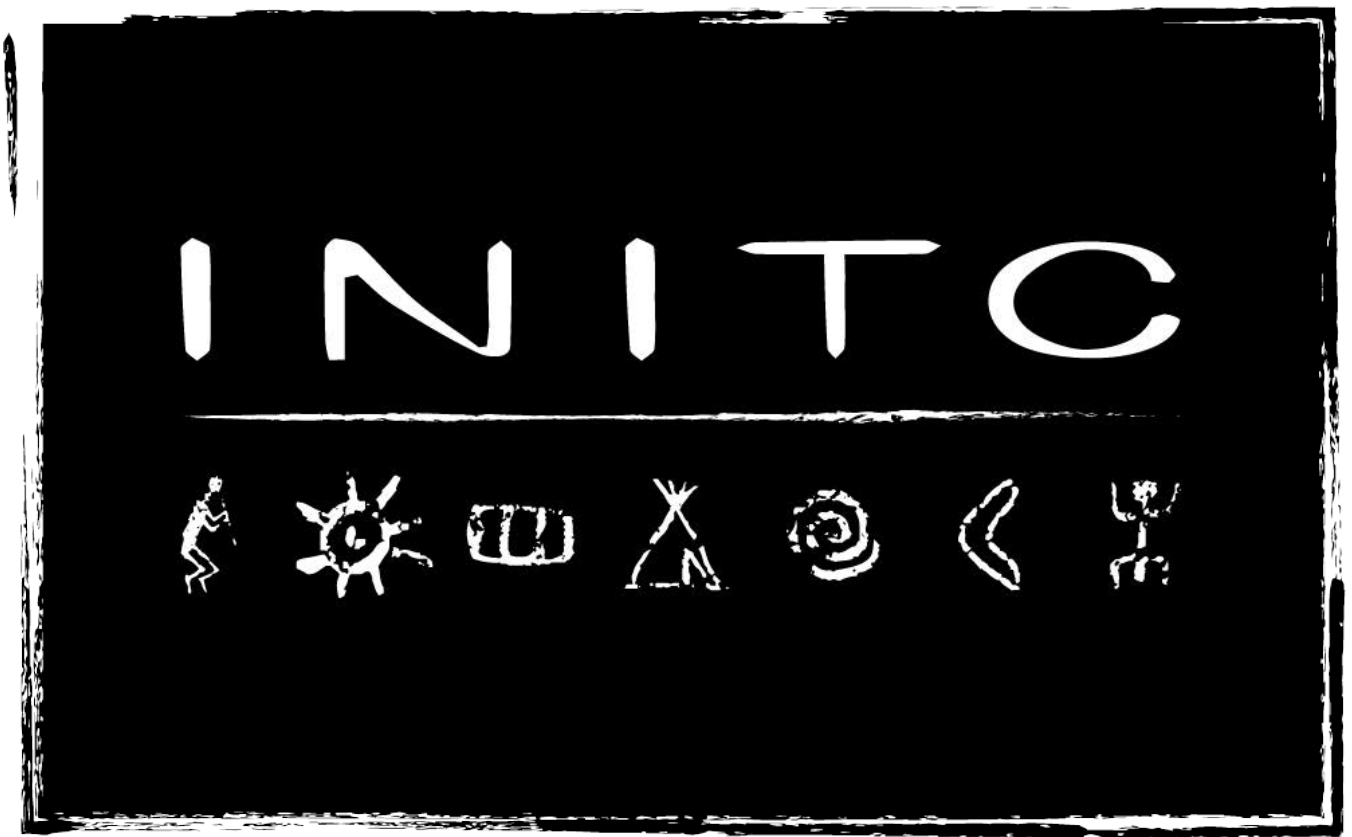


The InterNātional Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC)



STORIES & SONGS OF THE PEOPLE

'An InterNātional Sharing of Cultural Perspective and Practice'

INITC - a non -profit InterNātional corporation
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An InterNātional Grass Roots Gathering 'For the Generations to Come'

An Inter-Cultural / Inter-Faith Gathering for all Peoples of all Nations - Friends, Allies and Relatives



Join Us in The Sacred Black Hills (Paha Sapa) August 22 - August 25, 2019



Original artwork by Daniel Martin

Join us for an Intercultural, Interfaith sharing of experience and knowledge for the profound social, cultural, economic, legal and environmental issues reflecting the impacts to the health and well-being of our collective Nations and our Planet.

