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Beauty in the face of everything

Judge rules against tribes in fight over lithium mine

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Sagebrushers season: Director of Indigenous Relations Daphne Emm - Hooper

More solar, geothermal development planned on NV public lands — and likely some conflict too

Mexico's 1,500-year-old unknown pyramids



Judge rules against tribes in fight over lithium mine

A Nevada judge has dealt another legal setback to Native American tribes trying to halt construction

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National Opportunities

[Support Provided to Plan and Launch Innovative Public Schools](#)

NewSchools Venture Fund is a venture philanthropy that seeks to build a better education system in the United States by connecting people, resources, and ideas.

[Grants Aim to Improve Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality](#)

The COPIC Medical Foundation aims to improve the quality of healthcare delivery in the United States by reducing adverse outcomes and supporting innovation.

[Funds Cover Construction Costs of Housing for Veterans](#)

The Home Depot Foundation's Veteran Housing Grants Program provides support throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico, for the new construction or rehabilitation of multifamily, permanent supportive housing for veterans.

[Program Brings Shakespeare's Plays to Youth](#)

Shakespeare in American Communities, a theater program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, aims to connect young people across the United States to Shakespeare's plays.

Regional Opportunities

[Grants Enhance Company Communities in the East](#)

The TD Charitable Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations to improve the quality of life in the communities TD Bank serves, which include specific counties of CT, DE, DC, FL, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VT, and VA.

[Justice Initiatives Funded in Michigan](#)

The Michigan Justice Fund seeks to stem the flow of individuals into the criminal justice system, support investment in community-driven alternatives to incarceration, and ensure that those who are returning home after incarceration receive the support they need to flourish.

[Support Strengthens Environmental Protection in the Pacific Northwest](#)

The Lazar Foundation is dedicated to funding innovative and strategic projects that protect the environment in the Pacific Northwest, including Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

[Grants Improve Local Football Fields in NFL Market Communities](#)

The NFL Foundation Grassroots Program provides nonprofit organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields.

Federal Opportunities

[Funds Available to Advance Public STEM Efforts](#)

The Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program seeks to fund research and practice, with a focus on investigating a range of informal STEM learning experiences and environments that make lifelong learning a reality.

[Program Protects Natural and Cultural Heritage at U.S./Mexico Border](#)

The Southwest Border Resource Protection Program seeks to promote increased appreciation and understanding of shared natural and cultural heritage along the international border with Mexico.



[Indigenous Youth Roots: Creation Community Grants Program](#)

Indigenous Youth Roots envisions a future where Indigenous youth are empowered and connected as dynamic leaders in vibrant and thriving communities. The Creation Community Grants Program is a multi-level funding program that supports projects and groups that seek to create impactful community change and increase the wellness, resiliency, and engagement of Indigenous youth. [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

[Fit for Life Foundation: Fit for Life Awards](#)

The Fit for Life Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life of older people in aging societies worldwide. The Foundation's Fit for Life Awards support nonprofit organizations and social enterprises that are pioneering projects to promote life-long fitness and health. [Learn more](#) about the award guidelines and application process.



[Ocean Grants](#)

Ocean Grants' mission is to identify and fund outstanding ocean-focused organizations. (Ocean Grants focuses on funding organizations located in the United States and thereafter international in an attempt to catalog all of the organizations working on a given ocean challenge.) [Learn more](#) about the funding guidelines and application process.

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**The Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund** provides financial support to businesses to preserve historic places and spur economic development along the Route 66 corridor, with an emphasis on projects that illuminate the narratives of communities whose places and stories have been historically underrepresented.

Grants from the Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund are designed to help business owners advance projects in the following three categories: (1) capital improvements, (2) planning, and (3) marketing and outreach. Eligible projects will be located in the broader Route 66 corridor including communities and neighborhoods along Route 66. Grants will generally range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and no match is required.

**Have a question? Read through these guidelines and check out the [Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund FAQs](#) before reaching out to [grants@savingplaces.org](mailto:grants@savingplaces.org).**

The deadline for this program will be January 12, 2024. The review process is generally completed within ten weeks of the application deadline, and applicants are notified via email once the review process is complete.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Projects must be located in a community, neighborhood or tribal land along the Route 66 corridor in the following states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, or California. While businesses do not need to be located directly on Route 66, they should demonstrate geographic or thematic connections to Route 66.

