



NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

MAY 2023

“We believe the Cherokee Story must be shared with the world to carry on our traditions through future generations and to advance Cherokee Nation. The preservation of our way of life is what guides us.”

Molly Jarvis

Senior Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

Cherokee Nation Cultural
& Economic Development



THE POWER OF CULTURE

Cherokee Nation Cultural and Economic Development is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Cherokee history, art and culture. Our rich heritage is our foundation and it guides us each and every day.

Our business initiatives demonstrate our commitment to cultural preservation and increasing economic opportunities in Cherokee Nation. The work we do is a vital part of ensuring our culture not only survives but thrives for generations.

This is why we must continue to invest, innovate, diversify and grow.



CHEROKEE NATION
Businesses

Our mission is to grow
Cherokee Nation's economy
through diversification and
to create jobs for Cherokee
Nation citizens.



CHEROKEE NATION
Cultural & Economic Development

Celebrating Culture & Connecting Communities

Our efforts take various shapes, but are united to share the unfolding story of the Cherokee people.

Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism presents our rich history and culture through museums and historic sites, art shows and community events.

Cherokee Film is leading our charge for visibility by increasing Native representation in the film and TV industry.

At **1839 Cherokee Meat Co.**, we are working to promote vital food security within Cherokee Nation.

These initiatives, among many others, are the result of careful, thoughtful planning and a commitment to honoring our past in our vision for the future.

Cherokee Nation is more than 450,000 citizens strong.

To bring opportunity home to our Nation, we must look both inside and outside our borders. We will continue to grow — **STRONGER TOGETHER.**



CHEROKEE NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM, TAHLEQUAH, OK

A NATION OF INNOVATION

Make your next family day trip anything but ordinary in Cherokee Nation. Jump into a world of hands-on, cutting-edge exhibits, fascinating stories, unique gifts and timeless art. Know the ancient origins and modern heritage of more than 450,000 citizens who honor a legacy of resilience and strength. Experience an authentic, richly detailed, boundless and enduring Cherokee story. **One Nation. Ten Attractions. Endless Adventure.**

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CREDITS

NATIVE *oklahoma* MAGAZINE

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NATIVE OKLAHOMA MAGAZINE is a monthly publication provides content from the Native community. For more information, to sell on our shop or to advertise, please call Adam Proctor at 918-409-7252 or email adam@nativeoklahoma.us

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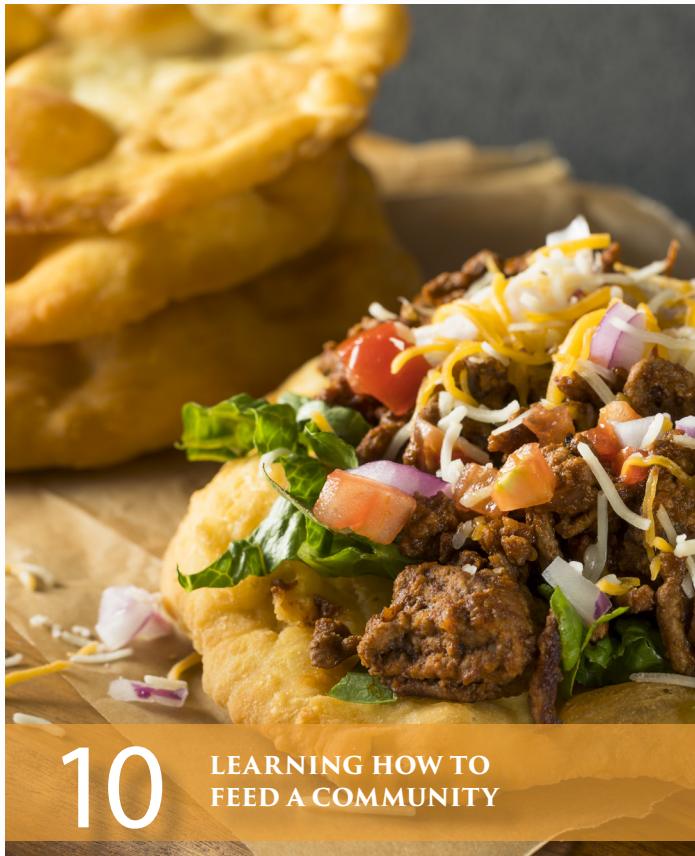
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ONAYLF 20th Anniversary Fashion Show: Carrying Native Fashion Forward

By Latoya Lonelodge

As part of the 20th anniversary for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (ONAYLF), the fashion show "Carrying Native Fashion Forward" was presented for the first time during the two-day language fair.

Featured designs were showcased by native designers and their models, such as Courtney Little Axe with ALTRN8V, who is Northern Cheyenne, Absentee Shawnee and Seminole, Louisa Harjo with Creations by Louisa, who is Mvskoke and Seminole, and Claudia Tyner Little Axe with A Tipi Maker's Daughter, who is Seneca Cayuga, Mvskoke and Absentee Shawnee.

Dr. Raina Heaton, director of the ONAYLF said the fashion show is a special one-time deal for the 20th anniversary.

"They were trying to do something special and really engage people because we have a language fair family core that always come and do this with us as well as new people, it's just really exciting, so the fashion show is new this year and we had three native designers to showcase their designs," Heaton said.

Of the featured designs that were showcased, it was only her

second time participating in a fashion show for Courtney Little Axe, who grew up on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lame Deer, Mont. Little Axe said she started doing fashion because she felt there was a lack of representation of alternative native styles.

"I felt the need to craft it for people like me that like this sort of alternative style," Little Axe said.

The type of designs that Little Axe specializes in ranges as she does beadwork, quillwork and ribbon skirts with an alternative twist.

"I used to make more traditional style beadwork but I kind of utilized those skills and paired it with my contemporary alternative style and created what is now ALTRN8V, I do different things I also make harnesses like chain harnesses and then I started doing beaded harnesses, I haven't really debuted those yet," Little Axe said.

Little Axe said she's still working on perfecting the craft with her designs.

"Anything from denim kind of like a native twist, like Seminole patchwork, my grandma taught me how to Seminole patchwork and she really inspired me with the way that she started learning and she taught me around 8th grade," Little Axe said.

From denim to ribbon skirts, Little Axe's designs are also made to be eco-friendly as fashion is one of the largest polluters of the environment.

"What I like to do is I'll go to thrift stores and I'll thrift different materials and incorporate it into my projects or I will just take a piece and kind of alternate it, I would add a twist to it of how I would wear it myself and so yeah, it just ranges," Little Axe said. In carrying her fashion forward with alternative style at the language fair, Little Axe said she's excited to see where her fashion designs take her next.

