

RAW FILE

MAKING-VISIBLE: INDIGENOUS-LED CLIMATE JUSTICE

WEBINAR 1 SPEAKER THOMAS LOPEZ

SERIES CURATED BY BRENDA PEREZ

JUNE 22, 2022

7-8:30 P.M. EDT

>> WELCOME, HELLO, EVERYONE. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING
HERE TONIGHT. WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU ALL HERE.

>> Annie Mahon: WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU. IF YOU WANT TO PUT
YOUR NAME AND WHERE YOU ARE CALLING INTO IN THE CHAT IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE YOUR PRONOUNS, PLEASE DO THAT. OR PUT
THEM ON YOUR NAME. BUT PLEASE, YOU CAN INTRODUCE YOURSELF
IN THE CHAT, JUST SO WE CAN SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER.

>> Adriana Arizpe Martin: THANK YOU, THIS IS
MAKING-VISIBLE. WE ARE SO HAPPY YOU ARE HERE WITH US.

>> Annie Mahon: REMINDER, WE ARE GOING TO BE RECORDING. WE
ARE GOING TO DO OUR VERY BEST TO HAVE NOT ANY ONE ELSE ON
THE RECORDING. BUT, SOME TIMES, OTHER PEOPLE, SLIP IN. SO
JUST KNOW IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN, TURN YOUR
CAMERA OFF. AND, THEN THE OTHER THING IS, THAT, AS ALWAYS
WE HAVE, OUR LIVE CAPTIONER. SO, IF YOU WANT TO -- SEE

CAPTIONS, SO, FOR ANY REASON, YOU CAN CHOOSE LIVE
TRANSCRIPT AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREEN. AND, THEN, CHOOSE,
SHOW SUBTITLES. JUST A REMINDER, WE ARE MAKING VISIBLE. A
SPACE WHERE WE LEARN TOGETHER WITH ALL OF YOU. HAVING YOU
ALL HERE IS WHAT MAKE, MAKING-VISIBLE THE SPACE THAT WE WANT
TO HAVE. SO PLEASE SHARE THIS SPACE WITH EVERYONE. AND BE
HERE WITH ALL OF THE HEARTS AND RESPECT. IF YOU COULD PUT
YOUR NAME INTO THE CHAT. WHERE ARE YOU -- I TURNED
SOMETHING ON, OKAY, OKAY.

>> WE ARE -- WE ARE, ANNIE, AND ADRIANA, WE ARE, --
MAKING VISIBLE, WE ARE SO HAPPY TO HAVING THIS CONVERSATION
WITH ALL OF YOU.

WE NEED TO LEARN, WHEN IT ITS NOT AROUND, AND SEE WHAT WE
HAVE TO SEE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> HI, SUSAN.

>> YES.

>> AS A REMINDER, ALSO, ANNIE, I AM GOING TO REMIND PEOPLE
WE DO THIS IN THE FORMAT OF MINDFULNESS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE A PRACTICE TO BE HERE OF COURSE, WE JUST USE THIS FORMAT
BECAUSE THAT ALLOWS US TO BE HERE, MORE FULLY. AND, WE
START WITH A BELL. AND WE START WITH, WITH SOME BREATHING

TOGETHER. AND THEN WE CONTINUE, AND, AND WE HOPE YOU CAN,
ENJOY THOSE, IF NOT JUST GIVE US, SOME MINUTES TO DO THAT.
THANK YOU. HELLO, SUE, AJ, MAGDA, GABRIELLE. DON'T KNOW IF
I AM SAYING THAT PROPERLY.

>> THANK YOU, SO, WHY DON'T WE GET OUR --

START OUR, OH, DON HAS POSTED SOMETHING IN THE CHAT ABOUT
HOW TO SEE -- REALTIME CAPTIONS AND --

I'M GOING TO TURN ON THE RECORDING. I THINK. HERE.

>> RECORDING IN PROGRESS. AWESOME. SO, WELCOME. WELCOME TO
OUR FIRST WEBINAR ON THE SERIES OF INDIGENOUS-LED CLIMATE
JUSTICE. AND WE ARE VERY, VERY HAPPY THAT YOU ARE HERE. AND
AS WE USUALLY LIKE TO DO, WE SORT OF -- HOLD THIS SPACE IN
A MINDFULNESS ENERGY, ADRIANA AND I PRABG TEUPBS THE
TRADITION OF THICH NHAT HANH, THAT'S HOW WE KIND OF CAME TO
BE OFFERING THESE WEBINARS, REALLY WANTING TO HIGHLIGHT THE
WORK OF SO MANY PEOPLE THAT ISN'T NORMALLY SEEN IN THESE
COMMUNITIES, MINDFULNESS COMMUNITIES THAT SOMETIMES WE MISS
THESE THINGS THAT ARE VERY, VERY IMPORTANT. AND, THICH NHAT
HANH HAS OFTEN SPOKEN ABOUT UNDERSTANDING --

AS, THE FOUNDATION OF LOVE. AND ALSO, UNDERSTANDING AS THE
FOUNDATION OF, OF, WISE ACTION. AND SO, WE ARE HERE TO
UNDERSTAND. AND LEARN TOGETHER AS, ADRIANA HAS SAID. SO I

AM GOING TO READ SOMETHING FROM THICH NHAT HANH, A SHORT QUOTE. AND THEN WE WILL HAVE A, THREE SOUNDS OF THE BELL. JUST TO SET OURSELVES, AND -- AND, FULLY ARRIVE HERE TOGETHER. SO THESE ARE THE FIVE AWARENESSES. FROM THE CHANTING BOOK, CHANTING FROM THE HEART. WE ARE AWARE THAT ALL GENERATIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS AND ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE PRESENT IN US. WE ARE AWARE OF THE EXPECTATIONS THAT OUR ANCESTORS ARE CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN HAVE OF US. WE ARE AWARE THAT OUR JOY, PEACE, FREEDOM AND HARMONY, ARE THE JOY, PEACE, FREEDOM AND HARMONY OF OUR ANCESTORS, OUR CHILDREN, AND THEIR CHILDREN. WE ARE AWARE THAT UNDERSTANDING IS THE VERY FOUNDATION OF LOVE. WE ARE AWARE THAT BLAMING AND ARGUING CAN NEVER HELP US AND ONLY CREATE A WIDER GAP BETWEEN US. THAT ONLY UNDERSTANDING, TRUST, AND LOVE, CAN HELP US CHANGE AND GROW. (BELL TOLLS) (BELL TOLLS) (BELL TOLLS)

>> Adriana Arizpe Martin: THANK YOU, ANNIE. THANK YOU, EVERYONE AGAIN. TONIGHT WE ARE ABSOLUTELY EXCITED TO HAVE, WE ARE STARTING THE SERIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND WE HAVE BRENDA PEREZ AS OUR CUCURATOR,) DAY IS A GREAT WOMAN.

GOING TO LEARN, SHE IS FROM MEXICO, AND SO GLAD TO HAVE HER
HERE. I AM GOING TO READ, HER, A LITTLE BIT OF HER, BIO, IT
IS JUST PART OF WHAT SHE IS, SHE IS PART, FAR MORE THAN
THAT. AND SHE IS ALWAYS GREAT. SO, JUST PLEASE --
HEAR SOMETHING, AND SHE WILL, TELL YOU MORE ABOUT HER. AND
ABOUT HISS SERIES THAT WE ARE STARTING TONIGHT WITH YOU.
SO, BRENDA IS, THE LOCAL DC AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY
ACTIVIST WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT FIGHTING FOR THE
LIBERATION OF MOTHER EARTH AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF COLOR.
ORIGINALLY FROM NEZAHUALCOYOTL, MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, SHE
HAS BEEN LIVING IN D.C. SINCE 2006. THOUGH SHE BEGAN TO
NOTICE DISPARITIES EARLY ON AS SHE NAVIGATED THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION SYSTEM, HER FORMAL INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIZING
SPACES HAPPENED UNDER THE TRAINING OF MOVEMENT MATTERS,
WHERE SHE MET OTHER STUDENTS WHO WERE ORGANIZING TO ADDRESS
ISSUES THAT WERE AFFECTING THEM. IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE BEGAN
TO ORGANIZE AROUND LANGUAGE JUSTICE, AND THE BROADER
IMMIGRANT RIGHTS MOVEMENT. SHE CONTINUES TO ORGANIZE AND IS
CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH AT THE CENTER
FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY TO PROPOSE POLICY CHANGES THAT
PROVIDE MORE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH. SHE HAS A
MASTER'S DEGREE IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FROM THE

UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND IS, A PROGRAM ANALYST FOR DOEE'S OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE, WHERE HER EFFORTS FOCUS ON FINDING NEW WAYS TO MAKE PUBLIC FUNDS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO URBAN FARMERS TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY AND CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW FOOD LOCALLY. RECOGNIZING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A TIME-SENSITIVE ISSUE, SHE STRIVES TO BE INCLUSIVE AND OPEN UP SPACES FOR ACTION IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPACTED DISPROPORTIONATELY. A GREAT HONOR, BRENDA

THE SPACE IS YOURS. THANK YOU SO MUCH ALWAYS.

>> Brenda Perez: THANK YOU, GUYS, THANK YOU FOR CREATING SPACE FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO PUT THIS SERIES TOGETHER. AND -- TO BE ABLE TO -- YOU KNOW, LIKE, TELL YOU GUY AS BUT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE -- THE MOVEMENT AND THE AMAZING PEOPLE THAT I HAVE MET. SO, YEAH, THANK YOU FOR SHARING MY BIO. I CURRENTLY WORK FOR D.C. GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AGRICULTURE, AND --

I'M BASICALLY TRYING TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN INCREASE, OR DECREASE, FOOD INSECURITY IN THE DISTRICT BY ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO GROW FOOD LOCALLY. AND, IT CAN HAPPEN IN THE CITY. WE JUST HAVE TO BE INCREDIBLY CREATIVE ABOUT IT. SO,

YEAH, SO, I, I ALSO HAD THE PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO DO A SERIES AROUND, IMMIGRATION. I THINK ABOUT LAST YEAR, WITH ADRIANA'S DAUGHTER, RENATTA, I REALLY LOVE THE SPACE BECAUSE LIKE SOMETIMES YOU ARE GIVEN A PLATFORM, YOU KNOW WITH A LOT OF, RESTRICTIONS, AND A LOT OF, LIKE, YOU KNOW LIKE A VERY SPECIFIC MESSAGING. BUT I -- I LOVE THIS, PLATFORM, I CONTINUE TO --

INVITE OTHERS BECAUSE IT REALLY ALLOWS THEM TO SPEAK, YOU KNOW FROM, A PLACE OF AUTHENTICITY. AND YOU KNOW LIKE TELL YOU HOW THEIR STORY REALLY IS. AND HOW THE MOVEMENT REALLY IS. SO THIS IS WHY I DECIDED. I DECIDED TO CURATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. YOU KNOW FROM WHAT I LEARNED AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS REALLY ROOTED, ROOTED IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE DISPROPORTIONATE ENVIRONMENTAL BURDEN THAT MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES BEAR. INCLUDING --

THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. URBAN PLANNING. DEFORESTATION AND DESECRATION OF SACRED LANDS. AND, ONE, ONE OF THOSE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES. AND DESPITE COLONIZATION, CAPITALISM, RACIAL INJUSTICE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CONTINUE TO BE AT THE FRONT LINES OF, VERY IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS, OF TODAY.

