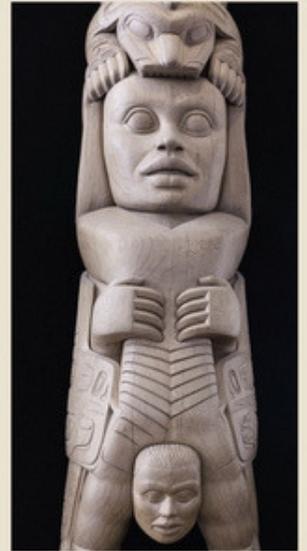


# NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION



## 2017 Year In Review

Upholding our Values  
through Arts and Cultures

# mission

*The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation works with American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native artists and communities to promote revitalization, appreciation, and perpetuation of Native arts and cultures across the United States.*

# vision

*The arts and cultures of the diverse indigenous people in this country are powerful, beautiful, and growing, and also offer perspectives that inspire creative solutions to some of our nation's most difficult collective challenges.*



President & CEO Lulani Arquette with Board of Directors Chair Sven D. Haakanson

## Letter from the President

As we reflect on 2017, it was a year in which people of this country gathered and championed issues they cared about with strength and determination. Discussions occurred in classrooms and boardrooms, in neighborhoods and corporate offices while citizens raised their voices in solidarity. From the efforts at Standing Rock and Mauna Kea to Honor Native Land, the Women's March and #MeToo, there were movements seeking restitution and healing for those who justice has long alluded.

At the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, we focused on our mission and vision, and were reminded how important the values of courage, respect, gratitude, and cultural responsibility are to our work. We moved forward by providing opportunities for artists to explore their creativity, mentor apprentices, and work in communities. We brought artists and organizations together to strengthen relationships and build future partnerships. There was emphasis on illuminating the strengths and

possibilities among indigenous peoples. As we move into 2018, we have never felt better. Mahalo (thank you) to all of our supporters, friends, and funders. We are grateful.

Native peoples are uncovering and reclaiming our innate Native Intelligence that has been with us for generations. Art has this special capacity to challenge us, wake us up, shift imagery, inspire powerful emotions, and point directly at social ills. Our Native communities have a wealth of cultural assets through which we can claim space and reconnect. Artists, dancers, musicians and storytellers help keep the momentum alive: a testament to the creativity and resilience of First Peoples. The 21st century is calling for a more equitable humane existence, greater sharing of resources, and a deeper appreciation of cultural differences. We appreciate all people in this country who are standing up and making a constructive difference. Let's keep the crusade going.

Me Ke Aloha,

Lulani Arquette, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation President & CEO

# 2017 Highlights



12 Mentor Artist Fellows honored in Traditional Arts and Contemporary Visual Arts, mentoring over 20 apprentices

Over 260 copies of "Progressing Issues of Social Importance Through the Work of Indigenous Artists" distributed

Over 18,200 social media and eNews subscribers receive information on grants and resources

Learn more about these artists : [nativeartsandcultures.org/mentor-fellowships](http://nativeartsandcultures.org/mentor-fellowships)



