

Indian Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Report for October 2020 through September 2021

During Fiscal Year 2020-2021 eight individuals were active as Members and Attenders at ten meetings held during the year: Kate DeRiel, Melissa Elliott (Clerk), Tom Grabe, Lois Kuter, Louis LeFevre, Jim Murphy, Daniel Rouse, Tricia Shore. Our meetings were enriched by the participation of two Young Adult Friends who served as consultants during the year: Afiya Johnson-Thornton and Liana Irvine. Also participating in meetings were the Liaison from the PYM Granting Committee, Tom Armstrong, and PYM Grants Associate Lucas Richie who enabled the Zoom meetings.

Grants Funded

A grant request was received from Cornelia Dimalanta of the Native American House Alliance. It was noted that we had funded this group in 2008 with \$1,870 enabling them to travel to explore similar projects. While we did not know where this initiative had led, it was good to see that the project was off the ground. The requested \$2,500 was approved for use to support capacity building and coalition building work. (12/20)

A grant of \$2,000 was approved which was received from Paula Palmer, Friends Peace Teams/Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, for honoraria for five Native American facilitators for workshops being conducted via Zoom. (2/21)

We Are the Seeds of Culture Trust requested a grant of \$2,000 to be used for performance fees for Indigenous artists and musicians who would be participating in a festival planned for June 2021. It was noted that we previously funded this organization in the Fall of 2018 and 2019 in support of Indigenous arts and culture events. While we do not encourage organizations to count on us repeatedly, we felt it was important to support local initiatives and the Committee approved the full \$2,000 request. (3/21)

A request for sponsorship from Indigenous Peoples Day Philly was considered in September 2020. They were requesting organizations to contribute \$250 for an information table at the event on October 11 plus an additional \$100 to be listed as a financial sponsor on their website and social media sites. The Committee approved a contribution of \$350 for recognition as a financial supporter with an additional \$650 for the organization to use as needed. (9/21)

The committee approved a grant of \$1,000 for the Native American Rights Fund, a national organization which has focused on legal rights to protect tribal sovereignty and lands (www.Narf.org). Via NARF we supported Paula Palmer's research on Quaker Indian boarding schools in 2015. (9/21)

The Committee approved a grant of \$1,000 for the Lakota Youth Development (www.lakotayouthdevelopment.org) which has as its mission "To Reclaim Lakota language, culture and Spirituality by promoting education and healthy lifestyles for our youth through culturally based strategies." In 2017 we supported a Native Youth Healing Camp organized by this group. Although much of their activity is in the summer months, our grant will allow them to plan future events for youth. (9/21)

The Committee approved a grant of \$1,000 for the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, New York (www.senecamuseum.org). We funded just \$500 of \$2,000 requested in 2018 to upgrade their museum and archive facilities. The Indian Committee has had a very long association with the Seneca and we have supported their use of Indian Committee archives to recover materials for their own archives. (9/21)

Work with PYM

The Committee began discussion with PYM Development of a potential capital campaign to raise funds for our Fiduciary Fund that would build the granting monies available for use. It was hoped that

contributions would be encouraged by the availability of matching funds from a generous contribution by an Indian Committee Member.

The Committee began discussion at our November 2021 meeting of a potential name change – a discussion that would continue through the year and dominate many meetings. [a name change was approved at the Dec 2021 meeting]

Lucas Richie presented the online grant application form he drafted based on the one we had posted on our website. This should make it easier to submit a grant request. (11/20)

Other Action/Concerns

The Committee discussed the student strike at Bryn Mawr College. One of the student demands involves reparation and support of Black and Indigenous students. The Committee sent a minute of support for the goals of the Strike Committee and received a letter of acknowledgement from Kimberly Cassidy, Bryn Mawr College President and Professor of Psychology (11/20)

The Committee noted action on the part of Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenny to support the creation of Indigenous Peoples Day. We were also made aware of discussion on the part of the Radnor School District to change or keep the school slogan of “Raiders” (“Red Raiders” had been dropped).

Committee Member Lois Kuter participated in two of four workshops on Zoom organized by Indigenous Peoples Day Philly (with the final two in FY 2021-22). They have four main areas of action: an Action Community Team, Coalition Building Workshops, an online presence, and the annual Indigenous Peoples Day event. She reported back to the Committee on the workshops which are both educational and intended to encourage “indigenization” of work by organizations. (6 & 8/21)