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The Soft Target That Could End Separation of Powers

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"I think "cowboy" is a promise of something rustic and hearty but with a twinge of excitement.....



Last week tribal leaders from the area got a sneak peek at our new exhibition "Basketry: Resilience, Beauty, and Ingenuity of the Great Basin," Curated by Melanie Smokey (Western Shoshone/Washoe). We are very excited to open this event to the public this Thursday 1/22! Ribbon cutting festivities will begin at 11:30am. The exhibit will run through mid-June.

Picture 1: Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Chairman Daryl Gardipe, Curator Smokey, RSIC Tribal Administrator Duane Sherman.

The Soft Target That Could End Separation of Powers

Trump's Appeal in the IMLS Case Isn't About Libraries. It's About Absolute Executive Power.https://thetonymichaels.substack.com/p/the-soft-target-that-could-end-separation?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=5z4zi5&triedRedirect=true

No Colorado River deal in sight after intense negotiations, Arizona's water chief says



“The federal government may have to impose a Colorado River management plan on the seven river basin states because of their lack of progress toward reaching their own agreement, Arizona’s water chief says. Four days of negotiations in the past week brought the states no closer to agreeing on the major issues dividing them, said Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He and other states’ water officials met in Salt Lake City in their latest of many meetings over the past two years. But in a news briefing Friday, Buschatzke held out hope the river’s Lower and Upper Basin states will stand a better chance of finding common ground when they meet in Washington, D.C. at the end of January along with the governors of their states. He and Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs have been pushing for such a meeting since late last year. “I have a (plane) ticket and a hotel room” for the upcoming meeting, Buschatzke said. ... ” [Read more from the Arizona Daily Star.](#)

Feds summon 7 Colorado River governors for last-ditch drought talks

“Negotiators for the seven states that share the shrinking Colorado River met in Salt Lake City but could not agree on a deal to split up the water, Arizona’s lead negotiator said. The states are approaching the point where federal Interior Department officials may impose their own plan for mandated cuts that could fall especially hard on Arizona, potentially triggering lawsuits. Talks

that ran through most of the week don't seem to have improved the outlook for a water pact. "I didn't see enough progress," Arizona Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke said on Friday, Jan. 16, "or any major progress" suggesting a deal is imminent. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum has invited all seven governors and their negotiators to meet in Washington in late January, Buschatzke said. Perhaps getting the governors face-to-face could lead to a breakthrough, he added. "It's worth a try, at least," he said. ... " [Read more from Arizona Central](#).

SEE ALSO:

- [The feds unveiled possible plans for water cuts on the shrinking Colorado River. Here's how they could affect Utah](#), from the Salt Lake Tribune
- [Colorado River at the Crossroads: Why the Old Rules Are Breaking Down](#), from the Lake Powell Chronicle
- [Solving The Gordian Knot Of The Colorado River Compact](#), from the National Parks Traveler

Lake Mead's projected record low gets even lower

"New federal projections for Southern Nevada's main water source were released Friday and paint an even more dismal picture amid a tight interstate negotiation over the future of the American West. The Bureau of Reclamation estimated in its most probable scenario that Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, will fall to 1,036.5 feet above sea level in November 2027. That's about 5 feet lower than the level that the reservoir fell to in 2022, when experts sounded alarm bells about desperately needed conservation and solutions to the Colorado River's overuse problem. It's about 2 feet below the lowest level that forecasters predicted in November, as well. ... " [Read more from the Las Vegas Review-Journal](#).

3 things to watch in EPA's endangerment repeal

"EPA is on the verge of finalizing its sweeping rollback of the endangerment finding — the scientific cornerstone that allows it to regulate climate pollution — in a move that would help President Donald Trump topple multiple rules aimed at forcing American industries to reduce their carbon emissions. It stands to be a game changer for a president who has rejected the basic tenets of climate science as he works to accelerate the production of fossil fuels, the main source of pollution that has led global temperatures to reach levels never seen before by modern humans. Repealing the 2009 finding would eliminate the regulatory authority that EPA relied on to enact climate rules on sources such as power plants and vehicles, easing Trump's ability to revoke them — and making it harder for future presidents to replace them. Yet the repeal will almost certainly face court challenges. Whether EPA's action is successful could hinge on three things: its legal rationale for revoking the finding, its treatment of the scientific record and the strength of its regulatory analysis and responses to public comments. Those factors will come to light when the agency releases its final rule, expected within weeks. ... " [Read more from E&E News](#).

Less than 20% of the total US river length is protected from human activities

UW News | Gillian Dohrn. A review found that most existing river protections are merely byproducts of land-based measures. Movement across borders, through ecological zones, and between public and private lands has led to inconsistent laws and regulations aimed at protecting against rising biodiversity loss. ([Read](#))

Immigration officers assert sweeping power to enter homes without a judge's warrant, memo says

Federal immigration officers are asserting sweeping power to forcibly enter people's homes without a judge's warrant, according to an internal Immigration and Customs Enforcement memo obtained by The Associated Press, marking a sharp reversal of longstanding guidance meant to respect constitutional limits on government searches.

