



## A NEW LIVING MONUMENT



Facing east: the main entrance

*The newest addition* to Washington DC's National Mall will be its last. Steps away from the Capitol, the new National Museum of the American Indian has been fit into the last piece of land adjoining the Washington Monument. "Native peoples of the Americas are not some mere ethnographic remnant of cultures long passed," said museum director W. Richard West, Jr., who is of Cheyenne/Arapaho decent. "[The Museum] is reflective of a turning point in American history," he said, "where the United States is beginning to reckon with the history in various ways of the first citizens of the hemisphere."

The new museum showcases the living presence of Native America. It defies the typically static European model of a museum through its organic architecture, its dynamic exhibits—indeed, with its very purpose.

Crafted from rough hewn limestone, the museum stands apart from anything else on the Mall. Native plant gardens and huge "grandfather rocks" surround an imposing structure that remind some of an ancient mesa. But others say it looks alive. Blackfoot native and chief architect Douglas Cardinal incorporated suggestions sent from many different Native American nations. The one theme that tied together all these diverse comments was the desire for organic space.

The curving organism molds the mood in the inside of the museum, too. The atrium soars 120 feet high, and is dappled by a natural lightshow cast by liquid filled crystals. The main theater looks like a campfire. The café serves Native foods. All these features help the new museum serve as a gathering site for the many indigenous peoples of the Americas.

The curators of the museum's vast collection have corrected serious inadequacies of omission or error as represented in museum displays of the past. *Ho-Chunk member Truman T. Lowe* is the curator of one of the four exhibit spaces. An artist, and a professor at the University of Wisconsin, Lowe spent two years collecting a 177 piece exhibit on modern Native American art. *Another Ho-Chunk artist, Tom Jones*, has his photographs exhibited in the section of the museum called "Our Lives," a look at contemporary issues confronting Native American nations. "Our Peoples" is the section of exhibits which describe history from the Native viewpoint. "Our Universes" focuses on relations between humans and the natural world, and truth and knowledge.

Senator Daniel Inouye (Hawaii) sponsored the bill which approved the \$219 million museum. "This is a national monument long overdue," he stated at the opening ceremonies. Joined by representative members from over 515 American tribes, the Senator found many who agreed with him. *Members of the Ho-Chunk Nation were among those on hand* to contribute to a procession commemorating the birth of this living monument which will open up new worlds for over 4 million visitors every year.

Sources: *National Geographic*, Smithsonian Institute, *USA Today*, CNN Online, MSNBC, *Milwaukee Journal*

# THE HO-CHUNK TRUST BULLETIN

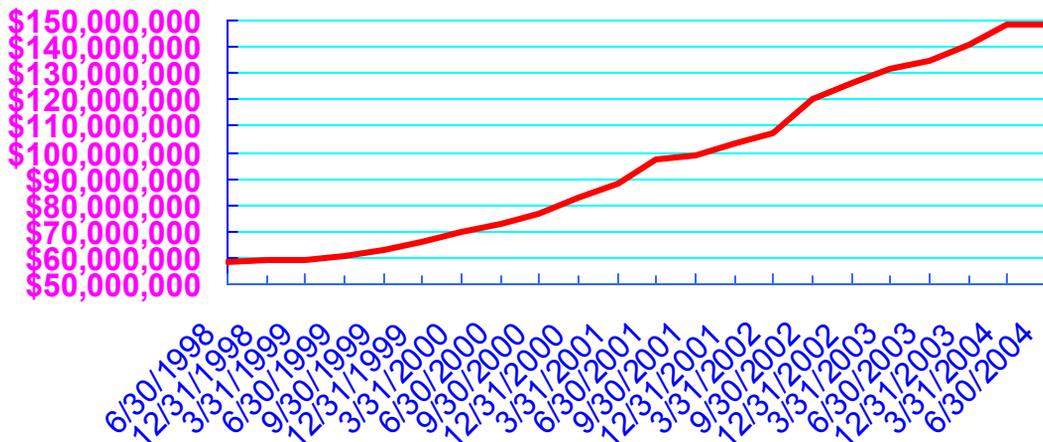
How

## has the Trust performed?

The Ho-Chunk Nation Minors' Trust Fund has continued to perform very well for participants despite a difficult interest rate environment during 2003 and 2004. For the past 12 months, the portfolio's benchmark, the Lehman Brothers Intermediate/Corporate Index for A-rated or better bonds, has posted a -0.4% loss. Rising interest rates have led to defensive positioning in the portfolio, where we are emphasizing durations that are both very short (2-3 years) and very long (10 yrs), attempting to take advantage of the flattening yield curve. As always, we invest only in U.S. government bonds and bonds issued by extremely creditworthy corporations. The Minors' Trust is well-positioned for the long term, and will continue to meet the needs of its participants for the years ahead.

## Historical asset growth: 6/30/98 to 06/30/04

Below is a graph of the Trust Fund's market value, *net of all fees*.



## Minors' Trust, actual performance 6/30/04 (12 mos.)

12 month return (net of all fees):

**-0.6%**



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