Continuing the conversation and process of what it means to be a 'Human Being' and how to work together. This gathering is for all friends, allies and relatives that have experienced or support the search for Cultural, Social and Environmental Equity and Justice.

Calling All:

■ Cultural knowledge Bearers and Keepers ■ Elders ■ Water Protectors ■ Youth Councils ■ Faith Keepers ■ Well-Being/Wellness practitioners ■ Healers ■ Environmental Science practitioners ■ Environmental Law practitioners ■ Performing Artists ■ Visual Artists ■ Film Makers ■ Scholars ■ Treaty Scholars ■ Presenters



Photo provided by Wil Sterner

An InterNātional Gathering



Sponsored by INITC - The InterNational Initiative for Transformative Collaboration

This Event is 100 % Alcohol and Substance Free. FYI - Medical marijuana is not legal in SD

Location: Cedar Canyon Camp, Black Hills SD – see our website for details and registration: www.initc.net

Sharing the Ways of Standing Rock Continues:
A Call for Support to Our Universalist Unitarian Relatives

Dear Relatives,

We send this letter urging your most careful consideration to a critically urgent need for support of a unique event that aspires to address the environmental and spiritual crisis that now encompasses us all.

We invite you to support the upcoming *Stories and Songs of the People* event, An InterNātional Grass Roots Gathering: 'For the Generations to Come'. This event is to be held in the Sacred Black Hills (Paha Sapa) of South Dakota August 22nd– 25th. Our call is to all Cultural Knowledge Bearers and Keepers, Elders, Water Protectors, Youth Councils, Faith Keepers, Well-being/Wellness Practitioners, Healers, Environmental Science Practitioners, Environmental Law Practitioners, Scholars, Treaty Scholars, Performing and Visual Artists, Film Makers and Presenters. (see <https://www.storiesandsongs.org/>)

This Gathering is a continuation of a journey that was brought by the historic events at Oceti Sakowin Camp, Standing Rock, 2016-17. Those who in 2016 responded by travelling to Standing Rock were transformed by the intentional, prayer-based, non-violent action on which the camp was predicated. This camp grew from the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota way of gathering, with international peoples of many cultures and faiths joining in solidarity. There we understood the cultural obligation to shelter, feed, and care for all people who arrived to the camp. Tens of thousands of people (including many UUs) came to camp. Of these, too many were ill-prepared to take care of themselves and unaware of the conditions they were entering. These conditions included cultural considerations and practice, as well as an awareness of the support needed to maintain a camp of its size and nature and the costs borne by the people. Yet all who came were provided for nonetheless, as that is the way of the people.

As with Oceti Sakowin Camp, everyone who attends the August Gathering will have the benefit of shelter, food, emotional and spiritual care, according to their needs. Many of those who are most important to the success of this gathering, such as Native Elders, activists, and youth, require the most assistance to travel to the camp in order to participate. It is essential to enable participation by those who are not financially privileged.

INITC, through its program *Stories and Songs of the People*, has held more than a dozen events across this country and InterNātionally, many of them associated with Unitarian Universalist venues including: one General Assemblies (2018 Kansas City), the Mid-America Regional

Assembly (2016 Oakbrook IL) and multiple UU churches across the nation (including Peoria IL, The All Souls Church Washington DC, Kansas City and Bismarck ND) ¹

There are great financial costs to make this gathering possible, food and shelter the most significant. There are, however, still many other requirements for a successful gathering; travel across the Dakotas prior to camp to hear the voices of our Elders; transportation needs (near and afar); materials; projectors; stage; and even toilets with signage to ensure inclusivity!