[Read more](#)

A Point in Time Clip | Southern Paiutes and their Sacred ...



YouTube · Vegas PBS 2:20

Linear number board games can strengthen young children's math skills

University of Oregon | Staff. A review of 18 studies that included over 1,700 children in pre-K to grade 2 showed that skills such as counting, identifying, and comparing numerals improved in games where players move pieces along a straight numbered path. Benefits may be seen with just a few 10-minute sessions. ([Read](#))

Attention! Artists

Blue Mountain Center 2026 Residencies

- Organization: Blue Mountain Center
- Submission Deadline: February 1, 2026
- Entry Fee: \$25
- Eligibility: International
- Categories: Craft/Traditional Arts, Photography, Drawing, Film/Video/New Media, Mixed-Media/Multi-Discipline, Painting, Sculpture
- Location: Blue Mountain Lake, NY, United States

Description

Blue Mountain Center is a working community of writers, artists, and activists in the heart of Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. Established creative and non-fiction writers, artists not requiring exceptional facilities, composers, filmmakers, and activists working for social justice are eligible applicants. Residents are chosen by an Admissions Committee of

evinces social and ecological concern and is aimed at a general audience. International applicants are welcome.

Eligibility Info: Open to artists internationally [Apply Learn More](#)

Re-Inhabiting Conservation: Using Art to Bring Wildlife Conservation Closer to Home Competition

- Submission Deadline: February 1, 2026
- Event Dates: May 21, 2026 - July 26, 2026
- Eligibility: International
- Categories: Craft/Traditional Arts, Photography, Drawing, Film/Video/New Media, Mixed-Media/Multi-Discipline, Painting, Sculpture
- Location: Reading, PA, United States

Description

Re-Inhabiting Conservation: Using Art to Bring Wildlife Conservation Closer to Home is the final exhibition in a three-part series that “re” considers the role of artists in wildlife conservation and explores the possibilities of art informed by science. The exhibition asks, “In light of all we have wondered, imagined, and hoped, what do we DO NOW?” This exhibition encourages artists, writers, creatives, and viewers to rethink our relationship to boundaries, both geographic and practical, including divisions between art and science. Re-Inhabiting Conservation asks us to live in a conservation mindset, make a home here—at the intersection of art and science—and commit to caring for the habitats, resources, and species around us.

Eligibility Info Open to artists internationally [Apply Learn More](#)

The Stifel Artist Residency 2026

- Submission Deadline: February 1, 2026
- Event Dates: April 1, 2026 - June 27, 2026
- Entry Fee: \$20.00
- Eligibility: National
- Categories: Craft/Traditional Arts, Photography, Drawing, Film/Video/New Media, Mixed-Media/Multi-Discipline, Painting, Sculpture
- Location: Wheeling, West Virginia, United States

Description

Oglebay Institute is seeking established and up and coming artists to inspire, collaborate, and share their talents with their local schools and community. The Stifel Fine Arts Center Artist Residency program will partner with interested artists to build a body of work, and conduct school and community outreach programs while gaining critical skills for their future career, or by adding to their existing portfolio. Using an innovative residency model, their goal is to expand the impact of resident artists’ skillsets while encompassing the larger community. This program will afford artists the opportunity to showcase their skills in our arts center while simultaneously teaching and composing materials for an exhibition environment. This residency program is supported by funding from the EQT Foundation and the Elizabeth Stifel Kline Foundation.

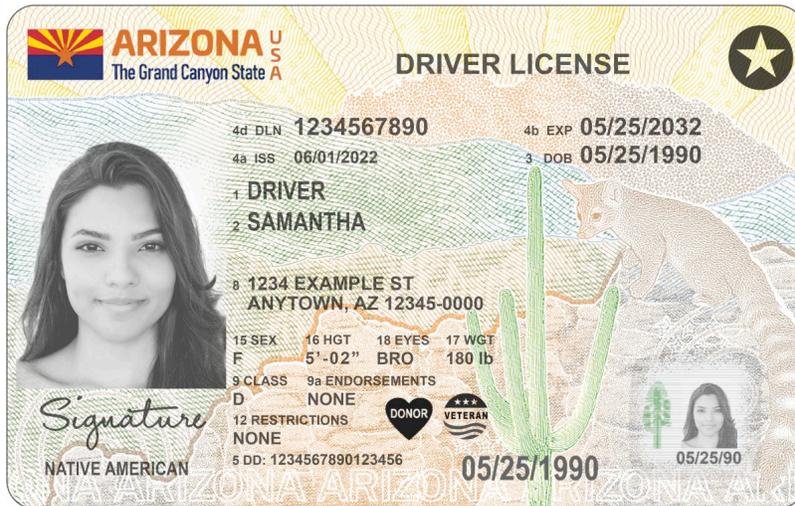
Eligibility Info

The residencies are open to all professional and emerging artists, age 21 and over, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, or marital status. Must have reliable transportation for outreach programs. Preference given to artists working in ceramics, jewelry, stained glass, and/or print making. This residency program is supported by funding from the EQT Foundation and the Elizabeth Stifel Kline Foundation.

