

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Granting Group for Indigenous Communities (formerly named Indian Committee)

Report for FY 2021-2022 (October 2021 to September 2022)

GRANTING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

There were a number of changes in granting group participation during FY 21-22. Just two members continued activity throughout the year (Tom Grabe and Lois Kuter who took on the role of Clerk in May 2022). We mourned the death of two very active long-term members – Kate deRiel in February 2022 and Louis LeFevre in June 2022. We also noted losses of two members (Tricia Shore and Melissa Elliott who served as Clerk until May 2022) who were required to rotate off the granting group in July.

With an average of just three to four members able to attend each monthly meeting, the group recognized the need to build membership. We welcomed three new members/attenders during the course of the Fiscal Year (Cherie Clark, returning after a long period off the committee in December 2021, Miriam Fisher Schaefer beginning service in April 2022, and Edith Paige joining meetings in May 2022). Several potential new members/attenders were identified with hopes they will join us in FY 2022-23.

We very much appreciated the regular attendance and support of the granting group meetings from Tom Armstrong (PYM Granting Committee Liaison) and Lucas Richie followed by Mercury Meulman as Grants Associates.

GRANTING WORK

The Granting Group reviewed the report from **Paula Palmer** on the use of our \$2,000 grant to provide **honorariums to ten Indigenous people who served as presenters for workshops organized by Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**. We also considered a new request for another \$2,000 to be used this way for 2022 workshops. These honorariums directly benefit the Native presenters; the workshops are of more general educational value to a wider audience who learn about Indigenous issues and how to build right relationship. The Committee approved the grant of \$2,000. (1/8/2022)

Grant request for \$2,000 from Audrey Geyer of Visions: Integrated Planning and Video Production for production of a documentary called “Tribal Peacemaking: A Path Toward Sacred Justice for All.” This 30-minute documentary would expand upon her documentary “Warrior Lawyers: Defenders of Sacred Justice” for which we provided some grant support. The Granting Group agreed that this project fit well within our funding priorities and approved the full \$2,000 requested. (3/12/2022)

A grant request from Maria Bull Bear of Lakota Youth Development in South Dakota for \$2,000 to install a drip line irrigation system for their gardening program. The Granting Group approved a grant of \$2,000 for this project that will support work with youth and benefit the health of the wider community of the Rosebud Indian Reservation. (3/12/2022)

Grant request from Guillermo Vasquez, Director of Indigenous Permaculture in the Oakland, California, area for costs to convert their produce delivery truck from diesel to vegetable oil fuel. This totaled \$1,562.34. The Tisanteguite Emergency Response Network was created in response to the Covid crisis to provide food to Mayan and Indigenous peoples in the Oakland area as well as to other communities in need. Indigenous Permaculture has been active in projects to create urban gardens and to teach gardening to people, including knowledge of native plants. The Granting Group approved the full \$1,562.34. (4/9/2022)

The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities approved a grant of \$1,000 to **Dr. Ana Maria Maynard to support travel by her to Puerto Rico for research with Taino elders in preparation of a community theater production to raise awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the Taino and Puerto Rico.** The production will be completed by the Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance / Cultural Center in Austin, Texas by the end of 2022. (5/14/22)

Grant request from the **Native American House Alliance for \$2,500 to support travel and honoraria for performers and marketing expense for their Inter-Tribal Powwow** held at Penn Treaty Park, September 18. Full grant approved. (9/10/2022)

Three other grant applications were received and reviewed by the granting group. Two were not approved since we felt they fell outside of our granting priorities. An additional request was approved but the funding was not sent because we were unable to recontact the applicant.

NON-GRANTING WORK & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Much meeting time in the previous fiscal year and first half of FY 2021-22 was devoted to **discussion of a name change for the Indian Committee**. At our December 11, 2021, meeting we approved the name Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities. The next step was to send a note introducing the name change and our work to Friends and Indigenous peoples. In February and early March 2022 we sent word to 45 tribes and Indigenous individuals we had granted or contacted during the past ten to fifteen years, 10 Quaker organizations working in support of native peoples, 17 former Indian Committee members, 13 Quarterly Meetings for posting in newsletters or on websites, and PYM for posting on their website newsletter.

Two Young Adult Friends ended a year of service on our granting group in September 2021. We reviewed their analysis of the experience which was both positive and disappointing and we thanked them for their insight at our meeting and for their honest review of their year with us. We met with Christie Duncan Tessmer at our April 2022 meeting concerning an article to be posted on the PYM website which was of a negative tone.

The granting group met with Ken Park, Clerk of the PYM Granting Committee (5/14/22), to get a better understanding of the role of that committee and the required rotation for a year off the granting group for four members completing three 3-year terms.

We continued the perpetual task of learning more about Indigenous communities – especially those in our area.

Lois Kuter attended the 3rd and 4th of **four workshops held by Indigenous Peoples Day Philly** (November 20 and December 22, 2021) which presented a range of Indigenous issues and history as well as a fostering of the ideas of “Indigenizing” the work of non-Indigenous organizations and institutions.

Granting Group members shared numerous articles and web links to resources throughout the year. **A resource list of websites** of Delaware/Lenape, Friends organizations in support of Indigenous peoples, Philadelphia area Indigenous organizations, and other sources for news was prepared and sent to group members. **A short history of the Indian Committee in the 18th and 19th century and a longer listing of Indian Committee contacts with Native peoples (granting and non-granting) during the past 50 years** was also prepared and distributed.

Three Granting Group members met by Zoom with **Portia Kay[^]nthos Skenadore-Wheelock, Oneida, and FCNL congressional advocate for the Native American Advocacy Program (5/9/22)** to learn about Congresses reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and work for a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools.

The Granting Group approved a minute in support of the minute prepared by the PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative (a totally independent group within PYM) for adoption by PYM at July Annual Sessions in support of the establishment of a **Federal Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Indian Boarding Schools (7/9/22)**. PYM united with the minutes at its July session.

Granting Group members attended several events organized by Indigenous communities in this area (to learn more and not as representatives of the granting group):

Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Annual Powwow, Salem County Fairgrounds, NJ, (6/11/2022)
45th Annual Powwow of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe of Delaware, Sussex County, DE (9/10/2022)
Native House Alliance Inter-Tribal Powwow, Penn Treaty Park, Philadelphia (9/18/2022)
Indigenous Peoples Day festival at Penn Treaty Park, Philadelphia (10/10/2022)