

# N240000011242

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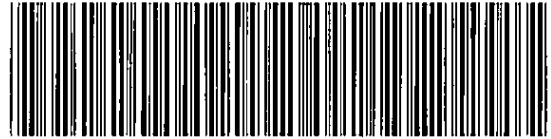
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TALLAHASSEE, FL

## COVER LETTER

Department of State  
Division of Corporations  
P. O. Box 6327  
Tallahassee, FL 32314

**SUBJECT:** Native American Women Trail of Hope Foundation Inc

(PROPOSED CORPORATE NAME – MUST INCLUDE SUFFIX)

Enclosed is an original and one (1) copy of the Articles of Incorporation and a check for :

☐ \$70.00  
Filing Fee

☒ \$78.75  
Filing Fee &  
Certificate of  
Status

☐ \$78.75  
Filing Fee  
& Certified Copy

☐ \$87.50  
Filing Fee,  
Certified Copy  
& Certificate

**ADDITIONAL COPY REQUIRED**

**FROM:** Carmen J DeCesare  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Printed or typed)

1101 Pinellas Bayway 203  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

St Petersburg, Fl 33715  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip

813-626-4127  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone number

cdc2r1@gmail.com

E-mail address: (to be used for future annual report notification)

**NOTE: Please provide the original and one copy of the articles.**

Articles of Incorporation

In accordance with 617-0202 FS

**ARTICLE 1**

**Native American Women Trail of Hope foundation**

Carmen Joseph DeCesare

1101 Pinellas Bayway unit 203

St Petersburg, FL 33715

**ARTICLE 2**

The corporation shall have perpetual existence.

**ARTICLE 3**

May 4, 2024

**ARTICLE 4**

The corporation will have members

**ARTICLE 5**

a Public Benefit Corporation

**ARTICLE 6**

**Registered Agent and Office**

Camien DeCesare

1101 Pinellas Bayway unit 203

St Petersburg, FL 33715

Having been named as registered agent to accept service of process for the above stated corporation at the place designated in this certificate, I am familiar with and accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity.

  
Signature of Registered Agent

Friday, May 17, 2024

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## Articles of Incorporation

### **ARTICLE 7** Principal Office

The corporation has a principal office. The street address of the principal office is:

1101 Pinellas Bayway

203

Pinellas County

### **ARTICLE 8**

1101 Pinellas Bayway

203

St Petersburg, Fl

33715

Pinellas County

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## **Article IX Purposes**

"The organization is designed exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code."

This organization focuses on American Indian women who are registered to their Indian tribe who need charitable help to achieve goals of self-advancement. Trail of Hope foundation empowers forgotten and overlooked Native American women by igniting their self-belief, nurturing their dreams, and providing a supportive platform to achieve their goals. We champion education, a powerful tool that has uplifted our communities, and guide them towards success. The chosen grantees are selected with the help of tribe members that are aware of the applicant circumstances. Each approved applicant will be review by the foundation board. The foundation board will then choose the applicates that will receive the funding scholarships for higher education and expenses.

This funding is offered to any qualifying female recipient that is a member of any certified Native American Tribe.

Funding can range between \$1000 - \$5000. Depending on the particular qualifications and circumstances of the applicant.

## **Article X**

This is a Non-Profit entity. Therefore no profits or assets will ever be distributed to members, directors or officers of the foundation. Any assets of value will be sold at a fair

## Articles of Incorporation

### Article XI

Any remaining assets upon dissolution will be distributed to one or more qualified organizations that also have tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a similar future code. This includes all assets paid for by contributor's funds of this organization.

**Article XII** In accordance with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS, prohibition of private inurement means that the organization's assets and funds cannot benefit individuals associated with it in a private way. This includes founder, board member, employee, etc. The primary purpose of this foundation is to fulfil their charitable mission of assisting American Indian woman to advance themselves with our help.

### Article XIII Board of Directors

#### Section 1:

This board will consist of A minimum of 3 board members and a maximum of 7. Also included will be 3 alternates.

