



CURTIS LEGACY
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

FROM JOHN

What an incredible year we had at the Curtis Legacy Foundation. I am so honored that I have the good fortune to keep the legacy of my great gramps alive and flourishing.

While COVID tried once again to slow us down this year, we still were able to find and meet people to join our Descendants Project, which we hope to wrap up in 2024.

The Foundation published our second book in our *Unpublished Series*, and I am so proud of how many copies we continue to donate to tribal libraries across the Great Plains region.

It was such a delight to present the Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud Reservation, in Mission, SD with a donation as part of our Give Back Program. They are doing amazing work and I look forward to seeing their success.

A special thank you to our passionate Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters who allow us to preserve the legacy of Curtis while providing important educational opportunities.

And last but not least - **thank you** to the generous donors for trusting the Curtis Legacy Foundation. We truly appreciate your support and cannot wait to show you what 2024 has in store!



John E. Graybill, President Curtis Legacy Foundation

OUR MISSION

We deepen understanding of Native American cultures by creating learning opportunities, using the work of Edward Curtis as our platform.

KEY PROGRAMS

Descendants Project - amplifies the voices of Native Peoples whose ancestors were photographed by Edward Curtis more than 100 years ago. For the past four years, we've reached out to living descendants and asked to interview, photograph, and videotape them as they spoke about their experiences as Native People in the 21st century.

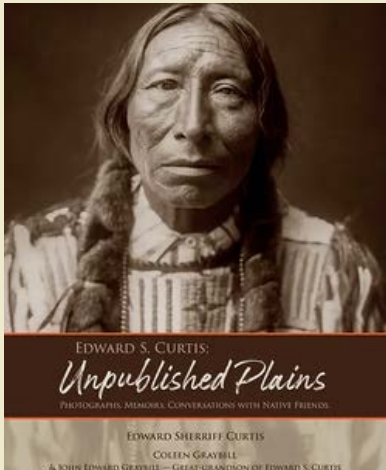
The Curtis Historical Preservation Project - sustains the Curtis legacy through the development of educational exhibits; the publication of books that include unpublished Curtis works; and the creation of a Curtis Institute.

Give Back - We believe it is our duty to give back to the Native communities where Edward Curtis worked. Every year, we give a portion of the donations and book sales receipts we receive to support Native American/Alaska Native organizations.

Curtis Census - our program to identify and locate all known sets and volumes of *The North American Indian*. This census will determine, as accurately as possible, the actual number of complete or partial sets that were printed and their present locations.

OUR 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

1



In August, we released *Unpublished Plains*, the second book of the *Unpublished Series*.

2



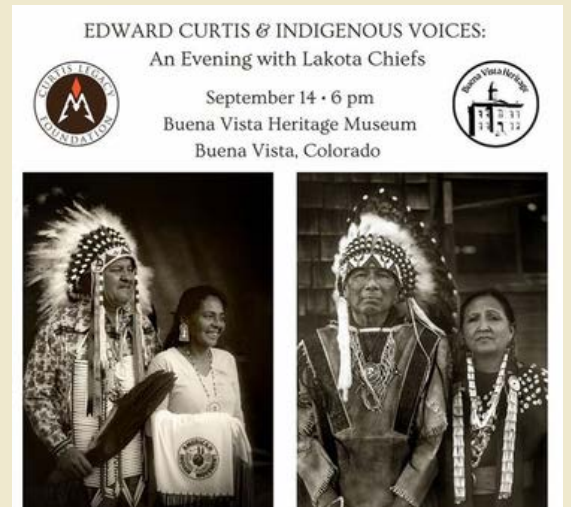
The Descendants Project continues with the addition of Vanessa Red Hawk Thompson.

3



Our Give Back Program supported the Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud Reservation, Mission, SD.

4



Exhibits and presentations continue across the country highlighting the work of Edward S. Curtis.

A LOOK BACK

January

Exhibit at Harbor History Museum,
Gig Harbor, WA

February

Researched images for the *Unpublished Series* at
the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

March

Celebrated Woman's History Month with a series
of photos by Curtis

April

John presented the Descendants Project at Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of
the West, Scottsdale, AZ

Attended the Reservation Economic Summit
(RES2023). Met many descendants

May

Planning began on a major Descendants
Project exhibit for 2027

June

Attended a seminar at Denver Art Museum
on curating Native American exhibits

July

Photographed descendant
Vanessa Red Hawk Thompson

Attended the Sun Dance on Rosebud
Reservation in SD as guests of Chief John
Spotted Tail, Tamara Stands and Looks
Back-Spotted Tail, and Medicine Man Henry
Quick Bear

