



14. What is the racial/ethnic makeup of the community you serve? Native Bound Unbound is a hemispheric initiative, but our proposed project for Latinos in Heritage Conservation will primarily focus on New Mexico. While NBU engages and will serve educators, scholars, storytellers, and artists broadly, a key emphasis is on the legacy of slavery and the importance of engaging with descendant communities.

Given that slavery was foundational to New Mexico's history—yet remains obscured in community and family narratives—it is critical to engage both Tribal communities (communities of origin) and descendant communities, individually and collectively.

Our work highlights the complex racial and ethnic histories shaped by colonial conquest, with particular attention to both Indigenous/Native American and Latinx communities—the former directly impacted by enslavement and the latter often the heirs of this "other slavery." The racial and ethnic makeup of the communities we serve is documented through historical scholarship, archival research, ethnographic studies, and genetic research, all of which help illuminate these deeply interconnected histories.

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15. Has your organization ever received a grant for this or any other project?

Yes

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16. Provide a brief history of your organization

### **Origin Story**

Native Bound Unbound (NBU) emerged from both personal and scholarly inquiry. Conceived by Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez, the project is deeply rooted in his family history. Growing up, he heard stories of ancestors whose lives were shaped by these experiences, including both Pawnee and Diné (Navajo) women; his research has since revealed multiple lines of descent connecting him to several Indigenous enslaved ancestors. Trained as both an anthropologist and historian, he completed a doctoral dissertation on Indigenous slavery in 2001, conducting extensive ethnographic and archival research. This work included the creation of a database documenting thousands of individuals, uncovering intricate kinship ties and the interconnected histories of enslavers and the enslaved.

In 2021, Dr. Rael-Gálvez was invited to serve as an advisor to the Mellon Foundation and the Smithsonian Museum of the American Latino. During these conversations, he articulated how Indigenous slavery was foundational to Latino history and identity. Encouraged to explore these ideas further, he presented his vision for expanding this research into a digital humanities project. This led to an invitation to submit a full proposal, ultimately securing Mellon Foundation funding, which catalyzed the original concept. Now in its fourth year of Mellon support, NBU has grown into a major initiative dedicated to creating a digital repository on Native/Indigenous slavery, providing a platform for deeper research, public engagement, and historical understanding.

### **Mission Statement**

The objective of NBU is to create a digital repository centered on Native/Indigenous slavery, deepening and broadening an understanding of slavery— where it took place, whom it impacted, when it began and ended, and the profound meaning embedded in its legacy for both Native/Indigenous communities and the descendants of the enslaved.

## **Project Overview**

There is no way to fully measure the impact of slavery on the Indigenous/Native peoples of the Americas. Yet, many millions of people were captured and bound. While the practice predated the arrival of Europeans in the hemisphere and continued across Indigenous communities for centuries, this “other slavery” expanded in unimaginable ways following the arrival of Columbus in 1492. Despite legal prohibitions—which varied across empires (Spanish, Portuguese, French, English, Dutch, and within the United States)—this tolerated illegality persisted well into the early twentieth century. Even after formal slavery ended, many former captives continued to serve in the households of their former enslavers' descendants.

Records documenting these experiences exist in archival repositories around the world, including legal cases, censuses, letters, wills, newspapers, photographs, and church records such as baptisms, marriages, and burials. Museums preserve artifacts that reflect Indigenous slavery, while individuals and families hold personal records, objects, photographs, and oral histories passed down through generations. The history of slavery is also imprinted on the landscape—seen in architecture and archaeological sites. When woven together, these traces form an intricate narrative of people, places, and events, revealing a history that is both deeply hidden and highly significant.

Recovering histories of slavery—name by name, story by story, site by site, and document by document—requires confronting the colonial archive and landscape as technologies of imperial power, conquest, and hegemony. These structures privileged the powerful and systematically erased marginalized voices. Yet, as Māori scholar Linda Tuhiwai Smith observed, “*In order to decolonize our histories, we must revisit site by site.*” This work demands a more critical approach to sources, including those often hidden or inaccessible due to the lack of paleographic attention or translation. It also requires broadening the definition of sources to include artifacts, historic sites, and oral traditions stewarded by communities—imprints that, collectively, deepen our understanding of these histories.

