

**Convening Culture Keepers – May 4, 2012**  
**Advocating for Your Institution**  
**Discussion Notes**

What are your current advocacy interests?

- Renovating a barn as a useful structure for a cultural campus
- The Red Cliff Ginanda Gikendaamin (We Seek To Learn) Library/Community Learning Center
- Starting a new museum
- Presenting the genuine Anishinaabe history

What are some advocacy efforts or projects that have been successful for your institution and/or your tribe?

- Successful budgeting process for institution

What are your top pieces of advice from successes, projects to date?

- Find the right vision
- Engage the community with that vision
- Community engagement leads to enthusiasm
- Gather specific information for plan
- Communicate the vision of the project
- Have a sustainability plan
- Build partnerships
- Marshall advocates at appropriate times
- Scheduling creative interactions, meetings between staff and decision makers (invitations to lunches, special tours, etc.)
- Share funding success stories with decision makers and community
- Know the non-elected decision makers
- Build coalitions
- Show relevance of institution to the community

What are/were some challenges?

- Geographic distance (more than one location)
- Lack of understanding
- Limited resources
- Decision maker(s) in planning dept. not understanding the vision and the depth and breadth of impact for the community
- Size of project
- Large cost