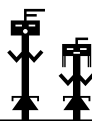


EMERGING DINÉ WRITERS' INSTITUTE



2023 AGENDA



ABOUT THE EMERGING DINÉ WRITERS INSTITUTE

The Emerging Diné Writers' Institute (EDWI) is a creative writing program for Diné writers by Diné writers. At the EDWI, Diné writers at all levels of creative writing experience and from various backgrounds gather to learn from acclaimed Diné writers and visiting faculty members. We also invite regional hataalii (traditional healers) and cultural knowledge holders to share ancestral stories and storytelling practices with Diné writers to support their storytelling capacity and to ensure Diné writers have a strong cultural foundation to inform their creative works. At the heart of our community is the ancestral stories and knowledges that continue to fortify our people. Our overarching goal is to support Diné writers in telling their own stories and to gain confidence in their storytelling ability.

While we especially focus on supporting Diné writers, the EDWI also welcomes our non-Diné allies, colleagues, friends, and relatives to share in storytelling. The EDWI features public programming to build community and to share stories in a supportive space. There is a place for all writers to attend the EDWI.

Now in our seventh year, the EDWI fosters a supportive, close-knit community where writers at all points in their literary life can expand their writing practice, explore new genres, and grow in the company of like-minded thinkers, and acclaimed Diné writers. Past EDWI faculty have included Dr. Laura Tohe, Jake Skeets, Sherwin Bitsui, Esther Belin, Rex Lee Jim, Amber McCrary, Kinsale Drake, Kimberly Blaeser, and many more. Through collaborations with Diné writers and visiting faculty members, we hope that all Diné writers grow in this space. It is important work that we continue our storytelling traditions, and that more Diné writers continue to support programs like the EDWI by teaching and attending literary events. Through k'é and hane' 'ílinii dóó bee dziilii, we can continue adding to the storytelling legacy of our relatives from the past, present, and into the future.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Yá'át'ééh shikéí dóó shidine'é, t'áá ánołtso',

Welcome to the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute (EDWI)!

Shí éí 'Áshjį́hí nishłį dóó Tó Baazhní'ázhí éí báshíshchíín; Tódích'íi'nii éí dashicheii dóó Kinyaa'áanii éí dashinalí. Tsétah Tó Ák'olí déé' naashá. T'iis Sikaaddi t'áá 'íiyisíí k'ééhasht'í. Bilágáana k'ehji Manny Loley yínishyé'.

The EDWI was created in 2017 in collaboration with the Navajo Women's Commission. It was our goal to offer a creative writing program that supported Diné community members to tell stories in all their forms. Diné have always had a love of storytelling. Any time we gather, whether it be at a chapter meeting, at ndáá', or even just visiting our relatives, we rejoice in sharing our stories. It is the vitality of these stories—emergence stories, family stories, poetry, photography, etc.—that has empowered us to thrive and reach for new heights. At the EDWI, we are proud to continue the storytelling legacies and traditions of our ancestors while moving toward contemporary expressions of our human experience.

This year, we gather in a virtual space to support the next generation of Diné writers and storytellers. Through craft talks, generative writing sessions, faculty readings, and cultural storytelling, participants will think critically and creatively about the importance of storytelling and our roles as writers. Our faculty consists of acclaimed Diné writers and authors as well as non-Diné allies from regional college and university writing programs and organizations. This summer, we are thrilled to have all Diné faculty members to lead our next generation of Diné writers. The future of Diné literature is a bright one!

At the EDWI, we center our writing and storytelling practice in the cultural teachings and knowledge inherited from our families and ancestors. We welcome Diné writers at all points in their writing life to engage in this important and necessary work. This means we are committing ourselves to supporting one another. It is up to us to carry forward the stories of our relatives forward while adding our own along the way. We exist on a continuum of language and stories.

With good thoughts and prayers, I welcome you all to the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute. May this program be all that you need it to be and so much more. Let us continue to support the literary and creative pulse within our communities on the Diné Nation.

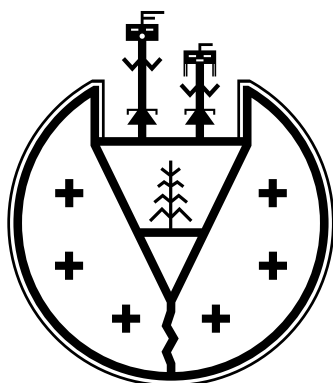
In k'é,

Dr. Manny Loley

Director of the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute

ABOUT THE EDWI LOGO

The logo depicts a male and female being along with a cornstalk that is placed within a pencil. The pencil symbolizes the power writing has within our communities with a streak of lightning shown at the pencil's tip. Finally, six crosses are shown representing the six sacred mountains that will offer blessings to our past, present, and future Diné writers beyond and within the Navajo Nation. The EDWI logo was designed in 2019 by Quanah Yazzie who comes from Rock Point, Arizona.

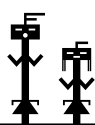


EMERGING DINÉ WRITERS' INSTITUTE

THANK YOU AHXÉHEE' FROM EDWI

The EDWI faculty and students would like to thank our sponsor for supporting the program. Ahxéhee' nitsaago to the Office of the President at Navajo Technical University.





DAY ONE

MONDAY, JULY 24TH

9:00 am - 9:30 am

Welcome & Introductions (Writing Fellows Only)

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Keynote - Advice to Myself: A First Gen Diné Writer with Stacie Denetsosie

10:30 am - 10:45 am

15-minute Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Baahane' Bee Óol'jil: Exploring Diné Writing Practices and Theory with Ramona Emerson, Stacie Denetsosie, Amber McCrary, and Manny Loley

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Fiction I: An Intro to Visual Storytelling with Ramona Emerson (Writing Fellows Only)

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Eastern Diné Reading Series with Stacie Denetsosie, Ramona Emerson, and Manny Loley

DAY ONE

FACULTY MENTORS & VISITING WRITERS



STACIE DENETSOSIE

Stacie Denetsosie is Todíh'í'nii born for Naakaii Dine'é; her maternal grandparents are the Tł'ízí lání and her paternal step-grandparents are Bilagáana. She is from Kayenta, Arizona but currently resides in Logan, Utah. She holds an M.F.A. in Fiction from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Denetsosie's short story collection *The Missing Morningstar And Other Stories* debuts September 12th from Torrey House Press.



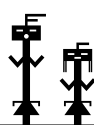
RAMONA EMERSON

Ramona Emerson is Tł'áá'shchí'í born for Naakaii Dine'é. Her maternal grandparents are Táchii'nii and her paternal grandparents are the Naakaii Dine'é. She is a writer and filmmaker originally from Tohatchi, New Mexico. She received her degree in Media Arts in 1997 from the University of New Mexico and her MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) in 2015 from the Institute of American Indian Arts. She has worked as a professional cinematographer, writer, and editor for over twenty-five years and is currently working on her 8th film project, *Crossing the Line*. She is an Emmy nominee, a Sundance Native Lab Fellow, a Time-Warner Storyteller Fellow, a Tribeca All-Access Grantee and a WGBH Producer Fellow. Ramona just released her first novel, *Shutter* the first of a trilogy, which was published with SOHO Books in 2022 and was recently longlisted for the National Book Award and was a finalist for the PEN/Open Book and PEN/Hemingway Award. She currently resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she and her husband/producer, Kelly Byars run their production company Reel Indian Pictures.



MANNY LOLEY

Manny Loley is 'Áshjìhi born for Tó Baazhní'ázhí; his maternal grandparents are the Tódíh'í'nii and his paternal grandparents are the Kinyaa'áanii. Loley holds a Ph.D. in English and literary arts from the University of Denver, and an M.F.A. in fiction from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Loley is an inaugural In-Na-Po Fellow, and a member of Saad Bee Hózhó: Diné Writers' Collective. Since 2018, he has served as director of the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute. His work has found homes in *Poetry Magazine*, *Pleides Magazine*, *the Massachusetts Review*, *the Santa Fe Literary Review*, *Broadsided Press*, *the Yellow Medicine Review*, and the *Diné Reader: an Anthology of Navajo Literature*, among others. His writing has been thrice nominated for Pushcart Prizes. Loley is at work on a novel titled *They Collect Rain in Their Palms*. He is from Tsétah Tó Ák'olí in New Mexico.



DAY TWO

TUESDAY, JULY 25TH

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9:00 am - 9:30 am

Morning Writing & Sharing Session
(Writing Fellows Only)

9:30 am - 10:30 am

How to Listen, When to Speak with Esther Belin

10:30 am - 10:45 am

15-minute Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

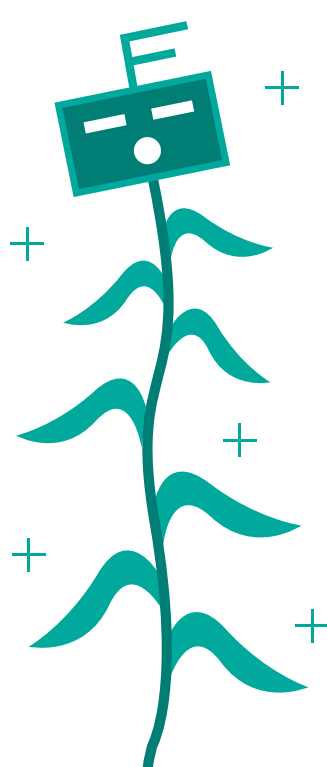
Dinetics: Unsettling Poetry with Natanya Pulley, Manny Loley, Esther Belin (Moderator), and Jake Skeets (Moderator)

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

A Fighter Flowers: Intro to Shape Poetry with Amber McCrary (Writing Fellows Only)

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Eastern Diné Reading Series with Esther Belin, Jake Skeets, and Amber McCrary



DAY TWO

FACULTY MENTORS & VISITING WRITERS



ESTHER BELIN

Esther G. Belin is a writer, multi-media artist, and citizen of the Navajo Nation. She lives on the Colorado side of the four corners. She has been described as a second-generation off-reservation Native American, a by-product of the US federal Indian policies of termination and relocation. Both of her parents were taken off the Navajo reservation when they were teens to a federally run Indian boarding school in Riverside, CA. There they received the equivalency of an 8th-grade education and some basic trade skills. As a result, she was raised in the Los Angeles area, where she learned to transplant and strengthen her Diné worldview with the help of her parents and the small Indian community that remains there. She is grateful for those courageous relocatees who survived and adapted; their collective scar tissue has eased her path in life. Belin's art and writing reflect the historical trauma from those policies as well as the philosophy of Saah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhó, the worldview of the Navajo people. Her writing is widely anthologized, and her poetry examines identity politics, checkerboard land status, and the interplay of words (abstraction) and image (realism). In 2000, she was awarded an American Book Award for her first book of poetry, *From the Belly of My Beauty*. Her most recent poetry collection is *Of Catrography: Poems*. She holds degrees from Antioch University, the Institute of American Indian Arts, and the University of California at Berkeley.



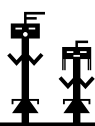
JAKE SKEETS

Jake Skeets is Tsi'naajínii born for Tábaqahá; his maternal grandparents are the Táchii'nii and his paternal grandparents are the Tódik'ózhí. Skeets is from Vanderwagen, New Mexico. He is the author of *Eyes Bottle Dark with a Mouthful of Flowers*, winner of the National Poetry Series, American Book Award, Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and Whiting Award. His poetry and prose have appeared widely in journals and magazines such as *Poetry*, *The New York Times*, and *The Paris Review*. He holds an M.F.A. in Poetry from the Institute of American Indian Arts. His honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Arts Projects, a Mellon Projecting All Voices Fellowship, and the 2023-2024 Grisham Writer in Residence at the University of Mississippi. He teaches at the University of Oklahoma.



AMBER McCRARY

Amber McCrary is Kin Łichíí'nii born for Naakaii Dine'é; her maternal grandparents are the 'Áshjiji and her paternal grandparents are the Ta'neeszahnii. She is from Shonto, Arizona. McCrary is a Diné poet, zinester, feminist, and artist. She holds an M.F.A. in poetry from Mills College in Oakland, California, and a BA in Political Science with a minor in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University. She is the creator of the DANG! zine (Daydreaming, Awkward, Native, Girl) vol. 1 and vol. 2, *Angsty Adzáá: Tales of an angry Indigenous woman zine*, and the *Asdzáá Beat*. McCrary is the author of the chapbook *Electric Deserts* (Tolsun Books). She is the owner and founder of Abalone Mountain Press, which is dedicated to publishing Indigenous voices. She is a board member for the Northern Arizona Book Festival, the AZ Humanities 2022 Rising Star of the year, and a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation LIFT awardee. Her poems, interviews and art can be found at *Yellow Medicine Review*, *POETRY Magazine*, *Room Magazine*, *Poets and Writers Magazine*, *The Navajo Times* and forthcoming in *Santa Fe Literary Review*.



DAY THREE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26TH

9:00 am - 9:30 am		Morning Writing & Sharing Session (Writing Fellows Only)
9:30 am - 10:30 am		Beauty in Brevity with Natanya Pulley
10:30 am - 10:45 am		15-minute Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm		Writing Poetry with Kinsale Drake
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm		Memoryscapes: A Writing Workshop Focusing on Memory Mapping with Shaina Nez (Writing Fellows Only)
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm		Eastern Diné Reading Series with Shaina Nez, Kinsale Drake, and Natanya Pulley

DAY THREE

FACULTY MENTORS & VISITING WRITERS



SHAINA NEZ

Shaina A. Nez is Táchii'nii born for Áshjįhi. She is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing and English at Diné College. She is also a doctoral candidate in Justice Studies with the School of Social Transformation and Inquiry at Arizona State University. Nez earned her M.F.A. in creative nonfiction from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her work has appeared in "A Gathering of Native Voices" (The Massachusetts Review), "Nonwhite and Women: 131 Micro-Essays on Being in the World," winner of the 2023 Silver IPPY award in the category of Adult Multicultural Nonfiction, "Between Pleasure and Pain: An Authentic Voices Anthology" (Sunday Dinner Publishing), and Issue 14: Indigenous Ecopoetry (Green Linden Press). She is an alum of Tin House, VONA (Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation), WNDB (We Need Diverse Books), AV 2022 (Authentic Voices Fellowship) by the Women's National Book Association, and a recipient of the 2021 Open Door Career Advancement Grants for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) women writers.



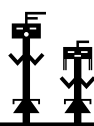
KINSALE DRAKE

Kinsale Drake is Nát'oh Dine'é Táchii'niii born for Bilagáana; her maternal grandparents are the 'Áshjįhi and her paternal grandparents are the Bilagáana. Drake is a writer and narrator whose work has appeared in *The Adroit Journal*, *Yale Literary Magazine*, *TIME*, *New World Coming* (Torrey House Press, 2021), her zine *Hummingbird Heart* (Abalone Mountain Press, 2022), and elsewhere. She is an In-Na-Po Fellow, and the recent winner of the Academy of American Poets/Sean T. Lannan Poetry Prize, and the Young Native Playwrights Award. Her work is forthcoming in *Poetry Online*, *Poets.org*, *The Languages of our Love* (Abalone Mountain Press, 2022), and elsewhere.



NATANYA PULLEY

Natanya Ann Pulley's clans are Kinyaa'aanii and Táchii'nii. She is published in *McSweeney's*, *Split Lip*, and *The Offing* (among others). Her essays have been anthologized in *Shapes of Native Nonfiction*, *The Diné Reader*, and *Unbound: Composing Home*. She is a 2022 recipient of a NEA Creative Writing fellowship and her short story collection *With Teeth* is a winner in the 2018 Many Voices Project book competition with New Rivers Press. Natanya is an associate professor and editor of *Hairstreak Butterfly Review* at Colorado College where she teaches texts by Native American writers, fiction writing, and experimental forms.



DAY FOUR

THURSDAY, JULY 27TH

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9:00 am - 9:30 am

Morning Writing & Sharing Session
(Writing Fellows Only)

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Screenwriting I: Reclaiming Ideation Through the Lens of Indigeneity with Chris Hoshnic

10:30 am - 10:45 am

15-minute Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

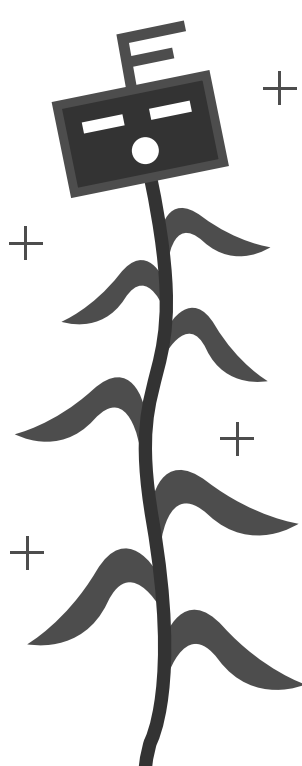
Na'iishná: Kinetics in Diné Screenwriting with Chris Hoshnic, Sabrina Saleha, and Lonnie Begaye

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Screenwriting II: Reclaiming the Hero's Journey with Chris Hoshnic and Sabrina Saleha

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Eastern Diné Reading Series with Chris Hoshnic, Lonnie Begaye, and Sabrina Saleha



DAY FOUR

FACULTY MENTORS & VISITING WRITERS



CHRIS HOSHNIC

Chris Hoshnic is Kin Łichíí'nii, born for Táchíí'nii; his maternal grandfathers are the Bit'ahnii and his paternal grandfathers are Áshjihnii. He is from Tó Łikan (Sweetwater) in Arizona. Hoshnic is in the final year of his Bachelor of Arts in English at Arizona State University. In 2013, he graduated with an Associates in Applied Science with a concentration in Video Production at Glendale Community College. Hoshnic then went on to write, direct and produce under his production company C&M Imagine. His 5-minute short film "Ozzy" was accepted into the 2018 Jerome International Film Festival. He was also a finalist in short screenplay competitions at Austin Micro Film Festival and the Phoenix Film Festival. In 2022, he was a Ha'a'ahdeę' Writing Fellow with the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute (EDWI) under his mentor Ramona Emerson. He is currently writing fiction and planning to attend graduate school to further his studies in creative writing. He recently presented a multilingual community poem titled "The Landscapes of Languages" at the 2023 Northern Arizona Book Festival for the Thousand Languages Project. In the summer of 2023, Chris became a fellow of the Native American Media Alliance's Native American Writers Seminar.



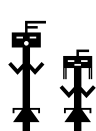
LONNIE BEGAYE

Lonnie Begaye is Haltsoí Dine'é born for Deeshchii'nii. He is from Tsé Na'ashje'ii and currently resides in Ch'ínílj. He holds a bachelor's degree in cinematic arts & technology from the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), and an associate's degree in liberal arts from the New Mexico Military Institute. In his storytelling and screenwriting, Begaye applies the skills and knowledge he learned from the IAIA to bring light to life on the Navajo Nation. He writes and expresses his creative ideas while learning the cultural teachings and vast knowledge carried by his family and colleagues.



SABRINA SALEHA

Sabrina is Todích'íí'nii born for Shádi'ááh Bina adaaltsózí, her maternal grandparents are Áshjihnii and her paternal grandparents are Shádi'ááh Bina adaaltsózí. Sabrina is a screenwriter and actress. She recently graduated with her Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from the Institute of American Indian Arts in May 2023, Sabrina has been recognized with scholarships from Warner Bros. Discovery, American Indian Circle Fellow and Navajo Nation. She was also a '22 Native American Media TV Writer's Lab fellow with SkinsFest and currently a '23 ImagineNATIVE's Screenwriting Feature Lab fellow sponsored by Netflix. Her most recent acting credits include BARRY, SINGLE DRUNK FEMALE, PANHANDLE and ECHOES. Her voiceover work will be in the upcoming Playstation video game, THE FOGLANDS.



DAY FIVE

FRIDAY, JULY 28TH

9:00 am - 9:30 am	Morning Writing & Sharing Session (Writing Fellows Only)
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Ach'í' Silá: Balancing Diné Thought and Contemporary Art Practice with Dillen Peace (Writing Fellows Only)
10:30 am - 10:45 am	15-minute Break
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	A Discussion on Visual Storytelling with Dillen Peace, Tasha Nez, Julie Fiveash, and Crystal Littleben
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Experiences in Publishing with Amber McCrary (Abalone Mountain Press) and Will Neville-Rehbehn (Torrey House Press) [Writing Fellows Only]
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Eastern Diné Reading Series with the 2023 EDWI Ha'a'aahdée' Writing Fellows

DAY FIVE

FACULTY MENTORS & VISITING WRITERS



DILLEN PEACE

Dillen Peace is Ta'neeshahnii and his father is of Anglo descent; his maternal grandparents are the Kin Łichíí'nii and his paternal grandparents are of Anglo descent. Peace was raised near the landmark Tsé Bitsii' on the west side of Tsé Nitsaa Deez'áhi (Rock Point). He received his B.A. in Studio Art and Native American Studies from Dartmouth College in 2019. In 2023, Peace completed his M.F.A. in Visual Art and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies from the University of Kansas. He is a former Ha'a'aahdée' Writing Fellow with the Emerging Diné Writers' Institute (EDWI).



WILL NEVILLE-REHBEHN

Will directs fundraising, marketing, and community development and works with publisher Kirsten Allen and creative director Kathleen Metcalf on acquisitions, always seeking to advance THP's mission and impact. Throughout his career, he has helped organizations expand their capabilities, engage new audiences and tell stories that change the world. He received a BA in Theatre from Davidson College and a master's in Political Management from The George Washington University. A Utah native and lifelong book nerd, Will returned to Salt Lake City in 2020 with his husband, their young son and very old cat.



TASHA NEZ

Natalya "Tasha" Nez is Tsi'naajínii, born for Dibé Łizhinií; her maternal grandparents are the Tódich'ii'nii and her paternal grandparents are the Tábaqhá. She is a self-taught mixed-media artist born in Gallup, New Mexico and raised in Chichiltah and Ramah-Navajo reservation. She holds an associate degree in human services from the University of New Mexico-Gallup. For the past six years, she worked as the Program Coordinator for GallupARTS, a non-profit arts council in McKinley County where she led art workshops and various public art programs, managed an art gallery, curated art shows and was the in-house graphic designer. Currently, she has taken the big step to pursue her dream of being a full-time artist. Her collage work has recently won recognition in the National Collage Society's 26th Annual Small Format Exhibition and a few of her monotypes have won an excellence ribbon in a juried show titled, "Honoring the Families of Navajo Code Talkers." She also has four of her social justice artworks on view in the Navajo Nation Museum titled, "Cause/Casuse." She has also been commissioned by the Public Lands Interpretive Association to create art that will be displayed at the El Malpais Conservation Ranger Station. Nez creates paper collages using monoprints, block prints, photographs and found images. She also creates watercolor, acrylic and oil paintings. She is currently expanding her art practice by learning about cyanotypes, oil painting en plein air and silversmithing. Her work is largely inspired by Diné Bikéyah (the lands around and on the Navajo Nation), Diné culture, and her childhood living in New Mexico. Her goal as an artist is to inspire others to look for the extraordinary in the ordinary. Nez also uses her art to address different social justice issues that are important to her. She has found that art can be a powerful catalyst for change and creates avenues for important dialogue on difficult topics. Her work and upcoming shows can be found on her Instagram page: @pacotacorox.



JULIE FIVEASH

Julie Fiveash is Kinyaa'áanii born for Naakai Dine'é. Their maternal grandfather's clan is Táchii'nii and their paternal grandfather is Bilagáana. Julie's pronouns are they/them/theirs and they identify as non-binary. They are from Yuma, Arizona and currently reside in Boston, MA. They received their B.A. in Studio Art from Dartmouth College. They lived in San Francisco shortly after graduating and managed a comic bookstore while traveling to sell their work at zinefests and comic festivals throughout the West Coast. Their work has been featured in two Dirty Diamond comic anthologies, the "Baylies" by Laneha House, "Portals of Indigenous Futurisms" by Abalone Mountain Press, "The Out Side: Trans and Non-binary Comics" by Andrews-McMeel Publishing, and they are currently working on a graphic novel to be published through Levine Querido. They hold a MLIS degree from UCLA and currently work at Harvard University's Tozzer Library as the Librarian for American Indigenous Studies where they prioritize developing ways that the library can create inclusive research spaces and guides for Indigenous researchers and students.



CRYSTAL LITTLEBEN

Crystal Littleben is Kin Łichíí'nii, born for Ma'ii Deeshgiizhnii; her maternal grandparents are the Bijh Bitoo'nii, and her paternal grandparents are the Bit'ahnii. She is originally from Tuba City, Arizona but was raised in Round Rock, Arizona. Littleben also served as Miss Navajo Nation from September 2017 to 2018. She is currently the Program Manager for the Navajo Cultural Arts Program at Diné College in Tsaile, AZ. Littleben graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Native American Studies. She is currently seeking her BFA in Navajo Silversmithing at Diné College, and she is pursuing her Masters of Fine Arts in Cultural Arts Administration from the Institute for American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM. In addition to being a Program Manager, she also owns a silversmithing business called Leaning with Fire: Asdzáá Atsidi. Littleben has shown and sold her jewelry at the Heard Museum Indian Art Market since 2020 and will be doing her first show in Santa Fe at SWAIA this coming August. Littleben identifies as a silversmith, educator, advocate, and student. She believes firmly in the cultural arts and stories of Navajo people as a catalyst for positive social and cultural enrichment.