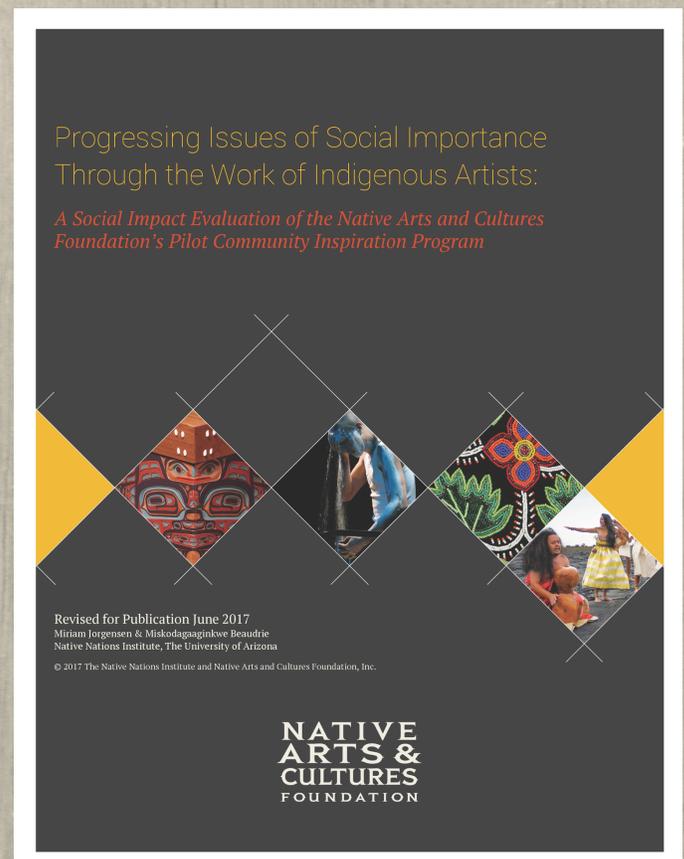
Presentations and advocacy at national and local events, such as to Americans for the Arts, Grantmakers in the Arts, the Sycuan Cultural Center, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Poeh Cultural Center, Native Americans in Philanthropy, Philanthropy Northwest, Bioneers, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums, and more.



19 National Artist Fellows convened for two days of knowledge sharing and community building in Portland, Oregon.

Download the report at

<http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org/values/reports>



# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

## Science Meets Indigenous Wisdom in California



On October 22, *The Story of Everything* was performed to a sold out house at the Bioneers Conference in San Rafael, Calif. The performance is an epic poem created by Hawai'i's Poet Laureate Kealoha Wong and was brought to life by Kealoha himself and a cast of 10 dancers and musicians. This was the first full production of the piece on the continental U.S. since its 2015 premiere in Honolulu. *The Story of Everything* is one of NACF's **Community Inspiration Program** projects and is an original creation story told using multiple knowledge systems, both Indigenous and Western, to explore the question "Where do we come from?". NACF is grateful to have partnered with Bioneers to bring Kealoha's performance to the Bay Area, where he also had the opportunity to speak about the intersection of art and the environment as a conference panelist.

## Mentoring to Preserve Traditions in Alaska

Weaver and culture bearer 2017 Mentor Fellow Lani Hotch (Chilkat Indian Village) wants to ensure that someone can continue the weaving tradition in her community of Klukwan, Alaska. Hotch has participated and led weaving group projects since 1992, but had not had the opportunity to teach and mentor one-on-one. "When you do group [weaving] projects, not everybody gets all the skills, and you have to depend on each other to do different parts of it," she states.

The NACF **Mentor Artist Fellowship** Hotch received in 2017 has enabled her to work closely with her apprentice Carrie Durr, walking her through the process of weaving a traditional dance robe. weaving from start to finish.



During the 18 sessions they've had together, Hotch has worked with Durr on choosing design elements, creating a schematic layout of the design, and then using the schematic drawing to determine the amount of yarn and heading cord needed to complete the robe. Hotch says she has helped her apprentice understand that weaving is "more about the journey than the destination."

# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

## Challenging Colonial Legacies in New York

*Indigenous New York, Artist Perspectives*, focused on contemporary indigenous artist perspectives and practices, grounded in innovative projects. This **colloquium series**, presented by the Vera List Center for Art and Politics and



supported by a grant from the NACF, consisted of three gatherings over two years, bringing together curators, artists, critics, and scholars of Native American, First Nations, and Indigenous descent and their non-indigenous colleagues to focus on indigeneity and the legacy of colonialism, and position the local as evidence of concerns shared globally.

Video from the conference is available on the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation website blog and Youtube channel.

