



IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Institute of American Indian Arts
Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico

March 11, 1965

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

For 10 days in late April, Mr. Lloyd New, Director of Arts and Mr. James McGrath, Asst. Director, at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe will be working with some 90 young Indian people in Washington, D.C. to present a pageant of traditional and contemporary performing art forms: dance, song, legend, music, ceremonials, all coordinated with an extensive exhibition based on American Indian Performing Arts. The pageant, which Mr. New will coordinate runs for about 8 days in late April. The exhibition which Mr. McGrath will coordinate will run through May, opening April 21, 1965.

As a part of my responsibility I propose to complete a rather unique exhibition catalog. Rather than a series of lists relating names of artists, sizes of objects, etc., I propose a catalog composed of various statements from a variety of sensitively informed people relating thoughts on the American Indian performing arts. Interspersed among these statements will be traditional and contemporary Indian prose and poetry, as well as some photography and art work.

The exhibition itself will compose 3 rather long, connected rooms into one visual statement. The rooms will be formed into 6 centers of Indian performing arts: dance and textiles; music and instruments; costumes and feathers; legends, spoken and written; ceremonial items including Kiva paintings; jewelry and paraphernalia; prehistoric concepts including pictographs and petroglyphs. Accentuating all these items will be the newest experimental extensions of contemporary artists and craftsmen: painting, metal and jewelry, woven and printed textiles, sculpture, ceramics, writing, graphics.

What this correspondence brings to you is--first, a feeling of what will be happening in Indian cultural exposure very soon; and, second, to request from you an aid in the printed exhibition program concept. I would like to include in the printed program a statement from you not to exceed 500 words on the following subject as related to the performing arts of the American Indian:

A rather deep feeling, personal writing "on photographing experiences" of Indian events; especially of people involved in dances, sings, ceremonials, etc., to show the respect required, perhaps indicate some personal incidents that would secure feelings in the reader of the need for concern, deep understanding and care. Be personal. You may include a photograph of your own if you wish to illustrate what you have to say: black and white glossy of course.

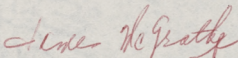
Please prepare a 25-50 word biography that exposes your work in Indian affairs and related areas. Indicate publications or any special works or projects.

I should like the statements by April 1, 1965, sent to:

Mr. James McGrath
c/o Mrs. E. H. Massey
Branch of Plant Management, Room 4248
BIA, Dept. of Interior Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.

Please let me hear from you concerning my request should you have questions. Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



James McGrath
Assistant Director of Arts