Intended to advance scholarship, inspire creative expression, and provide historical context for education, preservation, and policy, the digital repository will serve as a major resource for educators, scholars, storytellers, artists, and many other audiences. Recovering these histories is especially critical for both descendants and Indigenous/Native communities, as the legacies of slavery continue to manifest in contemporary realities—from poverty and suicide rates to substance dependence and intergenerational trauma. These present-day conditions are tied to something much deeper: historic trauma, a spiritual, emotional, and psychological wound that radiates across generations. For descendants seeking to see their ancestors reflected in history and to

reclaim a sense of self, this work holds the potential for healing and transformation.

## **Key Areas of Focus in your Community**

From its inception, NBU has been envisioned as a community-centered project. While technology, research, transcription, translation, and institutional collaboration are fundamental components of the initiative, engagement with communities—especially descendant communities—remains one of the most critical areas of focus. While there are many plans to expand on this, this engagement has several forms over the past three years:

- Social Media: Because the NBU website is scheduled to launch in 2025, the project has prioritized social media as a primary means of community engagement, using platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X (Twitter), and BlueSky.
- Partnership with StoryCorps: In 2023, NBU launched a major partnership with StoryCorps, a national organization that records and archives personal conversations in pairs. These recordings are preserved in the Library of Congress and, through this partnership, will also be integrated into the NBU digital repository. To date, over 35 conversations have been collected—primarily in New Mexico but also in California, Colorado, Tennessee, and New York. Our partner page includes some of these conversations:  
<https://archive.storycorps.org/client/native-bound-unbound/>
- Memory Workshops: Since its inception, NBU has been presented in various universities, institutions, and community spaces. One example is the 2022 Memory Workshop that took place in El Paso, Texas, where over 100 community members participated in a dialogue about history, memory, and identity. In 2024, three major community gatherings took place in Española, Santa Fe, and Taos, New Mexico. To support these efforts, NBU established a 2024 partnership with the University of New Mexico's Community Engagement Office, which is now documenting these community interactions.

## **Significant Achievements**

Since 2022, NBU has built steady momentum, continuously evolving to meet the complexities of its mission. With the generous support of the Mellon Foundation, the initiative has grown into a robust, interdisciplinary project. While community engagement remains a critical component of NBU's work and is detailed elsewhere, below are additional key achievements:

The technology team has developed a custom-built database and digital repository, designed to integrate complex content, data, and workflows. Through ongoing iteration, this system will define NBU as a uniquely functional and dynamic platform. In addition, the team has completed a website that will serve as a central hub, featuring a comprehensive chronology, bibliography, glossary, and three primary content sections: archives, people, and stories.

NBU has identified, compiled, organized, transcribed, and translated tens of

thousands of records from archival repositories worldwide, including:

- 25,000 extracted records
- 10,000 transcriptions
- 100 full sets of translated materials

Collaborations have also been key to NBU's momentum. The initiative has engaged numerous archival repositories—including the Newberry Library, Bancroft Library, and Benson Collection—as well as digital projects such as the Institut généalogique Drouin and FamilySearch. Other collaborations have facilitated engagement with university faculty and students, expanding NBU's research teams at institutions such as Dartmouth, the University of South Florida, the University of Texas at El Paso, and Colorado College.

As the project continues to grow, it holds the promise of demonstrating the power of digital humanities to recover and illuminate untold histories.

### **Leadership & Structure**

Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez serves as executive director, leading the initiative with decades of experience in executive project management and as a scholar of slavery, trained in anthropology and history. Under his leadership, NBU has developed a vision that is both structurally and academically rigorous while remaining deeply community-centered.

Dr. Aaron Taylor, an educator, professional paleographer, and translator, serves as NBU's deputy director.

Together, they have assembled an extraordinarily dedicated and skilled team working across five key areas: technology, research, transcription, translation, and engagement. Collectively, the team consists of nearly 75 individuals, including consultants and volunteers, all contributing their expertise to advance the initiative.

### **Fiscal Sponsor - Relationship**

The School for Advanced Research (SAR) in Santa Fe, NM, currently serves as the fiscal agent for NBU. The partnership aligns with SAR's mission to advance the understanding of humanity through creative practice and scholarly research in Native American arts, anthropology, and related disciplines.

This collaboration builds upon Dr. Rael-Gálvez's longstanding relationship with SAR, beginning in 1999 when he received a residential fellowship to complete his doctoral dissertation, the first New Mexican Latino to receive the prestigious fellowship. He went on to also serve on the board of directors.

