The Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1803-1806 was a major event that shaped the boundaries and the future of the United States of America – and forever changed the lives of this continent’s indigenous peoples. Native ancestors provided the Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery with food, shelter, protection, survival skills and guidance for the expedition’s successful journey to the Pacific Ocean and return to Saint Louis, Missouri.

Tribal participation in the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition was an expanding journey that affected millions of lives in profound and lasting ways. Here is the timeline of that journey.

1803
President Thomas Jefferson sends secret letters to Congress asking funding for a “scientific” expedition up the Missouri River in search of the Northwest Passage. Part of the expedition’s directive is to establish diplomatic relations with and collect ethnographic details about the Indians:

“The commerce which may be carried on with the people inhabiting the line you will pursue, renders a knowledge of those people important. You will therefore endeavor to make yourself acquainted, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey shall admit, with the names of the nations & their numbers; the extent & limits of their possessions; their relations with other tribes of nations; their language, traditions, monuments; their ordinary occupations in agriculture, fishing, hunting, war, arts, & the implements for these; their food, clothing, & domestic accommodations; the diseases prevalent among them, & the remedies they use; moral & physical circumstances which distinguish them from the tribes we know; peculiarities in their laws, customs & dispositions; and articles of commerce they may need to furnish, & to what extent. And considering the interest which every nation has in extending & strengthening the authority of reason & justice among the people around them, it will be useful to acquire what knowledge you can of the state of morality, religion, & information among them, as it may better enable those who may endeavor to civilize & instruct them, to adapt their measures to the existing notions & practices of those on whom they are to operate.”

“We heard that you were a people come from under the world, to take our world from us.”
–Amorolek, Monacan wounded captive, when asked by John Smith why his people had been hostile toward the English, 1607
June 1803 – September 1806
The Lewis & Clark Expedition successfully travels to the Pacific Ocean and back, through the homelands of more than 100 sovereign tribal nations – but does not find the fabled Northwest Passage.

1904-1906
The Lewis and Clark Centennial American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair is held in Portland, Oregon. Tribes are invited as entertainment.

1954-1956
The 150th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition is celebrated nationally. Tribes are invited as entertainment.

1969
A Congressional commission recommends designation of Lewis & Clark’s route as part of the new National Trails System, with primary management responsibility assigned to the National Park Service.

The non-profit Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is created to continue advocating for official designation of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.

1978
Congress formally establishes the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail – 3,700 miles through eleven states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon & Washington, and across the same 114 tribal homelands originally traversed by Lewis & Clark.

1984
The groundbreaking Lewis and Clark among the Indians, authored by James P. Ronda, is published by the University of Nebraska Press.

1993
The Bicentennial Committee of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation incorporates as a separate non-profit corporation – the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial – to coordinate national planning for the 2003-2006 bicentennial observance of the exploration.

1994
In June 1994, tribal leader Lawrence Wetsit (Assiniboine) and college professor Jeanne Eder (Dakota) are elected as the first of 14 American Indian members of the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial’s Board of Directors.

Past Nez Perce Tribal Chairman Allen V. Pinkham, Sr., is elected to the Board in December 1994, becoming the third American Indian board member.
1995
In March 1995, Gerard Baker (Hidatsa), Superintendent of Little Bighorn National Memorial, and future Superintendent of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, is elected as the 4th American Indian member of the National Council Board.

1996
In April 1996, the National Council holds its first annual planning workshop for the upcoming 200th anniversary at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington, in the magnificent Columbia River Gorge. The landmark meeting becomes the stage for a heated, legendary and pivotal confrontation between Indian and non-Indian board members. Initial conceivers of bicentennial activities imagine a celebration of Lewis & Clark’s journey accompanied by demonstrations of Native dancing, similar to the 100th and 150th anniversary events. At Skamania, the Council’s Native board members tenaciously counter that conquest and loss of tribal lands, cultures and languages followed closely after the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and that no American Indian could participate in a celebration of the end of the world we had always known.

After many harsh words, Allen Pinkham offers a healing prayer to dispel bad thoughts and issues. In deference to tribal concerns, the Council officially adopts the term commemoration instead of celebration to describe forthcoming bicentennial activities.

1997
By formal resolution, the United States Senate recognizes the National Council as the official national grassroots coordinating body for the commemoration.

A Little Bit of Wisdom: Conversations with a Nez Perce Elder, authored by Horace Axtell with Margo Aragon, is published by Confluence Press – the first of numerous books authored by American Indian writers before and during the bicentennial.

1998

1999
Author and scholar George Horse Capture (Gros Ventre/A’ainin) is elected to the Council’s Board of Directors.

The National Park Service conducts four historic “listening sessions” across Indian Country to explain its planned Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future traveling exhibition. Leaders and elders from many tribes object to being consulted after the project was already planned. And they shape the discussions by talking about what has happened to their people in the two centuries since Lewis & Clark visited their homelands. They speak forcefully about painful things they have not talked about before – in some cases not even with their own younger tribal members.
The National Park Service hears, and those elders and leaders stay actively involved to guide and advise the ensuing planning and commemoration years.

_Salmon and His People: Fish & Fishing in Nez Perce Culture_, authored by Allen V. Pinkham, Sr. with Dan Landeen, is published by Confluence Press.

The National Council hires Mr. Pinkham as Tribal Liaison to invite participation by the tribes whose homelands were explored by Lewis & Clark.

