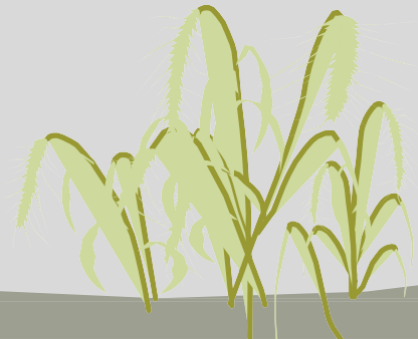


Mission/Vision

Vision: The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum is dedicated to the memories of the first Stewart students from Great Basin tribes in 1890, and all students and their families who were impacted by the Stewart experience. The vision of the museum is to serve as a steward of living American Indian materials and traditions.

Mission: The mission of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum is to tell the stories of the thousands of American Indian children from western tribes who were educated at Stewart. These stories tell of a complex past that changed the course of generations of these children. The countless stories of hardship, resilience, strength, and triumph are at the core of the current efforts to preserve the Stewart campus and are illustrated in the exhibits at the museum. In addition to sharing Stewart's history, the museum is a place of living heritage through exhibits of contemporary Native art, storytelling, arts and crafts demonstrations, lectures, public programming, and educational activities. The museum serves as a research facility for Stewart students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the general public.





Stewart Cultural Advisory ommittee

- This committee is made up of about Stewart alumni and their family members. They oversee everything about this museum—how it was planned and designed, incorporating Great Basin Native art throughout the museum, sharing their stories in exhibit content, and recording their Great Basin languages for the Voices of Stewart exhibit.



Stewart Indian School

- Stewart Indian School in Carson City, Nevada, was operated by the federal government for 90 years, from 1890-1980. The federal government set up boarding schools to educate Native American children in the late 1800s. This forced assimilation policy was part of treaty rights but justified dividing up Native land through allotment and intended to assimilate Indian children into dominant culture. During its 90-year history, the school underwent many changes at the federal level, as well as at the local level. And thousands of students, their families, and communities were affected.

State of Nevada



- The federal government BIA closed the school in 1980 and the State of Nevada took over the property, housing state agencies and non-profits on the 110 acres.
- In 2017 the Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval and the Legislature appropriated funding for two museum staff positions and \$4.5 million to renovate the former administration building (1923) for the Museum and the former post office building (1925) for the Welcome Center
- In 2019 the Nevada Governor and Legislature appropriated state funding to create the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center in statute (NRS 233A) and an operating budget of \$300,000

Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Opens

- Soft opening in December 2019
- Officially opened January 13, 2020
- Over 1,858 people visited



