



**THE ROUNDHOUSE FOUNDATION DELEGATION WORKBOOK
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 29-30, 2024**

The Roundhouse Foundation is honored to bring a delegation of partners representing rural and Indigenous communities in Oregon to “Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts & Culture in Our Communities.”

Delegation List

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Elizabeth Quinn

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Gwen Trice

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The Roundhouse Foundation supports creative solutions across rural communities in Oregon including the federally recognized Tribes and historic bands of Native communities that originally called the region home. The Foundation funds at the intersection of four programmatic areas including: arts and culture, environmental stewardship, education and social services. In addition to providing grant services to rural communities and Tribal regions throughout the state of Oregon, the Roundhouse Foundation operates Pine Meadow Ranch Center for Arts and Agriculture in Sisters. For more information about the Foundation or PMRCAA please visit www.RoundhouseFoundation.org.



Mersaedy Atkins 'Tyusmakt'

She/Her

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Mersaedy Atkins is a member of the Colville Tribes and a Yakama Nation descendent. She was raised in the Pacific Northwest and now resides on the Yakama Nation Reservation. She is an artist, designer, Native Language teacher, traditional food gatherer and a mother. She enjoys harvesting traditional plants & foods, fishing, creating art and traveling. She is an advocate who teaches and helps preserve our sacred lifeways to help protect, revitalize and perpetuate our Native languages, ceremonies, traditions and traditional ecological knowledge. Mersaedy also teaches Indigenous land-based learning which integrates ways of knowing, learning & being, while honoring the spiritual, ancestral and physical aspects of land. All while continuously developing her professional, artistic and cultural skills. She also has recently established her own community Creative Space, '[páwiič'aakt](#)', A program designed to empower Indigenous community members, young and old, physically, mentally and emotionally through cultural, social, and leadership development activities. This program provides the community with opportunities to develop self-confidence and a sense of belonging through meaningful cultural and traditional experiences.



Erin Borla

She/Her

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Erin Borla is an Oregonian— born and raised in Central Oregon and the granddaughter of Oregon's own tough mother, Gert Boyle of Columbia Sportswear. For 20 years, she has worked with and for nonprofit organizations that support rural communities with innovative economic strategies. Her dedication to supporting rural spaces through listening, collaborating and open and honest sharing of ideas helps her elevate community partners throughout her work.

Borla holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences from Oregon State University and a master of tourism administration degree from The George Washington University. She completed her professional certificate in Tribal relations from Portland State University's Mark O. Hatfield School of Government in 2022 and was announced as a Fellow for the National Center for Family Philanthropy.

Borla currently serves as an advisor for Center for Disaster Philanthropy, a member of the Future Council for the Society for Environmental Journalists, a member of the advisory board for the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program managed through the Community Justice Commission of the State of Oregon and an advisory member of the Comprehensive Suicide Prevention program managed by the Oregon Health Authority. She has been a trustee for [the Roundhouse Foundation](#) of Sisters, Oregon since 2014 and stepped in as the organization's first executive director in early 2020.

When she isn't road-tripping with her family, Erin enjoys riding her horse Dallas, hiking with her dog, Sherman, knitting hats for friends and family and enjoying the best new young-adult novel.



Frankie Borla

He/Him

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Frankie Borla is a 13-year-old, 8th grader from Sisters, Oregon. He began playing percussion at age 5. He excels on the full drum kit, auxiliary percussion, and other rhythm instruments. Over the course of the last three years Frankie has taught himself how to play trombone, piano, guitar and bass. He is actively involved with both the Sisters Middle School and Sisters High School bands. Frankie has a passion for all types of music – classic rock and jazz, in particular.

He loves Breaking Bad and watching classic horror movies with his friends. Frankie also runs cross country and enjoys spending time with friends, his pets (three cats and a dog named Sherman) and his family.



Bobbie Conner

She/Her

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Bobbie has been the director of Tamástsligt (Tah-MAHST-slickt) Cultural Institute, the 45,000 square foot museum on the Umatilla Reservation near Pendleton, since its opening in 1998.

The [Tamástsligt Cultural Institute](#) serves three goals:

- provide accurate representations of Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla cultures and histories;
- perpetuate tribal knowledges; and
- contribute to the Tribal economy.

It is the only tribally owned interpretive center on the Oregon National Historic Trail and one of a handful on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Bobbie is Cayuse, Umatilla and Nez Perce, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, and currently serves on the Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees and Ecotrust, Oregon Community Foundation, and Nixyáawii Community Financial Services Boards of Directors. She is a former chair of the National Museum of the American Indian Board of Directors.



