



How Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Serving Organizations (TIPSOs) Promote Wellness through Culture & Partnership





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As part of a broader, statewide COVID-19 equity initiative, the MA Department of Public Health launched the COVID-19 Community Grants Program in August 2020, in partnership with Health Resources in Action (HRiA), a Boston-based public health institute (PHI).

The goal of the COVID Community Grants Program is to rapidly invest funding and capacity building support in black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities hardest hit by COVID-19, with several of those organizations being tribal and indigenous peoples serving organizations (TIPSOs).

This session will explore the strategies and challenges that The Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Nation, Ohketeau Cultural Center, and The Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe experience in their responses to COVID-19 and the social determinants of health exacerbated by the pandemic.



Chappaquiddick Tribe of the Wampanoag Indian Nation



Key Strategies

- **Expanded capacity by hiring staff**
 - › Grant funding allowed us to expand capacity by hiring staff to help deploy surveys
- **Employ Diverse Communication platforms**
 - › Leverage surveys across social media platforms and email to effectively gather essential data, tailoring services to best serve the needs of our citizens.
- **Leverage Experts for Targeted Engagement**
 - › Engage native (and non-native) experts to lead virtual workshops, ensuring culturally appropriate dissemination of crucial information and widening accessibility for tribal citizens.
- **Prioritize Mental Health and Wellbeing**
 - › Conduct regular mental health check-ins to address the emotional and psychological well-being of our community members, offering necessary support and resources.
- **Provide Essential Resources and Information**
 - › Distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and disseminate crucial health and housing information, ensuring the well-being and safety of our community during challenging times.

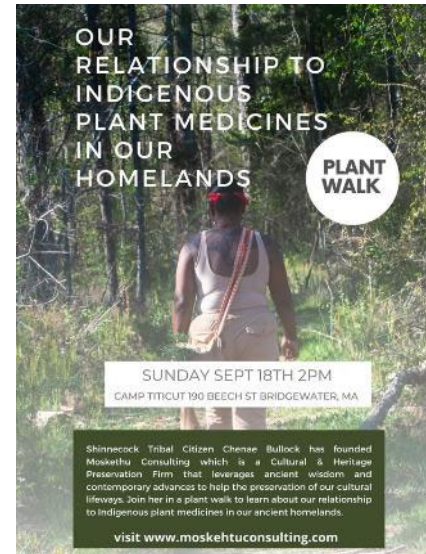


Partnerships /Collaborations



Eastern Woodlands Rematriation Collaborative

Distributed seedlings, plants, wild rice
Healthy Eating



Moskehtu Consulting

Plant Walk



Pinnacle Partnerships

COVID updates and PPE
distribution and resources



Partnerships/Collaborations



Social Security Office

Shared different resources and benefits
and their various criteria
Provided local resources



CPR & First Aid

Tribal members certified in
CPR & AED



City Streets to Student
Athletes

Drug Prevention
Motivational



Challenges

- **Distrustful of the Vaccine Due to Past Genocidal Experiences**
 - › # of boosters
 - › Experimental
 - › Side effects
 - › Certain batches given to certain groups
 - › Concerns about what is in vaccine
- **Cultural beliefs**
 - › Herbal/natural remedies instead of Western medicine
- **Accessibility to vaccine clinics**





OH K E T E A U

A place to plant, to grow

Key Strategies & Partnerships/Collabs

- Creating space for fluid conversations around Health and Wellness
 - › Womens groups once a month
 - › Pow Wow Tabling
 - › Traditional Workshops
 - Hide Workshops
 - Drum Making
 - Regalia Making
 - Outings
- Promote mentorship, guidance, and positivity within our communities
 - › Focus on Youth; Youth Talent Expo
 - › Implementing youth led programs
 - › Empowering youth to continue this work
- For the love our People Campaign
 - › Interviewed/recorded tribal citizens for their reason to get vaccinated
 - › - radio spots broadcasted on 3-5 radio stations
 - › - PSA regarding new booster
- Upcoming collaboration with **Native American Lifelines**
 - › mobile clinic October 2023



[Press Play](#)





"I got vaccinated for my health,
everyone else, and I'm an
educator."

