

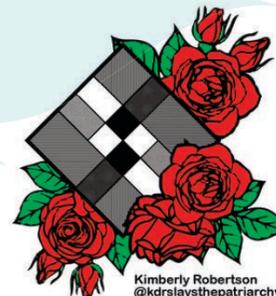
CREATIVE CULTURAL PRACTICES AS MEDICINE

NATIVE WOMXN, HEALING, AND RESILIENCY

A roundtable dialogue featuring Kimberly Robertson (Mvskoke), Mercedes Dorame (Tongva), and Katrina May (Dinè/Laguna Pueblo)



Urban Indian Health Institute
A Division of the Seattle Indian Health Board



KATRINA MAY DINÉ/LAGUNA PUEBLO

Katrina May is a Program Manager with the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), a Public Health Authority and Tribal Epidemiology Center that conducts rapid assessment, data surveillance, and evaluation for urban Indian communities nationwide. As a Diné and Laguna Pueblo woman with an academic background in engineering and computer science, her work is driven by a desire to advocate for the safety and well-being of Indigenous peoples with culturally appropriate services and information systems.

Katrina has supported UIHI's Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and intimate partner violence (IPV) work by coordinating and creating original content grounded in Indigenous knowledge. Their work aims to alleviate the high rates of IPV, MMIWG, and sexual assault in urban Indian communities by collaborating with internal and external partners on public health research, program evaluation, and legal and political initiatives.



Supporting the Sacred

Womxn of Resilience

Insights from Native femme-identifying survivors of sexual violence

*This report contains strong language about violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

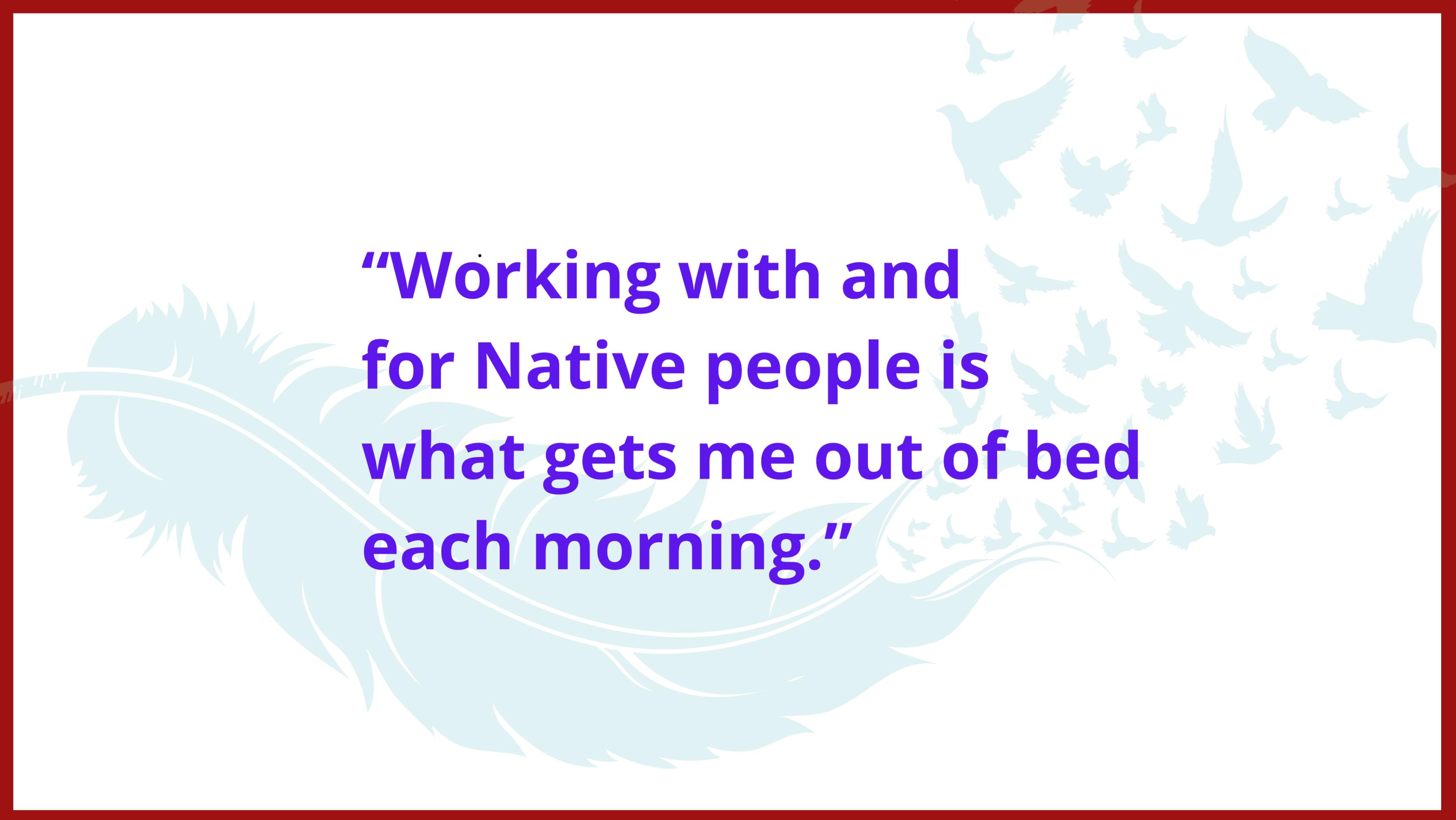
While their reasons for sharing their stories with us varied, the one they had in common was the desire and commitment to help other survivors and to be of service to our community.