Amanda Craig

She/Her

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Amanda is of Alsea, Hanis Coos, and European descent, and is an enrolled citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & and Siuslaw Indians. She is currently the Project Manager for the [Oregon Rural Community Schoolyards Program](#) at the Trust for Public Land, managing three pilot schoolyard projects throughout rural Oregon. A graduate of the University of Oregon with degrees in environmental studies and landscape architecture, Amanda's background is in environmental monitoring & stewardship, education, and project planning & management. Amanda's passion and interests are rooted in cultural & environmental practices, with a focus on socio-ecological health, education, equity, and inclusion.



Kathy Deggendorfer

She/Her

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After she received her degree from the University of Oregon, Kathy and her husband, Frank, moved to central Oregon in 1973. She didn't just watch as central Oregon transitioned from failing timber communities to a recreation mecca and one of the fastest growing regions; she jumped in.

Kathy and Frank with their 13-year-old daughter Erin, moved to the sleepy tourist town of Sisters in 1994. Her work as an artist brought her to understand the power of the arts as a force for rural community development and she quickly joined the leadership of several community organizations to help celebrate the creative spirit and create a new arts-driven economy for central Oregon.

In 2002, Kathy founded [The Roundhouse Foundation](#), with support from her mother, Gert Boyle. Through her personal endeavors and her work with the Roundhouse Foundation, Deggendorfer has spent the better part of the last three decades shaping the cultural life of the region, from grassroots work in the early days of the Sisters Folk Festival and the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show to supporting arts, education, environmental and watershed projects and social services in surrounding counties.

Kathy is very proud of her work with the Casey Eye Institute and their work to cure world blindness. She has traveled as part of an ophthalmology team to multiple places in the South Pacific. This interest has informed the Foundations work in developing regional rural and frontier community nursing programs that focus on early detection of eye disease.

Kathy continues to paint and design while performing her duties as a trustee for the Foundation. When not working in her studio, Kathy is traveling with her husband, volunteering with her grandkids or playing with her corgi, Cooper.



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Robert Elliott

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Robert Elliott is the Director of the [Northwest Indian Language Institute \(NILI\)](#) and the Yamada Language Center at the University of Oregon (UO). He is a Navajo/Diné descendent and grew up in Los Angeles, CA. He began working as an ESL classroom-based language instructor over 20 years ago in the San Francisco Bay Area, and has extensive experience in educational technology, online course development and teacher education. He began working in language revitalization in 2009 when he and his family moved to Oregon. He coordinates NILI online initiatives, leads several youth outreach projects, and developed the NILI Resource Center, a digital share space of teaching materials for several languages of the Pacific Northwest. He is an active member of the UO's Native Strategies Resource Group and serves as a mentor to Native high school participants at NILI's annual Summer Institute. Robert is a regular presenter at national and international conferences on language revitalization and language learning technology, and he has published research on computer-assisted language learning and community-university partnerships in language revitalization. NILI is a recent awardee of a Department of Education grant to develop a Native American Language Resource Center for the Northwest region including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.



Gabe First Raised

He/Him

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541-589-4055

Hello, my name is Gabe First Raised. I am an enrolled member of the [Burns Paiute Tribe](#) located in Southeastern Oregon, currently serving as the Vice-Chairman for the Burns Paiute Tribal Council. Also employed as the Housing Director to serve my tribe, overseeing and managing our entire tribal housing programs.



Colin Fogarty

He/Him

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503-720-3112

Colin Fogarty spent 20 years as a public radio journalist, first as a reporter at Oregon Public Broadcasting and later as regional editor of public radio's Northwest News Network. His stories were heard frequently on NPR and he won regional and national awards for coverage of state and regional politics, Oregon's landmark Death with Dignity law, the bankruptcy of the Archdiocese of Portland and many other issues. Along the way, Colin kept returning to the theme of history and its role in our everyday lives. In 2014, he became executive director of [Confluence](#), a community-supported nonprofit with the mission to connect people to the history, living cultures and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. Confluence works through public art landscapes, education programs and public gatherings in collaboration with northwest tribes, communities and the celebrated artist Maya Lin. In this role, Colin continues to help tell compelling stories about history, not on the radio but in the landscape, in schools, in communities and online. Colin and his wife Stephanie Wiant have three children and live in Portland.



