



**Great Circle Alliance**

*Advancing Arts and Heritage in Ohio*

## Call For Artists

# Recovering the Indigenous Voices of the Ohio River Valley.

A Public Program Developed by The Great Circle Alliance.

"Recovering Ohio's Indigenous Voices" is an *Ohio-America 250* event encouraging public engagement with invited artists from Ohio's Removed Tribes, Native American peoples forcibly removed by the government in the 1800's, mostly to Oklahoma and Kansas. This event is intended to enhance the visibility of contemporary indigenous artists from the Removed Tribes and raise awareness of the Native American presence in Ohio—a state where tribal communities once flourished but struggle today to attain visibility and agency. Artists will present and discuss their artwork, reflecting their indigenous values and tribal traditions. The artists will also tour the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks for an opportunity to connect with the monumental sites created by the ancestors of their ancestors.

**Event Date: October 9 - 16, 2024**

**Submission deadline: July 1, 2024**

The program invites participation from artists, connected through ancestry to Ohio's Removed Tribes, including Shawnee, Potawatomi, Wyandot, Delaware, Miami, Seneca-Cayuga, Ojibway, Peoria, Ottawa, and other tribes, nations and bands from the Ohio River Valley.

Program summary:

Part I. The artists will be invited to;

- Travel to and visit Ohio for six days (five nights);
- Tour the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks;
- Present a public program October 14, 2024 (Indigenous Peoples Day) showing their artworks, through slides or a display of small artworks, and discussing the content as expressions of their indigenous values and tribal traditions.
- Reflect on their experience of returning to the Ohio River Valley, their ancestral homeland, and viewing the Earthworks built by the “ancestors of their ancestors” (Chief Glenna Wallace, Eastern Shawnee)

### Application Process

The program is open to Native American artists from what are known as Ohio’s Removed Tribes. Formal enrollment in a federally recognized tribe is not a requirement, but each artist must be recognized by their community, be able to articulate traditional tribal values and worldview, and demonstrate a developed artistic practice. Artists of all genres will be considered.

Artists applying are asked to submit an application which includes:

- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Artist’s Statement including a brief summary about how their work displays an expression of indigenous and tribal values.
- Letter of support from one Community Member
- Portfolio: 5-10 images of past work

Please submit these materials to [belinda@greatcirclealliance.com](mailto:belinda@greatcirclealliance.com) prior to **July 1, 2024**

From the submissions a panel will selected three artists. The artists will receive transportation costs for roundtrip travel to Ohio and will be provided with transportation and accommodations during their six-day, five-night stay in Ohio.

## Part II

After refreshing connections with their tribal ancestry in the Ohio River Valley artists will return to their home studios and respond to their experience, producing approximately three artworks.

In 2025 the artists will be invited to return to Ohio and participate in an exhibition curated at Denison University. The exhibition will contain three or more artworks from each artist and the artists will give brief talks about their work and their experience in Ohio.

Artists will receive a stipend while they are producing their new artworks, and costs will be covered for per diem and for travel to and from Ohio. NOTE: Part II is currently still in its funding phase.

## THE GREAT CIRCLE ALLIANCE

The mission of the Great Circle Alliance (GCA) is to raise awareness and appreciation of the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, in particular the Newark Earthworks, highlighting the knowledgeable and sophisticated Native American peoples who created the important monumental sites. GCA aims to encourage contemporary Native voices—artists and scholars—while operating in collaboration with Native Americans and supportive organizations.