

Journal #5890 from sdc 12.6.25

Sasquatch

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Sensing Sasquatch High Desert Museum, Bend, OR

Sasquatch's Past, Present and Future in the High Desert Region Explored in Works by Five Indigenous Artists March 2, 2024 – January 12, 2025



What does Sasquatch — also known as Bigfoot — represent to you? The unknown? Adventure? Mystery?

Native peoples of the Plateau have long known about, encountered, depicted and told stories about Sasquatch.

Sensing Sasquatch explores Sasquatch’s past, present and future in the High Desert region through an Indigenous lens. Works by five Indigenous artists will be on view, including: **Phillip Cash Cash, Ph.D.** (Nez Perce, Cayuse), **HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull** (Yakama, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Cree), **Charlene “Tillie” Moody** (Warm Springs), **Frank Buffalo Hyde** (Nez Perce, Onondaga) and **Rocky LaRock** (Salish).

“Sasquatch has captivated people in the region and, indeed, throughout the world,” says Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. “However, what many people don’t know is that Native Americans have had deeper relationships with Sasquatch throughout time.”

“Rather than the popular, mainstream view of Sasquatch, this exhibition shows Sasquatch as a protective entity for many Indigenous peoples of the High Desert,” says Whitelaw. “The exhibit reflects the reverence that Native peoples have for Sasquatch and will be centered on Indigenous art, voices and storytelling.”

The original word for Sasquatch is “Sasq’ets,” which comes from the Halq’emeylem language of Coast Salish First Nation peoples from southwestern British Columbia. Sasquatch is bipedal and much taller than a human. Sasquatch’s habitat is often associated with the wet rainforests of the coastal Pacific Northwest, but Sasquatch also lives beyond the green, lush climate. In the High Desert region, Sasquatch strides among the dry canyonlands, ponderosa pine forests and shrublands.

Popular depictions of Sasquatch can be found everywhere across America. Sasquatch is emblazoned on everything from t-shirts and road signs to beer cans and traveling mugs. Before entering the exhibition there will be an homage to the pop culture icon that Sasquatch has become, but visitors will be asked to leave these ideas and perceptions behind to consider another side of Sasquatch’s story. Outside the exhibition, a “bring-your-own” sticker interactive encourages visitors to reflect on the popularity and kitsch of mainstream Sasquatch representations. Visitors can place their stickers on the back of a car that’s driving away into the

distance — symbolically transporting away their Sasquatch stereotypes and entering into a new realm of experience and insight.

Visitors will be introduced to the Indigenous Plateau of the High Desert and the arid forests and canyonlands where Native peoples have long come into contact with and exchanged stories about Sasquatch. This environment is the opposite of the Pacific Northwest's rainforest landscape that is more often associated with Sasquatch. Visitors can see representations, stories and artwork about Sasquatch and how they vary between tribes and across regions. A contemporary carved mask by **Rocky LaRock (Salish)** shows visitors that knowledge of Sasquatch is both ancient and contemporary. A digital language map shows the various names for Sasquatch across the Indigenous Plateau and beyond.

The question of whether or not Sasquatch exists is irrelevant to the exhibit's theme since in many Indigenous traditions, Sasquatch is a bona fide living, breathing, sentient being. Indeed, for many tribes across North America, Sasquatch is regarded as an elder, a relative and a spiritual guide who appears to deliver important message to humans. So, when Sasquatch suddenly comes into view and interacts with humans, it can be a life-changing experience.

Sasquatch as a conscious being with the agency to communicate with humans is shown in direct opposition to the popular view of Sasquatch as shy and who runs and hides when humans approach. **Phillip Cash Cash's** (Nez Perce, Cayuse) commissioned 13 "Bigfoot Rattle," made of cottonwood, that Sasquatch would use. Cash Cash is an artist, writer, endangered language advocate and linguistic anthropology scholar. As a fluent Nez Perce speaker, he works with communities and professional organizations on projects of cultural advocacy, identity and communication.

