

Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) and
Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP)

Council on Foundations | Annual Conference 2010 | Denver, Colorado
Site Session and Plenary Frame

April 27 & 28, 2010

JUSTICE, CHANGE and INNOVATION

Shared Experiences and Common Goals in Colorado: *Partnering with Philanthropy to Chart New Paths to Justice and Lasting Change*

Context and Summary:

The session will take full advantage of the annual conference's locale in Southeast Colorado by bringing to full life the shared experiences and challenges facing rural America, and the history and progress made by Native American and Asian American communities in this region. This site session will provide an overnight immersion experience that takes participants to three sites in Southeast Colorado: **Koshare Indian Museum** on Otero Junior College campus, in La Junta, the Grenada War Relocation Center, also known as **Camp Amache**, the only Japanese-American World War II internment camp not sited on tribal land, but which is a mere 30 miles from the third location, **Sand Creek**, site of the Sand Creek Massacre, one of the most violent conflicts between government militia and Native Americans on historical record.

The session will fully examine both the history of forced relocation that these communities share in common, and more importantly the enduring promise that philanthropy can make in terms of lasting, positive impact on these and all communities as they grow in the future. The session will also examine changing dynamics and issues between philanthropy and community development in rural America, coupled with changing demographics.

These communities and the site session share a common narrative: a history of forced relocation, isolation, and poverty that continues even today as demonstrated in the treatment of communities in the wake of disasters such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. Philanthropy has many opportunities to impact and to model how society responds in such times of crises. The session represents a critical and important leadership role for the Council to make clear to communities across a spectrum of interests the Council's understanding that *place matters*. Because every member of the philanthropic sector can share this context and history, Colorado is a perfect illustration of this crossroads.

This will be a session and site visit developed for broad attendance by Council conference attendees and featured as a key element of the Council's programming.

Learning objectives/goals:

- 1) To illuminate and understand the place-based context of Native Americans and Asian Americans in Colorado and the region, especially in rural areas;
- 2) To surface the historical, geographic and cultural experience of Native American, Asian American and migrant rural communities in Colorado, and to explicitly identify common threads and compelling connections to conditions in those communities today;
- 3) To identify key strategic opportunities for philanthropic investment and change in rural populations, Native American and Asian American communities today; and,

Relevant program areas addressed:

The session may address or reach the following topical areas of interest to grantmakers: civil and human rights, civic participation, culture and the arts, education, community and economic development, and the built and natural environment.

Proposed format/logistics for program:

The site session will capitalize on travel across distances to enhance participants' inner learning journey. The session will include a visual audit and physical tour of the Koshare Indian Museum on the Otero Junior College campus, Camp Amache (officially, Granada War Relocation Center) and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. The session will also include a dinner featuring a facilitated conversation among a set of panelists, respondents and session participants.

Preliminary details:

Date: Tuesday, April 27

Time: Depart Denver Tuesday, April 27th, 2 pm; return Wednesday, April 28th, 8:00 pm

No. participants: 50, approximately

Meals: afternoon refreshment, reception provided on-site, morning refreshment, lunch

Session content, panelists/respondents, and possible profiles:

The session will include written materials, in-person discussion, cultural entertainment and audio/visual presentations en route to the sites in order to provide grantmakers with necessary context prior to arrival. A briefing/convening session en route to La Junta will focus on social innovations and collaborative models in rural philanthropy. Additionally a briefing session will be held over lunch, in between the visits to Camp Amache and Sand Creek, focusing on the role philanthropy has played in Native American and Asian American communities, and the significant impact it can make with deeper, more informed investments. The ride home will provide a chance for optional reflection, sharing and celebration.

Panelists/respondents are still to be determined but may include individual representatives from the following profiles: community-based, public interest/non-profit; regional and national philanthropy; and public sector/government.

Target audience:

The target audience for the site session is grantmakers, across a full range of profiles: private, community, corporate, national, regional and local. It also includes colleague organizations, funder groups and collaborations. Community-based organizations and public interest advocates are also an important voice to include in the conversation.