

Ira L. Matt

**Executive Director, Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations
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Ira L. Matt is Séliš and an enrolled citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. He serves as Executive Director for Indigenous Diplomacy and Federal Relations at the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO). He has more than 25 years of experience in Tribal sovereignty, cultural heritage protection, Tribal consultation, the National Historic Preservation Act, Indigenous Knowledge, and federal-Tribal relations.

His career has included leadership roles as Director of the Office of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as a Federal Preservation Officer within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and as the inaugural appointee responsible for developing the Indigenous Engagement and Native American Affairs program within the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He also served the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for more than 15 years as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and Supervisory Tribal Archaeologist.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Matt has helped shape major national policy and guidance governing federal engagement with Tribal Nations on matters involving Tribal consultation, Indigenous Knowledge, sacred sites, treaty and reserved rights, and culturally sensitive Tribal information and materials. His contributions include work on the Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation, the Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge, the ACHP Policy Statement on Indigenous Knowledge and Historic Preservation, and the Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites.

Mr. Matt holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa College of Law, a Master of Arts in Anthropology with a Cultural Heritage emphasis from the University of Montana, and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology with an Archaeology option from the University of Montana. He appears before the Subcommittee on behalf of NATHPO and Tribal historic preservation programs nationwide.