Applicant must be an owner of the eligible legacy business and 18 years of age or older.

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- **Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund**
Grants from the [Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund](#) are designed to encourage preservation at the local level by providing money for the acquisition, maintenance, and preservation of historic landmarks and memorials on the Eastern Shore of Maryland used solely for public educational charitable purposes. Grant applications in the range of \$5,000 - \$25,000 will be accepted.
- **The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors**
The purpose of the fund is to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Grants from the [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors](#) generally range from \$2,500 to \$15,000.
- **Hart Family Fund for Small Towns**
Grants from the [Hart Family Fund for Small Towns](#) are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects in small towns. Grants from the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns generally range from \$2,500 to \$15,000.
- **Henry A. Jordan, M.D., Preservation Excellence Fund**
The [Henry A. Jordan, M.D., Preservation Excellence Fund](#) supports innovative projects and programs in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Individual awards typically range from \$1,000 to \$2,000, but applicants can apply for up to \$5,000.
- **Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation**
The [Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation](#) aims to save historic environments in order to foster an appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage and to preserve and revitalize the livability of the nation's communities. Grants from the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation generally range from \$2,500 to \$15,000.
- **Moe Family Fund for Statewide and Local Partners**
The [Moe Family Fund for Statewide and Local Partners](#) fund provides funding to current dues-paying members of the National Preservation Partners Network (NPPN) with grants focused on priority issues for the preservation field. Applicants are encouraged to embark on projects and activities outside the existing scope of their work, but the Fund also will support initiatives that take existing programs to a new level.
- **The Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund**
The purpose of the [Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund](#) is to support the leadership and

effectiveness of staff and board members of preservation organizations to fulfill their mission and to create a stronger, more effective preservation movement. Grants from the Peter H. Brink Leadership Fund reimburse travel costs and provide an honorarium for the mentor up to a maximum total of \$2,500. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

- **Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund**

The [Preserve Route 66 Legacy Business Grant Fund](#) provides support to businesses to preserve historic places and spur economic development along the Route 66 corridor. Grants projects can range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in the following three categories: capital improvements, planning, and marketing and outreach.

Grant Programs with Partners

- **Backing Historic Small Restaurants**

A partnership with American Express, the [Backing Historic Small Restaurants Grant Program](#) help restaurants address critical needs amid ongoing economic challenges.

- **National Fund for Sacred Places**

The [National Fund for Sacred Places](#) is a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and provides training, planning grants, and capital grants from \$50,000 to \$250,000 for congregations of all faiths. Visit [FundforSacredPlaces.org](#) for more details, including eligibility requir

Example of Community Collections Grant Recipients

Mark Lupenui

PROJECT: Unearthing the Lost Songs of Kohala LOCATION: Kohala, Hawai'i (Big Island)

DESCRIPTION: This project will document unrecorded or "heirloom songs" of the Kohala region of the Big island of Hawai'i. Local musicians will work with members of the community who have been in Kohala for several generations to document a shared cultural legacy of original compositions held within families that chronicle ways of life that inform the care for land and communities. These songs are part of a shared cultural legacy, and preserving them for future generations while sharing them to the larger community holds great value.

<http://www.bootslupenui.com/external/link>

Tammy Greer

PROJECT: And We Are Still Here: Indigenous Culture Bearers of Houma Communities

LOCATION: Louisiana - southern coastal parishes

DESCRIPTION: A

United Houma Nation scholar and cultural leader will lead a team of tribal documentarians, artists and elders in a documentation project that highlights significant components of Houma cultural identity. The team will document the work of 16 Houma culture bearers through interviews, photos, videos and audio recordings, following the transmission of their work from the harvesting and processing materials, creating art works from those materials, and the pricing, displaying and sales of artwork, culminating with the launch of the United Houma Nation Traditional Tribal Artists Festival.

Library Seeks Applicants for the 2024 Junior Fellows Program

Press Contact:

Deanna McCray-James, demc@loc.gov

The Library of Congress is seeking applicants for its next Junior Fellows Program, a summer internship held from **May 20, 2024, to July 26, 2024**. This 10-week, full-time paid internship is open to undergraduate and graduate students, and recent graduates interested in learning and conducting research using the resources of the largest library in the world. Remote and on-site project opportunities are available. The deadline to apply is **Monday, Nov. 27, 2023**.

