

Interstate Earth Lodge – An Overview of Archaeology and Tribal Consultation from Southwest Iowa





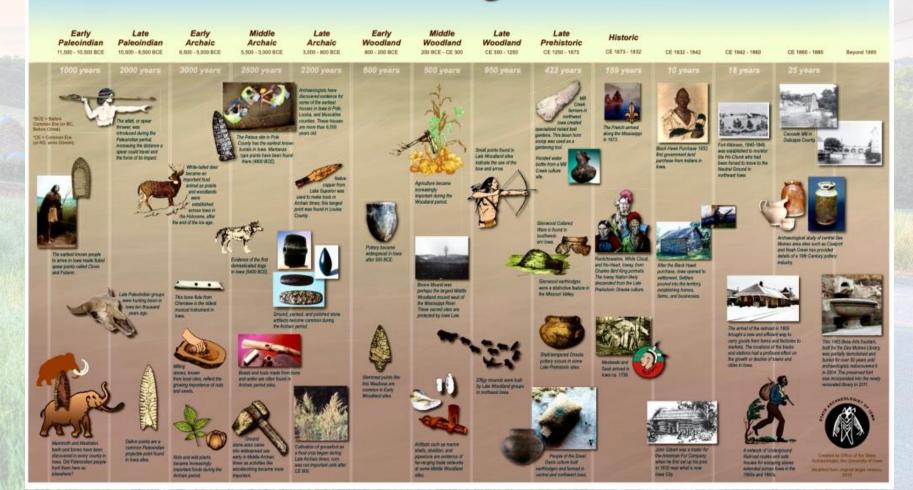


Between 1968 and 1972 the Iowa Highway Commission (the precursor of the Iowa Department of Transportation – Iowa DOT) excavated 19 Central Plains Tradition earth lodges during construction of US Highway 34 near Glenwood, Iowa. This project substantially changed the State of Iowa in a number of ways, especially with regard to consultation with Tribes and Nations and the critical planning that would be needed under the budding field of cultural resources management. For the ensuing four decades the Glenwood collection continued to be the focus of regular archaeological research conducted by professionals. In the spring of 2020, the Iowa DOT began development on various themed concepts for a rest area reconstruction associated with Interstate 29 (I-29) at Glenwood. After some consideration, the project team moved forward with an earth lodge theme, incorporating education and interpretation materials that focused on the indigenous experiences connected to the Central Plains Tradition (likely Caddoan speaking Tribes/Nations). Additionally, the project team sought to include contemporary indigenous experiences through the inclusion of murals completed by native artists. Opened in the spring of 2023, the I-29 rest area at Glenwood features the frame of a scaled Central Plains Tradition earth lodge, various educational panels (focused on the themes of agriculture, descendent communities, transportation, trade, and others), an inlaid earth lodge footprint in the floor, and four commissioned murals by indigenous artists. This presentation will share some of the lessons learned in developing this project and share ways in which unique and meaningful consultation can focus not just on the past, but also on the present and future.





