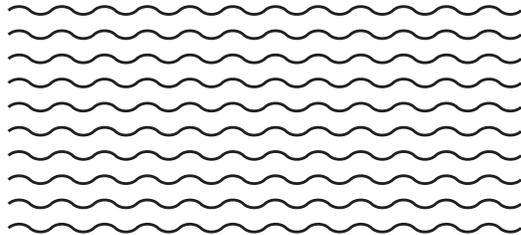
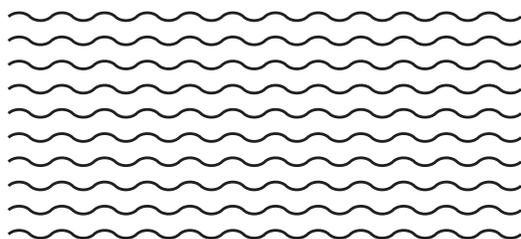


LAND AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT PRACTICES



This pamphlet is an abbreviated version of a more comprehensive guide being developed by the School of the Art Institute's Anti-racism Committee to establish shared practices for land and territory acknowledgment. It seeks to build literacy around settler colonial histories, celebrate Native presence, and lessen harm inflicted upon Indigenous communities. The text provided here is a resource for beginning one's self-education and is far from exhaustive.



WHAT IS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT?

A land acknowledgment, also referred to as a territory acknowledgment, is made up of several components including statements and ongoing actions that recognize Native and Indigenous communities who have been dispossessed of their traditional homelands as a result of settler colonialism.



A land acknowledgment is read or spoken at the beginning of events and gatherings, as well as posted in public space. A land acknowledgment names and brings attention to Native and Indigenous communities, both known and unknown, on whose land we are currently situated.



While a land acknowledgment might detail the forced removal of Native communities from their lands and Indigenous genocide, it also acknowledges and celebrates the ongoing presence and importance of contemporary Native and Indigenous people to the region and the future.



A meaningful land acknowledgment must be accompanied by purposeful action, including building relationships with local and non-local Native communities, and taking steps towards material accountability.



Cultural institutions, such as libraries, museums, schools, and archives, are historically complicit in the creation and circulation of damaging images, rhetoric, and ideas about Indigenous communities. As a result, we have an ethical obligation to reflect on that past and move towards a reparative future, which includes embracing the multitude of practices that characterize a land acknowledgment.

Recommended Educational Resources

The information in this pamphlet provides a starting point for developing your own land acknowledgment which necessarily requires individual research. We recommend using the QR code below for a list of educational resources to continue your research.



Native Land Application

This exhibition features a dynamic map that details Indigenous territories, languages and treaties around the globe. Use the QR code below to explore this resource.



Be Part of the Process

We created this pamphlet to share our research of land acknowledgment practices. Your feedback is imperative to further develop our community practices. The committee will use your feedback to make revisions before publishing the initial protocols, which will continue to be reviewed. Please use this QR code to submit any suggestions or feedback.



USE THESE PROTOCOLS TO DEVELOP YOUR OWN LAND OR TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT



Name the Native and Indigenous communities

Chicago is the traditional homelands of the Council of Three Fires: Ojibwe, and Bodéwadmí (anglicized Potawatomi). Based on the Native Land map other nations and communities in the area include: Myaamia, Waazija, Sauk and Meskwaki, Kiiikaapoi, Peoria, Ojééhi Šakówiwiy as well as other nations unknown or undocumented in colonial history.

Acknowledge the land, waterways, agriculture, and forms of life

Chicago is an important link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, which connect to many other regions, making the area an active and complex social site prior to the arrival of colonial settlers.

Recount the colonial history of the land and who was involved

Colonial settlers arrived in Chicago in the 1700s, and enforced a number of treaties, policies, and conflicts that forcibly removed Native and Indigenous people through law and policy in similar ways to the national-scale Indian Removal Act of 1830. Such displacements were part of a larger legal and belief system that sought to legitimize the genocide of Native and Indigenous populations.

Consider colonization as ongoing

Land dispossession, degradation of natural resources, and harmful appropriation of culture still happens to Indigenous communities today. Learn about current struggles over land and rematriation.

State that Native Indigenous communities have endured and flourish today

Today, Chicago is home to more than 65,000 Native and Indigenous Americans and represents about 175 tribes.

Acknowledge how our institution benefits from colonization

Cultural institutions have ignored, distorted, and denigrated Indigenous land and lifeways. In particular, artists and cultural makers have played a role in visual representations of Indigenous people that have been harmful and created idealized versions of settler colonialism.

Cite your sources

Identify the sources you use in your research and state your desire to keep the statement updated.

Call to action

Your statement should move, challenge, educate, and compel your audience to reflect and take action. Statements should be contextualized for the occasion and speaker. Acknowledge your steps and identify actions the audience can take toward accountability and reconciliation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are we & where did this project come from?

This pamphlet was designed by Katrina Valera, Josh Rios, Sarah Ross and Alex O’Keefe, a subcommittee of the Anti-racism Committee (ARC). The Communications subcommittee’s charge is to formulate a strategy to develop a venue for Indigenous land acknowledgment. The resulting action item is a 3-year plan consisting of land acknowledgment practices, scholarship, commitment of resources, and representation dedicated to rebuilding relationships with Indigenous communities.



Did this committee develop an institutional land acknowledgment?

No. This committee created this how-to document to institute a long-term culture of land acknowledgment that is specific to the people and groups using it. True acknowledgment is a practice of long-term commitment involving ongoing research of evolving texts, crafting a purposeful statement, and taking meaningful actions.



How can I get support in writing a statement?

This guide and the resources included in this pamphlet, are designed to advise you in reflecting, personalizing, and creating your own acknowledgment.



What next?

Next steps are outlined in the ARC’s action items (available on SAIC’s website)