The 2024 Junior Fellows Program will host approximately **46 Junior Fellow interns** working on **31 projects** across the Library of Congress. Junior Fellows will work with Library mentors on a diverse slate of projects that enhance access and engagement with the collections.

Potential applicants should visit www.loc.gov/juniorfellows for the full 19 on-site and 12 remote project descriptions and a list of required skills and knowledge for each project. Questions about the program or projects may be sent to juniorfellows@loc.gov.

For a fourth year, the program is supported by an investment from the Mellon Foundation through the Library's Of the People: Widening the Path initiative, which provides new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add their perspectives to the Library's collections.

The multiyear initiative is designed to connect the Library more deeply with Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and communities of color by expanding collections, using technology to enable storytelling, and offering more internship and fellowship opportunities. Additionally, it creates new opportunities for the public to engage with the Library, thus allowing the Library to share a more inclusive American story.

This year's Junior Fellows Program projects show strong alignment to the ongoing Library initiative; all of the proposed projects provide invaluable opportunities for interns to engage with the Library's resources, interpret collections and share their findings with audiences through a wide variety of virtual and physical channels.

The Junior Fellows Program, a signature initiative of the Library of Congress since 1991, is made possible by a gift from the late James Madison Council member Nancy Glanville Jewell through the Glanville Family Foundation and the Knowledge Navigators Trust Fund and by an investment from the Mellon Foundation.

The Library of Congress is an equal-opportunity employer. Women, minorities and persons with disabilities who meet eligibility requirements are strongly encouraged to apply.

About Of the People: Widening the Path

Launched in January 2021, Of the People: Widening the Path is a multiyear initiative to connect the Library more deeply with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color historically underrepresented in the Library's collections. Supported through a gift from the Mellon Foundation, it provides new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and

add their perspectives to the Library’s collections. This work will expand the Library’s efforts to ensure that a diversity of experiences is reflected in our historical record and inform how we use those materials to understand our past.

The Library of Congress is the world’s largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States — and extensive materials from around the world — both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at [loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov), access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at [congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) and register creative works of authorship at [copyright.gov](https://www.copyright.gov).

Sagebrushers season: Director of Indigenous Relations Daphne Emm - Hooper

The Office of Indigenous Relations supports Indigenous communities on campus and around the state

[Impact & Student Success](#) | November 15, 2023

President Brian Sandoval (left) and Emm-Hooper (right) discuss the implementation of the Native American fee waiver, the role of the land acknowledgment on campus and more.



[Story](#)

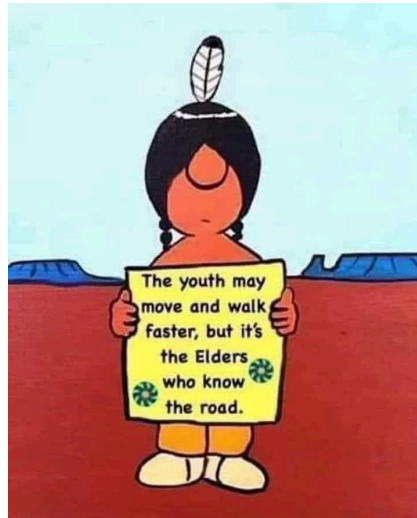
[Transcript](#)

During Native American Heritage Month, University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval visits with Director of Indigenous Relations Daphne Emm - Hooper. Emm - Hooper has dedicated her career to public service, most recently serving as the city manager for the City of Fernley and previously holding the role of executive director for Nevada Urban Indians. She is also the co-founder of the Nevada Tribal Leadership Development program at the University.

During the episode, Sandoval and Emm - Hooper talk about the [Office of Indigenous Relations'](#) efforts to support University compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, returning ancestral remains and Native Sagebrushers season 2 ep. 15: Director of Indigenous Relations Daphne Emm - Hooper

More solar, geothermal development planned on NV public lands — and likely some conflict too

<https://www.nevadacurrent.com/2023/11/13/more-solar-geothermal-development-planned-on-nv-public-lands-and-likely-some-conflict-too/?emci=3d37a8f6-1083-ee11-8925-00224832e811&emdi=6277b685-1283-ee11-8925-00224832e811&ceid=88976>



Mexico's 1,500-year-old unknown pyramids

[By Lina Zeldovich](#) 29th September 2022

Built by indigenous masons, these 1,500-year-old pyramids are still standing strong, held together by sticky juice from the prickly pear cactus.

