

As we gather in this virtual space from many different geographic locations, the Conference Planning Committee wants to acknowledge that the colonial systems that forcibly removed Indigenous peoples from their lands across North America and beyond shaped the ways information has been controlled, accessed, and distributed. These practices caused—and continue to cause—harm to Indigenous communities.

As information professionals and leaders within ARLIS/NA, we must confront this legacy. We are committed to increasing our knowledge, improving our professional practices and supporting Indigenous communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

Please think about the [Indigenous land](#) where you are located. In the spirit of our conference theme, *Together Activating Community*, we ask you to consider how ARLIS/NA can move [beyond acknowledgment](#) and encourage you to research Indigenous projects, artists, and activism in your area and find tangible ways to support your communities.

To help inspire this commitment, the Conference Planning Committee has highlighted a few initiatives and organizations created by and in support of Indigenous communities in the cities where we each live. We invite you to explore these resources and consider how you might engage with and support Indigenous-led work in your own community.

By city/state/province:

Cambridge, Massachusetts:

[Cultural Survival](#)

Cultural Survival is an Indigenous-led NGO and U.S. registered non-profit that advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures, and political resilience, since 1972. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Cultural Survival has partnered with Indigenous communities to advance Indigenous Peoples' rights and cultures worldwide.

[Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness](#)

MCNNA's mission is to assist Native American residents with basic needs and educational expenses; to provide opportunities for the expression and preservation of Native American cultural traditions; to advance public knowledge and understanding that helps dispel inaccurate information about Native Americans; and to work towards racial equality across the region. Their cultural traditional arts program provides opportunities for cultural expression and public engagement that includes a number of initiatives such as pow-wows, dance presentations, and craft-making workshops that consist of Native artisans, craft makers, and storytellers.

Chicago:

[Center For Native Futures](#)

The Center for Native Futures is the only all-Native artist-led arts non-profit organization in Zhegagoynak. We promote the advancement of Native fine arts, foster contemporary artists,

and encourage Indigenous Futurists. Located in the Marquette Building, our art center hosts gallery exhibitions, artist-in-residencies, and community events throughout the year.

[First Nations Garden \(Chi-Nations Project\)](#)

The mission of the First Nations Garden is to provide a healing space for Chicago's First Nations communities and promote public knowledge and appreciation of Chicago's Indigenous landscape and ecosystems.

[Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative](#)

CAICC is a network of seventeen Native American organizations and programs that joined together to collectively work on improving conditions for Native Americans in the Chicago area. Its inception was stirred by an overwhelming recognition that the community lacked cohesion, was virtually invisible in the City, and needed to develop a shared, comprehensive vision for improvement. Consequently, in March 2012, organizational representatives made a public commitment to participate in a process of change.

Philadelphia:

[Seeds](#)

We Are the Seeds of CultureTrust celebrates and educates about contemporary Indigenous arts and cultures, creates expansive and holistic opportunities for Indigenous artists, and provides positive and accurate representation of Indigenous peoples.

They produce cultural programs and workshops that celebrate and support Indigenous arts, artists, and Native communities throughout North America. To date, they have produced over 150 public programs partnering with major organizations including Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia Art Museum, Montclair Art Museum, MoMA NYC, Penn Museum, Free Library, and multiple educational institutions.

[Native American House Alliance](#)

Founded by indigenous people and allies to promote an accurate understanding of the Native American experience, history, and culture. Based in Philadelphia their goal is to dispel prevailing stereotypes and generalizing cultural representations of American Indians by providing culturally-specific programs and information about the contemporary as well as historical cultures of distinct tribes and communities within the United States, and especially here in Philadelphia.

Toronto:

[imagineNATIVE](#)

imagineNATIVE's Film and Media Arts Festival, which is the organization's primary activity, first launched in 2000 to support the diverse contemporary work of Indigenous directors, products, and screenwriters working in film, video, audio, and digital media.

[Native Canadian Centre of Toronto](#)

Since 1962 the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto has been a key meeting place for all people, of all nations, from across Canada and all over the world. As Toronto's oldest Indigenous community organization and one of the original Friendship Centres in Canada, the NCCT

provides social, recreational, cultural and spiritual services for the Indigenous community and visitors alike.

[Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres](#)

Founded in 1971, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) works to support, advocate for, and build the capacity of member Friendship Centres across Ontario. The Friendship Centre vision is to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people living in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities which encourage equal access to and participation in Canadian society and which respect Indigenous cultural distinctiveness.

By country:

Canada:

[Indigenous Arts Collective](#)

We gather the people with the sole purpose of putting into action the reclamation, preservation and revitalization of endangered Indigenous art forms and makers; this work directly translates into the retention of cultural knowledge. We are propelled by the Haudenosaunee Seventh Generation Principle that teaches us to understand that the decisions we make and the work we do today should result in a sustainable knowledge base that will benefit our people seven generations into the future.

The IAC supports over 480 Indigenous, artistic entrepreneurs and provides elevated financial health, context to traditional Indigenous art forms, employment opportunities, sales, mentorship and networking journeys with like-minded creators.

[Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation](#)

Manitoba Indigenous Reconciliation is focused on supporting healthy, safe and sustainable Indigenous communities. Our goals include closing the gap in quality of life between Indigenous people and other Manitobans, particularly in the areas of education, health, housing, economic opportunities and employment.

[Urban Shaman Gallery – Contemporary Indigenous Art](#)

Urban Shaman is an Aboriginal artist-run centre dedicated to meeting the needs of artists by providing a vehicle for artistic expression in all disciplines and at all levels by taking a leadership role in the cultivation of Indigenous art.

[Qaumajuq](#)

Qaumajuq bridges Canada's North and South through exhibitions, research, education, and art making. A community of artists, Indigenous advisors, partners, and stakeholders have collaborated to envision and build a vibrant gathering place where all are welcome and where everyone's stories are told and heard in a true spirit of reconciliation.

United States:

[Native Arts + Cultures Foundation](#)

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF) is a Native-led, 501 (c) 3 philanthropic organization dedicated exclusively to the perpetuation of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian arts and cultures nationwide.