Dear Friends:

Given our shared passion for understanding people’s lives in the past, don’t you sometimes find it easier to look back 200 generations than forward four?

Four generations. One hundred years. (Archaeologically, a rather short time span.)

Yet that’s what we at Archaeology Southwest must do, constantly—create the way forward. And you help us do that, through your awareness, your voice, and your support.

For example, we must plan for long-term protection of the archaeological sites we own and easements we hold.

We must illustrate the value and meaning of our research into big-picture questions about how people made a living, saw themselves, and related to others. We must listen, learn from, and honor Indigenous knowledge and histories.

We must share new insights, broadly, and from one generation to the next. We must highlight the values of the places we protect and advocate for in order to light a spark in future generations—because we need them to value and protect these places into the coming centuries.

We must understand how Archaeology Southwest’s responsibilities and commitments are being affected by changing climate, social conditions, and economic conditions. We must listen and learn how we might attune our work to be more equitable and just. We’re evaluating, constantly, and taking action accordingly—as we have since our inception 38 years ago.

For this year’s report, I asked our team to share with you not only our highlights for 2019, but also our next steps. Our way forward into 2020 and beyond.

You help us make our way. You are our companions on this path. And we are glad and grateful for that.

Onward,

William H. Doelle
President & CEO
With generous assistance from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, as well as your support, we acquired a 40-acre parcel that doubled the acreage we protect as the Gillespie Narrows Petroglyph Complex. The complex, which sits along the Gila River southwest of Phoenix, comprises basalt cliffs evincing a rich and layered record of diverse peoples. Archaeology Southwest now protects, through ownership or conservation easement, 22 properties bearing priceless and irreplaceable heritage—almost 900 acres across the Southwest.

We concluded a groundbreaking agreement with the White Mountain Apache Tribe to facilitate monitoring of endangered sites and implementation of forensic sedimentology on their Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Forensic sedimentology is an emerging tool for investigating cultural heritage crimes, and in 2019 we developed and field-tested a new protocol for sediment collection and analysis. The protocol integrates scientific techniques—specifically, binocular microscopy, petrography, and instrumental neutron activation analyses.

Midyear, we welcomed archaeologist Shannon Cowell to assist Stacy Ryan on the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreement between Archaeology Southwest and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Through this agreement, we continue to work with federal and Tribal agencies to respond to potential violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and help prevent such crimes.

As part of this CESU, we compiled the first complete guide to the field investigation and documentation of Archaeological Resources Protection Act violations. The guide will standardize and professionalize heritage damage assessments across Tribal and public lands.

Preserving Landscapes and Sites

With generous assistance from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, as well as your support, we acquired a 40-acre parcel that doubled the acreage we protect as the Gillespie Narrows Petroglyph Complex. The complex, which sits along the Gila River southwest of Phoenix, comprises basalt cliffs evincing a rich and layered record of diverse peoples. Archaeology Southwest now protects, through ownership or conservation easement, 22 properties bearing priceless and irreplaceable heritage—almost 900 acres across the Southwest.

Midyear, we welcomed archaeologist Shannon Cowell to assist Stacy Ryan on the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreement between Archaeology Southwest and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Through this agreement, we continue to work with federal and Tribal agencies to respond to potential violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and help prevent such crimes.

As part of this CESU, we compiled the first complete guide to the field investigation and documentation of Archaeological Resources Protection Act violations. The guide will standardize and professionalize heritage damage assessments across Tribal and public lands.

Working with a Native American-owned communications agency to raise public awareness of what constitutes heritage crime

Developing a robust framework for working with Tribes on shared goals to protect heritage places

Undertaking a holistic assessment of our preservation program’s acquisition strategy into the future
A major development happened early in 2019: The Preservation Archaeology Field School received another round of funding from the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program (NSF REU-1851763) for 2019–2021 (now extended to 2022). That’s another three years we’ll be able to provide essential stipends for students from diverse backgrounds. To date, 78 students have attended the field school with this funding.

2019 was Archaeology Southwest’s eleventh year working in the upper Gila River region of New Mexico. Our faculty included myself and Jeff Clark as directors, Leslie Aragon as field director, Evan Giomi and Kelsey Hanson as supervisors, Max Forton as survey supervisor, and Allen Denoyer as experimental archaeology supervisor. Our 12 incredible students from as many schools around the country helped us finally, finally, find the eastern edges of the two main room blocks at the Gila River Farm site.

In addition, I became an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Arizona, which streamlines aspects of our co-sponsored field school and advances my opportunities to work with its students.

In total, 124 students have experienced—and themselves enriched—our holistic curriculum since the field school’s inception in 2010. Most of our alumni enter the profession in some capacity, carrying the evolving ethic of Preservation Archaeology forward.

I continued to work with our Tribal partners and conservation groups to track Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs actions related to their draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Resource Management Plan amendment (RMPA) for Greater Chaco. Plenty of media interviews, tours, lectures, and appearances helped raise awareness of threats from the oil and gas industry and how our coalition plans to meet them—my voice, which projects naturally, still got a workout.

