

# ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

## VALERIE WELSH-TAHBO

La Paz County, Appointed 2021



Valerie Welsh-Tahbo is a native-born Arizonan who hails from the Colorado River Indian Reservation, in Parker, AZ. She has given her life to perpetuating the Native cultures of her tribes, the Pipa Aha Makaav or Mohave and San Carlos Apache as well as indigenous cultures across the northern continent. Valerie is a graduate from Haskell Indian Nations University in the field of Social Work, studied at the University of Kansas,

and came home to Arizona in 1985. Valerie is a passionate and lifelong volunteer in her community. For twenty years, she has served as the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) Royalty Board President. She focuses on working with young daughters of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo) as they vie for an ambassadors title all the while learning about themselves, instilling confidence and a "can-do" spirit.

Valerie has worked for the Head Start program and as a Specialist assisting her tribal member students reach their higher educational goals. She has been a Council member to the Tribes, successfully being elected for four terms starting in 2001 and has served as the Tribal Secretary and Tribal Treasurer. Her fourth term ended in 2018. In 2019 the Tribal Council selected her as the CRIT Museum Director where she works today.

Valerie is a traditional seamstress, making tribal regalia for members in her community and across the country. She also beads, making the Miss Indian Arizona crown for the sixth time and is the creator of the logo. Valerie loves her traditional tribal songs and loves to dance to them.

"Because we are all of an oral tradition in our beginning histories, the voice of the past in this particular society will be heard."

John Trudell