

NATIVE CRAFT ARTIST READINESS PROGRAM

ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CRAFT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND



2023 – 2024 COACHES

The Native Craft Artist Readiness Program (NCARP) is a six-month capacity building program that provides 20 Native Craft Artisans with training, resources, and financial support to build sustainable art practices. An important part of the program is the availability of coaches to help mentor and provide guidance to the craft artist participants.



www.DennisRedMoonDarkeem.com

Craft Forms Practiced:

Mixed Media, Regalia/Fashion Design, Jewelry, Other: leather work, patchwork designs, stonework, sculptures, collage

Dennis RedMoon Darkeem (Yamassee Creek, Seminole) is Bronx born and raised. He is of Yamassee Creek-Seminole Native American and African American descent. Darkeem has been an Artist and Art educator for over ten years working in the DOE, Private and Charter schools in the South Bronx and Harlem. He has been the head Art teacher at South Bronx Early College Academy for 4 years and received his bachelor's in fine arts and his master's in art Direction from Pratt Institute. Over the years, Darkeem has become a prominent contemporary artist and art educator in the Bronx. He's been an Artist in Residence with many art organizations like Wave Hill, the Laundromat Project, The Point, Bronx Children's Museum, I.C.P, and Jamaica Arts Center. Dennis has exhibited his work at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Brooklyn Museum of the Arts, La Mama Theater, The MoMA, Bronx Art Space, Rush Gallery, The Judaic Museum of Art, and Smack Mellon, and has received fellowships and scholarships from the NYSFA, NYC Teachers Foundation, Marko Roth scholarship, and Price Waterhouse Fellowship award. Dennis is also the creator and founder of Bronx Artist Day, RedMoon Bronx Soaps and Teas, and The RedMoon Arts Movement Inc, an organization that brings Art and Art resources to young people of the South Bronx and the tri-state area and supplies young people with the skills necessary to be their own boss. Dennis believes in the philosophy "Art is Power". Art is a tool used to inform, engage, inspire, educate, embrace, and celebrate one's uniqueness. When one is open to Arts one is open to the world.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Developing a Business Plan
- Grant and Art Market Application Writing
- Studio or Art Market Vendor Best Practices
- Teaching In-Person or Virtual Workshops
- Working with Casinos and Museum Gift Stores
- Community Based Practices & Engagement
- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion



www.ungelbahdavila.com

Craft Forms Practiced:

Photographer, writer, and marketer

Ungelbah Davila (Diné) earned her BFA in Creative Writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2011 and has worked in publication, advertising, marketing, event planning, and many other creative platforms ever since. Fall 2023, her photograph of Tewa sculptors Roxanne Swentzell and Rose Simpson with Rose's daughter Cedar, will be a part of the exhibit, *In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now* at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Currently, she provides creative services in the form of photography, copywriting, magazine features, website design, videography, social media management, live show hosting and much, much more.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion



www.lilyhope.com

Craft Forms Practiced:

Textiles, Regalia/Fashion Design, Mixed Media, Jewelry, Beadwork, Basketry, Other: Indigenous Storytelling and performing arts

Lily Hope (Tlingit. Raven. T'akdeintaan clan) is an award-winning distinguished artist and community leader born and raised on Lingit Aani. Her finger-twined, adapted formline, ceremonial Chilkat dancing blankets take years to complete. Her work is collected by Smithsonian Renwick Gallery, Burke Museum, Museum of Nature and Man (Germany), The Eiteljorg, Alaska State Museum, and in the private collection of Jeffrey Gibson and numerous other museum and private collectors. Lily is an Enthusier and advocate for artists and the arts. Her conversations, collaborations and ideas contribute lasting support and a rich artistic community for artists in Alaska and beyond. Lily lives in Douglas, Alaska, with her five children.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion
- Developing a Business Plan
- Documenting and/or Archiving Artwork
- Grant and Art Market Application Writing
- Studio or Art Market Vendor Best Practices
- Teaching In-Person or Virtual Workshops
- Working with Casinos and Museum Gift Stores
- Harvesting Traditional Materials

Please note that Lily is not available from December 22, 2023 to January 16, 2024.



