FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Southern Cheyenne Shield with Cover, 1870 Denver Art Museum Collection: Native Arts acquisition funds, 1968.330 (c) Denver Art Museum; unknown Arapaho artist, Shield ca.1890, Portland Art Museum, Oregon, Gift of Elizabeth Cole Butler. 88.43.9; Shoshone Shield Dance (cat. #) Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, photo: Donald Hurlbert; Crow Shield © The Field Museum, #A111348c. Diane Alexander White and June Bartlett; No Two Horns, Lakota, Shield, c. 1870 Denver Art Museum Collection: Gift of Rev. C. W. Douglas, 1932.237(c) Denver Art Museum
A calm house, a gathering place. The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho languages respectively express important characteristics of a UW American Indian center.

A center will be a place for honoring the cultures, histories, contemporary lives, and contributions of Northern Plains tribes. A center will be a place to come together in peace and good will.
“I fought to keep our land, our water and our hunting grounds; today, education is the weapon my people need to protect them.”

— Chief Washakie
In collaboration with partners and supporters, the University of Wyoming and its American Indian Studies Program have worked to provide opportunities for all students, faculty, and community members to learn about and appreciate Native cultures, histories, and contemporary lives. A learning environment has been created through which Native people can serve their families and communities, and through which Native people will move into the future, while keeping their tribal ways vibrant.

Through an academic major and minors, indoor and outdoor commemorative art, scholarships for Native students, revitalization projects on American Indian languages, research in a broad array of fields helpful to tribal matters, and an interdisciplinary coalition of teaching and research faculty, the University of Wyoming has demonstrated a keen interest in and commitment to American Indian education and issues.

Community, interdependence, and interdisciplinarity are our foundations. None of us works alone and no one succeeds without the help of others. We depend on your help, and we encourage you to join us in our commitment to educational excellence, a commitment that has brought us to this very important place where we recognize the need and rightful place for an American Indian center at UW.

SUMMARY

photos courtesy UW American Indian Studies
INTRODUCTION

The University

The mission statement of the University of Wyoming includes a strong focus on community; a community of learners who understands, in a creative as well as scholarly way, the need for an environment “that values and manifests diversity, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity, and mutual respect.” The University of Wyoming and the American Indian Studies Program (AIST) support and promote this mission. The proposed American Indian center will continue and expand the work of the past within the academic and societal community.

The university’s commitment to the ongoing evolution of existing collaboration with American Indian communities and tribal colleges, as well as to twenty years of American Indian Studies Program development, has coalesced into a proposed framework for an American Indian center at the University of Wyoming. The university currently recognizes and celebrates American Indian contributions to regional culture and history – a recognition demonstrated across campus by a recently commissioned Battle of Two Hearts statue and Chief Washakie’s commemoration in the naming of the Washakie Center. Campus powwows bring together visitors from tribal nations and members of the Laramie community. The American Heritage Center and its collection of archival and material culture items related to American Indian life join with the UW Art Museum and its exhibitions of past and present American Indian artistic expression in the UW Centennial Complex.
Further, the university is dedicated to providing American Indian students educational opportunities through generous financial support from the Chief Washakie Memorial Endowment Scholarships, Northern Arapaho Endowment Scholarships, Frank and Cynthia McCarthy Scholarships, John and Ada Thorpe Scholarships, and Robert W. Winner Memorial Scholarships. Graduating students’ achievements are recognized annually with the AIST Honoring of American Indian Graduates and Scholarship Recipients event, which has taken place every May for the past twenty years. Additionally, the university recognizes the importance of training and research in relation to American Indian communities through its support for the Graduate Certificate Program for Teachers of American Indian Children and for the High Plains American Indian Research Institute (HPAIRI).

An American Indian center will expand this multifaceted American Indian presence at UW. A center will provide much needed culturally appropriate space for the HPAIRI and for Northern Arapaho language program activities. Additionally, components of the American Indian Studies Program will be located in the center, also contributing to its research and teaching functions.

An American Indian center designed to encourage respect for Indigenous science and research methodologies and for Native ways of knowing will promote scholarly interactions between tribal communities and the University of Wyoming.
INTRODUCTION

The American Indian Studies Program

American Indian Studies at the University of Wyoming is a multi-dimensional program offering academic courses to all interested students, support services to American Indian students, and outreach to the larger Wyoming community. This interdisciplinary program develops respect for, and an understanding of, Native views, enables American Indian students to obtain a university education, and extends UW programs, resources, and services to residents of the Wind River Indian Reservation, the state, the region, and scholars throughout the world. This commitment to serve will be assisted by the creation of an American Indian center on the campus.