Jefferson Greene

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Jefferson Greene was born and raised on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon. As a young artist, Greene was immersed in Columbia River healing rituals administered by his elders. He later completed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management, Marketing, and Advertising. Greene returned to the Columbia Plateau and became a community cultural advocate writing grants and instructing cultural arts. He apprentices under several 1st Language Speakers of the Warm Springs, Yakama, and Umatilla Indian Reservations. Greene provides Ichishkín Workshops, Stories, Games, Dances, Songs, and Arts to students young and experienced.



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Bill Griesar

He/Him

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Bill Griesar, PhD is a Teaching Assistant Professor in Psychology and co-founder of the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience minor at Portland State University, co-founder and Neuroscience Coordinator of [Northwest Noggin](#) and Affiliate Graduate Faculty in Behavioral & Systems Neuroscience at Oregon Health & Science University. He loves teaching, learning, and listening to stories—from all ages, everywhere, all the time. Bill earned his Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience at Brown University, and his doctorate in Behavioral Neuroscience at OHSU. He's been recognized as an innovator by the Obama White House, and has taught neuroscience courses at PSU, OHSU, PCC, WSU Vancouver, Clark and Lower Columbia College since 2001. Bill co-founded (with his artist colleague Jeff Leake) the outreach nonprofit [nwnoggin.org](#). NW Noggin (which is entirely volunteer), he's met over 65,000 K-12 students, houseless youth, members of Congress, incarcerated young people, museum goers, pub patrons and other community members over shared interests in perception, cognition, behavior, brain research and art.



Seneca Hescock

He/Him

seneca@lomakatsi.org

My name is Seneca Hescock. I am an enrolled Klamath Tribal Member and work for Lomakatsi Restoration Project. [Lomakatsi Restoration Project](#) is a nonprofit, grassroots organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration initiatives, programs and projects throughout Oregon and northern California.

My hobbies include playing football, hunting and being outdoors.



Kimberly Howard Wade

She/Her

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Prior to coming to [Caldera](#), Kimberly Howard Wade co-developed and led PGE Project Zero, Portland General Electric's social impact initiative to empower the next generation to create cleaner, greener, more equitable communities. As part of the Community Impact Team at PGE, she provided leadership, project management and community engagement strategies for education and workforce development. She also served as the program officer for the PGE Foundation. Kimberly is excited to lead Caldera in the work of supporting young people in awakening their voice through the power of creativity. She has worked in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. She was the Trust manager of the Oregon Cultural Trust, managing director at Portland's Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, education/outreach director for Artists Repertory Theatre and the Director of Catering for Il Solito (formerly known as Pazzo Ristorante,) part of the Kimpton Group. She has served as chair of the Oregon State Board of Education and chair of the board for Portland Playhouse. She also served on the board of the Center for Performance and Civic Practice. She currently serves on the IngeniumCreatives Advisory Board and the Our Creative Futures Steering Committee . She previously represented Oregon on the Western States Arts Federation's Regional Multicultural Advisory Committee. In addition, Kimberly is an accomplished actress, with credits in New York, the Williamstown Theatre Festival and several Portland theaters. After attending Wellesley College, she received her BA from Pacific Union College in political economic history. She holds an MFA in acting from Columbia University and has taught theater at Walla Walla University. Kimberly lives in Gresham, Oregon with her husband, their twin sons, and their two dogs.



Josiah Jacobs

He/Him

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Pit River Native American from Northern California. Always have enjoyed the outdoors mainly the Rivers and fly fishing. I am also a very open minded person and try to get the most of life. I love to give back to Mother Earth and try to understand the world we live in as best a possible.



Roberta Lavadour

She/Her

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Roberta Lavadour is an artist and arts administrator who has lived in rural eastern Oregon since 1984. She has served as the executive director of the [Pendleton Center for the Arts](#) since 2006 and maintains an active studio practice making artist's books and design bindings. She is also a teaching artist who works with book arts centers and groups across the country. She holds a liberal studies degree from Oregon State University, with a focus on communications and community development.



Shannon McNerney

She/Her

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Since 2015 Shannon McNerney has served as Executive Director for [Fishtrap](#), a literary arts and humanities nonprofit located in the frontier community of Wallowa County, Oregon. Fishtrap's mission to cultivate clear thinking and good writing in and about the West aligns with her passionate belief that the power of storytelling, creativity, and art can bring together and transform community. Shannon spent the first part of her career working in music as a classroom and studio teacher, singer, in music publishing, and as the Executive Director of the Portland Symphonic Choir. She received her Bachelors degree in Music Education from the University of Oregon, and will receive her Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University in 2024.