While NBU and SAR share a strong mission alignment, planning for NBU's long-term sustainability remains a priority. This framework revolves around two key areas: financial and organizational sustainability. Benchmarking and facilitated discussions will determine whether to maintain the current arrangement, integrate NBU into SAR, establish it as an independent 501(c)(3), or align with a university. These discussions will also address governance, leadership succession, and operational infrastructure,

including finance, IT, data stewardship, and human resources.

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17. How many paid staff members does your organization employ?

11+

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18. How many unpaid volunteers or interns are at your organization?

11+

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19. Please describe volunteer involvement in your organization.

Volunteers play a vital role in advancing NBU's mission, contributing directly to transcription and research efforts that form the foundation of the project.

The majority of volunteers engage through *FromThePage*, a crowdsourcing platform designed for collaborative transcription and annotation of historical documents. Currently, approximately 25 volunteers actively participate, working to transcribe and refine archival materials critical to the project's research. Among them, a core group of five dedicated volunteers contribute daily, ensuring a steady and reliable workflow that enhances both the volume and accuracy of transcribed records.

Beyond transcription, volunteers assist with metadata enhancement, quality control, and preliminary research, helping to organize and contextualize documents for integration into the NBU digital repository. Their contributions significantly expand the project's capacity to process historical records efficiently, making them more accessible to scholars, educators, and descendant communities.

As the project grows, we are exploring new ways to expand volunteer engagement, including partnerships with university programs, genealogical societies, and community history groups.

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## Project Proposal

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20. Name of Project Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS)

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21. Brief Project Summary (3-5 Sentences)

William A. Gleason, author of *Sites Unseen: Architecture, Race, and American Literature*, underscores the importance of documenting the "socio-spatial legacy of the architecture of slavery." Responding to this imperative, *Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS)* expands the work of *Native Bound Unbound* within a place-based paradigm, centering the history of Indigenous slavery through the lens of architecture. The project will research and document buildings—some preserved in situ, others adapted for new uses, and many lost but recorded through HABS or archaeological studies—that reflect the enduring imprint of Indigenous enslavement. Initially focusing on New Mexico, MAIS will establish a scalable model for expansion across the United States and the hemisphere. By integrating spatial history with material culture, the project seeks to deepen public understanding of how Indigenous slavery shaped the built environment. This work will be integrated into *Native Bound Unbound (NBU)*, an initiative begun in 2022.

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22. Funding Amount Requested 20000

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23. Project Category Programming and Interpretation

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24. Detailed Project Description **Project's Purpose**

The imprints of Indigenous slavery were left throughout the vast landscape that would come to be known as the Americas, including those manifest in an architecture that reflected the fact that people were captured, traded, transported, enslaved, and for some, even freed, eventually building their own communities and homes. Indigenous people were sold in market squares; transported in ships; held in prisons; made to work in missions, haciendas, and factories; and countless individuals were bound in households in every community in the Western Hemisphere, as well as throughout Europe.

In New Mexico, the human touch upon the land is visible everywhere. Haciendas, colonial churches, and historic homes stand as tangible records. Enslaved Indigenous people lived and worked in every community, shaping the built environment. They cleared fields, dug ditches, and formed countless adobe bricks that became homes, churches, and plazas—structures maintained by their labor year after year. Identifying these buildings and places and bringing them together in one digital archive is the heart of the proposed project, Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS).

#### **Summarized Schedule**

Work will begin in 2025 and continue through the year.

#### **Anticipated Outcomes**

*MAIS* will serve as both a compendium and cartography of the built environment, producing four key outcomes:

I. Expanded Research: First, *MAIS* will expand on already documented data on Indigenous/Native slavery in New Mexico, research that was commenced by Dr. Rael-Gálvez as early as 1990 and that has continued with research team members beginning in 2022. While that research focused on the social history of slavery, the effort did not include detail mapping specific historic sites associated with enslavers or the enslaved. *MAIS* would expand this research, identifying and organizing relevant property records (e.g. Last Wills and Testaments). Additional information about these individuals and families will be gathered about homes and other similar structures, as well as other buildings with associations to the enslaved. This effort will include sites known, like the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe and the Martinez Hacienda in Taos, but will also include many others that have not yet been identified.