2000
The US Mint issues a beautiful $1 gold coin featuring the likeness of Sacagawea.

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation efforts lead to federal designation of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail as a National Millennium Trail in an initiative led by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Educator Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa) and Mne Sosie executive director Richard Bad Moccasin (Lakota) are elected to the National Council Board of Directors.

In the most powerful boost for tribal expression during the bicentennial, Gerard Baker a charismatic, respected leader is appointed Superintendent of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and the National Park Service’s _Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future_. Baker, the first American Indian Superintendent of the Trail, visits all tribes along its route, encouraging them to get involved in the bicentennial, to tell their own story, lest others tell it for them.

In October, at Spalding, Lapwai and Lewiston, Idaho, the Nez Perce Tribe hosts a gathering of tribes considering involvement in the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Eleven tribes agree to participate and create a framework for a Circle of Tribal Advisors. Issues discussed include: appropriate history - telling our own tribal stories without censorship; tribal messages, preeminently - “We are still here!”; inclusion of federally recognized and non-recognized tribes; protection of traditional foods, medicines, the Creator's natural gifts, sacred sites and intellectual property; preservation of tribal languages; reconciliation; development of tribal tourism and putting tribes on bicentennial tourism maps; tribal involvement in bicentennial planning; and the need for funding.

The National Council formally establishes the Circle of Tribal Advisors (COTA) and appoints new Board member Amy Mossett as chairperson.

President Bill Clinton confers federal recognition on the Chinook Indian Tribe.
2001

In one of his final acts as President, Bill Clinton promotes Sacagawea to Honorary Sergeant, Regular Army. Rose Ann Abrahamson (Lemhi Shoshone) and Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa) attend the ceremony in the East Room of the White House. President Clinton also promotes York to Honorary Sergeant and William Clark to Captain.

During its 6th annual planning workshop in Kansas City, the National Council board votes to make tribal involvement its number one priority for the bicentennial commemoration. With leadership from Executive Director Michelle Bussard and board members David Borlaug, David Nicandri, Robert Archibald, Landon Jones, Patti Thomsen, Chet Orloff, Hugh Ambrose, Allen Pinkham and Dark Rain Thom, the vote is unanimous.

Roberta “Bobbie” Conner (Cayuse-Umatilla-Nez Perce), Director of the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and D. Bambi Kraus (Tlingit), Executive Director of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), become the Council’s 8th and 9th tribal Board members.

The National Council selects 12 communities to host 15 National Signature Events during 2003-2006, including three tribes – the Great Sioux Nation in South Dakota, the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, and the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation in North Dakota.

In September, due to growing tribal involvement, COTA changes its leadership structure from a single chairperson to three regional co-chairs and elects Dark Rain Thom for Ohio River tribes, Amy Mossett for Missouri River tribes, and Bobbie Conner for Columbia River tribes.

September 11, 2001, changes the course of history.

Kat Imhoff, Chief Operating Officer of Monticello, asks for and follows COTA advice about involving historical Virginia tribes in the first national signature event to be held at Charlottesville, VA, in January 2003 – thus setting the bar high for tribal involvement in National Signature Events.

2002

During the National Council’s 7th bicentennial planning workshop at Lewiston, Idaho, COTA adopts Mission, Vision and Guidance Statements to guide tribal involvement and bicentennial planning partnerships.

COTA also adopts two official resolutions: #1 advocating federal recognition of all Lewis & Clark Trail tribes; and #2 urging protection of tribal cultural resource areas, burial grounds and sacred sites during and after the Lewis & Clark bicentennial commemoration.
The National Congress of American Indians adopts two official resolutions relating to tribal involvement in the bicentennial: #BIS-02-065 in support of tribal language revitalization and education programs; #BIS-02-066 in support of the Circle of Tribal Advisors of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

A delegation from the National Council and COTA, including David Borlaug, Edward Hall III, Bobbie Conner and Eric Friedenwald-Fishman of the Metropolitan Group ad agency, travel to New York to meet with the Ad Council and propose a nation-wide public service advertising campaign about the bicentennial. As a result, the Ad Council selects the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial as a primary 3-year public information campaign for television, radio, print and billboards. The National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial partners with the Missouri Historical Society to shoulder production costs.

By Presidential Proclamation, George W. Bush designates 2003-2006 as the official years of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

President Bush also revokes the Chinook Tribe’s federal recognition status, bestowed less than two years earlier by President Clinton.

Another Columbia River tribe, the Cowlitz, receives federal recognition.

TIME Magazine publishes a special issue on Lewis & Clark, featuring tribal perspectives.

At mid-summer, rising debt forces the National Council to close its Portland, OR, office. Emergency National Park Service funding enables COTA to survive the closure and continue planning for a large American Indian presence during the bicentennial’s 2003 opening event at Monticello in Charlottesville, VA.

In August, the Council moves its national offices to the Missouri Historical Museum in Saint Louis and resumes work, primarily with extraordinary volunteers, among them – Robert Archibald, President of the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) and incoming President of the National Council board, and Karen Goering, Chief Operating Officer of MHS and new volunteer Executive Director of the Council.

Also in August, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s lauded history magazine, We Proceeded On, publishes its first article by an American Indian – Sharing the Vision: How the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Can Build Trust Between Tribal and Non-Tribal Cultures, by Germaine White (Salish).
COTA receives two national grant awards:

1. A $300,000 museum leadership grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services to fund a model language immersion project created by three tribal museums – Tamástslikt Cultural Institute of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, The People’s Center of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Museum at Warm Springs.

2. A $10,000 award from the National Endowment for the Arts for a panel exhibit, Many Nations-Many Voices, to open the bicentennial commemoration at Monticello.

