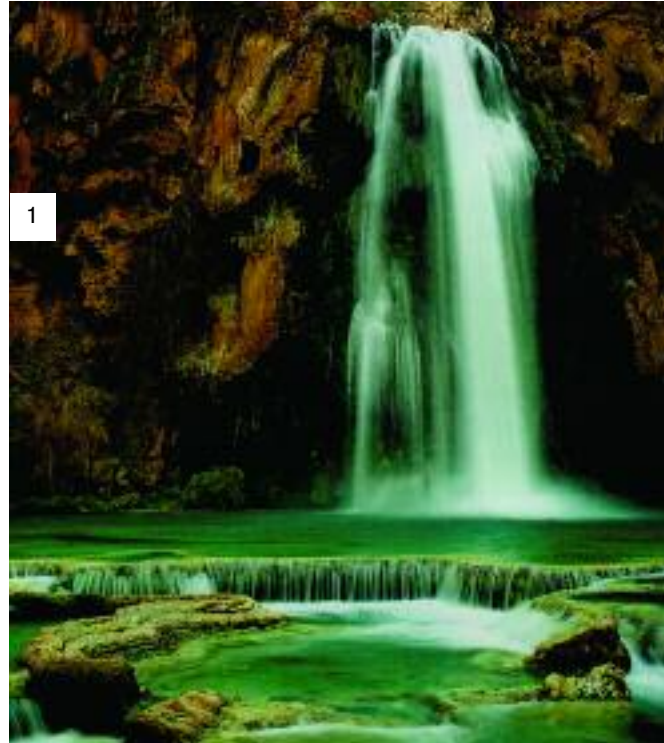


# NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT GRAND CANYON



- 1 Havasu Falls
- 2 Hopi Artifacts
- 3 Kaibab Paiute Artifacts
- 4 Vulcan's Anvil
- 5 Navajo Weaving
- 6 Illustration of Pueblo Dwelling
- 7 1995, Members of the Hopi Coochyamptewa Family dancing at Hopi House
- 8 1933, Hopi Dancers at the dedication of the Desert View Watchtower

## Introduction

Native Americans were the first people to discover, explore and live in the Grand Canyon region. The history of these first populations, their experience and how they lived within Grand Canyon is of great value to understanding the resource itself. These early populations developed an intimate relationship with the environment at Grand Canyon and cultivated the resources available to them. Today the descendants of these tribes carry forth these traditions and maintain a strong connection to the Grand Canyon as a sacred place.

The tribes with past and present ties to Grand Canyon are:

- Havasupai
- Hualapai
- Hopi
- Kaibab Band of Paiute
- Navajo Nation
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Pueblo of Zuni
- San Juan Southern Paiute

# NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT GRAND CANYON

## LAUNDRY BUILDING (HISTORIC EXHIBITS)

- Native American Artifacts and Interpretation about the River

## POWERHOUSE

- Primary Exhibits with galleries displaying Native American artifacts and interpretive information