## Convening to Spark Creativity and Community



In 2017, NACF celebrated the passion and creativity of our 2016 cohort of National Artist Fellows with a two-day **Convening** in Portland, Ore. This marked the first time NACF has been able to convene its Artist Fellows, who spent two days sharing and learning from one another, in conversation with guest presenters, and discussing ways to strengthen and enhance their work and communities, and the field of Native arts and cultures.

Watch the video! [https://youtu.be/\\_kujv5X6yV8](https://youtu.be/_kujv5X6yV8)

The 48 hours of Fellows' presentations, rich discussions and special guest participation reiterated the importance of supporting Native artists and the crucial need for their voices to be heard. It also reminded us of the power of the circle, of gathering and being in the presence of one another.

# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

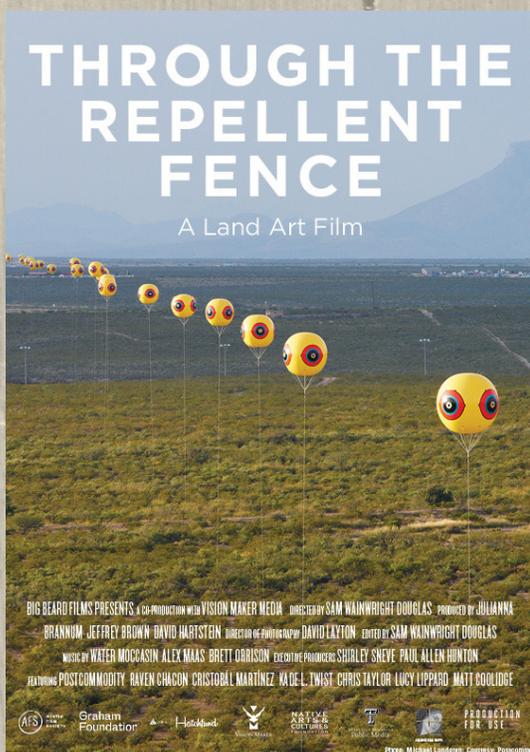
## Women Artists Honored in Oregon

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation proudly supported the **Portland Art Museum** of Portland, Ore. in its 2017 efforts to honor female Indigenous artists through two exhibits:

*Connecting Lines* brought innovative installation artists Luzene Hill (Eastern Band Cherokee) and Brenda Mallory (Cherokee Nation) together around their shared thematic interests in disruption, trauma, and resilience to the history of the Cherokee homeland removal of 1838.



*Interwoven Radiance*, organized by Tlingit artist and weaver Lily Hope - daughter of Native Arts and Cultures Foundation 2015 National Artist Fellow Clarissa Rizal - highlights the incredible art form of Chilkat and Ravenstail weaving, as well as female Native artists, who have been largely overlooked and underappreciated for their contributions to sustaining and masterfully perpetuating this complex and beautiful tradition.



## 'Repellent Fence' reaches national audience

*Through the Repellent Fence: A Land Art Film*, a documentary by Sam Wainwright Douglas on the creation of Repellent Fence, enjoyed its world premiere in New York City at the Museum of Modern Art in February of 2017, and has since been screened in over 30 film festivals and theaters throughout the country. Repellent Fence was one of NACF's pilot **Community Inspiration Program** projects which culminated in 2015 with the installation of 26 10-foot diameter balloons tethered in the Sonora Desert straddling the U.S./Mexican border. NACF and other organizations supported the production of *Through the Repellent Fence: A Land Art Film* and its critical work in capturing the process that led to Repellent Fence's installation and stimulating important conversation about border issues and the communities they affect.

# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

## Artist Fellow Update: Cyril Pahinui



For the past 35 years, the National Endowment for Arts (NEA) has presented National Heritage Fellowships to celebrate and honor master artists working in the folk and traditional arts. In 2017, nine new NEA National Heritage Fellowship recipients each received \$25,000 and were honored in Washington, DC in September; among them, two indigenous artists: Chilkat weaver Anna Brown Ehlers (Seminole, Muskogee, Dine) of Juneau, Alaska and 2013 NACF National Artist Fellow Cyril Pahinui (Native Hawaiian), a slack key guitarist from Waipahu, Hawaii. We congratulate both artists for this well-deserved recognition for their contributions to the field of Native arts and cultures.

