

Band Building Historical Fact Sheet

*The building was built in 1930-33 and first used as an Elementary School. Eventually younger kids no longer attended the school and so the marching band took over the space which was also used for choral practice.

*It was part of the Phoenix Indian Industrial School (PIIS) –which was operated by the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*PIIS opened in 1891 and the name was later changed to Phoenix Indian School. The school closed completely in 1990.

*Upon closing, the Bureau of Indian Affairs turned the property over to the City of Phoenix who now owns the buildings and property, renamed as Steele Indian School Park.

*On 11-12-13 the partners Native American Connections (NAC) and the Phoenix Indian Center (PIC) signed a Letter of Understanding with the City of Phoenix to renovate and manage the now vacant Band building.

*The Band building is approximately 6,000 square feet.

*The partners held a community meeting and based the floor plans on the comments and requests from the people.

*Many tribes, tribal organizations and non-tribal organizations have sent letters of support for the renovation.

*The partners, Native American Connections and the Phoenix Indian Center, want to bring back a Native American presence to the park and honor the long history of the school and the students.

*Both NAC and PIC have long and well established histories of working on behalf of Native people in the valley.

*A community Charette was held to gather community feedback on the renovation of the project. Through this discussion, the community has led the charge for the building to have spaces that incorporate a large room for community functions with state of the art technology, a commercial kitchen for use for small businesses to create meals and to teach about healthy eating and meal preparation, a gallery/history area to pay tribute to the people who attended the Phoenix Indian School and a business space for tribes to work out of when in Phoenix for business purposes.

*If you are interested in providing information on the Phoenix Indian School history or to provide a personal history, please contact Patty Talahongva at p.talahongva@nativeconnections.org

For donations for the renovation, please contact <mailto:p.talahongva@nativeconnections.org> or <mailto:phibbeler@phxindcenter.org>