Welcome to Stewart



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Storytelling Room



Wa-Pai-Shone Gallery

Great Basin Native Artists

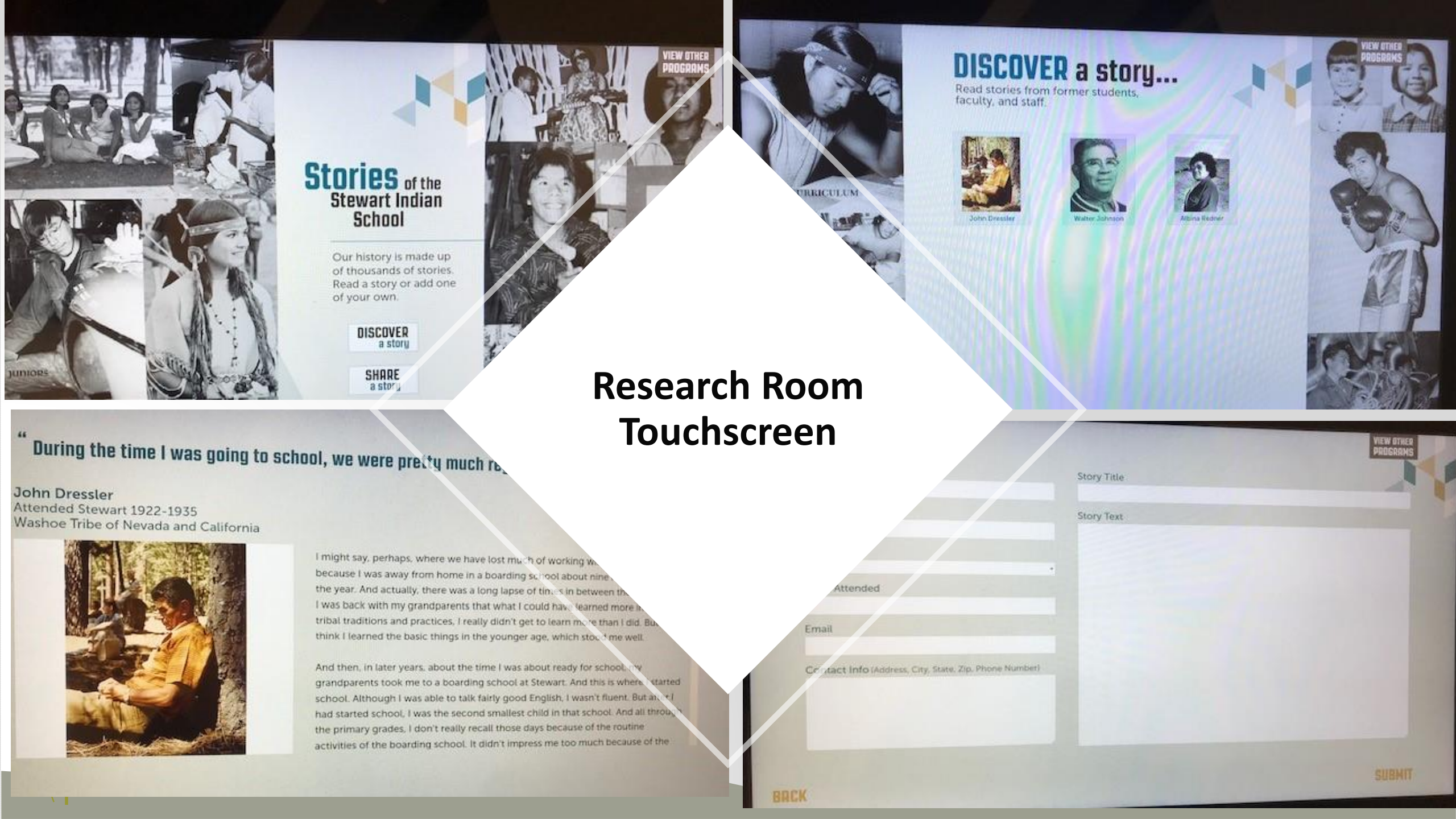


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Research Room



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Stories of the Stewart Indian School

Our history is made up
of thousands of stories.
Read a story or add one
of your own.

DISCOVER
a story

SHARE
a story

Research Room Touchscreen

DISCOVER a story...
Read stories from former students,
faculty, and staff.



John Dressler



Walter Johnson



Alaina Redner

VIEW OTHER
PROGRAMS

“ During the time I was going to school, we were pretty much re

John Dressler
Attended Stewart 1922-1935
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California



I might say, perhaps, where we have lost much of working with...
because I was away from home in a boarding school about nine...
the year. And actually, there was a long lapse of times in between the...
I was back with my grandparents that what I could have learned more in...
tribal traditions and practices, I really didn't get to learn more than I did. But...
think I learned the basic things in the younger age, which stood me well.

And then, in later years, about the time I was about ready for school, my...
grandparents took me to a boarding school at Stewart. And this is where I started...
school. Although I was able to talk fairly good English, I wasn't fluent. But after I...
had started school, I was the second smallest child in that school. And all through...
the primary grades, I don't really recall those days because of the routine...
activities of the boarding school. It didn't impress me too much because of the...