Many Indigenous people say that a Sasquatch encounter is a blessing. In turn, many Indigenous peoples have sought to protect Sasquatch's anonymity and prevent human access to its wilderness habitat. **HollyAnna CougarTracks DeCoteau Littlebull's** (Yakama, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Cree) commissioned "Protector" sculpture — depicts Sasquatch as a protective "big sister" — not a predator but one who deserves respect and safeguarding. CougarTracks is an avid hunter and gatherer, grew up on the Yakama Indian Reservation and considers herself "a protector of KwiKwiyai, or Bigfoot. Bigfoot is considered the protector of all living things." As a contemporary and traditional artist, CougarTracks has many creative pursuits — illustration, animation, saddle making, beadwork, storytelling and writing.

Other art shows visitors that Sasquatch is a being that exists in the past, present and future. Sasquatch has appeared in Indigenous artworks and stories for thousands of years and this continues today. **Frank Buffalo Hyde's** (Nez Perce, Onondaga) commissioned large-scale futuristic Sasquatch painting with 3-D relief elements will illustrate the perception of Sasquatch as an interdimensional enigma who lurked in the forest for millennia to a modern being that continues to live among humans in the present. Buffalo Hyde attended the Santa Fe Fine Arts Institute and Institute of American Indians Arts in New Mexico. His artwork, he says on his website, combines modern culture and technology with Indigenous themes and tradition.

Sensing Sasquatch includes a yearlong series of associated public programs at the Museum that will explore and reflect on the past, present and future of Sasquatch as seen through an

Indigenous lens.

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Other programs/Prior Exhibits

### **[Indian Education: Intergenerational Learning, Healing and Advocacy](#)**

Renowned educator and activist Patricia Whitefoot (Yakama Nation) and Valerie Switzler (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs) will discuss how Plateau tribes are passing on Indigenous knowledge and traditions to future generations. Videos and other visuals will aid in telling stories of intergenerational learning and youth engagement. Learn how you can support current advocacy efforts [...]

### **[Press Release – Bartow](#)**

Rick Bartow: Animal Kinship - From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation September 20, 2024 - February 9, 2025 Rick Bartow: Animal Kinship, an exhibition from the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation by one of Oregon's most celebrated artists, opens September 20, 2024 at the High Desert [...]

### **[Press Release – Waterston Winner 2024](#)**

The two finalists for this year's Prize are Paige Buffington of Gallop, New Mexico and Charles Hood of Palmdale, Calif.

Buffington (Navajo) received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2013 and a Master of Fine Arts with a focus in poetry in 2015. She's won various writing awards for her poems.

### **[Press Release – “Creations of Spirit” Programs](#)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, February 23, 2023 BEND, OR — To offer visitors more opportunities to deepen their relationship with the newest High Desert Museum exhibit Creations of Spirit, the Museum has numerous [...]

### **[Imbued with Spirit](#)**

Posted on **[02.02.23](#)** by **[By Michelle Seiler, Assistant Director of Strategic Engagement](#)**

“The flute is an expression of one's essence toward the world. This expression can be joyful. It can be prayerful. It can be life giving. It is a recognition that I am a human being making a connection to the greater world.” — Phillip Cash Cash, Ph.D., Weyíletpuu (Cayuse) and Niimípuu (Nez Perce) tribes [...]

### **[Exhibition Closing: “Carrying Messages: Native Runners, Ancestral Homelands and Awakening”](#)**

Don't miss the last day of Carrying Messages: Native Runners, Ancestral Homelands and Awakening. Through the stories of four Indigenous runners, the exhibit highlights the historical significance of running in Native cultures in the Western United States and running as an expression of empowerment, sovereignty and cultural revitalization today. “Carrying Messages” is made possible with [...]

Carrying Messages: Native Runners, Ancestral Homelands and Awakening November 20, 2021 through April 3, 2022 At the 2019 Boston Marathon, Jordan Marie Brings Three White Horses Daniel (Kul Wicasa Oyate) ran each mile in honor of a different missing or murdered Indigenous woman, girl, Two Spirit or relative. She can tell you all 26 stories. [...]

