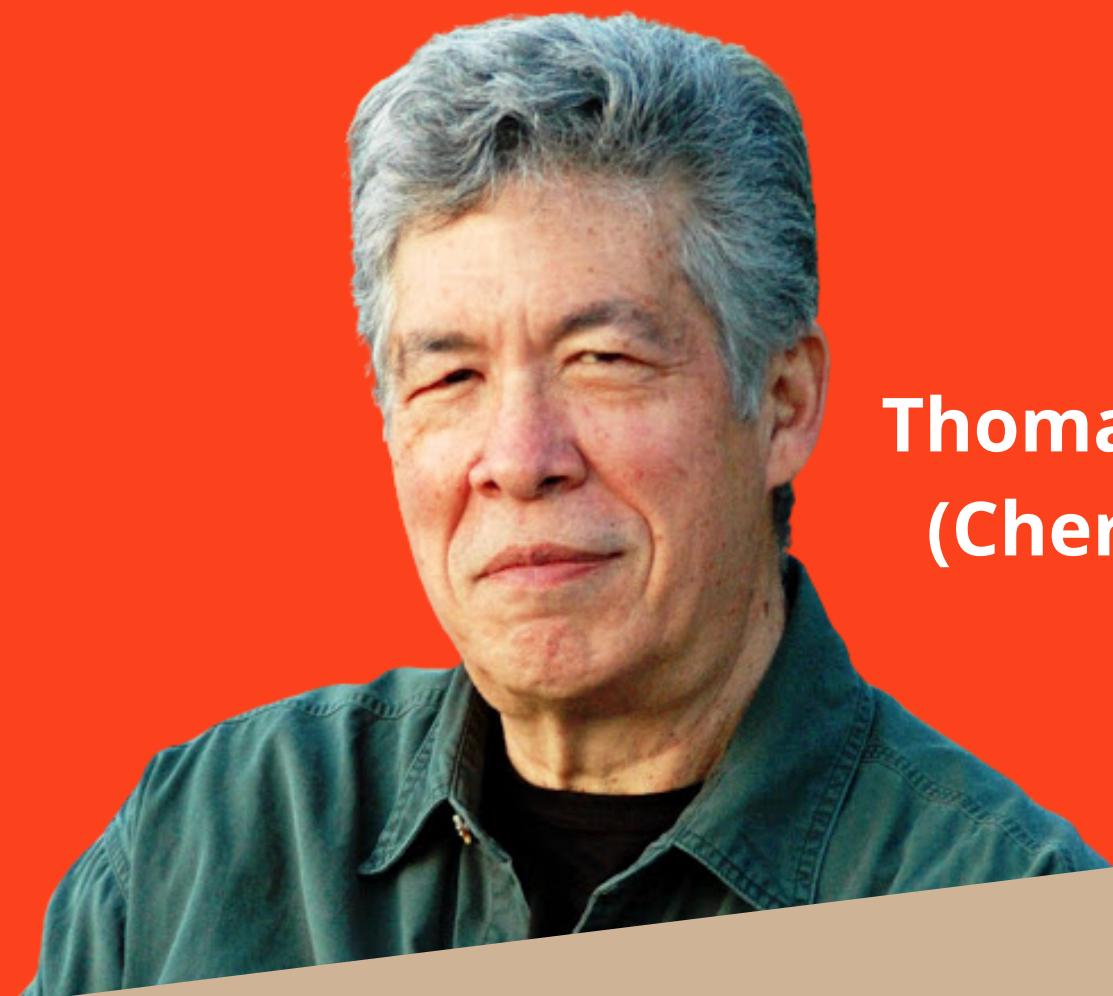


Click to Listen to Storytellers across Indian Country

Storywork

"The truth about stories is that that's all we are" (King 2005).



Thomas King
(Cherokee)



Snotty Nose
Rez Kids
(Haisla)

Why call Indigenous storytelling storywork?

Jo-Ann Archibald says, "I needed a term that signified that our stories and storytelling were to be **taken seriously**" (Archibald 2008, p. 3).

The Power of Stories

Chris Teuton says "Indigenous storytelling traditions describe spirituality, governance, medicine, and the rights and responsibilities that define peoplehood. **Stories teach us how to live well together**" (Teuton 2019).

