



Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Native Craft Artist Readiness Program Selects 20 Artists for Business Development Support
*Six-Month Program Provides Training, Resources, and Financial Support***

Oklahoma City, OK – The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM), in partnership with the Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+), today announced the 20 artists selected for the Native Craft Artist Readiness Program (NCARP), a six-month capacity building program that provides training, resources, and financial support to build sustainable craft art business practices.

The artists selected for the Program include: Tasha Abourezk (Three Affiliated Tribes), Leatherwork, Regalia/Fashion Design, Sewing Arts; Sydney Akagi (Tlingit) Jewelry, Regalia/Fashion Design, Textiles; Shane Beeshligaii (Navajo Nation) Beadwork, Ceramics, Jewelry, Glass, Metalsmithing, Mixed media; Jamie Bennett (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), Beadwork, Jewelry, Regalia/Fashion Design, Sewing Arts, Textiles; Ethan Brown (Pamunkey Indian Tribe), Gourd Arts, Mixed Media; Beth Bush (Pokagon Potawatomi), Beadwork, Mixed Media, Quillwork, Regalia/Fashion Design; Leslie Deer (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), Regalia/Fashion Design, Sewing Arts, Textiles; Sarah Dogeagle (Hidatsa, Xxo'sgha, Nueta, Hunkpapa Lakota), Basketry, Beadwork, Ceramics, Regalia/Fashion Design, Sewing Arts; Cheyenne, Dorrell-Giles (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska), Beadwork; Aubree Fast Horse (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska) Beadwork, Jewelry; Yvonne Goad (Pamunkey Indian Tribe), Gourd Arts, Mixed Media; Allyson Gray (Pamunkey Indian Tribe), Ceramics; Rykelle Kemp (Mvskoke Creek-Euchee/ Choctaw/ Diné) Jewelry, Metalsmithing, Mixed Media; Shelby Merry (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska), Basketry, Mixed Media; Desiree Nuckols (Pamunkey Indian Tribe), Beadwork, Jewelry; Phillip Pursel (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Bear Clan), Beadwork, Regalia/Fashion Design; Amanda Rutland (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), Jewelry, Metalsmithing; Liandra Skenandore (Oneida Nation of Wisconsin), Basketry; Allyson Stumpf (Osage), Ceramics, Jewelry, Mixed Media; Jessica Towns (Native Village of Pilot Point), Basketry, Beadwork, Jewelry, Mixed Media.

The program will provide artists with online training, access to a network of coaches, peers, and resources, and up to \$10,000 in financial support to implement the skills and strategies gained through the program. Artists are divided into local, regional, and national cohort defined by the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Woshka Committee, the Mvskoke Arts Council, the Virginia Native Arts Alliance, and ATALM. A list of artists and samples of their work are available on the ATALM Native Craft Artist Readiness Program webpage at <https://www.atalm.org/node/628>.

“We are thrilled to work with CERF+ to support these talented and diverse artists,” said Susan Feller, ATALM President & CEO. “The program is designed to help Native craft artists develop the skills and knowledge they need to build successful and sustainable craft art businesses. We look forward to supporting them on their journey.”

The NCARP is funded by the CERF+, the Ford Foundation, and the Windgate Foundation. The program will begin in November 2023 and conclude in May 2024.

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUMS

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is an international association dedicated to preserving and advancing the language, history, culture, and lifeways of Indigenous peoples. Founded in 2010, ATALM maintains a network of support for Indigenous cultural programs, provides professional development training, enables collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions, and advocates for programs and funding to sustain the cultural sovereignty of Native Nations. To learn more, visit www.atalm.org or follow us on [Facebook](#).

ABOUT CERF+ -- THE CRAFT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Since 1985, CERF+ has assisted thousands of professional artists working in craft disciplines with emergency financial assistance as well as resources and educational programs for any studio-based artist designed to strengthen and sustain their careers. CERF+ has endeavored to assure the well-being and success of individual artists, but also, through research and advocacy, to advance the needs and status of the craft field in general. CERF+ has developed the expertise and reputation as the “go to” organization for artists working in craft disciplines. Over this time, CERF+ has become a respected leader on the national arts scene, advocating for improving the overall support for U.S. artists before, during, and after disasters through its leadership with the National Coalition for Artist Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER).

ABOUT THE FORD FOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization with assets currently valued at \$16 billion. For more than 85 years it has worked with courageous people on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

ABOUT THE WINDGATE FOUNDATION

Windgate Foundation, based in Little Rock Arkansas, is a private foundation established in 1993 whose purpose is to advance contemporary craft and strengthen visual arts education in the United States. Education, health, and community initiatives are an additional area of focus in Arkansas.