Through the stories of four Indigenous runners, Carrying Messages: Native Runners, Ancestral Homelands and Awakening highlights the historical significance of running in Native cultures in the Western United States and running as an expression of empowerment, sovereignty and cultural revitalization today. “Carrying Messages” is made possible with support from

### **[Building Power and Change for Native People](#)**

The narrative about Native people in this country is laced with misconceptions, toxic stereotypes and systemic erasure. IllumiNative works to transform how Americans and key institutions think about and engage with Native peoples. Savannah Romero will discuss how IllumiNative is using research, narrative, and culture change strategies to disrupt invisibility and toxic misconceptions about Native [...]

### **[Virtual Talk: Changing the Way We See Native America](#)**

**Registration for this event is closed. If you registered, you will receive an email including the Zoom instructions and password by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 12. Over 10 years ago, Matika Wilbur began to develop a body of imagery and cultural representations of Native peoples. Her goal is to counteract one-dimensional stereotypes [...]**

### **[Canceled – Changing the Way We See Native America](#)**

Changing the Way We See Native America has been canceled. In this instance, we are offering refunds to those who request them. Please send your refund request, along with the email used to RSVP, to info@highdesertmuseum.org. We will be making efforts to reschedule this program. Please check our webpage for updates. Over 10 years [...]

### **[Still Speaking: Edward Curtis’s Lens and Native Women’s Enduring Art 10.22.18](#)**

At the start of the 20th century, amid changes brought about by industrialization and the forced removal of American Indians to reservations, Edward S. Curtis undertook the enormous project of photographing Native people and recording ethnographic information from over 80 tribes across North America. The project took him over 30 years. It also came at [...]

Posted in **[Our Blogs](#)** **[Telling Native American Stories Through Art](#)**

Posted on

08.10.17

Ben Pease has been awarded the Jury’s Choice Award at the High Desert Museum’s Art in the West exhibition for his 2017 work “Honor and Respect Come to Thee”. It was among 226 pieces submitted in response to a nationwide call to artists for the Museum’s annual juried art exhibition

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Biden to create two national monuments in California honoring tribes

“President Joe Biden plans to create two new national monuments in California in the coming days, according to two people briefed on the announcement, aiming to cement his environmental legacy before President-elect Donald Trump takes office. The two individuals spoke on the condition of anonymity because the announcement is not yet public. Biden will sign a proclamation establishing the roughly 644,000-acre Chuckwalla National Monument in Southern California near Joshua Tree National Park, the people said. The move would bar drilling, mining, solar-energy farms and other industrial activity in the area. It also would honor the wishes of several Native American tribes that have revered the landscape for thousands of years, and would expand local Latino communities’ access to outdoor recreation areas. ...

” [Read more from the Washington Post.](#)

SEE ALSO:

- [Biden to designate environmental national monuments in California](#), from CBS News
- [Biden to create two new California national monuments protecting tribal lands](#), from the LA Times



Eating Seaweed Could Make Cows Less Gassy, Slashing Methane Emissions From Grazing by Nearly 40 Percent

Beauty and history: The Sierra Valley Preserve and Nature Center includes trails, birdwatching and Indigenous demonstration sites

<https://renonr.com/2024/12/28/beauty-and-history-the-sierra-valley-preserve-and-nature-center-includes-trails-birdwatching-and-indigenous-demonstration-sites/>

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Across California, police are significantly more likely to use force, handcuff and point a firearm [when stopping Black and Native American youth](#), according to a recent report

## *El Salvador*

This country has ended its worldwide-first ban on metals mining.

A densely populated nation of 6M, El Salvador made history in 2017 by becoming the first country to completely ban metals mining. In 2019, though, President Nayib Bukele took power and promised aggressive economic reforms. One policy he sought to change was the mining ban, which he called “absurd.”

Last week, Bukele's allies in Congress voted 57-0 to overturn the mining ban, granting the government authority to oversee mining activities. The new law prohibits mercury use and protects some nature reserves, but opens most of the country to potential mining operations.

The president claims studies of just 4% of viable mining territory revealed gold deposits worth \$132B, equivalent to 380% of GDP. With poverty levels high, development standards low, and national debt at 85% of GDP, Bukele argues mining could bring “unprecedented economic and social development.”

