

Indigenous Arts Festival — Advising & Strategic Report

Savanna Chiblow and Jessica Lea Fleming

Jessica Lea Fleming

- Georgian Bay Métis (Citizen of the Métis Nation)
- Community Access Director at Indigenous Fashion Arts

Savanna Chiblow

- Anishinaabe from Mississaugi First Nation (2spirit, bear clan)
- Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator at Humber College

Jessica and Savanna sat on the Advisory Task Force for the 2021 Indigenous Peoples Month Programming (also known as the Indigenous Arts Festival).

Currently they work together collaboratively advising Toronto History Museums on the 2022 Indigenous Arts Festival (June 18-19) and on other projects.

Work Plan

March-May

- Review 2012-2019 and 2021 reporting;
- Build out community consulting strategy;
- Engage Indigenous-led organizations and intersectional community members.

June

- Support Toronto History Museums with guidance on upcoming Indigenous Arts Festival (IAF) 2022 programming;
- Begin community consultation during IAF (in-person, digital).

July-August

- Meet with community (in-person, via phone, digitally) to inform 3-year strategic report;
- Identify suitable long-term partners, and shifts for engagement and communications opportunities;
- Review IAF 2022 community feedback on programming.

September-
November

- Compile and review all community consultation notes;
 - Prepare and finalize 3-year strategic report;
 - Present to community and City of Toronto.
-

Looking forward

Community consultations – engage intersectional community members (First Nations, Inuit, Métis, Afro-Indigenous, 2SLBTQ+, Deaf + Disabled, Youth, Elders, Leaders)

3-year Strategic Report aims to:

- Identify gaps in building and maintaining long-term, positive and trust-focused relationships;
- Develop robust, culturally informed communication, outreach and inclusion strategies to reduce barriers;
- Highlight the importance of reciprocal community work which positions and empowers Indigenous curators, organizations, grass-roots initiatives, artists and Knowledge Keepers as decision-makers and programming leads;
- Expand on a collaborative relationship with the City of Toronto, working with internal stakeholders and like-minded advocacy teams (IAO, RAP report, Museums);
- Implement decolonial practices across strategy work.



- How can we better engage, collaborate and communicate with you and your organizations?
- Which aspects of the work plan to you see as the greatest priorities and opportunities?
- What impacts or outcomes do you want to see from this 3-year strategic report that would demonstrate its success?
- What questions or concerns do you have?

Feedback from the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
