



Agenda

Subject to Change 8.18.2026

Tuesday – September 15, 2026

Time	Event
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Move-in

Wednesday – September 16, 2026

Time	Event
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast <i>Miramar Ballroom</i>
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibit Open
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION <i>San Juan Ballrooms 1-5</i> Keynote: Christian Wassana, <i>Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of OK</i> (Motivational Speaker, Filmmaker and Founder of I Am, I Can, I Will)
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Block 1 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	Driver Management: Best Practices for Hiring, Monitoring, and Reducing Risk Presenter: Eric Christianson, Berkley Risk and Jon Weber, Berkley Risk
Finance <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	AI That Works: Real-World Applications for Finance Presenter: James Davis, Larson & Company, PC
Legal <i>Bahia 1-2</i>	From Complaint to Closure: A Tribal Insured's Guide to Legal Claims and Litigation Presenter: Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC

Technology <i>Laguna 1-2</i>	Ransomware Preparedness and Recovery Presenter(s): Michael Perrino, Tokio Marine HCC and Susan Doucette, Tokio Marine HCC
Leadership <i>San Felipe</i>	Wildland Urban Interface Risk in Tribal Communities: Practical Steps to Improve Resilience and Reduce Loss Presenter: Donna Settle, Gallagher
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Block 2 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	Mitigating Slips, Trips, and Falls in Indian Country Through Education, Training, and Experience Presenter: Mark Ramos, AZ Traction Flooring
Finance <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	No Surprises: Preparing for a Successful Audit Presenter: James Davis, Larson & Company PC
Human Resources <i>Bahia 1-2</i>	Anatomy of a Workers' Compensation Claim Presenter: Pattie Perez, AMERIND
Legal <i>Laguna 1-2</i>	Tribal Sovereignty, Preference, and Laws to be Aware of When Working with Tribal Nation Presenter: Azadeh J. Tavakoli, NNAHRA Foundation
Tribal Development <i>San Felipe</i>	Tribal Grants: What We See Now and In The Future Presenter: Felix McGowan, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Block 3 - Breakout Sessions
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	The Impact of Severe Convective Storm Events on the Insurance/Reinsurance Market Presenter: Derek Wortman, Guy Carpenter
Human Resources <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	The High Cost of Delayed Reporting in Workers' Compensation Presenter(s): Mike Melchior, AMERIND and Charles Kolakovich, Tulalip Resort Casino
Leadership <i>Bahia 1-2</i>	From Risk to Resilience: Leading Change with Purpose in Tribal Communities Presenter: Niki Ramirez, HR Answers
Legal <i>Laguna 1-2</i>	The Claimant Has a Lawyer; Should You? Managing Liability, Litigation Risk & Escalation Decisions Presenter(s): Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC and Yanira Chevere, AMERIND
Tribal Development <i>San Felipe</i>	From Grant Opportunity to Community Resilience: Building Grant-Ready Tribal Projects for Long-Term Success Presenter: Keith Weber, Civicus Group
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	AMERIND Regional Caucus Meetings
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception <i>Miramar Ballroom</i>

Thursday - September 17, 2026

Time	Event
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Attendee Registration
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast <i>Miramar Ballroom</i>
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open <i>San Juan Foyer</i>
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	AMERIND Member Business Meeting <i>San Juan Ballroom 1-5</i>
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 4
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	Too Many Risks, Not Enough Resources: How Tribal Communities Decide What to Fix First Presenter: Donna Settle, Gallagher
Finance <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	Human Resources, Banking, Insurance, and Cannabis: How Tribes are Leading in Health and Economic Development During the Historic Rescheduling of Marijuana Presenter: Mary Jane Oatman, Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association
Human Resources <i>Bahia 1</i>	The Hidden Claims File: How HR Decisions Drive Risk and How to Stop the Bleeding Presenter: Austin Dingleline, AMERIND
Legal <i>Bahia 2</i>	The Do's and Don'ts of Liability: What Every Tribal Leader Needs to Know Presenter: Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Technology (Panel Session) <i>Laguna 1</i>	From Disruption to Recovery: Business Leaders Share Their Cyber Incident Journeys
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 5
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	From Crisis to Recovery: The Art and Science of Property Restoration Presenter: Patrick Archuleta, Archuleta Restoration
Legal <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	The Next American Indian Frontier: Indigenous Commerce by Exercising Indigenous Sovereignty Presenter(s): David Kylo, Esq., Kylo Consulting and Joshua Jay Kanassatega, Esq.
Human Resources <i>Bahia 1</i>	Benefits: High Level Discussion Regarding Common Benefits Specific to Indian Country and Increasing Employee Engagement Presenter: Azadeh J. Tavakoli, NNAHRA Foundation
Leadership <i>Bahia 2</i>	Tribal Disaster Challenge: Are You Ready? Play. Learn. Prepare. Presenter(s): Austin Dingleline, AMERIND and Santiago Morales, AMERIND

