WOJAHN/The Oregonian

## Northwest Indians propose national art center in Portland

■ Organizers hope 40,000 people will attend the first Indian art market, projected to open Memorial Day weekend in 1998

By COURTENAY THOMPSON  
 of The Oregonian staff

Northwest Indians hope to make Portland a mecca for their art by creating a national market on a par with the 75-year-old Indian Market in Santa Fe, N.M.

Organizers with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians envision filling galleries and hotels throughout downtown Portland with the works of 300 to 400 Indian artists from around the country. They want to bring in modern sculptors and multimedia artists as well as more traditional basket-makers and bead artists.

They hope to attract 40,000 people to the first three-day-long event, scheduled for Memorial Day weekend 1998, and expand it annually.

"We plan to make Portland one of the major areas for Indian art," said Lawretta Morris, the tribes' newly hired development director and a longtime political and community fund-raiser in

Portland.

Morris recently began talking to city officials and businesses about ways to fund the event. She plans to seek national grants and to hold a black-tie art auction in November.

The proposal for an Indian art market comes when Artquake, Portland's 19-year-old Labor Day arts festival, which usually attracts 200,000 visitors, is taking a year off. Artquake's organizers failed to attract enough support from the city and downtown businesses.

But Morris said she's not worried about finding funding, given what she thinks will be the event's national draw. Neither is she daunted by the logistical challenge of mounting such an event in indoor locations throughout downtown.

The Northwest Indian Art Market at Portland, as Morris is calling it, would be the first of its size and scope. The Northwest now has scattered small galleries and occasional museum exhibits that feature Indian art.

Many artists must travel thousands of miles to market their work at powwows and smaller shows,

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# Art: Indian artists need community support to flourish

## ■ Continued from Page B1

or they must compete to get into the annual Santa Fe Indian Market in August, the nation's largest.

The event could give a boost to the efforts of tribes around the Northwest, some of which are trying to establish arts and cultural centers with casino-generated dollars. The market also could work with established tribal institutions, such as the Museum at Warm Springs, built by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

But some Northwest Indian artists, while they welcome the prospect of an art market, say it will take much more to create a Santa Fe-style environment in which Northwest Indian artists can flourish. It will take the support of the area's universities, museums, arts institutions and corporate sponsors to foster Indian artists — support they say has been lacking.

"I think there could be a movement here in the Northwest," said Hank Gobin, cultural resources manager for the Tulalip Tribe in Marysville, Wash. "But I think it's going to take a real collective approach by Indians, Indian institutions and non-Indian institutions working hand in hand."

An annual art market could be a boon to the local economy.

The Santa Fe Indian Market, sponsored by the nonprofit Southwestern Association for Indian Arts Inc., brings in 1,200 Indian artists and an estimated 100,000 collectors

and tourists from around the world.

The state of New Mexico estimates the weekend event, coupled with a week of related events leading up to it, generates \$110 million for the economy in hotel bills, restaurant tabs and related spending.

And weekend sales of art total an estimated \$44 million, said Heather Ahtone-Begaye, assistant to the president of the arts association.

Northwest tribes hope to foster the same kind of enthusiasm and dollars for the less well-known art of Northwest Indians. The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a nonprofit organization that serves 54 tribes.

Morris, the development director, said the show would be open to Indians belonging to tribes. Their work would have to pass a panel of artists to be included. The weekend would feature artist receptions and possibly performances by native drummers, story tellers and musicians.

Organizers hope the annual event would not only provide Northwest Indian artists with an easily accessible market but also raise their profile throughout the region and the art world.

Gail E. Chehak, arts and tourism coordinator for the affiliated tribes, said Indian artists often get pigeonholed. "Indians are usually put in the natural history museums with the elephants and the dinosaurs rather than in the modern art section or the museum for women," she said.

Chehak also sees the art market as part of a larger effort to teach non-Indians about their past and modern culture and to let people know there's much more to modern Indians than the glittery casinos that dot the Northwest or the stereotyped images of the past.

