Minneapolis 2019 was a Blast

The 2019 NAASA Conference was a resounding success!

Thank you to the Local Organizing Committee, especially Joe Horse Capture, for helping to organize great speakers and events. We continue to value the participation of the emerging scholars and artists about whose work we are thinking and writing. There is an excitement for our field of study. The diversity of topics and speakers provided us an engaging platform for the many conversations held during the coffee and evening breaks. What a great gathering!

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Message from the President

First of all, Chokma’shki! Thank you for your vote of confidence for Hulleah and I. Also, please accept my gratitude for voting in our fantastic Board of Directors. We share a common commitment to serving NAASA to the best of our abilities and in preparation for the 2021 conference. We have been actively engaging a conversation to address several needs facing the organization. As you know, we did not leave Minneapolis with a clear direction for our next conference site. This is our most immediate and priority topic. With many preparatory conversations, we are exploring options that emerged following the conference to consider what will best fit our biannual gathering needs. While not quite ready to release any news, we are narrowing our focus and should be able to announce our 2021 conference site this Spring.

In addition to cultivating our conference plans, we have begun exploring low cost impact mechanisms to support the organization and membership between conference cycles. Many of you know that we historically relied on Evergreen College to support our listserv and distribution of our newsletter. After Tulsa, that listserv was dissolved and NAASA has been seeking options that are affordable and accessible. In the gap, I know that several of our constituents have been frustrated with not being able to get information out to the membership. My apologies for the delay, but I believe we have resolved this issue moving forward. We are going to upgrade our website from free to fee, allowing us to use the website as a distribution source for all notices, including our newsletters. This will also allow us to cultivate the option to accept donations and have organizational merchandise. Hulleah is leading this charge, so look for what creative ideas she has to share as we develop this option.

Finally, we have assessed our financial situation, which has been stable for the three decades of the organization’s history. In addition to formalizing our conference sponsorship commitments we are discussing other options for continued income streams. Look for more discussion in the forthcoming newsletters. Please let us know by email any thoughts or concerns you may have to guide our work.
NAASA Lifetime Achievement Award 2019

Truman Lowe (1944-2019)

The NAASA 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on Truman Lowe (Ho-Chunk) in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the field of Native American art. Through decades of work as an artist, educator, and curator, Lowe left an indelible mark on the field. We are grateful his family was able to join us for the evening banquet and accept the award.

Rebecca Head Trautmann, who nominated Lowe, presented remarks and a slideshow honoring Lowe and his prolific body of work. She spoke to his love of materials, his family, and participating in the field as a scholar. The Lowe family shared brief remarks upon accepting the award posthumously of how Truman’s ever present hope and sense of adventure were as present in his family life as they were in his professional career. Sky Hopinka’s videos were played during the dinner as a beautiful tribute to the legacy of this great artist.

Keynote Speaker 2019

Dyani White Hawk

Dyani White Hawk delivered a moving keynote presentation for our conference attendees. She spoke of her personal history and development as a young Native artist. She accounted of the challenges she faced, like many, of seeking to bring her Indigenous culture to a field of contemporary art that honoured the cultural references to which she remained committed.

She spoke beautifully to the role of Truman Lowe as a teacher and mentor, helping her to find a way to manage frustration and anger as she found her voice as an artist. Many were moved by the accounting of the quiet love her story expressed for Lowe, her culture, and her family. Dyani’s keynote address was widely appreciated and it may be published soon. We will share information with the membership to the source as soon as it is confirmed.
Travel Award Recipients
Travel awards are made possible by our Patron sponsors and those who make donations to our conference travel fund. The Board of NAASA expresses its gratitude to all those who contribute in support of our travel awards.

The following conference attendees received travel awards
Oscar Howe Award: Hoka Skenadore
Kate C. Duncan Award: Christopher Wesley Smith
Richard Conn Award: Emily Buhrow Rogers
Allan Houser Award: Adrienne Huard
NAASA Award: Lynda Pete
NAASA Award: Barbara Teller Ornelas
NAASA Award: Jules Arita Koostachin
NAASA Award: Annie Booth

The number of requests for travel support continues to grow as our conference and field expands. If you or your organization would like to establish a travel award, named or as an honor, please let a board member know and we will share the necessary information. If we start to grow this fund now, we may be able to respond to all needs next year.

Business Meeting
The NAASA biennial business meeting was held on Friday, October 4, as part of our Minneapolis conference. All members, including those attending their first conference, are strongly encouraged to attend.

Elections: In advance of the conference, president Kate Morris appointed Christina Burke to complete the term vacated by Jill Ahlberg Yohe that will be completed in 2021. New members elected in Minneapolis are: Miranda Belarde-Lewis, Yatika Fields, John Lukavic, and Alexandra Nahwegahbow. Continuing members are Heather Igloliorte, Amy Lonetree with heather ahtone and Hulieah Tsinhnahjinnie elected as President and Vice-President. Kate Morris will continue to serve now as Past-President. Joe Horse Capture was thanked for his board service as his term expired. Ryan Rice’s term also expired.

A financial report was delivered and the 2021 site was discussed, but no bids were made for the site. The membership affirmed that the Board has the capacity to engage and move forward to cultivate a conference site without returning to the membership to vote.

Because the 2021 conference site was unresolved, the Board encouraged the membership to begin considering to make a bid for the 2023 site to avoid stacking the task on the Board at the next conference.
Native American Art Studies Association

Membership

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Street Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email: Phone/mobile:

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<th>Membership – through 2021. Choose your level:</th>
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Would you like to donate to the Travel Award fund? $

Total to be paid in U.S. dollars: $

**To pay by check or money order:**

US Funds only, payable to “NAASA”

Mail with completed form to:

NAASA c/o heather ahtone
First Americans Museum
659 American Indian Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73129-2199

**To pay by credit card:**

1) Download form at [www.nativearts.org](http://www.nativearts.org)
2) Email form to naasamail@gmail.com
3) You will receive invoice.
4) Follow instructions to pay with a credit card via PayPal.

*Invoice payable upon receipt.*

*Membership is NOT complete until paid in full.*