AND THEY ARE ALSO THE ORIGINAL STEWARDS OF THIS LAND. AND
SO ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNED IS -- THROUGH MY
WORK IN ORGANIZING, IS THAT IF YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND, THE
ROOT ISSUE. AND FIND --
SOLUTIONS THAT WORK. YOU HAVE TO GO TO -- THE, EXPERTS. AND
THE EXPERTS ARE THE COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPACTED THE MOST.
IMPACTED BY THE ISSUES. THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT --
THAT, CAN TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT IS IT THAT THEY NEED IN
ORDER TO BE ABLE TO --
TO SUCCEED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO FIND -- A SOLUTION THAT
WORKS. NOT JUST FOR THEM, BUT FOR EVERYBODY ELSE. AND SO --
YEAH, I WANTED US, I WANTED TO FOCUS THIS ON, SERIES, ON,
INDIGENOUS --
LED MOVEMENTS. BECAUSE, INVESTING IN INDIGENOUS SELF
DETERMINATION AND SHIFTING DECISION MAKING POWER TO CENTER,
INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS, OF KNOWLEDGE, ARE -- THOSE ARE VITAL TO
RESTORING OUR NATURAL END-BUILT ENVIRONMENTS. IN A TKEUGS
TO ALL OF THIS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS A VERY
INTERSECTIONAL ISSUE. I WORK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.
IN D.C. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HEAR THE MOST IS THAT WE
NEED TO STOP EATING RED MEAT. YOU KNOW, IN ORDER TO SAVE
THE ENVIRONMENT. YOU KNOW. BUT ONE OF THE THINGS, YOU KNOW,

I STARTED TO LIKE -- REALLY THINK ABOUT THAT. YOU KNOW? AND WHY MEAT? OH, BECAUSE IT --

BECAUSE OF THE GASSES THAT COWS PRODUCE. THAT'S BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. YOU KNOW? I'M LIKE, WELL WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MEAT? WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR VEGETABLES IF YOU ARE

VEGETARIAN? I GET THEM AT SAFE WAY OR GIANT. BECAUSE I HAVE SO MANY OF THOSE MARKETS NEARBY. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR

FOOD COMES FROM? YOU KNOW, LIKE, IN D.C. SPECIFICALLY, YOU KNOW LIKE THE PRODUCE THAT COMES TO -- TO OUR FOOD STORES,

COMES FROM CALIFORNIA, AND TEXAS. YOU KNOW, MY NEXT

QUESTION IS ALWAYS LIKE, DO YOU KNOW WHO IS CULTIVATING ALL OF YOUR FOOD? YOU KNOW? AND IF YOU, PAY ATTEN TAOUGS THE

NEWS, IT IS MOSTLY IMMIGRANT AND MOSTLY UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE WHO WORK WITH, UNDER LIKE SEVERE CLIMATE CONDITIONS, WORK

VERY, UNDERPAID. AND LIVE IN THESE VERY LIKE --

ALMOST LIKE, SHANTYTOWNS IN IN THESE MEGA FARMS. SO, THEN,

WHEN WE START TO, DECONSTRUCT AWFUL THAT, VEGANISM,

VEGETARIANISM, ANY OTHER ISSUE, LIKE, WE START TO FIND

OTHER ISSUES. THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS SAY, ENVIRONMENTAL

JUSTICE IS AN INTERSECTIONAL AREA.

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE ASPECTS OF

THAT. AND NOT JUST, FOCUS ON -- ON THE SINGLE ONE THAT WE

LEARNED FROM THE MAINSTREAM -- MEDIA. SO --

YEAH, SO --

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS THAT, ALSO. IT DEALS WITH SOCIAL,
RACIAL, AND, ECONOMIC --

INEQUITIES. AND SO, THEREFORE, THAT MEANS THAT THIS, THIS,
THE SOLUTIONS, MUST ALSO BE INTERSECTIONAL AND, CENTER THE
MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES. SO, THE SPEAKERS THAT I CHOSE
FOR YOU, FOR THESE SERIES, ARE PEOPLE THAT HAVE --

REALLY, LIKE, GOTTEN INTO, THAT HAVE BEEN AT THE FRONT
LINES OF THE MOVEMENT. AND CONTINUE TO EXPLORE -- WHAT DOES
IT LOOK LIKE, TO FIND THOSE INTERSECTIONAL, SOLUTIONS THAT
WE NEED. AND SO --

I HOPE THAT --

YOU ARE ABLE TO, LISTEN TO THEM. AND LEARN FROM THEM. AND,
PLEASE DO ASK THEM, A LOT OF QUESTIONS. BECAUSE THESE ARE,
FOLKS THAT ARE FULL OF KNOWLEDGE. INCLUDING, OUR FIRST
PERSON TO ENTER TODAY, THOMAS LOPEZ. SO EXCITE ADD BUT
THOMAS, THOMAS HAS TAUGHT ME SO MUCH ABOUT THE
ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT INCLUDING WHAT IT LOOKS LOOK TO, TO
DO THE MOVEMENT, WITH JOY. AND, CELEBRATE YOUR PEOPLE. AND,
OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. I AM GOING TO READ THOMAS' BIO THEN LET
YOU, THOMAS, CONTINUE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND BE TKWEUPB

WITH YOUR TALK. BORN AND RAISED IN NORTHERN CHEYENNE
TERRITORY, DENVER, COLORADO. THEY ARE A GRANDCHILD OF CHIEF
LEONARD CROWDOG SENIOR AND THE CHILD OF WATER WOMAN SHARON
DOMINGUEZ AND SUNDANCE CHIEF THOMAS LOPEZ SR.

THEY SPENT YEARS WORKING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS
YOUTH COUNCIL, IIYC, WORKING TO STOP THE DAKOTA ACCESS
PIPELINE AND TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN OTHER INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITIES. THOMAS CONTINUES TO WORK WITH THE IIYC AND
FUTURE COALITION AS AN ADULT MENTOR. AFTER EXPLORING MANY
CORNERS -- CONCERNS, MANY CORNERS OF MOVEMENT SPACES,
THOMAS NOW CHOOSES TO INSPIRE CULTURAL CHANGE THROUGH
COMEDY, FASHION, AND MEDIA. AND, YEAH, SO THOMAS, I WILL
KICK IT TO YOU. AND, FOLKS PLEASE -- YOU KNOW, LISTEN WITH
AN OPEN HEART. AND WRITE DOWN YOUR QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, BRENDA. (SPEAKING NATIVE LANGUAGE) MY
NAME IS THOMAS LOPEZ JR

LIKE BRENDA SAID I AM ONE OF MANY GRANDCHILDREN OF CHIEF OF
CHIEFS LEONARD CROWDOG SR.. AND THIS PROUD CHILD OF WATER
WOMAN SHARON DOMIN GI EZ AND SUN DANCE CHIEF, THOMAS LOPEZ
SR.. YEAH, I WAS BORN IN DENVER, COLORADO, CHEYENNE, AND I
VERY MUCH SO GOT A VERY INTERESTING EXPERIENCE GROWING UP.
AND, THAT HAS DEFINITELY LED TO -- WHO I AM TODAY. BUT

BEFORE I JUMP INTO LIKE MY STORY AND WHAT I WANT TO SHARE,
I JUST WANT TO SHARE A SONG WITH EVERYBODY. BECAUSE AROUND
THIS TIME, ABOUT, FIVE, SIX, I CAN'T REMEMBER NOW, SIX
YEARS AGO, YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE STANDING ROCK DAKOTA
NATION RAN TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND STARTED WHAT WE NOW KNOW
IS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE. THIS ONE
OF THE SONGS THAT THEY CREATED WHILE WE WERE ON THE FRONT
LINES

I JUST WANT TO SHARE IT WITH YOU. IT TRANSLATES TO, --
CALLING YOU, AND OUR WATER IS SACRED LIFE. THE DAKOTA
AACCESS PIPELINE, THE PIPELINES, THEY'RE BAD FOR THE
PEOPLE. THEY'RE BAD FOR THE EARTH. BUT THE PEOPLE WILL COME
TOGETHER. BUT THE PEOPLE WILL STAND STRONG TOGETHER. IS
WHAT IT TRANSLATES TO.

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>> SO, YEAH, MY I AM REALLY HONORED TO BE HERE TODAY.
REALLY HONORED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU AND HUMBLLED THAT
I -- THAT I CAN GET THE OPPORTUNITY AND PRIVILEGE TO BE IN
SPACES LIKE THIS. THAT I HAVE GOTTEN THE PRIVILEGE AND

OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN MANY SPACES LIKE THIS. TO TELL MY STORY, TO SHARE -- THE PLACE THAT I COME FROM. IN ORDER TO -- YOU KNOW, WHEN WE COME INTO THESE SPACES, OFTEN YOU WILL HEAR US INTRODUCE, WHO OUR GRANDPARENTS AND WHO OUR PARENTS ARE. BECAUSE WHO I AM AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I PRESENT TODAY IS A CULMINATION OF GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE. IT ISN'T JUST, KNOWLEDGE THAT I PULLED OUT SOME WHERE, OR READ IN A BOOK. IT IS SOMETHING THAT WAS TAUGHT TO ME BY AN ELDER, BY MY PARENTS, BY MY GRANDPARENTS. AND SO, LIKE MOST OF OUR TRADITIONS, THEY'RE ORAL TRADITIONS

WE HAVE PROVEN THAT OUR ORAL TRADITIONS ARE JUST AS VALUABLE AND AS STRONG AS ANY SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN ANY WESTERN WORLD. SO, MY STORY, LIKE, AGAIN, STARTS GOING TO JUST DIFFERENT PROTESTS AND TKEUF CAMPS WHEN I WAS YOUNG. I REMEMBER THE FIRST ACTION, SOCIAL ACTION THAT I HAD EVER GONE TO WAS ACTUALLY A RUN. THE PEACE AND DIGNITY RUN WHERE THEY UNITE THE EAGLE AND CONDOR NATION FROM RUNNING TIP OF ALASKA TO, TIERRA

DEL

FUEGO, I REMEMBER BEING TAUGHT BY ALL OF THE CHICANO MOVEMENT, AND THE PEOPLE THAT, WHAT IT MEANT TO BE INDIGENOUS, WHAT IT MEANT TO BE NATIVE. WHAT IT MEANT TO BE

CHICANO, WHAT IT MEANT TO IDENTIFY AS A NATIVE PERSON OF THIS HEMISPHERE. AND THOSE FIGHTS AND THOSE THINGS WHERE, WERE TAUGHT TO ME AT A SUPER EARLY AGE. AND I REMEMBER -- RUNNING -- THROUGH COLORADO, AND THEY WERE HEADED ACTUALLY UP TO WYOMING. AND I REMEMBER, SITTING THERE, AND -- AND BEING TOLD, WATCH WHAT IS EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING. BECAUSE ONE DAY YOU ARE GOING TO BE CALLED UPON. IT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ANSWER. YOU WILL FEEL IT. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IT. FAST FORWARD. I GUESS LIKE, TEN YEARS INTO THE FUTURE. I GUESS MAYBE MORE. I AM REALLY BAD AT MATH. YEARS, MANY MOONS IN THE FUTURE. I WAS GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE. AND, I -- I WAS ABOUT TO LITERALLY JUST LIKE START HITTING THE, LIKE, JOB SEARCH REALLY HARD. I HAD JUST GONE THROUGH FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE AND WAS PROMISED THIS AMAZING JOB WITH THIS AMAZING DEGREE THAT I HAD. I LIKE QUICKLY REALIZED THAT WAS NOT THE CASE. SO THERE I AM, I AM SITTING IN AMERICAN APPAREL, JUST LIKE, SELLING CLOTHES, AND THINGS TO PEOPLE, THAT LIKE THEY TOTALLY DON'T NEED. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN LOOK ALL OF MY COUSINS AND ALL OF MY FAMILY START TELLING ME ABOUT THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE RUNNING FROM NORTH DAKOTA TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AND I, PEOPLE WERE ASKING, LIKE THEY'RE ASKING PEOPLE TO

COME TO STANDING ROCK. AND TO MAKE A FIGHT, A STAND AGAINST THIS PIPELINE. AND I REMEMBER JUST BEING LIKE --

WHOA, THAT IS CRAZY. WHEN YOU SAY YOUNG PEOPLE. NO, THESE PEOPLE ARE, 14, 15, 16 YEARS OLD. MAKING THIS STAND.

CALLING FOR PEOPLE TO GO. PEOPLE FROM ALL NATIONS, BEGIN TO OFFER THE CALL. MY FATHER BEING A CHIEF AND WARRIOR, I FELT THAT CALL. THAT I WAS TOLD ABOUT, YEARS BEFORE. I FELT THAT PULL TOWARDS SOMETHING. I TOLD MY DAD, AS A CHIEF YOU SHOULD BE REPRESENTED THERE. WE SHOULD BE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS COMMUNITY AND TO THIS FIGHT. SO I -- PACKED UP ALL OF MY STUFF. ACTUALLY QUIT MY JOB. I PUT A BUNCH OF SUPPLIES IN THE BACK OF THE CAR. MADE THE JOURNEY TO STANDING ROCK. WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A WEEKEND FOR ME. ENDED UP BECOMING A THREE-MONTH CHAPTER. AND PIVOTAL MOMENT OF MY LIFE. WHAT I LEARNED THEN, WHAT I EXPERIENCED. WOULD COMPLETELY CHANGE MY LIFE AND EVERYTHING THAT I UNDERSTOOD ABOUT WHO I WAS. AND MY PLACEMENT IN THE WORLD. WHILE I WAS THERE, I QUICKLY ATTRACTED, A BUNCH OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE PART OF A GROUP, CALLED THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH COUNCIL. MY IDEA OF WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A YOUNG PERSON, WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A YOUTH COMPLETELY CHANGED. I HAD BEEN OPERATING UPON THIS IDEA THAT THE MINUTE YOU TURN 18 YOU