Crista Munro

She/Her

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Crista Munro has 28 years of experience in the cultural nonprofit world, first as a co-founder and former executive director of FolkWest -- the nonprofit that produced the Four Corners Folk Festival and Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass in Pagosa Springs, Colorado from 1996 to 2019 -- and currently as the executive director of [Sisters Folk Festival](https://www.sistersfolkfestival.org/) Inc. She manages a year-round staff of 6 who implement music and arts programming including two annual music festivals (Sisters Folk Festival and Big Ponderoo), summer concerts at their 750-capacity venue, creativity summer camps for youth, the Americana Song Academy for adult learners, and a variety of music and art workshops and classes at their Sisters Art Works building. In addition, the nonprofit funds school music and arts clubs and facilitates guest artist performances and classes in Sisters public schools. The organization is currently undergoing a name change to SFF Presents to better reflect its breadth of programs.

Crista enjoys mountain living in the beautiful rural town of Sisters, Oregon with her fiancé and two active dogs. She is passionate about building community around shared creative experiences and enhancing livability for Sisters residents through world-class cultural experiences.



Olivia Nieto

She/Her

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My name is Olivia Nieto, and I am a fifteen-year-old high school student living in Sisters, a rural town in Central Oregon. I have always been passionate about creative activities that allow me to express myself, such as writing, music, drawing, and dancing. Currently, I am working for the local Sisters newspaper, [The Nugget](https://www.thenugget.com/), and interning for an online student-run news source called The Obsidian, which has opened doors to new connections with wonderful friends and mentors, and provided me with invaluable learning experiences. Attending Sisters High School has allowed me to explore my artistic interests further through learning about programs like the Americana Project and the Luthier Program. I developed a love for music in the 5th grade when I joined my school's Strings Program and learned to play cello. Over the years, I've played a variety of instruments, but my favorite is the alto saxophone. I am currently serving as the vice president of the Sisters High School Jazz Band, which I've been a part of for over three years. Furthermore, my love for art has been helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic. I used art as a way to fight the isolation I felt due to social distancing and focused on something that brought me joy.



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Niki Price

She/Her

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Niki Price has served as the executive director of the [Lincoln City Cultural Center](#), a rural community arts nonprofit on the central Oregon Coast, since 2011. The 17,000 square foot facility includes a performing arts auditorium, two visual arts exhibit spaces and studios for yoga, dance, ceramics and fiber arts. In 2023, the center began construction of the \$4 million Cultural Plaza, a redevelopment of the center grounds that combines access and utility with five collaborative public art installations.

In 2016, Niki was appointed by Gov. Kate Brown to the Oregon Cultural Trust board of directors; she has served as chair since 2021. She also advocates locally, serving as co-chair of the Lincoln County Cultural Coalition and as chair of the Lincoln City Public Art Committee. She recently embarked on an adventure with a dual mission – a hike on the Oregon Coast Trail while visiting hundreds of pieces of public art. With help from a new map and resource called the the Oregon Coast Public Art Trail, she’s walking from border to border, from the Columbia River down to California, appreciating and updating the public art inventory.

A graduate of the University of Arizona, with concentrations in theater and humanities, Niki worked in community journalism prior to joining the staff of the Cultural Center. She and her husband Dave are the co-founders of a coastal arts and entertainment newspaper, the Oregon Coast TODAY. They have collaborated on many special issues, including their daughter Margery, 23, and son Parker, 21.

Niki believes in the power of culture as a driver of arts and economic prosperity -- but also that creative expression is a goal unto itself.



Elizabeth Quinn

She/Her

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[Elizabeth Quinn](#) has worked in arts nonprofits for over 20 years. She started her career as an Executive Director of The Dalles Art Association, a member based organization that served a small community in the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon. She went on to found and manage for 10 years, High Desert Journal, a literary and visual arts publication focused on the interior West. Quinn then went on to work in the field of artist residencies when she was recruited to help establish PLAYA, a residency for artists and scientist in southeastern Oregon. She later became the Program Director of Caldera, a youth arts program serving the Portland metro area and communities on the east side of Oregon. After establishing Fieldworks Consulting, Quinn helped launch residency programs at Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, Virginia; The Volland Store in Volland, Kansas; and Pine Meadow Ranch Center for Arts and Agriculture in Sisters, Oregon. Today as Director of Fieldworks Consulting, Quinn helps organizations develop residency programs, facilitates visioning, strategic plans and program development, and advises organizations on community engaged arts programming.



