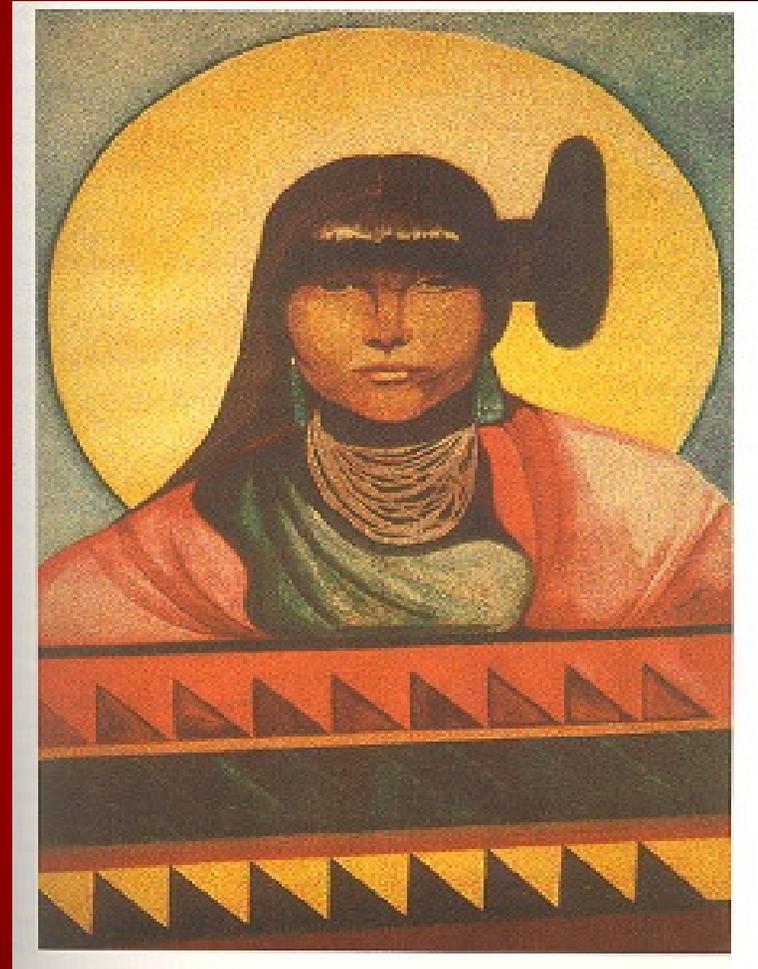


Native Americans/Alaska Natives United States

- In 2000, US Census – NA/AN make up 1.5 % of total US population – over 3 million people
- In CA, over 100 tribes – Federal & State Recognized
- 40% living in rural/reservation areas; 60% living in urban areas (Los Angeles County)

Two Spirit - Native LGBT

- Two Spirit term refers to Native American/Alaska Native Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) individuals
- Came from the *Anishinabe* language.
- Has a different meaning in different communities. Encompassing term used is “Two Spirit” adopted in 1990 at the 3rd International Native Gay & Lesbian Gathering in Winnipeg, Canada.
- It means having both feminine and masculine spirits within one person.
- The term is used in rural and urban communities to describe the re-claiming of their traditional identity and roles.
- The term refers to culturally prescribed spiritual and social roles; however, the term is not applicable to all tribes and some transgender individuals



- We'wha

Tribal Language & Two Spirit Terminology

Tribe	Term	Gender
Crow	boté	male
Navajo	nádleehee	male and female
Lakota	winkte	male
Zuni	lhamana	male
Omaha	mexoga	male

LGBT/Two Spirit Umbrella

Lesbian

A woman whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other women.

