

K-STATE'S 11TH ANNUAL

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY



HOME/LAND:
ART, CULTURE
AND PLACE-MAKING

OCTOBER 12, 2026

ONLINE:

Zoom
10:00 AM - 3:30 PM

IN-PERSON:

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Hosted by:

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Indigenous Faculty & Staff Alliance

MARIANNA KISTLER
BEACH
MUSEUM OF ART

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

HOME/LAND: ART, CULTURE AND PLACE-MAKING

10:00 AM

WELCOME: Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Chago Hale (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation)

K-STATE WELCOME: Provost Jesse Perez Mendez

UPDATE FROM KSU'S NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT BODY: Robin Imbeau (Quapaw Nation)

10:30 AM



Photo by Rogelio Esparza

KEYNOTE 1: Anita Fields

“Home/Land: the Place Where I Dream”

Anita Fields (Wahzhazhe/Osage Nation and Muscogee Nation) is a multi-disciplinary artist and citizen of the Osage Nation. She is known for her works which combine clay and textile with Osage knowledge systems. Fields explores the intricacies of cultural influences at the intersections of balance and chaos found within our existence.

Her sculptures have been featured in many exhibitions, including the 2024-2025 *The Shape of Power: Stories of Race and American Sculpture*, Smithsonian Art Museum; *Counterpublic 2023: Triennial*, St. Louis, Missouri; *Form and Relation: Contemporary Native Ceramics*, Hood Museum, Dartmouth College; the 2018-2020 *Hearts of Our People*, Minneapolis Institute of Art; the 2018 *Art for A New Understanding: Native Voices, 1950's to Now* at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; and *Pottery by American Indian Women* at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC.

Her work can be found in several collections, such as the Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian; the Museum of Art and Design, New York City; the Minneapolis Institute of Art; Dartmouth College, New Hampshire; and the Heard Museum, Arizona.

Fields is 2017-2023 Tulsa Artist Fellowship alumni. She was named a 2021 National Endowment of the Arts Heritage Fellow and received a 2021 Anonymous Was a Woman award. In 2022 she received a Francis J. Greenburger award, and in 2025 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

11:30 AM



KEYNOTE 2: Norman Akers

“Home/Land: Navigating the Places Between”

Norman Akers (Osage Nation) is an Osage painter, printmaker, and educator from Grayhorse District. He was born and raised in Fairfax, Oklahoma, at the southern tip of the Tallgrass Prairie/Flint Hills region.

He has taught painting at various institutions, including the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM, and retired from the University of Kansas after sixteen years of teaching. In 2026, he returned to his birthplace to continue his studio practice and engage with his community.

His artwork addresses concepts of place through the use of multilayered visual images to form narratives bridging a personal understanding of Osage ways and experiences to contemporary issues. Norman's artworks act as maps of culture, memory, and place. The intersecting lines that serve as the background for his images are clearly cartographic. Still, it is with the images placed on top of these maps that Akers creates forceful visual statements. As he puts it, "Through color, line, and visual form, I express deeply felt concerns regarding removal, disturbance, and the struggle to reclaim cultural context."

Akers's work has received national recognition, including a recent solo exhibition, *Norman Akers Navigates the Space Between* at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS. His work has been featured nationally in numerous group exhibitions, including *Indigenous Identities: Here, Now and Always*, curated by the late Jaune Quick-to-See Smith at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; and traveling group exhibitions *Art for a New Understanding: Native Voices, 1950s to Now*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; and *Exploding Native Inevitable* at Bates College Art Museum, Lewiston, Maine.

In 2025, Norman was the inaugural artist for the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Artist Residency. During the residency period, he completed a series of paintings for his *Navigating New Places* exhibition presented at Temple Contemporary, located within the Tyler School of Art and Architecture. He was the recipient of the Joan Mitchell Painters and Sculptors Fellowship.

His artworks are in several collections, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota; the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Manhattan, Kansas; and the Gilcrease Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

12:30 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:30 PM BREAK-OUT SESSIONS



Tara Mitchell

“Uplifting Community Through Collaboration: A Prairie Band Potawatomi Perspective on the Americans Exhibition”

Tara Mitchell (Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation) serves as her tribe's Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, a role she has held for the past three years. She is also interning as a Public Practice Curatorial Assistant at the Spencer Museum of Art.

Tara is a 2013 graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University with a Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous and American Indian Studies and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Museum Studies at the University of Kansas. Professionally, she specializes in tribal history, community outreach, and is an accomplished beadwork artist. Outside of her work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children.



Christopher Côté

“Language and Media”

Chris provided the Osage translation for *Home/Land's* exhibition text.

Christopher Côté (Osage) was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Christopher is an active member of the ᎠᎾᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ (Pawhuska) committee of the ᎠᎾᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ (Osage Ceremonial Dances). He is also a member of the ᎠᎾᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ (gentle sky people) clan.

Christopher has worked in language revitalization for nearly a decade and is known nationally and intertribally for his involvement in the film *Killers of a Flower Moon*. He is currently studying Cherokee culture with a focus on language revitalization at Northeastern State University.

While working for the Osage Nation Language Department, he created and edited content for the Osage language learning apps, Wahzhazhe and Sonny Goes to School. Christopher also worked on the development of language curriculum for the Osage immersion school ᎠᎾᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ ᎠᎾᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ (our school). To date he continues to teach online community classes.