The past two decades have seen the development of three academic degrees in the AIST program – an undergraduate major as well as minors at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Through collaboration with several departments, including English, history, geography, and anthropology, – as well as the Colleges of Education and Law – the American Indian Studies Program delivers courses to hundreds of students each year and academic degrees to an increasing number of students from a variety of backgrounds.

One of the most unique and popular areas of instruction within AIST is the Northern Arapaho language program. UW has built a solid language curriculum for teaching the Northern Arapaho language, expanding opportunities for all students to satisfy UW language requirements.
In addition, AIST has offered support for Eastern Shoshone language revitalization. A National Science Foundation grant for work in Eastern Shoshone language preservation was awarded to the American Indian Studies Program to support its ongoing commitment to assist tribal communities in meeting their language revitalization goals.

Another creative and growing area for teaching and learning within AIST is the study abroad program. Students and faculty participating in the international travel experiences provided through this program have life-changing opportunities to sharpen their thinking and expand their perceptions in relation to issues of Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, and international coalitions among Native peoples.

In recognition of these efforts and others, and in recognition of its potential to make greater contributions to the State of Wyoming, the American Indian Studies Program was a 2012 recipient of a generous financial award from the Wyoming Excellence in Higher Education Endowment. This endowment provides for the creation of faculty positions for distinguished scholars who will be magnets for attracting the best and brightest students and researchers to UW.
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER PROJECT

Background

An American Indian center steering committee initiated the formal process for creating this project profile that is intended to convey vital information and, in turn, garner UW and community guidance and support for an American Indian center on campus.

The creation of this project profile began with meetings and interviews in 2012. Jones & Jones Architects + Landscape Architects + Planners were retained in 2012 to facilitate two workshops, the first on the UW campus and the second at the Intertribal Education and Community Center at Central Wyoming College. UW and CWC administrators, faculty, staff, and students were invited to both meetings, along with tribal and non-tribal stakeholders from throughout the state.

These community conversations established American Indian center visions and goals, programs and activities, and space requirements. Additionally, design elements were identified to guide the conception of an American Indian center and the creation of the project profile.
PROJECT PROFILE

The project profile is divided into three main sections:

VISIONS AND GOALS
- Research
- Teaching and Learning
- Culture
- Benefits to UW and Region

DESIGN INFLUENCES
- Four Worlds
- Open East Axis
- Identity Concepts
- Buildings
- Site and Landscape
- East Entry
- Welcome Court, Arbor and Amphitheater

PROGRAM AND CONCEPT DIAGRAMS
- Site Diagram
- Program Areas
  - Outdoor Spaces and Facilities
  - Gathering Multipurpose Hall
  - Resource Research/Support Hall
  - Performance Auditorium Hall
  - Community Cultural Hall
- Combined Plans Diagram

photo courtesy Sara Wiles
VISIONS AND GOALS

Research

Providing for cross-disciplinary and collaborative research opportunities, the American Indian Studies Program exemplifies the University of Wyoming mission to “expose students to the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity.” Intellectual resources within AIST include fields of natural resource management, Indigenous language revitalization, Federal Indian law, and tribal nation building, echoing the University of Wyoming mission to “expose students to the complexities of an interdependent world.” Similarly, the High Plains American Indian Research Institute will facilitate collaborative research efforts among tribal communities, UW and visiting faculty, and UW and visiting undergraduate and graduate students. Both AIST and the HPAIRI will have physical space in an American Indian center, which will promote an atmosphere of robust intellectual activity and relevant research and development.

“The world is a circle, eagles fly in circles, birds make nests in a circle, the circle is important to us.”

