

## ART IS JUSTICE

# Lori Pourier on the link between art and identity

President of First Peoples Fund Lori Pourier explains how Native American artists are the changemakers in their communities nationwide, "Artists restore history and our identity."

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

### **Transcript begins.**

[The words "Art Is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Political, Hope, Powerful, Connection...it stops at Identity. Art Is Identity.]

**Lori Pourier, president of First Peoples Fund:** In my community artists are those who are standing up for the rights to protect their land, to reclaim their songs, their ceremonies, their dances.

[Tribal members sing together while dressed in their regalia.]

My name is Lori, I'm Oglala Lakota. And I work for First People's Fund. Much of my work is spent educating about artists of tribal communities.

[A Cherokee Nation woman displays her woven baskets made from river cane. A Hawaiian man weaves a frog out of ancient laulala materials.]

In order for us to truly embrace history and our identity, we have to acknowledge that American Indians hold the original title to this land. There's over 567 nations. Less than .02 percent of all philanthropy goes to Indian Country.

[A group of young people of Tlingit ancestry dance. A native woman sings and strikes a drum in a solo performance.]

Artists are the changemakers in our communities nationally and so artists restore history and our identity.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Identity, Expression, Change, Creativity, Healing...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

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**Archival Courtesy of**

First Peoples Fund

Deposit Photos

**End of transcript.**