There are cultural differences in the approach to many of the processes associated with this gathering, and there are things we can learn from each other, when we learn how to make a safe space for making agreement on what it means to be a human being. To address the looming spiritual and environmental crises requires a level of creative thinking outside the realms of systems and models that brought us to this critical juncture. The desire and need for full participation, not restricted by barriers of income or resources, makes it possible for everyone to be present in a good way.

The awakening from Standing Rock continues. Let us find courage in our hearts and minds and spirits to help each other in the pathways that are open to us, recognizing that we give not to an individual or an organization, but to our relatives and to the people. These then, are the genuine opportunities to begin to shift a paradigm for the generations to come, and as such become themselves part of the Stories and Songs of the People...

“An InterNātional Grass Roots Gathering, ‘For the Generations to Come’ invites us to participate in Indigenous-led processes, to continue to learn the lessons of Oceti Sakowin Camp. By listening to the Stories and Songs of the People, many of us as UUs may more deeply understand the impacts of 500 years of colonization on Indigenous peoples and the Earth, as well as on the UU...” Rev Karen Brammer

¹ **Please note** – INITC and our partners have never charged any UU individual or organization for our knowledge, time or considerable efforts when working together or invited through UU programs or events. All funds we are seeking through Faithify go toward paying outside vendors and contractors and not to INITC.

'In the old ways and in the old days it has been said that we came together by invitation. Some sent a message stick, others a 'runner', some by season, meeting place, ceremony, while others knew by cultural duty and responsibility. It was said then that we are spiritual beings first. That is remembering who we are.'

INIPV Elders meeting May 2010

'Man has a poor understanding of life. He mistakes knowledge for wisdom. He tries to unveil the Holy secrets of our Father, the Great Spirit. He attempts to impose his laws and ways on Mother Earth. Even though he, himself, is a part of nature, he chooses to disregard and ignore it for the sake of his own immediate gain. But the laws of nature are far stronger than those of mankind. Man must awake at last, and learn to understand how little time there remains - before he will become the cause of his own downfall. And he has so much to learn - to learn to see with the heart. He must learn to respect Mother Earth - She who has given life to everything, to our brothers and sisters, the animals and plants, to the rivers, the lakes, the oceans and the winds. He must realize that this planet does not belong to him but that he has to care for and maintain the delicate balance of nature for the sake of the wellbeing of our children and of all future generations. It is the duty of man to preserve the Earth and the Creation of the Great Spirit. Mankind being but a grain of sand in the Holy circle which encloses all of life...'

Chief White Cloud



 STORIES & SONGS
OF THE PEOPLE



Since its inception in 1999 through the present the 'Stories and Songs of the People'¹ mission, in simplicity, is to help create a space that engenders and allows for InterNātionāl participation in the sharing and exchange of knowledge, experiences, cultural practice and cultural expression. Each succeeding event, whether a conference, festival, seminar, presentation has been a unique opportunity to embed this process within a larger global framework, defining space for conversations and collaborative efforts with First Nations, educational institutions, NGO's, community organizations and wider community members as well.

Along the way these events have encompassed an ever - widening cultural and educational exchange of complex cultural 'methodologies.' These methods share a collective intent; recognizing diversity as central to how we define what it means 'to be a human being' and widening our perspectives to understand the myriad of ways we define our relationship to environment, both traditionally and contemporary. Some key components for 'Stories and Songs of the People' also included:

- InterNātionāl First Nations collaborations;
- International collaborations;
- Wider community and community organization collaborations;
- Cultural Presentations and Cultural Ways of Expression;
- Identified appropriate methodologies for facilitating presentations and forums;

¹ For more information see www.storiesandsongs.org

- The Sharing and Strengthening of Cultural Knowledge and Cultural Practice;
- The Creation of platforms that invite wider community involvement, participation and discussion;
- The recognition of Trauma (Inter-generational and inter-cultural);
- Interfaith and Intercultural gathering and exchange; and,
- A shared understanding for ideas of Cultural Safety.

