



Abbe Museum

INSPIRING NEW LEARNING ABOUT THE WABANAKI NATIONS WITH EVERY VISIT

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Abbe Museum Announces Lineup for its Dawnland Festival of Arts & Ideas

BAR HARBOR, MAINE — The Abbe Museum is excited to announce its panel, presenter, and performer lineup for the premiere of its **Dawnland Festival of Arts and Ideas (DFAI) on July 12-14, 2024, at the College of the Atlantic (COA)** in Bar Harbor, Maine.

This multi-day event will feature a Native arts market, public performances, and panel conversations on some of the biggest questions of our time, including *Weaving a Sustainable Environment, Savoring Native Food Wisdom, Recognizing Sovereignty as a Stepping Stone to an Enduring Democracy*, and *Arts Transforming Our Futures*.

“This unique gathering will be an opportunity to engage Wabanaki thought leaders and artists – alongside their national counterparts – for a weekend of shared inquiry, creativity, and celebration,” says Executive Director & Senior Partner with Wabanaki Nations Betsy Richards (Cherokee Nation).

Panelists include scientist and author **Dr. Suzanne Greenlaw** (Maliseet); attorney Corey Hinton (Passamaquoddy); curator and Forge Project Executive Director **Candice Hopkins** (Carcross/Tagish First Nations); attorney and Brown University visiting professor **Honor Keeler** (Cherokee Nation); filmmaker, photographer, and educator **Jared Lank** (Mi'kmaq); author, radio host, and former legislator **Donna Loring** (Penobscot); author and attorney **Sherri Mitchell** (Penobscot); James Beard Award-winning chef **Sherry Pocknett** (Wampanoag); anthropologist and scholar **Dr. Darren Ranco** (Penobscot); James Beard Award-nominated Chef **Joe Robbins** (Penobscot); Executive Director of Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness **Lisa Sockbasin** (Passamaquoddy); artist and arts and culture leader **Frances Soctomah** (Passamaquoddy).

The Festival will feature concerts by award-winning musicians **Firefly the Hybrid** (Penobscot) and **Jennifer Kreisberg** (Tuscarora) as well as performances by Penobscot Nation drum group **Burnurwubskek Singers**; Eastern Woodlands flutist **Hawk Henriess** (Nipmuc); storyteller/artist Geo Neptune (Passamaquoddy), singer/songwriter **JJ Otero** (Navajo/Hopi); and storyteller/artist **Jennifer Pictou** (Mi'kmaq).



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The Dawnland Festival of Arts and Ideas is free to the public and made possible with lead support from the **Henry Luce Foundation**, **Maine Office of Tourism**, and **Maine Humanities Council**, and in partnership with the **College of the Atlantic**.

Press materials, including panelist bios and artist profiles, can be found at <https://www.dawnlandfestival.org>.

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About the Abbe Museum

The Abbe's mission is to illuminate and advance a greater understanding of and support the Wabanaki Nations' heritage, living cultures, and homelands. At the core of our work is decolonizing museum practices: collaboration with Tribal communities, privileging Native perspective, voice, and values; focusing on dialogue, including the full measure of history, and ensuring truth-telling. This is also reflected in the Museum's governance structure, which includes a Wabanaki-majority Board and a Tribally-appointed Advisory Council, resulting in a tremendous institutional power shift. This commitment allows the museum to amplify the histories, cultures, art, and contemporary lives of Wabanaki peoples in ways that serve Tribal communities and activate audiences. Through the Wabanaki Council and community consultation, we work with Wabanaki Tribal Nations to share authority for interpreting their living cultures and history, privileging Native voices. abbemuseum.org