From a distance, the grey volcanic rock pyramids and their encircling stonewalls looked like something that Mother Nature had wrought herself. Located in Cañada de La Virgen (The Valley of the Virgin), an area about 30 miles outside the city of San Miguel de Allende in Mexico's central highlands, the stone formations blended into the arid, desiccated landscape like a diminutive mountain range.

But as I got closer to the largest of the three structures, there was no doubt it was man-made. A staircase of identical steps, etched into the hard, dark rock, had clearly required a skilled mason's hand. The other two pyramids, smaller and less well-preserved, bore a similarly unmistakable human touch. The timeworn edifices were erected by a civilisation long gone.

Locals had long been aware of the ruins outside their city. Some rumoured that there were dead people buried in the stone pyramids, while others spoke of hidden gold. Grave diggers had looted the structures and even tried to blow them up with dynamite, but whether they found any fortunes is not recorded. Unexcavated for centuries, the site remained largely unknown to the

world beyond San Miguel de Allende, until a team of Mexican archaeologists started digging deeper in the early 2000s.

The House of the Thirteen Heavens is a calendrical instrument based on the sun's movement throughout the year (Credit: Lina Zeldovich)

Local anthropologist Albert Coffee, who also helped with the excavations, began [guiding tours](#) for archaeologically curious visitors like me in 2011. "This is The House of the Thirteen Heavens, built in about 540 CE by the people who lived here at that time," he said as we walked around the site. He was pointing to the tallest pyramid, which had a rectangular base, sloping sides and a staircase leading up to its flat platform top, about 15m high. "They mined this tufa rock in the nearby quarry."

The two smaller structures, named The House of the Wind and The House of the Longest Night, were built from the same material, he added. But exactly what ancient society built the site remains an open question, even after more than two decades of excavation. That's because determining who built the pyramids has proven difficult. "In many ways, this place is still a mystery, and it keeps surprising us," Coffee said. "We keep finding new information."

What is known is that The House of the Thirteen Heavens was a temple dedicated to a task vitally important in antiquity: keeping time. Centuries ago, keeping track of time, and of seasons, was no easy task. There were no clocks and no calendars, so people looked to the celestial bodies in the sky to stay informed.

"Today we keep time with watches and iPhones, but back then people had to use the Sun and the Moon," explained archaeologist Rossana Quiroz, director of the [Museum of PreHispanic Astronomy](#) in San Miguel de Allende, who has been working on the excavation with Gabriela Zepeda from Mexico's [National Institute of Anthropology and History](#). "These people were timekeepers."

Quiroz explained that this ancient civilisation built The House of the Thirteen Heavens to be a calendrical instrument based on the sun's movement throughout the year and used it to identify important dates for agriculture. They would have invested a tremendous amount of effort into erecting the pyramids, she said, which have lasted for more than 1,500 years. But ironically, their own story has been almost entirely lost to time – in part because they left no written texts, and because the Spanish conquest of modern-day Mexico in the 16th Century decimated societies.

The pyramid builders used highly sophisticated architectural techniques and materials (Credit: Craig Lovell/Alamy)

Yet, for indigenous cultures, preserving and honouring their ancestral knowledge and traditions is vitally important, especially since their histories have often been often misinterpreted or forgotten. That's why over the past two decades, Quiroz and Zepeda have been trying to amass as many facts about the ancient timekeepers as they can. But despite recovering numerous artefacts from the site, they still haven't fully pieced together its history. And every answer only seems to lead to more questions.

They know that the ancient timekeepers were a sophisticated civilisation with a keen understanding of astronomy, architecture and construction principles. Many pre-Columbian cultures worshipped specific deities, but these people worshipped the creation of space and time, Quiroz said.

What you are seeing in the temple is a replica of what happened during the first creation of the universe

In their architectural design, they mimicked what happened during the creation of the world as they knew it. According to indigenous oral history, Quiroz explained, the sacred entities created the world, space and life, and gave humans the Sun as a reference for telling time. "Therefore, humans had to replicate that organisation on Earth. First you organised the four corners of the world. And then the Sun moves throughout all four corners during the year. So, what you are seeing in the temple is a replica of what happened during the first creation of the universe."

