

# Smoke Signals

NEWSLETTER

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN

ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE

THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SINCERELY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THESE PERIODIC UPDATES WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS IN 2024

## NATIVE RESONANCE 2024 TRADITIONAL ARTISANS COHORT

TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION  
GRANT AWARD 2023



## RECENT EVENTS

This year, we have hosted three hands-on workshops and two webinars featuring our Native traditional artisans cohort. We have had such a great time connecting with everyone at our recent Native Resonance community events and are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Each gathering has invited Middle Tennessee locals to engage with in-depth insights on the ancestral ties found in Native American culture and how they influence and illuminate traditional Native arts in modern day.

We are honored to hold space to raise Native voices in Tennessee. As we are coming to the end of this season's cohort program, we want to thank you and our amazing Native artisans for your continued engagement and support,

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### NATIVE ARTISAN WORKSHOP

MAY 4TH, 2024 | 10 - 1PM

CIRCLE OF LIFE CULTURAL CENTER GROUNDS  
(1466 BELL ROAD NASHVILLE, TN 37211)

### NATIVE SEMINAR & MARKET

JUNE 1ST, 2024 | 10 - 3PM

THE FRIST ART MUSEUM  
(919 BROADWAY, NASHVILLE, TN 37203)

We warmly welcome you to our upcoming Native Resonance workshop & market events! Both events are family-friendly educational gatherings that will highlight all of the amazing work we have cultivated in the cohort program this year.

To register for either event, RSVP online today!



Follow us on social media :

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE  
NAIA@NAIATN.ORG | 230 Spence Lane, Nashville, TN 37210 | (615) 232-9179

NAIA was chartered as a tax-exempt non-profit corporation in October 1983, under provisions of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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## CIRCLE OF LIFE INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

The Native American Indian Association of Tennessee (NAIA) is undertaking a historic endeavor to create The Circle of Life Indian Cultural Center. As never before in the history of our state, it will honor Tennessee's original people by making space for Native perspectives and artistic expressions, both ancient and modern.

As you know, Native Americans do not have state or federally-recognized lands in Tennessee, which makes it difficult for Natives living here to seek social services, network for employment and education, and maintain cultural connections.

As we have continued our services over the years, we have outgrown our offices and have launched major fundraising efforts to gather the remaining funds needed to break ground and build our beautiful Circle of Life Indian Cultural Center.

The Center will be home to a research library dedicated to research and educational programming about Native American topics, a cultural exhibit hall and museum with displays of authentic Native American Indian arts both ancient and modern. In addition, NAIA's offices and community meeting space will be available for Native Americans who currently reside in Tennessee. It will provide Tennessee's Native

Peoples with a welcoming space to continue to promote community education and engagement of southeastern tribal cultures, through seasonal workshops, cultural exhibits and educational programming.

This year we have delighted in inviting locals out to celebrate Native artistry and steward the land at our Cultural Center grounds. As we continue to activate the Cultural Center grounds, we need your help in sharing our mission and vision!

## DONATE TO THE CENTER

We are currently seeking funding for the construction of the Native American Circle of Life Indian Cultural Center.

NAIA currently owns the land on which the Cultural Center will be built, 5.95 acres, however we are short the funds needed to build the Center. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost to build our Center has doubled.

This year, we have focused our fundraising efforts towards local agencies and community-based donors who have supported NAIA's programs and events over the decades. Reach out to us if you are interested in helping our fundraising efforts!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CULTURAL CENTER:**  
<https://naiatn.org/cultural-center-info/>



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## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

NAIA is proud to be the central hub for Native Americans living in Tennessee for over 40 years! Our programs have provided Native families with access to vital resources and intertribal ties that have inspired us across decades past & to come.

In celebration of Native American Education Day (May 25th) we want to make a special shout out to our WIOA program!

Shakela (WIOA Program Director) and Aaliyah (Case Manager) have been busy networking with local education programs and Native students to spread the word about our transformative workforce and education training resources for Native Americans in Tennessee, including:

### JOB SEARCH & PLACEMENT SERVICES

Built to help guide you as you work through your job search, ranging from Career Counseling to Job Readiness Training.

### EDUCATION RESOURCES

Created to help prepare you for your professional future, including Adult Basic Education, GED Attainment, Literacy Training.

### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Developed to help make sure you have everything you need to complete your professional goals, centering Occupational Skills Training, Retraining, and Upgrading of Skills.

In late April, Shakela and Aaliyah focused in on outreach to our local Native Hawaiian community by attending 'Then and Now: The History of Minorities Communities in Nashville'. At the event, the ladies were able to connect with Dr. Andre Churchwell, who also spoke at the last 'Then and



Shown above (left to right) Aaliyah Alberts, Tyler Kohrs, Shakela Clinton

American community. They were also able to speak with Tyler Kohrs, an Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Community Leader and powerful community connection for NAIA resources.

To stay up to date with the most recent happenings and opportunities to connect with our WIOA staff, follow us online - @NAIATN!

## KIDS AGAINST HUNGER FOOD SUPPLY

No one should have to suffer through lack of access to food. As the season is heating up, it is vital we make sure our Native American community members have access to quality food!

With much gratitude to Kids Against Hunger, along with our emergency support resources, we now have a plethora of non-perishable foods available for Natives dealing with food insecurity. The food packages include a variety of items, including wild rice, dried vegetables and other high-nutrient foods. If you know of any Native in search for access to food, please do not hesitate to reach out to us - we are here to help!



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