In October, for the first time, the National Council holds a board meeting on an Indian reservation, at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton, Oregon.

At that meeting, COTA adopts its third and final official resolution: #3 in support of the Celilo Redevelopment Project to revitalize a traditional village near the site of the ancient Wy-am (Echo of Falling Waters) – at the great falls of the Columbia River and ancient salmon fishery that was silenced in 1957 by the Dalles Dam.

2003

In early January 2003, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation awards a 4-year, $2.0 million Leadership Grant to the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. This significant funding enables the National Council to leverage federal, corporate and in-kind support to hire three full-time employees to work on American Indian involvement, cultural awareness and education issues. 75% of the Hewlett grant is restricted to support tribal involvement in the bicentennial, including a re-granting program of Tribal Involvement Grants to support tribal governments, colleges and non-profits in creating educational and cultural programs related to the bicentennial. The Hewlett grant also funds a national cultural awareness campaign, including a 30-page brochure entitled, A Guide to Visiting the Lands of Many Nations & to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, that proves so popular it requires a second printing, distributing 250,000 copies during the commemoration. The cultural awareness campaign also produces four COTA television PSAs that are endorsed by the Ad Council and aired nationwide from 2004 through 2006.
Jefferson’s West:  Bicentennial Inaugural – the 1st National Signature Event

In mid-January, Monticello and the University of Virginia host Jefferson’s West, the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial’s first National Signature Event, at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home in Charlottesville, Virginia. With major financial support from the National Park Service and additional support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation and each attending COTA member tribe, more than 200 tribal representatives from 21 tribal nations participate, creating a media rush and signaling a major shift of emphasis toward tribal perspectives.

Tribal programming includes:

- **Commencement Ceremony of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration:** Tribal flag procession, Honor Song, poem *Homeland* by Monacan poet Karenne Wood, invocation, tribal remarks and presentations, Kenneth Branham (Chief, Monacan Nation), American Indian Society Color Guard, White Shield Singers (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation), Tex G. Hall (Chairman, Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation; National Congress of American Indians), and others.

- **In Our Own Words – Voices of Virginia Indians:** Film on the history and culture of Virginia’s 8 state-recognized tribes: Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Pamunkey, Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi.

- **First Flute: Our Role on the Hoop of Life:** Kevin Locke (Lakota).

- **Respecting Ancient Lives and Sacred Places:** A panel of contemporary warriors fighting to protect America’s first treasures discusses the modern crisis of sacred site violation on the Lewis & Clark Trail. The discussion is moderated by George Horse Capture (Gros Ventre/A’ainin), author, lecturer, senior

“The Lewis & Clark commemoration experience has changed me. It was the collective involvement of Indian people from many tribes that moved me--people who were so much like my own Monacan relatives.

The dinner we had at Monacan headquarters during the Monticello episode is still so vivid--our people sharing food, as they do, and our Native guests moved to tell their stories and sing special songs in reciprocity.”

Karenne Wood (Monacan), poet
counselor to the National Museum of the American Indian. Panel members include Karenne Wood (Monacan), author, poet, member of Monacan Nation Tribal Council, researcher for the National Museum of the American Indian; Armand Minthorn, past Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Tim Mentz, Sr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; Narcisse Blood, cultural and ceremonial leader of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Coordinator of Kainai Programs at Red Crow Community College in Alberta, Canada; Rex Buck, Jr. (Wanapum), ceremonial leader and Special Projects Coordinator for the Wanapum Tribe Cultural Resources Department; Allen Slickpoo, Jr. (Nez Perce), traditional whip person, spiritual and ceremonial leader, chaplain of the tribe and member of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee; and Hawk Pope, artist and vocalist.

- **American Indian Voices**: a panel of tribal bicentennial leaders offers indigenous perspectives on Native life after Lewis and Clark and on the bicentennial commemoration. The panel is moderated by Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation), Superintendent of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and Corps of Discovery II. Panel members include Bobbie Conner (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Director of Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, Co-chair of COTA, member of the National Council board of directors; Darrell Martin (Gros Ventre-Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community), Vice-President of Fort Belknap Indian Community, COTA representative; Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation), Director of Tourism for the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation, Co-chair of COTA, member of the National Council board of directors, Sakakawea scholar; Samuel N. Penney (Nez Perce), Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee; David Rhodes (Cowlitz), General Council Vice-Chairman of the Cowlitz Tribe, traditional carver, COTA representative; Chief Cliff Snider (Chinook), Honorary Chief of the Chinook Indian Tribe, COTA representative; Mary Wade (Monacan), President of Virginia Indian Tribal Alliance for Life, member of the Virginia Council on Indians; Dark Rain Thom, member of the National Council board of directors.

- **Many Nations – Many Voices**: Panel exhibit created by the Circle of Tribal Advisors about Indian survival since the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Cultural demonstrations by representatives from COTA member tribes.

- **Chinook Canoe Exhibition**: A traditional Chinook canoe, carved by Chinook elder George Lagergren.

- **Framing the West at Monticello**: Original and reproductions of Indian artifacts owned by Thomas Jefferson.

- **Honoring the Legacy: Native American Art and the 19th Century American West**: University of Virginia Museum.

- **Up From the Earth: The Mandan Way of Life**: Virginia Discovery Museum exhibition on the culture of the Mandans as it existed in 1804.
• Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future is launched by the National Park Service and hosted by Monticello. Chief Cliff Snider (Chinook), a direct descendant of Chief Comcomley who met Lewis & Clark at the mouth of the Columbia, is the first speaker in Corps II’s Tent of Many Voices.

