

#### 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





# A NEW BEGINNING

South Dakota State University®

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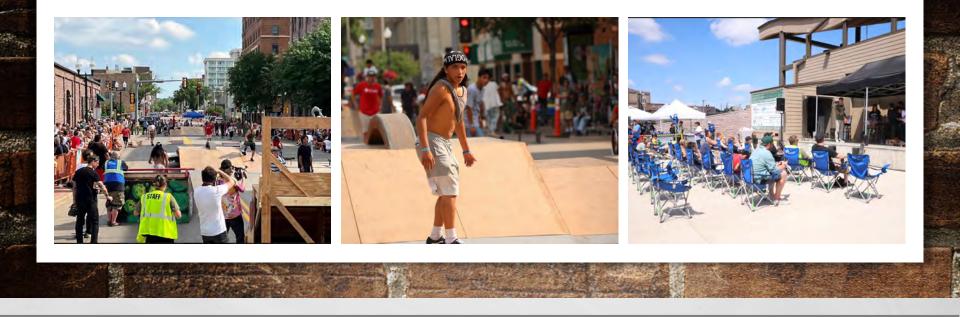


#### **GROUND CONTROL ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION**



#### 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 <u>Innoskate</u> 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 <u>Support</u>





NDN COLLECTIVE



#### **The Festival** *Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

TOC

E



#### **Building on Success**

Establish <u>All My Relations Celebration</u> 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