"I want to create more representation and visibility for natives that are alternative and that are more in the subcultures of like the scene, in alternative style there's different types so I try to incorporate more of a broad style so that everybody can wear it," Little Axe said.

By incorporating the fashion show with the language fair, Christine Armer, ONAYLF Coordinator said it made a wonderful turnout for the event overall.

"It's beautiful, even the fashion show, it's part of it because we had young people in there, it makes them important, notice that they think they're important so that will carry on with their schooling and education and being who they are and it's just a grand thing," Armer said.

2023 Annual Tribal Festival Guide

This is the official listing of pow-wows and Tribal festivals for 2023. Starting in May from Copan Pow-wow to Lawton for the Comanche Fair at the end of September.

The Pandemic is, hopefully, officially over with. Lots happen since everyone has had to distance themselves from each other. Always take time to love the ones that have gone on, natural or otherwise, and to remember keep these traditions and customs that's been handed to us to carry on.

For this year. Lots of dances! Lots of Tribal Festivals! Lots of food! So mark your calendars and make your plans to travel around Oklahoma and see some of the finest dancers in this state! You're going to get a glimpse of contest pow-wows to annual dances not seen anywhere else in the country.

Keep this issue with you for the course of the season and make sure you make it to every event this year!



May

Comanche Little Ponies 53rd Annual Celebration 2023

May 12th - 13th, 2023

Comanche County Fairgrounds, Expo Center
920 S. Sheridan Rd., Lawton, OK

Event is free and open to the public.

Gourd dancing begins at 5:00 pm on Friday.

Gourd Dancing & Scalp dancing all evening on Friday.

Gourd Dancing at 12:00 pm on Saturday.

Supper Break at 5:00 pm.

Grand Entry at 6:00 pm on Saturday.

58th Annual Delaware Pow Wow

May 26th - 28th, 2023

The 57th Delaware Pow Wow will be held Memorial Day weekend. Free Parking and Free Admission. Make sure you get there right before supper break each day to visit and make new friends. Gourd dance Friday 6 pm to 8 pm, Saturday & Sunday 3 pm to 5 pm and 6 pm to 8 pm.

Dance contests are every night starting at 8 pm til close. Followed by Stomp Dance Friday & Saturday nights. All specials on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 pm to 3 pm. Bet Football Game-Men against Women - Saturday at 11 am. Sunday Morning Church Service 10 am at the arena.

Winners announced and prize money paid out at the end of the Pow-wow on Sunday night (Winners must be present and in dance clothes to receive prize payout)

The event will be held near Copan Oklahoma on road 600 at the Falleaf Campgrounds. (3 miles East of Highway 75 on Road 600). For more info contact Erica Zunigha 918-902-7750

51st annual Redmoon Memorial Day Powwow

May 27th - 29th, 2023

Hammon, Okla.

One Mile North & Two Miles East of Junction Hwy. 33 & 34 in Hammon, Okla.

Gourd Dance Daily 3-5 pm

Flags: Up at 9 am / Down at 6:30 pm Daily

Grand Entries Nightly 7:30 p.m. (Must make all 3 for contests)

Vendors: Food \$100/weekend or \$40/per day

Crafts \$75/weekend or \$35/per day

For more information call 580-339-1946, 580-309-0042, 580-799-4566 or 405-637-6036

June

Red Earth Festival

June 1-3rd, 2023

OKC, OK National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center

A Passion to Motivate and Inspire

Kevin Pau-k'i Rivera created Modern Tribal Nations to do just that.

The way he explains, "My passion is to Motivate and Inspire anybody I come across. They always say follow your Passion and for the longest time I couldn't understand my Passion. I never was book smart, I was a C average student. There was Not one subject I excelled at besides being a Leader.

One of the leadership traits he discovered early on, was his ability to lead. "I can Communicate and Inspire people. I never knew those was super powers. I was blessed to be a point guard on a State Championship team back in high school and I was very close with my coach. I was basically the coach on the floor we was so in sink, no matter what defense they ran I knew what offense to setup without looking over at coach. I was the leader of the team, I never knew that was something special because I was always measured by test in the classrooms and I had self doubt a lot in school but when I touched that court nothing else mattered."

Fast forward to beginning of the business adventure I kept asking myself what is my passion? I always enjoyed helping people believe in themselves. Maybe its because I struggled so much with believing in myself that I find joy and excitement seeing people light up and start to Believe in themselves. See them overcome their struggles light a fire underneath me. I Said that's it, I Love to Motivate and Inspire people, I do it for free all the time. So now I knew I had to create a stage for people to even want to listen."

Rivera explains how he started his business. "At the time I had lost my job in the oilfield and was drawing unemployment. My mom and aunt was going up to The Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque. We had nothing going on and was like might as well, we got out there and I seen those soft plush blankets for the first time. My mind started racing and I had \$700 to spend and the guy said he doesn't wholesale under \$2,500. He went and talked with his dad and he said they will do the \$700. Coming back to Oklahoma, I had no idea what I was going to do or how I was going to sale them, I just knew I had to provide for my family at the time.

"We started off selling the really soft plush native print blankets with one table on the side of the road. We setup outside my cousins barbershop in Anadarko. I almost sold out the first day. The next Saturday I setup again and sold out that time. I knew we was on to something. We never looked back.

Rivera grew up in Church, on his dad's side, his great grandfather Cecil Tsatoke was a preacher. His son Grandpa John Tsatoke was a Preacher. His uncle Monroe Tsatoke is a Preacher. His dad's dad Grandpa Victor Rivera was a Pentecostal Preacher and his

Father was a Preacher. So he comes from a long line of leaders and very thankful for where he comes from. Rivera says, "But honestly, it left a hole in my heart. Because I am Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, Caucasian and Puerto Rican. But I Only Grew up around my Kiowa and Apache Family. So my whole life I claim native but knew nothing about our traditions, songs, dances stories etc. Growing up I wasn't allowed to go to a pow wow."

My grandma Stella passed away and so her sister Grandma Vivian took us under her wing. She gave Kinley and I our Kiowa Names "Salt de ma" New Woman..."Pàu'k'i" Buffalo Man...so with this business we was able to create a family event each weekend and meet new family from all over."

Culture and tradition has now become his passion. But it wasn't like that in college. Rivera explains, "So when I went to college and met my wife, her mom had tons of questions and I knew nothing. I felt lost honestly, it's like claiming Christian and someone asked who is Jesus? and you say I don't know, how do you pray? I don't know...I felt very low because I didn't know who I was and that's where "It's Never To Late To Forgive Yourself and Go ALL IN" what I meant was who is stopping you now from asking questions and starting this journey to learn where you come from? Nobody but my pride and ego of what people might think because I didn't grow up in our ways. I jumped in head first and I am apart of the Kiowa Gourd Clan...Kiowa and Apache Blackfoot. I asked questions on questions on questions, and everybody welcomed my family with opened arms. My daughter was 5 when we started this journey and now that's all she knows is dancing and going to pow wows, she don't even remember not going and she knows where she comes from.

