

Northwest Longhouse Learning Center Proposal (Oct 2005)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Northwest Longhouse Learning Center is to provide a multi-service facility on the University of Washington campus in support of Native American cultural education and learning to take place.

Mission:

To provide a central place for the community to meet, honor, preserve, advance, and disseminate the traditional knowledge, history, and cultures of the Indigenous people of the Northwest.

Objectives:

- To provide a facility structure, on the University of Washington campus, that honors and represents Native American communities and Indigenous architecture.
- To offer space for learning and understanding the past, present, and discuss the future of Native American Indian cultures of the Northwest.
- To offer a central space for University of Washington American Indian Studies coursework to be offered.
- To offer a meeting place for University of Washington Native American student groups.
- To offer a meeting place for the University of Washington Native American community.
- To offer a meeting place for the University of Washington campus community to learn and appreciate indigenous architecture and cultures.
- To offer a meeting place for Northwest Native American community to meet.
- To offer a meeting place for the greater communities of Seattle and Washington state.

Background:

The University of Washington Native American Advisory Board (NAAB), organized in 1993 by the Office of the Vice President for Minority Affairs, represents and promotes the interests of Native American cultural issues in the outreach, recruitment, retention, promotion, graduation and support of students, faculty and staff.

The term “Native American” is inclusive of those Indigenous persons of the North American continent without regard to regional, political, or historical boundaries or divisions, who might also consider themselves American Indian or Alaska Native.

The Native American Advisory Board (NAAB), in December 2003, stated that it believes that a central building facility should be constructed on the University of Washington campus to house Native American educational activities, including but not limited to:

- American Indian Studies Classes
- The Sovereignty Library
- Special Native American campus presentations
- Native American student organization activities
- General campus use
- Local city, county, and regional Native organization/community use.

The NAAB believes the building is a unique instructional opportunity to showcase the Indigenous living cultures of the Northwest.

The following tribal governments and organizations have expressed support for the University of Washington Longhouse Learning Center:

- Quinault Nation (Committed: timber)
- Skokomish Tribe of Indians
- Jamestown S'Klallum
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.