II. Digital Documentation: As the sites of Indigenous slavery are identified through research, a secondary goal is to document and contextualize these locations. Some documentation already exists and simply needs to be correlated. For instance, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)

has extensively recorded New Mexico's architectural heritage, including structures relevant to understanding built environments shaped by Indigenous slavery. Its archives, housed in institutions like the Library of Congress, the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico, and the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, contain measured drawings, photographs, and historical reports that provide critical baselines for further research and analysis. We will expand this research to highlight sites of Indigenous slavery yet to be studied through this lens. Some of this work will be advanced through a new partnership with Ball State University's Center for Emerging Media Design & Development, which includes two professors and seven graduate students. These students will conduct fieldwork in New Mexico in March and April, with the bulk of documentation taking place over the summer.

III. Technological and Narrative Approaches: While many of these sites will be documented two-dimensionally, we will also prototype the use of 3D scanning where feasible. Additionally, we will explore emerging technologies such as a VR module for virtual storytelling and a LIDAR/Photogrammetry module to assess their potential for enhancing spatial analysis. These technologies may eventually be applied more broadly within the project, but our initial focus will be on testing their effectiveness in select case studies. Where there is a familial connection to a site, we will integrate oral histories to provide a deeper, more human-centered perspective. These narratives will help restore personal connections to these spaces, ensuring that the architectural and historical documentation is enriched by the lived experiences of descendants.

IV. Digital Archive: The place-based research and built-environment documentation described above will be integrated into the *Native Bound Unbound* digital repository and database, which will be amplified through an open-source NBU website. All content will be publicly accessible, offering new avenues for scholarship, curricula, and cultural expression. More importantly, it will serve as a space where descendants can see themselves reflected in the places where their ancestors made history. While our platform will be more expansive, we have begun discussions with *España Esclavista* (<https://espanaesclavista.es/mapa/>), a project that combines research with GIS mapping, a site that serves as a model for amplifying content.

### **Importance to the Latinx history or community**

The history of Indigenous slavery is foundational to Latinx identity, not only as a historical event but as a lived reality that shaped families, communities, and cultural memory across generations. Latinx people are the heirs of both African and Indigenous slavery—both as descendants of enslaved peoples and as inheritors of the colonial systems that relied on their captivity, displacement, and forced integration into Spanish outposts. Yet, predominant U.S. racial paradigms have largely rendered this history invisible. In the United States, slavery is primarily understood through the lens of the African diaspora and the transatlantic slave trade, while Latinx people are often imagined through other narratives, such as immigration. This limited framing erases the deep entanglement of Latinx communities with Indigenous slavery, despite its profound impact on generations of

families and communities.

Both Indigenous and Latinx peoples have been portrayed in ways that disconnect them from the history of slavery. Indigenous people are often seen through frameworks of land-loss, sovereignty, and survival rather than as a population profoundly shaped by captivity, while Latinx communities are typically discussed in relation to mestizaje, migration, and border politics rather than as direct heirs to systems of enslavement. However, throughout Spanish America, Indigenous slavery was a structuring force in colonial society, and its legacies remain deeply embedded in Latinx communities. The forced integration of enslaved Indigenous people into Spanish households and settlements created generations of kinship networks in which descendants of both enslaved and enslavers coexisted.

This history is especially reflected in New Mexico, where Spanish colonial settlements were built upon the forced displacement and the labor of Indigenous captives. By the mid-eighteenth century, scholars estimate that nearly two-thirds of the population of New Mexico were Genízaros or were connected to the slave trade through kinship. Genízaros—detribalized Indigenous people, many of whom had been taken as captives—formed communities that persist to this day, shaping the Hispano and Mexican American identities of the region. Yet, despite this overwhelming demographic and cultural impact, the role of slavery in shaping New Mexico's Latinx history, including the architectural history, remains obscured. This project directly challenges that erasure by documenting and mapping these histories, ensuring that the stories of Indigenous enslavement in New Mexico and beyond are recognized as central to Latinx identity and historical memory.

**How will this funding support your organization's short-term goal (2-10) years, and what will the tangible products and outcomes be?**

This funding will expand the research, public engagement, and digital infrastructure to document Indigenous slavery and its architectural legacy.

- **Short-term (2-3 years):** Support site documentation, oral histories, and the integration of architectural and archival data into a digital repository, beginning with New Mexico.
- **Long-term (5-10 years):** Scale the initiative to other regions where Indigenous slavery shaped colonial economies. Over time, this work will support educational initiatives, institutional collaborations, and public engagement, ensuring that this history remains widely accessible.