"We get tired of being thought of as people only in the past," Chehak said. "We are modern-day people with a proud history and past. We are not all gone."

Northwest Indian artists said they would welcome the art market.

"We need something like that here. Oh, yes," said Nadine Van Mechelen, a 62-year-old Yurok artist from Pendleton who makes intricate beaded dolls.

Van Mechelen said that when she began making dolls 12 years ago, she had no idea where to sell her work. She sold her dolls at flea markets for \$25 apiece. Today her dolls sell for between \$400 and \$1,000.

Marvin Oliver, a professor of American Indian studies at the University of Washington, is a Quinault

Indian artist who creates huge sculptures of steel, glass and bronze. He said the art market could provide a much-needed forum for Northwest artists to share ideas, techniques and methods. It also could encourage younger artists living on or near Northwest reservations to get involved.

Both Oliver and Gobin, of the Tulalip Tribe, said the region needs a

strong institute to support indigenous artists, as well as the support of universities and museums.

"Indian people ... in the Northwest as a whole have not had the opportunity to be a part of the organized institutional art activities generated by the Portland Art Museum, the University of Washington and on and on and on and on," Gobin said.



# Indian art market plans get boost

By COURTENAY THOMPSON

of The Oregonian staff

The organization that puts on the 75-year-old Santa Fe Indian Market has signed on to help Northwest tribes establish an Indian art market in Portland.

The agreement with the nonprofit Southwestern Association for Indian Arts will give the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians a boost in their drive to bring a juried art market to Portland by 1998.

The Santa Fe organization has agreed to help in planning, organizing, contacting artists and raising money for the first Northwest Indian Art Market, said Gail E. Chehak, arts and tourism coordinator for affiliated tribes, which represents 54 Northwest tribes.

"We've been lucky they were willing to share all that with us," Chehak said, adding that Portland would become a sister market to Santa Fe.

Chehak and Paul Gonzales, executive director of the southwestern arts association, will sign a cooperative agreement Thursday at the Northwest Indian Tourism Symposium at Kah-Nee-Ta resort in Warm Springs.

Chehak and other affiliated staff visited the Santa Fe market this month and met with the Southwestern arts association organizers.

"They were thrilled about the

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*This can help position Portland to be a centerpoint for Native American culture in the Pacific Northwest.*

Joe D'Alessandro,  
Portland Oregon Visitors Association

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idea," Chehak said.

The Santa Fe market is the largest in the United States and attracts 1,200 Indian artists and 100,000 collectors and tourists from around the world.

The state of New Mexico estimates the annual August event brings in \$110 million to the state economy. Weekend art sales total \$44 million, according to market organizers.

Chehak and other organizers hope to bring a similar, if smaller, event to Portland during Memorial Day weekend 1998.

Under preliminary plans, art from as many as 400 Indian artists from around the United States would be on display in hotels throughout downtown Portland. The Portland Hilton has agreed to be the headquarters for the event, which may also feature performances of Indian dance, a film festival and an art ex-

hibit about and by U.S. veterans.

Three well-known artists who are heavily involved in the Santa Fe market — Mateo Romero, Barry Coffin and David Bradley — have agreed to serve on the Portland market's board, Chehak said.

Suzan Shown Harjo, who serves on the board of the National Museum of the American Indian and as president of the Morning Star Institute in Washington, D.C., has also said she will join the board.

Joe D'Alessandro, executive director of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association, said his organization will eagerly promote the market.

"This can help position Portland to be a centerpoint for Native American culture in the Pacific Northwest," he said.

With Northwest tribes such as the Warm Springs and Umatilla Indians establishing museums and cultural centers, an annual art market can only help Portland become a gateway to cultural tourism in the Pacific Northwest, he said.

"It's a perfect fit for what we are trying to accomplish by showcasing the culture and heritage of the region," he said. "It can be extremely exciting for not only Portland but for the entire region."

Affiliated tribes will hold a \$100-plate dinner and auction Nov. 2 at the Portland Hilton to raise money for the art market. For more information, call 241-0070.