Craft Forms Practiced:

Beadwork, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Regalia/Fashion Design, Sewing Arts/Quilting, Woodcarving

Reuben IronHorse-Kent (Iowa Tribe of KS & NE) is the second son of four. An enrolled member of the Iowa(y) tribe of NE Kansas & SE Nebraska with familial ties to both the Otoe-Missouria and Kickapoo tribes, and with lineage connections to both French and Hispanic ethnicities. Being raised in and around creative individuals served as a starting point for exploring the native craft expression during his adolescent years. Beadwork eventually led up to textiles and the act of sewing. Education was acquired primarily through federal and parochial schools with minimal time spent in any public institutions. Attained an MFA (Creative Writing) in 2013 at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM. Most known for his ceramic work (Raku/Oneota), some of which has been published and on display in the United States (Field Museum, Chicago), including a college level ceramics textbook (*Hands In Clay*). The interest of many different media for self-expression has always been at the forefront of his studio endeavors with painting being reviewed favorably by both judges and collectors.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion
- Documenting and/or Archiving Artwork
- Grant and Art Market Application Writing
- Harvesting Traditional Materials
- Studio or Art Market Vendor Best Practices
- Teaching In-Person or Virtual Workshops



www.785arts.com

Craft Forms Practiced:

Basketry, Textiles, Mixed Media, Sewing Arts/Quilting

Lisa LaRue-Baker (Cherokee Nation) is a traditional double-wall basket maker, taught by elders Anna Sixkiller and Thelma Vann Forrest. As a staff member of Cherokee Nation's Cultural Resource Center and later Director of Language, History and Culture for the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, she has taught thousands of children over a 20+ year timespan in cultural arts including baskets, cornhusk dolls, traditional clothing, jewelry, as well as guidance in the Cherokee language and culture. Lisa is currently a gallerist and teaching artist at 785 Arts studio and gallery in Topeka, Kansas (2022 People's Choice recipient), and a board member of ArtsConnect, a local organization that advocates for and represents artists in Shawnee County, Kansas. She is also Lead Curator of the (Topeka) Mayor's Art Initiative and a facilitator for Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion
- Community Based Practices & Engagement
- Developing a Business Plan
- Documenting and/or Archiving Artwork
- Grant and Art Market Application Writing
- Harvesting Traditional Materials
- Intellectual & Cultural Property Protections
- Studio or Art Market Vendor Best Practices
- Teaching In-Person or Virtual Workshops
- Other: Indian Arts and Crafts Act, creating workshops



Craft Forms Practiced:

Other: My main career focus has been arts administration at the national and international level with the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Smithsonian Institution.

Keevin Lewis (Navajo) oversaw the design, development, implementation, and review of the NMAI Artist Leadership Program, an international Indigenous arts, research, and community service program, at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), Smithsonian Institution, in Suitland, Maryland from 1995 to 2017. The Artist Leadership Program is credited by providing relevant artists services and public programs for individual artists and Native museums and cultural organizations that included 109 individual artists, 10 organizations, 9 college students 3 high school students, 2 artists from a non-profit Native organization and 8 non-U.S. countries. The Artist Leadership Program aimed to support activities for cultural arts revitalization while encouraging sustainable programming in the community. As the Museum Programs Outreach Coordinator, Mr. Lewis’s personal and professional mission continues to involve the transfer and facilitation of organizational resources to the benefit of Native and Indigenous cultural lifeways that have a positive long-term effect on the general public. Mr. Lewis values the unfiltered Indigenous voice, thought and community lifeways. Keevin is a current member of ATALM – Native Arts & Culture Councils National Advisory Committee and has served as board members of the New Mexico Humanities Council (2020-2022) and the Mesa Verde Museum Association (1997-2020). Keevin Lewis grew up in southern California and graduated with a B.A. from UCLA in 1980. After working in the aerospace industry and with the Southern California Indian Center, Keevin began to work at the National Museum of the American Indian in 1995.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Other: How to initiate and understand the steps for conducting research of cultural material in big and small museums



www.calnez.com

Craft Forms Practiced:

Mixed Media, Other: Fine artist, Graphic Designer, Photographer, Illustrator

Cal Nez (Navajo) Cal Nez Fine Arts has over 32 years of combined experience in the design, advertising, marketing, and communications profession. Since its inception our firm has not only built a roster of clients from across the Intermountain West.

Experience and Skills in the Following Areas:

- Brand Identity, Marketing, and Promotion
- Community Based Practices & Engagement
- Copyright Law & Other Legal Considerations
- Developing a Business Plan
- Documenting and/or Archiving Artwork
- Intellectual & Cultural Property Protections