

GAAC

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission's (GAAC)
Annual Report FY2010-11



Casa Grande Ruins, Coolidge, Arizona

**GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2010 TO JUNE 30, 2011**

INTRODUCTION

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission (GAAC) is a statutory body charged with advising the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on archaeological issues in Arizona. GAAC is composed of 11 members with expertise in prehistoric or historic archaeology, anthropology, tourism, public education, economic development, business, and Native American affairs.

GAAC has assisted SHPO, a division of Arizona State Parks, in developing successful public education programs, including Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month, the Archaeology Expo, and the Site Steward Program. Working with other entities, both public and private, GAAC promotes local economic development through archaeological heritage tourism while fostering a stewardship ethic and the preservation of irreplaceable archaeological and historical resources.

GAAC meets quarterly to gather information regarding archaeological issues in the state, to plan and monitor educational programs jointly developed with SHPO, and to take any action required to help ensure the protection of the state's archaeological resources. Task-based GAAC committees meet more frequently, as needed. Annually, GAAC presents Awards in Public Archaeology in recognition of successful efforts to preserve the traces of our shared past.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (Terms expire)

Chair

E. Charles Adams, Ph.D. (1 September 2010*) Archaeologist	Arizona State Museum Representative
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Vice Chair

Connie Stone, Ph.D. (1 September 2011) Archaeologist / Bureau of Land Management	Federal Agency Representative
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Members

James E. Ayres (1 September 2011) Archaeologist	Historical Archaeology Representative
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J. Andrew Darling, Ph.D. (1 September 2012) Archaeologist / Gila River Indian Community	Tribal Representative
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Chris Downum, Ph.D. (1 September 2011) Archaeologist / Northern AZ University	State Agency Representative
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Margerie Green, Ph.D. (1 September 2010*) Private Archaeological Consultant Representative
Archaeologist

Donna Ruiz y Costello (1 September 2012) Avocational Archaeology Representative

Duane Hubbard (1 September 2013) Federal Agency Representative
Archaeologist/National Park Service

(* Members continuing to serve due to lack of new member appointments by Governor.)

GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTION

- GAAC will inform and advise policy-makers in the state regarding heritage preservation issues.
- GAAC will encourage and support programs carried out by SHPO that educate the public about the significance and stewardship of archaeological resources.
- GAAC will promote professional competency by encouraging archaeologists to become trained in historic preservation law and regulation on the national, state, and local levels.
- GAAC will advise SHPO on its annual Archaeology Expo, held during Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month.
- GAAC will encourage preservation and education activities through their annual Awards in Public Archaeology that recognize individuals, groups, programs, and/or organizations that have significantly contributed to the protection and preservation of, and education about, Arizona's non-renewable archaeological resources.
- GAAC will advise Arizona State Parks on its Site Steward Program.

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- As an attempt to address the crisis of decreasing curation space in the state, a survey form was used to solicit information from archaeologists, agencies, tribes, and collections storage managers on the benefits and drawbacks of in-field analysis of prehistoric artifacts as a mitigation measure to reduce the amount of artifacts that come to collections storage facilities. Results of the survey were so mixed that the SHPO decided not to offer any guidelines, but to review such proposals on a case-by-case basis. A letter thanking the archaeological community for their participation and advising them of the decision was disseminated.
- Continued to collect information from involved agencies on the effects of the international border crisis on cultural resources. A draft policy statement is being written and is scheduled for completion in the fall 2011.
- As a result of meeting with the AZSITE database manager, a new layer of data has been added to the AZSITE system that focuses on raw material sources found in prehistoric archaeological sites. GAAC asked the archaeological community to submit this sourcing information to AZSITE in order to help populate the database with this important data.
- Actively helped organize and participate in the annual Historic Preservation Conference that was held in Tucson in June 2011. As part of the conference, GAAC selected winners of the annual Awards in Public Archaeology that were presented at a luncheon. GAAC also sponsored a training session on the identification and analysis of prehistoric artifacts in Arizona.

- Wrote a letter to the Governor and the State Parks Board highlighting the positive effects of partnerships in helping to re-open, and/or keep open, cultural and historical parks.
- Approved a new three-year plan for 2010-2012.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committees focused respectively on Public Policy, Public Education, and Professional Competency have been established within GAAC to identify emerging issues, track continuing situations, gather relevant information, set priorities for action, and, where appropriate, work with SHPO in developing solutions to problems. Committees report to the full Commission at each meeting.

STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

In an effort to increase communication with the broader historic preservation community and to create more opportunities to sponsor training, GAAC has become involved in organizing the annual, statewide, Historic Preservation Conference that is sponsored by the SHPO and the Arizona Preservation Foundation.

In an effort to bring more recognition to its honorees, GAAC presents its Awards in Public Archaeology at the Historic Preservation Conference, the same setting in which the Governor's Historic Preservation Honor Awards are presented. GAAC also sponsors and assists in various training opportunities at this conference.

THREE-YEAR PLAN

The plan consists of a statement of GAAC's general program direction and the effectiveness of its standing, task-based committees. This organizational structure continues to make GAAC more proactive and accountable.

For more additional information about GAAC and its activities, including its Three-Year Plan, PDFs of its reports, and lists of past Awards in Public Archaeology winners, visit the GAAC web pages listed under the SHPO section of the Arizona State Parks website:

<http://azstateparks.com/committees/GAAC.html>
http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/gaac_awards_list.html