"I'm so Thankful for my family because they also took her under their wing and taught her how to make mocs, leggings, applique shirts, Indian tacos, corn soup etc...so we have a unique story in that my wife learned everything the same time I did and we was able to create a generation who is apart of the culture. Kinley dances Southern Cloth and Southern Buckskin."

Rivera's reveals his thoughts. "My hope is when you watch our content, stop by the booth you feel good and all your problems go away for those moments. We hope you get inspired to follow your dreams, goals and ambitions. It's supposed to be hard but if you learn to forgive yourself and start working on self development the road to being a true human becomes clearer.

For more about Kevin Rivera and Modern Tribal Nations;

Contact him at: (405) 880-1900

Email: Orders@moderntribalnations.com

Mailing:

Modern Tribal Nations LLC

P.O. Box 204

Mulhall, OK 73063

The 37th annual Red Earth Festival is returning to our regular dates – the First Weekend in June.

We invite you to join us June 1-3, 2023, at the spectacular National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center in northwest Oklahoma City.

53rd Annual Alabama-Coushatta Pow-wow

June 2nd - 3rd, 2023

Alabama-Coushatta Veteran's Pavillion

301 Daycare Road, Livingston, TX

Drum contest – Southern & Northern (Separate Categories)

Contact: Davie Johnson 936-563-1100

email: superdj126@yahoo.com

Spavinaw Pow Wow & Indian Arts Festival 2023

June 9th - 10th, 2023

Camp Copperhead

14367 OK-82 N, Spavinaw, OK

Vendor info email kristy@campcopperheadspavinaw.com

Iowa Tribal Pow-wow

June 16th - 18th, 2023

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma Pow-wow Grounds

Perkins, OK

Vendors contact: Kent Tehauno 405-788-9990

Peoria Powwow

June 16 & 17, 2023

Buffalo Run Casino Showplace (indoor & air-conditioned!)

\$50,000 prize money

46th Annual Muscogee Nation Festival

June 22-25th, 2023

Okmulgee, OK

This one has it all! Starting off with Stomp dances on Thursday

night. Each year, thousands gather at the Claude Cox Omniplex right here in Okmulgee for a weekend filled with activities celebrating the Muscogee people. This annual celebration includes cultural exhibitions, sports tournaments, concerts featuring local and national acts, arts and crafts, great food, carnival rides, a parade, and many more festivities for the entire family to enjoy. All activities are free and open to the public.

For more information go to www.muscogeenationfestival.com

48th Annual Tonkawa Tribal Pow-wow

June 23-25th, 2023

Fort Oakland Community, Tonkawa, OK

This may be the 47th Annual Tribal pow-wow but it is originally the 137th Anniversary of the arrival of the Tonkawa to Ft. Oakland, OK.

Come out and experience the Tonkawa Tribal Powwow, an annual tribal celebration featuring Native American dancing, princess crowing, contests, crafts, artwork and food. This year marks the 48th annual event and will celebrate the "Year of the Woman."

Dance styles will include straight, war, gourd, fancy, traditional, cloth and buckskin categories. Stick around for a Traditional Tonkawa Scalp dance during the Saturday night program and a Nez Perce memorial contest Sunday evening. This year's event will also include a horseshoe tournament, fireworks, veteran's supper for encampment, disc golf tournament and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Free camping, along with electric and water hookups, will be available.

22nd Annual Miami Nation Pow Wow 2023

June 23-24, 2023

Miami Nation Arena

2319 Newman Road, Miami, OK, 74354

CONTACT INFO:

Contests – George Alexander 580-401-1481

Vendors – Tera Hatley 918-919-1444

Camping – Donya Williams 918-541-7274

General Info – Julie Olds 918-541-3131

Miami Tribe HQ: 918-541-1300



Learning how to feed a Community

Tricia Fields-Alexander of Autumn Star Catering/Restless Natives Podcast has become well known for cooking for her community and catering local events.

"Mostly people in my community, other cooks. Everyone really, I like to share, educate & celebrate foods I grew up with that make me feel good or things I create that my kids and my dad like. I want to have my own building do host activities & expand services to the community at no cost to them."

"I started cooking about age 5 after my parents divorced. My mom & I lived with relatives & my cousin Gina & I learned to make eggs, soup, oatmeal for ourselves after school. Our aunt Frances would tell us what to do & we listened. When I was little I always looked up to the cooks at ceremonies, powwows, dinners, churches. My grandparents & great grandmothers were a few of my favorite cooks. Everything they made was delicious & made me feel loved. That's what I like to make people feel too. The first time I was asked to cook for money was a man asked me to make some stew I'd made at our camp at Pawnee for his mom who was really sick. I only charged him the cost of groceries to make it. Then I started making meat pies & frybread for extra money, then started being asked to cook private orders & setting up different places.

She goes on to explain her experiences, "I liked eating the foods at ceremonies, funerals, celebrations and hearing why they're important & when or why we eat them. Some have deeper meaning than others. Some was just different relatives favorites or made in honor of someone who'd passed on already and a way of remembering them. I like to do that at my own home or our big family gatherings to mention them and make myself and hopefully others feel like they're with us enjoying the dish they way they did before. I like my food to mean something. If not to anyone else, but to me and usually when I share the story I know of it, or that ties it together for myself

stories on to me and I still get nervous before I do storytelling but when I start talking about foods I don't get nervous and often I get emotional. I don't know why, but the older I get the more sentimental I am. That's why I also started my podcast to highlight stories, artists, my food. But I've been slacking on actually doing it. I've been neglectful, mostly because I hate my voice.

Alexander started her business as a caterer but it's much more than that. "I have a vision & plan for it that I've been neglecting because of self-doubt. I do cook, do food sales, concession, cater events like weddings, meetings, conferences, special events, funerals, private events, etc but what most people don't know is that I also have been consultant & guest presenter at the Smithsonian's NMAI along with my oldest daughter for an International Indigenous Festival and served as a food presenter with live cooking demonstrations, food tasting for everyone. We cooked outside in D.C. right downtown, got to train some of their cooks/chefs on foods we cook here at home and had the privilege to cook for distinguished guests including curators of other Smithsonian museums for a special menu I created. We were also asked to serve as Guest Judges for their Native Chef competition. It was fun. But I'd like to expand from a business to non-profit status so I can incorporate my catering/event business along with wellness, cultural education & more ideas I have. I get overwhelmed and doubt that I can do it, but I think I'm just scared & need to try and if I fail-well it won't be the first time to fail in front of my community, but I think I'll do a good job. I have a lot of support from my family, friends & community-not just Natives, but non-Natives as well."

