



2025 END-OF-THE-YEAR UPDATE



I. OVERVIEW: A YEAR OF GLOBAL INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING & RESISTANCE

2025 was a year of transformational growth for [Crushing Colonialism](#). Centering multiply-disabled, 2SLGBTQIA+, and global Indigenous communities remained our guiding principle. Our work spanned print publications, international arts programming, press coverage, climate justice storytelling and beyond.

Across our programs, over 40 Indigenous contributors participated from Palestine, Gambia, Senegal, Brazil (including the Amazon), Fiji, Kenya, Colombia, the Cherokee Nation, Little Pine First Nation, and many regions across Turtle Island. Their work has appeared across our press, arts, and media initiatives, including *The Magazine*, Decolonized Beatz Indigenous World Pride, workshops, gatherings, and more.

This report documents a year of movement building across mediums: print, film, live arts, climate reporting, and international Indigenous collaboration.

I would like to share the words from one of our funders, Sarah Lewitus, from Mid Atlantic Arts:

“Crushing Colonialism is a tenacious, thoughtful, and bold organization... The team is wonderful to communicate with and extremely intentional.”

Elton Naswood, Executive Director of Two-Spirit & Native LGBTQ+ Center for Equity also shared their thoughts:

“Being part of Crushing Colonialism’s journey this year, from Decolonized Beatz Indigenous at World Pride 2025 to the influencing magazine issues, to share our mission and visions together. Our collaborations have reflected genuine relationship-building and a deep commitment to uplifting Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ voices. We are grateful for the spaces they create, the stories they elevate, and the transformative impact their work continues to have in our communities.”

II. THE MAGAZINE: FOUR FULL ISSUES, GLOBAL INDIGENOUS VOICES

In 2025, we produced four major editions of The Magazine, each a 20–40 page publication featuring Indigenous writers, artists, activists, and thinkers worldwide. In both print and digital.

On December 4, 2025, [The Magazine celebrated its second anniversary](#) at Baltimore Center Stage through the Shared Space Initiative. The event featured Indigenous performances, traditional foods, and screenings from our Indigiqueer Youth Film Training Workshop, honoring two years of storytelling and community.

Below is a detailed breakdown of each issue with some highlights.

1. MARCH ISSUE — SPIRITUALITY & ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE (THE MAGAZINE, MARCH 2025, EDITION 06)

The March issue centered Indigenous spiritual practices as forms of resistance, healing, and reclamation.

Key features included:

- [“Reviving Ifá’s Heritage”](#):

A full-length exploration of the resurgence of Ifá among Yoruba and diaspora communities — documenting its cosmology, divination systems, oral traditions, spiritual authority, and UNESCO recognition.

- [“Indigenous Spirituality: Resilience in Decolonizing Mental Health”](#):

Articles explored how Indigenous wellness systems foreground ancestral memory, ceremony, and spiritual interconnection as mental health frameworks beyond Western models.

- **Rituals, Poetry, and Daily Ceremony:**

Works such as [“Life Cycle”](#) and [“Meditations on Time, Memory, and Love”](#) wove connections between spirituality, daily practice, and identity.

This issue underscored that Indigenous spirituality is not a belief system but a lived cosmology, deeply tied to sovereignty, land, and survival.

2. JUNE ISSUE — DBIWP & GLOBAL 2SLGBTQIA+ INDIGENOUS LIFE (THE MAGAZINE, JUNE 2025, EDITION 07)

Our June edition was dedicated to Decolonized Beatz Indigenous World Pride (DBIWP). Highlights:

- **12 major interviews with global Indigiqueer creatives:**

Including [Rayceen Pendarvis](#), [Theo Cuthand](#), [Tony Enos](#), [9A](#), [Oswin Latimer](#), [Yaffa](#), [Rebecca Nagle](#), and others.

These interviews documented:

- Transnational Indigiqueer art and activism
- The politics of representation at Pride
- Spiritual and cultural lineages of gender diversity
- The role of storytelling in decolonizing gender

- **DBIWP Event Schedule & Live Performances:** The full DBIWP programming schedule was published (p. 3), including youth film premieres, concerts, and community events.
- **Essays on gender, sexuality, and Indigenous ontology:** Including “[The Concept of Chi: Igbo Ontology on Gender and Sexuality](#)” (pp. 32–34), connecting queer identity to Igbo cosmology. This issue became a landmark archive of 2SLGBTQIA+ Indigenous cultural work.

3. SEPTEMBER ISSUE — IDENTITY, MEMORY, AND POST-COLONIAL TRANSFORMATION (THE MAGAZINE, SEPTEMBER 2025, EDITION 08)

The September issue unpacked the complexity of Indigenous identity across continents.

