



# SNCC

## QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2017

**From the Tribal Front: presenting the work and values of the Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative in our quarterly newsletter!**



**SANTA FE, New Mexico** | As you read this, thousands are gathering around the globe to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This marks 24 years since the UN General Assembly proclaimed today an international holiday, symbolizing its commitment to solving the problems indigenous peoples face. In 2007, the UN went a step further by adopting the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which many believed reflected a new era for indigenous people in global politics. While the Declaration has no legally binding effect, proponents hoped that it would propel political action at local and national levels, where indigenous people historically have had little or no representation.

As designers and activists serving Native communities around the United States, we are acutely aware of the lack of trickle-down this legislation has had. In the United States, where we have focused our work over the last eight years, 567 federally recognized tribes still face barriers to adequate housing, transportation, healthcare, food, education, political agency, and cultural and environmental resources. As we celebrate the international attention being given to our world's indigenous peoples, we are soberly reminded of the challenges ahead and the important role SNCC will continue to play in Indian Country.

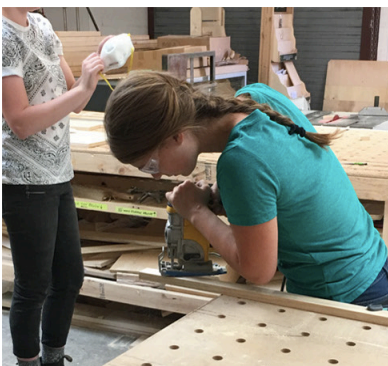
**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE** | Providing easy access to the tools and resources we've been developing over the past eight years is of critical importance to us. We just redesigned our website to make it even easier for you to engage with our work. Check it out: <https://www.sustainablenativecommunities.org/>

**SNCC FEATURED IN RURAL VOICES MAGAZINE** | Executive Director Joseph Kunkel's article, "Bridging Boundaries: Contributing to Quality of Life on the Reservation" has been featured in the summer edition of Rural Voices Magazine, a publication from the Housing Assistance Council. You can read more about the importance of Indigenous Placemaking and Placekeeping in the tribal development process here.

**SNCC FEATURED ON KSFR-FM RADIO** | This past Monday, August 7th, we had the pleasure of being interviewed by Santa Fe Public Radio's News Director, Ellen Berkovitch, on our work around Indian Country. You can listen to the full 25-minute interview on KSFR-FM's website.



**TOKATA YOUTH CENTER, Ft. Thompson, SD** | We are excited to be supporting the design of a new 40,000 square foot building to house the Tokata Youth Center on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation. Over the past two years, the Tokata Youth Center has operated out of the nearby Suicide Prevention Building, serving over 150 young people through after-school daycare, sports activities, and teen nights. This Spring, the Tokata Youth Center engaged SNCC to deliver a schematic design and marketing package to support the project. The SNCC team has made several visits to Crow Creek in the course of planning and design work for future housing on a contiguous site. This on-the-ground experience, together with a conceptual design process carried out with the Tokata Youth Center team, forms the basis for our design proposal, which responds to community needs, cultural protocols, site conditions, and our client's budget. The two-story Center and the attached multi-purpose gym contain a basketball court, a cafeteria, a commercial kitchen, community and TYC program spaces. The design features passive solar heating and cooling, locally-fabricated insulated concrete panel walls, and a soaring atrium that will vertically connect the common spaces on both levels. We look forward to the continuation of the promising Tokata Youth Center and housing development work with the Crow Creek Sioux community.

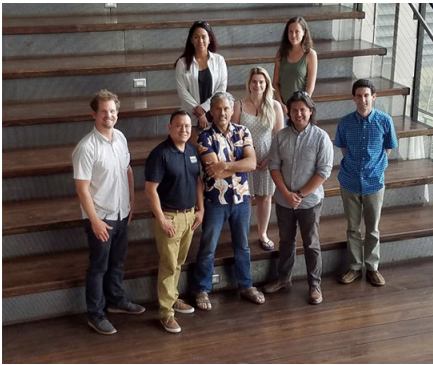


**SFAI DESIGN WORKSHOP, Santa Fe, NM** | With an increasing number of people on the move, both by choice and necessity, designing flexible and multi-functional structures has become a paramount concern for many architects. Mobile, temporary, and environmentally-responsive structures have existed since humans began constructing settlements and many of these vernaculars (the yurt, tipi, tent, thatch hut, wigwam, etc.) have influenced contemporary exploration of mobile forms. With the advent of the machine age and pre-fab technology in the mid-twentieth century, designers gained a range of tools to develop new prototypes that addressed the needs and challenges of our ever-changing world. Our third annual Summer Design Workshop responded to this need for temporary, multi-purpose architecture.

Over four weeks our students, ages 16-19, worked both independently and collaboratively to design, iterate, and fabricate a mobile listening station that brings art and design into the community context of

Siler-Rufina Arts District in Santa Fe, NM. Through lecture, sketching, mapping, interviewing artists, and hands-on designing and building, the students developed many of the skills we value at SNCC. The studio culminated at the AHA: Art of the Machine Festival, which served to bring awareness to the incredibly vibrant and multifaceted art culture that has emerged in Santa Fe's gritty industrial center.