Gay

A man whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional and/or spiritual attraction is to other men

Bisexual

An individual who is physically, romantically, emotionally and/or spiritually attracted to men and women

Transgender

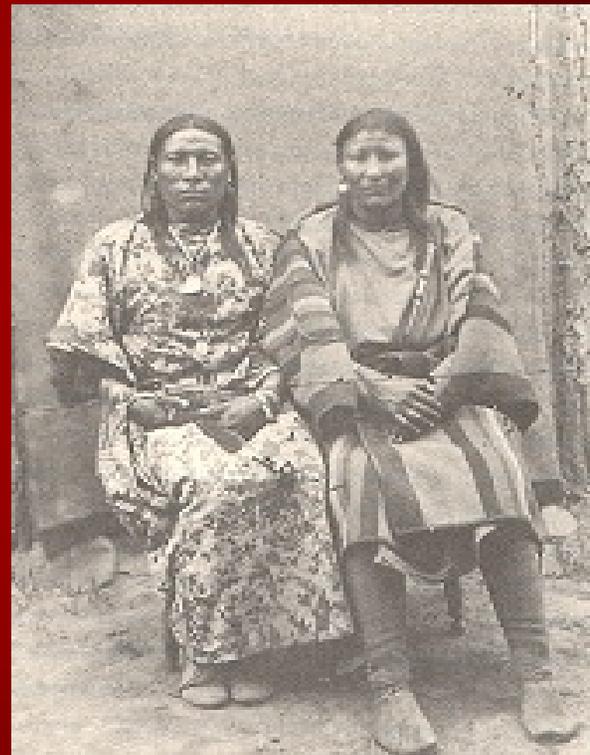
A term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Two Spirit

A contemporary term used to identify Native American Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender individuals with traditional and cultural understandings of gender roles and identity.

Spirituality and Culture

- “Alternative gender roles were respected and honored and believed to part of the sacred web of life and society.”
- Lakota view: Winktes are sacred people whose androgynous nature is an inborn character trait or the result of a vision.
 - Example: Lakota Naming Ceremony
- For many tribes, myths revealed that two-spirit individuals were decreed to exist by deities or were among the pantheon of gods.”
 - Example: Navajo Creation Story – The Separation of Sexes



Prominent figures

- We'wha (Zuni) circa 1849-1896
- Hastiin Klah (Diné) 1867-1937
- Osh Tisch (Crow) 1854-1929
- Woman Chief (Crow) circa early 19th century -1854
- Lozen (Chiricahua Apache) 1840 – 1890

