

# SOUL

## **SONF RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LA PAZ, BOLIVIA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

The Soul of Nations Foundation (SONF) has received a grant from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz, Bolivia for the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project. The Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project coincides with the U.S. Embassy La Paz Public Affairs Section's program priority to Strengthen cultural and educational ties between the U.S. and Bolivia through cultural and change programming that highlights shared values and promotes bilateral cooperation. The project also falls in alignment with the U.S. Embassy La Paz Public Affairs Section's mission to promote culture by supporting and facilitating academic exchanges between the United States and Bolivia.

The U.S. Embassy in La Paz conducts diplomatic relations with the government of Bolivia and strives to strengthen mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and Bolivia. The U.S. Embassy seeks to promote understanding of the U.S., its society, government, and policies, through cultural and information programs that reach all of Bolivian society. The Public Affairs Section (PAS) strives to enhance mutual understanding among the people of the United States and Bolivia. The Cultural Affairs Office is responsible for promoting cultural and educational ties between the United States and Bolivia. The office works closely with numerous Bolivian academic and cultural institutions to organize lectures, exhibits, performances, videoconferences, and a variety of other activities.

In partnership with the U.S. Embassy La Paz, the Soul of Nations Foundation is excited to further expand the art engagement facet of our mission through the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project (GAP). Indigenous International is the umbrella program created through the Soul of Nations Foundation's Indigenous Arts Expansion Initiative which is aimed to help connect Indigenous youth from the Americas and Africa with boundary-pushing cultural and artistic experiences around the world. The Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project presents the opportunity for three young Native American women artists/ architects from the southwestern region of the United States to connect with up to 10 young Bolivian women artists/ architects living in La Paz through a nine-month cultural exchange that has virtual and in-person components, and a two-week artist residency that will result in one collaborative exhibition to be open to the public in La Paz for four months and be made accessible online.

Traditional forms of Indigenous art and architecture have often been misrepresented in mainstream media and academia. The majority of Indigenous communities in the Americas reside in rural areas where they often build and live in structures constructed with materials that have been obtained locally and are considered "green." These structures are created through the use of architectural techniques that have been utilized for generations. Unfortunately, a myth exists that Indigenous American vernacular architecture is substandard, temporary, and for the impoverished. Indigenous communities from North and South America are continuously striving for environmental stability.

Applications for the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project in Bolivia will be available online in March 2021. For questions specific to the program please contact [gap@soulofnations.org](mailto:gap@soulofnations.org) or visit the Soul of Nations Foundation website.

### **ABOUT SONF**

The Soul of Nations Foundation, Inc. is a for-purpose 501(c)3 organization with a mission is to progress Indigenous youth and communities through the arts, research, and scholarship. Over the past four years, the Soul of Nations Foundation has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Senate to facilitate programs and exhibitions for Indigenous artists and researchers. In 2019, the Soul of Nations Foundation opened its first international Indigenous contemporary art gallery in Italy called Soul Center for the Arts. The Soul of Nations Foundation is excited to further expand the art engagement facet of our mission to connect Indigenous youth with boundary-pushing cultural and artistic experiences around the world.

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