

Native American University

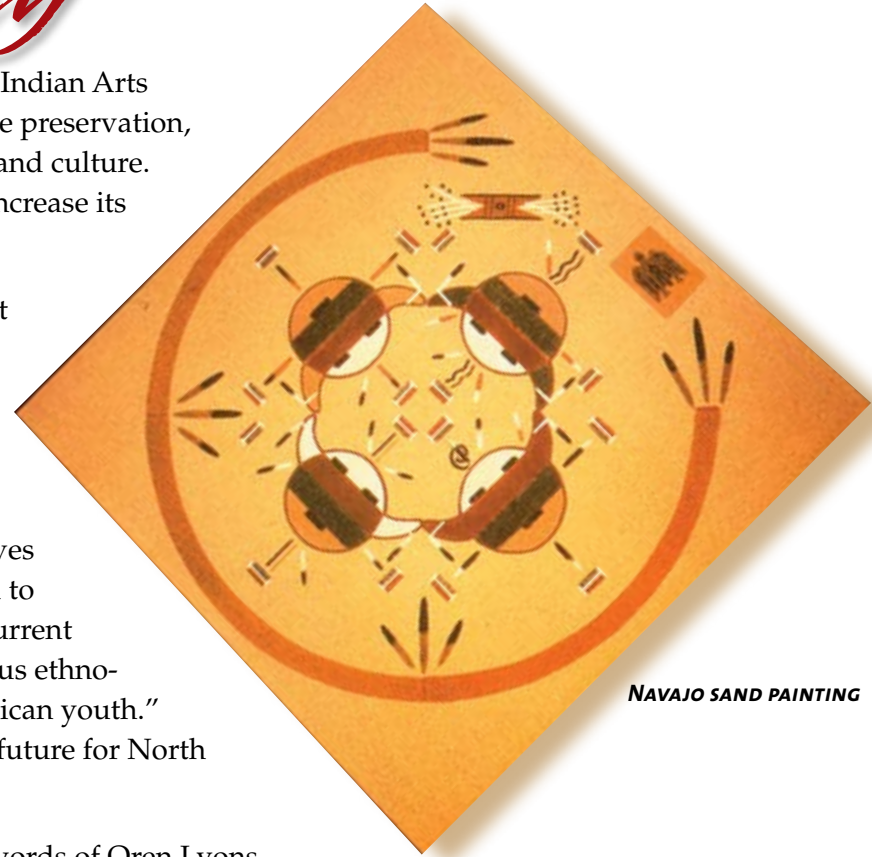
Located on a 140 acre campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is the only multi-tribal centre of higher education in the US dedicated to the preservation, study, creative application, and contemporary expression of Native American art and culture. Founded 1962, the IAIA is in the second phase of campus development that will increase its facilities to close to 400,000 square feet.

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Indian native art and culture must also involve teaching responsibility towards the natural environments which sustain native art and culture. The Institute believes that Native Americans “have an accumulated ecological expertise which is critical to the building of a sustainable future.” It contends that in light of what it calls the current global ecological crisis, “it is imperative that the tremendous resource of indigenous ethno-biological and ecological knowledge be recovered, especially among Native American youth.” It sees this recovery of knowledge as benefiting not just the goals of a sustainable future for North America, but also the survival of native communities.

The principals behind the Initiative for a Sustainable Future are expressed in the words of Oren Lyons, described as the Onondaga faith keeper, who said, *“In our way of life, in our government, with every decision we make, we always keep in mind the seventh generation to come. It’s our job to see that the people coming ahead, the generation still unborn, have a world no worse than ours – and hopefully better. When we walk upon mother earth, we always plant our feet carefully because we know that the faces of our future generations are looking up at us from beneath the ground. We never forget them.”*

The IAIA has taken on a project called the Initiative for a Sustainable Future because it believes the preservation and study of American



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