She describes her business, "I think that people know I'm a hard worker and always try to do my best and be as authentic to myself and family as I can. I have had my catering business for over ten years now as a professional caterer/educator/consultant. I've been doing special events such as Native American Christmas Market, Autumn Star Indian Art Festival, Indian Sweetheart Market, & others for several years and they've continued to grow & we always have a fun time. I'd like to expand & grow more, but it's expensive & I do also have a very full time career in tribal healthcare."

Alexander takes pride in bringing the most authentic food she was raised cooking, learning and eating to those she serves. "Whether it's to my home or my customers I like to represent my community, fellow artists and business owners as a Native American/Indigenous, American Indian/Pawnee/Yuchi Creek/Choctaw/Chickasaw woman who will work hard to help market them in a positive way. I grew up in this life of traditional ways, tribal language in the homes I lived in & all the people who helped raise me. I didn't learn this in a book, but by being raised by people who loved me and taught me & took time to teach me. Or sometimes I also learned on my own to my own liking of some foods I wanted to learn but was told to get in there and teach myself. My dad always made sure I know all our family and how we're related to people & honor them. That's what I try to do."

For more information on Autumns Catering

Contact:

Tricia Fields Alexander
(918) 998 - 4549
autumnstarcatering@gmail.com

Facebook: Tricia Fields

Instagram: Autumn_Star_Catering_Tricia

Facebook: Restless Natives Podcast

Autumn Star Indian Art Festival

Sat May 6 -Featured Artist-Christy Blackbear
Kiefer City Hall 401 E. Indiana Ave Kiefer, OK 10-6

Native American Christmas Market

Glenpool Conference Center-Featured Artist-TBA
Sat Dec 2/3, 2023 Sat 10-6 and Sun12-6pm



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The Importance of Advancing Native Leadership

(TULSA, Okla.) Native people have lived on American soil for at least 20,000 years. Despite repeated attempts to dismantle and eradicate Native communities and culture, Native people continue to thrive and excel in both community and business leadership today. And there is no place that demonstrates that fact quite like Indian Country.

Oklahoma's 39 tribes contribute billions of dollars to the state economy every year, directly employing more than 50 thousand people and supporting over 100,000 jobs.

The Cherokee Nation recently announced they injected more than \$3 billion into the Oklahoma economy in 2021, in addition to doling out \$16.6 million in scholarships to students and providing \$7.4 million to public schools across northeastern Oklahoma in 2021. The Chickasaw Nation reported an annual economic impact in the state of Oklahoma of \$5.5 billion last year, supporting more than 34,400 jobs and \$1.8 billion in wages and benefits. In 2019, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes said they had an economic impact of over \$261 million.

Financials aside, Native perspective, also known as Indigenous worldview, has long been applauded as an asset to community and business growth, as well as the optimal approach to existing in harmony with the world around us.

Forbes magazine said this approach not only recognizes relationships take time to form and generate mutual responsibilities, but also that the past, present, and future are connected through concerns of equal importance.

As Oklahoma's Native population continues to grow, advancing Native leadership is more vital than ever.

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By The Numbers

In Oklahoma, nearly 15 percent of the state population identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native in 2021. That's more than half a million people, and up nearly one percent compared to 2019. And those aren't the only insights able to be gleaned from the latest Census data.

The education and income levels of Oklahoma's Native people need to grow to catch up to those of the total population, and beyond that if they want to surpass nationwide levels. Just 17.1 percent of Oklahoma's Native people were enrolled in college or graduate school, compared to 22.2 percent of Oklahoma's total population and 26.7 percent of the US population.

Oklahoma's Native people had a lower percentage (22.4) of having a bachelor's degree compared to Oklahoma's total population (27.9 percent) and the US population (35 percent).

Oklahoma's Native people also had a higher unemployment rate (8.2 rate) compared to Oklahoma's total population (5.9 rate) and the US population (6.3 percent).

While Native people were more often employed as government workers (21.3 percent) compared to Oklahoma's total population (17.8), they were also slightly less likely to be employed as private wage and salary workers (72.1 percent) compared to Oklahoma's total population (75.2).

Native families had both a lower median household income (\$49,853) compared to Oklahoma's total population (\$55,826) and the US population (\$69,717), and lower individual median earnings compared to Oklahoma's total population and the US population.

Native men in Oklahoma earned \$45,368 compared to Oklahoma

men overall earning \$51,289 and US men overall earning \$60,428.

Women earned less than all of their male counterparts. Native women in Oklahoma earned slightly less (\$38,018) compared to all Oklahoma women (\$39,781) and both earned less than US women overall (\$49,263).

Oklahoma's Native people also were much less likely to have health insurance. 20.8 percent of Oklahoma Natives had no health insurance, compared to 13.8 percent of Oklahoma's total population and 8.6 percent of the US population overall. It is clear that tribal nations have a far-reaching impact on Oklahoma's economy, improving the lives of current and future generations of all Oklahomans. But opportunity and prosperity must expand with Native population growth across all sectors in order for Native perspective to reach its full potential.

Leadership Native Oklahoma

Community and business trailblazers who recognize both the impact and growth opportunity in Indian Country have been joining with tribal governments for the last several years to advance Native leadership in Oklahoma.

"Supporting Native Oklahoma plays a vital role in contributing to the social, health and sustainability of the economic landscape," said AICCO President Bailey Walker. "And it all begins and ends with

local business. More investment in our tribal communities equals more jobs, more resources, and more generational wealth for all."

While applications are no longer being accepted for LNO's Class of 2023, there is still a way for more businesses, organizations, and governments to be a part of the unique interactions and learning opportunities provided by LNO through class sponsorship.

Sponsorship options range from Wolf (\$1,000) to Eagle (\$7,500) and are accompanied by a variety of LNO promotional benefits.

All sponsorship levels also include admittance to the LNO Graduation Banquet, a distinguished networking event with tribal leaders, state leaders, and participants. This year's banquet will be held on August 3 at the Choctaw Casino and Resort in Durant.

AICCO's membership is currently more than 400 strong and growing, and includes Native and non-Native businesses and individuals as well as Native students.

To learn more about LNO programming and sponsorship opportunities, visit:

<https://aiccok.org/leadership-native-oklahoma/>

Email: chamber@AICCO.org

Phone: (918) 624-9382.

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Jerod Tate: Native American Composer Recovers Heritage and Culture through Classical Music

By Kimberly Marsh

Following the classical composers such as Russia's Tchaikovsky, France's Debussy and Japan's Takemitsu who expressed their ethnicity and culture through their works, Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate tells the story of the American Indian through classical composition from insights into his own Chickasaw heritage and identity.

