



December 30, 2022

Four years ago this spring, we created the Indigenous Peoples' Initiative (IPI) to focus on our commitment to press and challenge the narratives and issues that affect Indigenous people across our nation. Indian country faces an amalgam of issues that continue to affect Indigenous communities from our Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiians, and Native American populations. Over the years, the IPI has continued to work closely with tribal leaders, lawmakers, organizations, and other individuals to advance critical policies within the state of Arizona and Indian Country as a whole. While there is still a substantial amount of work left to do, the organization is proud of the significant strides it has made in improving the narrative surrounding Indigenous people.

This year, President Biden recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day and said that recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day is a "Matter of dignity, justice, and good faith." While this recognition may seem trivial, we believe it is consequential in ensuring that Indigenous people have a seat at the table and that our history is told from a perspective of truth. Moreso, in partnership with two world-renowned academic institutions (Barnard College and Columbia University) IPI held an event with tribal leaders, school administrators, distinguished guests, and students to come together and celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. As a university, this is the first time an Ivy League institution and its leaders have chosen to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and participate in the events of the day. This signals a shift in the paradigm that people have of Indigenous people and provides me with hope and reassurance that we will be able to accomplish one of our goals: to have Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrated in the not-so-distant future.

While we have done a profusion of work to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day, we have put in a large amount of work to discuss the future trajectory of the organization. With the guidance of Vice Chairwoman Clara Pratte and the board, we have developed plans to move the organization into the new year. With the board's help, IPI was happy to welcome Ms. Rania Batrice, Sophie Schwartz, and Tristan Espinoza to the executive board. We have also expanded our advisory committee and have plans to bring on a couple of new people in the new year. As we move into the new year, one of the incoming projects that we are excited about is our tribal advisory committee. Under the guidance of board members Schwartz and Espinoza, we are developing a

tribal advisory committee that will be composed of tribal leaders and liaisons that are representative of Native Hawaiians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Americans. The tribal advisory committee will serve as a guide for the decision-making of the executive board and the policy work that IPI chooses to engage in. We believe this will be an integral way to advance policy that affects Indigenous communities

In addition to our work within the United States, the IPI is excited to announce that over the next year we will be taking further steps to increase our presence within Indigenous communities, not only in the United States but North and South America. This year, I was excited to Invite Juan Quintana Lopera to serve on the IPI's advisory committee. During Juan's tenure, they have strengthened IPI's relationship with the United Nations (UN) and the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC). Since working with Juan, we have seen the extraordinary work that they have been doing in Colombia. Juan started Bonda, an organization dedicated to safeguarding the future of traditional artisanship and of those who keep it alive. We are happy to continue our work to empower Indigenous peoples both at home and abroad.

As the organization has progressed we have also made significant headway in creating partnerships that will help develop, execute, and implement projects that the IPI is working on. Over this past summer, IPI was able to develop a partnership with the Smithsonian Institute to work on projects that would focus on cultural preservation. Moreover, the IPI has created a partnership with the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET). We look forward to sharing more of our work in the coming year.

One of the objectives unique to the IPI is our non-partisan political stance. Indigenous politics, livelihoods, languages, and cultures are not a monolith. As an organization, we believe that inspiring change will require more than just speaking out – it will require listening as well. It will require listening to those with whom you disagree, and being prepared to compromise. With this in mind, we hope to be an effective force within the landscape of Indigenous politics and communities. To accomplish our mission we were able to establish a partnership with one of the most distinguished consulting firms in the world Booz|Allen|Hamilton (BAH). With this partnership, we think that we can utilize the resources of BAH to impact policy that will benefit Indigenous communities.

While there are a plethora of challenges that face Indigenous communities in the United States and across the globe, we remain optimistic and willing to face the challenges ahead. I believe that optimism requires us to see the world as it is, but we must believe and behave in a way that creates a better future for generations to come. Though we may feel overwhelmed by negative headlines, we must continue to remind ourselves that none of us have the right to sit back and expect the world and global community to get better. We have an obligation to do everything we can to set our trajectory in the right direction. In this way, I have found that optimism can be a

powerful call to action. The more optimists that are working for a better future, the more reasons there are to be optimistic. As an organization, we move forward with a duty to heal the divides that have held back progress, and look forward with a vision of the world as it is, but more importantly, as we want it to be going into this new year.

Thank you for helping grow the IPI. We wish you a happy new year.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dylan O. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dylan" being the most prominent part.

Dylan O. Baca  
Chairman & CEO