This funding will cement Indigenous slavery as a recognized part of Latinx, Indigenous, and American history, building a sustainable framework for continued research and public engagement.

**Target audience & estimate attendance**

Our target audience includes descendant communities, local and regional residents, Latinx and Indigenous scholars, students, genealogists, historians, and the general public.

- Community-based research will directly engage descendants in documenting sites of Indigenous slavery. For example, we are working with the Mares family in Black Lake, NM, where only one photograph remains; the home was destroyed for highway construction. We will work with the family and record an oral history to help understand the history of the site in great detail. We expect dozens of participants in interviews and discussions.
- The website will extend reach to thousands annually, including educators, scholars, and the public. Digital participation will include interactive mapping, site documentation, and virtual storytelling events, ensuring broad and sustained engagement.

### **Creativity and Innovation**

This project innovates at every level, including how Indigenous slavery is documented, interpreted, and shared. By grounding this history in a place-based framework, MAIS moves beyond traditional archives to highlight its geographic and architectural footprint, transforming abstract histories into tangible sites of memory. Our CMS will integrate archival records, GIS mapping, oral histories, and archaeological data into an interactive platform that fosters engagement beyond static documentation.

Creativity is central to this initiative, from database development to content curation. The platform functions as both a research tool and a storytelling space, ensuring Indigenous slavery is recognized as a lived experience that shaped generations. By combining rigorous scholarship with digital tools, this project reimagines how histories of enslavement are researched, visualized, and understood.

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25. What is the estimated percentage of Latinx individuals who will benefit from this project?

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75

26. Describe why grant funding is critical for the success of this project

Grant funding is essential to the success of *Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery* (MAIS), as it enables the research, documentation, and public dissemination of histories that have long been overlooked. Without this support, the project would lack the necessary resources to conduct fieldwork, process archival materials, and expand the digital infrastructure and design required to make these histories widely accessible.

While the Mellon Foundation has provided funding to support the core development of the *Native Bound Unbound* digital repository and a bulk of the place-based effort, there is a funding gap for the digital expansion necessary to incorporate architectural documentation, GIS mapping, and site-based research. Additionally, no existing funding supports the expanded research component, including property record analysis, site visits, and oral history collection. These efforts are crucial to identifying and interpreting the architectural imprint of Indigenous slavery, ensuring the built environment is recognized as an essential part of this history.

Many structures linked to Indigenous slavery—haciendas, plazas, colonial churches, and private homes—still exist but have never been studied through this lens. Without funding, these sites risk remaining unexamined, and their connections to the histories of enslaved Indigenous peoples will remain obscured.

This grant is also critical for field documentation and digital preservation. Funding will allow us to develop a more comprehensive interactive platform, making historical research not only preserved but also publicly accessible. This includes supporting the integration of site documentation, GIS mapping, and oral histories to create an immersive and educational experience for researchers, educators, students, and the public.

While not directly impacted by this funding, LHC funding aligns with partnerships at the University of New Mexico and Ball State University that will allow us to prototype emerging technologies, such as 3D scanning, LIDAR, and virtual storytelling modules, to explore new ways of documenting and interpreting these sites. These innovative approaches will enhance engagement with the built environment, allowing users to visualize how these spaces evolved over time.

Finally, this funding is crucial for engaging descendant communities, ensuring their voices and lived experiences shape the project. Many Latinx individuals in New Mexico and beyond are direct descendants of enslaved Indigenous people, and this grant will help create opportunities for them to reconnect with their histories in meaningful ways.

By supporting MAIS, this grant will ensure the legacy of Indigenous slavery is no longer ignored and that these histories are preserved, studied, and shared for generations to come.

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27. How does this project relate to LHC's mission to build a movement that affirms Latinx heritage through education, conservation, and leadership development?

*Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS)* aligns with LHC's mission by affirming Latinx heritage through **education**, **conservation**, and **leadership development** while preserving places, stories, and cultural heritage tied to Indigenous slavery. This project addresses historical erasure by recovering and documenting Indigenous enslavement in Latinx communities, particularly in New Mexico, where many families are direct descendants of enslaved peoples. By tracing these legacies in the built environment and familial histories, MAIS reveals a more complex history of Latinos in the U.S.—one that includes not only migration and *mestizaje* but also captivity, displacement, and forced labor. By making these histories visible, MAIS advances LHC's commitment to social justice, historical recognition, and community empowerment.