## AMPHITHEATER

- Large, outdoor area for demonstrations, talks and performances of all kinds

## MAINTENANCE BUILDING (CANYON ARTS & INSPIRATION)

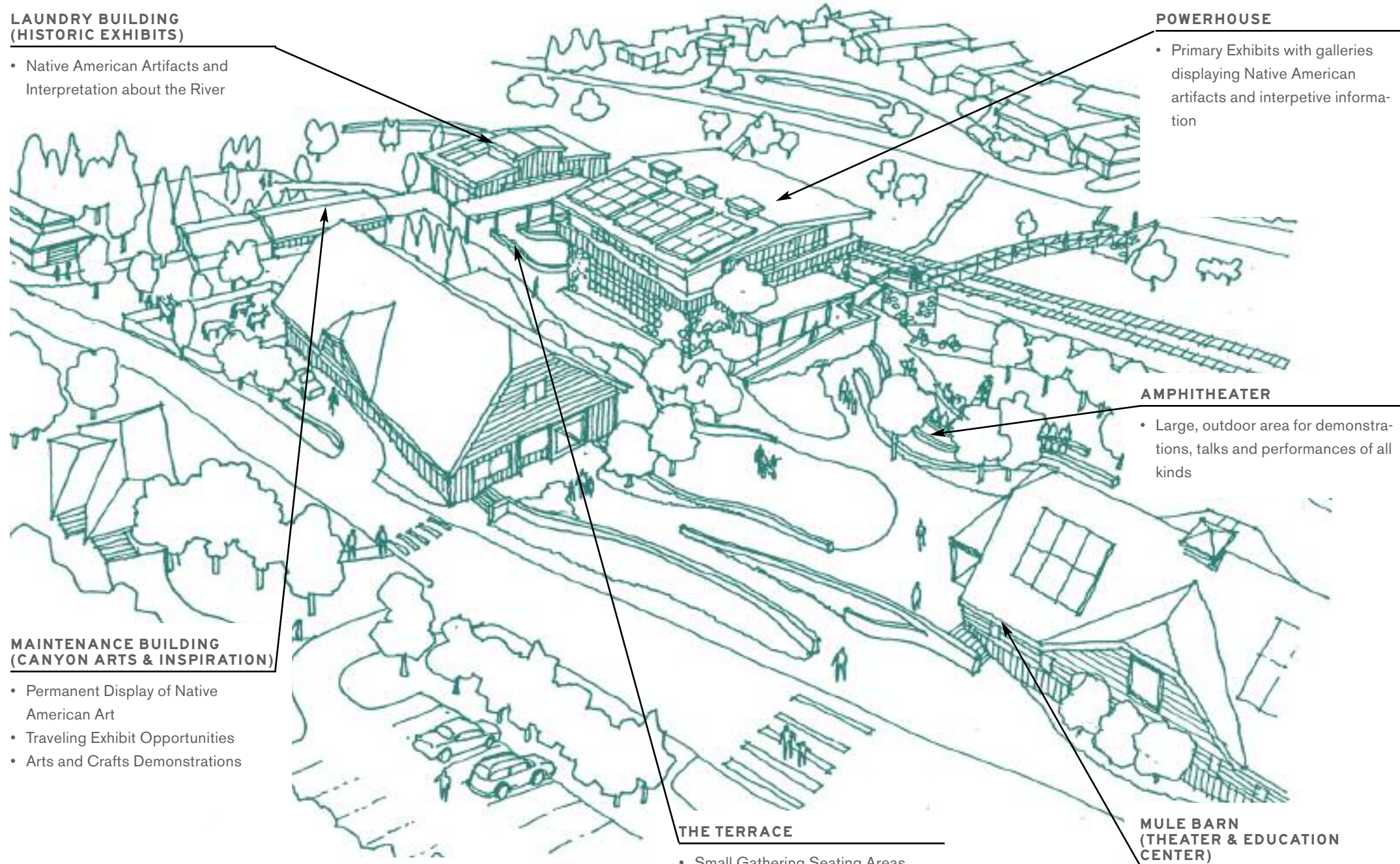
- Permanent Display of Native American Art
- Traveling Exhibit Opportunities
- Arts and Crafts Demonstrations

## THE TERRACE

- Small Gathering Seating Areas
- Native American Performances or Demonstrations/Talks

## MULE BARN (THEATER & EDUCATION CENTER)

- Indoor Evening Events and Performances
- Classroom Space for special programs and demonstrations
- Gathering Place for School Groups



## An Integral Experience

The National Park Service and the American Indian tribes represented at Grand Canyon have continued to work together to ensure the on-going preservation of Grand Canyon. Both Native American staff members and tribal representatives have participated in the conceptual planning for the Village Interpretive Center.

American Indian tribes have contributed a great deal to Grand Canyon, including work in the preservation of its history in relationship to their culture, the spiritual meaning and expression derived from the place and the stewardship of the natural environment.

