

NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION

nativeartsandcultures.org



YALE UNION BUILDING *Quotes*

"The transfer of the Yale Union to NACF to support the cultural continuance of indigenous communities is unprecedented, a first. This sharing of resources in a place first occupied by indigenous peoples initiates healing for the whole community. We now have a home, a central place for Native arts in this country."

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke) – *U.S. Poet Laureate and NACF Board Chair*

"We want to empower the voice of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation for archiving, educating, presenting, and convening in this space and in the region. We believe that NACF is the premier and appropriate organization for this as they are leaders in promoting native arts, cultures and humanities in the United States. Their mission and leadership are unwavering and their endeavor is urgent. NACF now owning this property to use as a vehicle for the realization of the Center for Native Arts and Cultures is historic."

Flint Jamison - *President, Board of Directors Yale Union*

"Together, the NACF board and staff believe that this free land and building transfer will set an example for recognizing the value of Native ownership of property in urban areas across the nation. It's liberating and encouraging to witness this kind of support for First Peoples of this country. The potential for local community and national partnerships around shared interests through Indigenous arts and cultures is wide open. We are deeply grateful for this transformative opportunity afforded NACF by YU board and staff, and stand united with all to reclaim Native truth, engage anti-racism, and address important issues we face today."

Lulani Arquette – *President/CEO, Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF)*

"For a long time, the Portland urban Indian community has been invisible in the public eye. The Center for Native Arts & Cultures elevates Native communities in Oregon to a national level of visibility. The resiliency of indigenous people is in great part due to our strong sense of identity and our community relationships, which are built through community gatherings that feature artistic practices. The ability to continue practicing art and culture ensures survivance in our communities. The CNAC will help our local and regional Native communities become stronger and more resilient."

Tawna D. Sanchez (Shoshone-Bannock/Ute) - *Oregon State Representative – District 43 – N and NE Portland*



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YALE UNION BUILDING *Quotes*

"We are really lucky here in SE Portland. The gift and repurposing of the historic Yale Union Laundry building for the Center for Native Arts and Cultures will be a major step forward for diversity and equity in Portland and enhance our civic life significantly. I cannot wait for this project to get off the ground and open."

Rob Nosse - *Oregon State Representative, HD 42 Inner SE and NE Portland*

"In my role as executive director of Oregon Humanities (the state humanities council in Oregon), I've come to learn and grow increasingly excited about the vision for the CNAC. It would serve as a gathering place, exhibit space, educational center, archive, and living testament to the complex and often under-recognized people and stories that are essential to this part of the world. I believe that the CNAC will quickly become one of this state's most important cultural spaces."

Adam Davis - *Executive Director, Oregon Humanities*

"The Native Arts and Culture Foundation is the perfect organization to inspire participation at all levels as the goals of the Center are revealed. The site for the Center couldn't be more ideal in providing space for large convenings, exhibitions and educational programming of Native artists and culture bearers. The Native peoples will have an opportunity to not only learn from one another, which is vital, but they will interact with the general public."

Julie S. Vigeland - *Board member, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies*

"The transfer of the Yale Union building to NACF will provide a much needed Native cultural space central to the City of Portland. I believe this will increase the visibility of the Native community and create opportunities for more accurate and truthful representation of Native peoples. We at NAYA look forward to the many partnership possibilities with NACF aiming to elevate Native voices and enhance the diverse strengths of our youth and families."

Paul Lumley - *Executive Director, Native American Youth & Family Center, Portland, Oregon*

"The CNAC will serve as an important bridge for Native artists between commercial art galleries and museums in the arts community not only in Portland, but nationally and internationally. I look forward to seeing this project develop."

Kathleen Ash-Milby (Navajo) - *Curator of Native American Art, Portland Art Museum*

"The CNAC embodies the work of indigenous and non-Native communities to increase understanding of the authentic stories and histories of Native people. Native arts and culture are at the center of Native history in this country. Native history is an essential and often overlooked and undertold aspect of American history. The CNAC will educate communities locally, regionally, and nationally to create a greater understanding of Native history and Native people among the broader public."

Karissa Lowe (Cowlitz) - *Tribal Council member, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Board Chair, Cowlitz Tribal Foundation Education and Arts Fund Tribal Education Committee member*

YALE UNION BUILDING *Quotes*

“Native artists are not just one kind of artist – we are from multiple tribes, we have different backgrounds, and we have diverse interests. We are visual artists, performers, writers, filmmakers, scholars. NACF acknowledges those differences and promotes the visibility of all Native artists. Having a physical venue like CNAC where we can tell our different stories will help our cultures survive by creating deeper connections within the Native world, but also help us to be more visible and to tell our stories, our real stories to broader audiences.”

Brenda Mallory (Cherokee Nation) – *Artist and NACF Fellow*

“Since its inception more than a decade ago, the NACF has worked diligently and with Native artists, communities, and culture bearers to ensure accurate, authentic, and truthful representations of Native peoples. The Center for Native Arts and Cultures (“CNAC”) will enhance these efforts as a vibrant gathering place that advances the NACF’s vision of Native equity and cultural knowledge. It will support Native artists, culture bearers, and educators in using and applying their voices and creativity to effect positive social change through educational undertakings, including convenings, language preservation, exhibitions, and other public activities and programming.”

W. Richard West, Jr. - *President and Chief Executive Officer, Autry Museum*

“The NACF’s opportunity to develop the Yale Union building into a Center for Native Arts and Cultures is an historic game-changer for Native arts not only in the Northwest but in all of the U.S. There is no similar facility in existence in the U.S., and the planned artist studio, performance, exhibition, and retail spaces are sorely needed. The Yale Union building has a long and storied history and a strong reputation as a center for contemporary arts. The fact that it is being given to NACF is itself historic and sends a powerful message about the need for societal reconciliation and healing through the creation of community resources and artistic expression. I have no doubt that the philanthropic community in and beyond Portland will embrace this project, even at this time of economic and public health crisis, because of the hope for the future that the project represents. I for one will do everything I can to support the fund-raising efforts of the NACF for this project and I know I am not alone.”

Rebecca Dobkins, Ph.D. - *Professor of Anthropology, Willamette University; Curator of Native Art, Hallie Ford Museum*

“I believe NACF’s Center for Native Arts and Culture will significantly contribute to humanities engagement in the United States. Native arts and culture are inextricably bound up in Native history, and the story of Indigenous peoples is a crucial part of the story of America. By educating through these lenses, CNAC activities will serve all citizens by creating a more nuanced and authentic understanding between Native peoples and the broader public.”

James Pepper Henry - *Executive Director, First Americans Museum (FAM)*

