

## **COMMISSION'S PURPOSE:**

The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission acts as an advisory body available to the City of Tulsa and Tulsa County on relations with the Native American community in the Greater Tulsa Area. The Commission's role is to promote cooperation and understanding between Indian people, local and state governments, and the broader community. It supports the development of individual and community potential, encourages educational opportunities, and helps preserve and promote Native American culture and achievements.

## **Activities to Note for 2025**

- Goal for 2025 to Strengthen the Commission:
  - Initiated a review of the City Ordinance relating to the Commission and the Commission's Bylaws. We have revised the Ordinance and it is moving through the process for Commission and City approval.
  - Make recommendations to fill Commission vacancies with individuals who will participate in Commission goals and activities and continue the effort to diversify the tribal nations that are represented.
- Continue to work with the Parks Department to fundraise for the ORLP matching grant from NPS to assist in the creation of a "cultural destination" for Native Americans in Tulsa at Dream Keepers Park.
- Student of Excellence Awards are given out in May to the top Native American students in Tulsa Public Schools.
- Planned and executed a City-wide Native American Day celebration on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Worked with the Mayor's Office and City Council to secure a joint Native American Day highlighting students this year and the impact the tribes make in our community. The theme this year was "From Trails to Triumph".
- Commission members attended the Title V Commission Retreat in July. It was good to connect with the other commissions and find out what they are working on.
- Held our Annual Dream Keeper Awards Ceremony for significant Native Americans in the community who have contributed to their culture and community (see picture below) in Native American Heritage month.
- The Commission nominated Commissioner Winnie Guess Purdue for the Human Rights Commission's Humanitarian of the Year Award. She was selected and received her award on December 11, 2025.
- Chair continues to meet with other Title V Commissions to collaborate with them on ideas on fundraising for events and activities that highlight Tulsa's diverse communities.
- Chair participated as a panel member for The Wilderness Society Webinar on "Land and Water Conservation Fund for Tribes in November: Successful Partnerships in Action" with Parks Director of Capital Improvements, Steve Lassman, on our Dream Keeper Park grant and park improvement plan.

- Facilitated the transfer of the City's Council Oak Park and Stick Ball Park to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Provided input on TPS Board's new mascot and imagery policies

### **Goals for 2026**

- Active Engagement:
  - Survey the needs of Native Americans throughout the greater Tulsa Area and work with the City Council, Mayor, and local agencies to address needs.
  - Be available to assist citizens with needs that involve Native American tribes.
- Collaborative Approaches:
  - Continue to work with the Parks Department for the renovation of Dream Keepers Park with our community and tribal partners.
  - Continue to work with other commissions as needed to promote cohesiveness
- Strengthen the Commission:
  - Fill vacancies with individuals who will participate in commission goals and activities and continue the effort to diversify the tribal nations that are represented on the commission.
  - Complete revisions to City Ordinance provisions relating to the Commission and draft new by-laws in response to Ordinance changes.

### **Dream Keeper Award Winners and GTAIAC Commissioners**