— Wayne C’Hair
AIST Northern Arapaho language instructor

Teaching and Learning

An American Indian center will be a “resource place” that encourages all UW students, including American Indian students, to achieve success and optimize their college experience. It will be a living-learning community that provides study and technology space important for all educational buildings, and encourages all persons using the center to appreciate and work effectively with diverse communities. It will reflect the University of Wyoming mission “to provide opportunities for personal growth, physical health, and leadership development,” where, specifically, Native American students can connect their traditions and cultures to their education, and be successful at UW and in their tribal communities.

graphic courtesy Jones & Jones
**Culture**

An American Indian center will be a culturally appropriate educational facility for American Indian students and their families, a place that respectfully represents tribal peoples, particularly those of the Northern Plains, and acknowledges their cultures, histories, contemporary lives, and contributions to the world. This educational and cultural center will be a vital, dynamic focal point on campus where, through classes, lectures and performances, exhibits, meetings, collaborative work, storytelling, songs and dances, and traditional meals, the artistic, spiritual, and intellectual traditions of Native peoples will be celebrated. This modern multipurpose facility, able to serve a variety of educational and cultural functions, will reflect ancient histories, values, and protocols and will honor the responsibilities and privileges of hospitality and spiritual engagement. A welcoming area, with an East-facing door, therefore, may be the appropriate entrance to UW's American Indian center, and a room for quiet contemplation may provide a comforting space on our busy campus. Fireplaces and water features will contribute to the center’s aesthetic appeal and will serve as reminders of tribal ties to the earth.
VISIONS AND GOALS

Benefits to UW and Region

An American Indian center will strengthen the representation of American Indians in the university and will contribute to UW’s cultural and ethnic diversification. It will confirm UW’s support for its Native students and their families and UW’s recognition for its tribal nation partners in the region. It will be visible evidence of UW’s interest in admitting and retaining American Indian students. It will attract visitors and offer them the finest expressions of tribal life and intellectual endeavors and collaborations. This mixed-use facility with its café, student computer lab, study space, and gallery space will be a welcoming, useful, and architecturally unique addition to the campus.

A culture involves many facets of life. While it may be noted that various requested elements of the center may be found on other parts of the campus, the blending of purposes with culture as a common bond in a common location such as an American Indian center brings far more value to the total than just a sum of its parts.
Being able to visit with an elder for wisdom and guidance while one’s child is cared for next door can be critical to a student’s ability to adjust to a new environment. Viewing the strong ties between nature and art where sculpture, painting, beadwork, and craftsmanship mimic native plants can be inspiring and comforting to Native peoples and visitors alike. Having a circular room in which to dance and have ceremonies brings an environment that celebrates Indian culture and completes the experience. In the complexities of culture, the various elements of life, as noted elsewhere in this brochure, can come together in an American Indian center just as assuredly as the symbiotic relationship between good research and fresh teaching.
DESIGN INFLUENCES

Four Worlds

In the Native American perspective, FOUR WORLDS define Native experiences and beliefs. These four worlds - the Natural World, the Animal World, the Spirit World, and the Human World – are the basis of the design for an American Indian center at the University of Wyoming – its buildings and landscapes and its relationship to its site, the campus, and the region.

The NATURAL WORLD embraces light, the rhythm of the seasons, and the living cycles of nature. The Natural World emphasizes the significance of the environment and the need for sustainability.

The ANIMAL WORLD provides inspiration for stories and songs that tell about life, its existence and fragility. Animals are teachers and protectors, spirit guides, and powerful figures that will influence the design and character of an American Indian center.

The SPIRIT WORLD recognizes creation and renewal, the continuum of time. Such recognition of creation and renewal translates into respect for the site; the earth and its waters and the animals and humans whose lives are linked to the site and an American Indian center located there.
The HUMAN WORLD offers the opportunity to exchange and transfer knowledge in a variety of ways; the opportunity to build and recognize community and family and each individual’s place in the larger context of all living things.

Open East Axis

The East Axis is the strongest cardinal connection to the greatest number of Wyoming and Northern Plains American Indian Tribes. It marks the seasonal, circular journey of the sun and is tied to Native American spirituality. A site for the University of Wyoming American Indian center should include an open East Axis—an open view corridor to sky and landscape. This will be a bridge for social customs, and can evoke stories and connections to the four worlds for Native people.
IDENTITY CONCEPTS

Overview

The architectural and site concept for an American Indian center is a collection of individual functions – culturally identifiable organized buildings around a central open court with a strong opening to the East axis. In addition to incorporating the design influence of the Four Worlds in the design concept, a multi-building approach will be reminiscent of a Northern Plains village cluster of tipis surrounding an open space. Traditionally, the Native Americans of Wyoming were migratory hunters, fishers, food and medicine plant gatherers. They lived in tipis that the women made of bison hide, a design that easily could be transported. Women gathered the tipi poles from mountain slopes and river valleys and chose the tipi sites. Arbors and brush shelters were also seasonal protection from the elements. In winter the tribes divided into camps. In late spring they moved onto the Plains into large groups, erecting their tipis by streams and rivers, to hunt bison gathering together for the birthing season. From mid-summer to autumn the people traveled to hunt mountain bison herds, returning to the Plains in late summer for collective hunts of large bison herds gathering for their rutting season. Villages were often clustered in a circle around a large central open space where community, social, and ceremonial events could be held.