Key features:

- **“[Country of the Majority](#)”:**
A detailed report on minority tribes in Nigeria (Igarra, Bajju, Bakulu, Aytap, Adara) and how colonial and post-colonial identity laws marginalize Indigenous communities. (pp. 2–4)
- **“[Indigenous Enough](#)”:**
An examination of Indigenous identity in the so-called United States, discussing enrollment, recognition, and the Indigenous Enough Project.
- **“[The Sacred Identity of Twins in Yoruba Tradition](#)”:**
Visual and narrative storytelling on Yoruba twinship as a sacred form of dual identity. (p. 9)
- **Global perspectives:**
Pieces from Palestine, Colombia, and Central Asia explored:
 - Belonging after displacement
 - Post-Soviet nation-building using Indigenous symbols
 - Ritual art as a site of memory

This issue highlighted identity as resistance and reclamation.

4. DECEMBER ISSUE — CHANGEMAKERS, RESISTANCE & INDIGENOUS FUTURES (THE MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 2025, EDITION 09)

The December issue focused on Indigenous leaders reshaping culture, activism, and arts:

- **“[Game Changers Are Changemakers](#)”:**
Indigenous storytelling in gaming and why representation matters. (p. 5)
- **“[Using Hip Hop to Fight Indigenous Erasure](#)”:**
A portrait of hip hop as a mode of resistance and cultural survival. (cover highlights + pp. 5–12)
- **“[Love, Land, and Revolution](#)”:**
Stories linking land defense, love, and revolutionary imagination.
- **“[Changing Through the Arts](#)”:**
Featuring Chief Nike Davies-Okundaye and her global influence on Yoruba textile arts and women’s empowerment. (pp. 2–4)

This issue uplifted Indigenous innovation in art, activism, ecology, and digital culture.

III. DECOLONIZED BEATZ INDIGENOUS WORLD PRIDE (DBIWP)

Held on Piscataway Land (so-called Washington, D.C.) on May 30 and June 1st, 2025, this powerful two-day gathering brought together IndigiQueer and multiply-disabled artists, performers, and community members from across the globe—so-called Brazil, Gambia, Fiji, Palestine, Canada, Finland, the U.S., and more.

From a student in the Indigiqueer Youth Film Workshop, Tatiana Villegas (Tlingit/Haida):

“All IndigeQueer people have a voice – Crushing Colonialism ensures that we all have a platform to make our voices heard.”

Gambian artist Rivolta Sata reflected:

“Events like DBIWP feel like one big family gathering where we learn, share, cry, laugh, and dance together.”

We were honored with a [2025 WorldPride Impact Award](#) for our performance series Decolonized Beatz, with special recognition of Decolonized Beatz Indigenous World Pride (DBIWP). This award, presented by Rainbow Advocacy acknowledges Crushing Colonialism’s exceptional contributions to Indigenous arts, performance, and storytelling—particularly uplifting the voices of 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled, and multiply-marginalized Indigenous artists across the globe.

- [HOPE – A Soundtrack for Indigenous Futures](#): Produced in collaboration with Indigiqueer artist Tony Enos, our “Hope” album is a revolutionary, genre-defying sound journey featuring Indigenous musicians from around the globe. The live performance premiere was part of DBIWP 2025.
- [WorldPride 2025 Human Rights Conference](#): Indigiqueer voices were centered at WorldPride through our panel, “Indigiqueer: Storytelling in Arts & Media Now!” which brought together Indigiqueer representatives from The Gambia, Brazil, and across Turtle Island, including both youth and elders. The talk gained global recognition and began with a powerful Land Acknowledgement on behalf of the Piscataway people. We hosted “Indigiqueer: Storytelling in Arts & Media Now!”, a panel that received global recognition and began with a powerful Land Acknowledgement on behalf of the Piscataway people.
- [EuroPride Human Rights Conference](#): Crushing Colonialism proudly took the global stage at the EuroPride Human Rights Conference in Lisbon in June 2025. We were honored to be the first Indigenous speakers in the event’s history and to join 2SLGBTQIA+ leaders and changemakers from around the world, including Erika Hilton and Ymania Brown, for urgent conversations about queerness, colonization, and liberation.

IV. INDIGENOUS NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

We partnered with Native Max for Indigenous NY Fashion Week 2025, producing **five full interviews, photo essays, and multimedia content pieces**, spotlighting Indigenous designers reclaiming fashion as a site of identity, ceremony, and even Indigenous renaissance.