ARE AN ADULT. THAT'S THAT. YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN. YOU MAKE YOUR DECISIONS, YOU JUST LIVE YOUR LIFE. AND ALL OF A SUDDEN HERE I WAS, A 22-YEAR-OLD PERSON, COMPLETELY, LIKE, STRIPPING MYSELF OF LIKE, ADULTHOOD, AND UNDERSTANDING LIKE, WAIT, I ACTUALLY VERY MUCH AM A KID STILL. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT I HAVE TO LEARN. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT I HAVE TO BUILD. BUT YET THERE IS SO MUCH THAT I HAVE TO OFFER. SO MUCH I HAVE TO TEACH. THIS SPACE ALLOWED ME TO BUILD THE SKILLS, BUT SHARE THE SKILLS AT THE SAME TIME. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCIZE HAD BEEN THROUGH IN MY LIFE. REALIZING THAT WE AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE SO DIFFERENT. YET SO SIMILAR. WAS SO IMPORTANT FOR ME. AND THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING THAT I HAD NEVER REALLY LIVED. GROWING UP IN THE CITY OFTEN YOU FIND YOURSELF BEING THE ONLY NATIVE PERSON IN THE ROOM. YOU OFTEN FIND YOURSELF, HANGING OUT WITH A LOT OF, BLACK AND, LATIN IDENTIFYING PEOPLE. WHICH WE CAN GET INTO THAT WHOLE ISSUE ANOTHER TIME. BECAUSE THERE IS REALLY NO ONE ELSE AROUND YOU THAT IS LIKE YOU, SO YOU GRAVITATE TO WHAT IS CLOSEST TO YOUR CULTURE AND OFTEN TIMES THAT IS BLACK CULTURE, THAT IS MEXICAN CULTURE, THAT IS, PUERTO RICAN CULTURE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. I WAS IN A ROOM SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE

WHO LOOKED, SOUNDED AND HAD COME FROM PLACES ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE MINE. THE POWER, UNITY, SENSE OF COMMUNITY, THAT SENSE OF SELF WAS SO POWERFUL FOR ME. SO I WENT THROUGH EVERYTHING THAT YOU SEE IN STANDING ROCK. I WAS ATTACKED. I WAS, MACED. I EXPERIENCED ALL OF THE BEAUTY AND ALL OF THE PAIN THAT STANDING ROCK HAD TO OFFER. COMING OUT OF STANDING ROCK. I WILL COME FULL CIRCLE TO THIS IN A SECOND. WHEN I WENT --

THE MESSAGE THAT WAS BEING TOLD TO ME WAS THAT I NEEDED TO FIGHT AT ALL COSTS. THAT I NEEDED TO FIGHT TO WIN. AND THE WIN WAS STOPPING THE PIPELINE. I WAS TOLD TO SIMPLY USE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT TIE HAD HAD. LET ME TELL YOU WHERE I COME FROM, A FIGHT, YEAH, THAT'S NOT THE THING PRETTY. THAT'S NOT ANYTHING PEACEFUL. IT'S NOT ANYTHING THAT'S LIKE, OH, LIKE, WE ARE GOING TO KUMBAYA, A FIGHT IS A FIGHT. SURVIVAL. SO WHEN THEY TOLD ME TO DO THAT I BEGIN TO USE THAT MENTALITY, OF, I AM IN BATTLE. I AM, A WARRIOR. I AM IN WAR. I HAVE TO FIGHT. AND THEY DIDN'T, THEY FAILED TO MENTION THE CONSEQUENCES THAT COME WITH CHOOSING TO FIGHT LIKE THAT. WHEN WE LEFT STANDING ROCK, WHAT HAPPENED? WE ALL REALIZED WE HAD BEEN GIVEN A MOUNTAIN OF TRAUMA ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN OF TRAUMA THAT WE HAD GONE TO STANDING ROCK

WITH. GROWING UP BEING NATIVE IS ONE OF MOST TRAUMATIZING THINGS THAT, I KNOW. WE ARE THE BOTTOM OF SOCIETY, IN EVERY SINGLE CULTURE, IN THIS HEMISPHERE. THERE IS NOTHING BELOW A NATIVE PERSON IN THESE, IN MANY COUNTRIES. CANADA, AMERICA, MEXICO, PANAMA, COLOMBIA, EVERY SINGLE PLACE THEY LOOK AT THE NATIVE PEOPLE AS IF THEY'RE EITHER, COMPLETELY GONE, OR THEY ARE DIRT. SO GROWING UP IN THAT, YOU ALREADY ARE COMING TO STANDING ROCK WITH ALL OF THAT TRAUMA. THEN YOU ARE GIVEN ALL OF THIS TRAUMA. AND THEN, YOU DON'T STOP THE PIPELINE. ALL OF A SUDDEN EVERYONE GOES HOME. AND WE ARE NOW EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH THIS LOSS. WHILE ALSO ACCLIMATING OURSELVES BACK INTO SOCIETY. AND GOING THROUGH THAT. AND DEALING, AND HOLDING, MY SIBLINGS, MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS IN THE BEST WAY THAT I COULD. WAS ONE OF THE MORE CHALLENGING THINGS I DID. IN THE FALL. IN THE SUMMER -- EARLY FALL OF 2017, WE WERE GIVEN THE RFK HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD. AND IN THAT MOMENT, I MET A LOT OF THE MARCH FOR OUR LIVES YOUTH. WHOA WHEN I MET THE YOUNG PEOPLE, I LOOKED IN THEIR EYES. AND THE SAME LOOK THAT I SAW IN, IN MY EYES. IN THE MIRROR, AND THE FACES OF MY OWN PEOPLE, THE SAME LOOK I WAS SEEING ON THE FACES OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE. THE FEELING LIKE -- HOLY SHIT, I ALREADY GOT MY ASS KICKED, ALL RIGHT,

AND NOW, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO CLEAN IT ALL UP. THAT FIGHT OF WHO DO I CHOOSE, MY PEOPLE OR MYSELF. IS A REALLY HARD, HARD, THING TO SWALLOW AND HARD THING TO CHOOSE. WHEN YOU ARE IN YOUR 20s. LET ANY JUST BE HONEST. A REALLY HARD THING TO CHOOSE. TO ASK THESE YOUNG PEOPLE TO STOP WHAT THEY'RE DOING, TO SACRIFICE THEIR YOUTH, TO FIGHT FOR A PROBLEM, THAT, THAT TRUTHLY IS NOBODY'S FAULT. EXCEPT FOR THE CORPORATIONS. THERE IS NO ONE PERSON WE CAN BLAME FOR THIS. NO ONE PERSON WE CAN GO AND TALK TO, THIS IS A SYSTEMIC ISSUE. SOMETHING ROOTED IN HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF VIOLENCE AND, AND, AND, AND --

TRIGGER WARNING. RAPE OF THE EARTH, OF OUR WOMEN OF OUR TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE, AND CHILDREN, TO EXPECT THE PEOPLE TO JUST SOLVE IT, TO BE THE, THE CHANGE REVOLUTIONARIO TO SAVE THE, IT WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME. AND I QUICKLY REALIZED WHILE I WAS THERE, I NEED HELP. I NEED HELP. AND IF I DON'T HELP MYSELF, AND IF I DON'T CHANGE -- MY IDEA OF WHAT A FIGHT IS, AND WHAT I HAVE CONDITIONED TO BELIEVE A FIGHT LOOKS LIKE, IF I DON'T CHANGE THAT FOR MYSELF.

I AM GOING TO SET THIS NEXT GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I JUST DID. AND IT'S NOT FAIR. I AM NOT SOME ONE THAT OPERATE IN A WORLD OF MADNESS. WHEN YOU DO

SOMETHING, AND IT DOESN'T WORK, AND YOU TRY IT ONE MORE TIME. IT STILL DOESN'T WORK. MAYBE YOU DON'T DO A THIRD TIME. SO I HAD TO REWIRE MYSELF REALLY, COMPLETELY. GO TO ANGER MANAGEMENT, EXPLAIN TO MYSELF AND FIGURE OUT WHY AM I FEELING WHAT I AM FEELING? WHY IS IT THAT I AM ANGRY? WHY IS IT THAT I AM EXPRESSING MYSELF IN THIS WAY? THAT ULTIMATELY IS LIKE VERBALLY PUNCHING PEOPLE WHO DON'T EVEN DESERVE IT. I HAD TO FIGURE THAT OUT. AND WHEN I DID THAT --

I QUICKLY, REALIZED THAT --

I NO LONGER WANT TO TAKE THIS CLOSED FIST APPROACH. I UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS SYMBOL MEANS. I AGREE WITH THIS SYMBOL. BUT, MAYBE WHEN WALKING AROUND WITH MY FISTS CLOSED. I DON'T ACTUALLY ALLOW THEM TO BE OPEN TO ACCEPT ALL OF THE BEAUTY AND BLESSINGS THAT LIFE TRULY HAS TO OFFER ME. IF I DON'T LEARN TO ACCEPT THAT BEAUTY. I DON'T LEARN HOW TO -- BE THE, BE THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWER THAT I AM, AND JUST, JUST, SIMPLY ENJOY THE PASSING OF TIME -- THEN I AM GOING TO DO THIS, NEXT GYP RACING, A WORLD OF HURT. I AM GOING TO WRAP UP ALL OF MY ISSUES INTO A NICE PACKAGE. PASS IT OFF TO THEM AS TRAINING. THAT RENAISSANCE, THAT CHANGE IN THINKING THAT SHIFTING IN CONSCIOUSNESS IN MYSELF, WAS

NOR PROFOUND AND MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY ACTION, ANY SPEECH,
ANY, ANY -- RALLY, ANY MARCH I HAD EVER DONE IN MY LIFE.
WHEN I SHIFTED MY OWN SELF. AND MY OWN BELIEF. AND MY OWN
IDEA OF WHAT THE WORLD WAS. AND WHAT MY JOURNEY WAS. AND
WHO I AM. AND MY PLACE IN THE WORLD. THE YOUNG PEOPLE
BEHIND ME BEGAN TO JUST FOLLOW IN THAT. IN THOSE FOOTSTEPS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD BE LOVING EACH OTHER WHEN WE COME TO THE
FRONT LINES, SINGING, LAUGHING, MAYBE WE SHOULD BE PRAYING,
SOMETIMES PEOPLE NEED TO CRY, WE MAKE THAT SPACE FOR PEOPLE
TO CRY. THAT'S A LOT COMING FROM ME. I LOOK TO KID MYSELF,
UNFORTUNATELY A PRETTY EMOTIONALLY UNAVAILABLE PERSON. BUT
I FOUND THAT --

IN THESE TIMES, EVEN A PERSON LOOK ME, HAS TO BE ABLE TO --
ALLOW FOR THE SPIRIT TO MOVE THROUGH. MY GRANDPA WOULD SAY
THAT WHEN WE ARE IN CEREMONY, YOU ARE DANCING, MOVING,
PRAYING, DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES, YOU MIGHT MISS THAT SPIRIT.
AND THAT SPIRIT ONLY MOVES THROUGH ONCE. IT HAS TO HAVE THE
SPACE. IT JUST -- WHEW GOES THRAOUFPLT IF YOU ARE BUSY, NOT
PAYING ATTENTION. YOU ARE NOT, FOCUSED. AND YOU MISS THAT.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT FIGHTING, WINNING, WORRIED ABOUT THIS
PERFECTION ATION THAT I MISSED THE SPIRIT. THERE WAS SO
MUCH BEAUTY THAT --

THAT I WAS EXPERIENCING. THAT I HAD LIVED THROUGH. NOW I
HAVE COMPLETELY DECIDED THAT THE BEST AND MOST POWERFUL
THING THAT I CAN DO FOR THE WORLD IS SIMPLY BE MYSELF. IS
SIMPLY RECLAIM MY VOICE. MY PLATFORM. AND REALLY UNDERSTAND
THAT LIKE --

ALL OF THE THINGS THAT I FEEL, THE DECISIONS THAT I MAKE --
THE WAY I LIVE MY LIFE --

IS BECAUSE OF THESE TRAUMAS AND THESE THINGS THAT I HAVE
BEEN THROUGH. AND FROM THAT -- THE (INDISCERNIBLE) WAS
BURST. I --

PRIOR TO THIS YEAR I REALLY DID BELIEVE LIKE I SAID THERE
WAS A CERTAIN WAY THAT I HAD TO BE IND OR TIRE BE ACCEPTED.
TO BE IN THIS ACTIVISM SPACE. TRUTH BE TOLD, THAT WAS A
VERY, VERY, FILTERED, VERY, VERY WATERED DOWN VERSION OF
WHO I AM. I UNFORTUNATELY AM NOT SOME ONE THAT WAS RAISED
IN A POLITICALLY CORRECT SPACE. I AM NOT SOMEBODY THAT WAS,
TOLD THAT -- YOU KNOW, KEEP WHAT YOU FEEL INSIDE. YOU KNOW,
LIKE I WAS VERY MUCH SO, TAUGHT THAT, THE WORLD IS A TOUGH
PLACE AND SOME ONE LOOK YOU, IF YOU KNOW ME, I AM 5'2", I
AM VERY FEMININE, I WAS BORN, MALE, AND SO, MOST OF MY LIFE
I HAVE BEEN PUT INTO THE MALE, LIKE, WITH THE REST OF THE
MALES, AND I NEVER FIT IN THAT. AND, MY PARENTS JUST KIND

