



## NATIVE AMERICA Season 2 Panelist Bios



**Arigon Starr** is an enrolled member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma and an acclaimed artist, musician, writer, comic book creator, illustrator, and actor. Starr has garnered accolades such as Best Independent Recording Artist, Single of the Year, and Songwriter of the Year at the Native American Music Awards for her many albums and popular single “Junior Frybread.” She transformed her comedic radio series “Super Indian” into multiple print volumes, while her comic and illustrator work includes “Tales of the Mighty Code Talkers” and “Contenders: Two Native Americans, One World Series.” Her art has been shown in exhibitions across the world, including New York’s Museum of the American Indian, the Weltmuseum in Vienna, Austria, the Heard in Arizona, Santa Fe Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Gilcrease and Philbrook Museums.



**Manuelito (Manny) Wheeler** (Navajo) is the director of the Navajo Nation Museum. He has worked with staff to see the completion of numerous exhibits that are 100-percent Native-built from concept, curation and creation. In the pursuit of Native language preservation, Wheeler and his wife Jennifer are working with major motion picture studios like Lucasfilm Ltd. and Walt Disney Pictures to dub popular movies into the Navajo language.



**Aaron Yazzie** (Navajo) is a mechanical engineer for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. Aaron is Navajo, is Ashijihí (Salt Clan) and born for Todích’ii’nii (Bitter Water Clan). He led the team that created the tools critical to the Perseverance Rover’s mission to Mars — the drill bits digging into the planet to search for signs of life. He has worked on projects studying the universe, where his contributions are integral to determining the life and geologic history of the planet and its connections to Earth.

## PRODUCTION TEAM



**Gary Glassman (Executive Producer)** is a seasoned veteran of the entertainment industry with nearly four decades of experience. His inclusive storytelling approach is born of a unique entry point into the film industry – through the world of street and circus performing. This quest for connection inspired him to explore the accessibility of VHS as a medium to democratize storytelling and a journey of participatory media projects, working with prisoners, hospitalized children, and developmentally challenged adults. Films from this era include “Prisoners,” his first documentary, now in the permanent collections of MoMA and the Pompidou in Paris. Inspired by the connective and personal power of television, Glassman founded Providence Pictures in 1996. Under the Providence Pictures banner, he has made over 60 films for the world’s leading broadcasters and been honored with the industry’s most prestigious awards.



**Jennifer Johns (Diné) (Series Producer)** is a digital storyteller, designer and mentor who was raised and rooted on the Navajo Nation in northwest New Mexico. Deeply committed to centering cultural memory on the Native American experience, Jen draws upon her experience to lead national research initiatives, manage grant programs, and co-design transformative leadership development experiences for Indigenous participants, including co-directing the Native American Fellowship Program at the Peabody Essex Museum. She has also served on advisory committees for national and global institutions that want to create genuinely reciprocal relationships with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, makers and talent. She looks forward to continuing to work with BIPOC communities to uplift their voices and share their stories.