Tate, who was named Composer-in-Residence at the University of Oklahoma School of Music for Spring 2023, performed his composition "Clans", a key movement from his larger work, "Lowak Shoppala," in two previous concerts with the OU Symphony Orchestra at the Catlett Music Center in Norman, and again at East Central State University in Ada, OK.

As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Tate is well known for weaving American Indian themes into his compositions. In "Lowak Shoppala" – based on Chickasaw author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Linda Hogan's poem "Fire and Light" – he depicts an assortment of scenes from Chickasaw culture and history.

Another work by Tate, "Iholba," meaning "vision" in the Chickasaw language, was commissioned by the National Symphony Orchestra and premiered at the Kennedy Center in 2005. Based on an ancient Chickasaw Garfish dance song, the work features a flute soloist and is sung entirely in the Chickasaw language.

"I am very focused on developing American Indian classical composition. And when I say that, I mean that I am focusing on North American Indian culture history and ethos in my compositions," Tate said.

The recovery and revitalization of Indigenous languages is not unique to the Chickasaw Nation. Across the globe, communities are working to reconnect with their roots and strengthen their cultural identity. From the Maori people in New Zealand to the Manx people on the Isle of Man, language revitalization efforts are helping to preserve and celebrate the rich tapestry of human culture. In Indian country this cultural renaissance, Tate said, is empowering for Indigenous communities, fostering a sense of pride, strength, and unity.





American Indian Art explosion

The last 150 years of American Indian visual art has codified an entire genre of paintings and sculpture, Tate said. People from around the world flock to the Santa Fe Indian market to purchase art because it is a world famous genre of art.

Another example of this artistic eruption is current filmmaking, he said, citing the award winning Reservation Dogs filmed in Oklahoma and created by Sterlin Harjo.

"It's an explosion of film that's going on throughout the entire world in which people are infusing their identity - in droves. It's really quite amazing.

Another really good example is Joy Harjo, poet laureate, who is composing art in the English language, in books and in mediums that are not original to her cultures, but she's utilizing those western materials in her modern expression of being a Muscogee person.

"So it's a very, very similar circumstance with me when I use orchestral instruments and vocalists to express colors and ethos and atmosphere or history all kinds of aspects of being a Chickasaw person."

"I have constant images from native artists in my mind and just because I've seen so much artwork and I've read so much literature that all those feelings are all inside of my bones now and I just feel like it's just a constant source of energy and creative influence on my life," Tate said.

Tate's passion for integrating North American Indian culture, history, and ethos into his music, was influenced by his parents who were involved in the arts and tribal politics. His father, Charles, was a classically trained pianist and baritone, as well as a tribal judge, attorney, and author of the Chickasaw Constitution. His mother, of Manks Irish descent, was a professional choreographer and dancer. Growing up surrounded by classical music, music theater, dance, and opera, Tate developed a keen interest in the arts and a strong connection to his Chickasaw heritage.

Creating classical compositions inspired by Indigenous cultures is not just a matter of artistic expression; it also requires a deep understanding of the tribes' histories,

languages, and traditions. For Tate, the process of creating classical compositions based on Indigenous cultures is not just an artistic endeavor, but a deeply personal one. By sharing the stories and traditions of his Chickasaw ancestors, Tate is able to connect with his own cultural heritage and inspire others to do the same.

"We are recovering our languages. We are recovering our music and dance, and knowledge of our own history and ancestry. So it's a beautiful, positive challenge to become experts of ourselves. And through that identity reinforcement we become better leaders for our own people and leaders in the world."

Generation to Generation

Tate's biggest joy is being a parent to his 9 year old son Heloha, a given name meaning thunder in the Chickasaw language. "I'm an older dad, and I have never been so energized and exhausted at the exact same time." Heloha is learning the Chickasaw language, is a classically trained horn player, and is in his fourth year of study at the OKC ballet.

Passing on the skills and knowledge of classical composition to the next generation is a crucial part of Tate's work. Through his composition academy, he teaches young people from diverse backgrounds the art of composing, empowering them to create their own works and share their unique voices with the world.

"I feel the obligation to continue that type of focus and feel blessed I have that energy that's come down from my family."

Tate's father's work in life is a good example of his lineage in general, as he comes from a history of leaders within the tribe. A descendant of Edmund Pickens, the first elected Chickasaw chief in 1856 who helped with the removal in the 1830s to Oklahoma, and a descendant of Cyrus Harris who was the first elected Chickasaw governor, and a grandmother who was a leader and genealogist of the tribe, Tate talks about his lineage as an enormous sense of pride.

"I really love showing people, this is what my tribe is doing. This is what other tribes are doing. Because I want them to absorb that energy and look at themselves and see how they can apply that to their own life growth and their own humanity." Tate said.



Sour Sofkee

"Fixico Becomes Chief of The Lost Pretendians Old Settlers Chickamauga Cherokee East of the Mississippi Tribe"

By Fus Yvhiqv

I was relaxing at home as the TV played in the background. The 5 o'clock local news was showing. Fixico appears onscreen.

Fixico is adorned in a fur Viking hat with curved ram's horns attached to the sides. A small American flag is duct taped to one of the horns. The right side of his face is painted red, the left side blue, and the area between his eyes and down across his nose is colored white.

Fixico is shirtless. A badly drawn tattoo across his chest reads "Chief" although it might be "Chef". He is wearing a squash blossom necklace with the price tag still affixed. I could see "Made in China" on the tag. Fixico resembles a poor man's version of the QAnon Shaman.

A microphone is in Fixico's face as he talks excitedly. I turned up the volume. A crawler identifies Fixico as the Chief of the Pretendian Tribe. A gaggle of palefaces stands behind Fixico. They are dressed in faux leather outfits and decorated with enough fake beads and feathers to stock the entire Hobby Lobby chain.

"We are at this site that is so very sacred to the tribe," Fixico says as he stands in front of an Indian smoke shop. "We are here to protest the government's failure to give our tribe federal recognition as called for by the treaty of...the treaty of...uh, the treaty," Fixico turns to a furry white man standing next to him. "What's the name of that treaty again?"

The furry white man identifies himself as Thunder Dancer. He is holding what is supposed to be an eagle staff, but it looks like the hooked rod of Moses. Thunder Dancer resembles Moses as he parted the Red Sea.

"It's the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit, Chief," Thunder Dancer intones.

"Dancing Rabbit," Chief Fixico announces. A white tribal member steps forward. He is wearing a red bandana across his forehead and a garish, paper maché rabbit as a hat.

"You called me Chief?" the crow asks.

"No, Dancing Rabbit. The treaty, not you," Chief Fixico says. Dancing Rabbit does the two-step backwards as he merges into the throng of white pretendians.

