

# The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community



Photo of Manuelito Wheeler by Don James

Manuelito  
Wheeler:

T'áá Ałtsxodéé' Hozhó

Navajo  
Identity  
through  
Global  
Projects

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.  
Heard Museum, Steele Auditorium, 2301 N Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona

Born and raised on the Navajo Nation, Manuelito Wheeler is currently the Director of the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, AZ. Since taking this position in 2008, he has worked with staff to see the completion of numerous exhibits which are 100% Native-built from concept, curation, and creation. Along with this, he has led his team (of 8) in creating innovative projects which influence and preserve Navajo culture.

In the pursuit of native language preservation, the Navajo Nation Museum has partnered with major motion picture studios like Lucasfilm Ltd., Walt Disney Pictures and Deluxe Studios to dub popular movies into the Navajo language. Making these

projects a reality has been a challenging but rewarding experience. Currently the museum is completing a Navajo-language dub of Disney's classic animation film *Finding Nemo*.

Under Wheeler's direction, the Navajo Nation Museum has also worked with world renowned artist Ai Weiwei, partnering him with Navajo artist Bert Benally to create a site-specific installation piece in a remote canyon on the Navajo Nation.

Wheeler attended Arizona State University from 88-03 where he earned his BA in Art History. He is married to Jennifer Wheeler, PhD (ASU) and they have two sons Waunekanez (currently attending ASU) and Hataaliinez.

“A tribal museum can help redefine what a museum can be for its community, which is more than just a community gathering place ... It's a place you can go and experience a sense of wonder. That sense of wonder is important—it gives us hope that humans have a future in this universe.  
—Manuelito “Manny” Wheeler



ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underscoring Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life. | Free and open to the public. | More information: [Kristen.LaRue@asu.edu](mailto:Kristen.LaRue@asu.edu), 480-965-7611

Sponsored by Arizona State University's American Indian Policy Institute; American Indian Studies Program; Department of English; School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies; Women and Gender Studies in the School of Social Transformation (all units in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences); Indian Legal Program in the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law; School of Art in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts; and Labriola National American Indian Data Center; with tremendous support from the Heard Museum.