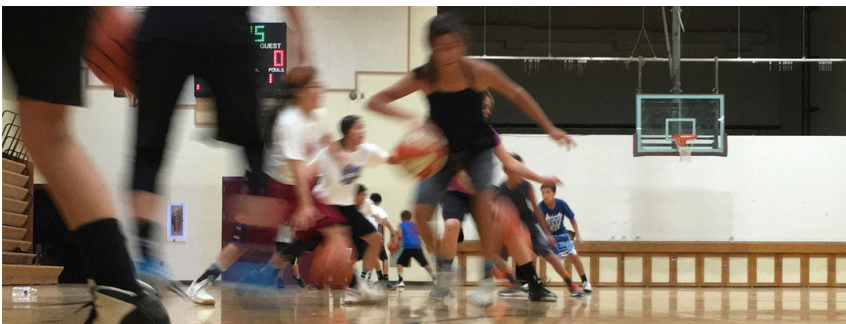
To learn more about Design Workshop, visit SFAI's website. Know of a student who may be interested in next year's studio? Please email us at [info@sustainablenativecommunities.org](mailto:info@sustainablenativecommunities.org).



**AOTEAROA DELEGATION CONNECTS WITH SNCC, Seattle, WA + Tempe, AZ + Santa Fe, NM** | A Maori delegation from Aotearoa—the Maori word for their Native New Zealand—spent three weeks meeting with indigenous groups and visiting Native North American sites this Spring. Happily, SNCC team members were able to connect with the Delegation in both the Pacific Northwest and the American Southwest. The Maori began their North American Study Tour by attending the Indigenous Architecture & Design Symposium in Ottawa, Canada. Thereafter, the group travelled to the Seattle area where they met with Daniel Glenn, of SNCC and 7 Directions Architects. They visited several projects designed by 7 Directions including the Puyallup Longhouse Housing and Community Center and the Skokomish Community Center. They also visited some of architect John Paul Jones's projects including the Evergreen Longhouse and the Fiber Arts Studio at Evergreen College, and the Chief Seattle Club.

Next, the Maori flew to the Southwest to connect with SNCC team members Joseph Kunkel and Nathaniel Corum at the ASU School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, a symposium centered on funding pathways for Native American housing. While in the Southwest, the Delegation also visited SNCC Case Study projects Devine Legacy in Phoenix and Owe'neh Bupingeh in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. Before heading home to Aotearoa, the Maori joined a Symposium at University of New Mexico's Indigenous Planning Institute (ID+Pi) focusing on indigenous planning, site design and related policy concerns.

Quite a journey! It's exciting to be a part of the strengthening of international indigenous connections and sharing the ways that various Native communities have undertaken building, community and urban development projects. These face-to-face conversations went beyond architecture to consider planning, policy, culture, and the legal and financial aspects of housing development in the United States, Canada, and Aotearoa. The SNCC team looks forward to continued dialogue with our Maori colleagues and the promise of the 2020 International Indigenous Housing & Architecture Conference in Aotearoa.



**NORTHERN CHEYENNE BASKETBALL CLINIC, MT** | This year marked the sixth anniversary of the Northern Cheyenne Basketball Clinic (NCBC). This week-long youth development program combines basketball fundamentals and skills with physical fitness education, healthy nutrition mentoring, and youth leadership activities. We're delighted with the continuity of this key sports and health program and see its impacts in overall well-being among Native youth across the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

The Clinic began in 2011 after SNCC's Executive Director Joseph Kunkel and Alick Dearie, Founding Principal of GriD Architects, led a summer-term design studio at Northern Cheyenne for University of Maryland's School of Architecture Planning and Preservation graduate students. Recognizing the need for more immediate impact within the community to create opportunities for youth, several high school coaches from Paul VI High School, a top ranked basketball high school joined the Clinic facilitation team. The NCBC has progressively grown in size and has resulted in improved access to community services including the Tribal Wellness Program, the Suicide Prevention Program, and the Youth Leadership Development Program.

This year, we partnered again with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council as part of their Tribal Prevention Initiative, bringing substantial financial support to host coaches from around the nation including: Curtis Symonds from Washington, DC, who served the WNBA's Washington Mystics as their Chief Operating Officer; Steve Bayless, a former NBA player from Seattle, WA; and Mitchell Waterman from Dayton OH, a former collegiate basketball player and father of Kelsey Mitchell who plays for Ohio State University women's basketball team.

Reservation-wide, people look forward to this annual summer event. Basketball brings the community together at a time when there are few youth programs. The 2017 Clinic served over 80 tribal youth, aged 6 to 18, from all of the Reservation's five districts. We look forward to this ongoing sports programming for the Northern Cheyenne youth and will continue to share inspiring and impactful stories we experience each summer on the Rez.

**Thank you for reading our Quarterly Newsletter and for your interest in sustainable and culturally appropriate design for Native communities!**