"What is the first thing that your tribe will do if granted federal recognition?" the reporter asks.

"Build a casino," Fixico says. "And a big one too. Thousands of slot machines, table games, high dollar poker rooms, lots of restaurants, half-naked women serving drinks, a spa, and a swimming pool bigger than the Red Sea."

"That's what I'm talking about!" Moses, uh, Thunder Dancer gleefully interrupts.

"This is all about money?" the reporter asks.

"We prefer to talk about economic development,

job creation, and the impact to the local economy. Of course, as Chief, I'll bear the burden of being the highest-paid employee, just above my family members. But it's a job that consumes me 24/7." Fixico says.

The reporter holds up his cell phone.

"Chief Fixico," it says here that you are a citizen of Mvskoke Creek Nation. How can you claim citizenship in another tribe?"

"What?" Fixico says. "How dare you question my blood line in The Lost and Found Old & New Settlers Chimichanga Cherokee South of the Mississippi Tribe," Fixico says.

"Uh, Chief, that would be The Lost Pretendian Old Settlers Chickamauga Cherokee East of the Mississippi Tribe," Thunder Dancer says.

"What he said," Fixico says.

"Some would say this is another example of white people appropriating Native regalia and creating a fake tribe so you can play Indian and own a casino."

"We are NOT playing Indian!" Fixico protests.

"How about showing us an example of your cultural traditions?"

"Absolutely," Fixico replies. "Sub Chief Knock-a-homa, come over here."

A man resembling the frontiersman, Davy Crockett, appears. He wears a fur cap with a raccoon's tail. It's a hat that was popular in the 1950s.

"Please reach into your medicine bundle and fetch me a dollop of our sacred and blessed tobacco," Fixico says.

"Certainly, my Chief," Sub Chief Knock-a-homa says as he unties leather straps on a large pouch affixed to his belt.

Sub Chief Knock-a-homa hands Fixico a pack of Marlboros. Fixico holds the cigarettes up high with both hands, like Moses with the Commandments.

"Great Spirit, we ask your blessing on our sacred tobacco, these Menthol Light 100s. We ask you to bless the Great Pretendian Nation. But mostly we asked that you bless our efforts to build a casino in downtown Dallas."

"Aho!" the Pretendians shout in unison.

"I'm outta here," the reporter announces.

"I'm outta here too," I say as I turn off the TV.

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77th Annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming Pow-wow

June 29th – July 2nd, 2023

Memorial Stadium, Pawnee, OK

The annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming Powwow is a community event that has honored veterans since 1946, and celebrating American Indian culture. Enjoy powwow activities Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and free overnight primitive camping on-site. This family event features Indian dance contests, heritage programs and more. Free rations will be given out to campers Saturday morning.

Dance contests will be held each night, with the Princess contest being held on Friday. Other popular annual events include the Saturday Veteran's Parade in Downtown Pawnee, and the Hawk Chief 5K Run. Battle of the Bands Handgame. Everyone is invited to take part in all these fun activities. Between activities, be sure to visit the native arts and crafts and food vendors.

For more information. Contact: 918-762-3621

151st Annual Quapaw Pow-wow

July 1st-4th, 2023

Beaver Springs Park, Quapaw, OK

This is one of the oldest dances in the state! Lots of history around this festival. The tribe holds its annual Quapaw Powwow celebration over the 4th of July weekend each year, that includes singing, dancing, contests, vendors and plenty of family fun. Come celebrate the culture and history of the Quapaw Tribe.

For more information: Contact Melany Shawnee at (918) 724-6404

Thunderbird Casino Anniversary Celebration

June 30th – July 3rd, 2023

Little Axe, OK / Thunderbird Casino

Live Music x 2 nights (artist announcement coming), watermelon feeds, free inflatables, stomp dance, pow-wow, fireworks! Fireworks! Fireworks!

More information, contact: Lisa Frazier 405-360-9270

Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration

July 2nd - 4th, 2023

Carnegie City Park, Carnegie, OK

Witness this traditional ceremony by the Kiowa Gourd Clan at the annual Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration. You will see some 200 – plus gourd dancers celebrate the Kiowa heritage. A Kiowa story recounts the tale of a young man who had been separated from the rest of the tribe. Hungry and dehydrated after many days of travel, the young man approached a hill and heard an unusual kind of singing coming from the other side. There he saw a red wolf singing and dancing on its hind legs. The man listened to the songs all afternoon and through the night and when morning came, the wolf spoke to him and told him to take the dance and songs back to the Kiowa people. The "howl" at the end of each gourd dance song is a tribute to the red wolf. The Kiowa Gourd Dance was once part of the Kiowa Sun Dance ceremony. This dance was once banned by the US government but was brought back in the 1950's to continue the Kiowa cultural ceremonies.

58th Annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow

July 6th-9th, 2023

Jim Thorpe Memorial Park in Stroud, Oklahoma.

Come and experience this annual American Indian event featuring native dancing, singing, dance competitions, arts and crafts, a rodeo, food vendors, outdoor camping and much more. Enjoy the Sac & Fox Nation Celebration Open Rodeo at this annual Sac and Fox Nation Pow Wow and witness traditional rodeo events such as bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling and more. Located 5.5 Miles south of Stroud. Don't miss this event!

For More Information. Contact Mason Williamson 918-306-2101; Vendor info contact: Kim Boone 918-968-5095

142nd Annual OtoeMissouria Encampment

July 13-16th, 2023

Red Rock, OK

A tradition that has been kept by the Otoe and Missouria since their removal from their ancestral homelands. The encampment is a time to allow family members from all over the country to come home and celebrate their culture and heritage as one family. Even despite their historic removals and travels from Missouri and Iowa. Their history still carries on.

Come and visit this event and enjoy in the fellowship and dancing in their Tribal traditions!

Tribal members usually camp at their inherited family campsites. All campsites on the inner circle are already assigned. Any new campsites will be located on the North or South ends of the

Take Home a Treasure from Indian Country

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The Indian Arts and Crafts Board offers a Source Directory of American Indian and Alaska Native businesses that sell authentic Indian art available at www.doi.gov/iacb.

Under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, it is unlawful to offer or display for sale, or sell, any art or craftwork in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian made.

