



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 26, 2012
Press Contact: Rita Cipalla, Cipalla Communications
206-281-9021, rita@cipalla.com

Indigenous Cultures Day held Aug. 18 at Seattle Center; Northwest Native Cultural Center co-sponsors activities and performances

Explore the cultural riches and celebrate the diversity of indigenous peoples through dance, chanting, music, video, food, art and craft sales at this year's Indigenous Cultures Day, Sat., Aug. 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Seattle Center.

Event highlights include a performance by Red Eagle Soaring, video screenings, art activities for children and, for the first time, a Northwest Native American Artist Market. All performances and activities are free and open to the public.

The one-day festival celebrating Indigenous cultures is organized by the Seattle Indian Health Board in partnership with the Northwest Native Cultural Center and the Seattle Art Museum. NNCC was awarded a grant from the Seattle Center Foundation to bring Northwest Native American artists and performers to Seattle Center as part of the summer's The Next Fifty celebration.

The inaugural Artist Market will provide opportunities for the public to talk with Northwest Native artists and purchase authentic, hand-made fine arts and crafts. Native American items for sale may include ceramics, drawings, paintings, photography, glass, musical instruments, jewelry, prints, woodwork, mixed media and sculpture. The Artist Market will be held in the Armory/Center House.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories based on creativity, authenticity and superior craftsmanship. Best in Show garners a \$500 award; second-place receives \$250, and three third-place awards win \$100 each. No commercial kit products, factory-made items or found objects will be displayed. Judging begins at 10:30 a.m. on Aug. 18 and awards will be announced at 12 noon during the event.

More than 250 Indigenous performers are expected to participate throughout the day. Traditional performances will take place in the Armory/Center House. Contemporary performances by various Indigenous peoples, including Northwest Natives, will be held outdoors at the nearby Mural Amphitheater. One of the highlights will be Red Eagle Soaring Native Youth Theatre, which will perform an original presentation created during a two-week performing arts camp.

Videos by Native American and Indigenous filmmakers provided by Longhouse Media will be shown throughout the day at the Armory/Center House. Each video will be introduced by a narrator who will place it in a larger historical or artistic context.

Hands-on art activities for children will also be available in the Armory/Center House. Youngsters will learn more about Native cultures as they create a variety of Native-inspired wearable art. Activities will be directed by artists and volunteers and will be appropriate for two age groups: ages 3 to 7 and ages 8 to 12.

The Northwest Native Cultural Center is an initiative begun two years ago to build a permanent Native American facility in the Seattle area that will honor and share the indigenous arts and heritage of the region. Indigenous Cultures Day is an annual event by the Seattle Indian Health Board to celebrate the diversity of Indigenous cultures represented in the Northwest. More information on Indigenous Cultures Day and the Northwest Native Cultural Center is available on Facebook at www.facebook.co/nativecenter.