



# Two Native Americans Offer Healing Solace

By Leslie McMillan and Marie Sheahan Brown

Our visit to the Shinnecock Indian Nation reservation near the eastern end of Long Island unexpectedly confirmed what we had read in a brochure at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Entitled *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas*, the words and photos memorably illustrate how the tragic common bonds of displacement and oppression have often become empathetic family bonds among Africans and Indians in America.

Honest understanding can bring healing from unimagined sources.

Like other Native Americans, your Small Business Exchange Northeast editors, twin sisters, can share sad stories of loss, indignity, and betrayal experienced by our Chinook Indian ancestors.

For example, our many-greats-grandfather, Chinook Chief Comcomly, welcomed explorers such as Gray and Vancouver, Lewis and Clark,

and the Astor Expedition when they reached his territory along the Pacific coast at the mouth of the Columbia River. Within a few decades, ninety percent of the Chinooks had perished from strange diseases introduced by the newcomers.

After Chief Comcomly died, his traditionally flattened skull was stolen from his grave in 1835 and shipped to the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar Museum in England. Damaged by bombing in World War II, it was returned to America in 1953 and eventually to his Columbia River homeland among five generations of his descendants.

A Smithsonian research report, *The Chinook Sign of Freedom: A Study of the Skull of the Famous Chief Comcomly* (1960), recounts the events and evidence that accumulated during this troubling journey of more than a century.

Even today, the Chinook Indian Nation is struggling with indignity. Like the Shinnecoeks, our people have been trying for decades to win federal recognition as Native Americans—not, as some might think, so we can sell all of the vices at lower prices on new tribal lands, but for the sake of simple truth, justice, and sovereignty.



The Shinnecock Nation finally gained federal recognition in 2010, one of 567 such tribes. We are not yet there—despite over two hundred years of peaceable history and the existence not only of our people but also of Chinook salmon; Chinook

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Date Of Monthly Advertisement: July 2016

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**LIRR Replacement of Post Avenue Bridge**  
Contract #6234

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is bidding the Long Island Rail Road project that consists of the replacement of Post Avenue Bridge in Westbury, NY. Work includes but is not limited to the design and construction and complete replacement of the existing two bridge track superstructure with a new three track superstructure to accommodate a future third track.

**Bid Date: August 5, 2016**      **DBE Participation Goal: 17%**

We invite all DBE's to contact us at 973-413-1911.

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• Environmental Consulting	• Site Security	• Vibration Monitoring
• Fencing	• Structural Concrete & Reinforcement	• Welding
• Janitorial Services		

For more information please contact Dale Errico at 973-413-1832 or [DaleE@rccmail.net](mailto:DaleE@rccmail.net) Catherine Best at 973-413-1911 or [MWDDBE@rccmail.net](mailto:MWDDBE@rccmail.net) Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is an EEO/AA Employer

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Contract #E-31683

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is preparing a bid proposal for the NYCTA Above Grade Facility Hardening project consisting of flood mitigation / hardening measures at five fan plant locations in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. The scope of work includes fortification of existing buildings, installation of new cladding and roofing mitigation systems, selective demolition, construction of new foundations, cast-in-place and precast concrete structures, steel framing and strengthening of existing structural elements. Quotes from DBE and non-DBE vendors, suppliers and subcontractors are being sought.

**Bid Date: August 5, 2016**      **DBE Participation Goal: 17%**

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For more information please contact Dale Errico at 973-413-1832 or Catherine Best at 973-413-1911 [mwdbe@rccmail.net](mailto:mwdbe@rccmail.net) Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is an EEO/AA Employer

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