**Central Question**

To what extent might interactive tools facilitate immersed interaction with Andean and Amazonian indigenous art, thereby increasing appreciation for indigenous forms of expression as epistemology and providing insight into key cultural concepts and practices?

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**Background**

- Indigenous communities learn through experiential approaches.
- Indigenous artifacts are sources of knowledge.
- Creating, understanding, and appreciating indigenous art requires multi-sensory interactions between people and artifacts.
- Museums often separate artifacts from audiences and are therefore not suited for engaging with indigenous art.

**Results**

By way of the digital interactive program:

- 88.5% increased interactions with collection pieces and used sight, touch, and hearing.
- 100% increased their knowledge of and appreciation for indigenous art, the Canelos Quichua community, and ceramic making.
- 92.3% gained a deeper understanding that indigenous art creation and appreciation are interactive processes.
- 84.6% increased recognition of art as sources of knowledge.
- Users spent much longer exploring this digital resource than they typically spend engaging with museum exhibits.

**Project Design**

Select a Vessel Type

- Welcome! This is an interactive program centered on Canelos Quichua pottery from the Amazonian area of Ecuador. Make decisions about the shape, colors, and designs of your piece to create a personalized ceramic vessel and learn more about the Canelos Quichua culture.

**User Comments**

"This program was fun and interactive! I enjoyed exploring the different colors, shapes, and patterns. I also loved learning about how the art is made. It gave me a deeper appreciation for this art."

"I think the program helped me see the connections between the environment where these indigenous cultures live (the animals that inspire colors/designs, the type of clay available) and the art being produced."

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