



Tribal members, as well as Grand Canyon National Park's 5 million annual visitors, are sharing and learning about the tribes' rich cultural heritage while experiencing the breathtaking landscape that gave birth to Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, Havasupai, Hualapai, Yavapai-Apache and Southern Paiute.

GRAND CANYON INTER-TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Hopi Tribe: www.hopi-nsn.gov
- Navajo Nation: www.navajo-nsn.gov
- Hualapai Tribe: www.hualapai-nsn.gov
- Havasupai Tribe: www.havasupai-nsn.gov
- Pueblo of Zuni: www.ashiwi.org
- Yavapai-Apache Nation: www.yavapai-apache.org
- Kaibab Band of Paiutes: www.kaibabpaiute-nsn.gov, also representing:
 - Moapa Band of Paiute Indians: www.moapapaiutes.com
 - Las Vegas Paiute Indian Tribe: www.lvpaiutetribe.com
 - Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (representing the Shivwits Band): www.utahpaiutes.org
 - San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe



"We inspire people to protect and enhance Grand Canyon National Park for present and future generations."

TRANSFORMING DESERT VIEW

A TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP at
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK



TRANSFORMING DESERT VIEW: A Tribal Partnership at Grand Canyon National Park Partners

Grand Canyon National Park: www.nps.gov/grca

Grand Canyon Inter-tribal Advisory Council

Grand Canyon Association: www.grandcanyon.org

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National Park Service Youth Programs: www.nps.gov/youthprograms

National Park Service Denver Service Center: www.nps.gov

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA): www.aianta.org

Bureau of Indian Affairs: www.bia.gov

ArtPlace America National Grants Program: www.artplaceamerica.org

OSIYO Group: www.osiyogroup.com

We share Desert View as a symbol to bond the peoples of yesterday, today and tomorrow. The Watchtower serves as a connection to embrace the heartbeats of our peoples and visitors far and wide with the heartbeat of the Canyon.... We are still here