The background features a light blue silhouette of a palm tree on the left side and a flock of birds in flight on the right side, all set against a white background with a dark red border.

**“More Native therapists
of all genders would make
a huge difference.”**

The background features a light teal color with a pattern of bird silhouettes in flight, scattered across the upper right portion. A large, stylized feather graphic is positioned on the left side, extending horizontally across the middle of the frame. The text is centered in a bold, blue font.

**“(Re)connecting to
cultural values and worldviews
through time spent with elders
has helped me.”**



**“Working with and
for Native people is
what gets me out of bed
each morning.”**

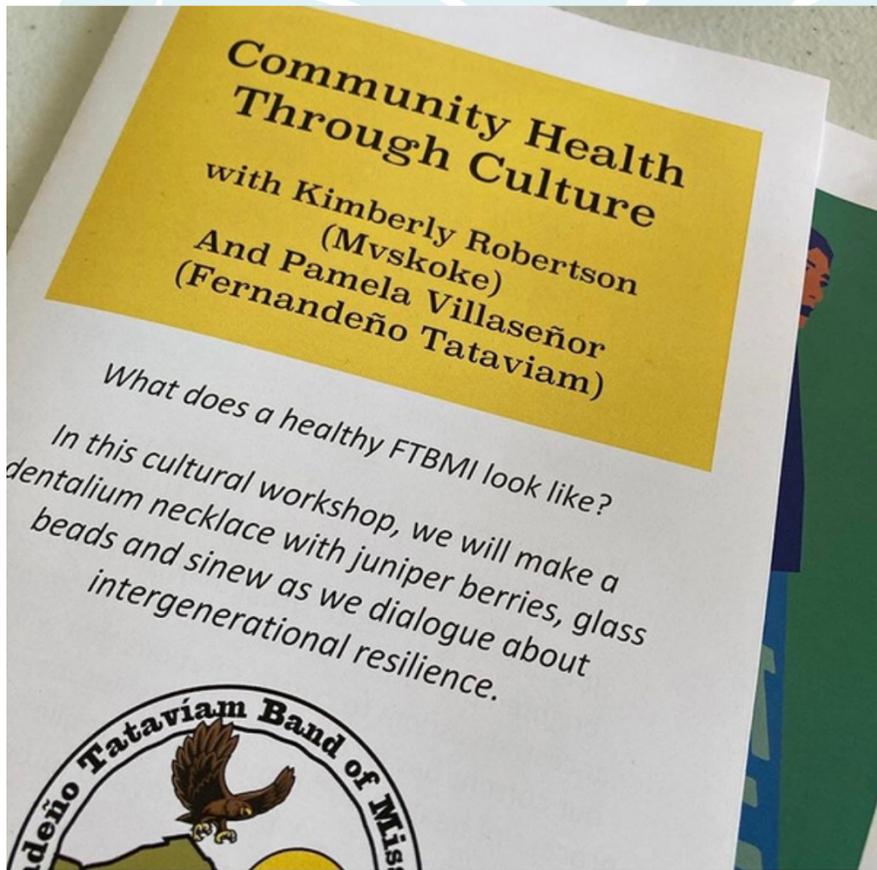
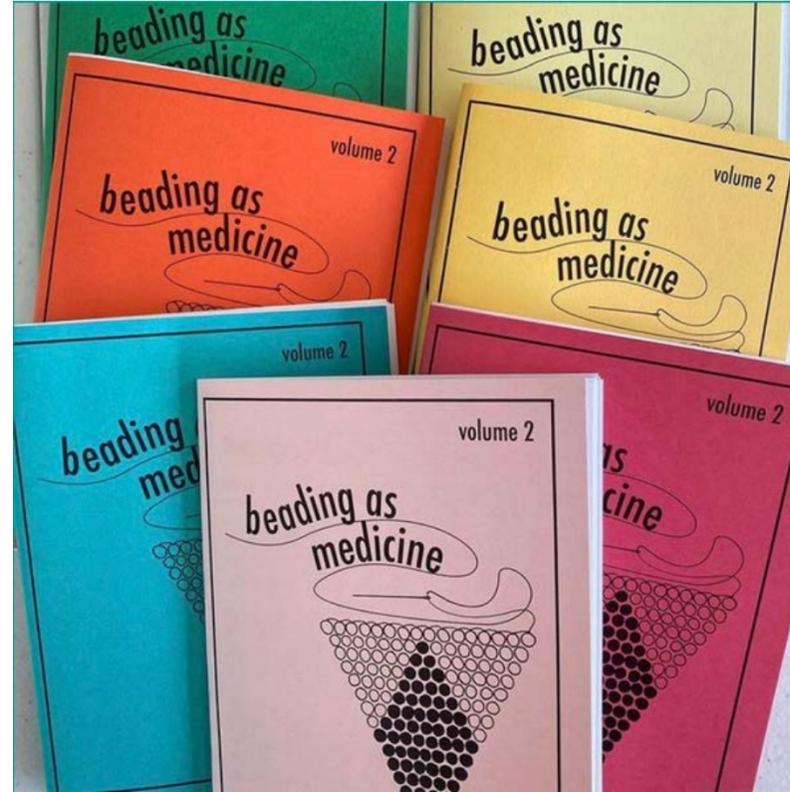
KIMBERLY ROBERTSON MVSKOKE

Kimberly Robertson is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and an artist, scholar, teacher, anti-violence activist, and mother who works diligently to employ Native feminist theories, practices, and methodologies in her hustle to fulfill the dreams of her ancestors and to build a world in which her daughters can thrive. She was born in Bakersfield, CA and currently lives on unceded Tongva lands. She is also an Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at California State University, Long Beach and the co-creative director for Meztli Projects' Ready to Rise Initiative.

Her creative practices include screen printing, collage, beadwork, installation art, and zine-making and center the ideas and practices of ceremony, storytelling, intersecting subjectivities, dislocation, decolonization, and Indigenous futurities. She is a recent awardee of Moziak Philanthropy's Annual Future.Art.Awards.







MERCEDES DORAME TONGVA

Mercedes Dorame, born in Los Angeles, California, received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and her undergraduate degree from UCLA. She calls on her Tongva ancestry to engage problematics of visibility and ideas of cultural construction.

Dorame recently received a Creative Capital Award grant and was honored by UCLA as an outstanding alum of the last 100 years as part of their centennial initiative “UCLA: Our Stories Our Impact”. Her work is part of the permanent collections of the Hammer Museum, SFMOMA, Triton Museum, Allen Memorial Art Museum, among others.

Her writing is featured in News from Native California and her artwork is highlighted in PBS Newshour, Artforum, KCET Artbound, the New York Times, Art in America, Hyperallergic, KQED, Artsy, ARTnews, the Los Angeles Times, among others . She is currently visiting faculty at CalArts and has shown her work internationally, including the Hammer Museum’s Made in LA 2018.





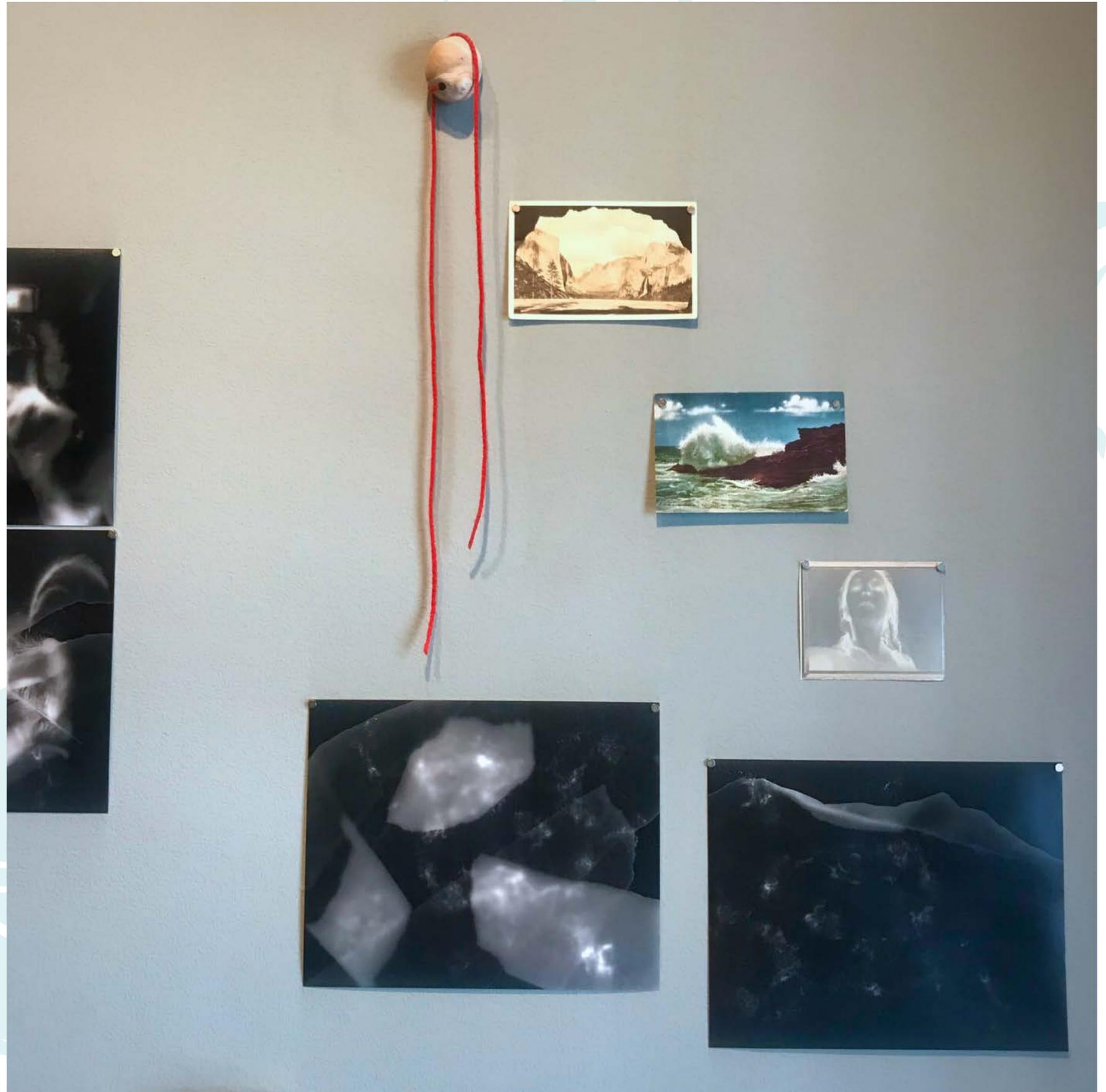


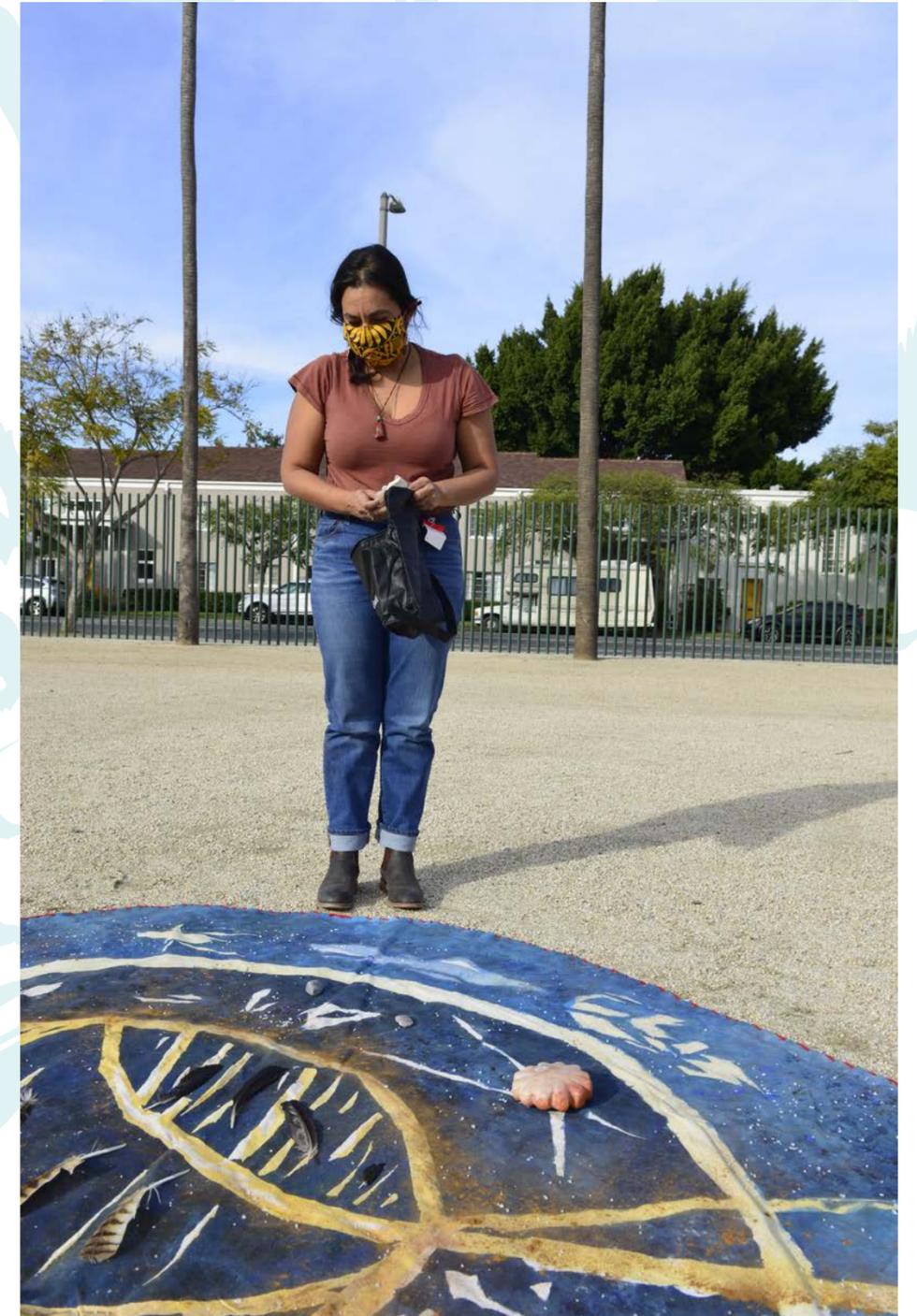














RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUPPORTING NATIVE WOMXN

- **Provide flexible funding** that acknowledges that community organizations know how to serve their communities.
- **Provide opportunities and support** for Native survivors to establish, lead, or contribute to programs.
- **Donate** to emergency financial resources for basic needs including food, housing, utilities, and healthcare.
- **Support and fund** physical or virtual spaces for Native survivors to congregate, share their stories, and receive culturally appropriate support.
- **Support and fund** community-based Native organizations to identify regionally specific needs, for example, an urban family center or temporary housing.
- **Fund** education initiatives for sexual assault survivors.
- **Understand** that traditional values and practices are essential to healing for many Native survivors and should be supported.
- **Develop initiatives** that bring more Native therapists or counselors into the workforce.

**"Don't come to us because you think we have the biggest problems;
come to us because we have the answers."
- Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee)**

Q&A SESSION

CONTACT US

Katrina: IG @urbanindianhealthinstitute
info@uihi.org

Kimberly: IG @kdrslaysthepatriarchy
goldenrobertson@gmail.com

Mercedes: mercedesdorame@gmail.com
IG @mercedes.dorame

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit uihi.org for more information for and about survivors.

<https://www.sovereign-bodies.org/>

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center: <https://www.niwrc.org/>

So'oh-Shináli Sister Project: <https://www.sssisterproject.org/>

Indigenous Circle of Wellness: <https://icowellness.com/>

Meztli Projects: <https://www.meztliprojects.org/>