George Swartzlender

He/Him

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My name is George Swartzlender. I am from Burns, Oregon and a member of the Pit River Tribe. I work for [Lomakatsi Restoration Project](#) as a Project Manager. Lomakatsi Restoration Project is a nonprofit, grassroots organization that develops and implements forest and watershed restoration initiatives, programs and projects throughout Oregon and northern California.

My Hobbies are Fishing and Hunting and being outdoors with my crew.



Gwen Trice

She/Her

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Ms. Trice is the founder and Executive Director of the [Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center \(MHIC\)](#), a museum located in Joseph, Oregon. MHIC's mission is to gather, preserve, and share the rich history of African American, Indigenous, and immigrant loggers in the Pacific Northwest. MHIC tells inclusive stories of multicultural logging communities, to better connect the experiences of immigrants and migrants to a larger American historical narrative.

Ms. Trice is the daughter of an African American logger. Tracing her father's life inspired her to create MHIC. And that journey inspired a documentary in 2009 by Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) titled "The Logger's Daughter." The documentary illuminates this little-known history of African American loggers and their families who migrated to Maxville, Oregon, from all over the South and Midwest. Ms. Trice's work is featured in the May 2021 issue of Smithsonian Magazine and the 2022 issue of Forest History Today magazine. In addition, MHIC regularly hosts traveling exhibits, and music and story-telling events throughout Oregon.

Ms. Trice has served on the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, and serves today on the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation. She is a 2015 recipient of the Oregon Women of Achievement Award, and the recipient of the 2020 Stewardship Award from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon.

In March of 2022, MHIC was awarded the Oregon Tourism Commission's Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Award. This award celebrates a business or destination that has demonstrated leadership in raising awareness, or facilitating change, to build a more inclusive and welcoming environment for visitors to Oregon. In 2023 Governor Tina Kotek issued an official proclamation for the Maxville centennial celebration. June 3rd moving forward shall be celebrated as Maxville day.



Dana Whitelaw

She/Her

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Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D., joined the staff of the [High Desert Museum](#) in Bend, Oregon in 2008 and has served as its executive director since 2014. Raised in Oregon, she earned her doctorate from University of Colorado Boulder in biological anthropology, conducting research that took her to Madagascar, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia and China. Upon earning her doctorate, she brought her passion to the High Desert Museum, which provides visitors close-up, interdisciplinary experiences with art, cultures, wildlife and history to share critical stories about the High Desert region.

Under Dana's leadership, the High Desert Museum has become a Smithsonian Affiliate, has experienced record attendance and earned the prestigious 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Dana lives in Bend with her husband and two boys.



Mandy Yeahpau

She/Her

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[Mandy Yeahpau](#) specializes in digital strategic communications. She currently leads the Communications Departments of two Native-led National Nonprofits headquartered in Portland, Oregon. Mandy was born and raised in Southern Oregon and earned a degree in Convergent Media with an emphasis in Video Production from Southern Oregon University. Uplifting Native peoples and highlighting their strengths and knowledge is the motivation behind much of Mandy's career path, including her time as an award-winning journalist and Independent filmmaker.



Shirod Younker

He/Him

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Shirod Younker (Coquille, Coos, Umpqua) is an Artist, Native Arts Facilitator and Natural Resources Education Consultant. Originally from Coos Bay, he now splits time between both Portland and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Oregon. Shirod has managed the “Journeys in Creativity: Explorations in Native Art” Program at Oregon College of Art and Craft for 16 years before transferring it to The Longhouse Education Center at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA in 2019. The “Journeys” program is a pre-college Native Teen residency created to break down the barriers of college; while providing mentorship, guidance and building portfolio artwork for young Native Artists looking to attend college or start an occupation in the arts. He also co-directs the [Changing Currents](#) Tribal Youth Leaders Water Summit for The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. A residency helping empower native youth through workshops, lectures and field trips to understand natural and manmade water infrastructure, Native American History, Water Law and the application of Indigenous Worldview. So that young people may bring their tribal lens and energy to future jobs relating to water or natural resources. Also planting seeds of knowledge to create future articulate leaders in environmental issues within sovereign indigenous communities. As a sculptor, he also collaborates with the WaKanim (Many Canoes) Artist Collective. WAC loosely consists of Native Carvers with tribal lineage to Oregon looking to increase the knowledge of ancestral aesthetic sensibilities to public projects and to assist Native Oregonian artists looking to learn and expand their carving skill set.