

Ode to Langston

By Dawn Quigley

Langston, we too, sing Turtle Island.

We are the 574 Nations.

They want to hide us

In the past tense,

Yet we love,

And dream,

And are still here.

Today, now,

We are at the oval table

As our women lead.

Nobody can ever

Say to us,

“Natives lived, Natives ate, drank, led.”

We are *present* tense.

Because,

They will know what we’ve always known

And be humbled—

We, too, sing Turtle Island.

Source: *Poetry* (March 2021)