



INDIAN CANYON

VILLAGE HOUSE & SOLAR VILLAGE PROJECT

Vision:

Indian Canyon will serve as a refuge and a peaceful place for people in the world who do not have sacred land for performing their ceremonies. Today almost 5,000 visitors participate in rituals, educational programs, and vision quests annually. Indian Village including its Village House and Solar Village Project will become an irreplaceable resource for community events as well as a place to honor and preserve cultural heritage.

Mission:

Create a self-reliant solar village and multi-media broadcast facility in Indian Canyon in central California to further the wisdom of the indigenous people of California. Indian Canyon is proposing a self-sufficient ecological-village integrating 1) traditional and sacred architecture, wisdom, and lifestyle -- with 2) the best in renewable and appropriate technologies. This “Living-Learning” center will be linked to the rest of the world with digital computers and the Internet. A multi-media outreach training facility will be built into the Village so that teachings from important conferences, meetings and tribal gatherings can be shared real-time over the Internet with a wider audience.

Financial Objective:

\$1.5 million funding to finalize architecture and engineering designs and to complete construction 18 months after receipt of funding.

Contact:

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Indian Canyon Nation Costanoan Indian Research, Inc.	The Cultural Conservancy	Synergy International
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Indian Canyon proposes to create a self-reliant solar village. Central to this development is a **Village House**, a communal building which will be the focal point of the ceremonial and community events at Indian Canyon - dances, storytelling, tribal meetings and healing ceremonies. Indian Canyon proposes to combine the knowledge and wisdom of the Native people with 21st century technology to serve more visitors, and to increase the deep spiritual and community healing that flows forth from this refuge by expanding activities within the canyon and reaching out to the rest of the world through the Internet and World Wide Web.

Additional development activities include a communication and technology access point with satellite connection, solar and small hydro-electric power systems, a native plant nursery, food producing gardens, food processing appliances, storage and solar ovens, waste-treatment and recycling systems with small livestock. These sustainable developments will provide the opportunity for people to contribute to the vision of the self-reliant solar village by participating in projects, classes and workshops, internships, and affiliations with local Junior Colleges.

People of all faiths and origin are welcome. Indian Canyon asks that visitors respect Mother Earth, come with peace in their hearts and the willingness to share themselves with others of like mind, and seek to understand and be tolerant of the beliefs of others.

In order to carry out the vision and to build the dream, a fundraising program to raise \$1,500,000 is being undertaken. A full proposal exists describing the uses of the Village House and the life-support projects of Indian Canyon Village, as well as a budget and work plan for construction activities. Projects will be undertaken as classes and workshops sponsored by the Costanoan Research Inc., DQ University and local community colleges.

Indian Canyon is located west of Hollister, California, in San Benito county, and near the Pinnacles National Monument Park.

Village House - The Heart of the Community

The Village House will be built in a traditional way, set partially into the Earth, with the roof supported by interior and perimeter posts. The shape will be that of a turtle shell, honoring the sacred symbolism of this creature that represents Mother Earth. When participating in ceremony, teachings or gatherings, men, women, and children will descend into a 1500 square foot room, lit by a central fire and by light entering from a gap in the ceiling. They will sit on the dirt floor or on benches that curve around the perimeter, to face the central ceremonial and teaching space. Rather than a place set apart, it will be a place set within, deeply grounded in the Earth, lit by sky and fire.

Consideration has been made in the building design for the shaking of the Earth at the Canyon, so close to the San Andreas Fault. Construction practices will be both sound and sacred. The builder has experience with similar structures; engineering work will be carefully checked and the building inspected for safety. Elders and ceremony leaders are involved in the planning for the Village House and its use. Youth, in particular, will play an important role in preparing the land and assisting with construction and maintenance - in so doing, tying themselves strongly to the Canyon and to ceremony.

Care will be taken to protect the land, water, air, animals and plants. An environmental impact study will be conducted with the assistance of University researchers and professionals from the Indian Canyon community. Infrastructure costs will include measures such as erosion control and composting toilets to protect the environment from impacts of construction.

Maintenance of the Village House and Indian Canyon infrastructure will be carried out by participants in gatherings and ceremonies, and by participants in youth programs. Financial contributions toward ongoing repairs and improvements will be made by these participants, by tribes and private donors.



The Cultural Conservancy

The Cultural Conservancy is a Native American nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of indigenous cultures and their ancestral lands. We are a research, education, and advocacy organization. We provide mediation, legal, information referral, and audio recording services. We also produce educational programs and materials and technical trainings on Native land conservation and land rights, cultural and ecological restoration, and traditional indigenous arts and spiritual values.

The Cultural Conservancy develops programs for education and advocacy that:

- Strengthen the skills of Native peoples in land management and conservation.
- Restore to the greatest extent possible ownership of traditional land to its original caretakers.
- Support stewardship of Native people on their land base by establishment of property rights, cultural easements, and Native land trusts which protect the habitat and traditional land-based activities of Native peoples.
- Acknowledge the sacred relationship of Native peoples to the land.
- Acknowledge the essential role of Native peoples in preserving environmental integrity and biological diversity.
- Recognize and support the link between cultural and biological diversity.
- Support the principle of Native self-determination.
- Commit to cross-cultural interaction for environmental problem-solving, networking, and peacemaking.

The Cultural Conservancy works to develop understanding between indigenous ecological knowledge and western science. We conduct training of resource guides and develop ecological management plans with tribes, native communities, and Euro-American communities interested in honoring indigenous ways of knowing. We restore damaged and "exotic" ecosystems (those dominated by invasive, non-native species) with culturally significant native plant communities that can be managed by local native caretakers."

TCC will be the project manager for the construction of the Indian Canyon Village project. Grant funds for the project will flow through TCC to the Indian Canyon Village project.

