



# Building Community: Fort Sill Chiricahua- Warm Springs Apache

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FORT SILL APACHE LEADERSHIP

INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – NOV. 13, 2025

*Sculpture: Allan Houser*



*Jennifer Heminokeky, Board Chair*

# Tribal Leadership

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Jennifer Heminokeky - Board Chair

James Buckner - Treasurer

Naomi Hartford - Business Committee,  
Cultural Coordinator

Joel Davis - Attorney, JD Law

# Community Taken: Community Returned

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Federally recognized “Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache”

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Once 14 million acres of land Southwestern NM, Southwestern AZ

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1886 – Removal, prisoners of war. Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma

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2011 – Received federal Indian reservation designation in Luna County

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2012 – Tribe included in State-Tribal Collaboration Act, won suit vs. State of NM

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2021 – Land back recipients from Luna County private owners

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2023 - Added 1,880 acres to reservation through land exchange with State of New Mexico

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Reservation location: Luna County, Deming School District



# Reservation & Land in Luna County

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# TODAY

## Building Community: Adverse Past to Bright Future

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814 tribal members

Opening a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) on reservation, Tribal-Cultural Consultation government officials – 3 staff

Remain connected to homelands, travel to perform tribal cultural activities

Award 35 adult and higher education scholarships each year.

Provide over 50 full-time jobs in NM.



# Tribal Representation: Washington, DC & NM

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- Government to Government Roundtable Meetings – Washington, DC (Nov. 2025)
- NM Infrastructure Finance Conference – Albuquerque (Nov. 2025)
- UNM Hospital - Annual Tribes, Pueblos, Nations Meeting (Oct. 2025)
- NM Indian Affairs Dept. Reservation Visit (Sept. 2025)
- NM Office of Broadband Visit (Sept. 2025)





# Building Community: Welcoming travelers, Creating jobs

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## **50 New Mexico jobs**

**Truck stop, restaurants, Cultural Center - Fort Sill Reservation**

Fuel, food, safe place to rest for travelers, truck drivers

35 – 40 employees (truck stop) - Creates jobs, largest job creator in 15 years

## **Fort Sill Apache Industries - Albuquerque**

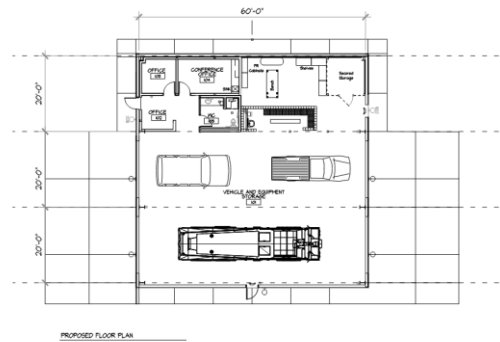
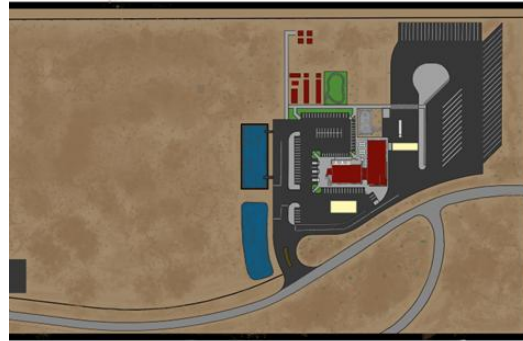
U.S. govt. contracts providing construction, network security, payroll processing

NASA, Depts. of Defense, Homeland Security, Labor, Army, Navy

# FUTURE

## Building Community: Being there for your neighbors

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### 2026 Capital Outlay Requests

**Fire station – \$1 million request**

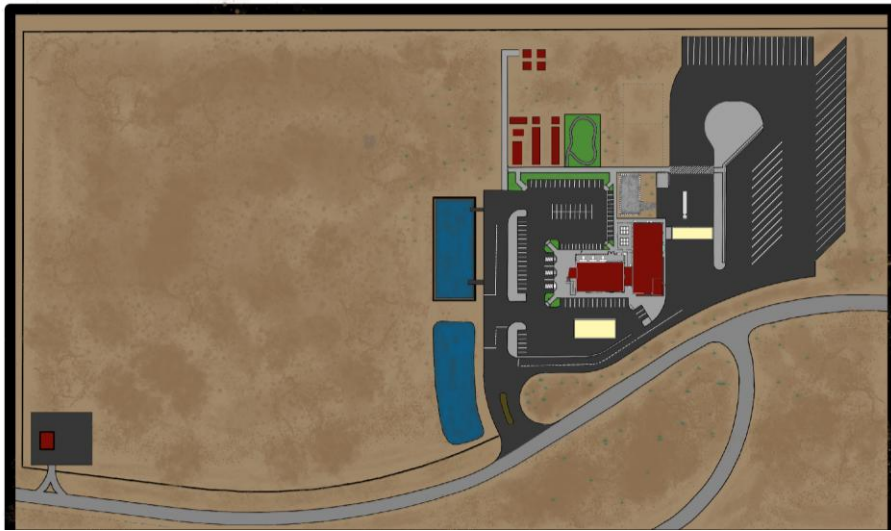
Thank you for past funding (\$905k)

Emergency response for 1,000 families, natural gas station, I 10 highway accidents. Cut response times by 300%.

Over an hour for the nearest emergency responders. That's too late in most cases.