After its debut, during 2003 Corps of Discovery II travels through Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri, following the path taken by Lewis, and later Lewis & Clark, as they prepared for the original expedition.

COTA membership now includes 21 of the 58 modern tribal governments that represent the 114 sovereign tribal nations recorded by Lewis & Clark.

Chris Howell (Pawnee) of the Kansas Arts Commission, Daphne Richards Cook (Oglala) and Brenda Hall Dvorak (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara) are elected to the Council’s Board of Directors.

A Confluence of Cultures: Native Americans and the Expedition of Lewis and Clark, presented by the University of Montana and the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, marks the most serious national shift toward academic willingness to engage Native elders and scholars in a national forum about real issues. The symposium features an abundance of tribal presenters, including Johnny Arlee, David Wilkins, Darrell Robes Kipp, Amy Mossett, Rose Ann Abrahamson, Rozina George, Louis Adams, Frederick Hoxie, Roberta Conner, Pat Courtney Gold, Calvin Grinnell, George Horse Capture, Joe McGeshick, Joseph F. McDonald, Ben Sherman, and Loren Yellow Bird, Sr. In large part, the concept of Indians as only entertainment disappears, and the notion of Indians as entrepreneurs, resort operators, historians, educators, political leaders and playwrights emerges to fuel dialogue for the remainder of the bicentennial.

Falls of the Ohio – the 2nd National Signature Event
The second national signature event, Falls of the Ohio, is held at Louisville, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Indiana, October 14-26, 2003. Tribal programming includes:

• Return of the Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee of Oklahoma and Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to the ancestral Shawnee homelands in what is now Kentucky and Indiana. Tribal members present educational programs about Shawnee history since being forced from the area by American westward expansion.
• Sacred Places: American Indian Panel Discussion.
• Tribal Recognition: American Indian Panel Discussion
• American Indian Health Issues: Panel discussion
• Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.
Richard Basch (Clatsop-Nehalem) is hired as the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail’s first American Indian Liaison.

With encouragement from tribal leaders and the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), two significant tribal tourism alliances are formed – the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance (MTTA), representing all Montana tribes, and the Alliance for Tribal Tourism Advocates (ATTA), representing all South Dakota tribes – to pursue cultural tourism as a tribal economic development opportunity through and beyond the bicentennial. As part of these efforts, the Native American Scenic Byway is designated across South Dakota.

Kansas publishes its first Native American Resource Handbook to guide inter-cultural partnerships during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

2003-2006
Fifteen National Signature Bicentennial Events are held across the United States from January 2003 through September 2006. Three of the fifteen are created and hosted by tribal nations, in Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Corps of Discovery II and its Tent of Many Voices travel to 95 communities, including 14 Indian Reservations, during the course of the bicentennial. The traveling “classroom/museum” reaches an audience of more than 500,000 people and serves as the bicentennial’s most important venue for expression of tribal perspectives. More than 1,800 hours of tribal presentations are filmed for the presenters’ and tribes’ future use, preservation of oral histories and creation of the upcoming Lewis & Clark Trail – Tribal Legacy Project website and curriculum guide.

A newly revised National Park Service map/brochure for the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail includes tribal places and names for the first time.

From 1996 through the end of the bicentennial in 2006, the National Park Service’s Challenge Cost Share Program generously awards nearly $6 million for tribes and tribal participation in the bicentennial.

Tribal flag processions displaying each COTA member tribe’s flag, usually borne by a veteran from that tribe, become integral to event opening and closing ceremonies throughout the bicentennial’s duration.
2004

**Lewis & Clark: The National Exhibition**, created by the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) and funded by Emerson Corporation, opens its three-year national tour at the Missouri History Museum. Advisors from nine tribal nations along Lewis & Clark’s route work closely with the exhibition’s curator Carolyn Gilman. MHS invites the Osage Nation to return to St. Louis – its historic homeland area at the time of Lewis & Clark – for the first time in 200 years after the tribe’s removal to Kansas, then Oklahoma. Osage Principal Chief James Roan Gray delivers an eloquent and deeply moving keynote address. *The National Exhibition* is subsequently hosted by the Academy of Science in Philadelphia, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the Oregon Historical Society and the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

**Three Flags Ceremony – the 3rd National Signature Event**

Chief Gray also participates in the **Three Flags Ceremony**, the commemoration’s third national signature event, at St. Louis. Tribal programming includes:

- **Opening Ceremony**: Inclusion of tribal flags with display of Spanish, French and American national flags at ceremonies commemorating the 1804 transfer of Louisiana Territory from Spain to France to the United States. Osage Nation Drummers & Singers, Osage Elders, Osage Principal Chief James Roan Gray.

- **Native American Diplomacy Symposium**: First in a bicentennial series of American Indian diplomacy symposia exploring relations between Indian Nations and the United States since the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Panelists from the Osage Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Delaware Nation, Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Quapaw Nation, St. Louis Indian Center.

- **Art of the Osage**: Saint Louis Art Museum exhibition of Osage tribal arts and artifacts.

- **Osage History**: Presentation by Leonard Maker.

- **Otoe-Missouria History and the Role of Otoe Women**: Presentation by Sylvester Alley and members of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma.

- **Tree Within a Tree Osage Ceremony**: Legacy planting and dedication by Osage Tribal elders and leaders.

- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future**.

