

# IN KINSHIP Archives & Performance Fellowship



## ABOUT THE ARCHIVES & PERFORMANCE FELLOWSHIP

What possibilities emerge when we look at social repair and environmental care as public, creative acts? The Archives & Performance Fellowship is a paid, year-long opportunity for four Fellows that follows the tradition of Wabanaki Guiding, connecting Native and non-Native people to place through experience, language, and story. Fellows will experiment with research and performance approaches to understand stories and histories of the Penobscot River and watershed. They will collaborate to create new work, inspired by their learning, that addresses ecological recovery and social justice. Fellowship activities will be led by Penobscot Nation partners and will center indigenous knowledge and experience.

### **The fellowship year will include:**

A regular check-in schedule

Workshops and skill-shares

Two intensives that immerse Fellows in research and performance methods

A public performance and/or presentation of the work created

### **Fellows will receive:**

\$1500 stipend

Dramaturgical & research support

Connections with the broader In Kinship community

Photo and video process documentation

Space to present new work

Produced by Open Waters ([openwaters.org](http://openwaters.org)), In Kinship is a multi-year community art and performance project that looks at how we connect and care for each other within the Penobscot River Watershed ecosystem.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We are looking for applications from people working in any field or discipline who are interested in performance, ecological work, and collaborating with people outside of their own area of expertise. No matter how much experience you have making theatre or performance work, if some (or all) of the following questions are exciting to you, please apply! We want to hear from you!

- How can we approach the history of the Penobscot River as alive, inseparable from its present and future?
- What methodologies can be used to disrupt dominant narratives and colonial approaches to knowledge preservation?
- How can artists, activists, community members, and scholars engaged in ecological issues better learn from and support one another?
- How might subjugated forms of knowledge create broad impact and meaningful change?
- How can we honor non-human voices and narratives that are important to the river?

We will prioritize applicants who live and/or work in the Penobscot watershed region. Equity and inclusion of a broad array of voices is at the core of In Kinship; we especially encourage people from traditionally underrepresented or misrepresented communities to apply. The project is following guidance from members of Penobscot Indian Nation, and Fellows of all backgrounds should expect to discuss colonization histories and practice respect for Penobscot cultural and political sovereignty.

## TIMELINE

Fellows should expect to commit about 5 hours per week to fellowship activities (more during the May and September research intensives) until the rehearsal period beginning in February 2020. During the rehearsal period, Fellows should expect to commit about 10 hours per week. An overview of the schedule follows:

- March 11, 2019: Applications open
- April 10: Applications due
- April 20: Fellows notified
- May: Material archives research intensive at University of Maine, Orono
- June-August: Check-ins and short workshops scheduled in consultation with Fellows
- September: Guided on-river research intensive scheduled in consultation with Fellows and Guides
- October 2019-January 2020: Check-ins, short workshops, and work shares scheduled in consultation with Fellows and Guides
- February 2020: Rehearsals for final showing
- March 2020: Public showing of project(s)
- April 2020: Fellowship reflections and celebration

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should send the materials requested below as email attachments and/or links addressed to **Cory Tamler**, Project Director, at [cory@openwaters.org](mailto:cory@openwaters.org) or **Darren Ranco**, Educational Coordinator, at [darren.ranco@maine.edu](mailto:darren.ranco@maine.edu). Please use the subject: "In Kinship Fellowship Application". There are no page or length limits, but we will spend 20-30 minutes reviewing your application, so please assemble it with this in mind.

### **Application deadline: April 10, 2019.**

- Personal statement/statement of interest (potential formats: document, video, audio)
- Work sample (choose format that shows off what you do: document, video, images, project webpage, etc.)
- CV/resume (document or link)
- Contact info

## I'M NOT SURE IF I'M A GOOD FIT! SHOULD I APPLY?

The Fellowship is open and exploratory. We welcome applicants with a specific idea for a project, but this is not necessary to apply. In general, if you want to tackle questions about the environment and social change connected to the Penobscot watershed and you are excited by the idea of working with a multi-disciplinary group of people, you should definitely apply. Here are some possible scenarios:

- You're an indigenous environmental justice activist who's curious about how the arts can help mobilize your community's stories to create broad culture shift.
- You're an academic doing research on the Penobscot watershed, and you want to figure out how to reach a broader audience with your work.
- You're an indigenous artist working with culture as medicine, and you want to reveal and create resilient Tribal archives of collective memory.
- You're a playwright with a draft of a play about histories of the Penobscot River region that is in need of interdisciplinary and intercultural perspective.
- You are working on ecological issues in Maine and want to learn and practice how to do this work intersectionally.
- You're a performer who wants agency in your creative process and to use your artistry to contribute to social change.
- You work across video and digital media and want to include hands-on research and outdoor experiences in your artistic practice.

## **ABOUT *IN KINSHIP***

Produced by Open Waters ([www.open-waters.org](http://www.open-waters.org)), *In Kinship* is a multi-year community art and performance project that looks at how we connect and care for each other within the Penobscot River Watershed ecosystem.

## **ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP CO-CREATORS**

**Cory Tamler**, Project Director and *In Kinship* Lead Artist

Cory Tamler ([www.corytamler.com](http://www.corytamler.com)) is a writer, translator, and interdisciplinary artist whose practice is rooted in theatre, performance as research, and community organizing. She has created research-based performance projects in the U.S., Germany, and Serbia, and is a core artist with civic arts organization Open Waters (Maine). Cory has been a Fulbright Scholar (Berlin) and a Fellow at the New Museum for Contemporary Art. As a Ph.D. student at The Graduate Center, CUNY, she studies open-ended artistic work from social practice to community-based theatre. She teaches at Brooklyn College and is a member of Commitment Experiment, an experimental performance collective.

**Darren Ranco, Ph.D.**, Educational Coordinator

Darren Ranco is a faculty member with the University of Maine's Department of Anthropology, as well as the Chair of Native American Programs and Coordinator of Native American Research. His research focuses on the ways in which indigenous communities in the United States resist environmental destruction by using indigenous diplomacies and critiques of liberalism to protect cultural resources, and how state knowledge systems continue to expose indigenous peoples to an inordinate amount of environmental risk. Ranco is a member of the Penobscot Nation, and is particularly interested in how better research relationships can be made between universities, Native and non-Native researchers, and indigenous communities. Ranco is also involved in developing mentoring programs for Native American students at the University of Maine and developing a statewide STEM education program for Native American students.

**Jennie Hahn**, Producing Director & *In Kinship* Lead Artist

Jennie Hahn is a civic performance artist working at the intersections of environmental stewardship, ecological arts practice, and public dialogue in her home state of Maine. Projects include *Farms & Fables*, an original play created in collaboration with Maine farmers, and a co-designed partnership to incorporate performance techniques into policy development practices with Stephanie Gilbert of the Maine Department of Agriculture. Since 2015, Jennie has curated *In Kinship*, a collection of collaborative civic performance works focused on environmental resilience and ecological recovery in the Penobscot River Watershed. Jennie is an MFA student in Intermedia at the University of Maine, Orono.

For more information, please visit [openwaters.org/fellowship](http://openwaters.org/fellowship)