

Ryan S. Flahive

Archivist • Educator • Historian • Curator

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Professional Profile

Archivist, educator, historian, and curator with 20+ years advancing Indigenous archives, community-centered stewardship, museum education, cultural preservation, archival ethics, artist documentation, digital preservation, and oral history. Since 2009 has directed the IAIA Archives.

Professional Appointments

Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) (Archivist, 2009–Present); Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) (Chair, Emerging Native Professionals Network, 2018–Present); Joan Mitchell Foundation (Advisory Board Member, 2023–Present); La Fonda on the Plaza (Archivist, 2016–Present); Poeh Cultural Center (Consultant); Sharlot Hall Museum (Director of Research, Archives & Publications, 2004–2009); Citizens for Rural Design (Consultant, 2024). Building Common Ground (Consultant, 2026)

Education

M.A., History & Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2003

B.A., History & Anthropology, Lindenwood University, 2001

Scholarship & Curatorial Practice

Editor: *Celebrating Difference: Fifty Years of Contemporary Native Arts at IAIA*; *The Sound of Drums: A Memoir of Lloyd Kiva New*. Forthcoming: Experimental exPRESSion: Printmaking at IAIA 1963–1980. Curated exhibitions on Lloyd New, IAIA artists, Allan Houser, and contemporary Native art. Curated and hosted live programming on self-determination era video collections and the performance art of James Luna

Selected Grants & Initiatives

Led foundational development of the IAIA Research Center for Contemporary Native Arts, relocated the IAIA archives to a new facility, adopted Indigenous archival policy framework, built artist legacy initiatives, designed a digital archives expansion, coordinated a national AI/Data Sovereignty Summit, and nationally funded preservation projects. Funding organizations include the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Margeret P. Cargil Philanthropies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Santa Fe Community Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Leadership

Director, ATALM Emerging Museum Professionals Network; Member at Large: New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board; Past President, New Mexico Association of Museums; national committee and board service. Principle Investigator, Indigenizing Archival Training.

Teaching & Presentations

Teach History, Museum Studies, Archives, Oral History, Collections Management, and Cultural Preservation since 2004. Delivered 100+ invited lectures nationally.

Expertise

Indigenous Archives • Museum Studies • Community Archives • Digital Preservation • Oral History • Cultural Stewardship • Exhibitions • Cultural Policy • Grant Leadership