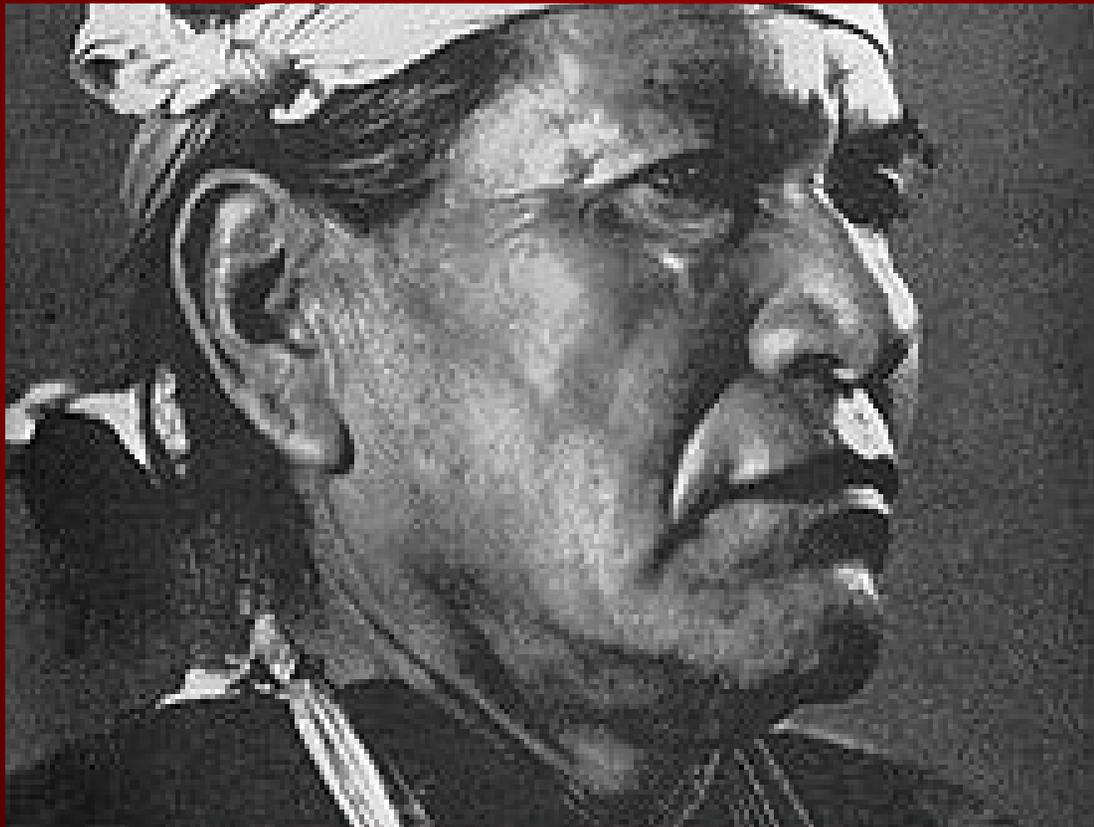
We'wha (Zuni) circa 1849-1896



- Zuni spiritual leader
- Performed sacred roles in ceremonial dances

Hastiin Klah (Diné)

1867 - 1937



- celebrated weaver and a sand painter

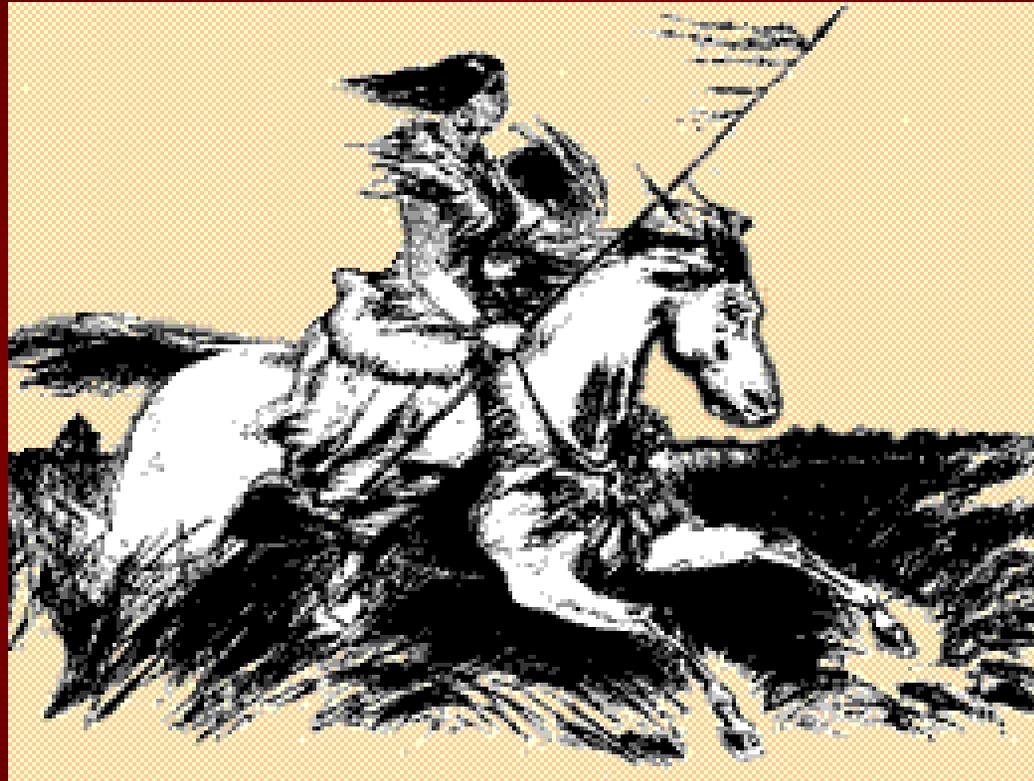
Osh-Tisch (Crow)

1854 - 1929



- “Finds Them and Kills Them”

Woman Chief (Crow) 1854 - ?



