



Project Archaeology  
**2023**  
Year in Review





# The National Program: 2023 in Retrospect

Throughout 2023, transition, transformation, and growth defined Project Archaeology. The Program, a mere seed of an idea in the late 1980s, has matured and flourished over more than 30 years due to the passion, knowledge, and experience of innumerable archaeologists, descendant community members, informal and formal educators, historic preservationists, and other heritage practitioners.

Within the past year, Project Archaeology experienced a massive operational transition – replanting the Program with two new national partners. Southern Utah University (SUU) in Cedar City, Utah serves as the new operational headquarters while the Institute for Heritage Education (IHE), a national heritage education non-profit based in Montana, provides funding, leadership, and curriculum guidance. The new national partnerships will revitalize, rebuild, manage, and support the Program and the National Network while also maintaining its vision, identity, and reputation. These changes will continue to nourish and sustain Project Archaeology. The Program – like an ever-growing oak tree – stands tall and strong.

Project Archaeology remains committed to providing superior professional development that reaches educators as well as generating high-quality educational materials that are utilized in classrooms. As the Program grows, our passionate network of archaeology educators will continue to pursue a world in which all people understand and appreciate their own culture and history as well as the culture and history of others. Together we will transform classrooms and learning spaces into communities of student archaeologists who connect culture to their own lives and desire to protect our shared past.



Professional Development Classroom Archaeology Educator Culture Professional Development Classroom Archaeology Educator Culture Professional Development Classroom Archaeology Educator Culture  
Heritage Education Past Leadership Protection Passion Heritage Education Past Leadership Protection Passion Heritage Education Past Leadership Protection Passion  
Montana Connect Knowledge Transformation Reputation Montana Connect Knowledge Transformation Reputation Montana Connect Knowledge Transformation Reputation  
Curriculum Utah Growth National Network Students Identity Curriculum Utah Growth National Network Students Identity Curriculum Utah Growth National Network Students Identity  
Vision Descendant Revitalize Transition Quality Rebuild Vision Descendant Revitalize Transition Quality Rebuild Vision Descendant Revitalize Transition Quality Rebuild

# In Sum: National Program Progress

SUU

Sam Kirkley, Professional Development Director

## The Program:

- ✓ Relocated to its new operational headquarters
- ✓ Employed 2 student employees
- ✓ Revamped the website

IHE

Jeanne Moe, Curriculum Director  
Meghan Dudley, IHE Intern

## The Program:

- ✓ Supported 3 Network Coordinators
- ✓ Hosted 1 workshop in Nevada
- ✓ Supported workshops in Minnesota and Kansas
- ✓ Completed 1 rock art investigation
- ✓ Updated electronic curriculum files

Leadership  
Team

## The Program:

- ✓ Prompted the 2023 Leadership Team Retreat in Cedar City, Utah
- ✓ Formed 5 sub-committees to ensure continued progress and sustainability
- ✓ Created a list of affirmations to inspire the Network

Federal, State,  
and Local  
Partnerships

## The Program:

- ✓ Secured cooperative agreements with the TVA and BLM State Offices to provide professional development and develop curriculum
- ✓ Expanded partnerships with various agencies, organizations, and institutions

National  
Network

Courtney Agenten, Network Director  
Sarah Bennett and Candice Cravins, Network Coordinators

## The Program:

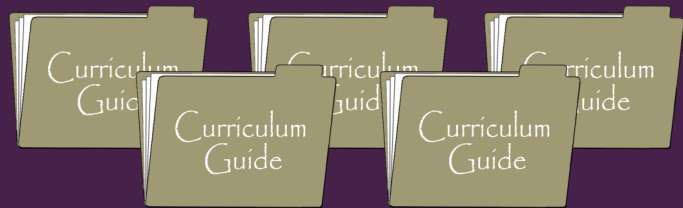
- ✓ Held 37 virtual State Program planning meetings
- ✓ Participated in outreach, such as Nine Mile Canyon Stewardship Day
- ✓ Was featured in *American Archaeology Magazine*