Located on Reservation





# Building Community: Starts with having a home

Housing - \$1.19 million (planning, design, construction)

Quality, high-efficiency affordable housing  
Critical to reestablishing permanent home,  
job retention and growth

Survey is completed and design phase is underway.

OASIS PARK  
\$71,600 EACH  
+ 19,500 SHIPPING **2**

ANSI A119.5 Standards  
for fire and life safety, plumbing, fuel systems and equipment,  
visions and construction requirements

- 1 bathroom, 1 bedroom, kitchenette
- shingles, house-wrap, exterior faucet, patio
- with range, refrigerator, garbage disposal,
- ave, smoke detector, queen mattress & frame

ty after set  
costs

re in Style with the Champion Home - Order  
now! — Backyard Oasis

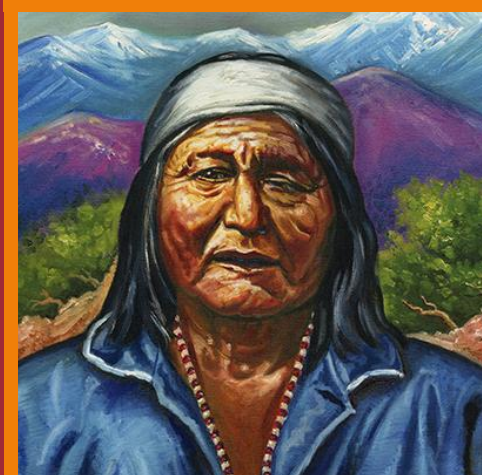
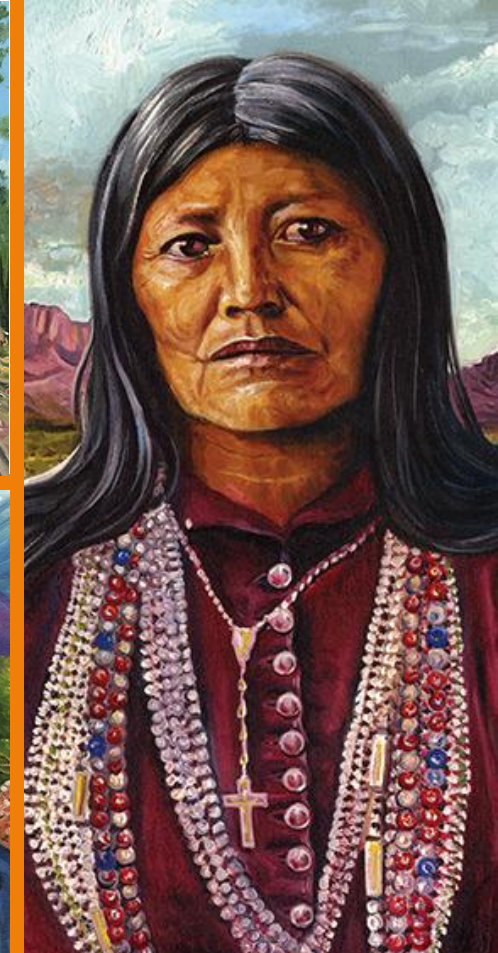
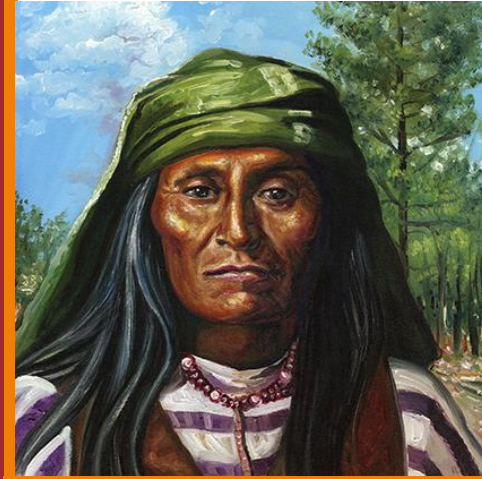


# Building community: Knowing and sharing your culture

## Cultural Center - \$1.25 million request

- Thank you for past funding. (\$550k)
- Preparing to receive more donated art, artifacts.
- Tourist destination.
- Plan for 5,000 sq. ft.
- Archival grade HVAC system to preserve, display tribal cultural artifacts, meeting and educational rooms
- Half-acre outdoor walk, tribal cultural dance ground, observer seating and gathering areas.

*(Carl Mangus – son of Chief Mangas Coloradas, last holdout;  
Tahdeste – tribal negotiator in dangerous times; Chief Loco – Last  
living chief, sought peace, survived bear attack; Tribe clothing bead  
work)*





# Notable Tribal Members

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## **Allan Houser**

First Fort Sill Apache child to be born free. One of the most celebrated Native American sculptors of the 20th century.  
*(Sculpture by Allan Houser)*

## **Mildred Cleghorn**

Plaintiff in Cobell v. Salazar (1996) Won suit against U.S. Dept. of Interior and Treasury for mismanagement of Indian trust funds. Largest class action lawsuit in U.S. at the time.

First chairperson of the tribe, textile artist

**Nancy Marie Mithlo** - Professor, curator, visual anthropologist



# Building Community: Fostering Wellness

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## **TBD - Considering Healthcare Facility**

Potential design, construction, furnishing and equipping a new healthcare facility for the Fort Sill Reservation and region.

Provides primary and behavioral health care services to tribal and local community members.

Q&A



# Thank you.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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