Stories have the **power** to:

- Create **space**
- Create **place**
- Create **meaning across time**



Buddy
Red Bow
(Lakota)



Taqʷšəblu
(Upper Skagit)

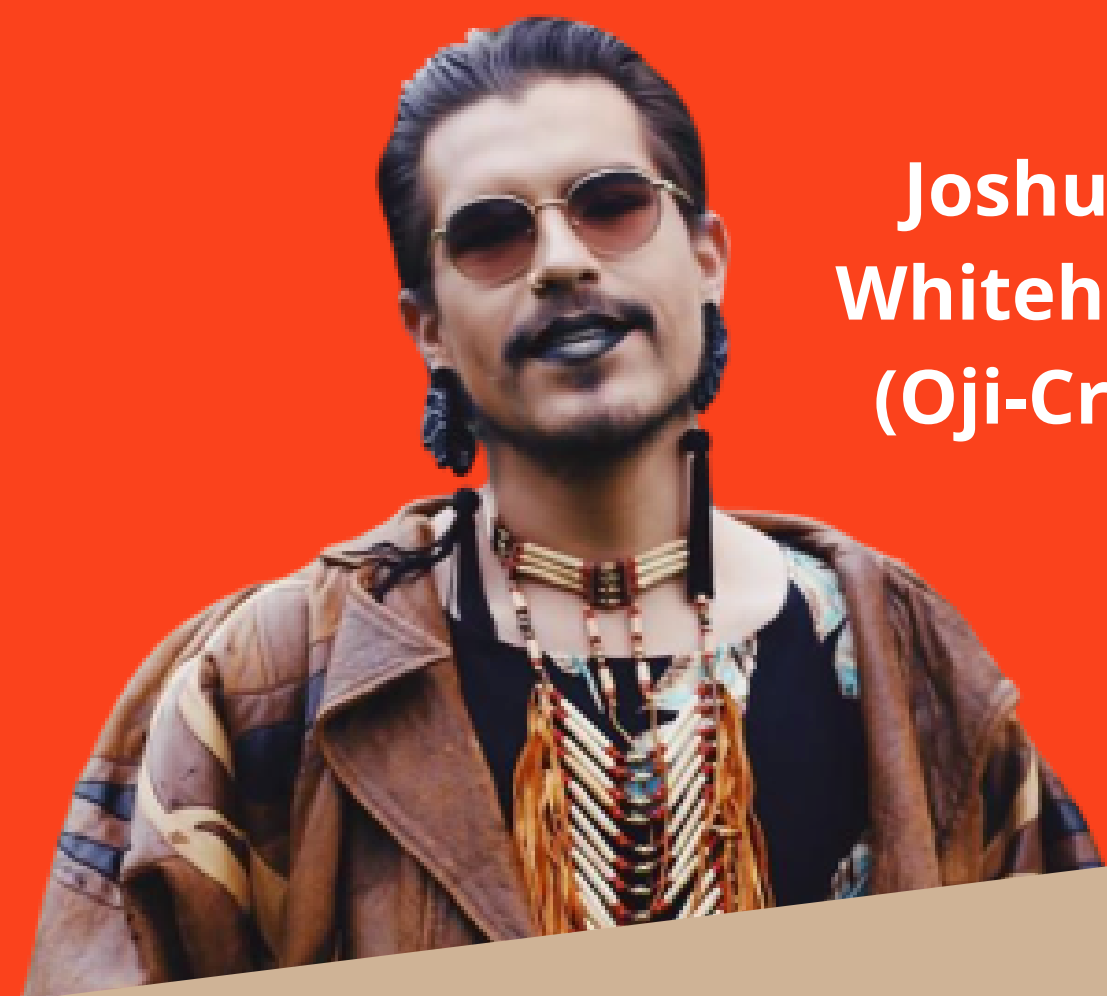
Language is Key

"In Cherokee tradition, our language is a direct gift from Unetlvnv, or Creator. Legend says that **if we lose our language, we will lose our identity**" (Teuton 2019).

Taqʷšəblu aka Vi Hilbert (Upper Skagit) was an elder and renowned storyteller who **dedicated her life to revitalizing the Lushootseed language**, the traditional language of Coast Salish peoples in the Salish Sea.

Native Voices Matter

Reclaiming Native Truth found that , "**78%** of Americans polled **know little to nothing about Native Americans** and a significant portion believe that Native peoples must be a dwindling population **because they do not see, hear, or read about Native Peoples**" (Dennison 2020).



