This event began in 2013 and each year it has brought together individuals who have shared their knowledge on topics such as tribal food justice and security, traditional foods, health, community, place, responsibility, climate change, and treaty rights.

Indigenous peoples in the Northwest have maintained a sustainable way of life through a cultural, spiritual, and reciprocal relationship with their environment.

“Now we have the responsibility to take the dreams in our hearts, that we’ve lived with and that have nourished us, to put them into reality”

“Great job! What an excellent selection of panels and speakers! Loved the traditional foods!”
We extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our co-sponsors who provided financial support for the last three years, to everyone who gifted us with food, to all the volunteers, and to all the speakers and attendees who helped make our symposia and summit such wonderful and successful events! In the tradition of the Coast Salish peoples we raise our hands to all of you in thanks and appreciation!

Planning Committee: (left to right) Dr. Charlotte Coté (chair), Melissa Woodrow, Susan Balbas, Dr. Michelle Montgomery, Dr. Clarita Lefthand-Begay, Dr. Michelle Daigle, and Dr. Dian Million.

“There are different kinds of sacred foods wherever you are from... when you acknowledge those foods, do it with a good heart. Be connected”

“As native peoples we have treaties with the plant nations and animal nations... we have to honor those treaties.”

“This is an education we don’t get in the U.S. school and university system. As a non-Native person, I feel honored to have had the opportunity to learn about and be inspired by the incredible work that many communities are doing.”

“What happens without water? How can we grow our food? We have to restore the water, the people, the land... It is all connected”
We look forward to seeing all of you next year! May 13-14, 2016

We sincerely thank our Living Breath of wǝɫǝbʔaltxʷ Schedule Sponsors

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“The Living Breath... It has to be constantly nurtured to continue to be alive. It is what connects us as people: past present and future.”

“Food sovereignty... it’s the inherent right of people to define their own diet.”

“I enjoyed the mix of academic-style presentations with presenters sharing their knowledge through their own stories. I appreciated the different perspectives, examples and angles on the complex issue of food sovereignty; and the generosity of those who donated traditional foods to share with the attendees. Delicious!”

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For more information, please contact Charlotte Coté at clotise@uw.edu