

CHACO'S STORY SPEAKS TO US TODAY

June 9

Panel Programming

01 How Vast the Chaco World: Seeing and Creating from Above **10.00 a.m.**

Chacoan architects and astronomers built 150 Great Houses, uniting a harsh desert landscape through cosmology and ceremony. Questions arise about the source of their leaders' powerful influence and the lessons learned as Puebloan society shifted away from Chaco's elite dominance. Adriel Hesley and Richard Friedman, with expertise in aerial cinematography and archaeology, explore the wider Chaco world. Petuuche Gilbert offers insights into contemporary lessons from Chaco. Anna Sofaer and Rich Friedman discuss the vast region's geometric formations, showcasing the Chacoans' conceptual prowess in creating monumental structures. Elena Ortiz will provide cultural insights into the significance of spiral forms and geometric precision in Chacoan architecture.

02 Tropics to Desert: Power in the Land and 'Roads' **1.00 p.m.**

The exploration of Chaco's ties to Mesoamerica, led by archaeoastronomer Alonso Mendez, highlights parallels in astronomical alignments and ceremonial roads between the Maya Ceremonial Sites and Chaco. Chaco's landscape, woven with roads connecting Great Houses to natural features and celestial directions, reflects a deeper symbolic significance. Archaeologist Robert Weiner offers new insights into Chaco roads, while Rich Friedman's LiDAR discoveries unveil extensive road networks. Petuuche Gilbert shares his thoughts and insights of the ritual significance of the Chaco roads.

03 Chaco a Center of Dualities --- Sun and Moon, Light and Dark: Learning from and Protecting Chaco **4.00 p.m.**

A conversation with Philip Tuwaletstiwa and Anna Sofaer – In Chaco Canyon, the unity of the sun and moon is expressed through complex interplays of shadow and light, while the alignments of roads, Great Houses, and kivas merge vertical and horizontal dimensions, joining the worlds above and below at the heart of the Chaco world. Drawing these dual features into a center place is resonant with Puebloan history of deeply valuing the center place. The Chacoans' deliberate and meticulous closure of their structures and roads has preserved Chaco as a center of profound scientific knowledge and a sacred site of ancestral Puebloan cultures. Pat Sandoval will talk about the educational values of the Chaco legacy for teaching today. Brian Vallo will talk about the many efforts to preserve and protect Chaco and the lessons it provides for our world today.

RSVP