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National Museum of the American Indian Welcomes Five New Members to Its Board of Trustees

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian has welcomed five new members to its board of trustees.

The museum's board of trustees was created by the 1989 legislation (National Museum of the American Indian Act) that established the museum. Board members serve staggered three-year terms.

The board has specific responsibilities in certain areas of the museum's governance, including management of the collection, use of the collection, budget and advice, and assistance regarding museum operations.

The Smithsonian's Secretary and Under Secretary for Museums and Culture, as well as the museum's director, are ex officio members of the board. New members are appointed by the Institution's Board of Regents.

Greg Sarris (Graton Rancheria) is the newly elected board chair, and Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo/Hopi/Tewa/Navajo) is the museum's director.

"I'm honored to have been elected as chair of the board of Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian," Sarris said. "I'm excited and look forward to working with the trustees."

The New Members

Donna L. Brown

Donna L. Brown (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) is president of Turtle Mountain Community College in Fargo, North Dakota. After receiving her associate degree in business from Sitting Bull College, she became a three-time graduate of the University of North Dakota earning a bachelor's degree in education, master's degree in counseling and doctorate in educational leadership. Brown has had a long career in higher education in a variety of student services roles. While at the University of North Dakota, she co-directed the campus suicide prevention program, coordinated the Indians Into

Medicine Program and was assistant director of American Indian Student Services. In 2007, she joined Minnesota State University Moorhead in counseling and student affairs, eventually becoming the associate vice president for diversity, inclusion and affirmative action. Brown serves on the American Indian Higher Education Consortium's board of directors and the Higher Learning Commission's Institutional Actions Council.

Quincalee Brown

Quincalee Brown is an independent consultant in the fields of water quality and association management and the retired president of QB Enterprises. Brown graduated from Wichita State University with a bachelor's degree in speech communications. She earned a master's degree in rhetoric and public address from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in speech communications and human relations from the University of Kansas. Brown's academic career included serving as an assistant director of speech and director of debate at Wichita State, where she coached a national championship team and was named debate coach of the year.

Brown has held leadership positions with a variety of prominent organizations, including the Water Environment Federation and the American Association of University Women. She became a certified association executive in 1985, and in 1989, she received the Key Award, the highest award given by the American Society of Association Executives. Brown serves on the board of trustees of Crow Canyon Archaeological Institute and Wichita State's national advisory council. She was a member of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute's advisory board.

Emil' Keme

Emil' Keme (K'iche' Maya Nation) is an Indigenous K'iche' Maya scholar, member of the Maya anticolonial collective Ixb'alamkyej Junajpu Wunaq' and an associate professor in the Department of Romance Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Keme's teaching and research focus on contemporary Latin American literatures and cultural studies, with emphasis on Indigenous literatures and social movements; Central American literatures and cultures; and postcolonial and subaltern studies theory. Keme is a member of the Critical Ethnic Studies Collective and a collaborator of UndocuCarolina. He also was a coordinator for the UNC–Duke Abiyala Working Group.

Keme is the author of *Le Maya Q'atzij/Our Maya Word: Poetics of Resistance in Guatemala* (2021), which won Cuba's prestigious Premio Literario Casa de las Américas in 2020, and *Maya Nationalisms and Postcolonial Challenges in Guatemala: Coloniality, Modernity, and Identity Politics* (2009).

Angela R. Riley

Angela R. Riley (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) is a professor of law at UCLA's School of Law and director of its Native Nations Law and Policy Center. She directs the university's Juris Doctor/Master of Arts joint degree program in law and American Indian studies, and she chairs the UCLA campus repatriation committee. Riley's research focuses on Indigenous peoples' rights, with a particular emphasis on cultural property and Native governance. Her work has been published in the nation's leading legal journals, including the *Yale Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Columbia Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal* and numerous others. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Oklahoma and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Riley began her career clerking for Chief Judge T. Kern of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Oklahoma. She then worked as a litigator at Quinn Emanuel in Los Angeles, specializing in intellectual property litigation. In 2003, she was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma, becoming the first woman and youngest justice to serve on the court. In 2010 and 2016, she was elected by her tribe's general council as chief justice. She worked as an evidentiary hearing officer for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and currently sits as an appellate justice at the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Court of Appeals and at the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Court of Appeals.

Riley is a member of the American Law Institute and a co-editor of the *Cohen's Handbook on Federal Indian Law*. She taught as the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School in fall 2015 and co-teaches the nation building course at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She previously served as co-chair for the United Nations-Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Policy Board, which has a dedicated mission to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Brian D. Vallo

Brian D. Vallo (Pueblo of Acoma) was governor of Pueblo of Acoma from 2019–2022. He has more than 30 years of experience working with tribal groups throughout the country in the areas of historic/cultural preservation, tourism, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, museum administration, development, marketing and the arts.

Vallo was previously director of the Indian Arts Research Center at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In that role, he led the collaborative curation of the collections and co-facilitated the development and web publication of the *Guidelines for Collaboration*. Vallo was director of historic preservation at Acoma and the founding director of its Haakú Museum. Vallo is a long-standing board member of Chamiza Foundation, and he has served on boards for Santa Fe Arts Commission and the Santa Fe Community Foundation. He has been a consultant to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Field Museum and DeYoung Museum. Vallo attended New Mexico State University, where he studied business administration and marketing; he later studied anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

The National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees

Greg Sarris (Graton Rancheria), chair
Robert R. McGhee (Poarch Creek), vice chair
Olivia Hoeft (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin), secretary
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Donna Brown (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)
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Ex Officio

Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian
Kevin Gover (Pawnee), Smithsonian's Under Secretary for Museums and Culture

About the Museum

In partnership with Native peoples and their allies, the National Museum of the American Indian fosters a richer shared human experience through a more informed understanding of Native peoples. The museum in Washington, D.C., is located on the National Mall at Fourth Street and Independence Avenue S.W. The museum in New York City is located at One Bowling Green. Connect with the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [AmericanIndian.si.edu](#).

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