....Grand Canyon Inter-tribal Advisory Council Vision Statement



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

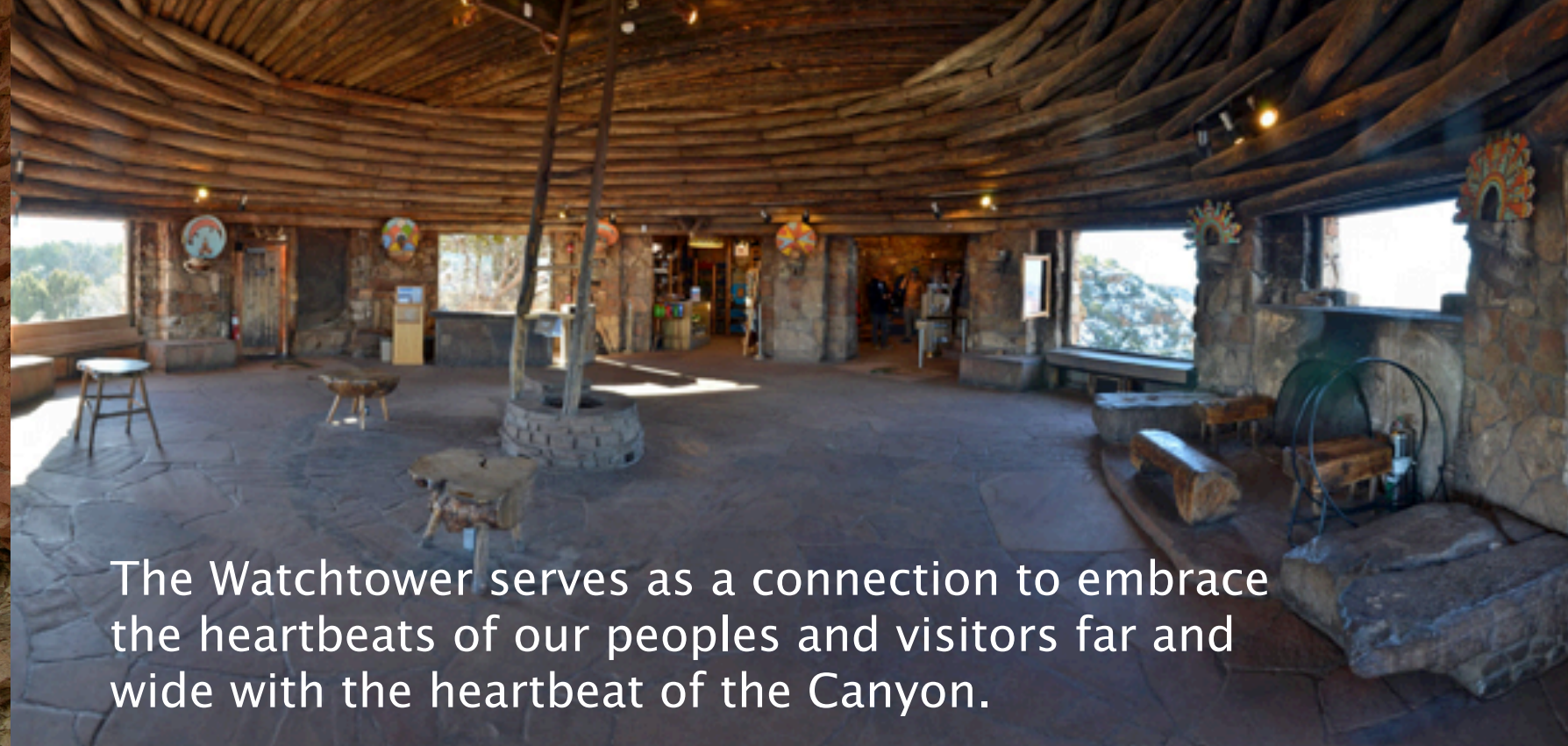


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Carved by the powerful Colorado River, Grand Canyon reveals 1.9 billion years of geologic history. Humans have lived in relationship with the Canyon for at least 12,000 of those years. Descendants of the earliest inhabitants are still here, living in and around the Grand Canyon today.

For nearly 100 years, since creation of Grand Canyon National Park, the tribes had little say in how their cultures were portrayed to the public. But in 2013, the Grand Canyon Inter-tribal Advisory Council was established to bring the collective wisdom of the tribes together in open dialogue with the park. There were issues of cultural and natural resources to consider. And the tribes wanted a place to call their own within the park. All participants promised to build on existing relationships and trust and to work together in deep mutual respect.

Desert View became our focus for creative tribal place-making and authentic first-voice interpretation programming.



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We started with the Watchtower.

Architect Mary Colter designed the Watchtower in 1932 “to introduce the depths of Native culture to the traveler.” She modeled the 80 ft. tower after the architecture of the Ancestral Puebloan people, and Hopi artist Fred Kabotie filled its spaces with stunning murals of Hopi life.

In 2014, Transforming Desert View began an intensive strategic planning process that yielded a long-range plan to develop and sustain tribal programming at Desert View and the Watchtower.

Now, thanks to funding from the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Grand Canyon Association, and the ArtPlace America National Grants Program (via AIANTA), artists from every tribe involved in the Inter-tribal Advisory Council have presented hundreds of cultural demonstrations, the deteriorating murals are now being conserved, and the Watchtower is restored to its original purposes.

The tribes are gathering at Desert View and in the Watchtower for public cultural demonstrations, celebrations, elder and youth programs, authentic tribal interpretive programs, and just to be “home” again.



....We are still here.

“It feels so good to be a part of something that brings us back to the places our ancestors were and be able to contribute something.”

.....Skylar Begay, age 21 (Navajo student intern)

Beyond providing a spectacular venue for tribal artists and cultural interpretation, Transforming Desert View also created an educational jobs program for tribal youth. In 2015, with funding from the NPS National Office of Youth Programs and in partnership with the Arizona Conservation Corps/Ancestral Lands Program, ten Native students were employed as interns and trail crew working throughout Grand Canyon National Park.

The students are serving as ambassadors for Native American culture whenever they encounter curious tourists. In 2016, the number of students will be doubled and the program will expand to the park’s North Rim.

Three years after its conception, Transforming Desert View: A Tribal Partnership at Grand Canyon National Park is enjoying deep-rooted successes. All partners sincerely hope that it will serve as a model for all of America’s national parks to imitate.