



# Contract Announcement

*Capacity Building in Language Revitalization Research Assistant  
2020*

## Introduction

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage (“CFCH”) is dedicated to collaborating with communities to support their language and cultural vitality goals. We support community-driven language reclamation programs, and research that directly benefits these efforts. Realizing these goals and efforts are long-term process, they encompass community strengthening and wellness, and are rooted in traditional ways of knowing and learning. Language Revitalization Initiatives (“LRI”) works toward more equitable collaboration practices and incorporating Indigenous methodologies.

Working with local partners across around the world, Language Revitalization Initiatives brings together language practitioners, scholars, educators, artisans, museums, government officials, educational programs, training institutes, and other stakeholders for collective activities to strengthen and maintain language diversity.

Language Revitalization Initiatives are specifically working to achieve the following four objectives:

1. Educate new generations of community language practitioners and linguists
2. Support innovative community-driven language reclamation projects
3. Understand the needs of reclamation work and the impact of language reclamation efforts beyond language acquisition
4. Engage majority language speakers to embrace unique voices and worldviews, to create a healthy multilingual world

## Scope of Work

Research assistant shall provide research and assistance for the Multicultural Initiative for Community Advancement (“MICA”) Next Steps Pilot Project and CFCH Language Revitalization Initiative (“LRI”). The purpose of the collaboration is to provide research, information, and assistance that supports the language reclamation planning and community development efforts of Indigenous people. The contractor shall complete the following:

1. Gather and synthesize and present knowledge on wise practices that demonstrate the connection between language, culture, and health.
2. Gather and synthesize and present knowledge on capacity building programs that focus on leadership, community mobilization, and human dynamics, and make recommendation for application in Indigenous North American contexts.
3. Participate in planning and development of assistance models that are participatory, adaptive, and sustainable.

## **Guidelines**

- Contractor will work remotely from Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage but will have regular online or phone meetings with CFCH staff.
- Contractor will provide own equipment for conducting work.
- Contractor may receive reimbursement for pre-approved, project-related travel expenses.
- Contractor will participate in team meetings as requested.
- Contractor will check in with SI to discuss workload and set schedule for the coming week.
- Contractor shall follow SI COVID Guidelines, and CFCH COVID Guidelines.

# Specific Tasks

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Contractor will:

- Create a preliminary bibliography of reading on the topics of leadership, capacity building, and impact evaluation.
- Summarize what they have read and the relevance of it to the leadership and capacity training. Each reading will have a summary which will end with a summary of the discussion of relevance.
- Complete annotated bibliography with accompanying full summaries,
- Create and complete a way to distributable recommendations for capacity building as it relates to North American language reclamation programs, with SI and MICA. This could be, but is not limited to, a white paper, an article in an open-source journal (such as Language Documentation & Conservation), a brochure or handbook-like downloadable, or an instructional video. The form and distribution will be approved by the team by the project mid-point.
- Check in with SI PI once a week
- Set up and run meetings with CFCH and MICA once every two weeks (twice a month) and take notes on the discussion.
- Create any spreadsheets of related information as required by MICA.