Iowa's Archaeological Timeline







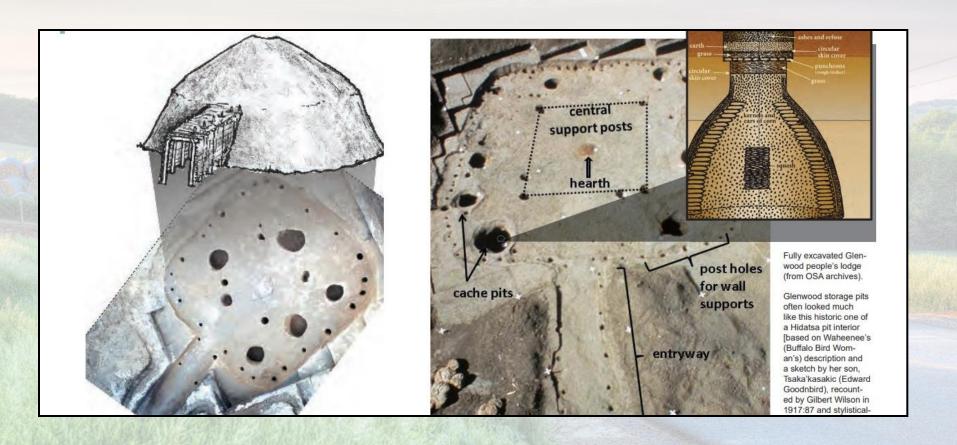










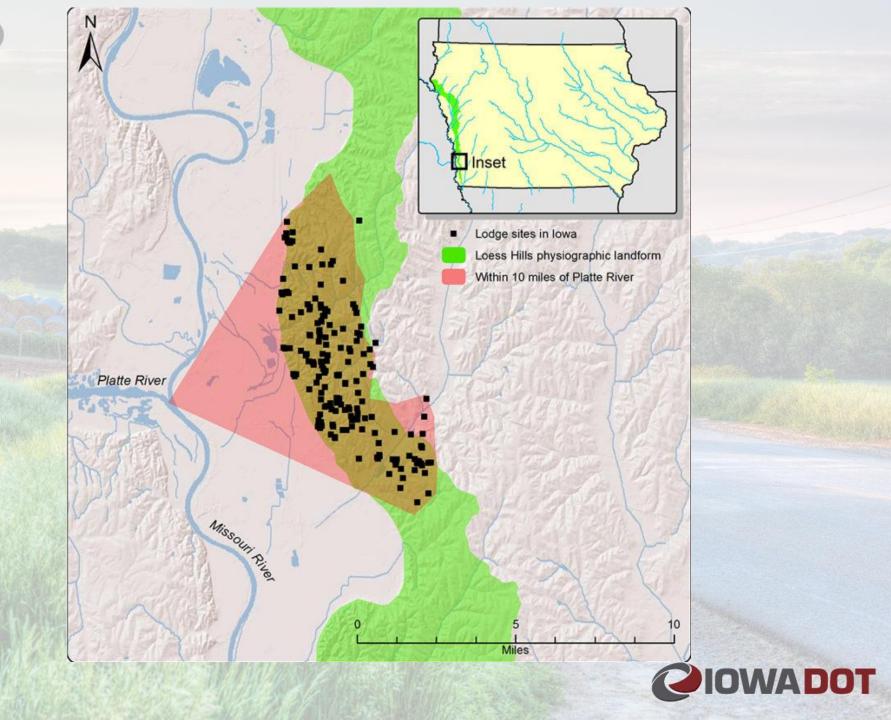




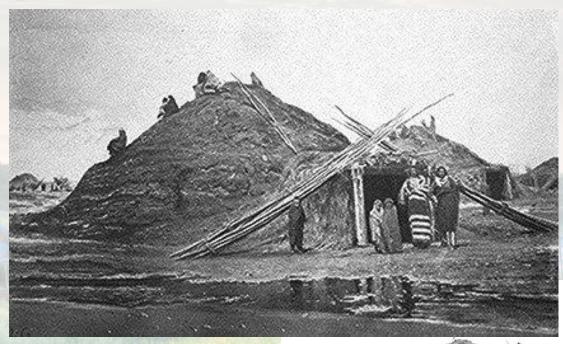














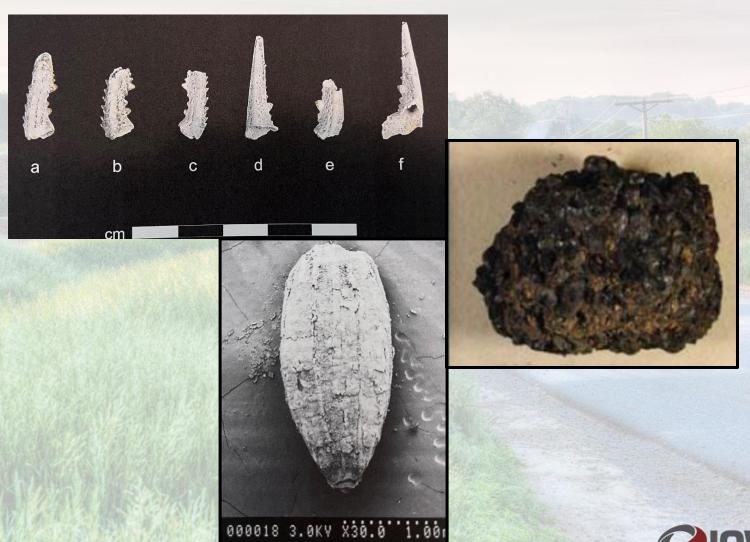










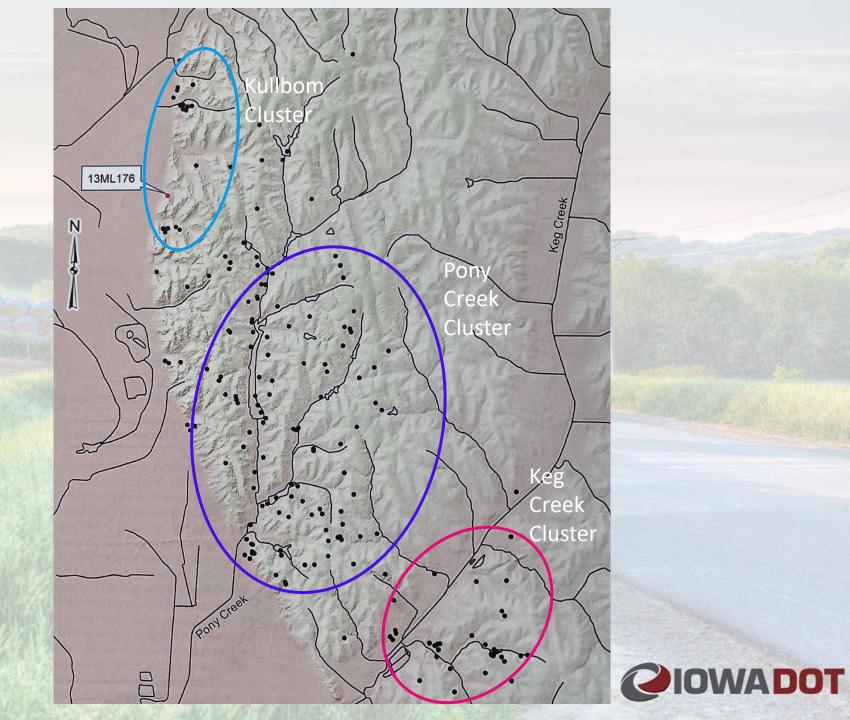




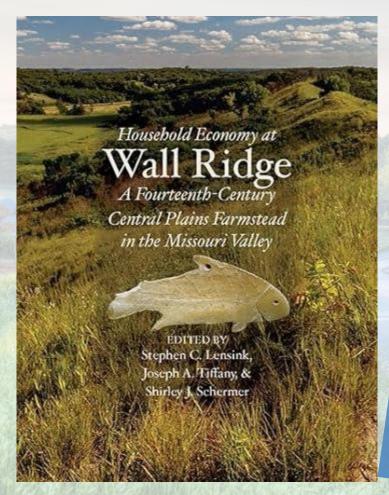


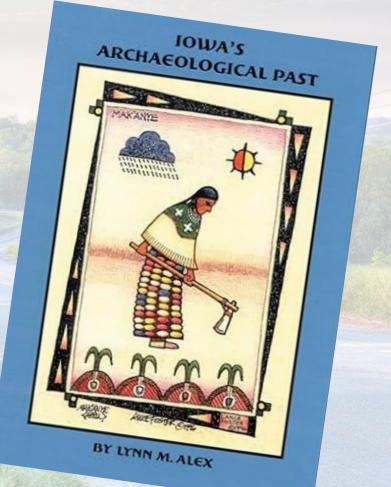














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Iowa DOT Themed Rest Areas



Iowa's New Generation Rest Areas

lows is incorporating art in its new rest areas to educate travelers on the cultural, historical, social, or natural resources of the area.