- Gros Ventre Indian
- “Married” a woman

Lozen (Apache) 1840 - 1890



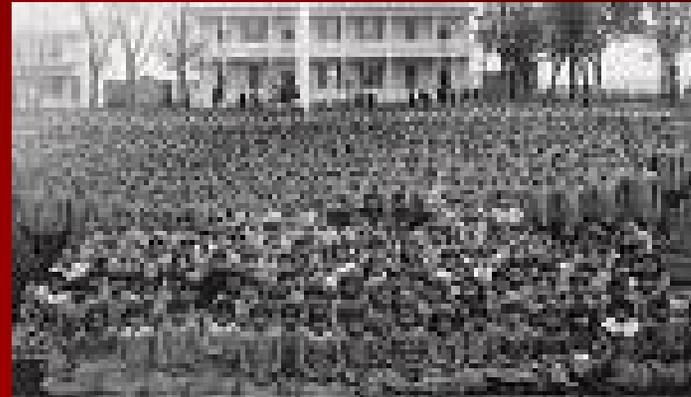
- Skilled warrior
- Fought beside Geronimo

European Colonization



Spanish invader Vasco Nuñez de Balboa (1475-1519) presiding over the massacre of "sodomites" in Central America, Engraving by Theodore De Bry.

Boarding Schools ~ 1870s



Boarding Schools

- Army officer, Richard Pratt, founded the first of these schools. He based it on an education program he had developed in an Indian prison.
- "A great general has said that the only good Indian is a dead one, in a sense, I agree with the sentiment, but only in this: that all the Indian there is in the race should be dead. Kill the Indian in him, and save the man."
- Students at federal boarding schools were forbidden to express their culture — everything from wearing long hair to speaking even a single Indian word.

"I remember coming home and my grandma asked me to talk Indian to her and I said, 'Grandma, I don't understand you'. She said, 'Then who are you?' "

1945 - Bill Wright, a Pattwin Indian

Relocation Program ~ 1950s

- 1952, the federal government initiated the Urban Indian Relocation Program
- Jobs, education, housing, vocational training

Historical Trauma

- Cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations
 - Confront the historical trauma
 - Understanding the trauma
 - Release the pain of historical trauma
 - Transcend the trauma

Complete Wellness for Native Americans/Alaska Natives

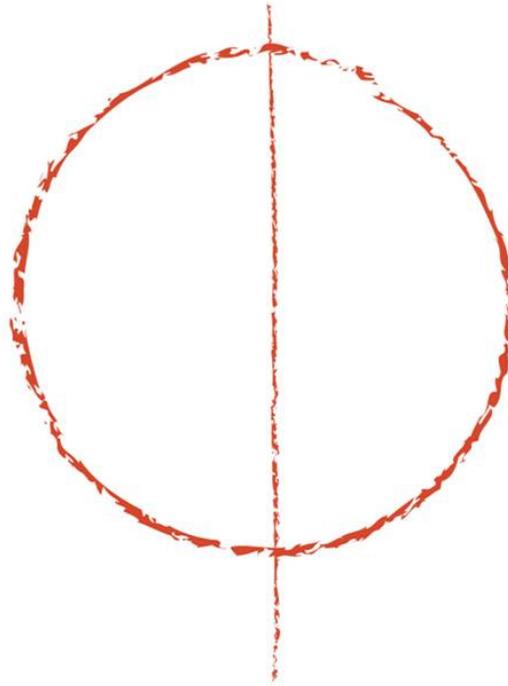
- Spirituality is important aspect of Native way of life – everything is connected – body, mind and spirit.
- Living in balance is essential – harmony and balance through traditional prayer, songs, ceremonies.
- Traditional medicine is used to cure illness and disease – with herbs in ceremonial settings – often on the reservation or rural communities.
- Traditional medicine can be used with Western medicine to develop a holistic wellness of their body, mind, and spirit.

