

Leland Cultural District Hosts Indigenous Peoples' Day Event

October 12, 2026 | Old Art Building 111 S. Main St., Leland, MI 49654
Free & Family-Friendly | Cultural Programs, Food, Films & Featured Speaker

LELAND, Mich. — Monday, October 12, marks **Indigenous Peoples' Day**, a national observance recognizing the histories, cultures, contributions, and resilience of Indigenous peoples. In Leland, community partners invite the public to gather for a free, family-friendly day celebrating and learning about Anishinaabek history and culture.

The day will culminate at **6:00 PM at the Old Art Building** with featured speaker **James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw**, a descendant of Turtle Mountain, international speaker, author, educator, and creator of *Ojibwe Word of the Day*. Vukelich is the author of *The Seven Generations and the Seven Grandfather Teachings* and is known for sharing connections between Anishinaabemowin (the Ojibwe language), culture, and traditional teachings. Books will be available for purchase and signing following the program.

A Day of Culture, Community & Learning

Programs throughout the **Leland Cultural District** will begin at 12:45 PM with drumming by the Dusty Bears Singers, accompanied by Tribal community dancers. The afternoon continues with Indigenous Knowledges films, food, artists and educational opportunities, along with free museum admission and exhibits.

Schedule:

- **12:45–1:45 PM | Drumming & Dancing**
Dusty Bear Singers and Tribal Community Dancers
- **3:00 PM | Indigenous Knowledges Film Hour**
Featuring short films from the Leelanau Conservancy, the Kchi Wiikwedong History Marker Project, and *This Basket Is My Ancestor* by the Leelanau Historical Society
- **4:00–6:00 PM | Food, Art & Educational Opportunities**
Indigenous food with Tanya Raphael, and other Educational learning opportunities
- **11:00-6:00 PM | Leelanau Historical Society Museum**
Free museum admission, including the Traditional Anishinaabek Arts Room.
- **6:00 PM | Featured Speaker: James Vukelich Kaagegaabaw**
Old Art Building | Book sales and signing

For more details about the day's activities please visit, [Leelanauhistory.org/Events](https://leelanauhistory.org/Events).
Indigenous Peoples' Day is free and open to all ages.

Recognizing a Longer History

As Leelanau County commemorates **America 250**, Indigenous Peoples' Day offers an opportunity to recognize a history that reaches much further back. Anishinaabe people have lived in relationship with the lands and waters of **Kchi Wiikwedong, "Place of the Big Bay,"** for generations. The past 250 years have brought cultural exchange and community building as well as conflict, displacement, and profound change. Through it all, Anishinaabe people, language, traditions, and ways of life have endured and remain an important part of Leelanau today.

The event is hosted by the Old Art Building, Leelanau Historical Society, Leland Library, Fishtown Preservation Society, Friends of the Leland Township Library, Leelanau Conservancy, and Leelanau Investing For Teens (LIFT).