OF TOLD ME. YOU DON'T FIT THE SOCIETAL MOLD. AND YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT A LITTLE BIT HARDER THAN EVERYONE ELSE TO BE SEEN AND TO BE HEARD. BUT YOU CAN DO IT. YOU SHOULD DO IT. DON'T BE AFRAID TO DO IT. DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE THAT STAND. AND SO WHEN I WAS MOVING THESE SPACIZE HAD TO WATER MYSELF DOWN. OH, MAN I WAS LIKE, SANTO THOMAS, I WAS REALLY LIKE JUST PRAYERFUL FOR EVERYBODY. WHEN I DROPPED THAT FACADE, I REALIZED THAT ALL OF MY IMPERFECT TP-GSS ALL OF THOSE THINGS THAT LIKE MAKE ME NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT, -- WERE ACTUALLY VERY NORMAL THINGS THAT MOST BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE WERE EXPERIENCING AND VERY CONFUSED WHEN WE CAME INTO THE SPACES THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN WHAT WE KNEW TO BE CULTURE IS NOW VIOLENT COMMUNICATION. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. LIKE NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN, I AS A BROWN PERSON AM IN THE SPACE. THESE YOUNG, SUBURBAN, WHITE KIDS, I'M NOW, LIKE I AM MEAN. IT'S LIKE --

ALL RIGHT, I CAN'T ABIDE BY THAT

I CAN'T FOLLOW THAT. I AM WHO I AM. I AM WORKING ON THAT. AND THERE ARE, SO MANY OTHER YOUNG BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE THAT FEEL EXACTLY THE WAY THAT I DO. THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY BE OURSELVES WHEN WE COME INTO THE SPACES THAT WE HAVE TO -- MAKE CERTAIN PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE. THE

TRUTH IS I AM NOT HERE TO MAKE ANY ONE FEEL COMFORTABLE. MY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS NOT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, ARE RECEIVING, AND ARE COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE. THAT IS A SELF-HELP THING. THAT IS THINGS THAT WE HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO MANAGE ON OUR OWN. AND AM I ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY WORDS. AM I ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE THINGS THAT I DO? YES. BUT I HAVE TO BE AUTHENTICALLY MYSELF. AND WHEN I SHED THAT, AND I JUST, BECAME THE MOST AUTHENTIC, SPIRIT AND SELF THAT I POSSIBLY COULD, WHILE I AM LIVING THROUGH THIS HUMAN EXPERIENCE, IS WHAT REALLY LED ME INTO THIS WHOLE LAND BACK WORLD. AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LAND BACK BADDIE, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A BADDIE, ALWAYS LOVED FASHION. I LOVE MAKEUP. I LOVE, YOU KNOW BEING WITH PEOPLE, I LOVE -- DANCING. I LOVE BEING GOOD AT THINGS. I LOVE, BEING GOOD AT THINGS. YOU KNOW I TRY TO STEER AWAY FROM THINGS THAT I AM NOT AS GOOD AT. BUT, WHEN I REALLY GOT INTO THE LAND BACK MOVEMENT. I UNDERSTOOD NOT ONLY WERE PEOPLE PHYSICALLY FIGHTING FOR THEIR TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS AND THE RIGHT TO CARE TAKE THEIR LAND, BUT THAT -- MY LAND, THE, LAND, THE ONLY THING THAT I TRULY OWN IN THIS WORLD, I ALMOST HAD NO CONTROL OVER, NO AUTONOMY OVER WHO I WAS. IT WAS AS IF I HAD TO OPERATE WITHIN THE -- THE, THE

BOUNDS OF WHAT THIS SOCIETY TOLD ME I NEEDED TO BE. AND MY IDEA OF THE LAND BACK CAMPAIGN, THE LAND BACK MOVEMENT, IS RECLAIMING MY BODY. RECLAIMING MY VOICE. RECLAIMING MY STORY. MY AUTONOMY. MY RIGHT TO DECIDE WHERE AND WHAT I DO WITH THIS LAND. AND THAT HAS -- NOT ONLY HELPED SO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT SO MANY QUEER PEOPLE. SO MANY TRANSPeOPLE. SO MANY TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE. IT HAS HELPED THEM COME OUT OF THIS SHELL, THE IDEA THAT THERE ARE NO QUEER NATIVES WAS A REAL BELIEF PRIOR TO ABOUT, TEN YEARS AGO. FOR A LOT OF FOLKS IN MAINSTREAM POP CULTURE. THIS IDEA THAT, WE AS NATIVE PEOPLE, AS NATIVE MEN, WOMEN AND NONBINARY PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY BE VALUED, MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ-PLUS COMMUNITY IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I WAS GROWN UP BEING, I GREW UP BEING TOLD. SO, EVERYTHING THAT I DO NOW, IS ALL ABOUT, NOT ONLY, RECLAIMING OUR, THE LAND AND WHAT WE KNOW TO BE AS EARTH, BUT ALSO RE-ESTABLISHING OURSELVES, OUR HUMAN SELVES AS, A RECIPROCAL PART OF (INDISCERNIBLE), SHE IS NOT SEPARATE OF US, WE ARE EARTH. THERE IS, NO MISTAKE THAT WHEN YOU DIG INTO THE GROUND, SHE IS BLACK AND SHE IS BROWN. SHE IS THE SAME COLOR AS WE ARE. SO I USE THOSE THINGS. I USE THOSE CONNECTIONS TO SHOW BLACK AND BROWN AND INDIGENOUS QUEER PEOPLE, AND, OH, SORRY, AND

TRANSPEOPLE, THAT IT IS TIME FOR US TO, TO AWAKEN. AND IT'S
TEAM FOR US TO RECLAIM THE RESPECT, THE LOVE, AND THE
SPACES THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN, BUT HAVE NEVER TRULY
BEEN ALLOWED TO STAND OUT IN. AND SO, THAT'S WHERE A LOT OF
THE LAND BACK BODY AND THE, MY QUEER LIBERATION COMES FROM.
AND, YEAH, SO, WHERE I AM NOW? I AM, CAN I DO A WRAP-UP.
THEN GO TO SOME Q AND A. LIKE BRENDA SAID, I AM STILL AN
ADULT MENTOR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH COUNCIL
I HAVE STEPPED BACK FROM NATIONAL ORGANIZING, AND I REALLY
FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE HERE IN DENVER, COLORADO TO MAKE SURE
THAT THEY ARE GETTING THE, THE TIME AND ENERGY AND
RESOURCES THAT THEY NEED. WE PRIMARILY FIGHT AGAINST, LIKE
THE SUN CORPS REFINERY THAT IS HERE, ACTUALLY JUST MOVED. I
LITERALLY LIVE, 20 BLOCKS FROM THE SUN CORPS REFINERY, NOW
BACK IN THE FIGHT WHICH IS, REALLY INTERESTING. AND I AM,
ALSO, NOW WORKING ON -- NEW PIECE CALLED, A PHOTO SERIES
WHERE WE ARE ACTUALLY GOING, TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES. AND,
HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TELL THEIR STORY OF THEIR COMMUNITY
THROUGH THEIR EXPERIENCES LIVING IN THESE COMMUNITIES. WE
ARE, BASICALLY WHAT WE ARE DOING IS WHAT FOLKS DID FOR
GRETA, BUT FOR YOUNG BLACK AND BROWN ORGANIZERS WHO
TRUTHFULLY ARE NOT BEING GIVEN THE SAME TIME AND ATTENTION.

TO GET THEIR FRONT LINE FIGHT SEEP AND INTO THE PLACES
WHERE MASS AMOUNTS OF PEOPLE ARE READING ABOUT THEM AND
GIVING THEM SUPPORT. THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT WE ARE DOING.
ALL, COMPLETELY BIPOC LED. AND BEEN ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCES THAT THE I HAVE EVER EMBARKED ON IN
MY LIFE. ULTIMATELY HAS SHOWN ME, THAT ONE OF THE BIGGEST
CAUSES, ONE OF THE BIGGEST, MOST OVERLOOKED ISSUES OF THE
CLIMATE STRIKES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS, EXCUSE ME. IS THE
FACT THAT MIGRATION --
MIGRATION IS A HUMAN NECESSITY. MIGRATION IS SOMETHING THAT
HUMANS -- ALL, ANIMALS, ALL ANIMALS, MUST -- MUST DO. THERE
WAS NO SUCH THING AS BORDERS FOR PEOPLE, AND FARMS, AND
COMMUNITIES TO THRIVE. WE HAD TO SHARE WITH EACH OTHER. NOT
JUST KNOWLEDGE. NOT JUST LANGUAGE. NOT JUST, FOOD. NOT JUST
FOODS. MEDICINES. AND PEOPLE. YOU CAN'T JUST CONTINUE TO
POPULATE WITH THE SAME PEOPLE, GUYS, WE WOULD ALL BE
COUSINS. LIKE YOU HAD TO -- HAVE THOSE MIGRATIONS OF
PEOPLE, THOSE, THOSE TRIBES COMING TOGETHER. REDISCOVERING,
FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE, TO CONTINUE SUSTAINING IN THE WAYS
THAT THEY HAVE. AND WHAT WE SEE NOW -- OUR BORDERS -- THAT
HAVE COMPLETELY DISRUPTED THESE ANCIENT, TRADITIONAL
MIGRATION PATTERNS. WE AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE TRAVELED,

BEFORE THIS INFANT WESTERN SOCIETY WAS EVER THOUGHT OF. AND WHEN YOU STOP THOSE MIGRATION PATTERNS. YOU DISRUPT THE ENTIRE FLOW OF THIS BODY. THIS, THIS, THIS TURTLE ISLAND IS A BODY. AND WE DISRUPTED HER BLOOD FLOW. WE ARE HER BLOOD. WE ARE HERE. WHEN WE DISRUPT THE, SACRED MIGRATION PATTERNS BACK AND FORTH THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN DOING, CENTURIES, WE DISRUPT THE CLIMATE, WHAT WE KNOW AS THE CLIMATE. AND THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE NOW -- IS THAT WE HAVE MADE IT, LEGAL -- FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE TO MIGRATE. AND ILLEGAL FOR OTHERS TO DO THAT. AND THAT IS, ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL POINTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS. THAT IS TALKED ABOUT. THE LEAST. THIS IDEA THAT --

I'M CHICANO BUT NOT NATIVE. THIS IDEA THAT, THEY'RE CANADIAN, BUT NOT NATIVE. THIS IDEA THAT, THEY'RE MEXICAN, BUT NOT NATIVE. IS SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE TO STRIP OURSELVES OF. AND IT IS THE SAME THING OF THIS, WE ARE HUMAN, AND NOT OF THE EARTH. WE HAVE SEPARATED OURSELVES FROM -- TRUTH. WE HAVE SEVERED OUR CONNECTION TO THE EARTH. WE HAVE GONE AGAINST WHAT WE AS HUMANS WERE PUT HERE TO DO. AND WITH THAT, I THIN THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LISTENING TO ME TODAY. AND -- ALLOWING ME TO, JUST SHARE SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES, AND WHAT I HAVE -- GONE THROUGH. AND --

YEAH, I AM SURE I MISSED A WHOLE BUNCH. BUT YOU KNOW I
THINK I GOT WHAT'S COMP GOT TO DO WITH IT? I NEEDED TO GET
OUT. SO I WILL PASS IT OVER TO BRENDA

WE CAN START THE Q & A.

>> MY GOODNESS, THOMAS. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I, EVERY, EVERY
TIME I SIT DOWN WITH THOMAS, I JUST LIKE, LEARN SO MUCH.

TODAY WAS REALLY ONE OF THOSE DAYS. SO AGAIN. REALLY THANK
YOU FOR MENTIONING MIGRATION. THERE IS A LOT, THERE IS A,
BIG CONVERSATION. STARTING NOW WITHIN THE IMMIGRATION
MOVEMENT AROUND WHITE PEOPLE NEED TO MIGRATE BECAUSE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE. THANK YOU FOR HIGHLIGHTING THAT. AND,

AND --

ALSO, YOU KNOW LIKE, IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TRAUMA, YOU
KNOW ESPECIALLY WITH INDIGENOUS YOUTH. THE PROJECT WITH THE
NEW DEAL FOR YOUTH. ECONOMIC PACKAGE. THAT, THAT YOUTH WANT
TO INTRODUCE, ONE OF THE, ENVIRONMENTAL DEMAND, OR ONE OF
THE DEMANDS FOR, THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE --

IS TO --

GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ACCESS TO HEALING,
CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE, PHYSICAL, MENTAL HEALTH CARE. THAT
RESPONDS TO, TO -- TO THAT. YOU KNOW, THE, TRAUMA, THE,
IMPACTS OF, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND, AND --

ENSURING THAT, YOU KNOW, LIKE THEY DON'T EXACERBATE, YOU KNOW THAT TRAUMA. SO, I, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU -- SHARING ALL OF THAT. AND ALSO, ABOUT, ORAL HISTORY. YOU KNOW, LIKE, A LOT OF PEOPLE, YOU KNOW LIKE REALLY FOCUS ON, WRITTEN HISTORY. BUT, YOU KNOW AS I -- LEARNED FROM HISTORY PROFESSOR AT GEORGE MASON, IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO, FOCUS ON ORAL HISTORY. BECAUSE THAT'S, THE WAY THAT, WE HAVE BEEN, PRESERVING OUR TRADITIONS. AND, OUR KNOWLEDGE. SO -- YOU KNOW, I AM JUST, YOU KNOW, HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I LEARNED. BUT I, REALLY APPRECIATE YOU. AND, WE HAVE ONE QUESTION IN THE CHAT RIGHT NOW. IT COMES FROM LAURA. AND, I GUESS I WILL READ IT. SINCE I DON'T SEE LAURA ON THE SCREEN. A HOMEOWNER IN ILLINOIS. AND -- SHE, SHE IS ASKING, HOW CAN -- I DEDICATE AT LEAST AN AWARENESS OF MY LAND TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IT WAS STOLEN FROM? AND, LAURA IF YOU WANT TO ADD MORE TO IT. MORE CONTEXT TO THAT. THAT WILL BE GREAT. IF NOT -- WE CAN PASS IT TO THOMAS.