Watch some interviews with: [Zanders Thomas](#), Original Landlords ([Part I](#) and [Part II](#)) and [M.O.B.I.L.I.Z.E.](#)

V. SANTA FE INDIAN MARKET & MEDICAID VIGIL

- [Santa Fe Indian Market \(103rd Annual\)](#): We provided on-the-ground coverage of artists, vendors, and cultural leaders at one of the oldest Indigenous art gatherings.
- [National Medicaid Vigil \(Washington, DC\)](#): Our Treasurer, Oswin Latimer, spoke publicly about Indigenous disability justice and the stakes of Medicaid for Native communities.

VI. GLOBAL ADVOCACY: [PALESTINE & INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY](#)

Our Executive Director, Jen Deerinwater, joined a global campaign linking disability justice to Palestinian liberation, affirming the interconnectedness of Indigenous struggles worldwide.

In parallel with our cultural programming, Crushing Colonialism participated in the [Conference for Collective Action in Defense of Palestine](#), held in Colombia, which brought together representatives from over 30 states across Abya Yala and the Global South. The gathering focused on coordinated political, legal, and cultural strategies to challenge Israel's ongoing violations in Palestine and to strengthen transnational solidarity movements.

The conference featured key voices such as Rima Hassan, Franco-Palestinian Member of the European Parliament, and Francesca Albanese, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Given the current political landscape, these figures represent some of the most significant voices we have amplified this year, reflecting our ongoing commitment to international Indigenous solidarity, anti-colonial resistance, and justice-centered storytelling.

VII. CLIMATE JUSTICE: FULL COP30 COVERAGE FROM THE AMAZON

We completed our first-ever on-the-ground coverage of COP30 in Belém, Brazil. Our stories highlighted:

- [Grassroots actions such as The People's Summit](#)
- [The Unified Global Climate March](#)
- [Interview with Walter, from the Kumaruara people of the lower Tapajós region, and the delegation "A Gente Cobra"](#)
- [Photo essays, videos, interviews and multilingual captions](#): This groundbreaking coverage was made possible by our funder Earth Rising Foundation.

VIII. FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

- In 2025, we were supported by the following funders: Ford Foundation, Borealis Philanthropy, Mid Atlantic Arts, Women Donors Network, Cultural Survival, Earth Rising Foundation, and Tides Foundation.

- **DBIWP was funded by:** Ford Foundation, Borealis Philanthropy, Mid Atlantic Arts, Women Donors Network, and Capital Pride Alliance.
- **Additional sponsors included:** Folx, Campaign for Southern Equality, Native American LifeLines, Stonewall Community Foundation, United States Artists, BAAITS, Disability Culture Lab, New Disabled South, and Ty Defoe.

IX. CONCLUSION

2025 was a year of artistic brilliance, Indigenous solidarity, and community-led cultural work. Across publications, climate justice reporting, youth training, global Pride gatherings, and collaborative media projects, we honored Indigenous sovereignty and collective joy.

X. LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 PRIORITIES

As we move into 2026, our focus is on strengthening our organizational foundation, expanding opportunities for Indigenous creators, and sustaining the momentum built across 2025.

1. STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM & INTERNAL CAPACITY

In 2026, we will invest directly in our workers and internal systems by:

- Expanding staff capacity across editorial, programs, and operations.
- Building stronger internal workflows that prioritize care, accessibility, and collaboration.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY & CORE FUNDING. WE WILL PRIORITIZE

- Growing multi-year partnerships with aligned foundations.
- Increasing general operating support to stabilize and expand our programs.
- Launching a community-focused sustainer circle to strengthen donor contributions.

3. EXPANDING THE MAGAZINE

Following the success of our four 2025 issues, we aim to:

- Grow our global Indigenous contributor network.
- Strengthen editorial processes and build excellence to our reporting.
- Expand distribution, especially to communities facing digital inequity.

4. LAUNCHING #HIREINDIGENOUS

2026 will mark the launch of [#HireIndigenous](#): a new initiative to expand opportunities for Indigenous creators across media, arts, and culture.

Our goals include:

- Building a public Indigenous Talent Database.
- Creating hiring partnerships with media outlets and cultural institutions.
- Developing a #HireIndigenous fellowship to provide workshops, mentorship, and placement support.

OUR 2026 VISION

A stronger team.

A more sustainable organization.

More opportunities for Indigenous creators.

And a continued commitment to Indigenous, Queer, disabled, and global community-led storytelling.

We enter 2026 with clarity, strength, and purpose: ready to build the next chapter with our relatives and partners. Thank you for allowing us to count with you on this journey.

SUPPORT
OUR MISSION!



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