



MARIN MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

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*May the water never fail
May the air never weaken
May the earth never die
May the sun never fade
May the great Mystery Power
Never cease to bless!
Cree Prayer*

2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Oppun Towis, (Hello in Coast Miwok),

Thank you for your support of the Marin Museum of the American Indian (MMAI). The Museum is a testament to Native American presence, past and present in the Bay Area. November is Native American Heritage Month: a time to celebrate the rich and varied cultures of our continent's first inhabitants. We cannot forget the people who have lived here for thousands of years, the original caretakers of the land.

This year a nature scene mural was added to the front of the museum to express the beauty of the land and animals and their important role in the lives of Native people. The mural was painted by local artists Derek and Christina Bigard, and sponsored by Pini Hardware. Our exhibits continue to display the intricate beauty and skill of native craft, ancient and contemporary, demonstrating the finesse of artistic sense for daily and spiritual uses. This year we featured four stunning exhibitions: Thread of Time, Plains Pictorials, Precious Cargo, and Living Tradition. Our Education Program continues to expand with classes coming everyday from all over the Bay Area (even from San Jose).

MMAI is a unique place, not duplicated any where in the Bay Area. We are a cultural and educational center dedicated to honor Native People. This is why it is so important that our members continue their support and involvement with the work at the Museum.

MMAI has served the Bay Area since 1967. In these tenuous financial times MMAI has been hit hard, like a lean crop year of acorns. Despite the fact that several past donors were not able to contribute this year, we still manage to be open six days a week, teach classes every day, and provide culturally stunning exhibits. The staff and board's commitment to the on-going presence of the Museum is inspiring.

The Museum depends on your membership dues and donations to continue our educational and cultural programs. In addition to your membership and donations, we ask that you spread the word about the only Native American museum on a village site in the entire Bay Area. Thousands of school children come every year to learn about native people. Please support this vital work in cultural education.

The Museum is a private nonprofit 501.c3. All donations are tax deductible.

In Gratitude,
Colleen Hicks, Executive Direct