Buildings

The multi-building concept is defined in the building program as:

- Gathering Multipurpose Hall
- Performance Auditorium Hall
- Community Cultural Hall
- Resource Support/Research Hall

The collection of facilities can be interdependent or function independently. The Gathering Multipurpose Hall will be joined to the Resource Support/Research Hall with an enclosed welcome space. The Performance Auditorium Hall will be joined with an enclosed welcome space to the Community Cultural Hall. Both welcome areas will provide views through to the sky and landscape beyond, referencing the North-South cardinal directions. Circulation between the buildings/functions will also occur outside under a cultural arbor structure around the central welcome court.

photo courtesy National Park Service
The architecture of the University of Wyoming American Indian center will be reflective of Northern Plains Indigenous architecture, forms and shapes. Four tall tipi/cone forms will express themselves out of the overall architecture. One tipi/cone form would be larger than the other three; it would be over the Gathering Multipurpose Hall. The other three tipi/cones would be smaller and lower in height yet still be expressive of “tipi encampment”. As in a modern tipi/cone form, translucent light both in the daytime and night will give wonderful expression to the architecture both on the interior and exterior.

The architectural spaces and forms arranged around the four tipi/cone forms would be low in character and have living roofs of prairie grasses and flowers. The entire architectural arrangement of the four facilities would be around a traditional yet modern outdoor (covered) “arbor form”. Throughout both the exterior and interior of the architecture there will be Northern Plains motifs expressed in the walls, floors, and walking landscape.

The modern expression of the rich, ancient, architecture of the Northern Plains people will be the guiding principle, along with working within the university campus architecture character.

photos courtesy William Smith
Site and Landscape

Major site spaces associated with the multi-building concept include the East Entry and the Round Welcome Court (open to both the East and West). Other outdoor activity areas programmed for the site are a 200-seat amphitheater for teaching and performance, an outdoor cooking space, four garden areas supporting traditional foods and medicines, a special play area so that children can be close by when students or community family members use the building, and provisions for a sweat lodge.

East Entry

The open East Axis will extend the East Entry into the welcome court of an American Indian center. The Indigenous plant garden of the East Entry will engage the interior study spaces. Associating the Indigenous Wyoming landscape with the university campus and reducing site water usage, an American Indian center will create a habitat for animals, especially birds, and bring the grass prairie and shrub steppe into its native plants gardens.

Welcome Court, Arbor and Amphitheater

The welcome court will be the outdoor welcome area for an American Indian center. Framed by a modern yet traditional arbor, the welcome court and a small amphitheater within will offer a place for teaching and learning, gathering, sharing, performance, and sun catching in early spring. It will be protected from the Northeast winds and have a translucent weather cover. A water feature and a fire feature in the court will be part of the overall design.

“A place where blessings are given, people are transformed, company is kept.”

—American Indian center workshop participant
Outdoor Spaces & Facilities

**East Court Entry Development - 2,700 s.f.**
- Hardscape & Planting = 35 x 60 = 2,100 s.f.
- Special Water Feature = 600 s.f.

**Welcome Court Open to East - 5,800 s.f.**
- Hardscape & Planting = 60 x 60 = 3,600 s.f.
- Special Water Feature (extension) = 600 s.f.
- Arbor Walkway = 200 x 8 = 1,600 s.f.

**Large Amphitheater - 4,000 s.f.**
- Seating for 200 people = 3,000 s.f.
- Stage w/ firepit = 20 x 30 = 600 s.f.
- Storage = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.

**Special Outdoor Spaces - 5,000 s.f.**
- Outdoor cooking area
- Indigenous Plants Garden
- Sweat Lodge Area
- Special Play Area

**Communal Open Space for Outdoor Events - 90,000 s.f.**

<table>
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<th>Total s.f.</th>
<th>90,000 s.f.</th>
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<td>2 acres</td>
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*photo courtesy Buffalo Bill Historical Center*
PROGRAM AREAS / S.F.