Attended

Email

Contact Info (Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number)

Story Title

Story Text

VIEW OTHER
PROGRAMS

BACK

SUBMIT

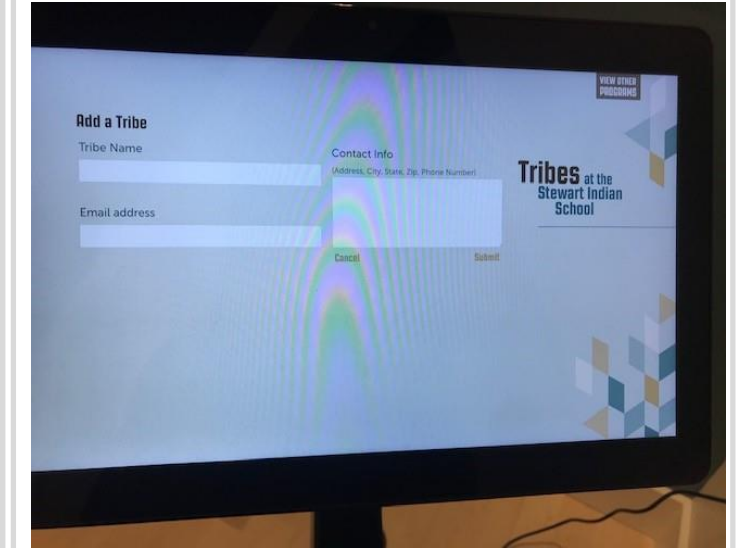
