



Press Release

For immediate release

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Local Artist Receives National Grant

(Eagan, MN) – First Peoples Fund, a Native-led nonprofit that supports Indigenous artists across the country, recently selected local artists, Alexandra, Joni and Eric Buffalohead to receive a \$7,500 grant as part of its Artist in Business Leadership grant program. Alexandra and Joni are members of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and Eric is a member of the White Eagle Southern Ponca Tribe.

“We are proud to continue to grow our First Peoples Fund family,” said Lori Pourier (Oglala Lakota), president. “We believe in the power of artists and artist entrepreneurs, because when they grow as individuals, the illuminate a pathway for others to follow. Their success creates a ripple effect that reaches out to their families, their communities and beyond.”

The Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship is one of two annual Fellowship programs awarded by First Peoples Fund. While the Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship nurtures and guides the business development goals of Native artists, Cultural Capital Fellowship places emphasis on supporting individuals whose work focuses on passing down ancestral knowledge. Both fellowship programs aim to increase artists’ capacity to succeed and create impact in their communities. This year, the two programs selected a total of 25 Native artists from all across the country to be awarded fellowships.

“We have such a range of mediums,” First Peoples Fund Vice President Mary Bordeaux (Sicangu Lakota) said. “Everything from Indigenous foods to performing artists. We have artists using traditional techniques in modern ways. I’m excited about working with the artists, seeing them grow, and their projects come to fruition.”

First Peoples Fund, based in Rapid City, South Dakota, focuses on honoring and supporting the essential role of artists and culture bearers within Indigenous communities. In addition to their fellowship and grants programs, First Peoples Fund also helps support the inclusion of the arts in communities through values-based workshops, community arts classes, youth programming and nation-wide partnerships with other organizations invested in the arts.

First Peoples Fund fellowships are supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Bush Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, HRK Foundation, Surdna Foundation. Founded in 1995, First Peoples Fund’s mission is to honor and support the Collective Spirit® of First Peoples artists and culture bearers.

For further information about First Peoples Fund or to apply for support through one of our programs, please visit www.firstpeoplesfund.org or contact us at First Peoples Fund, P.O. Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977.