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For Immediate Release

Native Arts + Cultures Foundation Awarded \$225K from the Henry Luce Foundation

PORTLAND, Oregon, 7 May, 2025 – The Native Arts + Cultures Foundation (NACF) was recently awarded \$225,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant will support Native curators as part of our *SHIFT Transformative Change and Indigenous Arts* program as they mount socially responsive exhibitions to address critical issues through a Native lens.

Through its *American Art Program*, the Luce Foundation champions American art as a tool for realizing more vibrant and empathetic communities. The Luce Foundation empowers institutions to celebrate creativity, elevate underrepresented voices, challenge accepted histories, and seek common ground by supporting innovative arts projects. The goals of the Luce Foundation’s *American Art Program* and the work of NACF are perfectly aligned.

The Native Arts + Cultures Foundation’s *SHIFT* Program empowers artists, curators, and community collaborators to address social issues through a Native lens. The program supports innovative community-driven projects created in partnership with an organization that uplifts Native communities, promotes self-determination, and drives transformative change. *SHIFT* provides multi-year multifaceted support that enables artists, collectives, and curators to develop impactful projects that engage broader audiences while deepening their practice, fostering collaboration, and inspiring transformative dialogue on national and global issues.

This award from the Luce Foundation supports two curatorial *SHIFT* awards for Native curators organizing new exhibitions exploring themes of social change. One award is for the 2025 *SHIFT* cohort we’re currently accepting applications for, while the second is for the 2027 *SHIFT* cohort. As NACF works to indigenize existing art institutions, we must uplift not only Native artists but Native curators as well. Cultivating talent amongst Native curators ensures more equitable representation in galleries, museums, and art spaces, and more equitable financial support from arts funders. By shifting the curatorial landscape to include more Native voices, with the help of our friends at the Luce Foundation, NACF is creating space for artists to make our world as vibrant and empathetic as we know it can be.

“NACF is at the forefront of a movement that recognizes the power of art to heal, to educate, and to transform. We’re so excited that the Henry Luce Foundation has chosen to join us in this movement.” - NACF President /CEO Shyla Spicer.

About the Native Arts + Cultures Foundation:

The Native Arts + Cultures Foundation (NACF) is a Native-led, 501 (c) 3 philanthropic organization dedicated to celebrating American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian arts and cultures nationwide. NACF advances equity and cultural knowledge, focusing on the power of arts and

collaboration to strengthen Native communities and promote positive social change with Native peoples in the United States.

About the Henry Luce Foundation

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to deepen knowledge and understanding in pursuit of a more democratic and just world. Established in 1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission by nurturing knowledge communities and institutions, fostering dialogue across divides, enriching public discourse, amplifying diverse voices, and investing in leadership development.

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