Transgender Data

- There are no concrete statistics on the number of transgender people in the United States.
- Estimates on the number of *transsexual* people, which does not include the broader transgender population, range anywhere from 0.25 to 1 percent of the U.S. population.
- Additional research on Native Transgender population is needed with accurate and inclusive statistics.
- Inclusion of Native Transgender in research and data is imperative! (even if the population is considered small).

Epidemiology of HIV among Transgender Individuals

- ***An Epidemiological Profile of HIV & AIDS 2009 Los Angeles County:*** Transgender individuals are estimated to have the highest HIV seroprevalence rate with 21% of the priority populations in LA County in 2005. Specifically, Native Transgender individuals represent 2.9% of the cases which is higher within the populations.
- ***San Francisco Department of Public Health Study – A Snapshot of Discrimination:*** In 1997, the San Francisco Department of Public Health surveyed 392 MTF and 123 FTM transgender people that included specifically Native Americans with 6% being Native MTF and 3% being Native FTM.



THE RED CIRCLE PROJECT

AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)



Funded by Office of AIDS Programs and Policy, Los Angeles County
Funded by the Department of Disability, City of Los Angeles, AIDS Coordinator's Office

An Overview

- **Red Circle Project (RCP) was created in August 2003 at APLA by an initial a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.**
- **RCP is the only HIV Prevention Program in Los Angeles County that specifically targets Native American /Alaska Native Community.**
- **Goal of the project is to increase positive social norms around safer sex and emphasize its benefits as well as the importance of early screening for HIV – referrals for testing.**
- **Project provides education and prevention information to Native community at outreach events such as Powwows, etc.**

Developing and Implementing Support Group Workshops

- **Currently, adapting Community PROMISE intervention for urban Native Two Spirit/Gay Men and Native Transgenders.**
- **The “*Strengthening the Circle*” Curriculum has four (4) workshops that address behavioral and cultural issues. The workshops are designed with the concept of Native American/Alaska Native’s understanding of the “*Medicine Wheel*.” The Medicine Wheel is a symbol of knowledge that enables individuals to live in balance with all aspects of life – physical, mental, emotion, and spiritual.**
- **The workshops will also encourage participants to make informed decisions that will guide their subsequent behavior.**

www.redcircleproject.org

- **The RCP website provides pertinent information about HIV/AIDS for individuals and service providers in Los Angeles.**
- **It also lists local organizations and agencies that provide services for Native organizations locally and nationally.**

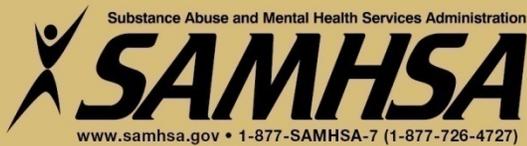
Challenges of Programs

- **Stigma about HIV in the community still exists, however more education and outreach efforts are providing valuable information.**
- **Continued collaboration is needed between agencies – Native and non-Native.**
- **No specific geographical areas of Urban NA/AN exists (ie. neighborhoods, bars, etc.) and providing services is a challenge.**
- **Misclassification of clients is an issue among providers.**
- **Additional research and accurate information on HIV/AIDS statistics is needed.**
- **Additional funding is still needed for additional services and resources.**

Questions & Answers

**Please feel free to ask questions
and/or comments . . .**





May the Creator Always Guide and
Protect You as You Walk In Beauty...



Ahe'hee (Thank you)

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SAMHSA's Native American Center for Excellence (NACE)

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Please take a moment to complete and submit the evaluation. **THANK YOU!**

