

Good afternoon,

We very much want to invite you to participate in a learning opportunity being shared with members of the Elliottsville Foundation team who are working together on infrastructure projects for the Monument.

Our invitation is to participate in six hours of training in three 2-hour modules, 9 - 11am April 26, 27, and 30. There are also extensive advance readings and listening. Can you kindly respond to let us know your interest and availability?

Here is additional background. Approximately 18 months ago, members of a Wabanaki Advisory Board, NPS personnel, and many of us on the EFI team convened together in Katahdin Woods and Waters, gained orientation through stories and a waterways map created by James Frances (Penobscot), walked to the site of a proposed visitor contact station, and were honored to participate in four directions ceremony. The dialogue that ensued has changed and greatly enhanced a vision for what could be created. Today, we are poised to go deeper in this partnership and I write to invite your further participation in a unique training opportunity. The challenge and opportunity in front of us now is to continue creative collaboration in developing the visitor contact station interior, site design and interpretation in a manner that explicitly protects Indigenous/traditional knowledge resources and cultural heritage and honors the intellectual property rights of native people.

To expand knowledge and relationships in this terrain, training sessions are being designed and led by [Dr. Jane Anderson](#). Jane is Associate Professor Department of Anthropology & Graduate Program in Museum Studies and Affiliated Faculty Professor Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy School of Law, New York University, and a long-time consultant with Wabanaki people. As Jane states, "Intellectual and cultural property issues are critical to address in any environment where Indigenous communities are sharing their knowledge with other interested parties. Histories of settler-colonialism have created multiple contexts where Indigenous cultural knowledge is not properly recognized and valued. This has ongoing consequences for how Indigenous people are willing to share their knowledge, under what circumstances and with whom.

"The objective of this work is to educate and train EFI, creative and other teams, NPS colleagues, and others involved in KWW projects on cultural awareness and cultural appropriation; support development of a co-design process for Wabanaki involvement in KWW Visitor Contact Station; and establish the Wabanaki Board and EFI process as an 'exemplar' practice for other Foundations and projects."

I have had the opportunity to participate in an earlier training cohort and can tell you that this experience is intensive, important and transformative. Please be in touch if you would like to know more and I thank you in advance for joining this leg of the Katahdin Woods and Waters journey.

Best,

Lucas St. Clair, President
Elliottsville Foundation, Inc.