## Artist Fellow Update: Kevin Pourier

The World Wildlife Fund, an internationally-recognized conservation organization, announced its Monarch Heroes campaign in the Summer of 2017. We are pleased to share that 2014 Regional Artist Fellow Kevin Pourier (Lakota) was selected to be a "Voice for the Monarch" in this national campaign for prairie restoration for the Monarch Butterfly.



Kevin shared this with NACF: "We, Valerie Morgan and I, are very excited to have our creations be able to make a difference in the world for a species to survive. To make a DIFFERENCE with art! It's always been our dream to use art to bring about AWARENESS. We've worked hard on educating people about the struggle the Monarch has come across in this modern day world. Now, we'll have even a larger voice!"

# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

## Artist Fellow Update: Cannupa Luger



As a recipient of a 2016 National Artist Fellowship from NACF, ceramicist Cannupa Hanska Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Lakota) focused on his monumental sculptural object, *Everything Anywhere* (at left). The piece, created from ceramic, steel, fiber, and including a sound installation, embodies "the fluid nature of a collective human experience; how humanity and individuality react to an overarching social structure and dependence to a human connection and the land for survival". An estimated 3,500 people were invited to touch, hear, and feel the work during its installation at the Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe.

## Artist Fellow Update: Erica Tremblay

Artistic Innovation Fellow Erica Tremblay (Seneca/Cayuga) was one of the recipients of the 2017 Native American 40 Under Forty award presented by The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. The award recognizes forty emerging American Indians under the age of 40 from across Indian Country who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and made significant contributions in business and/or in their community.



Tremblay's work as a filmmaker boldly addresses issues such as abuse of women, male role models and two-spirits. With her NACF National Artist Fellowship, she was able to complete her film "Wica Agli: To Return a Man". The documentary follows violent offenders and perpetrators of crimes against women who attend a rehabilitation camp on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

# Artist and Initiatives Spotlight

## Artist Fellow Update: Rulan Tangen

With support from NACF, choreographer Rulan Tangen (Metis) and one of her Dancing Earth company dancers attended Australia's BlakDance National Indigenous Dance Forum at Yirramboi in May 2017. This citywide event gathers creative visionaries from around the world, featuring ten days packed with indigenous arts and cultural events. Ms. Tangen represented indigenous contemporary dance of the US. She told us that "Yirramboi was literally the other side of the world, a place in time where an entire city was Indigenized – activated by songs, dances, theater, fashion, panel discussion, food created by global Indigenous creators. It gave me a vital vision of what could be. I arrived humbly, to listen and be of service, contributing where needed."



