

THE MANKILLERS DRUM GROUP



The Mankillers, an all-women's drum group, came together in 1992 as a women's support group and mentoring circle. Its members are community activists, teachers, students, mothers, aunties, and grandmothers who come together as a circle of women to draw strength, support, and knowledge from the heartbeat of the drum. Members live throughout California and Nevada and represent many Tribal Nations, including Paiute, Shoshone, Yaqui, Karuk, Yurok, Jemez Pueblo, Creek, Cherokee, and Taos Pueblo.

The group's name honors the late Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee), an author, activist, community organizer, and the first woman elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. A nationally respected advocate for Tribal sovereignty, self-determination, and Native communities, her legacy continues to inspire generations of Native women.

The mission of the group is to provide leadership, cultural awareness, and empowerment for the well-being of Indigenous women and peoples. The Mankillers model respect and social responsibility and remain accountable to the communities in which members live and that they represent, promoting community wellness through Native American drumming, cultural presentations, and music.