



TARA MITCHELL

Tribal Historic Preservation
Officer

Profile

Currently serves as the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. Over 3 years of experience collaborating, advising, and consulting with museums, agencies, institutions, and tribal nations throughout the country. Oversees Tribal Historic Preservation Department activities, which include Section 106 consultations, NAGPRA consultations, grant management, projects, tribal collections, archives, and community outreach.

Education

**Bachelor of Arts in
Indigenous and American
Indian Studies**

Haskell Indian Nations University
*2013

A.A. Liberal Arts

Haskell Indian Nations University
*2011

Skills

- Knowledge in Tribal History
- Community Outreach
- Grant and Project Management
- Beadwork Repair and Care
- Communication
- Networking
- Collaboration
- Time Management
- Attention to Detail
- Problem Solving

Museum Experience

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – 2021 to Present

Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

- Collaborate and consult with multiple institutions throughout the country that hold Potawatomi ancestors and items
- Recommend proper storage of items and proper care for ancestors using the tribes Duty of Care recommendations
- Responsible for the care of items in the tribes collection

Museum Projects

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

- Currently working on beadwork pieces commissioned by the Beach Museum for their permanent collection
- Served as a panelist for the "Kansas Schools, Native Americans, and the New Deal," organized in conjunction with the Beach Museum of Art exhibition, "To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Public Schools, 1900-1950"
- Created the label for the bandolier bag displayed in the exhibit that was made by one of our tribal members in the 1930s
- Held a beading demonstration at the Art Winter Party on Dec. 7, 2023

Spencer Museum of Art – Spooner Hall

- Worked with the Collection Management team to identify Potawatomi items such as beadwork, blankets, arrows, and moccasins
- We are currently working on a Care and Conservation Agreement for our items

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit

- Selected as the Project Coordinator for the Americans Exhibit that will be on display on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation in 2026
- Will have the opportunity to create a companion exhibit which will showcase our tribal community and history