>> I GUESS I AM JUST --

REALLY WONDERING HOW IN A LIMITED CONTEXT I CAN AT LEAST -- MAKE PEACE WITH THE PIECE OF LAND THAT I AM ON TO, YOU KNOW, GIVE IT THAT AWARENESS THAT IT NEEDS TO -- TO HEAL

THAT IT HAS BEEN STOLEN. REPURPOSEED MANY TIMES UNTIL
REPACKAGED FOR ME. AND, BUT NOW I NEED -- TO TRY TO, BE
KIND TO IT. WHICH I FEEL NEEDS TO -- RECOGNIZE ITS
INDIGENOUS ROOTS. THAT'S KIND OF WHERE I AM COMING FROM.

>> YEAH, I MEAN. I --

SO THE ONE THING ABOUT THE LAND BACK MOVEMENT IS THAT --
IT REALLY MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO LIKE EVERYONE. IT IS
REALLY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO SAY WHAT FOLKS A AGAIN I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT TRIBE IS IN
ILLINOIS. LIKE I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK. BUT --
YOUR BEST BET WOULD BE REALLY TO JUST ENGAGE IN, IN
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THAT ARE THERE. UPLIFT WHAT THEY'RE
DOING. ANY WAYS THAT THEY, YOU CAN HELP THEM, AND BE OF
SERVICE TO THEM IS, IS REALLY WHAT COMMUNITIES NEED, JUST
TRUE ALLIES. IF YOU WANT A PHYSICAL THING YOU CAN DO.
ALWAYS RESEARCHING THE INDIGENOUS PLANTS THAT, THAT ARE,
YOU KNOW, NATIVE TO THAT AREA. AND MAKING SURE THAT, LIKE,
IF YOU HAVE A GARDEN, OR YOU PLANT FLOWERS THAT THE FLOWERS
THAT YOU ARE IN FACT PLANTING ARE STUFF THAT, FROM THAT
LAND. AND ARE THINGS THAT ARE REALLY GOING TO HELP --
YOU KNOW, BECAUSE A LOT OF OUR, A LOT OF OUR HOMES. TO MAKE
THEM LOOK BEAUTIFUL

THEY BROUGHT A LOT OF INVASIVE PLANTS AND SPECIES HERE. PEOPLE THINK OF THE WORD INVASIVE, AUTOMATICALLY MEANS BAD, IT DOESN'T. THERE ARE SOME INVASIVE PLANTS THAT ARE NOT TERRIBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OBVIOUSLY. BUT THERE ARE, ESPECIALLY, WHEN YOU GO OUT WEST. TO CALIFORNIA, I MEAN, MOST OF THE PLANTS THAT ARE IN L.A. ARE LIKE, JUST, LIKE THE WORST, LIKE, POSSIBLE PLANT YOU COULD PUT IN A DESERT. BUT, LIKE I THINK THAT, REALLY, UNDERSTANDING LIKE WHAT ARE THE HERBS. WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF GRASSES THAT GROW HERE NATURALLY THAT I CAN PLANT IN MY HOME. THAT ARE GOING TO, RESTORE THE EARTH BACK TO WHAT IT WAS. WHEN YOU START TO BRING ALL OF THE NEW THINGS IN. YOU DISRUPT THE SOIL. YOU DISRUPT, YOU KNOW, THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF, LIKE, GETTING, MAKING IT THE PERFECT, PERFECT, CLIMATE FOR THESE PLANTS TO GROW. SO WHEN YOU START REPLENISHING IT, BRINGING IT BACK TO WHAT IT WAS OR SUPPOSED TO BE, YOU HELP, YOU KNOW, LIKE, JUST -- YOU HELP THE EARTH. AND THE CLIMATE. JUST OVERALL IN JEN RAM.

>> THANK YOU, THOMAS. AND --

ALSO, SINCE GABY HASN'T TURNED OFF HER CAMERA YET. I WILL QUICKLY, JUST MAKE LIKE A -- A LITTLE BIT OF SPACE FOR YOU. GABY TAYAC IS ONE OF MY, PROBABLY ONE OF MOO IS FAVORITE

PEOPLE, YOU KNOW, SHE IS, A WOMAN AND ALSO MY, MY
MOTHER-IN-LAW. AND, AND, YOU KNOW SHE HAS REALLY, GAPE,
REALLY TAUGHT ME ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HISTORY. SHE IS
NOW A PROFESSOR, PROFESSOR AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY. AND,
I HAVE A COUPLE OF -- FRIEND, OVER THERE THAT TAKE CLASSES
WITH HER. AND -- YOU KNOW THEY JUST LIKE --
COME OUT SO LIKE, VERY, LIKE OPEN. AND VERY -- YOU KNOW
LIKE YEAH, JUST LOOK REALLY GLAD THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO, SEE
THEMSELVES, AND THEIR PEOPLES, AND, IN THE LESSONS THAT,
GABY TEACHES THEM. SO --
GABY, IF YOU WANT TO, SHARE A FEW WORD, THAT WOULD BE,
REALLY INCREDIBLE.

>> WELL, HI, BRENDA. EVERYBODY. THANK YOU SO MUCH, THOMAS.
YOU KNOW, I JUST -- I ACTUALLY RAISED MY HAND BECAUSE FIRST
I WANTED TO JUST SEND WHATEVER THE -- HOW DO I SAY THIS,
JUST THE -- THE, A BRIGHT LIKE, LOVE BEAM AT YOU.
BECAUSE -- OF WHAT YOU HAVE JUST SO TRANSFORMATIVELY,
PRESENTED IN THIS SPACE FROM A PLACE THAT IS SO HONEST AND
REAL. AND, ALSO, THANK YOU TO, TO, ANNIE AND TO, ADRIANA
FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER. SO I DID, YOU KNOW, I WAS JUST
WITH -- A LONG-TIME YOUTH CIRCLE LEADER, A MAN, SPENT THE
AFTERNOON WITH HIM LOOKING THROUGH HIS MATERIALS AS HE WAS

TRYING TO BRING TOGETHER THESE HISTORIES, AND SO, THOMAS, I
DID WANT TO ASK YOU --

YOU KNOW, AS YOU, AS YOU CAME TO A REVELATION. OR YOU CAME
TO A POINT LIKE A TURPING POINT WHERE YOU HAD THIS
REALIZATION OF WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE FROM, LIKE THE, IT IS
LIKE THIS INSIDE-OUT, RIGHT, LIKE THE INSIDE-OUT, AFTER
HAVING WATCHED, YOU KNOW WATCHED AND PARTICIPATED IN
MOVEMENTS FOR SO LONG, AND YOU CAN BUILD ALL OF THESE
INFRASTRUCTURES, EVEN WHEN YOU GET WHAT WE CALL THE WIN,
YOU KNOW, MIGHT ACTUALLY CALL A WIN, OF THE POLICY, THE
CHANGE, THE DIFFERENCE, IT CAN COLLAPSE. SEEN THE COLLAPSE.
LIKE A HOUSE OF CARDS. IT COLLAPSES BECAUSE WHAT WE DON'T
HAVE IS THE STRENGTH FROM THE INSIDE. AT THIS AGE I HAVE
SEEN A COUPLE CYCLES OF THAT. I AM WONDERING FROM YOUR
PERSPECTIVE. BRENDA, COMMENTS ON THIS. AND WHAT WAS IT
THAT --

THAT HAD YOU COME TO THAT LEVEL OF TRANSFORMATIVE MOVEMENT.
AND WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU --

WORK WITH, OTHER YOUNGER PEOPLE, WHEN YOU, WHEN YOU TACK
WITH, YOU KNOW, ORGANIZE, YOUNG PEOPLE. WHAT IS IT THAT --
THAT GETS THEM TO THAT POINT TO SAY, YES, THIS IS, THIS IS
LIKE, IT'S THAT -- IT'S THAT CORE VERSUS THE EXTERNAL,

JUST, JUST, WONDER IF YOU COULD REFLECT ON THAT. THAT WOULD BE SO HELPFUL. THANK YOU. AND YOU ARE MUTED.

>> YEAH. OH, GOD, WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN? I, YEAH. I WILL BE HONEST. THE PANDEMIC WAS ONE REALLY BIG THING. BUT I, IN LIKE, 2019. I WAS BURPING BRIDGES WITH PEOPLE IN NOT A GOOD WAY

I GUESS THERE IS A GOOD WAY TO BURN A BRIDGE. NOT A GOOD WAY. I WAS BURNING BRIDGES WITH PEOPLE. AND IT WAS VERY MUCH SO A ME THING. KIND OF JUST HAD FOUND MYSELF, LOOK WHAT WAS MY ROCK BOTTOM --

AND, AS NATIVE PEOPLE WE ARE TAUGHT WITHIN YOU ARE, DOWN, YOU KNOW, YOU, YOU PRAY. YOU, USE YOUR, TRADITIONAL WAYS. AND I HAD, MY GRANDPA WAS REALLY SICK AT THAT TIME. AND MY DAD WAS LIKE, LET'S GO UP THERE AND LET'S TACK TO HIM. SEE WHAT HE CAN DO. OH, MY GOD, MY, MY --

I THINK I GOT IT. MY, MY LAPTOP IS GETTING LOW. SO, I WENT UP THERE. AND I WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO, PANAMA AT THE TIME. SO, I AM GOING TO GO GRAB MY CHARGER, I AM SORRY, I DON'T WANT TIGHT DIE. I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE IT. BUT I AM CARED SCARED.

>> HEY, OOH AM GOING TO POP IN. ANNIE, JUST SAY --

FOR THOSE OF US IN THE MINDFULNESS COMMUNITY, I, I AM

FINDING THIS TO BE -- ONE OF THE BETTER DHARMA TALKS THAT I
HAVE HEARD. IT IS REALLY TOUCHING, THE HEART OF OUR
PRACTICE. AND, IN OUR TRADITION. THIS KIND OF
TRANSFORMATION. AND THE LAND -- LIKE KNOWING THIS IS OUR
LAND, IS SO BEAUTIFUL. IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL. SO --
THANK YOU, THOMAS. BUT, ALL RIGHT, I WILL BOW OUT AGAIN.
SORRY, I JUST DIDN'T WANT MY LAPTOP TO DIE. BUT SO I HAD
ALSO AT THAT TIME BEEN INVITED TO PANAMA. SO, I DROVE UP TO
RAPID CITY. AND I ASKED MY GRAND, LIKE I TOLD, MY, MY --
GRANDPA, LOOK WHAT WAS GOING ON. AND, I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS
GOING TO PANAMA. NOT ONLY WAS I GOING TO PANAMA, BUT I WAS
GOING TO, TO MEET WITH ONE OF THE, THE KUNAH LEADERS OF
THE, PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE, I ASKED HIM WHAT WE SHOULD DO. HE
WAS LIKE, PERFECT. YOU, YOU NEED TO GO DOWN THERE AND LIKE,
BASICALLY HERE, WAS LIKE, YOU NEED TO GO, YOU NEED TO GO
MAKE A TREATY WITH THOSE PEOPLE. AND YOU NEED TO --
MAKE ALLIES WITH THEM. IF WE EVER NEED THEM OR THEY NEVER
NEED YOU. WE CAN ANSWER THEIR CALL. BUT HE SAID YOU CAN GO
DOWN THERE, YOU TAKE IT WITH YOU AND IT IS GOING TO BE A
REALLY HARD TRIP. IT IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE HARDEST
THINGS YOU HAVE PROBABLY EVERYONE DONE. BUT LIKE, I NEED
YOU TO DO THAT. AND ON YOUR WAY HOME, YOU ARE GOING TO