Representatives of eight Pueblos and Tribes participated in a panel discussion on protecting Greater Chaco that archaeologist Ruth Van Dyke and I organized for the Society for American Archaeology meetings in April. We were doubly honored that Representative Debra Haaland (D-NM) also attended the session and spoke about her commitment to protection.

A few days later, I testified before the House Natural Resources Committee Hearing on the Chaco Cultural Heritage Protection Area Act of 2019, H.R. 2181. This was followed by written testimony and the welcome news in October that H.R. 2181 had passed the full House. The bill is pending in the Senate.

In November, I traveled to Washington, DC, to present on threats to the Greater Chaco Landscape for the U.S. International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). While I was in the capital, I met with staffers from the entire New Mexico congressional delegation to advocate on behalf of this extraordinary landscape.
This was year 2 of the Lower Gila River Ethnographic and Archaeological Project, a three-year investigation funded, in large part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities (RZ-255760). Generous support for our work in the region also comes from the Smith Family Trust Fund for Site Protection, in loving memory of William T. Lawrence.

Fieldwork came to near-completion in 2019. Our team of Wright, Andrews, Arrow, Owl, and White came together for the fall–winter field season; Wright, Arrow, and Skylar Begay were the crew for the earlier winter–spring session. Over the course of 24 weeks on the ground, the team recorded over 70 archaeological sites, inventoried nearly 10,000 pottery sherds, and inventoried more than 5,000 petroglyphs.

The project grounds archaeological fieldwork in the oral histories and perspectives of five Tribes with traditional connections to the understudied landscapes of the lower Gila: the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe (of which Andrews, Arrow, Owl, and White are members), Cocopah Indian Tribe, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, Gila River Indian Community, and Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

In archaeological terms, the lands we’re investigating are primarily associated with the Patayan tradition. In upland settings, people made a living by moving around the landscape seasonally and strategically. Along major waterways, people farmed and lived in large villages. Vibrant petroglyph, pictograph, and geoglyph traditions are part of the Patayan pattern, and our team recognizes designs that have significance in Quechan culture today.

**Exploring Cultural Landscapes of the Lower Gila River**

AARON WRIGHT, JASON ANDREWS, CHARLES ARROW, KEAHNA OWL, AND ZION WHITE

Bird's eye view of Keahna Owl documenting petroglyphs.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Transitioning the project team to analysis and data entry, including adding information to cyberSW
- Synthesizing and reporting results
- Integrating our findings into the body of knowledge supporting creation of a Great Bend of the Gila National Monument or National Conservation Area
Of course we stayed the course in 2019. Our lawsuit against the current administration sits before Judge Tanya S. Chutkan in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Previously, the court combined our lawsuit with two others so they would proceed concurrently. Our original co-plaintiffs are Utah Diné Bikéyah, Patagonia Works, Friends of Cedar Mesa, Conservation Lands Foundation, Access Fund, Society for Vertebrate Paleontology, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 2019, Judge Chutkan denied the administration’s motion to dismiss. We and the other coalitions of plaintiffs filed amended complaints detailing our reasons for suing and showing that we had standing—the right to sue in this matter.

A key goal is to restore Bears Ears National Monument to its original boundaries and Tribal co-management. To that end, we formally opposed the Final Monument Management Plan the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service released in July. The plan leans too far into the multiple-use precept, to the benefit of extractive industries and detriment of a majestic cultural landscape held sacred by Tribes. Like you, we still think national monuments should mean something.

That’s why our overarching goal is to protect all national monuments from such travesties. With support from the Conservation Lands Foundation, we produced a double issue of *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* dedicated to raising awareness of the cultural and natural landscapes of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which also suffered unlawful reduction. Research Associate R. E. Burrillo brought together an impressive roster of authors, and we welcomed one, paleontologist Christa Sadler, for our October Archaeology Café.

Preparing for eventual ruling on our motion for summary judgment, an early 2020 filing in which we asked the court to rule that the president had acted unlawfully and to set aside the resulting monument management plans.

Partnering with Friends of Cedar Mesa and Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance to fight threats to public lands between Bears Ears and Canyons of the Ancients National Monuments.

Defending *the Antiquities Act*
Our researchers were busy with a mix of projects that carried over from 2018.

Joshua Watts came on board as cyberSW manager in January. Joshua and I readied this living data repository and powerful analytical tool for launch, focusing on the platform’s organization and public-facing web browser. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF SBE-1738062), cyberSW is a collaboration by Archaeology Southwest, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the University of Colorado Boulder. We’re joined by volunteer citizen scientists Katherine Cerino and Jaye Smith, among others, as we continue to infuse the repository with data.

Karen Schollmeyer, a zooarcheologist by training, and Mike Diehl, an archaeobotanist colleague, compiled a massive body of legacy data on plants and animals from the Mimbres area of New Mexico (NSF BCS-1524079). She continued collaborating with biologist Stephen MacDonald on an investigation of ancient animal distribution data in the region. Karen was also a discussant in a 2019 Society for American Archaeology forum, “Women and Grant-Getting: Strategies for Writing NSF Grants.”

