



Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Venus Evans – Chair, KNAHC
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The Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission was established by Executive Order in 1996 and formalized by the Kentucky Legislature in 2004.

The Commission was established to promote, in partnership with the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, awareness of significant Native American influences within the historical and cultural experiences of Kentucky.

Enabling Legislation

171.820 Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Established - 1996



Members

The membership of the Commission shall consist of seventeen (17) members who derive from geographically diverse areas of the state and who represent various heritage interests as follows:

- (a) The Secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, or the Secretary's designee
- (b) Three (3) members from institutions of higher learning;
- (c) Two (2) members from the preservation or archeological communities;
- (d) One (1) member from the arts community; and
- (e) Ten (10) members from the public at large, eight (8) of whom shall be of Native American heritage

Members listed in paragraphs (b) to (e) shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve for terms of four (4) years. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Officers

From the Commission membership, the Governor shall appoint a chair and vice chair of the commission. The Commission may elect by majority vote other officers deemed necessary

Enabling Legislation

171.820 Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Members and Officers



Meetings

The Commission shall meet at least three (3) times per year. Notice of the time and location of each meeting shall be provided in writing to each member at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.

A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum.

Committees may be formed at the discretion of the chair.

Funding

The Commission receives no general fund appropriation, and Commission members receive no compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Enabling Legislation

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Meeting and Funding



The Commission shall be attached for administrative purposes to the Kentucky Heritage Council, whose responsibilities shall include but not be limited to designating a staff person to coordinate Commission staff needs and providing other staff and services as needed for the Commission to perform its duties under KRS 171.822.

Enabling Legislation

171.820 Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Administration



- (1) Advise the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the Kentucky General Assembly on matters relating to Native American heritage.
- (2) Encourage other public and private agencies within the areas of the arts, humanities, and sciences to incorporate the Native American influence when developing programs on the history and heritage of Kentucky.
- (3) Represent a network of groups and individuals interested, or actively involved, in promoting awareness of Native American heritage in Kentucky.
- (4) Support the preservation, conservation, and interpretation of significant buildings, sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and lifestyles that represent and embody Native American heritage.
- (5) Recognize and sanction projects that advance wider knowledge of Native Americans' contributions to, and influence and impact on, life in Kentucky.

Enabling Legislation

171.822 Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Duties



MISSION

- To educate and communicate the rich diversity and heritage of Native American peoples in Kentucky.
- To lead and assist individuals, organizations and communities in understanding the needs and concerns of Kentucky's Native American population.
- To advocate Native American participation in state agencies and boards.
- To encourage state agencies to develop and support Native American programs.
- To advocate legislation and enforcement of laws affecting Native American peoples and protecting historical and archaeological resources.

VISION STATEMENT

All Kentuckians will recognize, appreciate and understand the significant contributions Native Americans have made to Kentucky's rich cultural heritage. Through education and increased awareness, the people of Kentucky will understand the histories, cultures and matters of concern to Native American peoples.

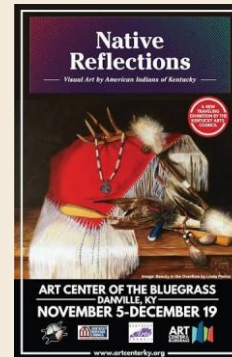
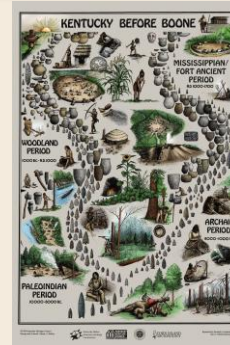
Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission Mission

Mission and Vision Statement



Example Activities and Initiatives

- Worked with the General Assembly to designate November as KY Native American Heritage Month.
- Worked with the General Assembly to strengthen laws targeting the desecration and looting of Native American graves.
- Developed a 106-page resource packet for educators titled, "Teaching about American Indians; Stereotypes and Contributions."
- Developed a companion lesson guide for grade school students with KET video entitled, "A Native Presence."
- Partnered with the KY Arts Council on a traveling Native American Art exhibit titled, "Native Reflections."
- Partner in Living Archaeology Weekend (LAW) held annually in Red River Gorge.
- Routine speaking engagements and workshops with students and the general public statewide.
- Active participant in the NCAI (National Conference of American Indians) and the GIIC (Governor's Interstate Indian Council).



GOALS

- Promote increased awareness of the Native American Heritage Commission within state agencies.
- Promote the role and importance of Native American peoples to the history and development of the Commonwealth through teacher education, media relations and public education.
- Develop and promote an accurate depiction of Native Americans through media relations, research and educational programs.
- Develop programs, events and materials for and about Native American peoples.
- Serve as an information clearinghouse for information for and about Native Americans in Kentucky.
- Develop and maintain partnerships between Native American peoples and agencies and organizations in promoting the goals and objectives of the Commission.
- Promote conservation and preservation of the cultures, ideals and artifacts of Native Americans in Kentucky.
- Endeavor to promote existing and needed legislation to protect and promote the heritage of Native American peoples.

Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission Goals

Goals