- We have resources in the Presidio and a long working relationship with Jon Larson and the Larson Family Foundation including coordinating a gift of a Native American Healing Totem Pole to the Indian Canyon organization that will be raised and featured in the new Village.
- We have a long working relationship with the Indian Canyon peoples.
- We have the skills and resources needed to contribute to the successful completion of this important project.

THE CULTURAL CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tirso A. Gonzales, Ph.D. (Peruvian of Aymara descent) His accumulated work experience as scholar, international consultant and activist has allowed him to work closely with Indigenous Peoples and related issues in the Americas (North, Central and South). Dr. Gonzales is an assistant professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia - Okanagan, Canada. He completed his Ph.D. in Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He recently worked for two years as a member of the Peruvian National Commission of Indigenous Andean, Amazonian and Afro Peruvian People. His current work explores the use of participatory methodologies and techniques on issues central to indigenous development, community development, indigenous and local histories, indigenous strategic visions, and local management of natural resources. Dr. Gonzales is committed to supporting the agenda of Indigenous Peoples as well as processes related to ecological knowledge, cultural affirmation and decolonization.

Kimla McDonald, Secretary, M.A. University of California, Berkeley (Landscape Architecture). Kimla is trained both as a landscape architect and as a midwife, and is currently working in the health care field. She has worked as a producer of documentary films with the Earth Island Institute's Sacred Land Film Project. She has decades of experience protecting sacred sites and working with Native nations in the desert Southwest and serves as a special advisor to our indigenous health projects. Kimla is an original founding board member of the Sacred Land Foundation, the parent organization to the Cultural Conservancy. She lives with her family in Washington, D.C.

L. Frank Manriquez, (Tongva/Ajachmem), Native California Indian artist, tribal scholar, cartoonist, language advocate, and self-described "decolonizationist," L. Frank has exhibited her artwork (paintings, sculpture, weavings, cartoons, regalia) in museums and galleries locally, nationally, and internationally. L. Frank is the co-founder of Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival and serves on the board of Neshkanukat. She is the author of two books, *Acorn Soup* and the forthcoming *First Families: A Photographic History of California Indians*, both published by Heyday Books.

Melissa Nelson (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) President, (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), University of California, Davis (Cultural Ecology with Emphasis in Native American Studies). Melissa is a writer, researcher, educator, and cultural and environmental activist. She has served as The Cultural Conservancy's president and executive director since 1993. Since 2002 she has also served as an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. Nelson is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and Leadership Award recipient and has served on the boards of numerous environmental organizations including Earth Island Institute and the Collective Heritage Institute, the parent organization to the Bioneers Conference. Her published works have appeared in academic and national journals.

STAFF AND PROGRAM CONSULTANTS

Melissa Nelson (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) – Executive Director and President. Melissa has served in this capacity since 1993.

Nicola Wagenberg, M.A. (Colombian) – is Programs and Production Director for TCC. Nicola is a videographer, digital storyteller, educator and community advocate. For seven years, Nicola was Programs Director and teacher with Just Think, a media education organization. Her students created award winning documentaries that speak about the struggles and resistance of inner city youth. She is also a facilitator and filmmaker with Herstories, a community based multi-disciplinary performance and art project. Nicola is a candidate for Psy.D. in Psychology with an emphasis on intra-generational trauma and restoration of cultural traditions.

Philip M. Klasky, M.A., is the Storyscape Project Director and an environmental and indigenous rights activist. He is a nationally known environmental justice and anti-nuclear activist. He holds a Master's degree in Geography and Human Environmental Studies from San Francisco State University and lectures there in the American Indian Studies department. Phil has founded and served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations including the Bay Area Nuclear Waste Coalition and the Institute for Deep Ecology. His published works have appeared in academic and popular journals.

Laura Baldez (Mexican-American) – is a graduate of Columbia University and holds her B.A. degree in Anthropology. She worked in Development at the Natural Resources Defense Council; as a Corpsmember with the Washington Conservation Corps; and as a teacher at both an urban school garden and ranch in California. Currently, Laura is working at the Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) and at the Cultural Conservancy (TCC) as the Native Foods Coordinator.

Bernadette Zambrano (Chicana) – is an urban gardener, seed collector and saver, and researcher. She strongly believes that everyone needs to know how to grow their own food and medicine (herbs). Bernadette worked at the native plant nursery in the Presidio of San Francisco, and she presently gardens at various sites throughout the Bay Area. She also conducts research for a documentary on the indigenous perspective of corn/maize. She is a co-founder of the Terra Madre Fund for Indigenous Women and has served as a board member of the American Indian Contemporary Arts in San Francisco.

Enrique Salmon, Ph.D. (Raramuri) – directs our Native Foodways Book Project and is completing an exciting nonfiction book about the revitalization of Native American food traditions. Enrique was raised in the Sierra Tarahumara of Mexico and in the United States and is an ethnecologist specializing in the Indigenous cultures, plants, and lands of the Southwest.

Padma Holland (Mexican-American) – owner and manager of Padma, Inc. is an accountant and bookkeeper for numerous businesses and nonprofits in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has served as TCC's accountant and financial manager since 1993.

Tonu Shane Eagleton (Pacific Islander – Rotuman/Tongan), Artist-In-Residence -- is a wood carver and environmental artist, educator, and activist. He has completed major public art projects in England, Australia, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, and the US. He is renowned for his large-scale "healing poles" that are located in the San Francisco Zoo, Shoreline Amphitheater, Bronx Zoo, and on private lands throughout California and Hawaii. He is currently teaching ecological woodcarving at the Windward Community College, Oahu, and building canoes with Master Woodcarver T'ione of Tonga.