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Navajo President Shelly Makes \$100K Available for Shiprock Fair

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly made \$100,000 available to the 101st Annual Northern Navajo Nation Fair when he signed a memorandum of understanding Wednesday morning.

The MOU was created after the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board passed a resolution on Sept. 20 asking the Navajo Nation Executive Branch for financial assistance for the fair.

“I’m happy with the MOU and we are going to move forward with it,” President Shelly said after he signed the MOU before nearly a dozen people.

The meeting had members of the Northern Navajo Nation Fair Board and the Navajo Nation Museum.

The MOU outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Special Events Section of the Navajo Nation Museum. The office will assume management of most activities including the parade, concerts, the rodeo and the Indian Market.

In addition, the Navajo Nation Museum will be responsible for the financial management of this year’s fair, including gate fees and other fees collected.

“When I say transparency, I mean we have to make sure all the money is counted for,” President Shelly stated.

“We want the fair to run smooth. This is the oldest fair on the Navajo Nation and is a very traditional fair. We need to make sure everything runs smoothly so our People can enjoy this time when we transition into fall,” President Shelly said.

The 101st Annual Northern Navajo Fair Yei’ Bi’ Chei’ is scheduled to start later this week, but most of the other events like the carnival, community Bar-B-Que, along with other events start Thursday, Oct. 4 in Shiprock, New. Mex. The fair concludes on Oct. 7.