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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 1, 2023

**13th Annual BAAITS Two Spirit Powwow**

**Commemorating Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) 25th Year Anniversary!**

**February 10th, 2024, 10:00 am - 6:30 pm**

**Fort Mason Festival Pavilion**

**Yelamu Ramaytush Ohlone Lands, aka San Francisco, CA**

(Photos available upon request – [angel@baait.org](mailto:angel@baait.org))

**San Francisco, CA.** On Saturday February 10, 2024, the 13th Annual Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) Two Spirit Powwow will be held at Fort Mason-Festival Pavilion, San Francisco, California, from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

BAAITS Powwow Committee Co-Chairs Dr. Jessica Gutierrez Masini, Tzapotl Flores J. Saravia, and Bridie Johnson welcome attendees to the 13th Annual BAAITS Powwow—the first established and largest public stand-alone Two-Spirit powwow in the world. This year, we are commemorating BAAITS's 25th Year Anniversary!

At our powwow, all Two-Spirit, IndigeQueer, and TG/GNC LGBQIA+ people and their accomplices from all over the U.S. and Canada get a chance to come together to celebrate Native culture, build community, and express themselves. Doors open at 10am, Grand Entry is at 12:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public, although donations are welcome to ensure production of future BAAITS TS powwows. This is a sober event and drugs and alcohol are prohibited.

Powwows are intertribal social gatherings, usually on weekends, between Natives and non-Native peoples that celebrate Native American cultures, and centered around dance, songs, food, and oral histories. Last year the event welcomed more than 4,000 people and an even larger crowd is expected this year. Vendors will be on site selling frybread and other delicious favorites. Native art and jewelry, and other crafts. This powwow features several hours of ceremonial honor dances, and contest dances; all powwow dancers and drums are welcome.

“Two-Spirit” is a Native American term for people with both female and male energies. Two-Spirits may (or may not) also identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender-non-conforming. Traditionally Two-Spirits often held—and many still hold—honored positions in their Native American and First Nations communities. “Two-Spirit” is an intertribal term—it is rooted in the Anishinaabe term describing such individuals: “niizh manidoowag.” This translates literally as “two spirits”—embodying both the feminine and the masculine in all of us.

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Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) is a community-based volunteer organization offering culturally relevant activities for Native American Two-Spirits and IndigeQueer, TG/GNC LGBTQIA+ peoples and their accomplices.

The BAAITS Powwow is an all-volunteer-based annual event. Please consider supporting BAAITS efforts to celebrate and honor our Two Spirits people. [www.baait.org/donate](https://www.baait.org/donate)

**For more information, please visit the BAAITS website:** <https://www.baait.org>

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#### **Details for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual BAAITS Two Spirit Powwow in San Francisco:**

**When:** February 10th, 2024, 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM

**Where:** Fort Mason Festival Pavilion

2 Marina Blvd, Yelamu Ramaytush Ohlone Lands, aka San Francisco, CA

**Cost:** Free, donations welcome at the door or at [www.baait.org/donate](https://www.baait.org/donate)

**Parking:** Pay lot on site, limited free street parking off site. Elders parking - Limited availability, first come, first parked.

**Who should attend:** *Everyone is welcome. This is a family-friendly, and sober event. Street attire is encouraged for non-Natives. Please leave costumes at home. This event is wheelchair-accessible.*

**COVID-19 PROTOCOL:** Our powwow is open to the general public this year. We will require masks, and will have them available for all present. We suggest KN-95 masks or better. Attendees are strongly encouraged to seek vaccination for a COVID booster and the Flu vaccine weeks prior to the event.

Please only eat outside. We will have seating for eating available at the Firehouse, close to the main entrance. Please keep in mind the health of our community elders and children—they are being affected more by new COVID variants and the Flu.

We are offering a virtual live stream for those who cannot be there in person. We encourage community members who are experiencing cold-like or Flu-like symptoms to join us from the comfort of your home. You can always join us in person next year or at other BAAITS events throughout this year.

**More information:** <https://www.baait.org>