



Illusion of Abundance

A QUEST TO SAVE GREAT SALT LAKE





Illusion of Abundance Educational Module

Created in Partnership with BYU Arts Partnership
and Native American Curriculum Initiative .

CONTENTS

1. **Welcome and Information letter from Brolly Arts**
2. **BYU Arts Partnership and Native American Curriculum Initiative (NACI) Statement of Partnership**
3. **Illusion of Abundance Blog** See below
4. **Links to two lessons about water that are adaptable to Secondary Education**
Created by BYU Arts Partnership and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation©.
 - a. **Viewing Water as a Gift**
<https://education.byu.edu/arts/lessons/viewing-water-as-a-gift>
 - b. **'Aipimpa' Personified**
<https://education.byu.edu/arts/lessons/'aipimpa'-personified>
5. **Link to Brolly Arts Illusion of Abundance**
Trailer <https://vimeo.com/904624746?share=copy>
Film <https://vimeo.com/945869668/9df1705e40>

Creating meaningful art and vibrant communities through artistic and civic collaboration and experimentation.
www.brollyarts.org / 801.231.8274



ABOUT BROLLY ARTS

Welcome to the Illusion of Abundance Educational Module! Brolly Arts, a Utah non-profit arts organization, was founded in 1995 to fill a niche in a burgeoning arts community. The term “brolly” is British slang for umbrella, an appropriate name for an organization that has strived for inclusiveness since its inception. Brolly Arts is dedicated to creating meaningful art and vibrant communities through artistic and civic collaboration and experimentation. We accomplish this by working with communities to identify and build positive change around pressing racial, social, climate and community development issues through:

- Courageous Art Making
- Grassroots Civic Engagement
- Public Events that transform community stories and research into positive change

Since 1996, Brolly Arts has sponsored and/or supported over 750 artists.

Brolly Arts created our award winning film Illusion of Abundance and its accompanying Educational Module in response to a declining Great Salt Lake (GSL). We have a longstanding history with GSL with our 2004 Contours project that created beauty and value for the lake. In 2023, a short film of this same name was selected for the Tumbleweeds Film Festival.

In 2021 we reengaged with GSL with our program: Evaporation: What Does It Take To Leave Enough Water For Great Salt Lake? After meaningful and impactful presentations that included the creation of our acclaimed authored and choreographed performative piece, Illusion of Abundance, we changed our project title to match the piece and further developed our project into a film. We sought repeated feedback from Indigenous contributors and participants, artists, dust, science and lake experts, community members and more until everyone signed off on the film. Then we knew we were ready to premiere our work.

BYU Arts Partnership and Native American Curriculum Initiative (NACI) were critical partners to facilitate learning, accuracy and authenticity as well as collaborate on the creation of this Educational Module.

Our goal for this film and module is to use creative mediums to touch hearts and minds with verifiable information, illuminate issues of GSL, and inspire engagement and action to save the lake. Please read more about this in our blog included in this module.

Amy MacDonald
Founder and Director
Brolly Arts

BYU | ARTS PARTNERSHIP

NATIVE AMERICAN CURRICULUM INITIATIVE

BYU Arts Partnership and the Native American Curriculum Initiative (NACI) began collaborating with Brolly Arts about *Illusion of Abundance* in 2023 to ensure accuracy and authenticity. The Initiative suggested that in addition to the tribes and leaders that were already involved with the project, that elders from the Ute, Shoshone, and Goshute tribes and tribal leaders be consulted about and represented in the film, as these are the tribes with ancestral stewardship of the land surrounding Great Salt Lake.

Brolly Arts was receptive and committed to honoring space for Indigenous voices to be heard, as well as to preventing the perceived homogenization of Native culture. As the work continued, NACI provided companion curriculum in the form of two lesson plans ([Viewing Water as a Gift](#) and [Aipimpa Personified](#)), both approved by ancestral land stewards, that could be used in schools in conjunction with the film's release to expand the conversation and encourage understanding of history and sacred stewardship.

NACI also published [a blog post](#) written by Amy MacDonald to supplement teacher resources. The video link, its story and resources were shared in NACI and Arts Partnership newsletters to widen the reach of this important message.

Cally Flox
Director
BYU Arts Partnership

Brenda Beyal
Program Coordinator
Native American Curriculum Initiative

Illusion of Abundance Blog

Written in collaboration with BYU Arts Partnership and
Native American Curriculum Initiative

Illusion of Abundance is a grassroots project addressing social, racial, and climate justice issues relating to the rapid decline of Great Salt Lake (GSL). It exposes a climate and culture in crisis directly related to the immediate shrinking of Great Salt Lake. Illusion of Abundance first emerged in 2022 as an acclaimed grassroots narrative performance accompanied by choreography, leading Brolly Arts to create a film inspired by the piece.

As the Illusion of Abundance choreographed piece was filmed, the team was simultaneously conducting extensive research about GSL issues. A wise friend from the Fish and Wildlife Service mentioned that to bring about change for GSL, Brolly Arts needed to understand all the systems affecting the lake. As that goal was pursued, a pattern rose to the surface: in Utah, when decisions are made regarding natural resources, neither those advocating for the protection of the natural resource nor the Indigenous people directly affected have a voice at the table.

This film seeks to change that pattern.

How? How can a film disrupt decades of entrenched tradition?

Illusion of Abundance illuminates the historical erasure of the natural world and Indigenous knowledge systems that carry innovative and necessary concepts that can save our climate in a holistic way. Through dance, prose, and intertribal interviews, as well as song, research, and stunning cinematography of Utah's waterways and the nature they support, Illusion of Abundance immerses viewers in the possibility of positive change, including building paradigms that invite underrepresented voices in stewardship, artistry, and decision-making around natural resources, land use, and climate. This film is a short documentary presenting entirely verifiable information. The goal is to touch hearts and minds – as only the arts can – to inspire, inform, and encourage engagement and action to save Great Salt Lake and its ecosystems.

www.brollyarts.org/programming/illusion-of-abundance/

