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Highlights and Impacts: 2012 NAISA Conference & Other Events

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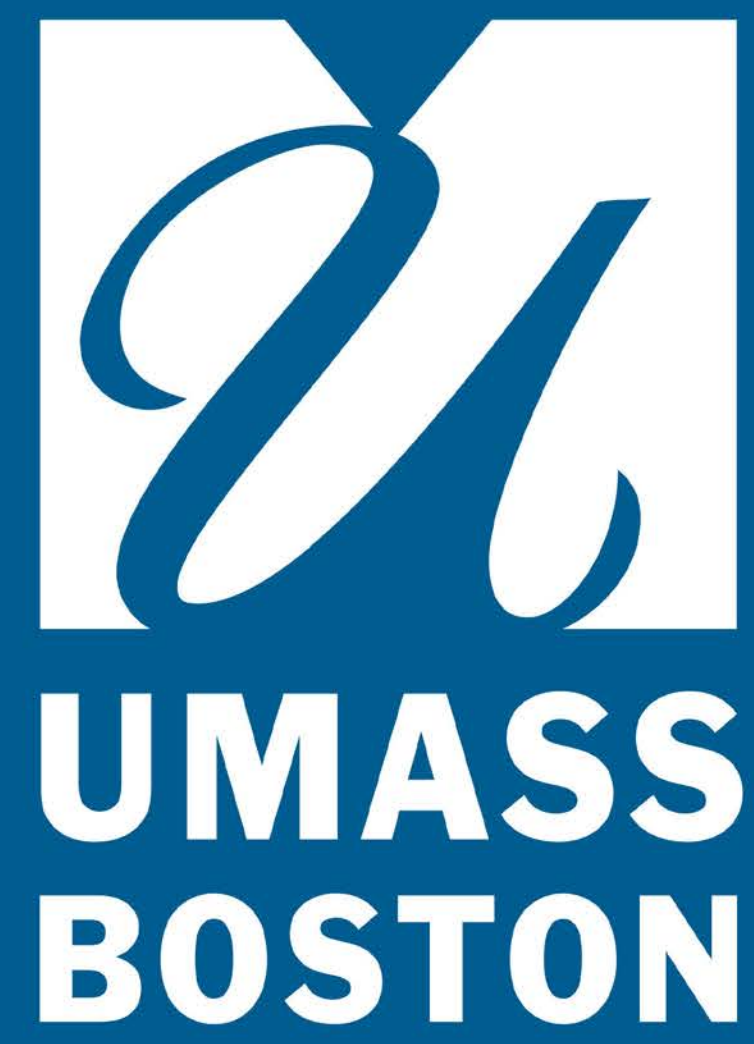
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Highlights and Impacts: 2012 NAISA Conference & Other Events

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2012 NAISA Conference: Highlights & Impacts

Background: The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) is the premier organization for scholars in Native and Indigenous Studies, representing numerous indigenous peoples and their non-indigenous allies. The Institute for New England Native American Studies (INENAS) played a key role in planning 2012 conference, with Director Cedric Woods serving as co-chair of Executive Host Committee.

Highlights:

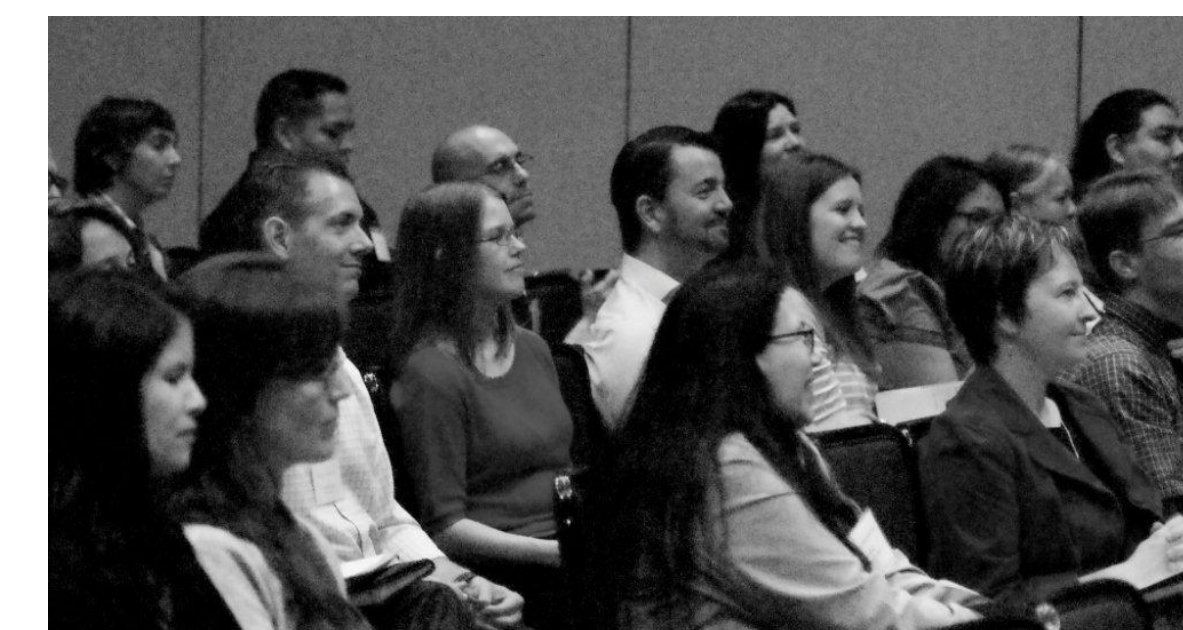
- Held at Mohegan Tribe's reservation (first time on trust land and in New England)
- A record 861 registered attendees
- Special Events: 200 toured historic Mohegan sites, 350+ attended Indigenous New England Writers Showcase
- First successful collaborative hosting: multi-university (UMass Boston, UMass Amherst, Yale University, Harvard University, Dartmouth College) and Mohegan Tribe
- Featured in Native Peoples National Magazine