# Professional Development

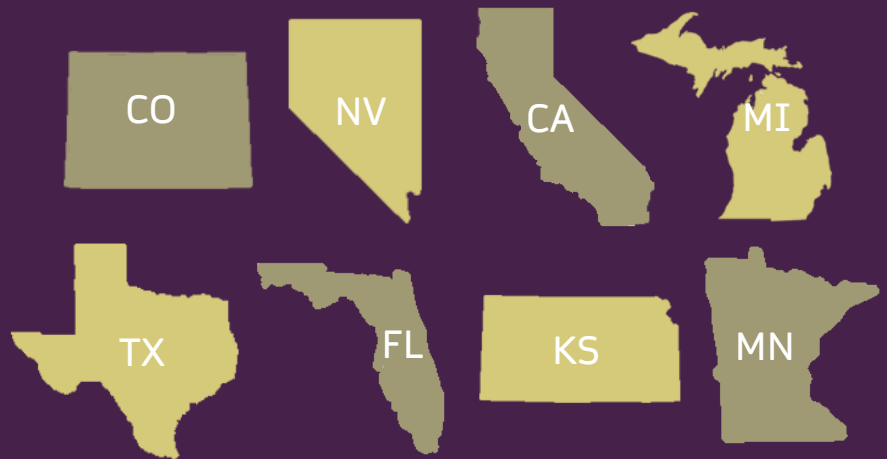
5 workshops offered



5 curriculum guides used



8 states represented



41 educators trained





# Conference on Public Archaeology

Pensacola, FL • September 22-23, 2023



**3 presentations**

Poster • Panel • Workshop

**More than 75  
session attendees**

**9 presenters**

Sam • Jeanne • Sarah •  
Lianne • Jen • Anne •  
Meg • Maegan • Virgil

# Leadership Team

The Leadership Team (LT) is a designated advisory group comprised of individuals who represent the network of Project Archaeology Program partners. LT sets direction for the National Program, identifies and recommends new partnerships, assists with problem-solving and decision-making, and offers guidance for ongoing operational transitions within the National Office and the National Network. The group met in-person in Cedar City, UT last October. The three-day retreat resulted in numerous outcomes centered on establishing the “Big Vision” for Project Archaeology and understanding the problems the Program solves.



**6 Staff Members  
attended**

**2023 Leadership  
Team Retreat**

**Operational and  
strategic planning**

**7 LT members  
attended**

**5 sub-committees  
formed**

**10 special guests  
and speakers**

**1 smudge ceremony**

**21 affirmation  
statements written**

**6 states represented**



**2 field trips to  
cultural landscapes**

**3 tribes represented**

**1 Jane Austen play  
viewed**



# The National Network

*You're Invited!*

to the Project Archaeology Forum: Shape the Future

## Zoom Forums

- ✓ 2 virtual forums offered to the Network in May 2023
- ✓ Forums kicked-off communication from the revitalized Program
- ✓ 34 people attended to hear about changes to the Program and what would come next



## State Programs

- ✓ 26 State Programs participated in at least one planning meeting
- ✓ 20 active State Programs
- ✓ 12 developing State Programs
- ✓ Future plans: offer professional development, identify funding sources, and attend education conferences to market Program



## Shape the Future of Project Archaeology: Meeting Needs and Making Opportunities Survey

For the past 33 years, Project Archaeology has developed and refined a national program that focuses on best practices in archaeology education. Protecting archaeological sites, connecting schoolchildren to the past, building trusted relationships with stakeholders, and creating a National Network of archaeology educators have also remained major components of the program.

## Network Survey

- ✓ Archaeology educators shared experiences and suggestions to shape the Program's direction
- ✓ 88 people participated
- ✓ Representation from 32 states, Washington, D.C., and 3 foreign countries



## Cooperative Agreements

- ✓ Federal and State Office BLM agreements (AZ, CO, NV, and OR) span up to 3 years
- ✓ One-year renewable agreement with the TVA
- ✓ Funds to provide professional development, create curriculum, and meet other Program needs