## Design Influences

The Village Interpretive Center design approach integrates the Native American experience throughout the site. This approach enables the American Indian tribes to use all areas without feeling as though their stories and history are limited to one place.

All buildings and the 7-acre site itself will include Native American interpretation and have been designed with this in mind.

## NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAM AT THE VILLAGE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

# NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT GRAND CANYON



- 1 Hualapai Camp, Grand Canyon
- 2 Anasazi Bridge
- 3 Nankoweap Graneries

### *Influences on Building Design and Site Structures:*

The only new architectural elements on the site are the entry decks and shade structures associated with four of the buildings. In addition to complementing the historic nature of the site and buildings, these elements reflect a design approach inspired by past peoples who adapted to the climatic challenges of Grand Canyon. It was clear that native cultures used materials in two approaches to mitigate the effects of the harsh climate. The first was to build light structures that touched upon the land with respect and allowed wind movement through the structure to combat the heat. This was an effective use of materials available at the Grand Canyon. The second was to make use of the thermal mass available in heavier structures that were integrated into the landscape by the use of stone. Thermal mass allowed these heavier structures to remain temperate in a hot or cold environment.

These ideas influence the shade structure design and the use of passive cooling and heating approaches for the primary occupied buildings on the site.

### *Terraces and Main Public Space:*

The primary design parameters for Native American use include: a variety of spaces that are open for interpretation, set in a natural environment and with the use of sustainable materials that are inherent to native culture and its relationship to Grand Canyon.

With this in mind, the primary Main Plaza between the buildings at the Village Interpretive Center has been left virtually intact out of respect for the natural environment. This space will be complemented with the addition of some stone seat walls, crushed stone paving, and native plantings and trees. The smaller terraces to the north of the Main Plaza will have a similar material palette. The Main Plaza can be used as a place for presentations and tours about native plant species and their medicinal value while, smaller terraces can be used as more intimate gathering spots.

### *Program Coordination Offices:*

The offices for the American Indian tribes and National Park Service coordination of site events are located in the same space at the ground floor of the icehouse portion of the Powerhouse, which will serve as the primary visitor center.

# NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT GRAND CANYON



- 1 Native American Slipper
- 2 Stone Artifacts
- 3 Stone Carvings
- 4 Navajo Painter
- 5 Rock Art Hands
- 6 Pot Artifact

*Amphitheater:*

A large outdoor space seats up to 400 people and is placed in a natural bowl on the site. The backdrop for this space is the Bright Angel Wash with additional native plants and trees. This space will accommodate large demonstrations, talks and performances.

*Powerhouse:*

This building will host the primary interpretive experience at the Village Interpretive Center. The coordination offices are located in this building along with interpretive exhibits about Native American History and its relationship to the primary concept, Journey from Rim to River. In addition to a large model of a portion of the Grand Canyon and a ramp system that emulates the trail experience, there will be galleries where additional artifacts and audio/visual technologies will further enhance the understanding of Native Americans and Grand Canyon.

*Maintenance Building  
(Canyon Arts & Inspiration):*

This building includes three gallery spaces that will display artifacts from the park's permanent collection, as well as space to accommodate traveling exhibi-

tions from available sources. It will also be used as a place where Native American artists can show their work and hold public interaction forums for small discussions and/or craft demonstrations.

*Laundry Building  
(Historic Exhibits):*

This building will primarily house a collection of historic, conserved boats that were once used on the Colorado River. Native American interpretive opportunities at this building will relate primarily to the Colorado River and its impact, history, and meaning to the native cultures.