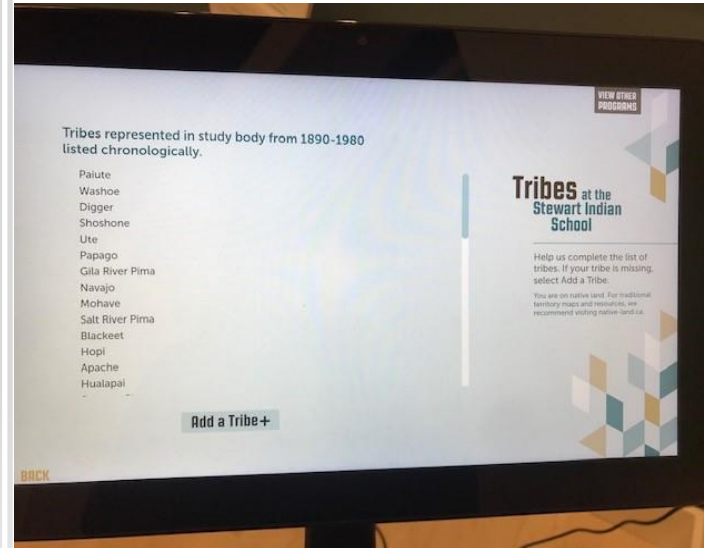
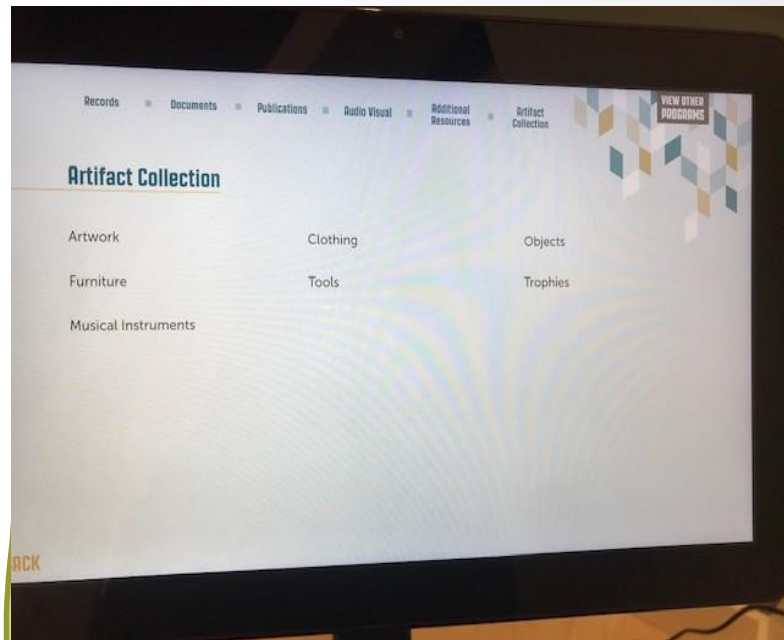
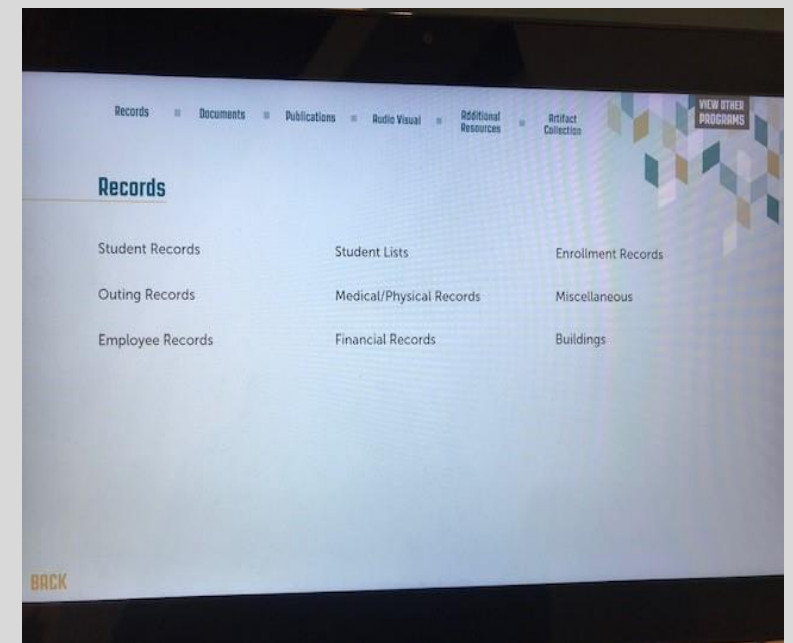
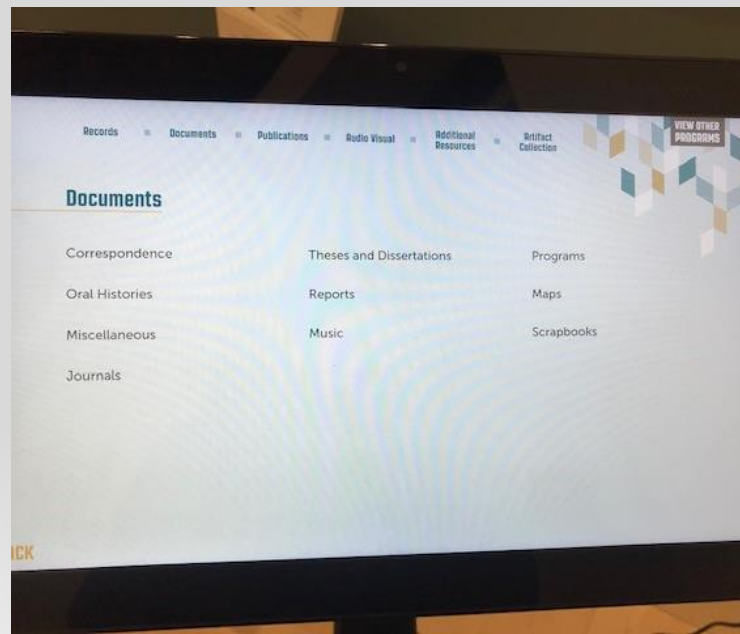
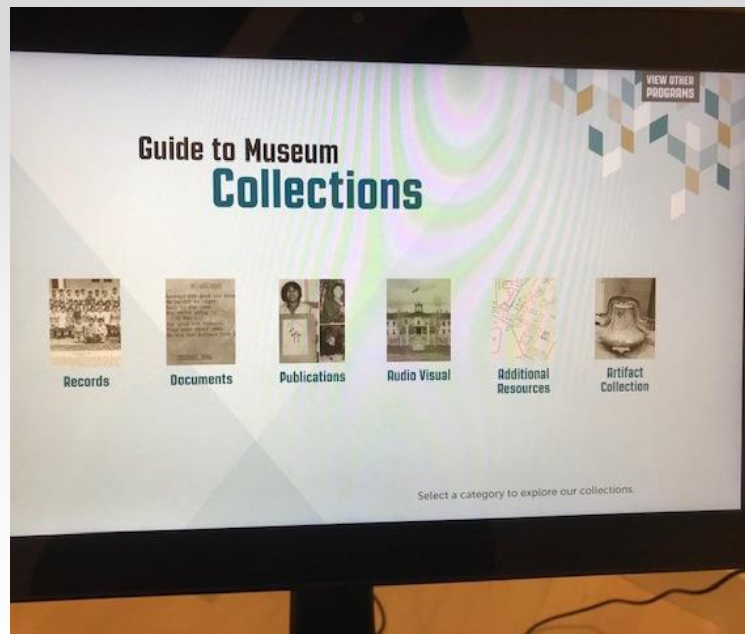


