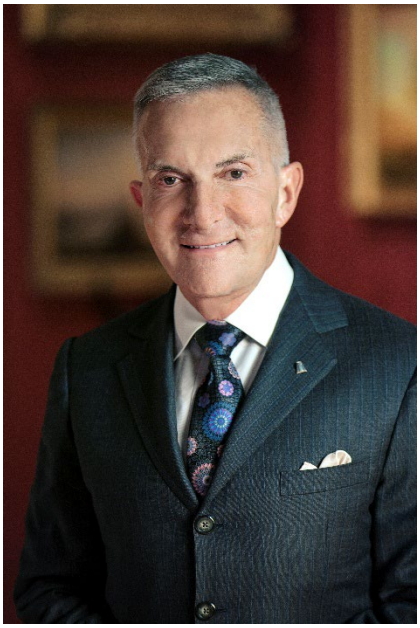
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Marshall McKay Seminar for Empowering Native Knowledge: W. Richard West Jr.

November 13–14, 2026



Autry President and CEO Emeritus W. Richard West Jr. (Cheyenne)

(October ??, 2026 - Los Angeles, CA) — The 2026 Marshall McKay Seminar for Empowering Native Knowledge will explore the life and work of Autry President and CEO Emeritus W. Richard West Jr. (Cheyenne). West was the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) for nearly two decades and served as president and CEO of the Autry for nearly nine years. Before becoming director of NMAI, West practiced law at the Native-owned law firm of Gover, Stetson, Williams & West, where he served as counsel to numerous Indian tribes and organizations.

West recently transferred his archives to the Autry for stewardship, and this year's McKay Seminar will focus on what those records reveal about how West's career as a lawyer and museum director reshaped Indian Country and museums in the United States and abroad. The two-day seminar will feature local, regional, national, and international experts in the field.

Schedule of Events:
Friday, November 13

- Seminar in the Autry Theater from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Reception in the Museum Lobby and Film Screening in Heritage Court from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 14

- Seminar at the Parks Research Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

About the Autry Museum of the American West:

The Autry Museum of the American West is dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events, and music—in addition to scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry's holdings comprise more than 600,000 artworks and cultural objects, including one of the largest and most significant collections of Native American materials in the United States. For more information, please visit https://theautry.org.

The Autry Museum of the American West acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles Basin and So. Channel Islands). We recognize that the Autry Museum and its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Gabrielino/Tongva peoples, and we pay our respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahiihirom (Elders), and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present, and emerging.

Autry Museum of the American West 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462

Museum and Store Hours:
Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Closed Mondays

The Marshall McKay Seminar for Empowering Native Knowledge is sponsored by:

HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

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