For a free brochure on the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, including how to file a complaint, please contact:

U.S. Department of the Interior
Indian Arts and Crafts Board
Toll Free: 1-888-ART-FAKE
or 1-888-278-3253
Email: iacb@ios.doi.gov
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Fellowship of Christian Athletes Player Spotlight

#1 Drew Hawkins

Position: Outfielder

Height: 5'4"

Class: Sophomore

High School: Charles Page HS

Hometown: Sand Springs, Ok

Q and A with Drew

Favorite Bible verse: John 3:30

He must increase, but I must decrease

Tribe Affiliation: Cherokee and Creek

Nickname: Drewbie

Favorite food: Sushi

Favorite walk-up song: Bologna Girl by Northern Cree

Favorite player: Bo Jackson, he was a multi sport athlete and was a really hard worker

Favorite part of being on a team: Being blessed with a platform to be on a team has helped me put others before myself, learn how to work together, & to trust each other a lot. I've been so blessed to meet so many amazing women, hearing the impact Jesus has made on their lives continues to bless me and remind me we serve such a gracious God. I love the sisterly bond we all have and being able to rely on them for so much. I can confidently say I've met some of my lifelong friends on this team.

Who I look up to: I've always looked up to my dad my whole life. My dad has been the rock to our family and I look up to him for everything. He has shown me how to be strong in my faith and to always put the Lord above all things. He is my best friend and someone I can go for for everything. He's helped shape the Christian athlete I am and always pushes me to do my best. I thank my dad for helping me get to the place I am now. I'm very thankful for who my dad is and for always helping me with my relationship with the Lord.

Plans after Graduation: Go back to my home town, continue to pursue my photography business, travel on mission trips, and lead with my local church!

Favorite part about being a Christian athlete: I love the new people I've met, being able to represent who Jesus is on and off the field the best I can, ministering to my teammates and giving all the glory to Him. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to play a sport that I love and will forever give Him thanks for everything I have.

My favorite assistant coach: was definitely Coach Courtney

Harbaugh. She has been a great role model for me and she would always remind me to put God at the main focus regardless of the outcome. She coached with love and intentionality that I have made an impact on me!

Favorite part of NSU FCA: So hard to limit it down to only a few, but I love how intentional and effective the testimony's and speakers are that we have! FCA has definitely impacted my life and so many others. It's a great place to gather and grow with fellow teammates. It's a constant reminder of how real and challenging being a Christian athlete can be. It's a community that loves God and others!

Words from Coach Davis:

"The definition of a team player is how she helps the TEAM. First you have to be a leader, no matter if it's through words or actions. Next you have to be encouraging, picking up teammates when things are not going well. Encouraging teammates through tough situations, and supporting them and praising them when things are going well. Next you have to be a worker. You have to work to not only better your own game but the game of others. Finally you have to be the one they lean on when they need a shoulder to cry on, a prayer said for them, or an uplifting word. Drew Hawkins checks all these boxes and I am so grateful she is part of our team."

- Clay Davis - Head Softball Coach at Northeastern State University

Fellowship of Christian Athletes: There is Greater Potential in your life than finding your identity in sports. As an athlete, it's natural to feel like you have more potential than what is showing up in practice or in the heat of competition. And when you don't feel like you're living up to expectations, the pressure starts to build.

Living up to your potential is more than what you can do on your own. There's more to life than playing for the scoreboard. In fact, your potential shouldn't just be measured by athletic achievements. It should be measured by who God says you are. There is a greater purpose wrapped up in your potential when your potential is wrapped up in Him.

Greater Potential Key Verse: "Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."

—John 8:12

John Morris is currently serving with Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Cherokee, Adair and Delaware Counties and is supported financially by faith partners. If you are interested in more information on FCA or being a faith partner go to this link <https://my.fca.org/johnmorris>. John can be contacted through email: johnmorris@fca.org or by cell number (785-760-1627).

Encampment Grounds. ALL new campsites must be approved by the Encampment Chairman before moving onto the site. Any conflicts regarding campsite assignments, locations or dimensions will be addressed by the Encampment Committee on a case-by-case basis.

For more information. Contact (405) 258 - 8342 or log on to www.omtribe.org

70th Annual Comanche Homecoming Celebration

July 14, 15, and 16, 2023

Sultan Park in Walters, Okla.

71st Annual Tulsa Pow-wow

July 22nd-23rd, 2023

Cox Business Center, Tulsa, OK

This signature event of the Tulsa Indian Club has been around since 1952, began as a small, backyard gathering and grew into a nationally known Native American summer celebration. With over 60 years of history celebrating hundreds of years of tradition, the Tulsa Powwow attracts thousands of competitors and cultural enthusiasts to the Cox Business Center every July.

For more information. Contact David Bible at 918-724-0762

73rd Annual Indian Hills Pow Wow

July 26th - 31st, 2023

Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Indian Hills Pow Wow in Oklahoma City is an exciting Native American gathering that is open and free to the public. Held in east Oklahoma City, The Indian Hills Pow Wow is one of the biggest Pow Wows in the Oklahoma City Metro and features hundreds of traditional Native American dancers from throughout the state and nation. This event features traditional dancing and competitions for all age groups. Visitors can purchase authentic American Indian arts and crafts and cheer on competitors in the horseshoe tournament. Indian tacos and other traditional foods will be available, as well as plenty of activities for children.

The official opening will be at 6:00 p.m. Thursday as Gourd Dancing begins, followed by the Grand Entry Thursday's celebration of dance contests. Be sure to attend this event.

For more information and location: Indian Hills Pow Wow Grounds 9300 N Sooner Rd Oklahoma City, OK 73101 Phone: 405-328-0743

August

Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow

Aug. 4-6, 2023

at the Concho Powwow Grounds in Concho, Okla.

Vendors welcomed / Grand Entry Night 7 p.m.

For more information call 405-361-8945



46th Annual Wichita Tribal Dance

August 10th-13th, 2023

Wichita Tribal Park, Anadarko, Oklahoma.

The Wichita Tribal Dance is a free event and is open to the public. Dance competitions are open to Wichita Tribal members and their descendants. Gourd dancers, war dancers and a color guard will all be on-hand to participate in this year's Wichita Tribal Dance. Free meals will be available on designated nights of the event. Food and vendor booths will also be on-site.

The Wichita Tribal Dance Grounds are located at Wichita Tribal Park 1-1/4 miles north of Anadarko on Highway 281.

September

Annual Choctaw Nation Labor Day Festival

September 1st-3rd, 2023

Tvshka Homma, capital of the Choctaw Nation.

The Choctaw Nation invites all visitors to enjoy tribal heritage activities, Choctaw cultural exhibitions, stickball games, arts and crafts, free concerts and carnival rides. A great way to begin any day of the festival is by visiting the Choctaw Nation Museum.

U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Arts and Crafts Board

Dream Customers:

Elements

The Indian Arts and Crafts Board (IACB), U.S. Department of the Interior, was created by Congress in 1935 to promote the economic development of federally recognized American Indians and Alaska Natives (Indian) through the expansion of the Indian arts and crafts market. A top priority of the IACB today is the enforcement of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act (IACA), a truth-in-advertising law that provides civil and criminal penalties for marketing products as "Indian-made" when such products are not made by Indians, as defined by the IACA.