Impacts:

Formalized and strengthened relationships: Mohegan Tribe and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation both worked directly with UMass Boston faculty/staff on conference events.

Several partnerships formed, including:

- Yale Indian Papers Project interested in recruiting UMass Boston students and Native community members with INENAS, Anthropology, and History Departments as part of their work with the Massachusetts Archives.
- Mohegan Consortium exploring possibility of student scholarships.
- Increase in ongoing collaborations on scholarly projects among co-hosting universities.



NAISA Conference: Reflections

In a letter from the from the Mohegan Tribal Government, participants shared the impact of the conference on their community:

"I do not exaggerate when I say that many lives in our community were transformed...having your conference on Indian reservations may be your greatest gift yet, as scholars, to Indian people."
-Melissa Zobel

"Wow, some of the young people my age are amazing scholars. I need to work harder." -Student

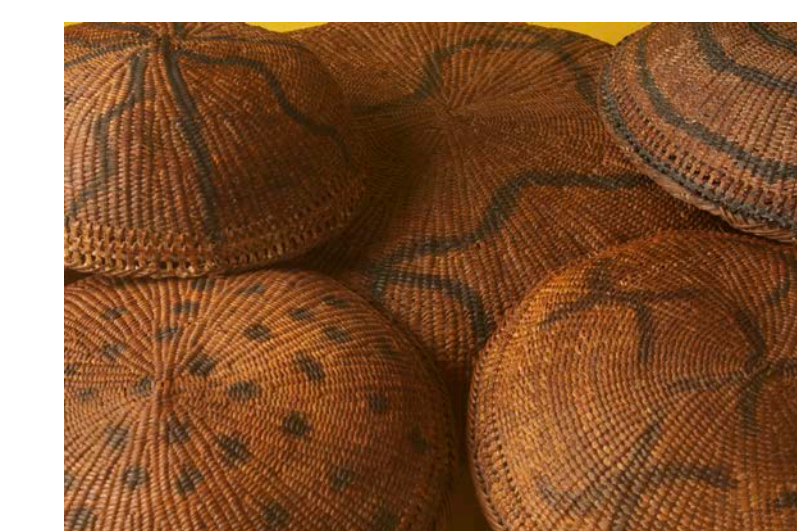
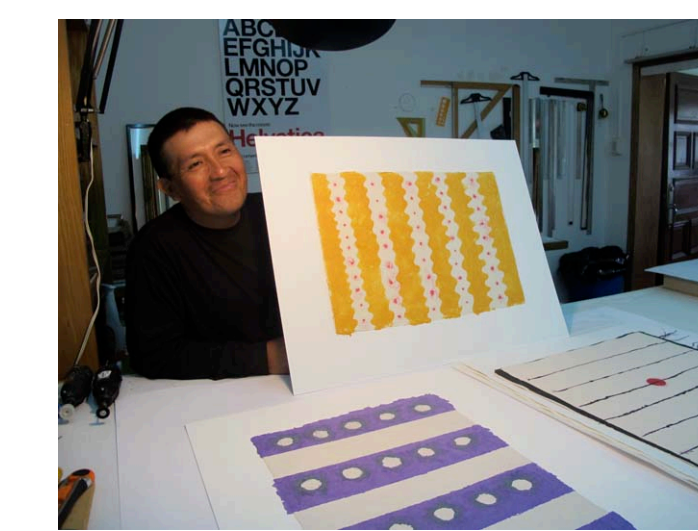
"I have never met a nicer group of people. I learned so much. They made me want to jump back into Indian Affairs again." -Elder

"If only I had this kind of intellectual stimulation every day. This week has made me so happy."
-A tribal staff member

Celebrations of Art and Culture



INENAS co-sponsors
Boston Harbor Islands
Native American Festival



Iwariwë: The Origin of Fire Amongst Men, an exhibit recounting the arrival of fire among the Yanomami people. Iwariwë recounts this seminal event through community art, showcasing a book designed to both preserve and educate others about customary Yanomami life ways. The Yanomami are a group of indigenous people who live in the Amazon rainforest along the border between Venezuela and Brazil.