[Apply](#) [Learn More](#) [Add To Schedule](#)

More opportunities at:

https://www.artworkarchive.com/blog/the-best-artist-grants-opportunities-in-february-2026?utm_source=newsletterclass&utm_campaign=newyear26



[FOX 10 Phoenix](#) · [Enrolled tribal members in Arizona can now have a “Native American” designation added to their state driver licenses and ID cards. Story link in comments](#)

Occasus Americana

World leaders are saying what needed to be said: The United States cannot be trusted

MARK
TRAHANT

[Breaking History from Mark Trahant](#)

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Wednesday's Newsrime

*We can't pretend the president makes sense
when he posts U.S. flags as maps of pretense
'A rupture not a transition' in the global set of rules
and an 'unflinching' response to our team of fools*

World leaders are saying what needed to be said: The United States cannot be trusted as an ally or even as a responsible party at the negotiating table. Weeks ago the U.S. negotiated a trade deal with Europe. But Donald Trump's obsession with Greenland meant ignoring that deal. Treaties, deals, the words of the United States mean nothing when the leader might change his mind on a whim. (And then communicate his nonsense via Truth Social instead of before journalists or through diplomatic channels.)

The words used by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent are just as inflammatory as Trump's posts. "Denmark's investment in the U.S. Treasury bonds, like Denmark itself, is irrelevant," Bessent was quoted by Reuters at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos. "I'm not concerned at all. Again, as Treasury Secretary, I see our Treasury auctions. We've had record foreign investment."

No worries. Pax Americana. That phrase is often used to describe the global order after World War II. It means the American peace. The idea was a play on the Pax Romana when Rome's power framed the world's politics.

Perhaps it's time for a new phrase. **Occasus Americana** could be the setting sun for the empire. Or if you want to be really bleak, pick **Pessum Americana**. An ending that hints at the chaotic and self-destructive aspects of the American decline.

There is a lot of solid reporting coming from the World Economic Forum, so no need to repeat it here.

But one bit of context that's worth adding: This is just more evidence that a treaty, the word of a nation, does not mean a thing to this president. This has all sorts of implications for how Indigenous governments should deal with the United States. (As if we didn't know that already.)

Back to working on longer projects.

Thanks for reading! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.



Subscribed

Mark Trahant's goal is to keep this newsletter free. Please sign up today and if this content is interesting, tell your friends. And be sure to check out the Breaking History videos found on the Indigenous House channel on YouTube.

Updated Guidance Publications Produced with NASS

We're pleased to announce that updated versions of the following guidance documents, which were created in collaboration with the [National Association of Secretaries of State \(NASS\)](#), are now available:

- [Preserving Electronic Records While Transitioning Out of Office](#)
- [Public Records, Open Records, and Restricted Records](#)
- [Steps to Preserve State Electronic Records](#)

Check out our [Resource Center](#) for a growing roster of CoSA reports and best practice publications.

“Zero Click” Records Management
Virtual Workshop | February 5 | 1:00-3:00pm (ET)
2 CPE Credits Available - Free to Attend



This virtual workshop will delve into the core principles and expected benefits of NARA's “Zero Click” initiative which aims to automate records management processes with the goal of minimizing manual intervention.

DGI Digital Government Institute

[REGISTER/LEARN MORE](#)

Funding resources for Libraries and Archives

Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)

- [Recordings at Risk](#) - funding cycle is open from November 3, 2025 to February 24, 2026

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) -- **Note change to submission process**

The [National Leadership Grants for Libraries Program](#) (NLG-L) supports projects that develop, enhance, or adapt replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public. The program supports projects that:

- Serve the learning needs of the public through libraries and archives;
- Improve community prosperity through libraries and archives;
- Provide broad access to and preservation of information and collections through libraries and archives; or
- Provide services to affected communities in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Deadline: March 13, 2026 **(the preliminary proposal process has been eliminated)**

Application: The [FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) (PDF, 962KB) is now available.

[Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian](#) (LB21) projects build a library and archival workforce that can meet the information needs of communities and increase the institutional capacity of

libraries, archives, and library and information science graduate programs across the country. The program supports projects that:

- provide training and professional development to library and archives professionals;
- develop faculty and information leaders; and
- recruit, educate, and retain the next generation of library and archives professionals.