FIND, YOU ARE GOING TO SEE A -- A WHITE-TAILED DEER, AND I WANT YOU TO PULL OVER. I WANT YOU TO GHEGTO BACK CO,ENED I WANT YOU TO TACK THAT DEER'S TAIL. SURE ENOUGH, WE SAW THE WHITE-TAILED DEER ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. I TOOK THE WHITE TAILED DEER, I FROZE IT. WE DIPPED IT IN FORMALDEHYDE. I WANT ON THIS TRIP. ON THIS TRIP, WE BIKED, WE HIKED, BIKED, AND KAYAKED, FROM, ONE END OF THE PENINSULA TO THE OTHER. AND, SO, WAS LIKE A VERY PHYSICALLY ENDURING TRIP. WHILE I WAS THERE, I JUST -- THAT WAS, ULTIMATELY -- LIKE -- PHYSICALLY IT CHALLENGED ME. MENTALLY IT CHALLENGED ME. SPIRITUALLY IT CHALLENGED ME. AT THE END OF IT -- I JUST -- REALIZED THAT -- I DON'T KNOW, I JUST FELT, I JUST FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN GIVEN A NEW SET OF SKILLS TO FIGHT THIS. AND THAT I DID HAVE A LOT GOING ON. YOU KNOW. AND ACTUALLY -- I SHOULDN'T, SHOULDN'T GIVE MYSELF THAT MUCH CREDIT. BY THAT POINT, I HAD STARTED GOING TO THERAPY. I HAD STARTED TO, TO DO SOME OF THE WORK AS WELL. SO LIKE EMBARKING ON THIS TRIP WAS SORT OF LOOK PUTTING ALL OF THE STUFF THAT I WAS LEARNING ACTUALLY INTO PRACTICE. AND, LIKE, REALLY, LIKE TESTING IT. AND REALIZING, LIKE OKAY, THIS ACTUALLY WORKS. AND LOOK, WHEN I, WHEN I PUT MYSELF IN THIS SPACE OF

ROUGH, GENEROSITY. AND I WALK WITH AN OPEN HEART. AND I
SIMPLY COME FROM A PLACE, AS, LIKE YOU SAID OF
AUTHENTICITY. YOU CAN'T DO MUCH WRONG. YOU KNOW. LOOK I
JUST REALLY, REALIZED THAT

I THINK THAT WAS THE LESSON THAT I LEARNED. THAT WAS THAT
TURNING POINT OF LIKE --

HOLY SHIT I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE TO FIGHT, YO, I DON'T HAVE
TO FIGHT ANYONE, ANYTHING, AND I CAN JUST BE AND EXIST, AND
LIVE. AND THAT'S ENOUGH. AND I THINK THAT, YEAH, THAT WAS
MY TURNING POINT. FOR SURE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, THOMAS. THAT IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT --
YOU KNOW WHEN WE ARE SITTING DOWN AT OUR DINING TABLE THAT
LIKE REALLY TOUCHED ME. YOU KNOW, AND IT MADE ME REFLECT ON
THE MOVEMENTS THAT I AM PART OF. LIKE, HOW DO WE DO THIS.
DIFFERENTLY. YOU KNOW, AND LIKE REALLY, CENTERING --
WITHIN THE MOVEMENT, THE JOY, OF OUR PEOPLE. AND, AND --
YOU KNOW, LIKE --
THAT'S, THAT HAS, YOU KNOW, LIKE SO MANY OTHER
CONVERSATIONS. AND, YOU KNOW LOOK ALMOST LIKE THIS, NEW
ENERGY TOO. TO KEEP ON GOING. BECAUSE AFTER THE PANDEMIC --
FOR THE IMMIGRATION MOVEMENT, YOU KNOW, IT LOST A LOT OF

STEAM. AND IT WAS REALLY HARD --

BUT REALLY FOCUSING ON --

YOU KNOW, LIKE, OUR EFFORTS. OUR JOY. YOU KNOW. CELEBRATING
OUR CULTURE. YOU KNOW, LIKE THAT RAMPED. A NEW -- NEW KIND
OF --

ENERGY. AND, AND, LOOK YOU SAYING, YOU KNOW, NOT JUST THIS.

BUT LIKE --

RECEIVING. YOU KNOW, LIKE, WHY ARE WE LEARNING. WHAT ARE WE
LEARNING. SO I REALLY THANK YOU FOR THAT. AND I GUESS,
THINKING ABOUT THE PANDEMIC. ONE OF THE THINGS I WAS
CHOIROUS ABOUT, HOW HAS, AFTER THE PANDEMIC, HOW HAS THE
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE, MOVEMENT, CHANGED -- FROM YOUR
PERSPECTIVE, FROM WHERE YOU HAVE SEEN. BECAUSE I KNOW THAT
IS STILL SOMETHING THAT --

YOU KNOW, IS HAPPENING. YOU KNOW, SO I WOULD LOVE TO LEARN
A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT.

>> OH, GOD, EVERYONE'S MISERABLE. I'M KIND OF KIDDING. I
WILL BE HONEST, YEAH, THE PANDEMIC, I -- UH -- I DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF LIKE THIS IS A BAD THING. BUT, THE PANDEMIC
PERSONALLY, MADE ME REALIZE HOW TOXIC MOVEMENT SPACES ARE,
OOH, I SAID WHAT I SAID. IT REALLY HAS JUST SHOWN ME THAT
LIKE, WE --

WE, INFILTRATORS, WE DON'T NEED INFILTRATORS, WE WILL EAT OURSELVES FROM THE INSIDE OUT WITHOUT ALL OF THAT. THAT'S REALLY WHAT I HAVE REALIZED ABOUT OUR MOVEMENT BASE SPACES EACH OF HAVE KIND OF JUST, COME TO THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, LIKE, THERE ITS TWO ACTUALLY TYPES OF SPACES THAT ARE MOVEMENT SPACES. ONE OF THEM, CALLS ITSELF A MOVEMENT SPACE, AND IS VERY MUCH, TAILORED BY LIKE THE NONPROFIT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX TO BEA MOVEMENT SPACE. AND, BY, ALL MEANS NEITHER OF THEM ARE WRONG. NEITHER OF THEM ARE RIGHT. JUST SIMPLY POINTING THEM OUT. THE OTHER ARE THESE, COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS THAT SIMPLY FORM OUT OF NECESSITY. AND OUT OF THE FACT THAT, IT'S SURVIVAL. AND WHAT I AM REALIZING IS THAT, TO ME -- THE MORE MANUFACTURED MOVEMENT SPACES, TEND TO ATTRACT MORE ANGRY PEOPLE, BECAUSE IT IS A SPACE WHERE IT IS -- BASICALLY OKAY TO BE ANGRY AND KIND OF SHOUT INTO THE VOID. AGAIN, NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. JUST, NOT WHERE I'M AT PERSONALLY. TO ME THESE OTHER MORE COMMUNITY BASED MOVEMENT SPACES ARE REALLY MORE FOCUSING ON THAT JOY, ON, HOW DO WE CREATE, YOU KNOW, THE SENSE OF BELONGING AND SELF. OPPOSE TO HOW DO WE CREATE A MOMENT TO FIGHT IN. AND --

AND I AM A PART OF THE NONPROFIT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX SO WHEN

I SAY THAT PLEASE KNOW THAT I TOTALLY SWALLOW THAT HARD
PILL AS WELL WITH EVERYONE. BUT, THAT IS -- I THINK THE --
BEFORE THE PANDEMIC WE WERE ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH BEING AS
DIGITAL AS WE WERE. AND, KIND OF, TO ME, FEELING LIKE IT
WAS, FAKE CAMARADERIE AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC WE WENT FULL
DIGITAL AND IT JUST, I IT JUST -- IT JUST FEELS FAKE TO ME.
IT DOESN'T FEEL REAL. IT DOESN'T FEEL COMPLETELY AUTHENTIC.
AND I AM NOT SOME ONE THAT OPERATES WELL, NOT, NOT --
NOT BEING AUTHENTIC. SO, I THINK THAT, I HAD TO
REALLY JUST KIND OF STEP BACK FROM A LOT OF SPACES. SUPPORT
STILL, BE LOVING, OFFER GOOD WORDS, AND, PRAYER, BUT, NOT
NECESSARILY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. LIKE I DON'T NEED TO BE
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. I DON'T NEED TO BE THE MARCH
LEADER. I'VE DON'T NEED TO SPEAK AT EVERY RALLY, YOU KNOW.
LIKE THAT IS REALLY WHERE I AM COME TO THE CONCLUSION OF.
AND JUST KIND OF TRYING TO, BE AS SUPPORTIVE -- AS
POSSIBLE. WHILE MAINTAINING MY PEACE AND BUILDING MY -- MY,
CONFIDENCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

>> THANK YOU, THOMAS, THANKS. I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT. ONE
OF THE THINGS, JUST UP MORE THING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, JOY. ONE
OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED HERE IN, D.C. WAS LIKE THIS
REALLY CENSORING OF BLACK JOY, YOU KNOW, INSTEAD OF

PROTESTS YOU SEE, YOU KNOW LIKE BLACK PEOPLE DANCING ON THE STREETS. IT'S JUST SO MAGICAL. IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL. I'M LIKE, THAT'S, THAT'S AMAZING. I WILL CHANGE GEARS A LITTLE BIT. FROM A YOUNG BIPOC OUTDOOR EDUCATOR. THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING THEIR BEST TO FIND WAYS IN WHICH THEY CENTER, INDIGENOUS VOICES AND THEIR TEACHINGS FROM THE LITTLE HUDSON VALLEY BUBBLE. SO JUST WONDERING IF YOU HAD ANY ADVICE FOR THEM. OR ANY -- ARE THERE ANY LOCAL INDIGENOUS EDUCATORS YOU WANT TO SHOUT OUT OR THEY CAN LEARN FROM.

>> KIND OF PUT ME ON THE SPOT. I --

I'M SO, I LIKE AM REALLY HAVE A BRAIN, A BRAIN FREEZE RIGHT NOW.

>> THAT'S OKAY.

>> IT'S HARD BECAUSE LIKE --

I WANT TO BE LIKE, OH, GET ON TIK-TOK, AND THERE IS, BUT IT IS REALLY HARD TO KNOW WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S NOT ON TIK-TOK, THERE REALLY IS NO NATIVE AUTHENTICITY APP THAT CAN CONFIRM WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING. AND SO IT IS VERY EASY FOR PEOPLE TO KIND OF, LIKE, EXPLOIT THESE WAYS. AND JUST LIKE, OFFER ANY OLD THING TO GET MONEY ONLINE. SO, I -- THERE ARE SO MANY AMAZING LIKE, INDIGENOUS INFLUENCERS THAT ARE GREAT TEACHERS. THAT I LITERALLY --

CANNOT THINK OF IN MY HEAD IN THE MOMENT. BUT I, I AM LIKE
ONE OF MANY, AMAZING INDIGENOUS CONTENT CREATORS. AND,
STORY TELLERS. THAT ARE OUT HERE DOING OUR BEST TO SHARE
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT EXPLOITING OUR WAY AND STILL
BEING RESPECTFUL TO THE PEOPLE. YOU KNOW WHO, WHO, WHO FEEL
VERY PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO THESE WAYS. AND LIKE --
WALKING IN IT, WITH AS MUCH SENSITIVITY AS POSSIBLE.
BECAUSE LIKE FOR ME, I MEAN, IT'S HARD BECAUSE I TRY TO
TELL PEOPLE LIKE, YOU KNOW I AM NOT A CHIEF, I AM NOT A
MEDICINE PERSON, I AM NOT, A SEEKER, I AM NOT A SHAKER, I
AM, I DON'T HAVE THIS MAGICAL TITLE THAT YOU PROBABLY WANT
FROM ME. BUT I CAN PRAY WITH YOU. I CAN, I CAN TELL YOU A
STORY. I CAN BE HUMAN WITH YOU. BUT LIKE I, I, A LOT OF US
DO OUR BEST TO NOT OVERSTEP THOSE BOUNDARIES AND
REMEMBERING THAT LIKE --
THESE ARE BIRTH RITES. THESE ARE NOT JUST THINGS, LOOK YOU
DON'T WHACK UP ONE DAY AND DECIDE YOU ARE A CHIEF. YOU
DON'T WHACK UP ONE DAY AND DECIDE YOU ARE A MEDICINE WOMAN.
THESE ARE PEOPLE THAT ARE EITHER BORN INTO THIS OR SPEND
THE BETTER HALF OF THEIR LIVES TRAINING AND PREPARING AND
LEARNING AND ABSORBING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTUALLY TACK ON THOSE
POSITIONS AND COMMUNITIES. SO I WOULD DEFINITELY BE DOWN TO

SEND BRENDA A LIST OF INFLUENCERS AND JUST PEOPLE THAT I FOLLOW AFTER THIS. AND, AND, SHE CAN SEND IT OUT TO YOU.

>> Brenda Perez: THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY, SOME TIMES THERE IS SO MUCH INFORMATION. AND I ALSO HAVE, YOU KNOW LIKE, I SPACED OUT ON A LOT OF INFORMATION. BUT -- ALSO FOR YOU GUYS IF YOU GUYS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, AFTER THIS, YOU KNOW, LIKE FEEL FREE TO, EMAIL US, AND THOMAS, ALSO IF YOU HAVE MORE INFORMATION. WE CAN, CONTINUE THAT, THAT CONVERSATION, BUT OF COURSE, THE BEST WAY TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THOMAS' WORK, AND, AND -- WHAT THEY'RE DOING, AND, FOLLOW THEM ON INSTAGRAM. AND I KNOW, ADRIANA ALSO HAD A QUESTION.

