NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

This year for Native American Heritage Month we celebrate the works of Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples.

The Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives has recordings of Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples by various entities, including The Bureau of Indian Affairs, and scholarship on that music.

However, we are choosing to specifically display materials that showcase the artistry and agency of Native Americans.

Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples do not exist only in the past. They have a present, where they contribute to modern society, and a future as well.

Cultural appreciation does not necessarily have to be about appropriation of a marginalized community.

Centering agency and artistry for marginalized musical artists or groups celebrates them without being condescending. We need to challenge the popular narratives of those that have been Othered. One way to do so is to let them speak through their music.

Since an artist can have multiple oppressions, they can speak to more than one type of audience. We see this in Ma Rainey, a black woman, whose queer songs also speak the LGBTQIA+ community. We also see this in Los Crudos, a queercore group that also provided a punk space for Latinos.

No matter the topic, include marginalized artists from the beginning. Put them in conversation with others for context. Prince and Pink Floyd are both known for their symbolism so they work on a signs/symbols display.