The move was opposed by environmentalists – who argue mining poses unacceptable risks to water, soil, and biodiversity – as well as the Catholic Church, which is powerful in the country. But Bukele – whose gang crackdown has made him one of the world’s most popular leaders – said it was God himself who had enabled the shift: “This wealth, given by God, can be harnessed responsibly to bring unprecedented economic and social development to our people.



*“What I’ve often said is if you’re not improving the lives of the people you represent why are you getting out of bed every day?”*

*“That’s the job: improving the lives of the people you represent. Sometimes that happens in the millions, sometimes in the tens of thousands and sometimes it’s one person’s life.”*  
— — —former CA State Senator & Santa Clara Board of Supervisors Joe Simitian

### **Biden will create Chuckwalla National Monument, key source says**

“President Joe Biden will designate vast, ecologically rich swaths of California desert as the new Chuckwalla National Monument, a veteran conservationist with direct knowledge of the decision told The Desert Sun. The formal designation could come as soon as this week, although with planning underway for former President Jimmy Carter’s state funeral on Jan. 9, the source said, it could get pushed to later this month. President-elect Donald Trump will be inaugurated on Jan. 20. More than 620,000 acres of rare desert woodlands and washes that provide [critical habitat](#) for millions of migrating birds, endangered desert tortoise, iconic chuckwalla lizards and other rare, fragile wildlife and plants would be protected in the monument that would stretch south of Joshua Tree National Park and north of Interstate 10 across a [confluence](#) of two ecosystems, where the Mojave Desert meets the Colorado and the Sonoran Desert. ...” [Read more from the Desert Sun.](#) | [Read via Yahoo News.](#)

### **Las Vegas faces water supply worries as snowpack levels drop below expectations**



“The lack of significant rainfall in Las Vegas since July 13 is raising concerns about water supply, as the region relies heavily on snowpack from the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains for 90 percent of its drinking water. In November, Colorado’s snowpack levels reached 134 percent of the 30-year median, marking a 10-year high, according to the state’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, by the end of December, only one of Colorado’s eight regions remained above the median, with the others falling slightly or well below expected levels. Rebecca Mitchell, who represents Colorado on the Colorado River



Commission, emphasized the importance of planning for current conditions rather than relying on potential future improvements. ... ” [Read more from Channel 3.](#)

**Can new sprinklers save the Colorado River? This Utah program could be a blueprint for the West**

“Southern Utah is not your typical farm country. At a glance, there appears to be more red rock than green fields. To make a go of it, farms often huddle around the precious few rivers that snake across the sun-baked landscape. That’s the case for rancher Andy Rice, who raises hundreds of hungry goats and sheep in the town of Boulder — population 227 — just outside Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. In a bright green meadow packed with more than a dozen types of grasses, clovers and flowers, Rice reached down to pluck a makeshift bouquet. He has intentionally planted diverse species here over the years to improve the ranch’s sustainability. “Isn’t that beautiful?,” he said, holding up a handful of flora. “On top of everything else that’s cool about it, it’s just really pretty.” ... ” [Continue reading at KUNC.](#)

**Shoshone water rights purchase gains funding momentum**

“Numerous Western Slope entities this year stepped up in a big way to financially support a regional effort to purchase major Colorado River water rights that are pivotal to how the river is managed. Now the focus has turned to trying to secure a similarly sizable amount of federal funding to help seal the deal. In December 2023, the Colorado River District and Xcel Energy agreed on a deal for the district to buy Xcel’s historic water rights associated with the Shoshone hydroelectric power plant in Glenwood Canyon for \$99 million. Those rights include a 1902 right to flows of 1,250 cubic feet per second and a 1929 right to flows of 158 cfs. Due to their size and seniority, and the fact that the water diverted by the plant returns to the river, the rights help assure sizable flows downstream of Glenwood Canyon by prioritizing flows for the plant at times when there isn’t enough water in the river to also allow diversions upstream by entities with junior water rights. ... ” [Read more from the Grand Junction Sentinel.](#)



**STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

**USDA to Host Jan. 8 Webinar on Resources to Improve Rural Economies and Enhance Local Arts and Community Centers**

**WASHINGTON, Jan. 3, 2025** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today is inviting rural leaders to join a webinar on **Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. ET**, to learn about resources to invest in local arts and community centers, which are key to enhancing economic growth and quality of life in rural areas.