The “Stories and Songs of the People” project is unique in that the primary purpose is not of a commercial nature, but rather developed as a framework for the InterNātion sharing for our collective capacity building. The foremost purpose is to help identify, recognize and employ cultural strengths in practice for the myriad of issues common to both First Nations and non-first nations People; locally, regionally, nationally and InterNātion. From a shared First Nations cultural platform Stories and Songs have engendered this participation while investigating common practices. These have often included areas of understanding about law and governance, environment, society and resource management, education and other key components to shared understanding through intercultural and interfaith activities; retreats, conferences and gatherings.

Through the activities of Stories and Songs of the People two key initiatives have arisen:



InterNational Initiative for Transformative Collaboration (INITC)

There is a growing recognition amongst non – first nations institutions, organizations and wider community members that language must adapt to encompass wider perspectives and greater understanding. Eurocentric and Anglo-centric ideas of classification such as ‘American Indians’ / ‘Red Indians’ or ‘Aboriginal’ are disingenuous. These are historical perspectives from ways of viewing the world, amalgamating First Nations People to an inequitable position, perpetuating ideas and perspectives that have historically and continue to marginalize First Nations knowledge, Cultural and Spiritual Practice. We come from many Nations...



INITC proposes transformation through the recognition of emotional, mental, physical and spiritual change – critical to genuine transformative collaboration. As a co-defined First Nations format and process for sharing cultural perspectives and practice, an underlying notion is the recognition that we *all* come from many Nations – sovereign in their own right. Thus, the product of our collective and collaborative efforts is described as InterNātion. (pronounced inter-nay-shen-al)

¹ For more information see www.storiesandsongs.org

The Inter-National Indigenous Peoples Village Inc. (INIPV)

INIPV Inc. is the result of many First Nations, non-first nations, institutional organizations, community organizations and individuals working together to form an appropriate village space for InterNātional presenters, performers, cultural practitioners, participants and guests.

Starting in 2010, Stories and Songs of the People collaborative events embedded the initial InterNātional Indigenous Peoples Village in an established standing festival as a collaborative partner to global community – oriented events.



Establishing the INIPV successfully brought thousands of participants a unique opportunity for sharing First Nations cultural knowledge and practice through Cultural Presenters, Speakers, Elders, Performers, Artists and Wisdom Keepers from the *Stories and Songs of the People* foundation of InterNational collaborative and collective efforts. These efforts continue today through ongoing events now hosted by 'Nation' and delivered through the *Stories and Songs of the People* events platform.

The Human impact

Join us in creating spaces where Transformative Collaborative efforts for shifting paradigms become the possible rather than the impossible; Through intercultural, interfaith and educational exchange, collaborative capacity enhancement and development (for all), specified and defined workshops, seminars and conferences, gatherings (with special seminars for invited guests) and spiritual retreats and reflection.

Other Considerations:

- Become a Collaborative Partner (!); Nation, Organization, Community or Individual
- Sponsor: InterNātional Gatherings - Environment Relationships through Cultural Perspective
- Sponsorship: Become a supporter and 'Friend' of Stories and Songs of the People
- Sponsorship / Participant - Current Events (See attached information)

"I believe that to meet the challenge of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. Each of us must learn to work not for his or her self, family or nation, but for the benefit of all mankind. Universal responsibility is the real key to human survival. It is the best foundation for world peace, the equitable use of natural resources and through concern for the future generations, the proper care of the environment"

Excerpt from address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, 'Address to the Parliamentary Earth Summit (Global Forum) of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)' (1992)

¹ For more information see www.storiesandsongs.org



Stories and Songs of the People

‘FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME’

