

Elouise Cobell

Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation

Ms. Cobell is the Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation a non profits affiliate of Native American Bank. She also served as Chairperson for the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on an Indian reservation and owned by a Native American tribe. Ms. Cobell was one of its lead organizers of the bank and was instrumental in the formation of the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund, Inc. Her work on the Individual Indian Monies Trust Correction and Recovery Project has won admiration by many. This is a project to reform the U.S. Government on the management of Individual Indian Trust Assets. Ms. Cobell is a recipient of the 1997 "Genius Grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Fellowship Program.

Ms. Cobell's professional, civic experience and expertise includes serving as a Board Member for the Tides Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, First Interstate Bank, the Montana Community Foundation, a Trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian, as well as a member of other boards. Ms. Cobell served for thirteen years as the Treasurer for the Blackfeet Indian Nation in Montana.

In addition to operating a working ranch with her husband, which produces cattle and crops, she is active in local agriculture and environmental issues, founding the first Land Trust in Indian Country and servers as a Trustee for the Nature Conservancy of Montana.

Elouise Cobell is a graduate of Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University where she recently received an Honorary Doctorate Degree; her professional background is in accounting and community development. Ms. Cobell received the 2002 International Women's Forum award for "Women Who Make a Difference" in Mexico City. She is a member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of Montana.