Joshua
Whitehead
(Oji-Cree)

Gerald Vizenor
(Anishinabe)



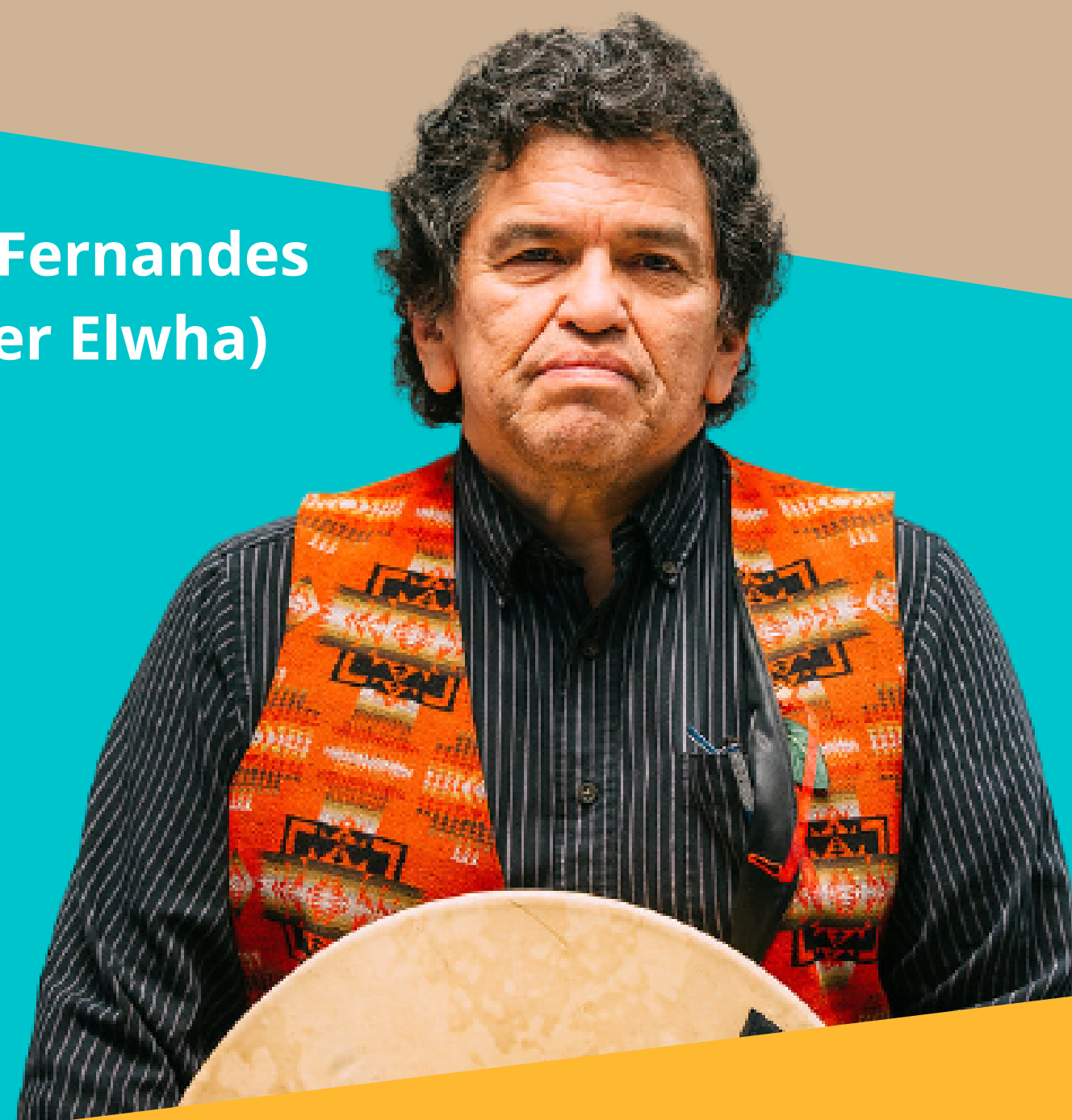
Survivance

"**Survivance** is an **intergenerational connection** to an individual and **collective sense of presence** and **resistance** in personal experience and the word, or language, and **particularly through stories**" (Vizenor, Tuck, & Yang, 2014, p. 107).

Colonial Hi[story]

"According to the settler stories of **Indigenous deficiency**, our peoples were supposed to vanish into the sunset long ago; our families' stubborn **refusal to disappear** has vexed and perplexed colonial apologists for centuries, for, in spite of all their hopes and ambitions, policies and practices, laws and customs, and assaults and editorials, **our peoples are still here**, as are our relations, as are our stories" (Justice 2018, p.5).

Roger Fernandes
(Lower Elwha)



Stories Heal Indigenous Communities

Abigail Echohawk uses **storytelling** at the Urban Indian Health Institute to **listen** to Indigenous communities health needs. She says, "Instead of human subjects, we call them **storytellers of health**" because "**we have the answers and it's in our stories**" (Echohawk 2018).

Abigail
Echohawk
(Pawnee)

