More Than A Land
Acknowledgement

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About Me

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We acknowledge that we are all coming from different locations that were the ancestral homes of indigenous nations.

In the city of New York, we acknowledge the Lenape, the original people.

We acknowledge that through forced land cessions and removal, this nation was removed from the land that they called home and their seats of government are now located in Wisconsin, Oklahoma and Canada.

We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present. We understand that this acknowledge is just a first step in the process of building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.
Native Land Stolen since 1776

1776
1850
1894
2017
Indian Removal Act - 1830

- Signed into law by President Andrew Jackson on May 28, 1830

- Many tribes refused to move while others did move to Indian Territory which is present day Oklahoma

- In 1831 the Cherokee took their case to the Supreme Court - Worcester vs. Georgia

- By 1838 around 16,000 Cherokee remained on their land

- 7,000 US Military troops moved in and the Cherokee were forced to move at gun point

- 50,000 Native Americans were moved off their land
Dawes Act (General Allotment Act) - 1887

- **Focused on breaking up reservation land into allotments for individual Native Americans**

- **Land that was allotted was usually the worst land possible**

- **Lone Wolf vs. Hitchcock**
In 1953 the US government adopted the policy of Termination.

From 1953 to 1964, 109 tribes were terminated and around 12,000 Native Americans lost tribal status.

Land was again sold to non-Native people.

Many tribes that were the first to be terminated were tribes that the government deemed as successful.
Indian Relocation Act - 1956

- Policy that encouraged Native Americans to leave the Reservations
- First suggested in 1947
- In 1951, the program was extended to other Native American groups
- In 1952, the program then extended to all Native Americans
- There were hardships that the Urban Native American faced
- The Birth of the American Indian Movement
Why Create a Land Acknowledgment?

- It honors the Native Nations
- Recognizes the history of colonialism
- Tells a much bigger history
The Hard Questions to Ask Yourself

- What are some privileges that you enjoy today because of colonialism?

- What are you doing beyond acknowledging the land where you live?

- Do you understand the on-going violence and trauma that is part of the structure of colonialism?
5 Steps to Creating a Land Acknowledgment

- Don’t assume you know whose land you are on!
- Reach out to the Nations you are trying to honor
- Research and reflection
- Include the contemporary
- Don’t forget the action!
Other Considerations

Being visible

The Land Acknowledgement shouldn’t be grim—it should be truthful

Build genuine relationships

Just do it!!!!!!
EMERSON COLLEGE-The MASSACHUSETT Tribe

EMERSON COLLEGE, BOSTON, resides on the ancestral and unceded lands of the MASSACHUSETT PEOPLE, whose name was appropriated by this COMMONWEALTH.

We pay respect to the MASSACHUSETT elders past and present. We acknowledge the truth of violence perpetrated in the name of this country and make a commitment to uncovering that truth.

HONORING NATIVE LAND: MASSACHUSETTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES | EMERSON COLLEGE
MILWAUKEE HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS A GATHERING PLACE. THE CONFLUENCE OF THREE RIVERS EMPTYING INTO LAKE MICHIGAN ARE SEEN TODAY AS A BENEFIT FOR RESIDENTS TO ENJOY. BUT IN REALITY, THEY HAVE LONG NOURISHED AND BEEN NOURISHED BY GENERATION UPON GENERATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.


AS YOU EXPLORE MILWAUKEE, WE ASK YOU TO ALSO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEGACIES OF VIOLENCE, DISPLACEMENT, DISPOSSESSION, MIGRATION AND TRAUMA THAT HAVE CREATED THE LANDSCAPE WE SEE TODAY. UNCOVERING THESE TRUTHS AND COMMITTING THEM TO OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY IS BUT THE FIRST STEP TO FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE PAST. WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE THE RESOURCES BELOW AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO BEGIN A DEEP EXPLORATION OF THE FULL HISTORY OF MILWAUKEE.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT - HISTORIC MILWAUKEE, INC.
Examples and Resources

Land Acknowledgment | Newberry

• Land Acknowledgment | Field Museum

Home | Native Knowledge 360° - Interactive Teaching Resources (si.edu)

Native-Land.ca | Our home on native land (native-land.ca)
4 Demands of Land Back

**Dismantle**
- Dismantle — white supremacy structures that forcefully removed us from our Lands and continue to keep our Peoples in oppression.
  a. Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service

**Defund**
- Defund — white supremacy and the mechanisms and systems that enforce it and disconnect us from stewardship of the Land.
  a. Police, military industrial complex, Border Patrol, ICE

**Return**
- Return — All public lands back into Indigenous hands.

**Consent**
- Consent — Moving us out of an era of consultation and into a new era of policy around Free and Prior Informed Consent.
Continued reading and documentaries

- The Lakota’s and the Black Hills - Jeffrey Ostler
- The West - A documentary by Ken Burns
- American Experience: Last Stand at Little Bighorn
- Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee - Dee Brown
- The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee - David Treuer
- An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States - Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz