

NAGPRA

Community of Practice

Evaluation Report

The Survey

NAGPRA Community of Practice leadership team decided it was the right time to look at the NCP in all its forms – monthly meetings, directory, social media, presentations, and shared documents. **The goal of the survey was to understand how people have used, and contributed to the NCP, and in what way the NCP has aided NAGPRA practitioners.** Additionally, the data will be used to plan the future course and content of the NAGPRA Community of Practice.

The NCP survey was created by Trainer Evaluation in collaboration with PI Anne Amati and the NCP leadership team.

The survey was open to the NCP community from June 8-30, 2021.

The survey was promoted via two NAGPRA Community of Practice emails and during an NCP monthly call.

Survey questions

The survey captured several data points related to:

Which NCP events people have participated in and how often they have participated

The degree to which attending NCP events has aided the practice of implementing NAGPRA and feelings of comfort around NAGPRA

Whether NCP events have facilitated and increased interactions and exchanges among NAGPRA colleagues

Topics people have found most useful to date and ideas for future NCP topics

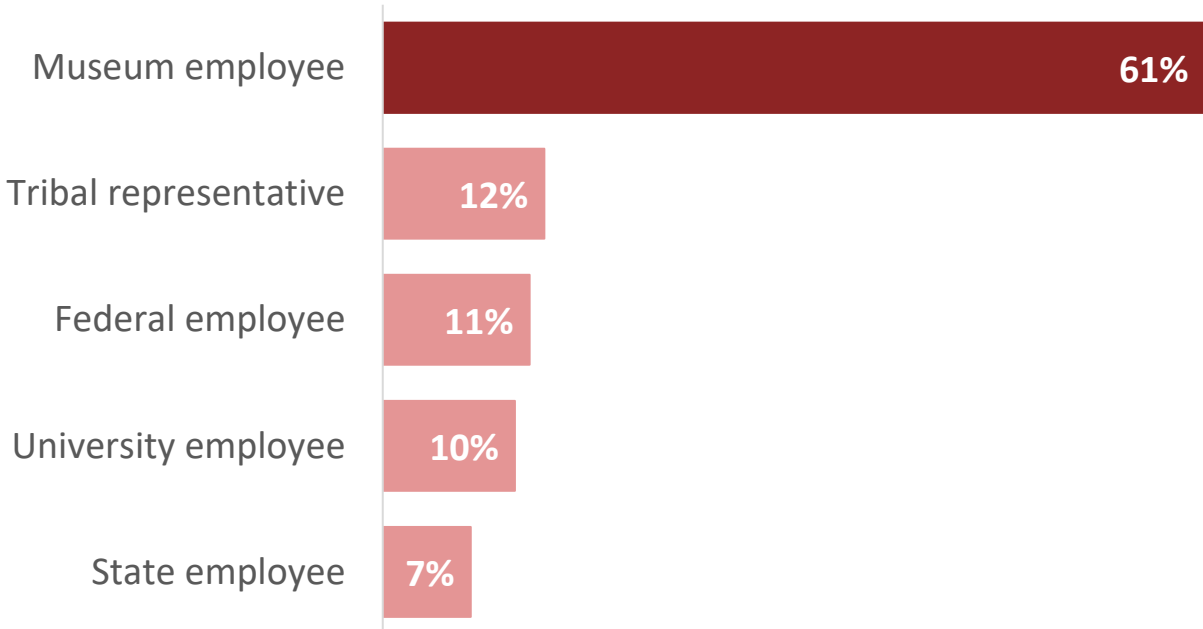
Feelings around attending an in-person conference and the types of events people would like to see at a NAGPRA conference

How people identify in relation to their NAGPRA role; Federal, Museum or Tribal Member

Who responded

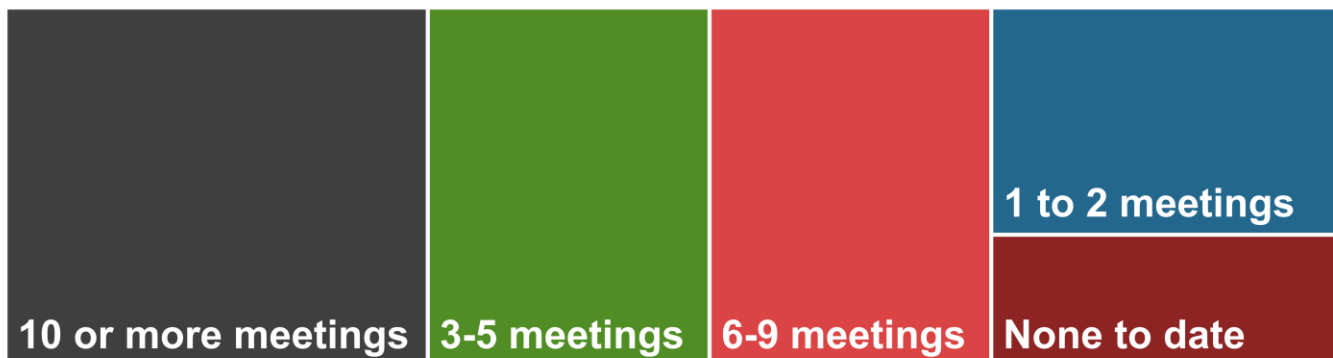
114 NAGPRA practitioners responded

The majority of respondents work in the Museum field



Attendance & Motivation

Many respondents are active NCP participants



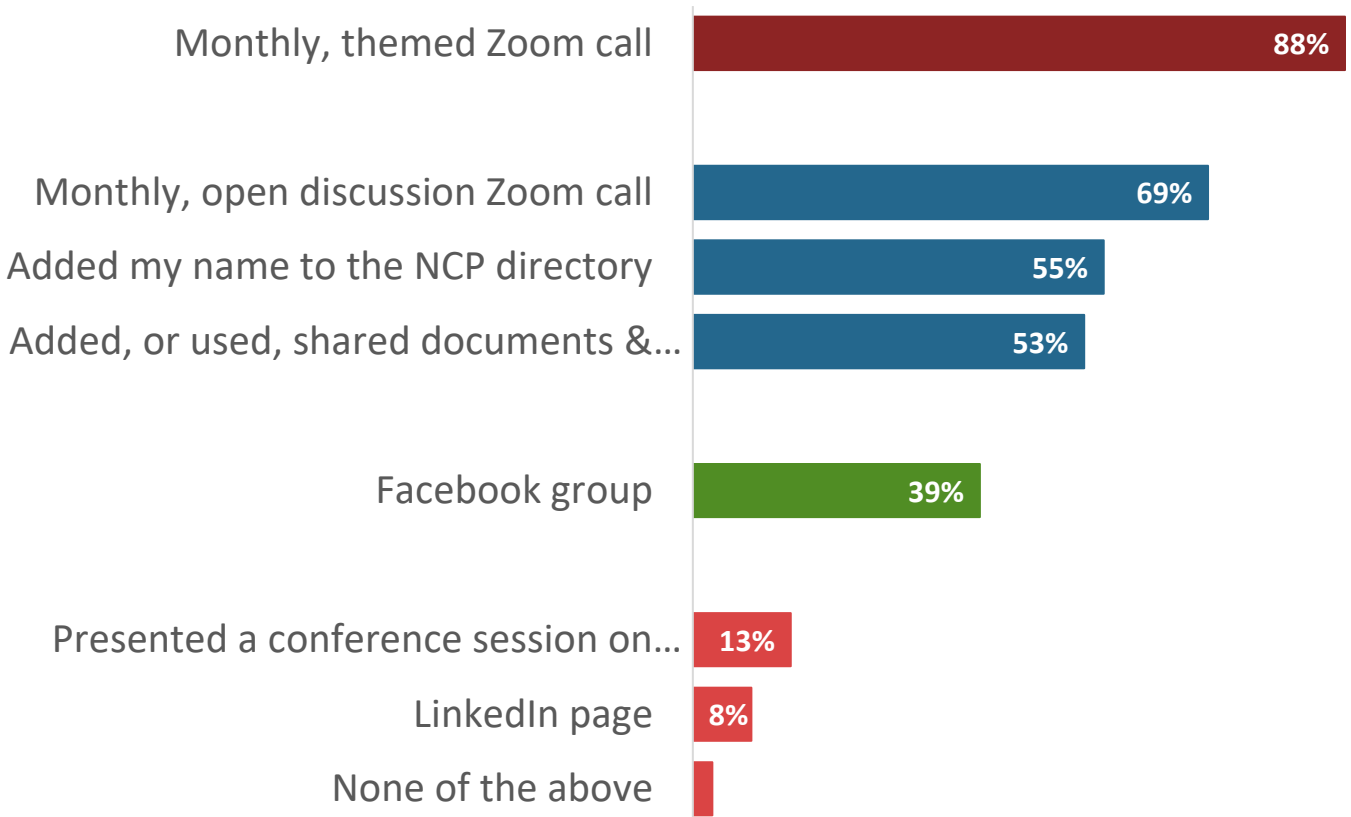
Participants attend NCP Community of Practice events to:

- Learn new things
- Connect with colleagues
- Share experiences
- Feel inspired
- Stay up to date

“ There have been several times where I have left meetings with an overwhelming sense of relief that I am not alone and that this work is not only possible, but worth every ounce of effort.

NCP Participation

The various NCP events break down into four buckets in relation to attendance. **The Monthly, themed Zoom call is the activity most respondents have participated in.**



When thinking about future planning and where to spend time and energy, it might be worth looking at a few of the events that not as many people have participated in. Do you need to keep all the offerings? Are there some where you would like to see more participation? What could be done to encourage additional participation?

How have the NCP resources helped?

NCP events have helped practitioners...

75%

Improve NAGPRA knowledge

62%

Reduce hesitancy to do NAGRPA work

62%

Improve institution's relations with other NAGPRA entities

57%

Decrease misunderstandings about NAGPRA

55%

Increase capacity for doing repatriation work

55%

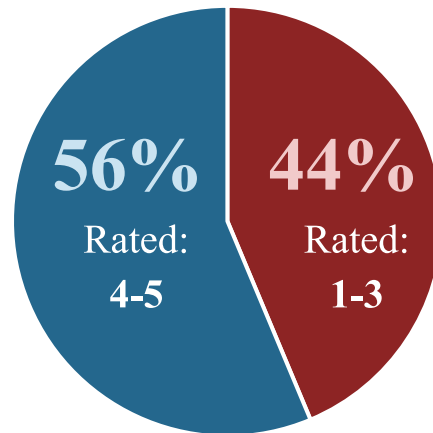
Facilitated the building of relationships and/or growth in dialogue with Tribal representatives or Tribes

All of these areas are important to the grant and to the field. **Which one or two of these categories are the most important to take a deeper dive into new ways to provide resources** that will drive up the number of practitioners who say that the NCP has helped decrease misunderstandings, increased capacity and/or facilitated building of relationships with Tribes?

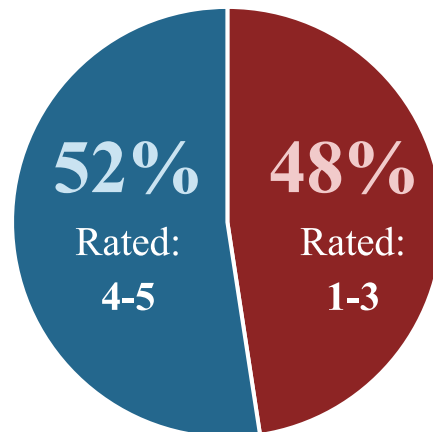
How have the NCP resources helped?

Respondents were asked to rate the following statements on a scale of 1-5 where 1 = no more than usual and 5 = above and beyond.

Have NCP events allowed you to connect with colleagues in the field?



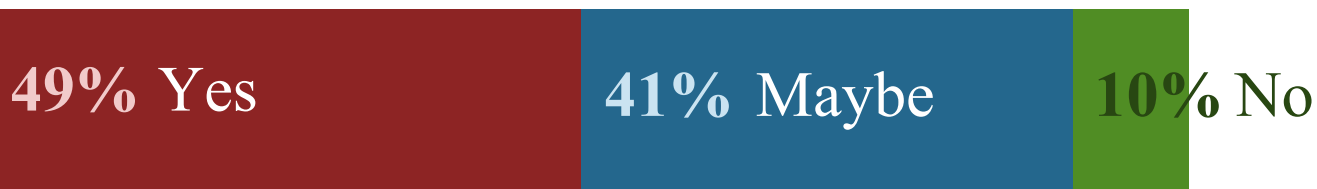
Have NCP events allowed you to share your experiences with colleagues?



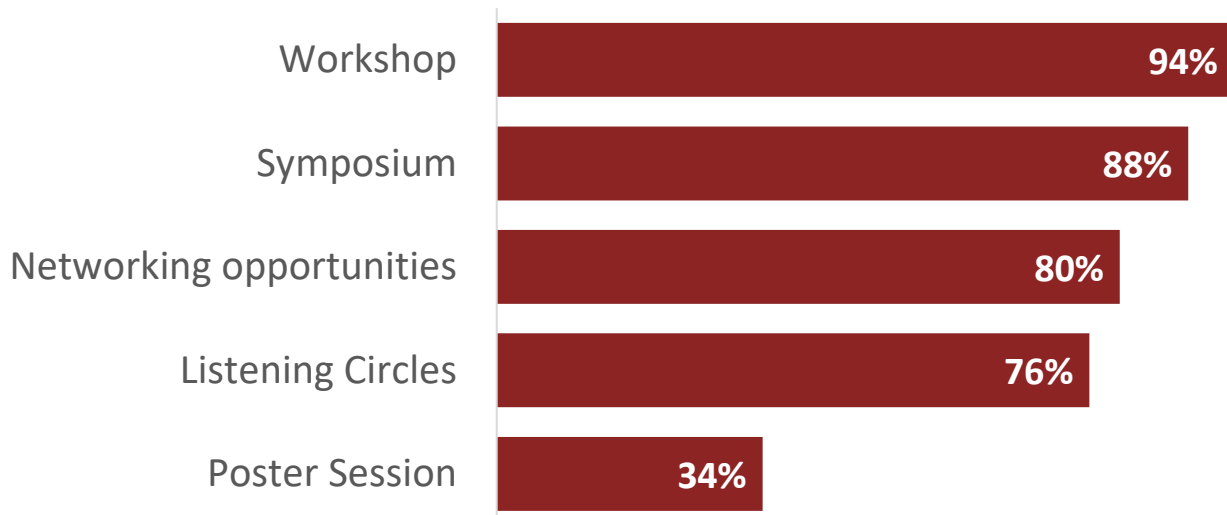
Is it important to increase the dialogue between practitioners during the monthly Zoom calls? Perhaps break out rooms by topics or 5-minute “say hi” break out rooms at the beginning of the call. Are there appropriate whole group icebreakers that can be done every few meetings to engage more people in dialogue?

Future NAGPRA Conference

Half of respondents would attend an in-person conference. However, that means **close to half of the population is hesitant** or **some will not be attend to attend**. Any future planning of an in-person conference should proceed with caution if the goal is for the majority of practitioners involved in the grant to attend.



103 respondents offered thoughts on the **type of programming** they'd like to see at an in-person conference. The **top five** were:



Most Useful NCP Topics

Tribal Perspectives

Presentations by and opportunities for discussion with Tribal representatives.

Hearing directly from Tribal members. Their history and their struggles. We changed some of our policies based on these discussions.

Hearing perspectives from tribal points of view has helped me...improve tribal consultation.

I enjoyed learning from other Tribes' approach to how they have dealt with NAGPRA.

Tribal perspectives on the Cultural Affiliation Process

Melanie O'Brien's presentations

Having...National NAGPRA there to answer questions has made them feel more approachable

...Melanie O'Brien's presentation re: the actual requirements to affiliate Ancestors vs. the overly rigorous standards common to resistant museums and universities with a collections or research interest in the remains of our deceased relatives.

I...appreciate the participation of the National NAGPRA Program

Case studies

Case studies in other regions and different political dynamics, how to get institutional will

...Case study types have been most helpful

The cases that always inspire me are those in which more than one tribe or institution has worked together to bring the ancestors home. Knowing that there are possibilities to collaborate and work across multiple entities has been helpful in my own museum's NAGPRA work.

Cultural Affiliation, Split Collections and Self-Care were also mentioned by several respondents

Potential New NCP Topics

Tribal Perspectives

A more integrated meeting with tribes that discusses a tribal view on how best to do consultations
Invite Tribal representatives to share information, like...the Southeast NAGPRA...meetings
Continue discussions with Tribal THPO officers...to tell their history and share their areas of interests.
Presentations by tribes; I like to see what they are thinking. And it really helps me do my job if I have a map or list of states and counties that a tribe is interested in.
Tribes driving the process, how they can be proactive and not reactive
What does Consultation mean with Tribes Care and Treatment from the Tribal Perspective

Public Outreach

How to talk about NAGPRA to a general audience and correct misconceptions
How to teach and share, or what approaches have other Tribes used in sharing information to their community/elders.
Public education on NAGPRA! How to spread the word and create public support.
Public outreach and awareness, public research grants

Mental health, taking care of ourselves and positive approaches to work with partners were also mentioned several times

There is a tension between those who want more “101” sessions and those participants who want to take a “deeper dive” into a topic. This is not surprising for a group this size and the **finding the right balance will require planning and communication with practitioners.**