August 21 – 25 2019

ASSOCIATED COSTS

CATEGORY	QTY	DESCRIPTION	COST
TRANSPORTATION	12	Golf carts for Elder and physical needs transport at camp	1200.00
	1	Transport Van (16-20 seat) – shuttle parking and group transport	
	1	Transport truck for Main Stage sound equipment via Denver CO	1100.00
	1	Transport vehicle to haul generator trailer from Denver CO	
	50-100	Elders, Youth, those in need of transport to attend and events (near and far)	7500.00
IN KIND SUPPORT	1	PRIVATE MINI VAN FROM STANDING ROCK SIOUX MEMBER	0.00
	1	PRIVATE COMPACT SUV FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INITC	0.00
	3	UU Rapid City driver and vehicle - rides from airport transport provision	0.00
SUB TTL TRANSPORT			9800.00
EVENTS LOGISTICAL	1	Main stage construction (24 x 20 raised outdoor stage)	1000.00
	1	Stage cover or ‘fly-over’	
	2-4	Big top or rope and pole tents and lighting (rope lights) for 400 people	4000.00
	8	Portable toilets (x8) and service for 5 days	1700.00
	1	high lumens projector for outdoor films 5 days	320.00
	1	50,000KW Generator to run stage mains power	750.00
	2	Label Mics for keynote presenters / performers	120.00
IN KIND SUPPORT	12	Volunteers with tools to construct main stage	0.00
	20	Volunteers to erect tents and stage fly over	0.00
	2	Sound engineers for main stage and secondary stage	0.00

	1	Second stage sound system from (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe member)	0.00
	1	30 ft. diameter Yurt for Elders Private Council Space	0.00
	10	Native American Vets as security, traffic control, etc.	0.00
SUB TTL LOGISTICS			7890.00
	-	UU GA contribution	-2500.00
ADJUSTED LOGISTICS			5390.00
EVENTS STORY, SONG, ART AND FILM	6	Native American and InterNational Performing Artists (\$250 ea)	1500.00
	2	Native American artists for 'relationship to environment' art show	400.00
IN KIND SUPPORT	4	Documentary Film Makers to document the sharing of stories, experiences, knowledge and other outcomes of process	0.00
	5-8 or more	Technical volunteers and Web-weaver to continue developing and disseminating the sharing of all the stories and experiences through <i>Stories and Songs of the People</i> Documentary and website	0.00
SUB TTL EVENTS ...			1900.00
MEALS AND LODGING			
MEALS	150	Meals per day: Br, Lunch and Dinner @ \$25 a person per day for 4 days (\$3750 per day x 4 days) **	
	40-50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native American Elders (Faith Keepers and Cultural knowledge Bearers) donating their time to give their knowledge and wisdom to overall gathering process - meals and accommodation support Youth attendance - meals and accommodation support Families, those in need, other community members near and far and volunteers, presenters and performers that need assistance 	15,000.00
	50		1000.00
	50		
SUB TTL MEALS	30	Volunteers Set Up Day 21 August - Br Lunch Dinner \$25 x 30 people	16,000.00

**	**	Expected attendance is for 200 – 400 participants. These are the meal charges of the camp and INITC must guarantee a contracted amount of purchased meals prior to event, where some <i>will</i> pay for their meals we must prepare to take care of all the people, in this we ask for support of 150 that includes our Elders, Youth, Families, volunteers, performing artists and presenters that cannot afford their own.
LODGING		
AVAILABLE UP TO 400		2 private cabin @ \$114/ cabin per night sleeps 3-5, Modern Lodging @ \$89/ room per night sleeps 4-10, RV Sites @ \$39/ site per night, Tent Sites @ \$10/ site per night, \$5.00 towel sets *****
CABIN LODGING		
	6-10	Private cabin for Elders Presenters x 4 nights @ \$114 per cabin per night
	31	Modern Lodging @ \$89/ room per night X 4 nights
	10	Tent sites a \$10 per night x 4 nights
	2	RV site @ \$39 per night x 5 nights
	150	Towel set
IN KIND SUPPORT	2	RV from INITC supporters for Elders with transport to camp
	6	2-4 and 4-6 person tents from INITC members
	12-20	Sleeping bags and bed rolls INITC Members
SUB TTL LODGING		13,488.00
****	*****	Expected attendance is for 200 – 400 participants. These are the room charges of the camp and INITC must guarantee a contracted amount of purchased rooms prior to event, where some <i>will</i> pay for their lodging we must prepare to take care of all the people, in this we ask for support of 150 that includes our Elders, Youth, Families, volunteers, performing artists and presenters that cannot afford their own.
TOTAL FUNDS NEEDED		46,578.00
Other pledges		UU GA further pledge
ADJUSTED FUNDS NEEDED		2500.00
		44078.00