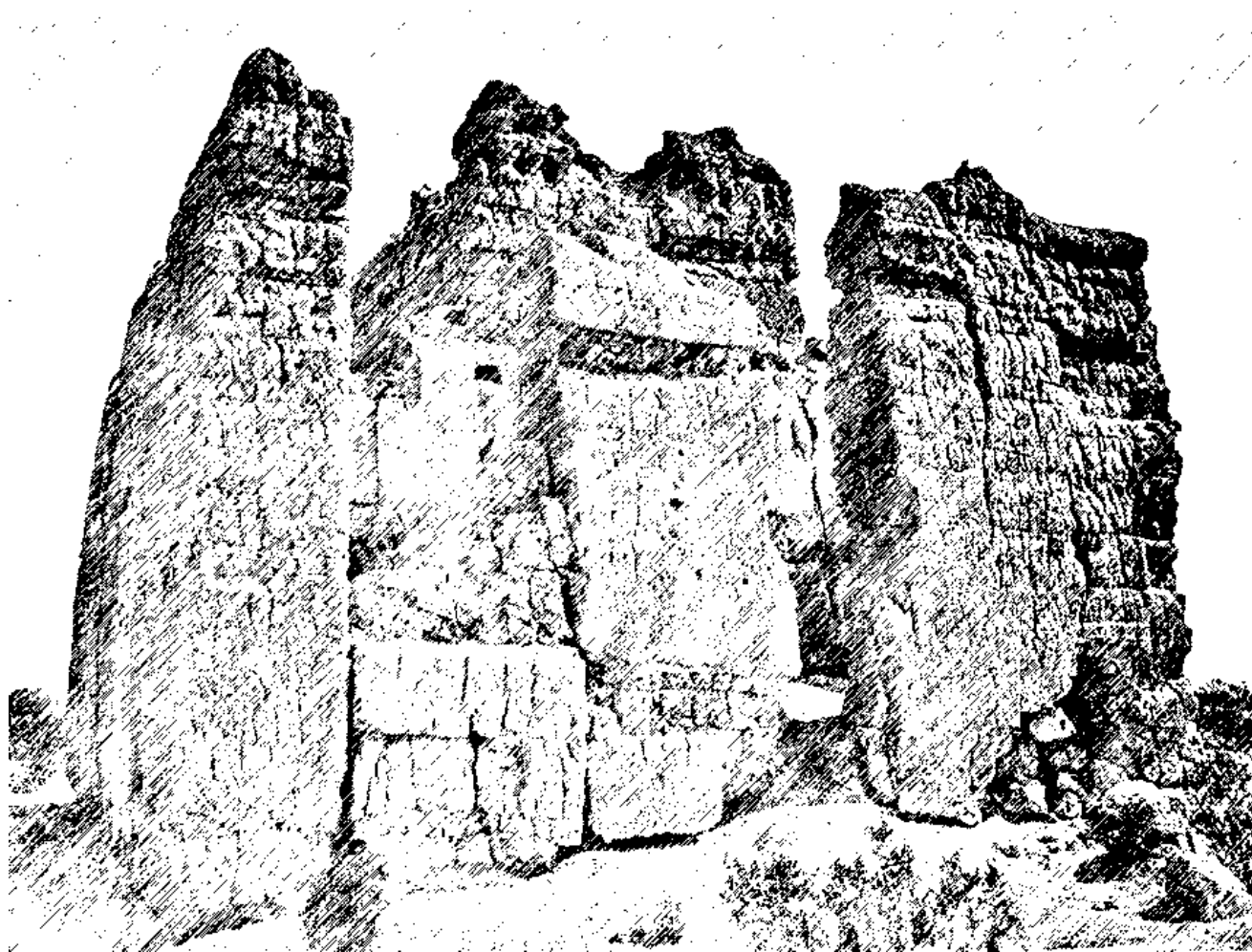


# GAAC

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission's (GAAC)  
Annual Report FY2011-12



Casa Grande Ruins, Coolidge, Arizona

# GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012

## 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

Dr. E. Charles Adams (1 September 2010\*) Arizona State Museum Representative  
Archaeologist

### Vice Chair

Dr. Connie Stone (1 September 2011\*) Federal Agency Representative  
Archaeologist/Bureau of Land Management

### Members

Thomas Jones (1 September 2014) Historical Archaeology Representative  
Archaeologist

Dr. J. Andrew Darling (1 September 2012) Tribal Representative  
Archaeologist/Gila River Indian Community

Dr. Chris Downum (1 September 2011\*) University Representative  
Archaeologist/Northern AZ University

Dr. Margerie Green (1 September 2010*)	Professional Archaeology Representative Archaeologist/Private Archaeological Consultant
Donna Ruiz y Costello (1 September 2012)	Avocational Archaeology Representative
Duane Hubbard (1 September 2013)	Federal Agency Representative Archaeologist/National Park Service
Kristen McLean (1 September 2014)	State Agency Representative Archaeologist/Arizona State Parks

(\* 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

- Submitted a report summarizing the effects of the international border crisis on cultural resources and federal and state agency responses with recommendations on how to more effectively plan and cooperate among these agencies to better protect or mitigate effects on cultural resources.
- A new layer of data has been added to the AZSITE system, the state's database of archaeological and historical sites, that focuses on raw material sources found in prehistoric archaeological sites as a result of consultations with members of the GAAC.
- Developed a list of 100 places to visit that feature archaeological sites or indigenous communities occupied prior to Euroamerican settlement of Arizona in honor of Arizona's Centennial celebration. Because these sites are open and available to the general public, the list includes locational information and websites, where available.

- Actively helped organize and participate in the annual Historic Preservation Conference that was held in Prescott in June 2012. As part of the conference, GAAC selected winners for the annual Awards in Public Archaeology that were presented at an awards ceremony GAAC also sponsored a training session on the identification and analysis of prehistoric artifacts in Arizona.

## 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 helping to organize presentations, workshops, and sessions at 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 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](http://azstateparks.com/SHPO/gaac_awards_list.html)