The US Mint issues 500,000 Lewis & Clark commemorative coins. Proceeds from a surcharge on sales are designated by Congress to be shared by the National Council and the National Park Service to fund bicentennial activities.

At the same time, the US Mint also issues a limited edition coin & American Indian pouch set. 50,000 of the 500,000 coins are packaged with American Indian traditional leather pouches, hand made by artisans of COTA member tribes. The set sells out in six days. Some of the proceeds from these sales also benefit the tribal museum language project funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services.
Darrell Martin (Gros Ventre-Assiniboine) is hired as the Lewis & Clark Trail’s second American Indian Liaison.

Greg Pitcher (Shawnee) is elected to the Council’s Board of Directors. Greg is the 13th American Indian to join the board.

COTA membership grows to its bicentennial high of forty tribal nations.

Once again, the Circle of Tribal Advisors changes its leadership structure to accommodate the growth of tribal involvement in the bicentennial. Allen Pinkham (Nez Perce Tribe) is elected chairman, supported by a six member leadership committee: Roberta Conner (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) representing the Upper/Lower Columbia River and Coastal Legacy; George Heavy Runner (Blackfeet Nation) representing the Intermountain Legacy; Daphne Richards-Cook (Oglala Sioux Tribe) representing the Middle/Upper Missouri River Legacy; Chris Howell (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma) representing the Lower Missouri River Legacy; and Greg Pitcher (Shawnee Tribe) representing the Oklahoma and Eastern Legacy.

**Expedition’s Departure: Camp River DuBois – the 4th National Signature Event**

The bicentennial’s 4th national signature event, Expedition’s Departure: Camp River DuBois, is held at Hartford, Illinois. Tribal programming includes:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Tribal flag procession.
- **Thomas Jefferson and the Doctrine of Discovery:** Presentation by Robert Miller (Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma).
- **Panel Discussion:** Shawnee history and perspectives.
- **Traditional Indigenous Games Demonstrations.**
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**

**St. Charles: Preparations Complete, The Expedition Faces West – the 5th National Signature Event**

Preparations Complete, The Expedition Faces West, is held at St. Charles, Missouri. Tribal programming includes:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Tribal flag procession. Members of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, including many elders, return to their ancestral homeland.
- **Crossing Borders Powwow:** Intertribal powwow held at Portage des Sioux.
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**
William Clark and the Shaping of the West, authored by Landon Y. Jones and published by Hill and Wang, examines William Clark’s life before, during and beyond the Lewis & Clark Expedition, casting unbiased light on Clark’s pivotal role in the traumatic removal of Indian Nations to Oklahoma during 1808-1838.

Heart of America: A Journey Fourth - the 6th National Signature Event

Heart of America: A Journey Fourth, is hosted by Kansas City and Fort Osage, Missouri, Atchison, Leavenworth and White Cloud, Kansas, and includes substantial tribal involvement:

- **Restoration of Kaw Point:** Historical Kansas tribes and students from Haskell Indian Nations University participate in site clean up and restoration, trail enhancement, signage, interpretation and visitor support services to ready historical Lewis & Clark site for the bicentennial.

- **Opening Ceremony:** Colors are posted by WE-TA-SE, American Legion Post 410, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. A procession of 29 tribal flags are posted and flown at each host city.

- **Tribal Flag Sets:** The Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska add their flags to the growing collection of tribal nation flags. Three sets of 29 tribal flags are flown at the cities of Atchison, Kansas City and Leavenworth, Kansas, during the event.

- **WE-TA-SE, American Legion Post 410, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation:** Posts the colors at the event’s kick off news conference in March; the Lewis & Clark Postal Stamp Dedication in May; Fort Osage Interpretive Center and Kaw Point dedication in June; Tribal Flag Ceremony, Signature Event Flag Parade and Closing Ceremony in July.

- **Tribal Nations Returning to Ancestral Homelands:** Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Osage Nation of Oklahoma, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Kickapoo Nation of Oklahoma, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, as well as the Shawnee Tribe and Absentee Tribe of Oklahoma, who once also lived in Kansas and Missouri.

- **Haskell Indian Nations University:** Student forums and articles.

- **Lakota Flute, Storytelling and Dance:** Kevin Locke (Lakota).

- **Pawnee Star Show:** Leavenworth, Kansas.

- **Tribal Scholars & Presenters:** From Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Ponca/Omaha Nation, Kickapoo Nation, Pawnee Nation.

- **Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture:** Artrain USA exhibition.

- **Kansas Native Cultures Subcommittee:** Technical assistance and guidance.

- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**
First Tribal Council – the 7th National Signature Event

First Tribal Council is hosted by Fort Calhoun and Omaha, Nebraska. According to Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns, the event’s most significant lasting legacy is a newly established relationship between the State of Nebraska and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. Tribal programming includes:

- **First Tribal Council**: Nightly dramatization of the 1804 first meeting between the Corps of Discovery and the Otoe and Missouria Tribes.
- **Lewis & Clark Concerto for Piano and Orchestra**: Composed by Philip Glass, featuring flute solo by R. Carlos Nakai (Navajo-Ute) and traditional songs of the Otoe-Missouria.
- **Tribal Partners and Participants**: Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma, Omaha Tribe, Lakota Heritage Society, Native scholars, musicians, dancers, storytellers and artists.
- **Panel Discussions**: Otoe-Missouria history, dress, military involvement, education and youth issues.
- **Free Speaker Series**: Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara), Matt Sitting Bear Jones (Iowa Otoe-Missouria Tribe).
- **Otoe-Missouria Elders**: A large delegation of Otoe-Missouria elders make a poignant return to their historic homeland.
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**

Superintendent Gerard Baker bids farewell to the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail and becomes the first Native Superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

National Park Service leader Steve Adams is appointed Superintendent of the Trail and spearheads National Park Service activities to the end of the bicentennial.