**Education** is central to *MAIS*, ensuring that Indigenous slavery is acknowledged as an integral part of Latinx history. By documenting haciendas, plazas, mission churches, and homes—alongside oral histories, property records, and archival sources—the project makes visible a past that has long been obscured. The findings will be accessible through *Native Bound Unbound's* digital platform, engaging scholars, educators, students, and the public in understanding how slavery shaped Latinx communities. By expanding historical narratives, *MAIS* fosters deeper recognition of the experiences of enslaved Indigenous peoples and their lasting impact. As a **conservation** initiative, *MAIS* aligns with LHC's goal of preserving Latinx places and cultural heritage. Many structures linked to Indigenous slavery still exist but have never been formally studied in this context. *MAIS* will document and digitally preserve these sites, ensuring their historical significance is recognized. By incorporating architectural research, site analysis, and archival documentation, the project contributes to a more complete record of Latinx history. This effort not only safeguards physical structures but also informs broader historic preservation initiatives, ensuring these spaces remain part of public memory and conservation efforts. **Leadership development** is embedded in *MAIS* through community engagement, capacity-building, and Latinx/Indigenous leadership. The project is led by Latinx and Indigenous scholars and researchers with deep connections to the histories being documented, ensuring that this work is shaped by those most affected by it. Additionally, our collaboration with Ball State University and the University of New Mexico provides graduate students with hands-on experience in digital humanities, conservation, and public history, equipping them with the skills to continue preserving and elevating Latinx history.

28. What is the project timeline and anticipated completion date?

### Overview

The *Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS)* project is structured to maximize research, documentation, and public engagement within a defined grant period of May–December 2025, ensuring that the project delivers tangible outcomes within the available funding. Assuming a successful award notification in May 2025, the project will immediately launch research efforts and site documentation while simultaneously developing the digital component. The anticipated completion date for this phase of the project is December 31, 2025. It is likely that the research will continue into 2026, though we are requesting funding to cover these 8 months.

This timeline is structured around two core priorities:

1. Field and archival research to document as many relevant sites as possible.
2. Integration of findings into the Native Bound Unbound (NBU) digital platform to ensure public accessibility.

The timeline below details the phased approach for research, documentation, digital development, and final synthesis of materials.

### **Phase 1: Project Launch and Initial Research (May–June 2025)**

**Goal:** Organize research priorities, finalize site selection, and initiate field and archival documentation.

#### **1. May 2025 – Notification and Planning**

- Define project scope based on awarded funding.
- Finalize research priorities and confirm site selection.
- Establish agreements with archives, historians, and institutions for record access.
- Identify descendant community members for oral history contributions.

#### **2. June 2025 – Research Mobilization**

- Conduct targeted archival research on property records, architectural plans, and historical maps.
- Identify and prioritize key sites for documentation.
- Begin preliminary field visits and visual surveys.

### **Phase 2: Digital Platform Development and Documentation (June–August 2025)**

**Goal:** Launch the web component while conducting ongoing documentation of selected sites.

#### **1. June–July 2025 – Field Documentation and Digital Integration**

- Conduct site visits for photographic documentation and architectural descriptions.
- Cross-reference findings with Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) records.
- Begin integrating research into the *Native Bound Unbound* digital repository.

#### **2. September 1, 2025 – Digital Launch of Place Based interface**

- Publish the first phase of MAIS research and documentation online.
- Ensure accessibility for scholars, educators, and the general public.

### **Phase 3: Advanced Research and Public Engagement (August–November 2025)**

**Goal:** Expand research and documentation while refining digital content.

#### **1. August–September 2025 – Ongoing Site Analysis**

- Conduct additional oral history interviews for sites with familial connections.
- Collect missing archival records, including notarial and sacramental documents.
- Prototype the use of 3D scanning and LIDAR/Photogrammetry to assess feasibility for expanded digital preservation.

## 2. October–November 2025 – Refinement and Public Accessibility

- Incorporate community feedback to ensure inclusivity and accuracy.
- Finalize written site descriptions to accompany digital records.
- Host an online event or discussion to present findings and engage the public.

