



Zitkala-Ša (Red Bird): A View into Two Worlds

By Michelle Delaney

More than fifty years ago, the Smithsonian received a dozen 1898 photographic portraits of Zitkala-Ša (Red Bird), an accomplished Yankton Sioux writer, violinist, and composer who was also an outspoken advocate for Indigenous rights and women's suffrage. The images of the twenty-two-year-old Zitkala-Ša were created by Gertrude Käsebier, a prominent American portrait photographer in New York City. Käsebier's granddaughter, Mina Turner, donated the images to the Smithsonian in 1969. The collaborative session captured a lasting, beautiful depiction of a life lived in two very different cultures.

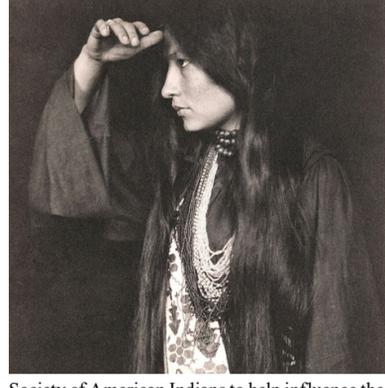
Zitkala-Ša, whose English name was Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, was born in 1876 to a German father and Native American mother, who raised her on the Yankton Indian Reservation in South Dakota. As a youth, she attended a Quaker boarding school in Wabash, Indiana, called the White's Manual Labor Institute. She would later attend Earlham College in Indiana until 1897, when

her natural musical talents drew her to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston for two years.

Although more than two decades apart in age, the women became friends and Käsebier encouraged Zitkala-Ša to continue her music training. Zitkala-Ša became a concert violinist and composer. In 1913, she collaborated on "The Sun Dance Opera," one of the first operas about an American Indian topic.

Throughout her life, Zitkala-Ša worked tirelessly for American Indian citizenship rights, independence, and sovereignty. While at Earlham College, she became known as a scholar and celebrated orator who firmly opposed the "Americanization" of Indigenous people. She later penned articles for publications such as *Atlantic Monthly* and *Harper's Weekly* as well as short stories and books that reflected upon the duality of living in two different cultures.

In 1902, she married Raymond Talephouse Bonnin, who was of Yankton-European ancestry. After relocating with her husband and son to the Washington, DC, region in 1917, she joined the



Society of American Indians to help influence the United States Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. She created the Indian Welfare Committee within the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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The project construction duration is from Q1 2026 through Q4 2027.

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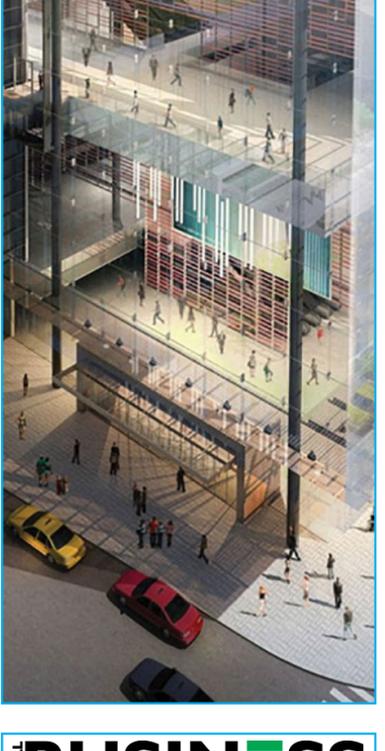
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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS 2026



SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
 Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 10:00 am–11:00 am
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
 Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free Assistance Loans webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/80665>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
 Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned

Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1977995825761>

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
 Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

Learn the essentials of federal contracting for small businesses. This event will cover the basics of navigating the federal contracting process, as well as the various certifications available to help your small business succeed in the government marketplace. Certifications include: 8(a) Business Development Program, HUBZone Certification, Woman Owned Small Business (WOSB/EDWOSB), and Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB). Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and resources to help your small business. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-contracting-basics-and-certifications-for-small-businesses-tickets-1977729719831>

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