In February 2021, Christopher was approached by Apple to translate the script of *Killers of a Flower Moon*. Not only did he translate the script, but he also taught the actors in the film, and he made an appearance on screen as ‘baby namer 2.’

In the spring of 2019, Christopher had the privilege to go to the sister city of Pawhuska, Montabon, France. He participated in cultural sharing at school and public events. This entailed language classes and Plains Sign Language demonstrations.



Taiomah Rutledge

"Creating Community and Belonging through Art"

Taiomah Rutledge (Ojibwe, Meskwaki and Dakota nation) is a multidisciplinary artist and cofounder of Warclan Collective based in Wichita Kansas. A member of the Ojibwe, Meskwaki, and Dakota people, Taiomah imbues his work with cultural narratives and reinterprets modern ideas of community and belonging. Taiomah studied fine art and graphic design at Wichita State University and is an Artist Inc. Alumni. He is a cultural advocate and mentor for native youth, instructing with his family's drum, "Thunderhead," and collaborating with the Mid-America All-Indian Museum through culture shares and art-making. Taiomah is a current facilitator for Artist Inc. and guest curating Native art exhibitions for Kansas based non-profit galleries. He presents art workshops and cultural programming in an effort of art advocacy and community building.

2:30 PM

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS



Alex Kimball Williams

"When Art Protests: Indigenous Creative Resistance"

Alex Kimball Williams, *Bad Alaskan*, (Aleut), is a protest musician and community researcher, joining together tradition with creativity through reimagining Indigenous musical motifs on synthesizers. Her work centers creativity as a social and environmental justice skill, highlighting art as the vehicle for community growth and artistic expression as a capacity builder for advocates. She coined the genre Indigenous Dance Music (NDM), and she has influenced local policy with her music, lyrics, and community organizing.

This includes making Lawrence the first city in Kansas to adopt the CROWN Act legalizing Black hair, and making Lawrence the first city in Kansas to enact a sanctuary city ordinance protecting undocumented community members.

Currently, Alex manages an NSF-funded large-scale climate justice grant at Haskell Indian Nations University, supporting diverse coastal Indigenous communities in protecting their lifeways, including issues of food sovereignty and climate-forced displacement. She has a B.S. of Environmental Science from a tribal university, and received her M.A. in Indigenous Studies. She is an enrolled member of the Aleut (Unanga) tribe of Alaska.

Alex received the 2018 MLK Dreamer's award from Lawrence Public Schools, 3rd place for Community Leader in the 2021 Best of Lawrence issue, & received a community service award from the Lawrence Juneteenth Organization in 2023.



George Gottschalk & Thomas Bell

“IndiVoices: A Discography of Indigenous Music”

George Gottschalk (Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma) is Head of Collections Services for K-State Libraries. He is a past president of the American Indian Library Association and has been active with the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.



Thomas Bell is the Librarian for Music and Humanities at Kansas State University and a member of the graduate music faculty in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. His teaching and research focus on underground, independent, and influential but often commercially overlooked artists. He teaches *Inventing the Future: Underground and Experimental Rock, 1960–1995*.

Bell collaborates on collection development and research initiatives, including IndiVoices, a discography of twenty-first-century Indigenous music recordings from North America, and provides instruction and consultation across the arts and humanities. He has served as the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art Librarian of Wonder since 2013.

5:00 PM

IN-PERSON RECEPTION



Jason Champagne

Catering by:



Chef **Jason Champagne** (Red Lake Band of Chippewa) is from Baldwin, Kansas. He is a motivational speaker and chef/owner of Native Chef, LLC. Through his business, Jason strives to motivate others to get into the kitchen on a consistent basis. He is a proponent of using whole foods and easy cooking techniques to help improve an individual's overall health and well-being.

5:30 PM

ARTIST TALK



Chris Pappan

"Acts of Visual Resistance"

Chris Pappan (Osage, Kaw and Cheyenne River Sioux) honors his Osage and Lakota heritage. His cited artistic influences are the Lowbrow art movement, Heavy Metal and Juxtapoz magazines, and taps into the American cultural roots of 1970s underground comics and "Punk Rock" ethos.

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe and a nationally recognized painter and ledger artist, Chris's work is in numerous museums such as the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington D.C., the Tia collection in Santa Fe, NM and the Newberry Library among many other important collections both nationally and internationally. He is represented by Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, NM and is a co-founder of the Center for Native Futures, a Native American gallery and studio space in Chicago's Loop. He lives and works in Chicago with his wife Debra Yepa-Pappan, and their daughter Ji Hae.

6:30 PM

GALLERY TOUR



Aileen June Wang

"Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak"

Aileen June Wang is a Chinese Filipino curator who immigrated to the United States. Her experiences have inspired her to develop a socially engaged curatorial practice and champion not only artists from her own ethnic community, but also African American and Indigenous artists. She curated the first museum exhibition in the U.S. of Japanese Italian artist Enrico Isamu Oyama and co-authored the bilingual exhibition publication. Her project *Silk Road Through Kansas* brought together regional universities and art institutions to explore the flow of ideas and art between Asia and the Great Plains. Her exhibition *Homeward to the Prairie I Come: Gordon Parks Photographs from the Beach Museum of Art* is touring nationally with an exhibition catalog published by New Prairie Press.

THIS EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY:

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Explanations

- Towns
- Trading Post
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- Missions
- ✦ Gov't Bldgs
- △ Indian Villages
- Roads & Trails
- - - Indian Boundaries
- - - State lines

