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Preserving America's Heritage

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES INTENT TO APPOINT SUQUAMISH CHAIRMAN LEONARD FORSMAN AS ACHP VICE CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Barack Obama today announced his intent to appoint current Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Native American Member Leonard Forsman as vice chairman of the ACHP. Read the White House news release here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/11/03/president-obama-announces-more-key-administration-posts>.

Forsman was appointed to the 23-member ACHP in May 2013 and currently serves as chairman of its Native American Affairs Committee.

“Suquamish Chairman Forsman has demonstrated his leadership in giving Native Americans a greater voice in the preservation community, and we are delighted to welcome him to the role of vice chairman,” said ACHP Chairman Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA.

Forsman has been chairman of the Suquamish Tribe since 2005, a member of the Suquamish Tribal Cultural Cooperative Committee since 2006, and a member of the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education since 2005.

He was a research archaeologist for Larson Anthropological/Archaeological Services in Seattle, Washington, from 1992 to 2003. From 1984 to 1990, he was director of the Suquamish Museum in Suquamish, Washington, and has served on the museum’s board of directors since 2010.

Forsman has been vice president of the Washington Indian Gaming Association since 2010 and has been a member of the Washington State Historical Society Board since 2007.

He received a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Washington, and an M.A. in Historic Preservation from Goucher College.

Forsman will succeed Teresa Isabel Leger de Fernandez, who has served as vice chairman of the ACHP since February 2013. In 2015 and 2016, Leger de Fernandez led a series of listening sessions designed to receive input from diverse constituencies on how to engage all Americans in historic preservation.

“During her time with the ACHP, Teresa, who has expertise with both Indian tribes and the Latino community, has helped lead our efforts to build a more inclusive preservation program,” Donaldson said. “We will miss the enthusiasm and spirit she brought to the role.”

About the ACHP: An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the economic, educational, environmental, sustainability, and cultural values of historic preservation and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties. See www.achp.gov for more information.