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## **NCP Newsletter #3 (Spring 2025)**

**Welcome to the Native Curriculum Partnership (NCP) third newsletter (spring 2025 edition)!**

**Please enjoy reading about our work and updates.**

We continue to work on the Native art and activism film. The film offers a view of Roxanne Swentzell's journey as a ceramic artist and community seedkeeper. Through her community-based projects on permaculture, Swentzell demonstrates the ways Native communities can strengthen their relationships with family, community, culture, and land. The film will be completed in Fall 2025.

We recently held a secondary education student workshop in March 2025 in Farmington, New Mexico. The workshop focused on Native representation in film, storytelling, and filmmaking. The workshop will be the first of two this year. We expect a teacher workshop in Fall 2025.

NCP is a University of New Mexico initiative led by the Center for Regional Studies (CRS), the Department of Native American Studies (NAS), and the Institute for American Indian Education (IAIE). We collaborate with Native educators, local tribal leaders, and community consultants to create Indigenous film and curriculum materials for K-12 students in New Mexico.

If you have any questions or comments contact Native Curriculum Partnership at [ncp@unm.edu](mailto:ncp@unm.edu).



## **NCP Member Spotlight: Jennifer Black**

Jennifer Black is an independent filmmaker as well as the founder and director of a nonprofit organization, Story Packer Productions, whose mission is to engage in conservation and tell stories about land, water, wildlife and the advocates who support them. Her nonprofit received a grant that allows her to collaborate with the Canoncito Band of Navajos Health Clinic and the To'Hajiilee Community School to promote health by connecting Indigenous and rural youth to the outdoors through digital storytelling and culturally outdoor activities.



## **Event Recap: Farmington Youth Workshop**

In March 2025, we held our first NCP student workshop at the Farmington School District. This interactive session allowed students to explore Native representation in film and gain hands-on experience in various aspects of filmmaking.

The first portion of the workshop was led by Ramona Emerson and focused on Native representation in film and the art of storytelling in filmmaking. Students were encouraged to think critically about the ways Native peoples and cultures are portrayed in popular film and media. A selection of short films created by Native filmmakers was shown to provide insight into the storytelling techniques rooted in cultural traditions, personal narratives, and community experiences.

The second portion of the workshop was led by Jennifer Black, who guided students through an interactive training on the fundamentals of filmmaking. Students gained hands-on experience in camera operation, directing, and editing. As



part of the workshop, students collaborated on peer interviews, using film as a medium to engage and share their personal connections to the land.

This collaborative workshop was intended to foster interest in filmmaking and collective storytelling, while encouraging students to express their creativity and personal experiences through film.

Farmington Student Workshop YouTube Link



What are some teaching strategies you practice to foster critical thinking about cultural narratives in film?

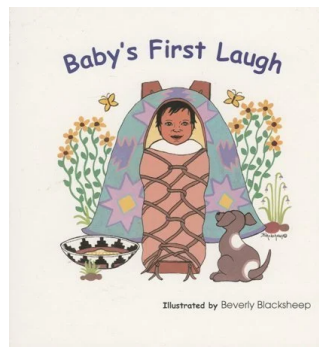
# Classroom Resources on Cultural Expressions

Following our student film workshop, we are thrilled to highlight some resources to discuss Indigenous cultural expressions in the classroom.

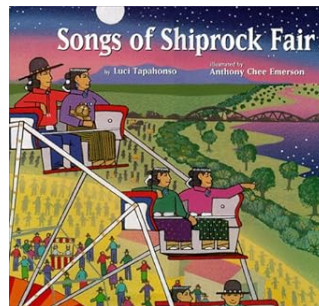
We define cultural expressions as "...a way of life. World views which includes but not limited to values, practices, perspectives, language, beliefs, cultural knowledge, and self-identity. Individuals and communities demonstrate their identity and way of life."

We invite educators to explore the complexities of cultural expressions by considering how identity, history, and relationships with land shape the ways students celebrate their culture.

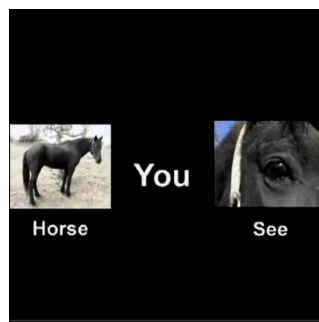
To learn more about resources on Indigenous cultural expressions, we



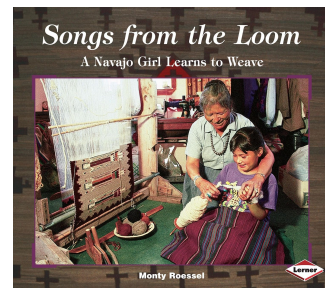
Black Sheep, Beverly. *Baby's First Laugh*. Flagstaff: Salina Bookshelf, 2003.



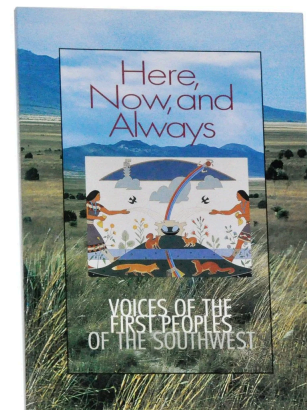
Tapahonso, Luci. *Songs of Shiprock Fair*. Walnut, CA: Kiva Publications, 1999.



*Horse You See*, 2012, Film by Melissa Henry.



Roessel, Monty. *Songs from the loom: a Navajo girl learns to weave*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1995.



O'Donnell, Joan. *Here, Now and Always; voices of the first peoples of the Southwest*. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2001.

encourage you to visit  
our [resource page](#).

Click to Watch  
Horse You See

As an educator, how do you honor and respect the cultural voices in your classroom?

## Featured Artworks from NCP's Community Art Contest

During the winter season, NCP held a community art contest for local students, artists and community members of New Mexico. We are thrilled to share two artworks that are representative of NCP's mission and goals. Be sure to check-out our next events to snag a poster with these artworks!



Artist: Leshaunie Hadley (Navajo)



Artist: Rachelle Wilson (Navajo)



# Stay Connected with NCP

We now have three official platforms where you can connect with us: our website, Instagram, and Facebook. We encourage you to follow us on all three, as we'll be sharing regular updates on our film projects, upcoming workshops, opportunities for educators, and more. Each platform will offer behind-the-scenes content from our workshops, featured student work, educator highlights and inspiring stories from our communities. Whether you're a student, educator, filmmaker, or supporter of Native education, there's something for everyone. Don't miss out—follow us today and be part of NCP's journey!



The NCP Website is a great source to learn more about our projects and resources!

[Click for Website](https://indignm.unm.edu/)



NCP has officially joined Instagram and will begin sharing resources, events and other project related updates!

[Click for IG](#)



NCP also has a new Facebook page! We hope you join us on social media and stay connected for updates and opportunities!

[Click for FB](#)

## Native Curriculum Partnership

<https://indignm.unm.edu/>

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