

THE INDIAN COMMITTEE
OF PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Who we are and how we work

The Indian Committee serves Philadelphia Yearly Meeting which is made up of approximately 11,000 individual Friends (Quakers) who meet in thirteen Quarterly Meetings which are in turn made up of over 100 Monthly Meetings in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Indian Committee is part of the Standing Committee on Peace and Concerns which assists Friends, groups of Friends, or Meetings to address such concerns as world peace, racial relations, the United Nations, the environment, AIDs, and conflict resolution. Some projects and working groups have a short life and others, like the Indian Committee, have been active for many years (over 200 years in our case).

It is our responsibility to try to assist the Friends of Yearly Meeting to act upon their concerns and to help them keep informed on issues of concern to Native Americans.

The Indian Committee meets on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) at the Arch Street Meetinghouse from 10 a.m. to noon. As is the case for all Quaker business meetings, our monthly meetings for business are also meetings for worship. In making any decision the Indian Committee works on the basis of consensus and not “majority rule.” Every member of the Committee must be comfortable with a decision. If just one person is not comfortable, we continue to seek the right decision. This can be time-consuming, but it is important in insuring that we make decisions by drawing on the Spirit within us rather than by following one individual’s strong will. The Clerk of the Committee is not so much a leader, but more of a convener who makes sure that decisions are based on consensus and our spiritual leading.

The Indian Committee includes from 12 to 15 active members at any given time. We are all volunteers and our membership changes. We are all individuals with a strong interest in Native American cultures who have different levels of knowledge and experience to contribute to the Committee.

Indian Committee Funding and Its Use

Concerned Friends have bequeathed money to the Indian Committee during its 200 years of work and this is held in trust by Yearly Meeting for our use. Our yearly budget is the interest from the investment of these contributions.

In considering grant requests, we favor projects that are initiated by Native Americans themselves and that are of a “one-time” nature—pilot projects and seed money to help

Indian initiatives get off the ground. We also favor projects that will benefit a community, and we consider requests with national impact as well as a local focus. We are particularly interested in learning about Native American initiatives and new programs in the tri-state area (PA, NJ, DE).

We examine each funding decision as it comes before us, and the fact that we have supported something or some particular tribe or organization in the past does not mean we will find spiritual clearness to support it in the future. This allows us to adapt to changing needs and concerns brought to us by Native Americans. The requests of Indian tribes for assistance from the Indian Committee made in the 19th century are *very* different from the needs that come before us today.

General Guidelines for Making a Funding Request of the Indian Committee

In general we favor smaller projects – usually under \$2,000 ... no request is too small, but many are too big! Please note that the entire process to consider a request can take at least a month. Also keep in mind that we have a limited budget and receive many requests for assistance each year. We cannot fund every request we receive.

Here are the steps to follow:

A request should be made in writing to the Clerk (see the Funding Request Form attached) who can mail it in advance to Committee Members for consideration at the next meeting where funding is considered. We usually meet the 3rd Saturday of each month except in the months of July and August. Please make sure your grant application reaches the Clerk at least two weeks in advance of our meeting date. E-mail is great!

1. We need a good description of the project to be supported in order to make a decision about helping it with funding. Please use the attached Funding Request Form as a guide to the kind of information we need from you.

2. Once the Committee has the opportunity to review the request, we may request that an individual come to our meeting to answer questions or describe the project in more depth (if the distance allows for this). Because we often have many items of business to address at our business meetings we request that presentations/discussions be limited to 15 to 30 minutes maximum.

3. After we have the opportunity to fully review the request and come to a decision by consensus of the Committee, the Clerk will contact you by letter or telephone call. If a decision to assist the project is made, then a check request must be sent to our Yearly Meeting Finance Office. This can take from two to four weeks. Invoices and receipts may also be required by the Yearly Meeting financial office.

4. Follow-up: Because we are responsible to all the members of Yearly Meeting, it is important for us to have a written report from any funded project as to how the funding was used and how the project progresses or is fulfilled.

For more information or to send a request, contact:

Kate DeRiel, Co-Clerk telephone: (610) 446-8383
Indian Committee E-mail: katederiel@verizon.net
24 Strathmore Road
Havertown, PA 19083

INDIAN COMMITTEE
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends

FUNDING REQUEST FORM

Please provide the following information in preparing your funding request. Providing clear and concise information makes it easier for us to determine if we will be able to support your request.

Please try to meet the deadlines outlined in the Guidelines on the previous page. We are all volunteers with jobs, families and other obligations, so having enough lead time to carefully review the information you send is important to us.

1. Describe in detail your project and funding need. How will the funding be used? Please give us a specific amount for the funding you are requesting.
2. Who will benefit from the proposed project or funding? If this is the first time you have contacted us, please introduce yourself and the community/organization to benefit from the support. You are welcome to attach additional materials such as an Annual Report or newsletters, etc., that might provide background.
3. Tell us the time-frame for the project and use of funding? Have you set goals for completion or do you have deadlines to meet?
4. Please provide names and contact information for people who have put together the request and/or who will be in charge of its completion. In the event that we are able to provide funding, tell us how a check should be made out and where it should be mailed.
5. Have you looked for other sources of funding? Please describe (sometimes we can offer suggestions for additional funding sources, so it is helpful for us to get an idea of what you have

already done). We favor requests where there is clear evidence that an effort was made to find as many other funding sources as possible.

6. If funded, we expect you to provide a brief written follow-up report to document how the PYM Indian Committee funding was used and how your project is progressing. For local organizations or individuals we would welcome you to make a brief presentation in-person at an Indian Committee meeting (we would try to make this as convenient to you as possible).

Thank you for providing the information requested. We will try to get back to you in writing or by telephone as soon as possible after the meeting in which your request is considered.

Please keep in mind that it normally takes at least 60 days from the time we receive a funding request to the time we are able to mail a check, since we must submit paperwork to our Yearly Meeting Finance office for the release of a check. Emergency requests requiring a shorter turn-around time may be considered occasionally but are very difficult to meet.

Please send your funding request and supporting documentation to:

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Indian Committee E-mail: katederiel@verizon.net
24 Strathmore Road
Havertown, PA 19083 8/09