



LEVITT NETWORK PANEL

# BEYOND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: FOSTERING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

---

Nancy Halverson, Sarah Bad Warrior-Vrooman

Helen Gover, Jessi Whitten

Moderated By Victoria Bridenstine



**LEVITT AT THE FALLS**

Building Community Through Music

**WOKINI  
INITIATIVE**

A NEW BEGINNING

South Dakota State University®





## **GROUND CONTROL ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION**





**ROCK THE REZ  
WITH  
THE SMITHSONIAN MASTERWORKS JAZZ ORCHESTRA**







## INNOSKATE IN DOWNTOWN SIOUX FALLS





---

---

# All My Relations Celebration

— A festival to celebrate modern  
indigenous artistry —

---

---



# The Purpose

*Celebrate indigenous artists through music, dance, and art by marrying cultural heritage with a contemporary lens*



*To correct the false narrative and negative stereotypes of indigenous peoples.*

# Conception



- *Began during 2021 comeback concert season*
  - *Attended Innoskate at Levitt at the Falls & Pine Ridge in 2022*
  - *Funding from CU Denver*
  - *Supported by Levitt Denver*
-

# Levitt's Role



- *Developing Helen as a Concept lead*
    - *Utilizing team intersectional expertise*
    - *Paid for artist research*
    - *Ongoing concept development*
    - *Collaboration with in-house Talent Buyer*
  - *Marketing*
  - *Cover production costs*
  - *Ongoing continued partnership*
-

# Genuine Partnership

- *Dispersed community, monthly gatherings*
- *Credibility & relevance*
- *Exposing non-indigenous organizations intent*
- *Back to School fundraiser*
- *Contracting for Land Acknowledgement with season financial contributions*

*“Indigenous people are the most misrepresented & least understood people”*



# Lessons in Planning

- *First ideas ≠ best ideas*
- *Getting in touch with partners*
- *Building the brand*
- *Patience with contract phase*
- *Thoughtful production, We are Support*



ILLUMINATIVE



NDN COLLECTIVE



# The Festival

*Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



# Building on Success

*Establish All My Relations Celebration as an annual festival & reflect on lessons learned*



*Continuous relationship building with native and indigenous organizations*



*Plan for more concerts at Levitt and investments in partner initiatives*