Published second volume of our *Unpublished
Series* – *Edward S. Curtis: Unpublished Plains*

August

Gallup Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial. Attended the
Pow-Wow and Coleen and John judged the Art Show,
volunteered over 80 hours, Gallup, NM

September

Exhibit and presentations at Buena
Vista Heritage Museum
of *Unpublished Plains*

Guest speakers: Chief Henry and Gloria Red Cloud,
Chief John Spotted Tail, and Tamara Stands and
Looks Back-Spotted Tail, Buena Vista, CO

October

Elected Teri Fraizer (Laguna Pueblo)
to the Board of Directors

November

Recorded podcast with Clay Jenkinson for *Listening to
America* that aired December 18, 2023

December

Two-day exhibit held at Valley Fine Art
Edward S. Curtis: Unpublished Plains,
Aspen, CO

JOIN US IN 2024

A SNAPSHOT OF AN AMAZING YEAR!



John visiting Puye Cliff Dwellings in Los Alamos, NM



Photographing Vanessa Red Hawk Thompson in Mission, SD



Signing books at the Rainbow Man, Santa Fe, NM



Janet, John and Coleen signing books at Harbor Museum in Gig Harbor, WA



Coleen and John presenting at Harbor Museum in Gig Harbor, WA



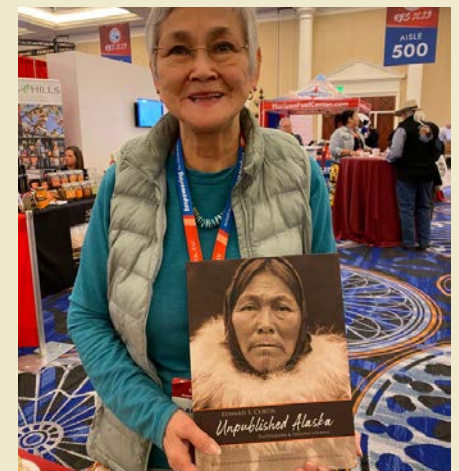
John presenting at the Western Spirit Museum in Scottsdale, AZ



John volunteering at the Gallup Inter-tribal Indian Ceremonial, Gallup, NM



Chief Spotted Tail, John, and Glen Marshall, Club Director at Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud Reservation, Mission, SD



Descendant of Lena Williams who is featured on the cover of *Unpublished Alaska*

OUR 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you for giving your time and expertise!

John Graybill

Ann Bonin

Dr. Liz Ross (Iñupiaq)

Tamara Stands and Looks Back-Spotted Tail

Tim Greyhavens

(Sicangu Lakota)

Janet Parcher

Coleen Graybill

Denise Wartes

Teri Fraizer (Laguna Pueblo)

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR BOARD

Teri is an artist and “Toon Blaster” who believes in the power and intelligence of Orcas to inform humanity.

Janet has enjoyed eating lunch at the top of Mt Rainier.

Liz has four martial arts black belts: 5th degree black belt in Shorin Ryu Karate Do; 5th degree black belt in Go Ju Ryu Karate Do; 1st degree black belt in weapons, 3rd degree black belt in Kempo, and a brown belt in Judo.

Coleen finished backpacking the 567 miles (over 109,000’ in elevation gain) of the Colorado Trail in 2023.

John created custom dual exhaust systems for muscle cars back in the 1970s.

Tim’s last name appears in The Lord of the Rings (Greyhavens).

Ann is of the Hippie Generation and has a collection of over 100 Theater Playbills.

Denise lived a subsistence lifestyle for many years on the tundra and edge of the Arctic Ocean.

Tamara lives within her ancestral homelands where she creates art pieces. She loves being a Lakota, believes in Sasquatch, little people that live in the streams, and most importantly, believes in her children.

A SPECIAL THANKS

To each and every one of our volunteers and supporters, we couldn't continue the Legacy of Edward S. Curtis without your generous ongoing support!

To the Foundations who support and believe in the projects and work we are doing, our sincere appreciation!



JOSEPH HENRY

Edmondson
FOUNDATION

MacFarlane Foundation

Lacy Foundation

WAYS TO SUPPORT

The Curtis Legacy Foundation relies on the generous support of individuals and foundations to support our philanthropic efforts in preserving the legacy of Edward S. Curtis. Thank you for your trust and belief in us.

[Make a Donation](#)

[Purchase or Donate a Book](#)

[Make a Gift from your Donor Advised Fund](#)



CURTIS LEGACY
F O U N D A T I O N[®]

www.curtislegacyfoundation.org

