

## Call for Indigenous Music

### **LUNAR CODEX ANNOUNCES ARCHIVE FOR INDIGENOUS MUSIC TO BE LAUNCHED TO THE MOON**

Toronto, Ontario – (October 15, 2024) The *Lunar Codex*, a special project founded by Dr. Samuel Peralta, Canadian physicist and author through *Incandence Corp.*, has announced that it intends to carry a collection of contemporary and traditional Indigenous music in one of its time capsules to be launched to space in 2025.

The Lunar Codex is an archive of cultural works from across the globe, launched via *NASA Artemis / Commercial Lunar Payload Service (CLPS)* program partners, from Earth to space, the Moon, and beyond.

Covering seven missions – including a successful lunar landing in February 2024 – the Lunar Codex represents creative artists from 185 countries and territories, and 69 Indigenous nations, predominantly in visual art, but also in writing, music, and film. It represents artists from all 50 U.S. states and all 13 Canadian provinces and territories. All in all, the Lunar Codex collection now includes over 200,000 artifacts from 35,000 creative artists. It is one of the largest and most global cultural heritage projects of its kind.

#### ***The Lunar Codex Indigenous Music Collection***

The *Lunar Codex Indigenous Music Collection (LCIMC)* will be included in *Polaris*, which is the Lunar Codex's seventh time capsule and mission, tentatively scheduled for launch in September 2025 to the Moon's south pole.

The LCIMC is being organized and administered free-of-charge with the cooperation and support of the *Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)* and the *Estate of Norval Morrisseau (the Morrisseau Estate)*.

The *Lunar Codex* has requested that the *Morrisseau Estate* be its point of contact for collection of the LCIMC. The *Morrisseau Estate* will set the schedule for submission and curation so that the collection can be submitted in time to comply with the deadlines of the *Lunar Codex's* partners and of *NASA*, currently early December 2024.

Previously, *CIRNAC* and the *Morrisseau Estate* worked with the *Lunar Codex* to ensure a collection of Indigenous visual art – representing First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples – is included in a majority of its archive.

Dr. Peralta, in a public interview, had called for more Indigenous representation in the *Lunar Codex*, and was answered by the *Morrisseau Estate*, who introduced *CIRNAC*. The successful relationship is now expanding to include Indigenous music.

#### ***Previous Missions***

The *Lunar Codex* has previously participated in three *NASA* missions with its archives.

The first archive, *Orion*, successfully rideshared on *NASA's Space Launch System* via the *Artemis 1* mission, orbited the Moon and returned to Earth in December 2022. It contained poetry.

The second, *Peregrine*, successfully launched to space on a *SpaceX Falcon 9* rocket via an *Astrobotic* lander in January 2024 but did not complete a trajectory to the Moon. Its contents have been backed-up on other time capsules.

The third mission, *Lunar Codex's Nova* time capsule – containing art, poetry, and music, including images of Indigenous art in a private collection – launched via *SpaceX Falcon 9* and on *Intuitive Machines' Odysseus* lunar lander, successfully landing on the Moon on February 22, 2024.

That landing marked the first successful mission of a U.S. lander in over 50 years, and the first successful commercial landing ever. The *International Lunar Observatory Association's* wide field-of-view camera – which took all the historic photos of the landing - was subsequently named “*Lunar Codex*” to spotlight the heritage project.

An independent documentary, “The Art Side of the Moon” – funded by a Sunny Coast Showdown grant award – was subsequently filmed by an Australian production company, tracing the experience of selected artists and Dr. Peralta through launch to the successful landing. It debuted in Australia in June 2024 and is making its way through the film festival circuit.

The next Lunar Codex missions are *Serenity*, *Minerva*, and *Freya*. These time capsules are completely full and are scheduled to launch over 4Q24 to 1Q25. These time capsules contain visual art from CIRNAC and the Morrisseau Estate, as well as works from the Gabriel Dumont Institute, and other selected galleries and private collections representing Indigenous work. Separate news releases will accompany the missions, which target the Moon and a yet unidentified asteroid.

The seventh mission, *Polaris* – which will include the LCIMC – is scheduled to launch via *SpaceX Falcon Heavy* rocket, transit to the Moon via *Astrobotic's Griffin* lunar lander, and land in the vicinity of the lunar south pole.

While negotiations are still ongoing for other missions – including for Mars – *Polaris* is currently the final confirmed mission of the *Lunar Codex*.

### ***More on the Lunar Codex***

An in-depth article in the *New York Times* has called the *Lunar Codex* “a time capsule of human creativity stored in the sky.” - <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/27/arts/design/lunar-codex-time-capsule-moon.html>

The project has featured in two *NYT* issues, one a special edition on ‘Space,’ and has spun-off numerous radio and television interviews, paper and digital articles, and other news for the project and its participant artists, including in the *NYT*, the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, *La Vanguardia*, *CNN*, *ABC*, *FOX*, the *Toronto Star*, *Toronto Life*, *ARTnews*, *Fine Arts Connoisseur*, *American Art Collector* – in fact, in many of the major newspapers and art magazines all over the world. Nearly 600 of these are linked to on the website - [www.lunarcodex.com/news](http://www.lunarcodex.com/news) - and this list is not comprehensive.

The Lunar Codex website – [www.lunarcodex.com](http://www.lunarcodex.com) – documents all included works, serving as provenance for project participants.

Unlike similar launch initiatives, the project charges its artist participants no fees, and is curated by a circle of professional gallerists, prize jurors, poet laureates, editors, and publishers. The *Lunar Codex* is a special project of Dr. Peralta's company Incandence, and all costs for own documentation, archival material costs, payload space, and the incremental costs of each launch, is covered by the company.

Artists retain all the rights to their work. The *Lunar Codex* simply requests permission to archive the work in one or more of its time capsules.

Its archive materials include digital semiconductor and ceramic memory, etched silver metal, analog ceramic and quartz memory, synthetic DNA, and nanofiche. The *CIRNAC* and *Morrisseau Estate* materials were archived on digital semiconductor and/or ceramic memory, and on nanofiche - a metal-based material which is expected to last hundreds of thousands of years on the Moon.

*It should be noted that the Lunar Codex is only responsible for the contents of its time capsules. There are no guarantees of mission success; missions may even be unilaterally cancelled by NASA or its partners. The success of the actual launch and landing, and of each entire mission, is the complete responsibility of NASA and its partners.*

The *Lunar Codex* hopes to preserve its collection of art, music, writings, poetry, and film, for future generations – and to inspire today's generations of creative artists who look up to the Moon for inspiration.

#### ***About Incandence Corp. and Dr. Samuel Peralta***

*Incandence Corp. manages a portfolio of technology and media projects and provides strategic direction for future-facing companies via its principal Dr. Samuel Peralta, who founded the company after a long career in technology. Of its media projects, book projects have hit the USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Amazon bestsellers list, and film projects have garnered a Golden Globe nomination and won an Emmy Award.*

*The Lunar Codex is a special project of Incandence. It is an archive of cultural works from across the globe, launched via NASA Artemis / Commercial Lunar Payload Service program partners from Earth to space, the Moon, and beyond.*

*As a collector and curator, Dr. Peralta has been profiled in international art magazines and continues to sit on art juries worldwide, including for the Art Renewal Center of New York and the Figuratieve Kunst Vandaag of Belgium. He's overseen exhibits in association with 33 Contemporary Gallery, artNXTlevel, Artsy, the Wausau Museum, the Zhou B Art Center, and the Lunar Codex. A first-generation immigrant from the Philippines, Dr. Peralta was recently awarded the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Golden Balangay Foundation of Canada, in part for his work on the Lunar Codex.*