Curatorial Biographies for IndiVisible Exhibition

Gabrielle Tayac, Ph.D. (Piscataway) is a historian at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, where she currently conducts research focused on Native American identity issues across the Americas. Her areas of specialty include international human rights and the Native peoples and histories of the Chesapeake Bay region. She curates exhibitions at the museum, lectures widely and has published an award-winning children’s book.

Robert Keith Collins, Ph.D. (African-Choctaw descent) is an assistant professor of American Indian studies at San Francisco State University. His expertise includes research in African and Native American interactions in North and South America, as well as in person-centered ethnography and the formation of public and private identities. Collins also specializes in Choctaw language and culture and has authored several book chapters on black Choctaw lived experiences.

Penny Gamble-Williams (Chappaquiddick Wampanoag) is an educator, artist, community activist and executive director of Ohke Cultural Network, Inc. in Maryland. She conducts teacher training and works with children using storytelling, art, music and movement to teach Native and African American histories. She produces and hosts a radio talk show call the “Talking Feather,” which explores the history and culture of Native Americans, African Americans and indigenous peoples around the world.

Angela A. Gonzales, Ph.D. (Hopi) is an assistant professor of development sociology and American Indian studies at Cornell University. Her latest research explores the creation and manifestation of conceptual categories of race. Earlier work included community-based research of sociological processes underlying identity, development and community health on Indian reservations. Gonzales strives to refine understanding of the processes and outcomes of social change affecting Native peoples, tribes and nations.

Judy Kertész is a Ph.D. candidate in the history of American civilization at Harvard University and assistant professor of history at North Carolina State University. Her work focuses on colonial, revolutionary and antebellum U.S. cultural history; American Indian histories and cultures; American nationalism; material culture; African American studies and tribal sovereignty issues.
W. Thunder Williams is a former trial attorney for the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the District of Columbia and for the criminal division of the U.S. Justice Department. Currently, he is an officer in the educational and non-profit corporation, Ohke Cultural Network, Inc. in Maryland which he co-founded with his wife, Penny Gamble-Williams. Williams is also the co-host and co-producer of the talk radio show, “The Talking Feather” which is in its tenth year of broadcast in the Washington area.