



**For Immediate Release:** March 5th, 2018

**Contact:** Ara Cruz, 720-460-9203

## **Café Cultura presents 9th Annual Rise Up**

**DENVER** – Café Cultura is proud to host the 9th annual Rise Up! event in honor of National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 10) & National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (March 20) this Friday, March 9th, 2018 from 6:30 to 9:30pm at the Althea Center (1400 Williams St). In addition to free HIV/STI testing and food, the community gathering will feature Jessa Calderon (Indigenous Rapper and Singer from California), Fashion Show by Native Max Magazine, and Photography by Viki Eagle of Real Life Indian. The event will be hosted by Hannabah Blue.

Jessa Calderon represents the Tongva, Chumash, and Mexica Nations. Although she had written and featured with other artists since 2006, Jessa recently began her first Hip-Hop & R&B album as well as performing in 2015. Native Max is a digital media company devoted to inspiring, entertaining and celebrating through positive storytelling. Through the use of various media platforms they aim to educate and present the unique beauty of indigenous cultures. Viki Eagle created a photography project titled "Real Life Indian" (2011). Real Life Indian was to document Native American students and display the "Indigenous person in the 21st century".

“Along with several collaborating organizations, we look forward to another powerful Rise Up! showcase. It is a critical community event dedicated to HIV/AIDS awareness” said Café Cultura Executive Director Ara Cruz. “We encourage everyone to attend and work to protect ourselves.”

Café Cultura hosts one of the best open mic venues in the Denver metropolitan area, and the only space focused on family and youth. We also conduct highly engaging and culturally relevant spoken word/poetry workshops for underserved youth throughout Colorado. Café Cultura partners with organizations and schools to teach spoken word classes, publish youth poetry, and organize participant showcases. In an effort to develop young leaders within our community, we also coordinate a youth leadership program for Indigenous youth.

For more information about Rise Up!, visit [cafecultura.org/riseup](http://cafecultura.org/riseup).

*Café Cultura is an award-winning arts, culture, and youth development organization in Denver that promotes unity and healing among Indigenous peoples through creative expression while empowering youth to find their voice, reclaim oral and written traditions, and become leaders in their communities.*