Projects can support the recruitment, education, training, and retention of pre-professionals, students, faculty, and the current library and archives workforce.

Deadline: March 13, 2026 (the preliminary proposal process has been eliminated)

Application: The [FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) (PDF, 984KB) is now available.

National Endowment for the Humanities

- [Celebrate America!: Chairman's Grants in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary](#) - NEH is awarding [250 challenge grants](#) of up to \$25,000 for projects that focuses on the founding of the US, key historical figures, and milestones that reflect exceptional achievements of the United States. As part of your application, you will need to certify that your organization has secured third-party, non-federal gifts equal to the amount requested from **NEH.applications now open for acceptance and review on a rolling basis for projects starting between August 1, 2025 - July 4, 2026.**

Questions? Please email preservation@neh.gov or call 202-606-8570.

American Institute for Conservation

- **PMG Project Support Grant.** The Photographic Materials Group (PMG) of the American Institute for Conservation is open for applications to its new [2026 PMG Project Support Grant](#). The annual grant aims to support conservation or preservation projects that directly impact photographic heritage preservation. Applicants do not need to be conservators or AIC members, and applications from small institutions, associations, communities, or individuals are welcome. Apply by **February 28, 2026**.

Society of American Archivists

- [SAA National Disaster Recovery Fund](#) - rolling applications

Society of American Archivists

Do you know of an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the archives profession? Or promoted greater public awareness of archives? Have you published a groundbreaking book, written an outstanding article, or developed an innovative finding aid? SAA Awards for Excellence are now accepting nominations, including the prestigious [Distinguished Service Award](#) and [Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award](#). [Explore all the open calls](#) and submit nominations by **February 28, 2026**.

NOW OPEN: [OVW Fiscal Year 2026 Formula Programs Training and Technical Assistance Initiative \(Formula TA Initiative\)](#) (NOFO)

The purpose of the Formula TA Initiative is to provide training and technical assistance (TTA) to State Administering Agencies (SAAs) to enhance their implementation of the Sexual Assault Services Program and Services Training Officers Prosecutors Formula Grant Programs.

SAAs are responsible for administering formula funds that support communities, including American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages, in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) crimes.

SAAs must ensure that subrecipients comply with relevant statutory requirements and implement effective programs.

Eligible applicants for the Formula TA Initiative are national, Tribal, statewide, or other nonprofit organizations with the capacity to provide this TTA.

Expected Award Period: 24 months

Expected Award Amounts: \$600,000 - \$700,000

Important Dates and Information:

- Application deadline for [Grants.gov](#): March 3, 2026 – 11:59 p.m. ET
- Application deadline for JustGrants: March 5, 2026 – 5:59 p.m. ET

To submit an application, all applicants must register online with the System for Award Management (SAM) and with [Grants.gov](#). To ensure sufficient time to complete the registration process, applicants should register online with SAM and with [Grants.gov](#) immediately, and by February 3, 2026.

Contact: OVW.TechAssistance@usdoj.gov or 202-307-6026

GO TO THE NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office on Violence Against Women

Working Together to End the Violence

Application Assistance

- Visit OVW's [How to Apply for Funding](#) and [Resources for Applicants](#) pages for updated information and resources to assist in your application.

Other Grant News

- OVW is looking for peer reviewers who can objectively review, evaluate, and score applications for our grant programs. Peer reviewers consist of active or recently retired practitioners with on-the-ground experience responding to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. We prioritize recruiting peer reviewers from diverse communities and geographical regions. **Prior experience as a peer reviewer is not required and you cannot peer review for grants you are currently applying for.** For more information, [click here](#), or to apply, email a copy of your current resume or curriculum vitae and a completed [Peer Reviewer Recruitment Form](#) to OVW.PeerReview@usdoj.gov.
- View all open OVW Notices of Funding Opportunities [on our website](#).

https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/careers/ai-cant-touch-these-skilled-trade-jobs-if-only-enough-humans-would-fill-them-9f2f05e9?mod=hp_lead_pos7&utm_source=firefox-newtab-en-us

Couldn't resist:

"I think "cowboy" is a promise of something rustic and hearty but with a twinge of excitement. A little spicy, a little rough around the edges, but ultimately stick-to-your-ribs comfort"

Actually, it is the descriptor for a dip recipe: (Just in time for Super Bowl, but not our 9ers)

Ingredients

- 12 ounces spicy breakfast sausage
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, cubed and softened
- 1 (10-ounce) can tomatoes with green chiles (such as Ro-Tel), undrained
- 1 cup frozen corn kernels
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 large jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped (about 1/4 cup)
- 2 tablespoons hot or original chili seasoning mix (such as McCormick)
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded pepper Jack cheese, divided
- Sliced green onions, chipotle chile powder, and/or chopped cilantro, for garnish, optional
- Tortilla chips, corn chips, or Doritos, for serving