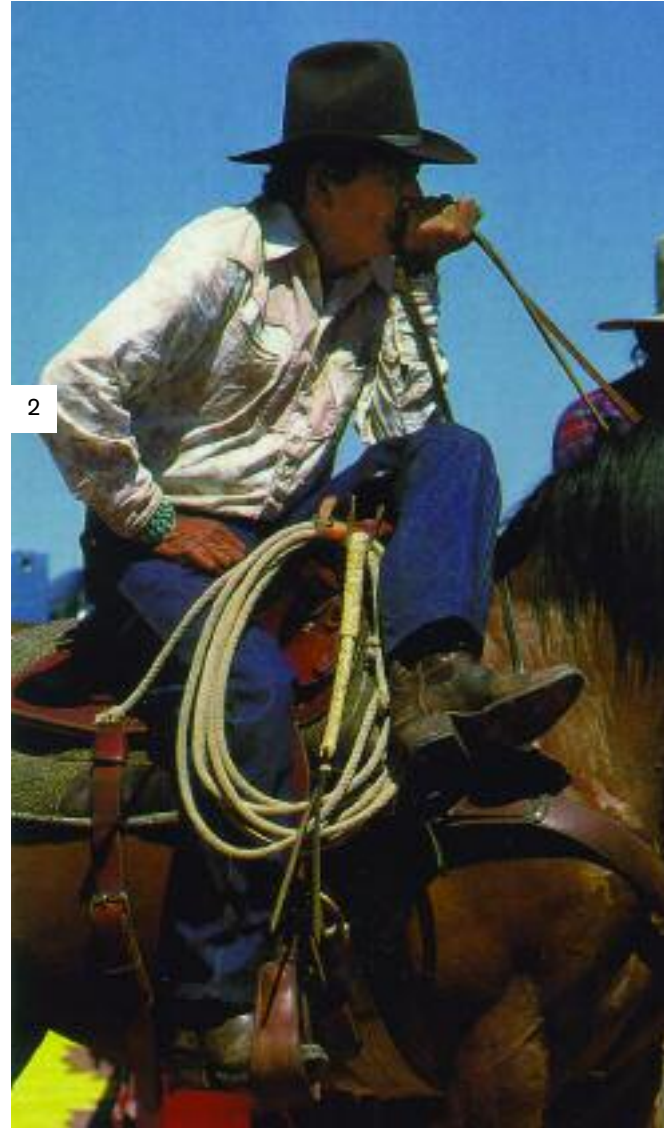
*Mule Barn  
(Theater & Education Center):*

This building will house a 185 seat indoor, climate controlled theater. The facilities here will serve as an alternate, albeit smaller venue for indoor functions similar to those of the amphitheater. While the Theater may run an orientation film at times when no special presentations are scheduled, it can be reserved for events in the evening hours or during inclement weather. The classrooms upstairs can also be used by the Native American tribes for regularly scheduled classes and events such as craft-making and story-telling.

# NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT GRAND CANYON



1



2



3

- 1 2003, Workshop for the Concept Planning of the Village Interpretive Center
- 2 American Indian Rodeo Cowboy Association Event
- 3 Child having fun with a baby lamb

## Summary

The concept plan outlined in this book is the result of on-going work with the National Park Service and the American Indian tribes at Grand Canyon. Throughout this collaborative process Native American interpretive staff and tribal representatives have helped to develop a comprehensive plan that reflects the rich cultural heritage of Grand Canyon.

Long before the planning efforts detailed in this book, a preliminary idea was explored of having a Native American Cultural Center on the site. This center was to be located at the Livery Stable that currently houses a mule concession operation.

While this dedicated space would have allowed the American Indian tribes to share their history, viewpoints, demonstrations and crafts with park visitors, the space would have segregated the experience to one building on the site.

During this current planning effort, it was determined that the historic use of the Livery Stable was of value to the site and that the mule operation should be kept at this location.

These ideas have led the concept design towards an approach to integrate Native American stories, needs and viewpoints throughout the site and into the overall visitor experience rather than to segregate it in one place.

The integration of Native American cultures throughout the exhibits and other site opportunities at the Village Interpretive Center, will provide a better experience for both visitors and the tribes of the region.

This design approach will help the National Park Service and the American Indian tribes to take pride in a common goal, to share with park visitors the contributions made by American Indian tribes connected with Grand Canyon, and to provide them with a sense of stewardship for this amazing resource.