Tribal Development (Panel Session) <i>Laguna 1</i>	Energy Sovereignty - Power Independence Moderator: Felix McGowan, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure Panelists: Scott Davis, COLUSA Energy and Ken Ahmann, COLUSA Energy
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Session - Block 6
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	When Small Fires Become Big Losses: How Fire Protection Capability Drives Outcomes in Tribal Communities Presenter: Donna Settle, Gallagher
Human Resources <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	From Injury to Recovery and Building a Return-to-Work Program That Actually Works Presenter(s): Mike Melchior, AMERIND and Charles Kolakovich, Tulalip Resort Casino
Legal (Panel Session) <i>Laguna 1</i>	Legal Minds at Work: Insights from the Front Lines of Litigation Moderator: Alan Romero, AMERIND Panelists: Lt. Governor Hershah Gorham, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of OK and Jana Simmons, Ropers Majeski PC
Technology <i>Bahia 1</i>	AI and Emerging Technology Presenter(s): Michael Perrino, Tokio Marine HCC and Susan Doucette, Tokio Marine HCC
Housing <i>Bahia 2</i>	Housing Risk Management Dealing with Deductibles Presenter(s): Ronnie Rogers, Muscogee Nation
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Session - Block 7
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	Inside the Claim: What Every Property Owner Should Know About the Recovery Process Presenter(s): George Fellows, AMERIND and Heather Fellows, AMERIND
Finance <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	Insurance for Insurance Companies: Why Reinsurance Matters Presenter: Derek Wortman, Guy Carpenter
Human Resources <i>Bahia 1</i>	The Future of Health Care, Cannabis, and Insurance Presenter: Mary Jane Oatman, Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association
Leadership (Repeated Session) <i>Bahia 2</i>	Tribal Disaster Challenge: Are You Ready? Play. Learn. Prepare. Presenter(s): Santiago Morales, AMERIND and Austin Dingleline, AMERIND
Housing <i>Laguna 1</i>	New Homeowners Insurance: What You Need to Know and How to Get It Presenter(s): Shannon Lastyona, AMERIND and Edgar Duran, Duran Risk & Insurance Services
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Move Out
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	AMERIND'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION <i>Coca-Cola Music Hall</i>

Friday - September 18, 2026

Time	Event
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast <i>Miramar Ballroom</i>
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions - Block 8
Session Track	Session Title
Risk Management <i>Laguna 1</i>	Fireside Chat: Connect with Your Property & Liability Claims Experts Presenter(s): Alan Romero, Yanira Chevere, George Fellows, Heather Fellows, AMERIND
Finance <i>San Juan Ballroom 8</i>	Tribal Grants: What We See Now and In The Future, Presenter: Felix McGowan, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure
Leadership <i>San Juan Ballroom 4-5</i>	Member Retention and Recruitment Plan Presenter: Derek Valdo, AMERIND
Housing <i>San Juan Ballroom 6-7</i>	Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Presenter: Charles Sarmiento, Karuk Housing Authority
Tribal Development <i>San Juan Ballroom 1-3</i>	Protecting Tribal Housing and Assets: Southwest Tribal Climate Resiliency Academy Presenter: Jeremiah Powless, Enterprise Community
10:30 a.m.	ATRIC Wrap-Up