## Phase 4: Completion and Final Deliverables (December 2025)

**Goal:** Ensure all research and documentation is synthesized and fully integrated into the digital platform.

### 1. December 2025 – Final Documentation and Reporting

- Ensure all findings are published and fully accessible on the NBU platform.
- Submit final reports and analysis for internal review.
- Identify opportunities for future research and expansion.

## Long-Term Impact and Future Considerations

While this grant will fund a defined research phase through December 2025, the findings will lay the groundwork for future expansion. The research methodologies developed in this phase—archival documentation, site surveys, digital preservation, and oral histories—can be applied to additional sites beyond New Mexico, deepening our understanding of how Indigenous slavery shaped the built environment across Latinx communities in the United States.

Additionally, this phase will allow us to evaluate the feasibility of expanded digital tools, such as virtual storytelling modules and interactive GIS mapping, which may be scaled in future iterations.

## Conclusion

With funding available in May 2025, this project will move forward immediately, with an initial digital launch by September 1, 2025, and full completion by December 2025. The project will deliver tangible research, digital documentation, and public engagement, ensuring that the histories of Indigenous slavery are made visible, accessible, and preserved for future generations.

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29. Please describe your Project Team. Does the project team have the appropriate expertise,

*Mapping the Architecture of Indigenous Slavery (MAIS)* will be fully integrated into the organizational infrastructure of *Native Bound Unbound (NBU)*. While specific deliverables for this project will be executed by existing team members outlined below, the project will also receive leadership and institutional support from NBU. Additionally, the *School for Advanced Research (SAR)* will provide budget management support,

experience, and skills ensuring effective financial oversight for the project.  
for this project?

## Project Leadership

- Dr. Estevan Rael-Gálvez is the principal investigator and executive director of *Native Bound Unbound* and will lead *MAIS*. He has served as senior vice president of Historic Sites at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, executive director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and state historian of New Mexico. A scholar of Indigenous slavery, Dr. Rael-Gálvez holds a BA in English Literature and Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MA and Ph.D. in American Cultures from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where his award-winning dissertation focused on Native slavery in New Mexico and Colorado. In 2024, he taught *Sites of Indigenous Slavery*, a graduate course at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture, likely the first of its kind. His expertise in historical research, cultural preservation, and digital humanities will guide *MAIS*, ensuring scholarly rigor and meaningful public engagement.
- Dr. Aaron Taylor is the deputy director of *Native Bound Unbound* and will provide essential support for *MAIS*, particularly in data organization, archival integration, and metadata structuring. Since joining NBU, he has developed processes and naming conventions for transcription, translation, and digital coding, ensuring the integrity of archival materials. He oversees teams of transcribers and translators who will process documents relevant to *MAIS*, including property records and probate documents. An educator specializing in historical Spanish texts, he earned his Ph.D. in Spanish Literature from the University of New Mexico, with expertise in medieval and colonial Spanish literature, transcription, and translation.

## Technical Team

- [Performant Software](#) is the technical software development team behind *Native Bound Unbound*'s website and content management system (CMS). Following an extensive search for the right technology partner, NBU selected Performant Software in June 2022, a firm with deep experience in humanities-based digital repositories. The team has designed and developed the NBU website and CMS, creating advanced tools for annotation, transcription, and IIIF-based archival integration. These systems allow for robust data structuring, digital preservation, and seamless content organization. The next phase of their work will integrate *MAIS* research into NBU's fourth major navigation area, "Places." This digital platform will feature: a) The architecture of Indigenous slavery; b) The geography of Indigenous slavery, including forced migrations; c) Communities shaped by slavery, documenting both Native communities affected and settler communities reshaped by these histories. The development team consists of seven specialists, led by Nicholas C. Laiacona, founder and partner of Performant Software, who will oversee the digital expansion of NBU to incorporate *MAIS*.

## Core Researchers/Documentarians

- Weston Archuleta will serve as the research coordinator for *MAIS*,

managing research logistics, field documentation, and archival reviews. A graduate of the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, he holds a BA in Environmental Planning and Design and previously worked on urban planning and community engagement initiatives, including one focused on the Albuquerque Indian Center. He first joined NBU in 2022 as an executive assistant, later taking on leadership roles in internship coordination and digital data management. Given his background in planning, historical research, and public engagement, as well as interest in architectural history, Weston will play a crucial role in organizing research, structuring site-based documentation, and coordinating fieldwork efforts for *MAIS*.