>> YES, THE CONVERSATION, MAKING-VISIBLE, FOLLOW US. AND WE CAN, ANY RESOURCES YOU WANT TO SHARE AFTER, THOMAS. THIS IS YOUR SPACE. WE WILL HAVE THAT THERE. AND A COMMENT, AND, A QUESTION. BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME. IT IS NOT THAT I AM NOT AN ACTIVIST. I AM NOT THAT. I AM DOING THIS. MOVEMENT OR MAKING VISIBLE. I AM TRYING TO CHANGE, POINTS OF VIEW, HAVING CONVERSATION BECAUSE I ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT I WAS DOING. WHAT WAS HAPPENING WITH, PEOPLE AND EVERYTHING, BUT THE THING IS, AND THIS IS SPECIFIC QUESTION. HOW HUMOR HAS HELPED YOU TO DEAL WITH THESE,

BECAUSE I --

I HAVE A REALLY, I HAVE LOST HUMOR ONCE I START LIKE,
LEARNING WHAT, WHAT I WAS DOING, AND WHAT WAS I, NOT
SEEING. AND I ALSO HAVE THIS PROBLEM WITH HUMOR. BECAUSE AT
LEAST IN MEXICO, THE HUMOR IS, HAS BEEN A TOOL OF PEOPLE
FOR DISCRIMINATION. AND TO SEPARATE --

TO OPPRESS WOMEN. TO OPPRESS PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY,
LGBTQIA COMMUNITIES, AND THEY USE, DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT
IN WHATEVER, IN, IN ENGLISH, I MEAN TO SAY --

I DON'T KNOW. HOW DO YOU SAY "CHISTAS" AND TO SAY THINGS
ABOUT PEOPLE IN, HUMOR WAYS.

>> IT'S JOKES.

>> JOKES.

>> SORRY. TO SAY JOKES. AND THINKING THAT, BECAUSE IT IS A
JOKE, IT IS FOR ME TO SOLVE. YOU HAVE TO GO TO THOMAS'
SOCIAL MEDIA, BECAUSE THEY USE, SORRY, THE HUMOR, IN SUCH
A -- FRESH WAY, AND ALSO, AS A TOOL. YOU CAN TALK MORE
ABOUT HUMOR. HOW NOT TO BE, COMPLICIT WITH -- WITH JOKES
THAT CAN -- DAMAGE PEOPLE. AND USING IT. AND, THANK YOU.

>> YEAH, I MEAN. I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED MYSELF, A FUNNY
PERSON. EVEN WHEN I WAS IN STANDING ROCK, IT WAS JUST, SIT
THERE AND LIKE, MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH. OUT OF THINGS THAT, THAT

PROBABLY WERE NOT THAT FUNNY. WHAT ELSE DO YOU, SIT THERE AND CRY, YOU KNOW? LIKE, SO I WOULD, I --

I'M A VERY RESILIENT PERSON. I HAVE REALLY NEVER GONE ANYWHERE, RIDICULED, SOME TYPE OF SOME ONE SAYING SOMETHING MY WHOLE LIFE. SO I MEAN YOU BAYINGLY HAVE, THE WAY I LOOKED AT IT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, BEAT THEM OR JOIN THEM. SO I JUST JOINED THEM IN THE LAUGHTER. YOU KNOW, AND I, I TOOK WHAT THEY WOULD THROW AT ME. AND I WOULD PACKAGE IT AND GIVE IT BACK TO THEM IN A WAY THAT WAS LIKE, POINTED OUT, WHAT ASSHOLES THEY WERE BEING BUT A WAY FOR BOTH OF US TO RELATE. I HAVE BEEN DOING THAT REALLY SINCE I WAS VERY YOUNG. WHERE THE ANGER CAME IN, I DON'T REALLY KNOW. STILL WORKING ON THAT. SOME WHERE ALONG THE LINE, I STOPPED DOING THAT. STARTED GETTING MUCH MORE ANGRY WITH PEOPLE. BUT WHAT I REALLY REALIZED IS -- WHEN, ACTUALLY, IN, IN 2020, WHEN I WAS, TRYING TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE MORE INVOLVED, LIKE TO VOTE, YOUNG BROWN PEOPLE. TRYING TO GET THEM INVOLVED IN THE VOTING STUFF IS HARD. BROWN COMMUNITIES, BLACK COMMUNITIES ARE DISILLUSIONED BY THE ENTIRE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THIS WHOLE THING, SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY? WHAT, WE DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT SHIT, THE DEMOCRACY THAT HAS EXISTED HAS LITERALLY BEEN USED TO HOLD US DOWN FOR GENERATIONS.

AND TRYING TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF THAT, AND ENGAGED IN SOMETHING, THAT IS, LITERALLY, LEFT THEM OUT AND NOT SCARED CARED ABOUT THEM OR REPRESENTED THEM WAS REALLY HARD. BUT ONE WAY, SO WHEN I WOULD GO OUT THERE AND BE LOOK YOU GOT TO VOTE, YOU GOT TO VOTE. IF YOUR NOT YOUR RIGHT ARE GOING TO BE TAKEN, YOUR THIS IS GOING TO BE DONE, THIS IS REALLY SERIOUS, OH, MY GOD. THEY WERE LIKE, HA-HA, BYE. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ME. IT WASN'T EVEN A MATTER OF LIKE, OH, WHAT, WHAT? WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT STATE WAS LIKE, I WILL BE REAL, IT WAS LIKE YOU ARE WHITE GET AWAY FROM ME. YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE, AND JUST GO. IT TURNED THEM OFF. BECAUSE IT WASN'T THE LANGUAGE THAT THEY SPEAK. YES, IT WAS ENGLISH. BUT IT WASN'T WHAT, ATTRACTS AND RELATES TO THEM. I STARTED LOOKING AT THESE OTHER THINGS. WHAT IS TRENDING ON TWITTER? THAT, THAT HAS TO DO WITH GETTING PEOPLE OUT TO VOTE. AND, WHAT REALLY HIT ME. I SAW THIS VIDEO OF THE STRIPPERS IN ATLANTA. WHO CREATED THIS -- HUGE VIDEO THAT WAS LIKE, IT WASN'T, NO ONE WAS NAKED. BUT IT WAS VERY POLE DANCERY, VERY RISQUE, AGAINST THE GRAIN OF WHAT, IT MEANS TO, THE PEOPLE WE WANT TO GET TO VOTE. BUT IT WAS LIKE, ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR VIDEOS OUT THERE AND PEOPLE WERE LIKE, I WANT TO GO VOTE. LIKE,

THEY REALLY WERE ENGAGING IN THIS PROCESS OF THAT THEY HAVE NEVER ENGAGED IN BEFORE. IT WAS FUNNY. IT WAS A HILARIOUS. I REALIZED. CULTURE. PEOPLE RESPOND TO CULTURE. PEOPLE RESPOND TO WHAT MAKES THEM FEEL GOOD, WHAT, WHAT, PEOPLE RESPOND TO, MORE WHEN THEY CAN JUST KICK BACK AND RELAX. THAN WHEN THEY HAVE GOT TO GET UP AND ENGAUGE. WHEN YOU KIND OF GIVE THEM THE IDEA THAT, THEY'RE JUST, SITTING BACK AND RELAXING AND LAUGHING. THEY LISTEN MORE. THEY RELATE MORE. THEY TALK TO YOU MORE. THEY OPEN UP. THEY ASK QUESTIONS. AND, AND, THAT WAS REALLY WHEN I REALIZED LIKE, YOU KNOW WHAT? MAYBE, I CAN USE THE FASHION? MAYBE I CAN USE THE HUMOR? MAYBE I CAN USE THE, THE QUEERNESS, THE MAKEUP, THE GLITTER, THE GLITZ, ALL OF THOSE THINGS THAT I HAVE BEEN TOLD LIKE, OH, OH, CLIMATE ACTIVISTS DON'T DO THAT. MAYBE WE DO THAT? MAYBE THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. AND WHEN I STARTED DOING THAT, I REALIZED, ALL OF THESE PEOPLE THAT WERE NORMALLY, NEVER, LIKE, WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN ANYTHING LIKE THIS, PEOPLE WHO HAD ONLY ORGANIZED FASHION SHOWS, AND, AND, VOGUE BALLS WERE ALL OF A SUDDEN ORGANIZING DRAG TO THE POLLS, DRAG SHOWS WHERE THEY WERE HAVING AT POLLING PLACES, FOR YOUNG QUEER PEOPLE TO FEEL LIKE THEY WERE SAFE GOING TO VOTE. ALL OF A SID YOU

GET THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST REGULAR EVERY DAY PEOPLE. SAYING, HEY, I -- I CAN THROW A PARTY. LIKE, ALL RIGHT. LIKE I CAN BE A PART OF THIS. LIKE THIS IS ME. IT REFLECT WHO I AM. BY DOING THAT -- WE ENGAGED WAY MORE PEOPLE THAN WE WOULD HAVE IF WE WERE JUST, HAVE DONE A, GO VOTE, LIVE STREAM. OR A HEAR THIS IS WHY YOU NEED TO DO THIS. THAT'S WHERE THE HUMOR REALLY STARRED COMING IN. I STILL VERY MUCH, SO STRUGGLE, NOT PISSING EVERYBODY OFF. I WOULD SAY I DEFINITELY GET CANCELED AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR. BUT I LOOK TO SEE IS AS LIKE MY TIME OF REST AND RECUPERATION. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. HA-HA-HA. IT KEEPS ME ALIVE.

>> THANK YOU, THAT'S GREAT.

>> I REALIZE ACTUALLY, THERE ARE TWO THINGS AS AN INFLUENCER, YOU SHOULD NEVER TALK ABOUT. ALL RIGHT. J-LO AND JADA PINKETT SMITH, AND THEY WILL COME FOR YOU AND WILL NOT STOP. LIKE THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY DOESN'T PLAY WITH THEIR QUEEN, HONEY. LIKE. IT'S PRETTY FUNNY.

>> OH, MY GOD THAT IS AMAZING.

>> I REALLY LOVE THAT. LIKE FINDING DIFFERENT METHODS TO COMMUNICATE, FOR, WITH PEOPLE. BECAUSE PEOPLE, DO RESPOND TO DIFFERENT THINGS. I REALLY LOVE THAT. AND, I KNOW

THAT -- SUE'S HAND HAS BEEN UP FOR A WHILE. SO, LET'S DO,
WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT,/QUESTION?

>> SUE, BOWING IN. THOMAS, YOUR WHOLE TALK HAS BEEN SO
WONDERFUL. AND INSPIRING. AND --

A GIFT. SO I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU. I ALSO WAS THINKING
ABOUT BECAUSE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY
AND, A DHARMA TEACHER IN OUR TRADITION, WHO IS INDIGENOUS,
SHE WAS STAYING WITH US FOR A FEW WEEKS IN APRIL. AND WE
WERE WORKING, I WAS THINKING BECAUSE I WORKED A LOT WITH
IMMIGRANTS, AND OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, AND KNOW THAT WE
WHITE PEOPLE TEND TO HAVE OUR GOOD HEARTS, BUT SOMETIMES
ASSUME, WHAT MIGHT BE GOOD OR BAD AND I HAVE LEARNED JUST
TO GO TO THE PEOPLE THAT I WANT TO HELP AND SAY, WHAT
SERVES YOU OR WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS. SO I HAVE
BEEN STRUGGLING WITH OUR LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT. BECAUSE --
DIFFERENT PEOPLE SAY IT DIFFERENTLY. AND I -- WAS TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS THE MOST RESPECTFUL? AND, AND ALSO,
HONORING, AND ALSO APPROPRIATE. SO, WHEN, DIANE WAS WITH
US. ONE TIME I JUST SAID DIANE CAN YOU HELP ME LOOK AT WHAT
WE HAVE --
BEEN DOING. AND, SEE WHAT MAKES MOST SENSE. AS A PERSON OF
INDIGENOUS CULTURE THAT, THAT, THAT IS RESPECTFUL. AND ONE

OF THE THINGS SHE SAID THAT WAS REALLY HELPFUL, ITS --
WHICH WE WEREN'T DOING. BUT I KNOW IS USED A LOT. WE DON'T
WANT YOU, SHE WAS SPEAKING FOR HER CULTURE, SHE SAID WE
PREFER YOU DON'T SAY STOLEN LAND. BECAUSE WHEN YOU SAY
STOLEN LAND, IT IMPLIES, IT NOW BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
AND THAT -- THAT WE CAN KID IT OUR LAND. STILL. AND SO --
THAT IS SOMETHING THAT --

I LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE IT IS
SOMETHING THAT SOMETIMES WITH GOOD INTENTIONS WE SAY. BUT,
THAT SHE SAID. AND THE OTHER THING IS REALLY TO FIND A WAY
TO EXPRESS -- THAT, IT IS UNCEDED LAND BUT FOR THE PEOPLE
THAT ARE, HAVE LIVED IN THE PAST, AND ALSO OUR ARE
CURRENTLY LIVING HERE, SOME WHERE AROUND EVERYWHERE, ARE
PEOPLE, ARE OUR PEOPLE ARE LIVING THERE. TO HONOR THAT, WE
ARE STILL HERE. STEWARDING THE LAND. SO, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT
WE, CAME UP WITH WAS, THAT IT, WE ACKNOWLEDGE, THE ORIGINAL
FOR SANTA FE, WHICH MEANS WHITE SHELL WATER PLACE, LOCATED
ON UNCEDED TERRITORIAL LAND, WE HONOR THESE ORIGINAL PEOPLE
WHO HAVE, AND CONTINUE TO IN HABIT, HOLD SACRED AND STEWARD
THIS LAND. AND I JUST THOUGHT, BECAUSE OUR COMMUNITY HAS
ALWAYS, WORKING FOR HOW WE CAN SHARE AND HONOR FROM A WAY
THAT TRADITIONAL PEOPLE, I DON'T KNOW, THOMAS IF YOU HAVE

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LOOK TO ADD ON THAT. BUT, BECAUSE
IT DOESN'T HAVE THE HUMOR IN IT. WHICH I DON'T, I DON'T
KNOW WHETHER --

>> THANK YOU, THANK YOU, SUE. THANK YOU, SUE.

>> THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SHARE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> BUT MAYBE, MAYBE WE HAVE QUESTIONS FOR SOME ONE ELSE. I
DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ADD SOMETHING TO WHAT --
TO WHAT SUE TOLD US. IF NOT, MAYBE WE CAN HAVE MORE
QUESTIONS.

>> I HAVE A QUESTION, I HAD FORGOT IN IT. I JUST WANTED TO
SHARE THAT AS WELL. SUE BOWING OUT.

>> NO, I AM GOING TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY DO LAND
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, BECAUSE I, THINK IT IS, I -- I FEEL LIKE I
AM A SUPER EASY COP OUT FOR PEOPLE TO JUST DO A LAND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND LIKE, ACKNOWLEDGE ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
AND THE TRUTH IS THAT, THAT'S TOO EASY. AND I JUST FEEL
LIKE -- FOLK WHOSE ARE ORGANIZING CAN DO A LITTLE BIT MORE
WORK TO FIND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON, WHOSE LAND IT IS, AND
LIKE ASK THEM TO COME IN AND ACKNOWLEDGE IT IN THE WAY THAT
THEY CHOOSE TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED. I THINK TO ME LAND

ACKNOWLEDGES HAVE LESS TO DO WITH ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND YOU ARE STANDING ON AND MORE AWE THEN THINGLY INCLUDING THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO YOU ARE CLAIMING TO RESPECT. THAT'S, TO ME, WHAT IT IS MORE ABOUT. THAN, NECESSARILY, LIKE, ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGING LAND OR WHAT IS STOLEN OR NOT STOLEN. AND I THINK THAT LIKE BECAUSE I DID RECENTLY DID A -- SOMETHING LIKE THIS. AND LIKE, THEY WERE ASKING LIKE, ME TO ACKNOWLEDGE LIKE NORTHERN CALIFORNIAN TRIBES. I WAS LIKE, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE. LIKE, NO. LIKE, RESPECTFULLY NO. BUT, DISRESPECTFULLY NO, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. I MADE THEM GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE, AND, THEY WERE LOOK THERE IS NO, NO FEMS THAT CAN DO IT. I HAVE A REALLY HARD TIME BELIEVING THAT THERE IS NO WOMEN IN THE TRIBE. LIKE I JUST, LIKE -- I JUST CALLED BULLSHIT, I THINK REALLY CHALLENGE THESE WHITE FOLKS TO DO THAT IS REALLY THAT'S WHERE THE WORK IS BEING DONE. BECAUSE THEY DID FIND SOMEONE. AND THEY DID BRING THEM IN. AND ACTUALLY THE PERSON, STILL ENDED UP BEING LIKE I CAN'T MAKE IT. I GIVE THIS PERSON FULL PERMISSION TO GIVE THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT. I STILL SAID NO. BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE GIVING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. I THINK IT IS JUST REALLY, IMPORTANT, THAT YOU ARE HAVING THOSE CONVERSATIONS

WITH THE PEOPLE WHOSE LAND IT IS.

>> GET IN THERE, QUICK.

>> I KNOW, I AM TRYING TO. UNMUTE AS QUICK AS I CAN. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THOMAS FOR THAT. WE ONLY HAVE, FIVE MINUTES LEFT. SO, I WANTED TO -- JUST, LIKE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYBODY FOR, FOR COMING HERE AND FOR ASKING YOUR QUESTIONS. AND THEN, THOMAS, FOR MAKING THE TIME FOR TO TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES. THE REALIZATIONS THAT YOU HAVE COME TO. AND JUST YOUR VIEWS ON THE, THE MOVEMENT. I REALLY APPRECIATE IT. AND, I AM GLAD THAT I COULD BRING YOU ON TO THIS SPACE. FOR THE LAST FIVE MINUTES. I WANT TO ASK YOU IF YOU WANTED TO SAY ANY LAST THINGS. AND THEN, AFTER THAT, ADRIANA AND ANNIE IF YOU GUYS HAD ANY CLOSING STATEMENTS, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. AND ACTUALLY, ONE MORE THING. I JUST JUANED TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO MY FRIEND, ICE, WHO CAME ALL OF THE WAY, JOINING US FROM THAILAND, AND WHO JOINED AT 6:00 A.M

SO, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU, AND, GO AHEAD, THOMAS, ANY LAST STATEMENTS.

>> NO, JUST THANK YOU ALL FOR, FOR LISTENING TO ME TODAY. I REALLY APPRECIATE SPACES LOOK THIS. SO, THANK YOU.

>> THIS IS ANNIE. AND I WAS WONDERING --

THOMAS, AND BRENDA, AND I SEE, SEVE IS THERE, IF YOU WANT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THIS CALL, CAN, BEST SERVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND, THE WORK THAT YOU ARE DOING, AND WHAT, WHAT ARE THE WAYS THAT PEOPLE CAN GET INVOLVED AND BE SUPPORTIVE. WE REALLY THINK ABOUT THIS AS A SPACE WHERE WE GET MORE UNDERSTANDING BUT NOT JUST SO THAT WE MAKE OURSELVES SMARTER, BUT ACTUALLY SO THAT WE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY WHEN WE LEAVE HERE. AND I ALREADY FEEL, I ALREADY FEEL, TOTALLY INSPIRED LIKE INTERNALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. SO, I FEEL LIKE I GOT A LOT OUT OF THIS. REALLY JUST BEEN WONDERFUL. THANK YOU. I WANT TO INSPIRE US ALL TO MAYBE DO SOMETHING EXTERNALLY AS WELL. I DON'T KNOW ITCH YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS. ANY OF YOU ALL. OR EVEN GABBY ON THE CALL TOO.

>> THANKS. I GUESS JUST ONE QUICK THING. ALWAYS FOLLOW, OR ALWAYS TRY TO DO YOUR, RESEARCH, YOU KNOW TRY TO FOLLOW, YOUNG, LED MOVEMENTS. AND INTERSECTIONAL MOVEMENTS. BECAUSE AGAIN YOU KNOW THERE IS NOT ONE SIMPLE SOLUTION. YOU KNOW, A ONE, ONE THING CAN BE SO INTRICATE. AND, THERE IS ALWAYS SO MANY SIDE TO THE STORY. THAT, WE SHOULD HEAR. AND -- YEAH, SO TRY TO DO, TRY TO BE AS INTENTIONAL AS BEING OPEN. JUST, WITH LIKE THIS GO

AND ABOUT RECEIVING ALL OF THE INFORMATION. AND --
YEAH, BEING HOLISTIC ABOUT YOU KNOW LIKE -- THE SOLUTIONS
THAT THE YOU DECIDE TO --
APPROACH, BECAUSE AGAIN THERE IS NOT ONE SIMPLE ANSWER. I
HAVE LEARNED.

>> SOME ONE ELSE?

>> NO.

>> I, JUST WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING, FOR MYSELF. AND
MAKING-VISIBLE. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US, WHITE
PEOPLE, TO OUR WORK, NOT THE DUTY OF THE PEOPLE WE HAVE
HERE OR THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE HAVE TO TEACH US AND CHANGE
OUR MIND. BUT SOMETHING THAT, I HAVE REALLY LEARNED. SO, I
DON'T WANT THE PEOPLE WHO WE HAVE HERE TO FEEL LOOK THEY
HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. IT IS, THAT'S NOT -- WE KNOW
THAT. OF COURSE, AS A SPACE MAKING VISIBLE, WE WERE GOING
TO TRY TO HAVE OTHER RESOURCES, AND WE DO THE WORK THAT WE
CAN TO HAVE YOU THERE. AND IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PUT IT
THERE. BUT THE PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE HERE, THIS IS A SPACE
TO -- TO HAVE PEOPLE TELLING THEIR STORIES, THEIR, THEIR,
WAY OF LIVING, IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE ARE TRYING TO
ADDRESS. SO, I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT. AND --
AND, THANK YOU, EVERYBODY FOR THAT. I DON'T KNOW, ANNIE IF

YOU HAVE SOMETHING.

>> NO, THANK YOU. YES, AND I THINK THAT IS RIGHT. IF, EVERYBODY COULD SHARE, THIS VIDEO ONCE IT COMES OUT, AND, PLEASE POINT PEOPLE TO THE RESOURCES THAT ARE ON THE PAGE. AND, COME TO THE NEXT -- TWO WEBINARS BRENDA IS ALSO CURATING, THIS WAS AMAZING. ABSOLUTELY -- AMAZING TALK, AND JUST -- THE CONVERSATION WAS BEAUTIFUL. AND, INSPIRING. AND MOVING. AND, TRANSFORMATIVE. AND I THINK, I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS THAT WAY. SO, THANK YOU SO MUCH. SO, BRENDA, ANY LAST THINGS, BEFORE WE -- SAY GOOD-BYE.

>> NO, JUST, THANK YOU EVERYBODY.

>> I DID HAVE, OUR, OUR, -- MARKETING PERSON, TEXTED ME -- TO REMIND PEOPLE THAT ON OUR MAKING-VISIBLE PAGE WE HAVE SOMETHING CALLED SPREAD THE WORD THAT ALSO PROVIDES IMAGES AND TEXT. IF YOU UH CAN SHARE TO YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, PLEASE GO THERE AND SHARE THOSE. AND WE WILL ALSO INCLUDE THAT LINK IN THE FOLLOW-UP EMAIL.

>> OKAY.

>> SORRY, AND IF I CAN ADD SOMETHING ELSE. ANNOUNCEMENTS. ALSO, BRENDA, IS AN AMAZING TRIP RIGHT NOW. WE CAN SHARE THAT ALSO. IN MEXICO. I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN SHARE ABOUT

THAT. MAYBE WE CAN ALSO, SUPPORT THAT CAUSE, AS WELL. SO,
JUST, HAVING THAT IN MIND AT THE END. WE CAN, TALK ABOUT
THAT.

>> THAT'S AWESOME. AL WE FINNER WITH A BELL AND HAVE
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SAY GOOD-BYE. SHALL WE FINISH WITH A
BELL. THEN HAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SAY GOOD-BYE. SO FROM
THIS TIME HERE THAT WE HAVE SPENT TOGETHER, MAY THIS
LEARNING THAT WE ARE DOING TOGETHER, BENEFIT THE WORLD IN
ALL KINDS OF WAYS. SO THAT --

WE ARE, OURSELVES CAN BE FREE AND ALL BEINGS EVERYWHERE CAN
HAVE TRUE FREEDOM AND TRUE SAFETY AND WELLNESS AND TRUE
EASE. AND MAY ALL BEINGS BE FREE.

(BELL TOLLS)

THANK YOU, ALL SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE. AND IF YOU WANT TO
DONATE TO HELP US SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, YOU CAN DO THAT AT
MAKING-VISIBLE.ORG.

>> FOLLOW ALSO ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA THAT WILL HELP US. AND
WE ALWAYS HAVE A -- SOCIAL MEDIA, I THINK THAT CAN HELP YOU
ALSO, TO SPREAD THE WORD THAT, CONVERSATIONS, WE ARE TRYING
TO HAVE HERE. AND OF COURSE, BRENDA, THOMAS.

>> RECORDING STOPPED.

>> ALL OF OUR SPEAKERS, SEVE WAS OUR FIRST SPEAKER ON

INDIGENOUS. FOLLOW ALL OF THEM. THAT'S IMPORTANT AS WELL.

>> YES, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, GABBY FOR YOUR SHARING AS WELL. THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE.

>> THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

>> AND, GO TO MAKING-VISIBLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT -- WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> GOOD NIGHT. GOOD NIGHT. GOOD NIGHT. GOOD NIGHT. GOOD NIGHT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> BUENOS NOCHES.

>> GRACIAS.

>> THANK YOU, DON. WE FORGOT TO THANK YOU, DON.