## *In Memoriam*

## Honoring Deva Leilani Aiko Yamashiro



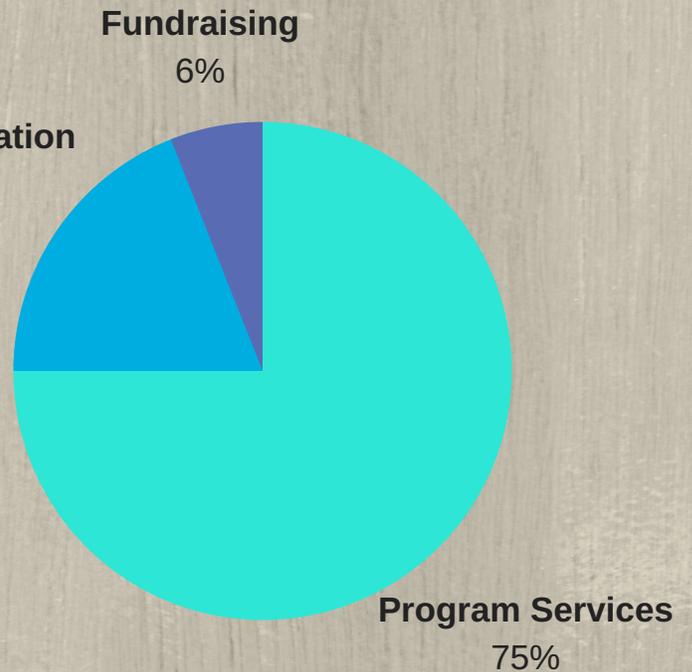
NACF staff and board members honor the legacy of Deva Leinani Aiko Yamashiro, as she was posthumously awarded a 2017 Washington State Governor's Arts & Heritage Award. Deva was founder of the Ke Kukui Foundation and dedicated the last 19 years leading her organization and community in preserving and sharing the Hawaiian culture in the Pacific Northwest. Sadly, Deva passed in the fall of 2017, but was represented at the awards ceremony in Tacoma, Wash. by her family and several members of her Halau. She was a beloved NACF grantee and partner and will always be remembered for her grace and devotion to her students and community.

# Financials

We pride ourselves on directing a maximum of financial support to the artists and organizations we support to catalyze the creativity and power of contemporary Native artists and culture bearers.

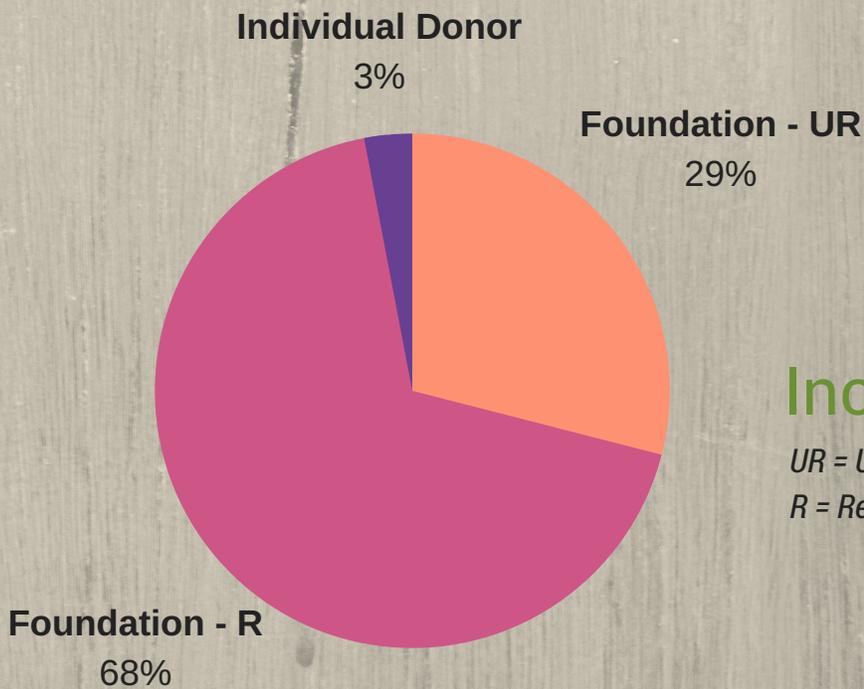
For detailed Financial Reports, visit [www.nativeartsandcultures.org/about/reports](http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org/about/reports)