#### Section 2:

- Initial Board composition founders are appointing the first board.
- Future Board member selection are nominations by current board are elected by board members.
- Term limits for Board members is 2 years and can reestablish by the board.
- In case of a board member steps down from this post, the board must replace that member with in 6 months.

#### Section 3:

*INITIAL BOARD*

- The founding board is responsible to appoint the following officers:
- President/COO..... Kathy DeCesare
- Vice President/..... Carmen J DeCesare
- Secretary/ Treasure /CFO..... Wanda Oxendine
- Board Member ..... David Flack
- Board Member..... Hollis Locklear

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## Articles of Incorporation

### Section 4:

Board meetings will be held semi-annually in person or remotely .

Meetings dates will be decided on in the previous meeting and can be changed up to a month before the meeting date.

- The Articles of Incorporation establish a quorum requirement as a **majority** of the directors on the board.
- This means a **simple majority** (more than half of the total number of directors) needs to be physically present or participate virtually to conduct official business and make decisions during a board meeting.
- No Proxy voting

### Article XIV: Assets

#### Section 1. Fiduciary Oversight of Assets and Finances:

The Board of Directors shall have the duty to act as fiduciaries with respect to the corporation's assets and financial affairs. This includes, but is not limited to, overseeing the development and implementation of financial policies, approving annual budget, and ensuring the safeguarding of the corporation's assets.

- The board may establish a board committee dedicated to finance, with specific oversight responsibilities to be determined. The board has appointed a qualified accountant experienced in Non profit companies.

### Article XV: Setting Strategic Direction and Mission Oversight:

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for establishing the corporation's long-term strategic direction, ensuring it aligns with the mission statement, and providing oversight of its implementation.

## Native American Women Trail of Hope Foundation

### Mission Statement:

- Trail of Hope empowers forgotten and overlooked Native American women by igniting their confidence, nurturing their dreams, and providing a supportive platform to achieve their goals. We champion education, a powerful tool that has uplifted our communities, and guide them towards success. As they climb, we stand beside them, ready to

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## Articles of Incorporation

catch them if they stumble. But our mission extends beyond opening doors. We inspire them to reach back and open those doors for future generations, ensuring a brighter collective future.

### 3. Selecting and Overseeing the Executive Director:

- The Board does have the authority to appoint, evaluate and give guidance to the Executive Director if necessary. To remove the Executive Director from the post, it will require a 100% vote to remove from the board.

### 4. Ensuring Legal and Tax Compliance:

- The Board is responsible for ensuring the corporation complies with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to tax regulations.

### Article XV Directors

The founding board is responsible to appoint the following officers:

President/COO.....	Kathy DeCesare
Vice President/ .....	Carmen J DeCesare
Secretary/ Treasure /CFO.....	Wanda Oxendine
Board Member .....	David Flack
Board Member.....	Hollis Locklear

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## Section 6 By-laws

### 1. Raising funds

- Donations: Most funding will come from private donations
- At least one annual fund raising event at a location to be determined.
- Contacts referred to by board members who share our mission.
- Online presence with an opportunity for someone to donate to the mission story.
- Local businesses
- Grant searches
- Charitable individuals with interest in our mission
- Publications to advertise our mission.

### 2. Disbursing funds:

- Funds are disbursed by the board treasure.

## Articles of Incorporation

- 60-70% of all funds generated will go directly to the mission in the form of grants and any related expenses associated to the grantees.
- Most grants will be for educational purposes as related to our mission statement.
- Grant recipients will be given the opportunity to come to our mission headquarters for a hospitality event and have a chance to meet some of the donors, board members and officers. This is done at the foundation's expense.

### 3. Empowering Continued Success: Re-applying for Grants

At Trail of Hope Foundation, we believe in fostering long-term success. Recipients of our initial grants are encouraged to re-apply for continued support. The Board carefully considers the impact of our initial funding based on factors like academic achievement and community involvement. Recipients who demonstrate a commitment to giving back through charitable or community work will be prioritized in the re-application process.

## ARTICLE 16 Incorporator

Carmen DeCesare  
1101 Pinellas Bayway  
Unit 203  
St Petersburg, FL 33715

  
Signature

Friday, May 17, 2024

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