



It has come to our attention that Kathryn “Kay” Le Claire, one of the panelists at this discussion, has misrepresented their identity as an indigenous person. The deception was discovered by a user in an online forum. You can read about it here: <https://madison365.com/indigenous-arts-leader-activist-revealed-as-white/>

Our library collaborated with [Mosaicos](#), a local organization here in Stoughton, to recruit panelists for this event. To all appearances, Le Claire, who went by the name nibiiwakamigkwe, was a respected artist and activist with many connections to the local community, including partnerships with organizations such as UW-Madison’s School of Human Ecology and the Overture Center. It appears as though Le Claire deceived a great many people over the last several years, and we regret that we must be included among those deceived.

Le Claire’s act of cultural theft in no way diminishes the contributions of our other panelists, Shelley Buffalo and Matilde Cachiguango Muenala. Nor should it detract from the important topics discussed at the event, such as the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. We recognize the harm caused when a white individual appropriates the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples, and we apologize that their presence on our panel contributed to that harm.

[Mosaicos](#) has announced that they will be donating the honorarium Le Claire would have received from [Dane County’s Ripple Project](#) to [Yowela Farms](#), a Native-owned sustainable farm here in Stoughton. We know it does not erase the harm, but we hope that this contribution will in a small way make reparations for the hurt this incident has caused to Native individuals and communities.