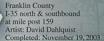


















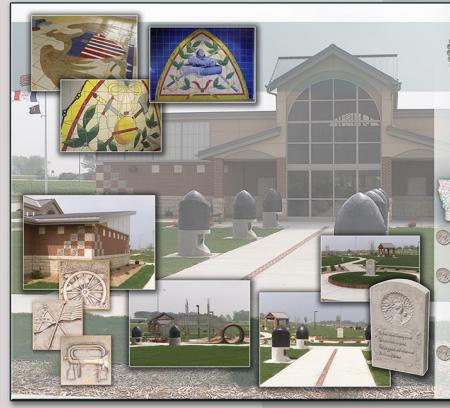
This Iowa rest area explores the prominent role Franklin County residents played in the Civil War. According to Civil War records, Franklin County















I-29 North Bound, near Glenwood







www.iowadot.gov

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June 2, 2020

Iowa DOT Ref. IMN-029-2(72)38--0E-65 Missouri River / Mills County

Mr. Matt Reed Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma 657 Harrison Street Pawnee, OK 74058

RE: Rest Area Rehabilitation: Glenwood Cultural Theme: Interstate 29: Mills County, Iowa

Dear Matt:

The subject of this letter is somewhat different than our normal consultation efforts, and I think this has the potential to be a remarkable project. As you may know the lowa DOT operates a number of on system interstate and highway rest areas. They are located across the state and provide travelers a space to get our, take a walk, find rest and in some cases learn about a given theme or topic. Some of our most popular rest areas have themes that include historic topics like Underground Railroad/Network to Freedom, and the United State Civil War and natural themes like Iowa's Native Landscapes.

Recently, I was asked about a rehabilitation of our I-29 rest area near Glenwood. Immediately I thought of the Native American people connected to earth lodge culture that was so prominent near the Glenwood locality nearly a millennium ago. Meanwhile, one of the themes presented by our design consultant also connected to the earth lodge heritage of the area. We agreed we are likely overdue for sharing about this remarkable aspect of the human experience at this location.

Therefore, enclosed for your review is a concept package and a research package to share some of the initial thoughts we've conceived about this potential rest area rehabilitation. The purpose of this outreach is to collect your thought and ideas about the concept and how it might come to fruition. The concept package contains the following:

- Emphasis on People who constructed earth lodges in and around present-day Glenwood, in the context of the Missouri River, the alluvial plain and the Loess Hills
- Representation of an exterior Earth Lodge, to provide visitors a sense of scale and space
- Informational panels
- Native art murals
- · Written work art or poetry

It's important to note that this is a rehabilitation of an existing rest area, so we are not looking to change or increase the overall footprint of the location. Also, we know that these locations have to serve a functional purpose, so this effort is really a blending of those aspects along with the potential to educate the traveling public. Uniquely, these kinds of projects are intended to include and intertwine art. We are looking to solicit 2-3 pieces from Native American artists to find a home at this structure. If you know of a Tribal artist who would be



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Mr. Pete Coffey, Compliance Officer Iowa DOT Ref. IMN-029-2(72)38--0E-65 Three Affiliated Tribes - Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Missouri River / Mills County New Town, ND 58763

RE: Rest Area Rehabilitation; Glenwood Cultural Theme; Interstate 29; Mills County, Iowa