Photo Gallery



Guide to Museum Collections

Stewart Student Artwork



©VanceFox.com

Our Home, Our Relations Exhibit

Coming to Stewart



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Stewart Timeline



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HISTORY of Federal Indian POLICIES

Touch to begin >

Treaties
Bureau
Agreements
Assimilation
Citizenship
Act
Reorganization
Act
Termination
Relocation
Navajo Special
Programs
Child
Welfare Act
Self-
Deter

Federal Indian Policies

Daily Life





First Person Stories

Roger Sam, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Attended Stewart 1942-1948



Shadow of Stewart



Making Home



at Stewart, we can all have a special
life in being an Indian...if we were still
ending public school, we would only be
talking about the Anglo's culture..."

—Marty Bibb
Stewart Student, Nevada State Journal, October 31, 1965

Wa-Pai-Shone

In 1930, Wa-Pai-Shone was the creation of an Indian artist, a young man named Wa-Pai-Shone, who was a member of the Northern Shoshone tribe. He was a student at the Northern Shoshone Reservation in Idaho. He was a talented artist and a skilled craftsman. He was a member of the Northern Shoshone tribe, which was one of the many tribes that lived in the area. He was a student at the Northern Shoshone Reservation in Idaho. He was a talented artist and a skilled craftsman. He was a member of the Northern Shoshone tribe, which was one of the many tribes that lived in the area.

Reform

In the early 1900s, the federal government began to implement a series of reforms aimed at assimilating Native Americans into mainstream society. These reforms included the establishment of boarding schools, the allotment of land to individual Native Americans, and the implementation of federal laws that restricted Native American practices and customs. The reforms were intended to "civilize" Native Americans and to prepare them for life in the mainstream society. However, the reforms were often met with resistance from Native Americans, who saw them as an attempt to erase their culture and identity.

Stewart in Transition

Stewart's guiding philosophy changed over time. This philosophy reflected wider changes in US government policies and efforts by students and administrators to reform and resist oppressive practices. Both of these groups consistently pushed for better academic and vocational programs, permission for greater indigenous cultural expression, and increased tribal input on the management of the school. Throughout its history, students and parents also worked to improve pupils' experiences and opportunities at Stewart. During the final decades the school was open, students and their families were inspired by indigenous self-determination movements. Time Native children spent at the school was but one part of their lives, however. After graduation, students found ways to survive and heal from the institutional trauma of the school's assimilation policies.

Stewart

Stewart is a small town in Nevada, located in the heart of the Great Basin. It is a town of about 1,000 people, with a mix of Native American and Anglo residents. The town is known for its rich history and its beautiful scenery. It is a town that has a strong sense of community and a deep respect for its heritage.

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Stewart Today

WE ARE STILL HERE

Stewart Today

Stewart Indian School alumni and their families live throughout Nevada and the United States. After leaving the school, many got married, sometimes to fellow Stewart students, and raised families. They entered a variety of fields, including carpentry, education, athletic coaching, healthcare, and engineering. Many also served in the military, and assumed leadership positions within their vital governments. Attending the Stewart Indian School continues to affect alumni in many different ways, some positive and some negative. Attending Stewart damaged but did not destroy former students' connections with their Native cultures, languages, or traditions. Assimilation failed and the Stewart Indian School is meant to honor its alumni and their descendants, and underscore that Native American communities remain a vital part of the United States.

Did Assimilation Fail?