Maria Lawrence
Ramapough Munsee and
Shinnecock

"I got vaccinated for
science."

Keisha Lawrence
Ramapough Munsee



"I got vaccinated for my
Inuit relatives, for my
friends to live a long life."

Ella Nathanael Alkiewicz
Nunatsiavut Kavamanga

"I got vaccinated for
increased knowledge of
public health and the fact
that vaccines are both free
and very effective."

Reggi Alkiewicz
Labrador Inuk



Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe

Seeqanamâquhpâhqut



Listening to our Ancestors
Protecting our homeland

Key Strategies, Challenges & Solutions for Tribal Health and Wellness

- Health and Wellness
- Food Sovereignty – Nutrition
- Cultural Gatherings- Ceremony
- Distribution of PPE and covid tests
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Community Outreach
- Social media campaigns - meetings/webinars
- Partnerships, Collaborations, Networking

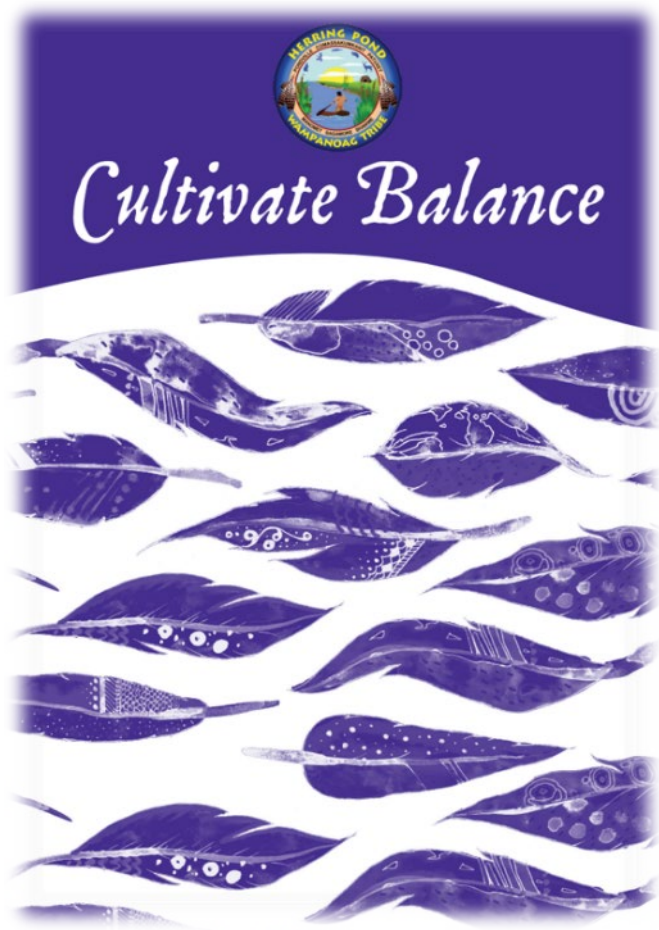


Jen Saltamacchia and Tribal Councilor Lori Wentworth making progress in the garden!