The beauty, quality, and collectability of authentic Indian art and craftwork make each piece a unique reflection of our American heritage. It is important, however, that buyers be aware that fraudulent Indian art and craftwork competes daily with authentic Indian art and craftwork in the nationwide marketplace. Under the IACA, it is illegal in the United States to display for sale or sell any art or craft product that falsely suggests it is Indian produced, an Indian product, or the product of a particular Indian Tribe or Indian arts and crafts organization. The penalties for a first-time violation can include civil or criminal penalties up to a \$250,000 fine or a 5-year prison term, or both. If a business violates the IACA, it can face civil penalties or can be prosecuted and fined up to \$1,000,000.

The IACB also provides professional business and related marketing advice and promotional opportunities to Indian artists, artisans, and cultural organizations of federally recognized Tribes. In keeping with its mission, the IACB operates three regional museums: the Sioux Indian Museum in Rapid City, South Dakota, the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning Montana, and the Southern Plains Indian Museum in Anadarko, Oklahoma. These museums promote authentic Indian art and craftwork through their permanent exhibitions, changing promotional sales exhibitions, and public educational and cultural activities. The museums also serve as major tourist attractions in their respective regions and are staging points for regional and national promotions for the economic benefit of emerging Indian artists and artisans.

The IACB also produces the online Source Directory of American Indian and Alaska Native Owned and Operated Arts and Crafts Businesses of

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enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes. Applications for Source Directory entries are available at www.doi.gov/iacb/source-directory.

To avoid purchasing art and craftwork misrepresented as Indian-made, the IACB recommends that you buy from a reputable dealer, such as those listed in the IACB's Source Directory. If you become aware of any market activity that you believe may be in violation of the IACA, please contact the IACB with the relevant information, such as websites, photographs, suspicious advertising, receipts, business cards, etc. Complaints may be filed on the IACB website or by calling the toll-free number below.

To learn more about the IACB's programs, services, and the Indian Arts and Crafts Art, please contact us or visit our website:

Indian Arts and Crafts Board

U.S. Department of the Interior

Tel: 1-888-ART-FAKE or 1-888-278-3253

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The museum holds many historical artifacts and information about the Choctaw culture and past, including actual objects that were carried across the Trail of Tears and interactive exhibits.

Log on to www.choctawnation.com for more information on this event.

60th Annual Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration

September 1st-3rd, 2023

Adawe Park in Miami, Oklahoma.

This Labor Day weekend powwow includes a variety of activities such as gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances.

The Ottawa Pow Wow and Celebration, hosted by the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma is a family-friendly event. The celebration continues the tradition of holding no-contest dancing and offers participants ample opportunities to relax, dance and have fun. The Ottawa Tribal Powwow includes a variety of activities including gourd dancing, war dancing, stomp dancing and other social dances. This event charges no admission and is open to the public. Adawe Indian Park also offers plenty of camping space and RV electrical hook-ups.

For More Information: 918-540-1536 Contact

Kalisha Dixon @ kalisha.oto@gmail.com

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Labor Day Powwow

Sept. 1-4, 2023

at the Colony Powwow Grounds in Colony, Okla.

Vendors Welcomed

For more information call 580-574-0165, 580-791-0351 or 580-445-0932

The Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Celebration Powwow, first held in 1942, will be at Colony, about 15 miles south of Weatherford. Arts and crafts, food booths and musical and dancing entertainment will be offered throughout the event.

Admission is free. Campsites also will be available. Join others from across the nation who are drawn to the annual Cheyenne Arapaho Labor Day Powwow. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are eager to share the wealth and origin of their culture with you. Point System in place for all Grand Entries; 2 Grand Entries required. Dances start at 8pm each evening.

For more information, go to www.c-a-tribes.org

33rd Annual Wyandotte Pow Wow

September 8th-10th, 2023

Wyandotte Nation Pow Wow
Grounds, Wyandotte, Oklahoma

Witness traditions come to life at the Wyandotte Powwow, a tribal celebration featuring a variety of dance contests. Watch as all ages, dressed in traditional regalia, compete for cash prizes in categories including women's buckskin, cloth, fancy shawl and jingle dress, as well as men's grass dance, traditional, straight and fancy dance. The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Powwow will also feature Grandparent's Day events and activities for the entire family.

Must be registered and participate in two Grand Entries and two Exhibitions to qualify for contests. Must be registered in only one category. Must be in Full Dress to receive contest monies. All decisions by Committee are final.

For more information contact Sherri Clemons at (918) 678-2297

30th Annual Comanche Nation Fair Powwow

Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 2023

Comanche Nation Complex, Lawton, Oklahoma

Comanche Nation Fair is the largest event of the Comanche Nation. This celebration features an array of events and activities that include: a powwow, parade, free concert, games and an art show. Other activities include basketball and softball tournaments, a horseshoe tournament, quilt show, teen dance, fun run and spirit walk. Arts and craft vendors from around the country will be present, as well as a variety of food vendors. A children's carnival featuring free rides will also be on-site. While the Comanche Nation Fair lasts all week; the Comanche Fair Powwow is the last three days of the fair on Friday – Sunday.

This annual fall event, Comanche Nation Fair Powwow, brings together tribes from all across the nation. The much-anticipated powwow part of the Fair will feature traditional forms of dance such as gourd dancing, as well as intertribal dancing for all. Photography is allowed during the dance competition, so don't forget your camera. Take in the vivid colors of dancers decked out in elaborate beadwork and their finest regalia as they compete in categories from Tiny Tots to Golden Age.

Attend this three-day event and immerse yourself in the historic traditions of the Comanche tribe. Activities including horse racing, hand games and storytelling will all be represented. Visitors to this year's Comanche Nation Fair will also enjoy bull riding and a car show.

Celebrate Comanche culture at the largest American Indian gathering in southwest Oklahoma. Free camping near the powwow grounds will also be available.

For information visit www.comanchenationfair.com

27th Annual Standing Bear Powwow

September 29th -30th , 2023

Standing Bear Park, Ponca City, OK

The powwow is hosted by the six north-central tribes of Oklahoma the last Friday and Saturday of September each year. Standing Bear Powwow features inter-tribal dancing, exhibition dancing, contest dancing, tiny tot contests and the crowning of the Standing Bear Princess. Visitors will also find a variety of arts and craft vendors, along with a wide variety of food vendors.

This free event in Ponca City is open to the public and often considered one of the most significant American Indian events in the US. Experience the Standing Bear Powwow and witness as the Kaw, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca and Tonkawa tribes gather to celebrate their tribal heritage with contest dancing, singing, drumming and more.

For More Information: Standing Bear Park: Call 580-762-1514; Email tl@standingbearpark.com



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