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Request for Proposal (RFP)

Indigenous Artist Promotion Project: Professional Portraits and Artwork Photography

Issued By

American Indigenous Tourism Association (AIT)
5366 Snyder Avenue
Carson City, NV 89701

Project Overview

The American Indigenous Tourism Association (AIT) seeks proposals from qualified photographers to provide professional portrait and artwork photography services for Indigenous artists participating in the 2026 American Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC), held **October 19–22, 2026**, and hosted by [The Tulalip Tribes](#) at [Tulalip Resort Casino](#) in Tulalip, Washington.

Through this project, AIT will provide artists with high-quality professional images to strengthen their marketing materials, portfolios, websites, social media presence and promotional efforts. The selected photographer will create professional portraits and document artists' work to support increased visibility and market access.

Project Goals and Scope of Services

The selected contractor will:

- Photograph participating artists and create a professional portrait image.
- Produce high-resolution photographs of 2 pieces of the artists' work suitable for publication and marketing.
- Provide digital files to participating artists for use in their own promotional and marketing efforts.
- Provide portrait photographs of AIT staff and board members attending AITC.
- Provide digital files to AIT for use on Destination Native America and other promotional platforms.

AIT will coordinate artist participation through a sign-up system and provide designated space and scheduling for photography sessions. The project is expected to serve approximately 30 artists during the conference.



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Organizational Background

About American Indigenous Tourism Association

For more than 27 years, the American Indigenous Tourism Association has served as the only national organization dedicated to advancing a mission to define, introduce, grow, and sustain American Indigenous tourism that honors traditions and values across the United States and its territories. Established by tribes for tribes to address inequities in the tourism system, the American Indigenous Tourism Association is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit governed by an all-Indigenous board of directors and serves as a united voice for the \$11.6 billion Indigenous hospitality sector. Its successful legislative work led to the industry-changing Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act ([NATIVE Act](#)) funding in 2018, as Indian Country Tourism was recognized through federal appropriations via NATIVE Act implementation. Native Nations and communities who are looking to start or expand their cultural tourism footprint can find resources at www.AmericanIndigenousTourism.org and visitors interested in learning more about Indigenous culture can visit www.DestinationNativeAmerica.com.

Funding Available

The selected contractor will receive:

- **Professional Services Fee:** \$2,000
- **Lodging Stipend:** Up to \$500

The contractor is responsible for all other travel, equipment and project-related expenses.

Project Timeline

The selected contractor will provide photography services during the American Indigenous Tourism Conference from **October 19–22, 2026**.

Final project deliverables shall include:

- Digital portrait images for participating artists and AIT leadership.
- Digital images of artists' work.
- A roster of participants.
- A summary indicating the number of images produced for each artist.



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- Transfer all final edited project files to AIT.

The final report and all deliverables must be submitted no later than **December 31, 2026**.

Image Rights and Usage

The photographer shall retain copyright ownership of all images produced under this project. AIT will credit the photographer whenever it is practical and appropriate.

By accepting the contract, the photographer grants AIT and participating artists a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, publish, distribute and display the images for marketing, educational, promotional and non-commercial purposes.

Participating artists will receive digital files and may use the images to promote their artwork, businesses, cultural demonstrations, exhibitions, websites, social media platforms and other marketing efforts.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be available onsite during the conference from 8:00 am on **Monday, October 19**, at 1:00pm through **Thursday, October 22, 2026**, at noon.
- Demonstrate experience in professional portrait photography.
- Demonstrate experience photographing artwork and producing publication-quality images.
- Possess the equipment and technical capacity necessary to complete the project.

AIT strongly encourages applications from Native-owned businesses, Indigenous photographers, Tribal enterprises and Tribally affiliated organizations. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate experience working in partnership with Tribal Nations, Native artists and Indigenous cultural programs, as well as an understanding of cultural protocols and the importance of authentic representation.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:



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Professional Experience

- Demonstrated skill and experience in portrait photography.
- Quality of previous photography work and portfolio samples.
- Experience photographing artwork and cultural products.
- Ability to produce high-resolution images suitable for print and digital publication.

Indigenous Community Experience

- Experience working with Native American artists, Tribal communities, or Indigenous cultural programs.
- Demonstrated understanding of culturally appropriate representation and collaboration with Native artists.

Technical Capacity

- Ability to successfully implement the project.
- Availability of professional equipment, lighting, backdrops and other resources necessary to produce high-quality images.

Overall Proposal Quality

- Demonstrated understanding of the project objectives.
 - Ability to complete all deliverables within the required timeframe.
 - Quality of proposed approach for working with participating artists during the conference.
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Proposal Content

Please include the following information:

Applicant Information

- Name of Applicant
- Website (if applicable)
- Email Address
- Physical Address
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number

Please indicate whether the applicant is:

- Native-Owned Business
- Tribe
- Tribal Enterprise
- Tribally Led Nonprofit
- Other Business Entity

Proposal Narrative

Provide a project narrative of no more than two pages (12-point font, single-spaced) describing:

- Relevant experience and qualifications.
- Experience working with artists and Indigenous communities.
- Equipment and resources available to complete the work.
- Estimated number of artist sessions that can be accommodated during the conference.

Professional Bios

Include one to two paragraphs for each principal photographer or project team member.

Portfolio Samples

Provide links or examples of portrait photography and artwork photography relevant to this project.



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Anticipated Selection Schedule

July 1, 2026	RFP Issued
August 14, 2026	Deadline for Questions and Proposal Submission
August 24, 2026	Contractor Selected and Notified
October 19, 2026	Project Begins at AITC
December 31, 2026	Final Report and Deliverables Due

Submission Instructions

The Request for Proposal will be posted on:

www.AmericanIndigenousTourism.org

Completed proposals must be submitted electronically to:

arichardson@americanindigenoustourism.org

Proposals must be received no later than:

Friday, August 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. PDT

Please include "**Indigenous Artist Photography Proposal**" and the applicant's name in the subject line of the email.

Questions regarding this RFP should also be directed to the email address above.

AIT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor irregularities and negotiate with the selected contractor in the best interest of the organization.