



Anna F Needham

Red Lake Ojibwe (Anishinaabe)

annafneedham@gmail.com | (480) 679-7946

www.annafneedham.com

BYLINE

Anna Needham (Red Lake Ojibwe) is a theatre artist, Indigenous rights advocate, and arts administrator.

As an arts administrator, she looks to using her experience of the public sector as a resource for culturally-specific communities to engage with government structures.

EXPERIENCE

Arizona Commission on the Arts

Tribal Relations Manager

January 2023 - present

- Created the foundational Tribal Consultation Policy for the Arts Commission, the first of its kind for a state arts agency
- Partner across the agency with Program Directors on outreach initiatives specifically with Tribal Nations and Native American communities in general
- Serve as Tribal Liaison for the 22 Tribal Nations who exist within the borders of Arizona
- Develop materials to assist staff and key stakeholders in cultural competencies specific to populations Indigenous to the United States
- Build relationships and partnerships that are in service of the self-determination of Native communities
- Coordinate and host Tribal Consultations with the 22 Tribal Nations within the borders of Arizona
- Develop reports to determine next steps for the agency in its grantmaking portfolio and services
- Create initiatives, programs, and grants that serve the needs and asks of the Native communities and Tribal Nations we engage with
- Assist the national field in better understanding the unique nature of Federally- and State-recognized Tribal Nations, specifically in its relationship to governmental policy and basic Federal Indian Law

Artist Programs Coordinator

February 2019 - December 2022

- Managed the Artist Opportunity Grant from Fiscal Year 2019 to 2023, which included a doubling of applicants to the program per cycle, from ~70 to 120+
- Collaborated on the redesign of the Artist Opportunity Grant, centering their needs rather than preconceived notions, leading to artistic entrepreneurship to the scope of the program
- Co-created and managed the Arizona Artist Investment Program, built off the understanding that investing in Arizona artists leads to an investment in the communities they are a part of
- Coordinated of AZ ArtWorker activities, all centered around using a horizontal leadership structure and Fan artist peer-to-peer professional development mission from 2019 to 2020
- Established of relationships in culturally-specific communities
- Implemented of strategic outreach through data analysis as a method for working towards equity goals with limited capacity
- Supervised the Artist Programs Intern

Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture

Community Investments Intern

October 2018 - February 2019

- Created materials to convey the processes involved for different grant categories to City Council members, Phoenix Arts and Cultural Commission, and Phoenix arts and cultural organizations
- Created guidelines in Microsoft Word to the grants program to allow for transparency
- Prepared materials for grants committee and Phoenix Arts and Cultural Commission
- Assisted supervisor with creating PowerPoints to convey information about need for policy change based on mission of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Researched city districts and organizations that have yet to be served to find orientation locations that will allow for more equitable exchange of information
- Assisted in reformatting the panel process to ensure panels consider all skills and backgrounds while being of high quality
- Created video materials to provide clear articulation of the grant programs of the Office for both constituents and panelists

National Endowment for the Arts

Folk and Traditional Arts Intern

January 2018 - May 2018

- Created Federal Resource Survey for Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Arts and Cultural Heritage
- Collaborated with other Federal Agencies to improve NAANNH resource survey
- Created databases for agency-wide Native American interest contacts and previous grants specifically for Native interests using Microsoft Access
- Performed in-depth research and created reports based off research in Microsoft Word
- Archived materials for the National Heritage Fellowship
- Verified completeness of submitted applications in FY19 Art Works 1
- Created inventory of work samples from Applicant Portal for each application
- Researched and provided outreach to Native American arts and cultural organizations that qualify for NEA funding

Sundance Productions, Inc.

Production Assistant

September 2017 - December 2017

- Maintained database of contacts and status of possible donors
- Contacted potential donors over the phone internationally to drive interest in project
- Assisting in raising \$25,000 in tax-deductible donations
- Worked towards funding reading of musical at non-profit theater in Johannesburg

Phoenix Indian Medical Center - Indian Health Service

Public Affairs Assistant

May 2017 - June 2017

- Created PowerPoint with culturally relevant designs and sounds to use in conference presentation
- Directed educational piece about the connection between domestic violence in American Indian communities and public healthcare
- Coordinated with venue about technical needs of the piece