To register, visit [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).  
To learn more, read the full Stakeholder Announcement.



<https://rollcall.com/2025/01/03/fun-facts-119th-congress-house-senate/>

Remember to watch Committee assignments carefully!

## Scholarships (M-W) with February 1 Deadline

|                                                                                                     |              |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <a href="#">Mercatus Center PhD Fellowship</a>                                                      | \$160,000    | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Michigan State University Michigan Resident Scholarship</a>                             | Full-Tuition | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Michigan State University Non-Resident Scholarship</a>                                  | \$60,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Military Family Support Trust</a>                                                       | \$12,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Mycological Society of America Awards</a>                                               | \$10,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">NAJA Scholarships</a>                                                                   | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">NGC Scholarship</a>                                                                     | \$4,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Notre Dame of Maryland University Art Scholarship Competition</a>                       | \$20,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program</a>                                             | Full-Tuition | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Oregon Barber and Hairdresser Grant Program</a>                                         | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Oregon Chafee Education and Training Grant</a>                                          | \$5,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Pink Ribbon Scholarship</a>                                                             | \$1,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Post University Malcolm Baldrige Scholarship</a>                                        | \$130,096    | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Presbyterian College Music Scholarships</a>                                             | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Regis College Catholic High Schools Scholarship</a>                                     | \$16,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Robert Lewis Baker Memorial Scholarship</a>                                             | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Roothbert Fund Scholarships</a>                                                         | \$7,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Sarah Scott Schofield Scholarship</a>                                                   | \$2,500      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">SME Education Foundation Scholarships</a>                                               | \$20,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Stephens College First-Year Scholarships</a>                                            | Full-Tuition | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">SUNY International Merit Scholarships- First-Year Students</a>                          | \$54,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Taylor University Cultural Diversity Scholarship</a>                                    | \$3,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Temple University Academic Merit Scholarships</a>                                       | \$40,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Temple University Broad Street Finish Line Scholarship</a>                              | \$20,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Temple University Scholarships</a>                                                      | Full-Tuition | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">The Dr. Brian L. Davis Marine Biology, Conservation, and Education Scholarship Fund</a> | \$20,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Tillman Scholars Program</a>                                                            | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Trinity University Scholarship</a>                                                      | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <a href="#">UMW Albert &amp; Ethel Bender Scholarship</a>                            | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Arnold &amp; Cora Benson Scholarship</a>                             | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW DI Emerick Scholarship</a>                                           | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Foundation Scholarships</a>                                          | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Freshman Honor Scholarship</a>                                       | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Helm Memorial Scholarship</a>                                        | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Jane Buttrey Scholarship</a>                                         | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">UMW Morningstar Traditional &amp; Non-Traditional Scholarship</a>        | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Dayton First-year Merit Scholarships</a>                   | \$132,000    | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Nebraska Esports Scholarship</a>                           | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Nebraska Robert &amp; Todd Storz Broadcast Scholarship</a> | \$8,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Nebraska Robert McCall Scholarship</a>                     | \$8,000      | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of New Mexico WUE Scholarship</a>                             | \$69,428     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Pennsylvania Grant</a>                                     | Full-Tuition | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Pennsylvania Mayor's Scholarship</a>                       | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Pennsylvania Named Scholarship</a>                         | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Tennessee Chattanooga Chancellor's Scholars</a>            | \$20,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Tennessee- Chattanooga Mocs Scholarship</a>                | \$12,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">University of Tennessee- Chattanooga Provost's Scholars Program</a>      | \$16,000     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Van Swearingen Scholarship</a>                                           | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Western Undergraduate Exchange Plus at University of New Mexico</a>      | \$91,676     | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Wheelock College of Education &amp; Human Development Scholarships</a>   | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |
| <a href="#">Wisconsin Professional Police Association Scholarship Program</a>        | Varies       | February 01, 2025 |

***Hope readers plow through these even if not looking for a scholarship. They are interesting reflections about what educational establishments are doing, new careers being emphasized with scholarships, and ideas about what you might create in your own area.***

***If a scholarship that interests you is out of your geographic region, do research locally to see if it is duplicated in your state.***