June 2, 2020

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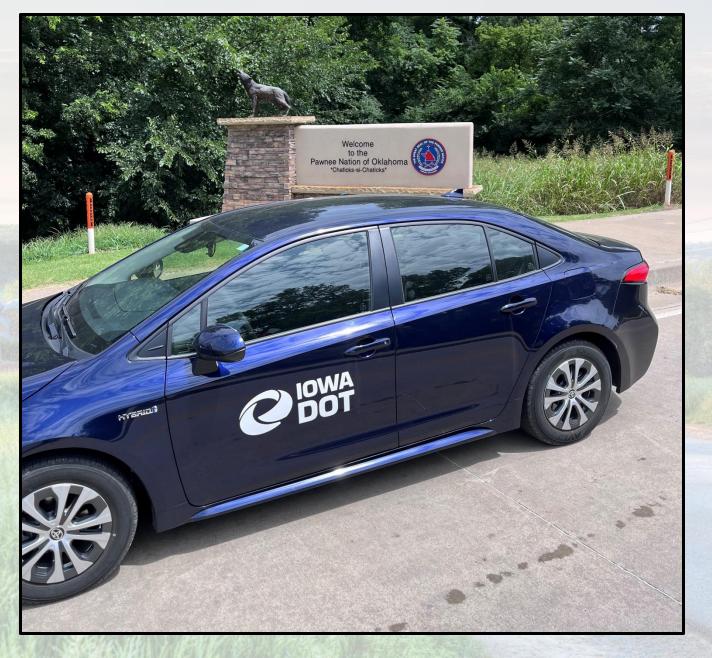
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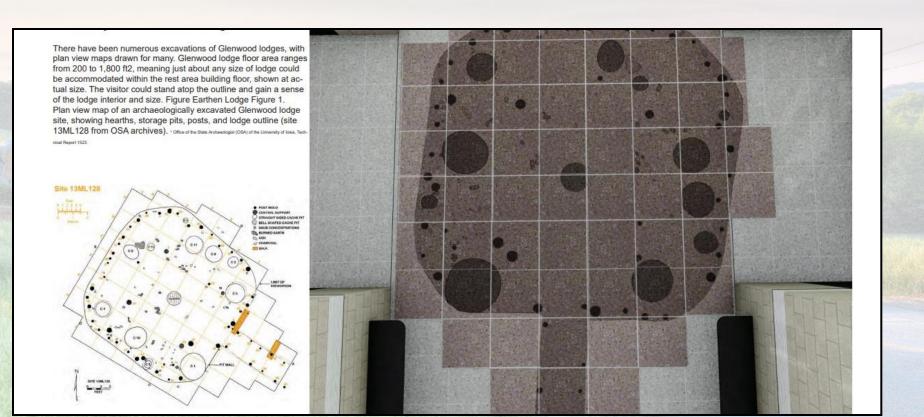
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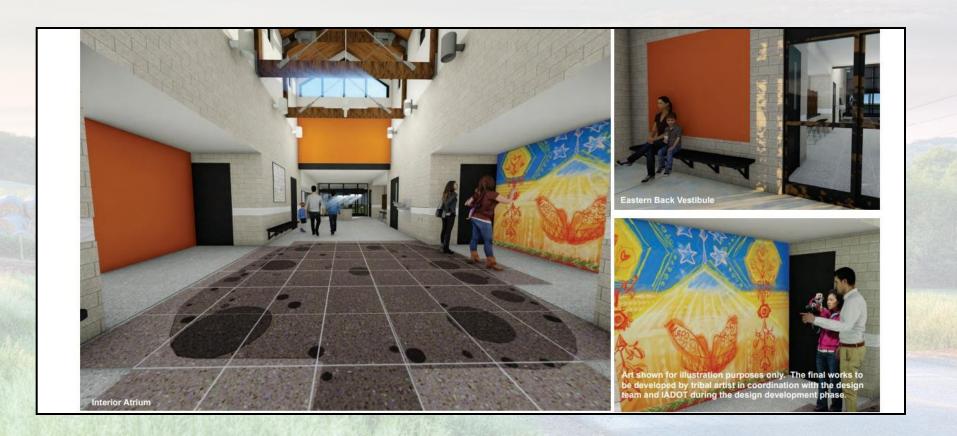




