At Chamberlain, South Dakota, Stop Lewis & Clark, an inter-tribal, inter-generational protest group led by Alex White Plume (Oglala), confronts the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, a re-enactor group retracing the journey of Lewis & Clark on the Missouri River, and demands that they turn back. The re-enactors don’t, but the protest gets good press. COTA issues a national media statement in support of the protestors’ right to have their say.

Oceti Sakowin Experience: Remembering & Educating – the 8th National Signature Event and the 1st to be Hosted by a Tribal Nation

August and September bring a month-long, ground-breaking phenomenon – Oceti Sakowin Experience: Remembering & Educating. The first of three tribally hosted National Signature Events, Oceti Sakowin Experience is held throughout South Dakota, coordinated by the Alliance for Tribal Tourism Advocates and hosted by the Great Sioux Nation, or Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires).
• **Participating Lakota Tribes:** Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

• **Native Art Exhibit and Auction:** Hosted by ten Lakota communities.

• **Wacipi & Powwows:** Held in 7 communities.

• **Tribally Guided Reservation Tours.**

• **Lectures; Encampments; and Symposia.**

• **Tribal Treaty Summit:** Hosted by the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation.

• **Bad River Gathering:** Held at Fort Pierre to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Teton Sioux’s tense encounter with the Corps of Discovery.

• **Diplomacy Symposium and Honoring of Sacagawea:** Held at Fort Manuel Lisa where Sacagawea is buried.

• **Indigenous Voices – Past, Present and Future – Surviving Lewis & Clark:** Held at the Lower Brule Reservation. Chief Arvol Looking Horse (Lakota, 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe), Tribal Chairmen from the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe; elders Chief Johnson Holy Rock (Great Sioux Nation), Dr. Agnes Picotte (Oglala), Alfreda Good Bird (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara), Malcolm Wolf (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara), Dr. Bea Medicine (Standing Rock), Elaine Quiver (Rosebud and Oglala), Vernon Ashley (Crow Creek), Bessie Estes (Lower Brule) and Austin Gillette (Arikara).

• **Return of Arikara Elders to their Ancestral Homeland.**

• **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**

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**Circle of Cultures: Time of Renewal & Exchange – the 9th National Signature Event**

The final National Signature Event of 2004 is **Circle of Cultures**, based at the College of Mary campus in Bismarck, North Dakota.

• **Tribal Partner:** Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation.

• **Twin Buttes and White Shield Elementary Schools:** Student presentations.

• **The Art of Karl Bodmer:** Rare exhibition of Bodmer’s paintings of American Indians.

• **Earth Lodge Village:** Reconstructed village of four full-sized, authentic earth lodges on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River. At the conclusion of activities, the lodges are dismantled and reassembled in the tribal communities of Mandan, White Shield, Twin Buttes and Mandaree.
Missouri publishes its first *American Indian Resource Handbook* to guide intercultural partnerships during Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s *We Proceeded On* history magazine publishes its second article by an American Indian – *The Doctrine of Discovery*, by historian and law professor Robert J. Miller (Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma).

200 years after the explorers, *Corps of Discovery II* follows the journey of Lewis & Clark through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota, including the tribal communities of Macy, Nebraska (Omaha), and Eagle Butte, South Dakota (Cheyenne River Sioux).

2004-2006
The National Ad Council rolls out its 3-year Lewis & Clark Bicentennial public information campaign for television, radio, print and billboards. The campaign lures viewers with the recurring theme, “Walk with them and see what you discover.”

With Hewlett Foundation and National Park Service funding, COTA produces and distributes a tribal public information campaign of four 30-second public service television announcements on the topics, “We are still here,” “Respect our sacred places,” “Take care of the Creator’s natural gifts,” and “Native languages are libraries.” The campaign is created by G & G Advertising, an agency owned and managed by Blackfeet tribal members Michael Gray and family, and endorsed by the Ad Council. COTA’s campaign also includes a full-color *Guide to Visiting the Lands of Many Nations*, internet, museum and news media message distribution. Both COTA and Ad Council campaigns reach multi-millions of people nationwide.
Qwest Corporation awards the National Council a grant of $300,000 to sponsor National Signature Events in Qwest’s service area (including the three tribal events) and to distribute thousands of CDs of the National Bicentennial Curriculum Guide, researched and produced by the Missouri Historical Society.

COTA makes 68 grants totaling $500,000 in Hewlett funds to COTA member tribes for bicentennial projects. (Grant recipients and projects are listed on pages 88–89.)

Under the leadership of Sally Thompson, Ph.D, in partnership with tribal members, and with primary funding from the National Park Service, the University of Montana’s Regional Learning Project creates three extraordinary documentary films about tribal perspectives and issues along the Lewis & Clark Trail: Native Homelands Along the Lewis & Clark Trail (2004), Contemporary Voices Along the Lewis & Clark Trail (2005), and Why Save a Language? (2006).

2005
During January, February and March, Corps of Discovery II visits Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, San Antonio and Oklahoma City, returning to the Trail and Lewis & Clark’s original schedule in April. During the rest of 2005, the traveling classroom makes stops in North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, including the tribal communities of Fort Peck, Montana (Assiniboine-Sioux), Rocky Boy’s Reservation, Montana (Chippewa-Cree), and Umatilla, Oregon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation).