Paul Reed worked with Larry Baker, director of the Salmon Ruins Museum, and multiple Pueblos and Tribes on the museum’s consultation process to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. He and co-editor Gary M. Brown won a New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for their 2018 volume Aztec, Salmon, and the Puebloan Heartland of the Middle San Juan.

For Aaron Wright’s new look at the Bouse Well, an important Patayan site in far western Arizona, he analyzed collections at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum at UC Berkeley and the San Diego Museum of Man. He also reported on site documentation in a portion of the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

I designed a plan for documenting sites on Arizona’s Tonto National Monument. Because a fire burned through much of the monument in 2019, the scope of the project has expanded. Chris Caseldine joined our staff at the turn of the year and will be working with me on this Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit agreement with the National Park Service.

Moving into year 4 of our Fluid Identities initiative, we convened a workshop at which regional archaeology experts, Tribal experts, and mapping and graphics expert Catherine Gilman created a series of maps that consider social identities and archaeological worlds in the Gila River Watershed through time. The initiative is an integrated research, advocacy, and outreach program tied to the ancestral lands of the watershed, which extends across much of the southern U.S. Southwest and includes vital public lands.
Ancient technologies expert Allen Denoyer led the Hands-On Archaeology program through another action-packed year. In addition to his monthly fall–spring demonstrations at Steam Pump Ranch in Oro Valley, Arizona, and at Mission Garden in Tucson, he taught 11 classes, ranging from flintknapping and knife hafting to the making of atlatls, bone awls, and stone and shell jewelry. Visitors to Mission Garden—Tucson’s birthplace—had a special opportunity to help Allen build a replica of the kind of pithouse people would have sheltered in there 2,000 years ago. Allen shared his skills across 58 days at workshops and special events across Arizona and New Mexico, and he took part in three Tribal archaeology training sessions around Arizona.

In April, we welcomed Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Kate Fitzpatrick to the team. Volunteers contributed to several significant endeavors during the year, including the Robinson Collection project and the Sells Red project. For the latter, Elizabeth Burt and Joyce Clarke assisted researcher James Heidke (Desert Archaeology, Inc.) with analysis of a collection of red ware pottery made in southern Arizona from about 800 to 1400 CE and housed at the Arizona State Museum. The former project is a multiyear team effort led by Jaye Smith. Citizen scientist crews organize and analyze a legacy archaeological collection recovered by the late Raymond F. Robinson.

During the 2019 staff retreat, Allen Denoyer welcomed us to the Salado room he built with the help of Preservation Archaeology Field School students.

Archaeology Café celebrated its twelfth year, thanks in large part to generous support from Arizona Humanities and The Smith Living Trust. We continued to partner with The Loft Cinema in Tucson to create the fun, casual atmosphere that is the program’s mainstay. Special thanks go to videographer Victoria Rendon, who works with Kathleen Bader to produce the videos you can watch on demand at our YouTube channel and website. Thanks, too, to all our fine presenters. (And a quick nod to our sister program across the pond, Archaeology Café UK.)

What a pleasure it was to work with guest editors Homer Thiel, R. E. Burrillo, and Jeremy Moss on the latest editions of Archaeology Southwest Magazine. The comprehensive “Tucson Underground” is now on sale at major cultural destinations around town, including those featured in its pages. The edition also gives citizens a very real sense of the purpose and outcome of archaeological projects done under contract to municipal agencies. “Enigmatic and Endangered” explores the landscapes of Grand Staircase-Escalante from very deep time to the present through the voices of those most familiar with them. We are grateful to the Pueblo of Jemez for giving us permission to use Stan Ford’s photograph of the Pueblo’s Feast Day for the cover of “Pecos Pueblo, a Place of Persistence.” We were honored to help share Pecos’s extraordinary story.

NEXT STEPS »

Launching an Instagram account to feature Hands-On Archaeology projects

Planning an engaging “new way to café” from home for the 2020–2021 season

Compiling and sharing a curated guide to our many educational resources, organized by topic
Front row, from left to right: Joshua Watts, Leslie Aragon, Karen Schollmeyer, Stacy Ryan, Kate Sarther, Kathleen Bader. Back row, from left to right: Kamillia Hoban, Paul Reed, Allen Denoyer, and Bill Doelle. Not pictured: Jason Andrews, Charles Arrow, Jeff Clark, Shannon Cowell, Stephanie Egurola, Kate Fitzpatrick, Mari Martinko, Keenan Montoya, Keahna Owl, Laura Packard, Linda Pierce, John Welch, Zion White, Aaron Wright. At the turn of the year, we bid a fond farewell to Operations Director Kamillia Hoban and Office Manager Mari Martinko, and welcomed Nicole Taylor (Operations) and Sarah Allen (Manager).

None of this is possible without you

2019 Operating Revenue
Total: $2,361,576

Net Assets
as of 12/31/2019

2019 Operating Expenses
Total: $2,336,811

Unaudited. Complete audited financials are available on request.