

LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS
7500 ODAWA CIRCLE
HARBOR SPRINGS, MI 49740

DECLARATION 032015-01

**Statement in Support of Grand Valley State University's (GVSU), Kutsche Office of
Local History and the goals of the Gi-gikinomaage-min Project**

A Declaration is a formal written public statement in support or opposition of an issue or matter. One or more Tribal Officers may sign onto a Declaration as individuals. A Declaration shall not obligate or commit the Tribe in any manner. Declarations do not require formal action by the Tribal Council.

The Waganakising Odawak is a nation of citizens with inherent sovereignty and right to self-governance;


The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe under Public Law 103-324, and is a party to numerous Treaties with the United States the most recent of which being the Treaty of Washington of March 28, 1836 (7 Stat. 491) and the Treaty of Detroit of 1855 (11 Stat. 621);

The Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has awarded Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) Kutsche Office of Local History, in collaboration with GVSU's Native American Advisory Board, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Special Collections and Archives through the university's library, a planning grant to design an initiative called "Gi-gikinomaage-min: Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit," that will ultimately create the first archival collection focused on the urban Native American experience in West Michigan. The planning stage of this initiative will continue through May 2015.

In the last half of the 20th century, the federal government instituted a program called "The Urban Relocation Program" which created one of the largest movements of Native

Americans in U.S. history. These policies were also known as the Indian Relocation Act of 1956, or Public Law 959. Here in Michigan, Native Americans were pushed into cities like Detroit, Flint, Lansing, and our focus area of Grand Rapids. According to the 2010 Census, there are more than 1800 self-identified Native Americans currently living in the Grand Rapids area. We would like to tell their story. We also want to include the experiences of those who were born, educated, have worked, or otherwise share important connections to the Grand Rapids area even if they currently reside elsewhere.

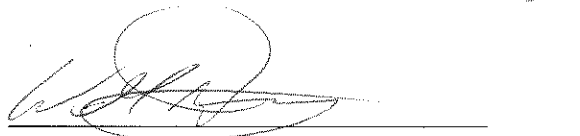
The undersigned Tribal Councilors, Tribal Chair and Vice Chair declare that they are in support of the goals of the Gi-gikinomaage-min Project and will offer our letter of endorsement to the GVSU project collaborators no later than May 2016. This will assist the project team as they work to submit proposals for grant funding to support the full initiative.


Tribal Councilor John Kachick


Date: 3/20/15


Tribal Councilor Marcella R Reyes

Date: 3-24-15


Tribal Councilor William A Desemy

Date: 3-24-15


Tribal Councilor Beatrice a Law

Date: 3/24/15


Tribal Councilor Julie Okanaguet

Date: 3/24/15

Winnay Wemigwase
Tribal Councilor Winnay Wemigwase

Date: 3/24/15

Michael John Nagonashe
Tribal Councilor Michael Nagonashe

Date: 3/24/15

AD
Tribal Councilor Aaron Dito

Date: 3/24/15

Regina Gasco Bentley
Tribal Chair Regina Gasco Bentley

Date: 3-26-15

A copy of this Declaration is on file at the Tribal Council Legislative Office and the Tribal Chair/Vice Chair Office.