



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Living Voices

Address:

3417 Evanston Ave N #225
Seattle, WA 98103

Contact:

(206) 328-0798
<https://www.livingvoices.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Using historical perspectives based on real people and events, Living Voices combines live performance with audio/video, visual aids, and discussion. Archival film and photos, blended with sound and synchronized with a live actor, provide a dynamic, interactive experience of how the world looked, sounded, and felt during a significant time in history.

Date of Award:

2024 Q4

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Living Voices.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

Living Voices 2025 Grant Report

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Code: Q4 2024 14.2

Organization URL: <https://www.livingvoices.org/>

Total Number of Recipients Impacted: 315

Attachments: photos, publicity material

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions funding supported a premiere multi-day Snohomish County Living Voices tour of [NATIVE VISION](#), our multimedia educational theatre production about the Native American boarding school experience, Native service in World War II, and the Navajo Code Talkers. Funding subsidized performance costs and travel for our new Navajo performer from New Mexico to Washington, allowing us to reach local audiences and offer programs at no cost to Tulalip communities.

This tour included performances at Tulalip Heritage High School and Tulalip Hibulb Cultural Center, as well as Edmonds College, Lynnwood-Alderwood Manor Heritage Association and Museum, and Kent Prairie Elementary School in Arlington, serving more than 300 audience members over 5 performance days in November 2025 and March 2026.

Originally developed with Navajo Nation and Chinle, AZ Unified School District community advisors, [NATIVE VISION](#) honors and amplifies real Native voices and stories through the story of a young Navajo woman working to keep her culture in the face of prejudice and a changing world. This grant-funded program provided benefit to the Tulalip Cares community by helping build awareness of Native history and celebrating the accomplishments and traditions of Native individuals and communities. It also directly supported the premiere local tour for the highly qualified Albuquerque-based Navajo actress and educator who recently joined our company.

Performing teaching artist Lori Tapahonso is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and raised Acoma Pueblo. She is a multifaceted artist, communications and creative consultant, educator, storyteller, and film and television producer. With over 35 years of experience in theater, Lori has performed with companies and directors across the United States, from New York to Oregon. Her contributions to Native American theater are profound, having played a pivotal role in launching two Native American theaters in Kansas and Oregon. When she is not on stage, Lori serves as a cultural consultant, advocating for accurate representation of Native voices in the arts and entertainment.

The impact of these performances is reflected in the strong feedback we received from our partner venues:

Feedback from Nina M. Kunimoto, PhD, Sociology & Diversity Studies Department Head, Edmonds College (Event link: <https://www.edmonds.edu/calendar/campus-events.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D197516505>) “Students loved the performance. One staff member mentioned how she was so shocked and moved and can't stop talking about the fact that Native Americans were not U.S. citizens when they fought in World War II. In the panel discussion that Lori participated in, students, staff, and faculty asked thought-provoking questions. The panel was organized around the concept of survivance, an

important framing for teaching Native American history. Having face-to-face interaction with peoples often only read about in textbooks is an important, humanizing process for students. And in an especially engaging medium such as acting drew students in. It still shocks me that most students did not know anything about the Code Talkers or the boarding schools. The Q&A was also valuable because it encouraged interaction. Edmonds College would love to have Lori back. We are incredibly grateful for all of your work to make this happen! I made sure to acknowledge this when introducing the panel and performance.”

Edmonds College Student Response “Three important takeaways stood out to me. First, I learned how Navajo Code Talkers used their language as a secret code during World War II, which played a key role in U.S. military success, but this history is often not widely recognized. Second, the boarding school experience was very painful, where Indigenous children were forced to cut their hair, stop speaking their language, and leave their families. Third, I noticed how storytelling itself is a powerful way to preserve culture and share history. Two things surprised me. One was the performance style. The speaker used a no-prop acting method, interacting with “invisible” people while voices came from the video, which was very engaging. Another surprise was how Navajo nurses had to break their cultural traditions, such as handling the dead, which created deep conflict. This connects to what we learned about culture in class, especially language and cultural norms. Language is part of symbolic culture, and losing it can affect identity. Also, this reflects cultural imperialism, where a dominant culture forces others to change. As discussed in class, culture shapes how people think and live, and this event helped me see that more clearly. This experience made me realize that culture is not only something people inherit but something that can be taken away, reshaped, and struggled to be preserved, especially under unequal power systems.”

Feedback from Nikki Brooks, Teacher at Kent Prairie Elementary School, Arlington: “The Native Vision performance was outstanding. Actress Lori was brilliant and held our fourth graders completely captivated throughout the performance. She presented the history in a way that was engaging, meaningful, and appropriate for the age level. The photos and personal accounts helped bring the history to life, especially for students who did not have much background knowledge on the topic. The performance sparked great conversations, curiosity, and thoughtful questions from students afterward, which showed how impactful the presentation was. Our students absolutely loved it, and it was a powerful learning experience for all of them. We would highly recommend Native Vision to other schools and grade levels.”

NATIVE VISIONS: A Storytelling Journey



WHEN

Monday, Mar. 16, 2026, 1 – 2 p.m.

WHERE

Black Box Theatre, Edmonds College

TYPE OF EVENT

Lecture

DETAILS

Featuring Lori Tapahanso, Navajo/Diné Storyteller

"The story is not just about the past; it is about how we carry that past into the future."

Step into the Black Box Theatre for a transformative live performance. Lori Tapahanso brings the history of the Navajo people to life, weaving together the harrowing truth of Native American Boarding Schools and the legendary bravery of the World War II Code Talkers.

Free and open to the entire campus community.

A UNIQUE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Experience history beyond the textbook. Through the ancient art of Navajo/Diné storytelling, you will explore:

- The Code Talkers: The untold stories of the heroes who used their native tongue to change the course of world history.
- The Boarding Schools: A powerful perspective on the struggle, resilience, and survival of Indigenous children.
- Navajo/Diné Culture: A deep dive into the traditions and perspectives of the Diné people.

SPECIAL INVITATION FOR VETERANS & STUDENTS

- Veterans: We invite you to join us in honoring the intersection of military service and Indigenous heritage.
- Students: This is a rare opportunity for experiential learning. Ask your instructors about Extra Credit opportunities for attending this performance!

OUR COLLABORATORS

This event is made possible by the generous funding of the Tulalip Foundation through Native Visions. Organized in collaboration with Edmonds College students and faculty.

WHY ATTEND?

This isn't just a lecture—it's a live performance. It is an invitation to listen, to learn, and to witness the power of a story told from the heart of the Navajo/Diné experience.

Don't miss this one-time-only campus event!

