



Family Leadership Design Collaborative
February 2017 Convening
Speaker Bios

Roger Fernandes, or Kawasa, is a member of the Lower Elwha Band of the S'Klallam Indians from the Port Angeles, Washington area. He is from a family of four brothers who are all active doing various cultural things like singing, basket making, artwork and storytelling. Roger is involved in art organizations and initiatives by and for Native American artists. He's the Executive Director of South Wind Native Arts and Education Foundation a small grassroots non-profit and he's on the arts advisory committee for the Potlatch Fund. Roger has been storytelling for about seven or eight years. His audiences include community groups such as schools, libraries, parks departments, senior centers and open forum presentations that are geared towards a general audience. He does a lot of work in schools and tailors his presentations to young people. Also a tribal historian, Roger gives a comprehensive multimedia presentation on the art of the Coast Salish people. He has recorded a CD 'Teachings of the First People' that shares several of the stories he tells in his performances. He won a folk life award from the Washington Arts Commission for his work in teaching about Coast Salish art. He also has a degree in Native American Studies from the Evergreen State College.

Matt Remle (Hunkpapa Lakota) lives in Seattle, WA and works for the Office of Indian Education in the Marysville/Tulalip school district. He is a writer and editor for Last Real Indians and the author of Seattle's Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution as well as Seattle's resolutions calling on Congress to engage in reconciliation with Tribe's over the Boarding School Era policies and to oppose the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. He recently organized Seattle's campaign to divest from Wells Fargo. In 2014, Remle was awarded Seattle's Individual Human Rights Leader award. He can be reached at Twitter: [@wakiyan7](https://twitter.com/wakiyan7)

Nikkita Oliver is a Seattle-based creative, teaching artist, mentor and organizer. Nikkita is an attorney in Washington State and has a masters degree in education. She is the 2014 Seattle Poetry Slam (SPS) Grand Slam Champion, the 2012 and 2013 SPS Women of the World Poetry Slam representative, a three-time SPS national team member and is coaching the SPS national team for the second time. Currently, Oliver is a writer-in-residence with Writers in the Schools at Washington Middle School, leads writing workshops with Arts Corps at Garfield High School and is a teaching artist and mentor artist with Creative Justice, an arts-based youth diversion program that provides alternatives to incarceration for youth who are court-involved. Her writing has been included in various online publications such as South Seattle Emerald and the Christena Cleveland blog. She believes that all people have a little creative living inside of them. We all just need the space to feel free enough to experiment and express our heART.