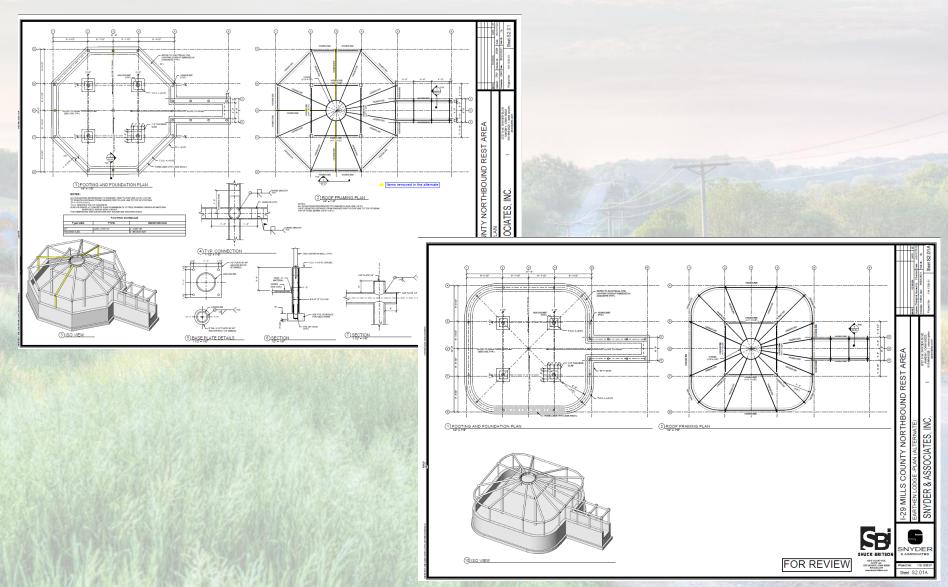




























I-29 NORTHBOUND MILLS COUNTY REST AREA TRIBAL ARTIST INFORMATION

TAMARA FAW FAW. MIHAXEGE

(OTOE-MISSOURIA, IOWA)

amara Faw Faw, Mihaxece, is a illustrations and in cultural clothic She began her education at Oklahoma State University in 1994, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Kansas State University in 1999. From her oil paintings in the 1990s to her recent digital "Clan Animal" series, all of her artwork has focused on her Tribal



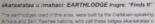
LANCE FOSTER

Lance M. Foster (Irogre: Finds What is Sought, Bear Clan, loway), b. 1960, is a nember of the lows Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. He has graduate degrees in design and anthropology from lowa State University and attended the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. He has worked in archaeology and is author of The Indians of Iowa (2009). He has appeared in several ocumentaries about the loway and the prairie. He serves his tribe as a THPO and was elected Vice Chairman in 2019. He works on the tribe's reservation in Kansas and Nebraska. His current work Tribal National Park, He lives with his wife in White Cloud, Kansas.



ECOLOGY

The piece is based on traditional designs that represent the flora and fauna of the regions the Otoe-Missouria and lowa people traveled through including the Gianwood area, as they made their way from what is currently the Green Bay area to their home in Oklahoma. Flowers, vines, berries, leaves, and seed pods can be found here and, in the beadwork and ribbonwork patterns which have been passed down from in the vitality of Mother Earth's ecology.