The House of the Thirteen Heavens' four corners corresponded to winter and summer solstices on 21 December and 22 June; and to two important agricultural dates – 4 March and 9 October – indicating when it was time to plant and harvest, respectively. If you stand in front of the pyramid's staircase on each of those four days, the sun perfectly lines up with the corresponding corner.

Prickly pear juice was used as a natural glue – a centuries-old building method that's still used today by some indigenous people (Credit: Lina Zeldovich)

When it came to erecting the pyramids, the builders used sophisticated architectural techniques and materials. They mined the rough tufa rocks formed from solidified volcanic ash and positioned them so that each piece helped others stay in place – a method called *a hueso*. And while the pyramids may look rough and unsophisticated today, Coffee explained that the original architects spared no effort to make them beautiful, decorating the facades and staircases with neatly polished limestone they brought from miles away. "They spent two to three days transporting them," he said.

To affix the decorative limestone pieces, they harvested a naturally gluey substance from the leaves of *nopal* – the prickly pear cactus that grows in the area – and used it as a natural adhesive. "When you chop cactus leaves and let it rest in the water, by next day it becomes sticky," Quiroz said, explaining that this was the process that the ancient builders likely used. "If you mix it with a mortar, you get a stronger glue-like substance," she added.

This centuries-old method is still used today by some indigenous people who live in the area – and has been adopted in eco-construction in Mexico. "We are recovering the knowledge of the ancient people," Quiroz said.

On further exploration of the structures, the archaeologists found that they indeed held items of tremendous value, just not gold. They discovered 19 buried bodies – males, females, a child and even a dog – all of which are being examined.

The team's original hypothesis was that the site was built by the Otomi people, whose descendants live in the area today. But so far, the archaeologists haven't been able to carry out the DNA analysis to fully prove it. "We don't have the modern Otomis' DNA in our DNA bank yet," Quiroz said – and it's not a simple process to obtain. "You have to have permission from the communities. And there are also different Otomi people. So, it's a very sophisticated study you have to do. It's not as easy as it seems."

Nineteen skeletons have been found at the site, including a female skeleton at the top of the House of the Thirteen Heavens (Credit: imagebroker/Alamy)

However, one of skeletons – found at the very top of the House of the Thirteen Heavens – gave the archaeologists more food for thought. Based on various marks on its bones, they first deemed it a man: a hunter or warrior. But the latest DNA analysis revealed that she was a woman. More surprisingly, the analysis showed that the body was much older than the structures themselves. While the temple was built in 540 CE, the woman's skeleton dates to 400 BCE, nearly a millennium earlier.

These people had carried the body with them wherever they went, and they were carrying it for at least 950 years

"These people had carried the body with them wherever they went, and they were carrying it for at least 950 years," Quiroz said. "That means that she was a very important ancestor. So, when they built the temples, they placed her body up at the very top. But we don't know who she was and why she was so special."

As I climbed up the staircase, treading carefully since there were no banisters to hold on to, I tried to imagine the mysterious culture that made the pyramid their sacred ancestor's last resting place. "They may have been a matriarchal society," Coffee told me; something that wasn't a very common societal structure in antiquity.

Further genetic analysis has revealed more surprises. Once the team ran the genomic analyses of the skeletons, their DNA revealed genetic similarities with several other Mexican nations, including Nahuas, Purépecha, Tarahumara and Maya. So, the site may have been a multicultural gathering place where people from all over Mexico came to congregate, Coffee said.

Archaeologists are hoping to uncover more secrets from the once-forgotten site and piece together the puzzle of these sophisticated timekeepers. So much of this society's history has been lost to time – to the very time their ancestors were so good at keeping. "That's why the science of archaeology is so interesting," Quiroz said, as it can help us uncover the past.

Our ancestors have been through a lot, she noted, so we owe it to them to recover their story in the fullest way possible. "How can we remember such knowledge and wisdom if not by telling [their] story once and again?" she said.

[Unearthed](#) is a BBC Travel series that searches the world for newly discovered archaeological wonders that few people have ever seen.