Queen Creek Performing Arts Center

Independent Contractor

May 2017 - June 2017

- Created organizational system for costume/props
- Led youth camp groups in theatrical exercises
- Collaborated with youth camp counselors to develop content for campers to present
- Provided assistance to campers and their parents/guardians

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Intentional Seeds: Lessons from the Arizona Artist Investment Program

Grantmakers in the Arts 2022 Annual Conference

October 2022

- Moderated and spoke on panel about co-creation of the Artist Investment Program cohort with Director of Artist Programs, Kesha Bruce, along with inclusion of two artists who were part of the cohort participants who co-developed the program curriculum

Native & Non-Native Partnerships

Native Arts & Cultures Convening

February 2020

- Spoke on panel with Christopher Morgan of Dance Place and Darrell Baldwin of Miami University about working as a Native person within non-Native institutions; moderated by Joseph Kunkel, Executive Director of Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative.
- Historic convening presented by National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Native Arts and Culture Foundation.

PANELIST SERVICE

Arts Foundation for Tucson & Southern Arizona

Project Creosote

January 2022

National Endowment for the Arts

American Rescue Plan - Theater

November 2021

Southwest Folklife Alliance

Master-Apprentice Award

September 2020

Western Arts Federation

WESTAF CARES

June 2020

National Endowment for the Arts

ArtWorks II - Folk & Traditional Arts

December 2018

ADVISORY/BOARD/COMMITTEE SERVICE

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Circle of Advisors Member

July 2023 - present

Strengthening SAA (State Arts Agencies) Relationships with Native Communities Initiative

Phoenix Indian Center

Auction Committee Member

April 2023 - present

2023 Annual Silver & Turquoise Ball - Fundraiser Event for the Phoenix Indian Center

EDUCATION

Native American Political Leadership Program

George Washington University

Certificate in Applied Politics

May 2018

- Program run in conjunction with AT&T's Center for Indigenous Politics and Policies, completed as a semester-long graduate-level program focused on political processes and Native American intertribal community organization
- Other Activities: Gave Speech at Reception in Johnson Room about the need for Native American visibility

Tisch School of the Arts

New York University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre, Minor in Producing

January 2018

Honors / Awards

Graduated with Honors, Cum Laude

January 2018

Dean's List

Year 2016-2017

Tisch Studio & Concentration

Studio: Playwrights Horizons Theater School *September 2014 - December 2017*

Concentration: Directing & Producing

Highlighted Academic Courses

Minorities in the Media

Pamela Newkirk

Feminism & Theatre

Gwendolyn Alker

Race & Reproduction

Jennifer Morgan

- Wrote final paper about forced and coerced sterilization of Native American women by the Indian Health Service in the 1970s

Pre-Conquest & Colonial Theatre in Latin America

Sebastián Calderón Bentin

Producing Essentials

Sharon Badal

Theatre Management in a Global Context

Elizabeth Bradley

Artistic Entrepreneurship

Elizabeth Bradley

SPECIAL SKILLS

Administrative

Software

Microsoft Office Suite

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Publisher
- Access

Adobe Creative Cloud & Office Suite

- Adobe Acrobat
- AdobeSign
- Photoshop
- Premiere
- Illustrator
- InDesign

Salesforce

Airtable

Expertise

Budget Management

Database Creation

Data Entry

Report Development

Systems Design

Leadership

Creative

Program Design & Coordination

Grantmaking Program Building & Renovation

Theatrical Director & Producer for Multiple Productions

Public Sector / Policy

Best Practices for Engaging Native Communities & Tribal Nations

Tribal Consultation Policy Development

Cross-Sector/ Cross-Agency Collaboration

Knowledge Around Federal, State, & City Government Funding for the Arts

Communications

Languages

Basic to Intermediate Spanish (Reading, Writing, Speaking)

Basic Ojibwemowin

Cultural Competency

Trust-Based Relationship Building

Understanding of How to Tailor to Community

In-Depth Research Before Engagement

Creation of Cultural Literacy Materials Related to Tribal Nations

Basic Understanding of Federal Indian Law

Creative Practice

Theatrical Practice

Directing Background (Focused on Immersive & Site-Specific Work)

Spacial Design & Event Planning/Coordination

Design & Visual Practice

Graphic Design (Logos, Assets, Thumbnails, Etc.)

Data Visualizations

Video Editing (Promotional, Informational, Etc.)