The earthingnes used in this area, were built by the Caddoan-speaking ancestral Afrikara and Skiri Pawnee nations, who call these lodges ákaraarataa u and whose archaeological culture of the eastern Plains has been called the Nebraska Phase of the Central Plans Tradition. These Loess Hills were an area of cultural exchange between the Nebraska culture and the archaeological culture called the Oneota, ancestral culture of the Siouan-speaking loway. Otoe, and Missouria nations, who called these lodges mahad, and who were woodlands and tallgrass prairie cultures. Inspired by these ancient traditions and by what archaeology has revealed, artist Lance Foster (loway name Irogre: "Finds What was Sought") portrays a vision of that way of life and cultural exchange between these two ancient groups, set in an earthlodge. Here is one and of the spirit world and the land you are standing in now.



(OTOE-MISSOURIA, OSAGE, PAWNEE, SAC & FOX)

Jessica Moore Harjo, Ph.D., Weomepe is an artist, designer, and educator to art and design is unique, posttraditional, and grounded in cultural ersections of traditional ribbonwork and applique, with elements of nature, harmonious and symmetric forms, and atmospheric color palettes. She received her Bachelor of Landscape University with a minor in Studio Art, Master of Arts in Design and Doctor of Philosophy in Design from the Uni



KAYLA L. KENT. MAHISKAMI

Kayla L. Kent, MahiskaMi'; White Knife Woman, Buffalo Clan of the loway Tribe interdisciplinary artist. She specializes in pen & ink, acrylic painting, poetry Her work is a portrayal of her tribal ancestry, identity and storytelling nspired from a study of matern empowerment following the role of women amongst the tribal nations. raditional folklore and personal visions and dreams. Kayla is a mother of two residing in Lincoln, NE. She is currently studying health sciences in sports and nutrition & dietetics.



FOUNDATION OF REMEMBRANCE

This design represents the Glenwood culture and includes different representations of the agriculture, vegetation, and general life of the original inhabitants. In the background is an earth lodge with a grid of seeds representing the idea of renewal but also a foundation of remembrance. The floral designs on the sides and the bottom design stem from different plants in the area that provided sustenance and other needs for the people. This includes a design in the middle that gives tribute to corn,

The color palette and other symbolisms are from environmental or natural element including the sky, sun, moon, stars, earth, stone, vessels, vegetation, and water, all of which have different significance to Indigenous peoples today.

LAST NIGHT THE THUNDER WAS HEARD

The meaning of the First Thunder is a celebration. When thunder makes its appearance animals come out of hibernation, flowers and plants start to bloom, the land is experiencing a phase of renewal. The power of the thunder is significant in that it is a force that can give life and also take it away. This time of renewal can be correlated to the first equinox of the solar year. The equinox happens when the plane of the Earth's equator passes through at the instant the Sun is directed overhead. The spring season offers us a time of renewal, the seeds begin to sprout, new vegetation is planted & animals then know to come out of hibemation with their young.

The Buffalo Clan in loway Tradition would take over the leadership of the tribe in the spring season. Upon a celebration of their arrival, they offer new crops for the upcoming agricultural cycle and the health of the tribe. The spirit of the buffalo is called upon to ask for abundance in the following crops season, to aid in the health of the people and give thanks to the Earth Maker, Ma'Un. "Last Night the Thunder was heard" depicts an awakening above and below, the Earth Mother, Aruhwa (Buffalo Spirits), and the heart of the people. The earth lodge and or sweat lodge was a sacred place of prayer where members of the tribe would call on the spirit helpers to aid or guide in the wellbeing of the people. Women held special snots within the tribe traditionally women are the keepers of the home, but often are overlooked when it comes to maternal empowerment. Women are the threshold of the people, the lifegivers, nurturers who have a direct connection to the cosmos. Kayla's work often depicts the feminine form in an effort to depict the strength and divine nature of what it means to be a woman in the traditional lifestyle.































Lessons Learned:

- Follow the Vision
- Say Yes (if/when you can),
 You Never Know Where Opportunities Will Come From
- Look for Ways to Innovate; We Looked to Go Beyond Consultation (Preservation is About People)



Questions – Comments:

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