

Urban Indians, Native Networks, and the Creation of Modern Regional Identity in the American Southwest [ABSTRACT]

Cathleen Cahill

This article explores the careers and political activism of Native opera singers in the Southwest of the 1920s. I argue that a number of talented Native artists recognized that engaging their audiences directly in live performances provided opportunities for public education in addition to their economic benefits. Partnering with regional boosters, they built careers performing in multiple pageants and events sponsored by municipalities across the Southwest. Live performance with its direct access to audiences also facilitated their political agendas of publicizing Indigenous histories. Their careers highlight the mobility of Indigenous people, demonstrating how they helped create modern urban spaces across the American Southwest.

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