

## VR & Video Games

@ Sky Lounge  
[Ottawa Art Gallery]  
10 Daly Ave.  
Thurs./ Fri. / Sun.  
AUGUST 8, 9, &11



### VR & Video Games

*"Gameplay speaks to sovereignty, nationhood, and being reciprocal with land."*

This year Asinabka Festival has a small but spectacular sampling of Indigenous made VR and Video Games to showcase. There will be a 360 VR piece titled “Full Circle”, created by Craig Commanda and Naomi Condo, and a Video Game called “When Rivers Were Trails”, made by Elizabeth Lapansee. Both of these works will be setup in the Ottawa Art Gallery’s Sky Lounge, conveniently located just outside our Screening Venue, the Alma Duncan Salon. The VR & Games are free and open to everyone of all ages to try out. Please ask a Festival Volunteer for assistance.

### **Schedule**

Thursday August 8, 5:00pm-11:00pm

Friday August 9, 12:30pm-11:30pm

Sunday August 12 12:30pm-9:30pm

### **When Rivers Were Trails Trailer**

01:00



**When Rivers Were Trails** is an educational 2D adventure game that follows an Anishinaabeg in the 1890’s who is displaced from Fond du Lac in Minnesota to California due to the impact of allotment acts on Indigenous communities. Players are challenged to balance their physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual wellbeing with foods and medicines while making choices about contributing to resistances as well as trading with, fishing with, hunting with, gifting, and honoring the people they meet as they travel through Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and eventually must find a place to call home in California. The journey can change from game to game as players randomly come across Indigenous people,

animals, plants, and run-ins with Indian Agents. Gameplay speaks to sovereignty, nationhood, and being reciprocal with land.

**Elizabeth LaPensée**, Ph.D. is an award-winning designer, writer, artist, and researcher who creates and studies Indigenous-led media such as games and comics. She is Anishinaabe from Baawaating with relations at Bay Mills Indian Community, Métis named for Elizabeth Morris, and settler-Irish. She is an Assistant Professor of Media & Information and Writing, Rhetoric & American Cultures at Michigan State University. She is a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow.



**Full Circle** is an immersive documentary style 360 video piece. A young woman uses poetry and music while smudging and reflects on how different life for her family would have been if only her great grand parents would have been allowed to follow their culture and ceremonies on the land.

**Craig Commanda** is an Anishnabe musician and filmmaker from Kitigan Zibi First Nation. He is a VJ, plays guitar and bass, and scores the music to his own films as well as for other film projects and collaborations. Over the years he has produced a number of films with Wapikoni Mobile.

**Naomi Condo** is a Mikmaw member of Gesgapegiag First Nation, and is a mother of two. She gets her inspiration and strength from her mother and father, and is passionate about

participating in traditional activities, revitalizing and promoting an indigenized diet, and advocating for women's actions to combat violence against women, children and the elderly.

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