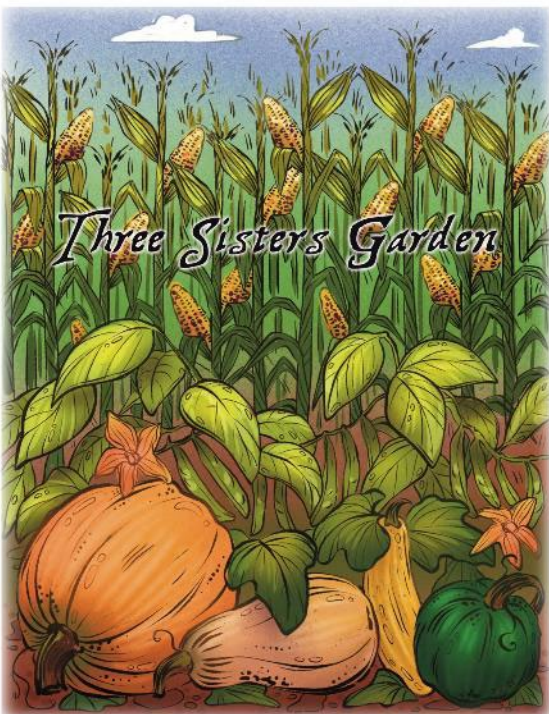
Cultivate Balance Wellness Campaign



Illustrated by Herring Pond's Quincy Harding



Illustrated by Herring Pond's Quincy Harding



Illustrated by Herring Pond's Quincy Harding



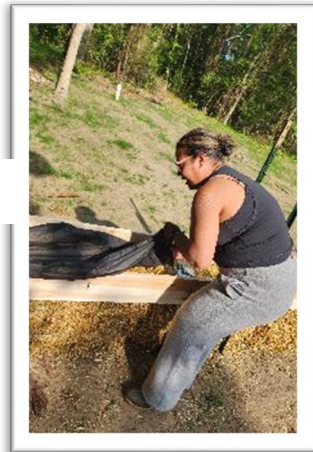
FOOD Sovereignty Program

Traditional Knowledge

As Wampanoag people, we are COMMITTED to ensuring that our youth will be prepared for a strong future as self-determining citizens of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe and it is imperative that we teach our children how to sustain themselves, grow their own traditional foods, how to cook, preserve, and eat them, as well as how to use them as fertilizer in our gardens. All of these teachings are a means of preserving the history and tradition that our Ancestors have passed down to us they also promote health and wellness...mind, body, spirit



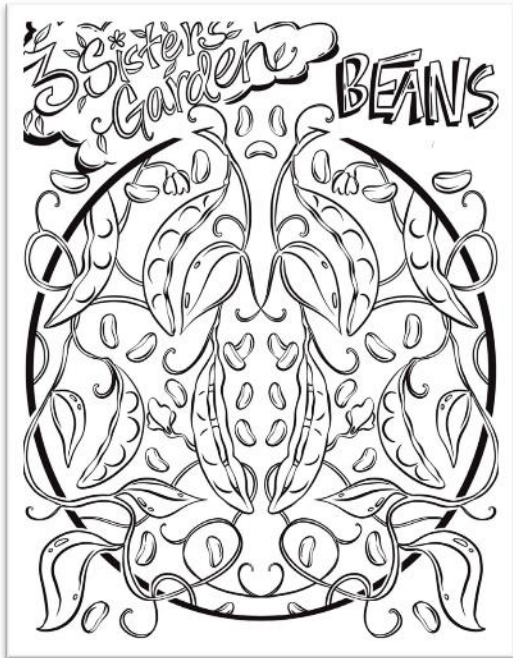
Illustrated by Herring Pond's Quincy Harding



Three Sisters Method Companion Planting

The Three Sisters method of companion planting involves growing corn, beans, and squash together in the same field. Developed through Indigenous agricultural practices this symbolic relationship between the three plants is not only sustainable but also beneficial for the soil, the environment and our emotional wellbeing. These three plants protect and nourish each other in different ways as they grow and provide a solid diet for their cultivators.

Beans: the sister who hugs



Corn: the sister who stands tall



Squash: the sister who keeps the soil cool



CAPE COD CANAL FISHING WORKSHOP

Traditional Food Ways



Tribal Citizen Dan Hannigan hosts a
Herring jigging and fishing workshop at
Cape Cod Canal with success!!

Traditional
Mishoon Burn
on Great
Herring Pond



Memberships, Partnerships & Collaborations

- Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) – Partner
- Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition – Member
- University of Massachusetts Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy - External Advisory Board Member
- Herring Pond Watershed Association - Board of Directors, Member at Large
- Jones River Watershed – Board of Directors
- Health Resources in Action / Massachusetts DPH
- Plymouth HEAL Coalition, MA-HEALing Communities Study with Boston Medical Center – Partner
- Suffolk Law School Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Clinic – Collaboration
- C4 Innovations and New England Mental Health Training Technology Transfer Center Network (MHTCC) – Collaboration
- Massachusetts Conservation Commission Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Member (MACC DEI)
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Seal & Flag – Commissioner
- Massachusetts Indigenous Mascot Steering Committee
- Community Land and Water Coalition – Advocate
- Environmental Justice Advisory Council – Appointed by Governor
- Native Youth Empowerment Foundation
- Barnstable County Human Rights Commission

- Many More...



Thank you

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