The Salish People and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, authored by the Salish-Pend d’Oreille Culture Committee and Elders Cultural Advisory Council, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is published by the University of Nebraska Press.


George Heavy Runner (Blackfeet) becomes the 14th tribal member of the Council’s Board of Directors. At this point, tribal directors make up 1/3 of the board’s membership.
Explore! The Big Sky – the 10th National Signature Event

Explore! The Big Sky is held at Great Falls, Montana, with extensive tribal programming, including:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Tribal flag procession.
- **American Indian Nations: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:** Indigenous symposium speakers include: Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Colorado); Commander John B. Herrington (America’s first American Indian astronaut); Dr. Kevin Gover, former Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and present Executive Director of the National Museum of the American Indian; Onondaga Nation Chief Oren Lyons; Tex Hall, Chairman of the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation and past President of the National Congress of American Indians; Suzan Shown Harjo, Director of the Morning Star Institute; Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills; Elouise Cobell, lead plaintiff in the Indian trust fund lawsuit *Cobell v. Kempthorne*; Darrell Robes Kipp, founder of the Piegan Language Institute at Blackfeet; and many others from more than 35 tribal nations.
- **Concerts by Native Entertainers:** Rita Coolidge (Cherokee), Jack and Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet).
- **Tribal Encampment:** Coordinated by Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance.
- **International Traditional Games Society:** Indigenous games, horse events, demonstrations and competitions.
- **Sweet Willow Indian Market.**
- **Native American Life Skills Demonstrations.**
- **Powwow.**
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**
Destination: The Pacific – the 11th National Signature Event

Both unrecognized groups, Chinook and Clatsop-Nehalem, are showcased during Destination: The Pacific, held at the Mouth of the Columbia River. The event features awesome rain, great salmon feeds and wonderful tribal stories:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Clatsop-Nehalem welcome by Chairman Joe Scovell, blessing by Dick Basch (direct descendant of Chief Coboway), tribal flag procession, honor song, veterans honor dance.
- **Sacagawea, York and the Vote at Station Camp:** Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara) as Sacagawea, Hasan Davis (as York).
- **Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes Past, Present & Future:** Multi-faceted program featuring tribal elders and storytellers.
- **Hollywood vs. History:** Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara), Rod Ariwite (Lemhi Shoshone), share stories about Sacagawea.
- **Clatsop-Nehalem Potlatch:** Seaside, Oregon.
- **Dedication Ceremony for Clatsop-Nehalem Ocean-going Canoe, “Dragonfly.”**
- **Chinook Potlatch:** Chinook, Washington.
- **Dedication of the Confluence Project:** Sculptor Maya Lin and Native advisors.
- **Columbia Pacific Native American Guide** is published by the Lewis & Clark National Historical Park and Destination: The Pacific
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**

2006

*Native America, Discovered and Conquered, Thomas Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, and Manifest Destiny*, authored by Dr. Robert J. Miller (Eastern Shawnee), is published by Praeger.
Lewis & Clark Through Indian Eyes is published by Alfred A. Knopf, and edited by the late Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. Contributors include Gerard Baker (Hidatsa), Roberta Conner (Cayuse-Umatilla-Nez Perce), the late Vine Deloria, Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux), Debra Magpie Earling (Salish-Kootenai), Mark Trahant (Shoshone-Bannock), Richard Basch (Clatsop-Nehalem), Roberta Basch (Puyallup-Coeur D’Alene), Allen V. Pinkham, Sr. (Nez Perce), N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), Bill P. Yellowtail (Crow).
At San Diego, the US Navy launches the USNS Sacagawea, a 689 ft. underway replenishment ship. Familial descendants Lucy Honena Diaz and Rachael Lynne Ariwite and Sacagawea scholar Amy Mossett perform the christening.

Clark on the Yellowstone – the 13th National Signature Event

Clark on the Yellowstone is organized by the City of Billings, Montana, and Pompeys Pillar National Monument, in partnership with the Crow Nation. The Crow Nation hosts an immense buffalo feast, tribal encampment, lectures, and a spectacular horse parade. Despite 100+ degree heat, large crowds of tourists absorb and love Crow culture at every activity:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Tribal flag procession, Crow Nation elders and leaders.
- **Buffalo Feast:** Crow Nation.
- **Crow Nation Horse Parade.**
- **Artist Reception:** Rabbit Knows Gun (Crow Nation).
- **Tribal Encampment:** Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance.
- **Tribal Lectures and Demonstrations.**
- **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**
Lewis & Clark in Blackfeet Country – The Blackfeet Nation holds a moving public event at Browning and Two Medicine River, Montana, to honor the memory of two young Blackfeet men killed by Meriwether Lewis & his party in 1806.

Reunion at the Home of Sakakawea – the 14th National Signature Event and the 3rd and Final Event to be Hosted by a Tribal Nation

Reunion at the Home of Sakakawea is hosted by the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation at the Fort Berthold Reservation, New Town, North Dakota.

- **Opening Ceremony:** Grand entry, tribal flag procession, Flag Song, Victory Song, Star Spangled Banner sung by Miss Indian America, Blessing by Tribal elder Roy Bird Bear, Welcome and Keynote Address by Chairman Tex G. Hall, Remarks by Circle of Tribal Advisors Chairman Allen Pinkham, Sr.

- **Tipi Raising.**

- **Buffalo Feast.**

- **Presentation: Historical and Contemporary Practices of Indian Health.**

- **Presentation: Traditional Societies and Songs.**

- **Tribal Leadership Panel on Tribal Sovereignty.**

- **Keynote Addresses:** Robert Miller (Eastern Shawnee Tribe), Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation).