## Expenses



## Income

*UR = Unrestricted funds*  
*R = Restricted funds*



# Thank You, 2017 Supporters!

## Individuals

Anonymous  
Adrian Wall  
Andrew Ward  
Arthur Blazer  
Awehoda Halbritter  
Barbara A. Baker  
Barbara Christy Wagner  
Benita O. Potters  
Bernadette Price  
Beverly Terry  
Brenda Mallory  
Brian Patterson  
Carol Leone  
Cecily Quintana  
Cheryl Andrews-Maltais  
Christopher Kauai Morgan  
Clark Hays  
Craig Smith  
Danielle Knapp  
Danielle M Posillipo  
Davidee Lewis  
Deborah Ruth Robinette  
Don Charles Blom  
Dudley D. Cocke  
Elizabeth Madrigal  
Elizabeth Steinbrueck  
Elizabeth Theobald Richards  
Francene J. Blythe  
Frederick A. & Sharon F. Schaefer  
Gabiella Tagliacozzo  
Gary L. Oxman and Kathryn Menard  
Gayle D. and Thomas R. Bennett, III  
Gra Linnea  
Ira Stuart Jacknis  
Janette L. Mercier  
JB Dockstader  
Jean M. Martin  
Jeana Woolley  
Jefferson Greene  
Jessica Pakootas  
Joe Cantrell  
John Bradford Phipps  
John Haworth  
John Shepard  
Joy Harjo  
Judy Kloos  
Kaili Chun

Kathleen Marquart  
Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse  
Keri Bradford  
Kurt Koenig  
Kym Aughtry  
Laura Boyland  
Laura Cales  
LeeAnn Jasperse  
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Rupert Ayton and Stephanie Sarver  
Sallejane Seif  
Sam A Minkler  
San San Wong  
Sara Marie Ortiz  
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Shar Lascelles  
Sherelyn Ogden  
Skeydried C. Baehr  
Sue Taylor, Ph.D.  
Susan A. and Howard Selmer  
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Susan J. Morris  
Susan Jenkins  
Sven Haakanson  
Tara Lulani Arquette  
Tasha Harmon  
Timothy Wilson  
Valerie Egan  
Valorie Johnson  
Victoria L. Mason  
Walter Lamar

## Gifts Made In Memory Of

Clarissa Rizal, Tlingit Weaver  
Dave Hatch

## Gifts Made In Honor Of

Grant and Marlene Wilkins  
Irwin Weinberger  
Language Preservation  
Lauren Monsen  
Lulani Arquette  
Our Ancestors  
Rose

## Tribes

Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

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Kalliopeia Foundation  
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
National Endowment for the Arts  
NoVo Foundation  
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts  
The New York Community Trust  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation

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Mary Overman, Photography

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The Standard  
Mario Galluci, Photography  
Anthony Lopez, Videography

# Photo Credits

- Cover:** Left to right: *The Story of Everything* (2017), photo by Matteo Troncone; *Eagle Dancer*, by Mateo Romero; *Regalia*, by Cannupa Hanska Luger; *Mother Earth Shawl* (detail) by Tahnibaa Naataanii; *Tlanakeet'akw*, by Jackson Polys. Images courtesy the artists.
- Page 2** Native Arts and Cultures Foundation 2017 Artist Honoring Dinner, photo by Mario Gallucci.
- Page 3** Images courtesy of the artists.
- Page 4** Kealoha Wong in *The Story of Everything* (2017), photo by Matteo Troncone; Mentor Fellow Lani Hotch's Apprentice Carrie Durr. Courtesy of the artist.
- Page 5** Still shot from The New School's Vera List Center for Art and Politics Indigenous New York Panel Discussion video; still shot from NACF Artist Convening video by videographer Anthony Lopez.
- Page 6** Detail from *Interwoven Radiance* exhibit, *Through the Repellent Fence* poster courtesy Big Beard Films.
- Page 7** Cyril Pahuini image courtesy National Endowment of the Arts. Kevin Pourier photo by Clay Bolt; image courtesy of the artist.
- Page 8** "Everything Anywhere" by Cannupa Luger, 2017. Still shot from documentary "Wica Agli: To Return a Man" by Erica Tremblay. Images courtesy of the artist.
- Page 9** Photo from Yirramboi courtesy Rulan Tangen. Photo of Deva Yamashiro, courtesy of Ke Kukui Foundation.