

APNNE Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

- President: Darcie Champagne, Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth, NH
- Vice President: Chloe Powell, BarnArts Center for the Arts in VT
- Treasurer: Vicky Pittman, Colonial Theater in Keene, NH
- Secretary: Madeline Bell, Flynn Center in VT
- Guest artist: Vera Longtoe Sheehan

In attendance:

- Adrienne Petrillo - NEFA
- Daniela Jacobson - NEFA
- Indira Goodwine - NEFA
- LJ Gilloux - LOH
- Liza Sacheli - Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College
- Kayla Schweitzer

Vera Longtoe Sheehan is an artist, educator, and activist who serves her community as the Elnu Abenaki Tribal Genealogist and the Director of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association where she leads the education team. She has a BA in Museum Studies and Native American Studies, MALS, and an Advanced Certificate in Public History from SUNY Empire State College. The combination of her experience and her education allows Vera to bridge the gap between the Abenaki community and mainstream society by creating and delivering educational programs, museum exhibitions, and events that preserve and interpret the vibrant culture of the Abenaki people. Additionally, Vera is a member of the Vermont Coalition for Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Advisory Working Group which is examining how Ethnic Studies can be incorporated into K-12 curriculum.

Vera Longtoe Sheehan's Presentation:

- 2011 - Elnu and Nulhegan tribes are recognized
- 2012 - Koasek and Missisquoi Tribes are recognized
- 2013 - VT Abenaki Artists Association is established
 - Mission - promote awareness of state-recognized Abenaki artists
- Nebizun: Water is Life (literally: water is our medicine)
 - Exhibit soon to be a documentary
 - Water is a connector between current day VT and NH, not a divider
 - Water as transportation - roads and highways that connect us
 - Water as a source of food (fishing is a living tradition; using sucker fish as fertilizer in gardening)
 - Traditions passed down for generations
 - Continuing to revive old traditions across the community
 - Salmon hole at Jamaica State Park has been a part of the Abenaki community for thousands of years
 - The Abenaki Canoe Build film

- Followed by Q&A
- Host discussion groups
- Vera is also founder of Abenaki Arts and Resource Center
 - Recorded lesson for young people
- Vera teaches college course - Presenting Abenaki Culture in the Classroom
 - Register at Lake Champlain Chamber Music

Contact info: vera.sheehan@abenakiart.com

Resources:

<https://abenaki-edu.org/> Abenaki Arts and Culture
<https://abenakiart.org/> Vermont Abenaki Artists Association
<https://abenakiart.org/blog9/tag/vera-longtoe-sheehan/>
<https://abenakiart.org/blog9/blog/>

Adrienne Petrillo

- NEFA partnership with Western Arts Alliance (WAA)
- Advancing Indigenous Performances (AIP) - <https://www.westarts.org/advancing-indigenous-performance>
- Focusing on North American indigenous artists
- Applying NEST 1, 2, or 3 with an indigenous artist
 - NEFA will connect presenters/awardees with WAA
 - Matching funds from WAA
 - No additional paperwork
- NDP and NTP also support indigenous artists as well

- NEST deadline is March 8, 2022 @ 11:59 PM
- Online programs are acceptable
- NEST webinar - Wednesday, February 9
 - Will be recorded and shared
- Block booking meeting - Thursday, February 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
 - NEFA/Daniela will create spreadsheet to share info among presenters
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sDUGZ5ujwSm7DfwpAXAg-8yfaHYglCglgC7MvMZ8GV0/edit#gid=0>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/112155592018>

- NEST 1 and 2 - presenting New England artists
 - NEST 1 - artists outside your state, no partners
 - NEST 2 - artist in your state, at least one partner in another New England state
 - Up to 60% of artist fee
 - Maximum grant is \$5k
 - Multiple deadlines throughout the year
- NEST 3 - presenting artists outside of New England

- Two presenters involved from at least two New England states (usually need three presenters)
- Up to 60% of artist fee
- Maximum grant is \$10k
- Only NEST 3 deadline in the year
- Extended grant period is June 2022 - December 2023
- More competitive application process

<https://www.nefa.org/grants/find-grant/new-england-states-touring-nest-grant>

Resources:

<https://www.nefa.org/resources/native-american-arts>

<https://www.nefa.org/grants/grant-recipients/indigenous-enterprise>

Indira Goodwine

- RDDI - Regional Dance Development Initiative
 - <https://www.nefa.org/NewEnglandNow>
- First in New England in 2007
- Cohort of 12 dancemakers
- Strengthen relationships within New England
- Professional development lab at Bates Dance Festival in July 2021
- Intersections summit (virtual) with Redfern in fall 2021
 - Where does dance fit into policy change and other areas
- RDDI New England Now dance platform in Boston - March 18-20
 - Cohort as curators
 - Focus on equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and CARE
 - Invite six additional New England dance artists to uplift voices that were not represented in the cohort
 - Collective responsibility of... what's next?
 - How do we continue to support New England dancemakers?
 - Multiple conversations throughout the region with presenters, funders, community, and entire dance ecosystem
 - Develop opportunities beyond project funding

Middlebury Arts Event Manager position

- Liza looking forward to mentoring person to become next leader of the field
- Looking to diversify staff

NEFA transition

- Cathy Edwards leaving in May
- More about search process will be announced in the coming weeks
- New strategic planning process starting soon

<https://www.supamanhiphop.net/>

<https://www.misschiefrocka.com/>

Garifuna Collective is planning to be in New England in the fall. They are doing a residency at Brandeis University. They are primed to do school outreach and there may be NEST grant funds available to help pay for their fees. Check it out and let me know if it looks interesting to you.

<https://garifunacollective.com/>

NEST grant with Brandeis for the Garifuna Collective. They are an afro-indigenous people. They are great for educational programming, and can share the history of their people- a stranded ship carrying people to be sold into slavery- survivors ended up on ST. Vincent and intermarried with the Arawak and Caribe Natives. They were exiled by the British and ended up settling along the coast of Central America in fishing communities. Their language still spoken today is closely related to Arawak. English is the official language of Belize, so they are ideal for school outreach and school performances. The history of the Garifuna people and their culture is very interesting and not very well known. Survivors shipwreck of people on the way to being sold managed to make it to St. Vincent Island where they intermarried with the local Arawak and Caribe Indians. When they were exiled by the British, they settled along the coast of Central America, and have maintained their culture, which still has strong African and Native roots. Their language contains Arawak words, and in their music you can hear the strong African roots.

<https://minorityrights.org/minorities/garifuna-garinagu/>

The band is a collective, so it will depend on the budget of the tour how many come, but 8-10 will be on the road. They will likely be renting a van for the tour, but housing would be needed. IF hotels are pricey, airbnb's can be nice for them to have a kitchen.