- **Diplomacy Symposium:** Chris Howell (Pawnee Nation), Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Chairman Tex Hall, Osage Principal Chief James Roan Gray, Gerard Baker (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation).

- **Health Panel – Lewis & Clark Impact on Health for the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation.**

- **Presentation: History of Sakakawea:** Amy Mossett (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation).
• **Presentation:** Descendents of Sakakawea, Four Bears, White Coyote.

• **Bulls Eye Story:** Calvin Grinnell (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation).

• **Entertainment:** Keith Bear, Bobbi Rae Sage (Miss Indian America), Northern Plains Dancers, Jessica Grinnell (Miss Sakakawea).

• **This Land I Stand On:** Play depicting the flooding of tribal lands by the Garrison Diversion Project of 1954.

• **Intertribal Powwow.**

• **Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future.**

*Corps of Discovery II* travels through Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas before ending its journey at Saint Louis, Missouri. It visits tribal communities in Seaside, Oregon (Clatsop-Nehalem), Grand Ronde, Oregon (Grand Ronde), Toppenish, Washington (Yakama), Warm Springs, Oregon (Warm Springs), Pendleton, Oregon (Umatilla), Browning, Montana (Blackfeet), New Town, North Dakota (Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara) and Crow Agency, Montana (Crow).
Lewis & Clark: Currents of Change – the 15th and Final National Signature Event

The bicentennial concludes at St. Louis, MO, with Lewis & Clark: Currents of Change, hosted by the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and the Osage Nation, in partnership with the National Park Service. More than 200 American Indian participants, elders and tribal leaders take part.


- **The Stories We Tell Symposium:** An extraordinary symposium features Pulitzer Prize winning author N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) as keynote speaker; Gerard Baker; poets Carter Revard (Osage) and Debra Magpie Earling (Salish); Dr. Robert Miller; journalist David Sarasohn; Missouri Historical Society curator Carolyn Gilman, and many others.

- **Special Evening with Authors of Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes:** Panel discussion and book signing featuring N. Scott Momaday, Gerard Baker, Roberta Basch, Richard Basch, Roberta Conner, Debra Magpie Earling, Allen Pinkham, Sr., Bill Yellowtail, Craig Howe reading for the late Vine Deloria, Jr. The event is filmed by C-SPAN Book TV and aired nationwide during the months of October and November.
• Additional Book Signings: Diane Glancy, Craig Howe, Lanniko Lee, Robert Miller, Carter Revard and Germaine White.

• A Return to Healthy Rivers: Tribal leaders’ panel focusing on the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, presented by the Circle of Tribal Advisors and featuring Tillie Walker (Mandan elder), Antone Minthorn (Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Robert Cournoyer (Chairman, Yankton Sioux Tribe), Gary Greene (Nez Perce Tribe), LaDonna Brave Bull Allard (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe), and Charles Hudson (Mandan-Hidatsa, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission).

• Arrival of Chinook Ocean-Going Canoes: Saint Louis Riverfront

• Bicentennial Closing Ceremony: Tribal flag procession with more than 30 tribal flags placed in front of the Arch, Osage Singers, poem “Living in the Holy Land,” by Osage poet Carter Revard, closing remarks by Osage Principal Chief James Roan Gray.

• Riverfront Extravaganza: Featuring Native blues band Indigenous (Yankton Sioux Tribe) and soul singer Martha Redbone (Choctaw-Cherokee-Shawnee-Blackfeet).

• Return to the Middle Waters: Inspirational service and blessing by Osage tribal elders, on the Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River. No dry eyes.

• Corps of Discovery II Closing Ceremony: Corps II ends its bicentennial run and closes its doors forever with warm embraces and tearful closing ceremonies. Chief Cliff Snider (Chinook), who was the first speaker in Corps II’s Tent of Many Voices, is also the final speaker. Corps II’s closing concludes the 2003-2006 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. It also illuminates the deep friendships, mutual respect and understanding that developed for people of different cultures since the commemoration’s beginning on a cold January day in 2003.

Congress amends its 1999 Lewis & Clark Commemorative Coin authorization to release the coin surcharge proceeds to the National Council of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and the Missouri Historical Society. The proceeds are used to pay back loans incurred by the National Council during the bicentennial and to establish two $1.6 million endowment trusts as lasting bicentennial legacies.

The first trust, the Native Voices Endowment: A Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy, is created by the Circle of Tribal Advisors, National Council and Missouri Historical Society in partnership with the Oregon Community Foundation and the Endangered Language Fund (ELF), to make grants in
perpetuity for tribal language education programs and tribal language scholars along the Lewis & Clark Trail. The initial advisory committee overseeing the dispersal of grants by ELF includes three prominent leaders in Native language revitalization: Darrell Robes Kipp (Blackfeet), founder of the Piegan Institute for the Blackfeet language; David Gipp (Standing Rock Sioux), President of United Tribes Technical College; and linguist Phillip Cash Cash (Cayuse-Nez Perce).

The second $1.6 million trust, the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project,” is held and administered by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

COTA creates and seals a time capsule containing tribal bicentennial memorabilia, COTA materials, books, films, CDs, reports, news articles, symposium programs, minutes, indigenous games pieces, tribal bicentennial commemorative coins, and much more. COTA places the time capsule with the Missouri Historical Society in Saint Louis – to be opened in 50 years by descendants of COTA representatives and leaders.