- Cordelia Snow is a historic anthropologist with extensive experience in New Mexico colonial history, archaeological excavation, and Spanish colonial records research. Having worked for years at the Laboratory of Anthropology, she has advised on hundreds of archaeological and historic sites, combining document analysis with on-the-ground excavation. Dedie has authored dozens of publications on colonial New Mexico, including studies of architectural structures and cultural landscapes. Now retired, she joined NBU in 2024 and is eager to contribute to *MAIS*. Her primary role will be to trace title histories, establishing ownership chains from the contemporary period back to enslavers.
- There are a host of existing team members that will support the work through adjacent research, transcription and translation, including, but not limited to Feliza Monta, José Antonio Esquibel, and Gregory PISAÑO.

### **Academic and Digital Media Partners**

- Tim Castillo, a professor at the University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, is the director of Historic Preservation & Regionalism and has been an advisor to NBU since its inception. His expertise lies at the intersection of digital technology, architecture, and storytelling, focusing on spatial analysis, architectural documentation, and virtual storytelling. As part of *MAIS*, Castillo will introduce prototype explorations in VR storytelling and LIDAR/Photogrammetry, assessing their potential for spatial analysis. Additionally, he has expressed interest in engaging his students in research and documentation, ensuring a collaborative approach.
- [Center for Emerging Media Design and Development](#) at Ball State University is a key academic partner for *MAIS*, offering expertise in digital storytelling, media design, and transmedia content development. Under the leadership of Dr. Kevin Moloney (also a descendant of Daria Gallegos, an enslaver from Colorado), a select group of graduate students is collaborating with NBU to amplify its mission through interactive media and digital humanities. The student team includes Blake Chapman, Angelica Gonzalez Morales, Kelsey Nethercutt, Toyosi Ogunsola, and Sydney Peters, who are actively engaged in producing site-based digital media. As part of *MAIS*, the Ball State team will conduct fieldwork in New Mexico during March and April 2025, focusing on digitizing at least one historic site. Their work will continue through December 2025, enhancing public engagement through

immersive storytelling and digital integration within the *Native Bound Unbound* repository.

## Conclusion

The *MAIS* project is led by an experienced, interdisciplinary team, bringing together scholars, technologists, architects, and archaeologists with deep expertise in Indigenous slavery, spatial history, and digital preservation. Supported by the *School for Advanced Research* for budget management, *MAIS* is structured to deliver rigorous research, site documentation, and public engagement, ensuring long-term impact and accessibility for scholars, educators, and descendant communities.

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30. If consultants or contractors will be participating in the project, please list and explain their role and function.

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Support Materials	Do not upload answers to application questions here. You must answer those questions in the space provided. Support materials should demonstrate the feasibility and appropriateness of the project. Please attach files that fit all requirements listed below. You can include additional documentation, such as the options provided, if you feel that they speak to the attainability of your goals. Additional documentation may be requested by LHC staff. Please note: all uploaded files should be saved with a file name that clearly identifies the document, e.g., Jane Smith Resume; ABC Org Consulting Proposal; View of property from Route 123. Required for all categories: Project Budget Articles of incorporation for non-profit Proposals from relevant contractors/consultants (if contractors/consultants are part of the project) Photographs that showcase the area in which your project will happen. Can be photographs of historic structures, community events, past exhibits, etc. (No more than five) Optional: Strategic Plan Architectural designs Architectural vision boards PowerPoint Presentations Letters of Support
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Project Budget

[SAR\\_NBU\\_LHC\\_Grant\\_Budget\\_2025.xlsx](#)

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Articles of incorporation for non-profit

[4.2\\_Restated\\_Articles\\_of\\_Incorporation-2013.pdf](#)

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Photographs that showcase the area in which your project will happen.

[Rita\\_Cordova\\_Compound\\_Abiquiu.jpg](#)

[Home\\_of\\_Jose\\_Maria\\_Mares\\_Blacklake\\_NM.JPG](#)

[Juan\\_Policarpio\\_Romero\\_House\\_HABS.gif](#)

[1767\\_Urrutia\\_Map\\_of\\_Santa\\_Fe\\_including\\_Genizaro\\_Barrio\\_.jpeg](#)

[Costilla\\_-\\_Bernal\\_Family.JPG](#)

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Proposals from relevant contractors/consultants