Boarding school assimilation programs failed. Tribal councils continue to govern Indigenous lands. Native American nations across the country have developed language revitalization programs to ensure that future generations can proudly and openly speak their languages. Similarly, tribal communities throughout the US have opened museums and cultural centers to share their histories and traditions with the broader world. The message of many Native nations is a simple, but important one: "We are still here." Stewart was once a place where the dominant culture tried to assimilate Native people and eradicate their cultures. Through the efforts of alumni, their families, tribal nations, and this museum, this land is now dedicated to celebrating Indigenous survivance, renewal, and healing.

Healing

The boarding school experience is one of duress. Alumni have generously shared their recollections of the school, which include fond memories. But intertwined within these remembrances are many dark memories. However, organizations such as the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition are working toward truth and reconciliation for boarding school alumni. Elizabeth Iwakoweth writes, "Trauma changes the way our genes are expressed. It lives in our cells and becomes a part of who we are. But that doesn't mean my trauma has to define me, my community, or my family. In his first year, my grandfather (who attended boarding school) returned to culture and used storytelling as a way to heal from the trauma he experienced as a child and adult. By choosing to tell his stories to me, we both found a way to heal." Telling the truth about the history of the Stewart Indian School and the many different experiences of its alumni is part of this healing process.

Military Service

American Indians serve in the US military in greater numbers than any other ethnic group, and have since the Revolution, despite being removed from their homelands and having their children taken to boarding schools. Native service men and women have served in military service to defend the land and their people. Native Americans served in World War I without having US citizenship. It was not until after World War II and the 1950 passage of the Voting Rights Act that states allowed Native Americans to vote. Stewart students served with distinction during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. They risked their lives in Stewart as having prepared them for life in the great forces. With this exhibit we honor all the soldiers from Stewart who have served in the military.

ALUMNI NOW

Real Cowboy
Real Cowboy is a Native American cowboy who has been riding horses since he was a child. He is a member of the Northern Plains Council of American Indians and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association. He is a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association. He is a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association.

Ben Johnson
Ben Johnson is a Native American who has been riding horses since he was a child. He is a member of the Northern Plains Council of American Indians and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association. He is a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association. He is a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and a member of the American Indian Horsemen's Association.

Don and Sally McElroy
Don and Sally McElroy are a Native American couple who have been riding horses since they were children. They are members of the Northern Plains Council of American Indians and the American Indian Horsemen's Association. They are members of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and the American Indian Horsemen's Association. They are members of the American Indian Horsemen's Association and the American Indian Horsemen's Association.

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"Survivance is an active sense of presence, the continuance of native stories, not a mere reaction, or a survivable name. Native survivance stories are renunciations of dominance, tragedy and victimry."

—Gerald Vizenor

Voices of Stewart



Welcome Center



Covid-19 and State Budget Cuts

- Covid-19 hit the US
- Governor shut down the State of Nevada
- The shutdown affected the state's economy
- The state cut the museum's operating budget by a total of \$101,000 for FY 2021
- State is also cutting operating budget for FY 2022-2023



- Received \$20,000 from WESTAF CARES Act Funds
- Received \$7,500 from Nevada Arts Council CARES Act Funds
- Received \$50,000 donation from family of Albert Hawley, Stewart alum
- Received \$15,000 donation from Carson City visitor
- Received WESTAF/Mellon Foundation Resilience Fund of \$74,000
- We are setting up a Friends of the Museum for fundraising

Museum Currently Closed to Public

Museum reopened to public July 20, 2020

- New protocols in place:
- Masks required, hand sanitizers, social distancing
- Since July 20, 861 visitors

Closed again November 11, 2020

Working to develop online activities via Stewart website: www.StewartIndianSchool.com



Hope to reopen January 4, 2021

Bobbi Rahder, Museum
Director brahder@nic.nv.gov
775-687-7606

Chris Gibbons, Museum
Curator cgibbons@nic.nv.gov
775-687-7604

Visit Carson has 3-D virtual tour
Welcoming video
[https://visitcarsoncity.com/
attractions/stewart-indian-school/](https://visitcarsoncity.com/attractions/stewart-indian-school/)