Gathering Multipurpose Hall

Welcome Lobby - 1,000 s.f.
Exhibits, Gathering (tours - 60-80 people)
Seating, Fireplace, View in 2 directions
Access to toilets, East Entry = 30 x 30 = 900 s.f.
General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.

Gathering Multipurpose Hall - 3,425 s.f.
200 People = 3,000 s.f.
Storage (chairs/tables) = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.
Janitor Space = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

Kitchen - 425 s.f.
Kitchen (catering/teaching type) = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.
Kitchen Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

Classroom - 650 s.f.
Classroom = 25 x 25 = 625 s.f.
Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

Total s.f. = 5,825 s.f.

photo courtesy UW American Indian Studies
Resource Research/Support Hall

**Offices & Support - 1380 s.f.**
- AIST Offices 4 @ 120 s.f. = 480 s.f.
- General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.
- HPAIRI Offices 2 @ 120 s.f. = 240 s.f.
- General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.
- Student Offices 3 @ 120 s.f. = 360 s.f.
- General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.

**Conference / Meeting Spaces - 750 s.f.**
10 People 2 x = 25 x 15 = 750 s.f.

**Special Ceremony Space - 400 s.f.**
1 Space = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.

**Classroom - 650 s.f.**
1 Classroom = 25 x 25 = 625 s.f.
Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

**Computer Lab - 400 s.f.**
1 Lab = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.

**Study & Lounge Spaces - 1,400 s.f.**
1,200 s.f. = 1,200 s.f.
- Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.
- Small Kitchen = 15 x 10 = 150 s.f.

**Child Care Space w/kitchenette - 425 s.f.**
1 Space = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.
Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

**Toilets M/W - 780 s.f.**
4 @ 180 s.f. 4x = 12 x 15 = 720 s.f.
Laundry/JC = 6 x 10 = 60 s.f.

**Total s.f.** = 6,185 s.f.
PROGRAM AREAS / BUILDING S.F.

Performance Auditorium Hall

Welcome / Lobby - 1,000 s.f.
Exhibits, Gathering
  Seating, Fireplace, View in 2 directions
  Access to toilets, East Entry = 30 x 30 = 900 s.f.
General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.

Performance Auditorium - 3,850 s.f.
Fixed Theater Seating (120 people ±),
  Access to toilets = 50 x 50 = 2,500 s.f.
Stage = 20 x 30 = 600 s.f.
Green Rm/toilet, Changing Rm,
  Back Stage Storage = 25 x 30 = 750 s.f.

Public Toilets - 475 s.f.
M/W with family unit = 15 x 30 = 450 s.f.
Janitor closet = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

Total s.f. = 5,325 s.f.

photo courtesy Clint Gilchrist

photo courtesy UW American Indian Studies
Community Cultural Hall

**Art Studio / Artist-in-Residence - 1,150 s.f.**
- Studio = 25 x 25 = 625 s.f.
- Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.
- Sm. Live-in Unit w/ bath = 20 x 50 = 500 s.f.

**Gallery Space - 650 s.f.**
- Gallery = 25 x 25 = 625 s.f.
- Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

**Gift Shop - 725 s.f.**
- Next to Welcome/Lobby = 25 x 25 = 625 s.f.
- Gift Shop Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.

**Elders Space - 370 s.f.**
- Elder Lounge w/ Fireplace = 15 x 15 = 225 s.f.
- Resident Elders Office = 10 x 12 = 120 s.f.
- Storage = 5 x 5 = 25 s.f.

**Steward - AIC Manager - 320 s.f.**
- Office = 10 x 12 = 120 s.f.
- Special Locking Storage (drums, etc.) = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.
- General Storage = 10 x 10 = 100 s.f.

**Cultural Resources Workspace and Storage - 625 s.f.**
- Workspace = 20 x 20 = 400 s.f.
- Storage = 15 x 15 = 225 s.f.

**Total s.f. = 3,840 s.f.**

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*photo courtesy Sara Wiles*
COMBINED PLANS DIAGRAM

TOTAL BUILDING AREA = 21,175 s.f.
29
Feathers clockwise from top: Golden Eagle, Western Screech Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Blue Heron

Northern Arapaho symbol for Buffalo Foot

Northern Arapaho symbol for “We Are Here”

Northern Arapaho symbol for Lungs (top triangles) and Heart (bottom triangle)

Feathers clockwise from top: Golden Eagle, Western Screech Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Blue Heron

Brochure, logo design/illustration: Jones & Jones Architects + Landscape Architects + Planners
This project profile supported by a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund