

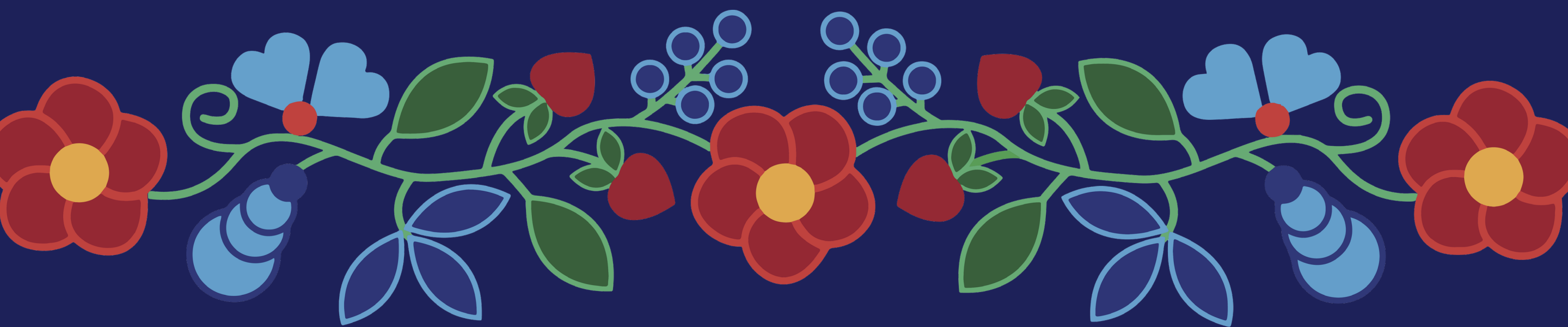
# THE SWEETEST SEASON

---

A GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS CREATIVITY

---

**A Celebration of Indigenous  
Spoken Word and Song**

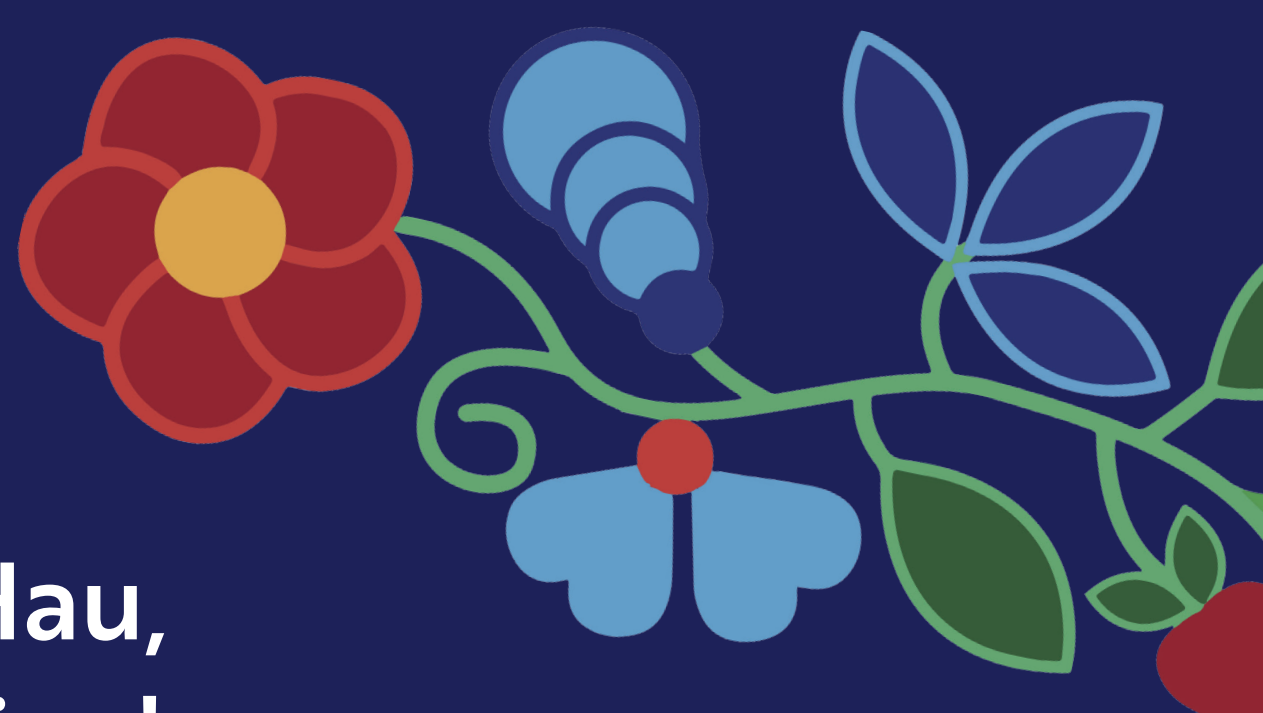


*Presented in partnership  
with the Mitchell Museum  
of the American Indian*



THEATRE  
**GOODMAN**

# WELCOME



Pōsōh, Bozhoo, Bosho, Aho, Hau,  
Guuwáátsíí, Halito, Shekóli, Siyo!

Welcome to *The Sweetest Season: A Celebration of Indigenous Spoken Word and Song*, a one-of-a-kind showcase of Indigenous artistry featuring local storytellers, musicians, and singers representing many diverse Indigenous nations across North America.

For Indigenous people and communities, past and present, the arts have always been an integral part of every aspect of our lives, interwoven into our culture, spirituality, language, and traditional practices, including everything from music and storytelling to how we interact with our environment. It is genuinely exemplified through the artistic and cultural expression shared with you in this weekend's *The Sweetest Season* events.

Together, the Goodman Theatre and the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian also invite you to experience this preservation of Indigenous cultures and the evolution of Indigenous artistry at *The Sweetest Season: A Gathering of Indigenous Creativity* during this weekend of musical performances, poetry readings, workshops and comedy that brings together an immensely talented and diverse group of Indigenous performers and artists, blending old and new and expanding perceptions of Indigenous creativity and expression.

At *The Sweetest Season*, we hope you'll take the opportunity to experience and enjoy regional Indigenous cuisine, engage with Indigenous artists and performers, learn about Indigenous representation in the arts, explore Indigenous humor, and celebrate the diversity and creativity of Chicago and the Great Lakes Region's vibrant Indigenous arts community.

— **Kim Vigue (Menominee/Oneida)**  
***Executive Director of the Mitchell Museum  
of the American Indian***

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Goodman Theatre was built on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. We recognize that many other Nations consider the area we now call Chicago as their traditional homeland—including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten—and remains home to many Native peoples today.



Pōsōh, Bozhoo, Bosho, Aho, Hau,  
Guuwáátsíí, Halito, Shekóli, Siyo!

Welcome.

It is with such delight and respect that we welcome you to *The Sweetest Season*.

Now in its third year, this gathering and celebration of Indigenous creativity in our shared community is a weekend so many of us look forward to as a space of riches and wonder. Whether basking in our opening night singers and poets, encountering the visual art of pottery makers or jewelers, or reveling in the comedy of the 1491s, this gathering reminds us of the deep vein of artistry our Indigenous community gifts to our city.

It is the Goodman's honor to partner with the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, as well as the Center for Native Futures to showcase the words, the music, the artistry and the hearts of the artists of our Indigenous Community.

Thank you, one and all – we're glad you're here!

— *Susan V. Booth*  
*Artistic Director of Goodman Theatre*



# SHOWCASE ARTISTS

## VINCENT ROMERO

Storyteller/Curator

*Tribal Affiliation: Pueblo Laguna*

## LANIALOHA LEE

Choreographer and Composer

*Tribal Affiliation: Native Hawaiian*

## ELEXA DAWSON

Singer/Songwriter

*Tribal Affiliation: Citizen  
Band Potawatomi Nation*

## WILLIAM BUCHHOLTZ (ALLISON)

**"Pukinaage Mukwa – Conquering Bear"**

Storyteller/Curator

*Tribal Affiliation: Algonquin/Metis*

## MICHAELA MARCHI

Singer

*Tribal Affiliation: Isleta Pueblo*

## MARK JOURDAN

Singer/Songwriter

*Tribal Affiliation: Oneida/Ho-Chunk*

## JENNIFER STEVENS

Singer and Visual Artists

*Tribal Affiliation: Oneida and  
Oglala Lakota*

## MARITZA GARCIA

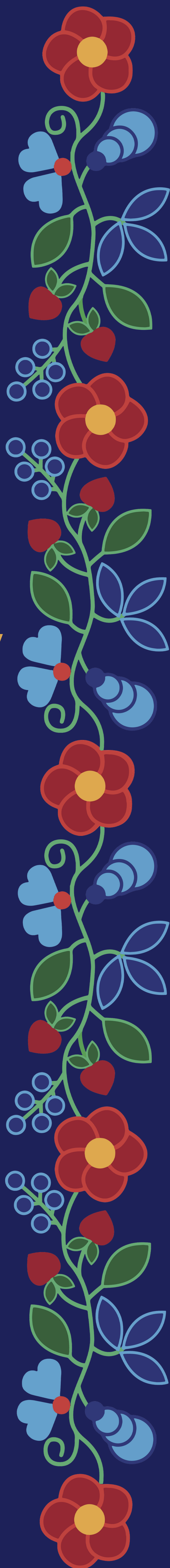
Singer and Dancer

*Tribal Affiliation: Mississippi Band  
of Choctaw Indians*

## SERGIO CERON

Singer and Drummer

*Tribal Affiliation: Otomi-Pame*





# PROFILES



**VINCENT ROMERO** (*Pueblo Laguna*) is a Navy veteran, member of the Chicago Native American community, storyteller and poet.



**MICHAELA MARCHI** (*Isleta Pueblo*) began singing and performing at an early age. She graduated from The Chicago Academy of Arts High School in voice performance and went on to study music in college, but also wanted to explore her multi-ethnic identity as an

artist. She is Isleta Pueblo and Filipina from her mother's side, and first-generation Italian from her father's side. Growing up, she was encouraged to appreciate the opera from her father while her mother emphasized the importance of staying connected to her Indigenous roots and to a practice of creative endeavor. She has a Master's in Education, works at the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University and is also the first in three generations to survive a stage IV cancer diagnosis. She is passionate about patient advocacy, especially for Native American and Indigenous communities, and singing as medicine.



**MARK JOURDAN** (*Oneida/Ho-Chunk*) is a singer/songwriter based out of Chicago, Illinois. He is a Native American of the Ho-Chunk and Oneida nations. Growing up in Chicago, he spent his summers and weekends traveling the Midwest and Canada and going to Pow

Wows with his family. Music has always played a big part of his life and driving across the country with his family made the radio and cassette players as much a part of the family as his siblings. His father took him to see B.B. King when he was 16, where he had his first experience of what it meant to "own a room." He then took a break from guitar and music to try graphic art with the hopes of becoming an art teacher. Ultimately, he made his way home to music and he couldn't be happier to have found a place where he can express feeling in a way that his



graphic arts were, without him realizing it, leading him to. Today, he chases dreams. He's catching a few too. "To infinity and beyond..."



**WILLIAM BUCHHOLTZ (ALLISON) "Pukinaage Mukwa – Conquering Bear"** (*Algonquin/Metis*) is a long-time resident of the Chicago area. He has been playing and recording music of many genres for over 40 years. He now performs Native

American flute and piano in programming aimed at both children and adults. An adoptee, he recently confirmed his Native American heritage as a descendant of the Canadian Kichesipirini (Great River) Band of the Algonquin/Algonkin nation. Bill is primarily known for his ongoing work with numerous churches, interfaith, social justice and environmental groups, museums and cultural events including Pow Wows. For over 25 years, he has been working for the Native American Ministry of Presence of the United Methodist Church, as well as for the St. Kateri Center of the Archdiocese of Chicago, formerly called the Anawim Center. He has released his own CD *The Journey Home*, on which he plays both Native American flute and piano with features of his original songs. He has also appeared on a Yo Yo Ma's *Silk Road Ensemble* CD. [playingfromspirit.com/](http://playingfromspirit.com/)



**LANIALOHA LEE** (*Native Hawaiian*) is a product of her Grandma. She is motivated to honor her hula legacy by maintaining traditional concepts of her teachings while cultivating a new generation of `ukulele and hula students with a refined sensitivity for these art forms. As

a Midwest-based Native Hawaiian born and raised in Chicago, Lanialoha continues to preserve, perpetuate and protect pacific island cultural arts, hopeful that an appreciation will develop and augment the cultural literacy of those less familiar with the natural beauty found in the music, dance and poetic text of Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific Islands". Lanialoha's continuing work as a professional multi-instrumentalist and interdisciplinary artist in music and dance encompassed chanting, vocal work, and instrumentation characteristic of Pacific Island cultural and Western Fine Arts, and Theater productions. Throughout her career, she's taught thousands of `ukulele, hula, and Tahitian drum students, enhancing my curriculum and cultivating a new generation of artists, bridging the Midwest to the islands through shared repertoire, movement, and cross-cultural connections.



**JENNIFER M. STEVENS** (*Oneida and Oglala Lakota*) is an operatic soprano, classical contemporary composer and artist trained nationally and internationally in classical and operatic singing. She received her BA in Art at St. Norbert College. Stevens has been

featured in PBS/WPT documentarie: *Wisconsin Life and Owe·la' (Oh-way-la): The Music of Jennifer Stevens*. She is noted in the Encyclopedia of Native American Music of North America. Stevens performed as a guest opera singer/composer at the Heard Museum in



Phoenix, AZ; Crazy Horse Memorial in Custer, SD; and Mitchell Museum of the American Indian's *The Sweetest Season* performance at Goodman Theatre. Stevens recently had her choral piece, *Beginning of Time*, performed by the Shenandoah Conservatory Choir at the La Biennial del Venezia in Venice, Italy. Stevens also performed at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian event, Writer's Theatre, and Milwaukee Art Museum's Native America: *In Translation Exhibition Opening* in Milwaukee, WI.



**MARITZA GARCIA** (*Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*) is an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She is born and raised in Chicago, IL and is a former CAIEC Youth Ambassador from 2013-2014 as well as Sr. Miss Indian Chicago from 2014-2016.

She dances all three styles: traditional, old style jingle and fancy shawl. She also is an artist that makes various items, from beaded jewelry, ribbon skirts, and powwow regalia. You can purchase items at her booth or online @ chachabeads\_



**SERGIO CERON** (*Otomi-Pame*) comes from the Otomi-Pame peoples of Central Mexico and is born and raised in Elgin, Illinois. He's been a southern style powwow singer for about 15 years, and does various arts that include beading, drawing/painting, feather work, tattooing and bone carving. Tlazohcamati (thank you).



**ELEXA DAWSON** (*Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation*) gives audiences something to cry about. Her hopeful messages cut through the mundane without sidestepping pain. Deeply connected to land, her songs speak of the earth and community, and celebrate all relationships, from mother and child to friend and lover.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF

Line Producers: **Lena Romano**  
**Malkia Stampley**

Stage Manager: **Briana Fahey**

AI: **Ethan Korvne**

Light Board Operator: **Sherry Simpson**

Stage Hand: **Mattie Switzer**

## MITCHELL MUSEUM PRODUCERS

**Kim Vigue**

**Josee Starr**

**Joseph Gackstetter**



# ABOUT THE MITCHELL MUSEUM

**THE MITCHELL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**, located in Evanston, Illinois, is one of a handful of museums across the country that celebrates the diverse histories, cultures, and present-day contributions of Native communities across the United States and Canada. Since its founding in 1977, the Museum has served as a space to increase the visibility and elevate Native voices through education, awareness, and advocacy.

**MitchellMuseum.org**

# ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE

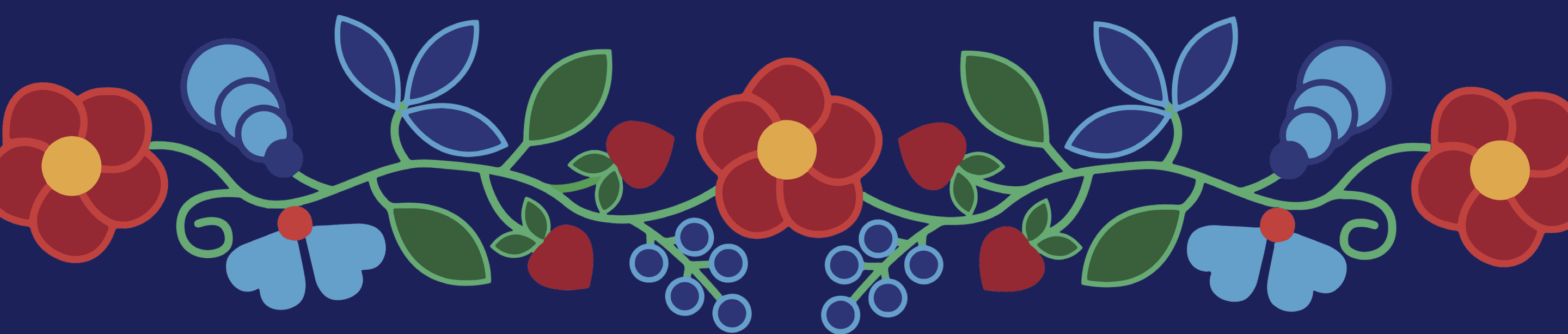
**AMERICA'S "BEST REGIONAL THEATRE"** (*Time* magazine), the Goodman is a premier not for-profit organization distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and civic engagement. Led by Artistic Director Susan V. Booth and Executive Director/CEO Roche Schulfer and committed to core values of Quality, Diversity and Community, the Goodman makes inclusion the fabric of the organization through its artistic priorities—including new play development, large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Distinctions include two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and nearly 200 Jeff Awards. The Goodman was first to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson's "American Century Cycle," and its annual *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers. The Goodman also serves as a production partner with local, national and international companies.

Our nationally recognized Education and Engagement programs use the tools of our profession to inspire youth, lifelong learners and audiences to find and/or enhance their voices, stories and abilities. The Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement (est. 2016) is the home of such programming, most offered free of charge, and has vastly expanded the theater's ability to serve our city (with 85% of youth participants from underserved communities).

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and family in honor of their son, Kenneth, a figure in Chicago's early 1900s cultural renaissance. The family's legacy endures through Albert Ivar Goodman who, with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the funds for the new Goodman center in 2000. Today, Goodman leadership also includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective. Jeff Hesse is Chairman of Goodman Theatre's Board of Trustees, Fran Del Boca is Women's Board President and Craig McCaw is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

**GoodmanTheatre.org**





# THE SWEETEST SEASON

## FREE Workshops and Readings

**FRIDAY, JULY 26**

### **The Sweetest Season Social Hour: An Indigenous-Only Curated Space**

**5:30pm in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

An event hosted by the Mitchell Museum and curated by the Indigenous community for fellowship, food and conversation.

**SATURDAY, JULY 27**

### **Goldenrod and Aster: Visual Dialogue Through Fashion**

**11:30am in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

Meet some of the area's most talented Indigenous fashion designers and see their designs up close. Their work will be on display throughout the day and will include a panel discussion for a chance to learn more about their process and inspirations.

### **Swirling Water: Shifting Native Curatorial Practices**

**1pm in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

A panel hosted by The Center for Native Futures, about how art and institutions can move beyond "decolonizing" and make meaningful impacts and connections. Learn more about Center for Native Futures [here](#).

### **Pottery Workshop with Jennifer Stevens**

**2:30pm in the Alice Center - Lab 2**

Artist Jennifer Stevens will introduce us to a historical overview of Oneida Pottery, and we'll learn the hand-building-coil method, pinch pot, incising and stamping techniques to create designs on our pots.

### **Native Youth Social Hour**

**2:30pm in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

Join Bobby Wilson and Jud Gauthier of The 1491s for a fun discussion about their lives and careers.

### **Sorrel and Sassafras: Indigenous Poetry**

**4pm in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

An exciting event celebrating Indigenous poets as they share their writing with the audience.

### **The Story of Pa I Sha presented by the BBE**

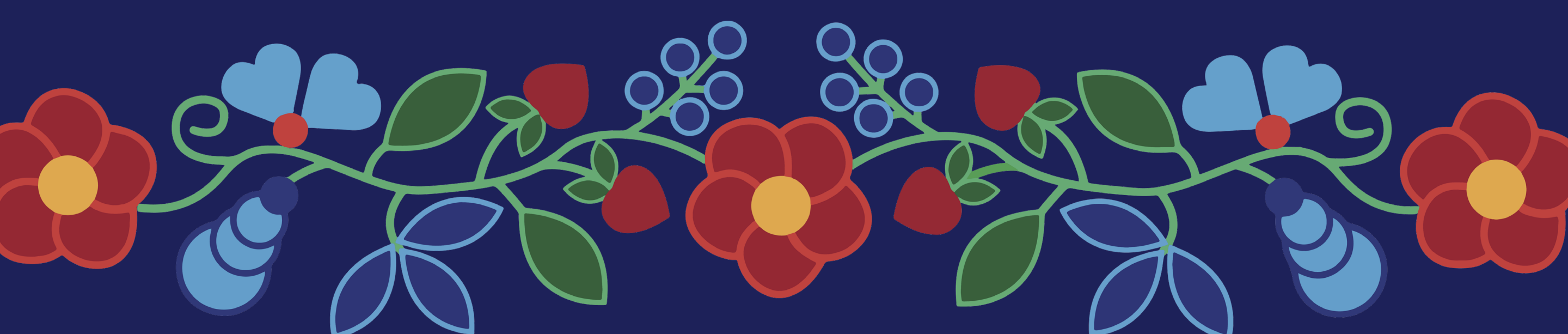
**7pm in the Owen Theatre**

As a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, BBE Artistic Director Brandi Berry Benson grew up looking at her great-great-great-great grandmother Pa I Sha's portrait. This musical work is inspired by Pa I Sha and highlights three major stories in Brandi's heritage.

### **Songbirds and Slugs: Comedy and Music**

**9pm in the Alice Center - Lab 1**

A late night comedy show featuring members of the comedy group, The 1491s, followed by a jam session.





# 2024

## SWEETEST SEASON SPONSORS



Sponsor Partners



An extraordinary series of exhibitions featuring Native artists of the region is coming to Chicago!

***Gagizhibaajiwan***

Through Dec. 31, 2024  
Center for Native Futures

***Andrea Carlson: Shimmer on Horizons***

Aug 3, 2024–Feb 2, 2025  
Museum of Contemporary Art

***Anishinaabe Art: Stories of Today***

Sep 2, 2024–Sep 2, 2025  
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

***Indigenous Chicago***

Sep 12, 2024–Jan 4, 2025  
Newberry Library

***Still Here: Linking Histories of Displacement***

Oct 5, 2024–Feb 14, 2025  
National Public Housing Museum

***Woven Being: Art for Zhagagoynak/ Chicagoland***

Jan 26–July 13, 2025  
Block Museum of Art

[ArtDesignChicago.org](https://ArtDesignChicago.org)



Kelly Church (Odawa & Pottawatomi, Gun Lake Band), *Sustaining Traditions-Digital Memories*, 2018. Black ash, sweetgrass, Ritdye, copper, vial EAB, and flash drive with black ash teachings. Courtesy of the artist. Photo by Richard Church, Odawa & Pottawatomi. © Kelly Church.