

How To Come Correct

Protocols, Guidelines and Invitations by
The Sogorea Te' Land Trust

The work of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust is made possible by the strength, resilience, leadership, and labor of Indigenous women and culture keepers.

We are also supported by many allies and accomplices of all different backgrounds engaging with the vision of Indigenous women led land return and Rematriation.

Collectively we are in a world founded on the theft of the lives and land of Indigenous people.

As a society we are really just beginning to learn how to navigate what it means to acknowledge the history of the land we are on, to build meaningful deep relationships and collaborations that honor the past and to engage with the knowledge, time, energy and resources of Indigenous people in respectful and reciprocal ways.

As we move towards transforming our relationships to our history and the land we are on, here are some tips for how to engage with our work, request a speaker, cultural consultation, land acknowledgement, offer an opportunity, or contact us.

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DO YOUR RESEARCH!

Find out whose land you're on and do your own research for how to connect with them or donate funds. Many tribal communities have their own website, and can be contacted through their administration reference directly if they do not have a contact or donation page.

CONSIDER YOUR OWN PLACE OF PRIVILEGE

PREPARE

Check out our website!

[Lisjan
Territory](#)

[Request a
Speaker](#)

[Rematriation
Resources](#)

[Shuumi
Land Tax](#)

[STLT
Updates](#)

STUDY UP!

Check out our Recommended Reading!

- Learn the history of the land you are on.
- Read Indigenous authors, scholars, journalists, listen to Indigenous voices.
- Learn about the relationship of your own family line to stolen land.
- Find out about the issues impacting Indigenous communities today.
- Start a study group or penpal with your friends or family about whose land you are on, settler colonialism, dismantling white supremacy, unsettling, land return and rematriation.
- Learn about your local sacred sites, take an action to protect them.
- Learn about the pressing environmental issues where you are, take an action.
- Do your part to shift and redistribute resources to communities who have been historically extracted from.



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HOW HAVE YOU BENEFITTED FROM STOLEN LAND?

REMATRIATION:

Indigenous women led work to restore sacred relationships between Indigenous people and their ancestral land. Honoring our matrilineal societies and lineage's ways of tending to the land, in opposition of patriarchal violence.

Rematriation weaves traditional and cultural knowledge back in harmony with the land. In Lisjan territory, we envision a Bay Area in which Chochenyo language and ceremony are an active, thriving part of the cultural landscape.

At this time, we have multiple ongoing relationships with cities, institutions, individuals, and organizations to Rematriate stolen land in Lisjan territory, and to develop relationships of reciprocity. To find out more information and how to get involved, check out our Rematriation page on our website, featuring our own Rematriation Resource Guide.

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BE A GOOD GUEST

ASK FIRST!

It's always respectful to ask first before taking action for, or in place of Indigenous people. Consider asking us before using our photos, media, content. Similarly, if you're interested in using or incorporating Chochenyo language or representations that are not your own. Please note that permission may not be granted or we may advise for reflection and research.

HAVE YOU AIDED IN THE INDIGENOUS LED PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES, LANDS, WATERS & AIR IN THE AREA?

ASK YOURSELF...

- How have you benefited from stolen land?
What structural advantages have you had?
What is your relationship to our work?
- What is the intention of your request?
- What labor are you asking from Indigenous people?
- Who will benefit from what you want to do?
How?
- How will this be reciprocal?
- What do you bring?
- How are you centering Indigenous leadership? How can you leverage your position to shift inequality?
- How can this be transformative?
- Are you prepared to do the work?



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SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LED WORK

ENGAGEMENTS

We appreciate opportunities to engage with different communities and share our work. At the same time, many of us experience constant requests for our time, our energy, for culturally extractive information, and unreciprocated labor. Be Respectful. We are not a clearinghouse of free information. A lot of the work we do is related to healing and historic harm, presenting the history of colonization and genocide is not easy.

ALL REQUESTS ARE REQUESTS FOR INDIGENOUS LABOR

REQUESTS

Pay real honorariums, especially if you are connected to corporations and institutions. And then get those corporations to pay Shuumi Land Tax. If you don't have any funding, consider organizing a fundraising effort and coming back with your request in a couple months.



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INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ARE NOT A
CHECKBOX OR CULTURAL DISPLAY.
DON'T CONSUME US.
ENGAGE WITH US.

Give us a minute to respond. We are navigating many requests and engage specific processes for decision making. Additionally, please refrain from contacting us through Sogorea Te' members' personal social media or via their family and friends for organizational requests.

To request a member of Sogorea Te' Land Trust for an event, conference, collaboration, consultation, or interview please use our [Inquiry Form](#), 3-4 weeks in advance.

WE NAVIGATE A HIGH VOLUME OF
REQUESTS AND AREN'T ABLE TO
ACCOMMODATE EVERYONE. DON'T CALL
US WE'LL CALL YOU ;)



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SHARING OUR WORK

Please share our work! Feel free to share our public social media posts, information about Shuumi Land Tax, and links to our website with credit to the artists and Sogorea Te' Land Trust. We appreciate tags, please tag us.

Please feel free to share public information from our website for small class projects or similar unpaid educational projects. If you want to include our work in larger projects, places where presenters are being paid or in print, please reach out to inquire at info@rematriatetheland.org

ALWAYS ALLOW INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES AND THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES

REPRESENTATIONS

Keep in mind, any kind of writing, art, research, project, or portrayal that includes an image of, reference to or are inspired by Indigenous people, Indigenous history, Indigenous issues, or Indigenous culture, creates a representation.

Representations can recreate or interrupt assumptions, stereotypes, inequality, and/or power relationships.

What power dynamics does this representation draw from, interrupt or recreate? Consider all the possible politics of representation in your work and efforts.



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REPRESENTATIONS

Cite Indigenous authors and scholars. Quote Indigenous activists and organizers. Follow Indigenous artists and writers. Read Indigenous news and media. Pay Indigenous people to make their own representations. Avoid appropriation. Avoid extraction. Avoid tokenism. Avoid exploitation.

If your request includes the creation of a representation please consider:

- Who created or will create this representation?
- Why?

If your representation includes a request from Indigenous people for information, time, energy, knowledge, and work, please see the Consultations section.

ASK BEFORE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF US ON OUR LAND AND AT OUR SITES

IMAGES & DOCUMENTATION

Ask before using images from our website or creating representations of our work beyond educational sharing. If you are engaged in a project hoping to use or create representations, please use our inquiry form and allow time for us to engage our decision making processes.

We do not collectively or individually sign release forms that seek to own or privatize images or intellectual property related to our work. We never consent for outside use of our images, land or work in terms of perpetuity, without our final oversight or for non-Indigenous profit making.



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I WOULD LOVE TO PICK YOUR
BRAIN....”

CONSULTATIONS

A consultation is a request for information, advice, a discussion and/or feedback.

This is an important and essential way to engage with Indigenous voices, perspectives and leadership. If your project includes or represents indigenous people, culture, land etc, ask for Indigenous guidance and participation in its creation.

IF YOUR PROJECT INCLUDES OR
REPRESENTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE,
CULTURE, OR LAND. ASK FOR
INDIGENOUS GUIDANCE AND
PARTICIPATION IN ITS CREATION.

A consultation could be an informational such guidance in development of institutional land acknowledgements or requests for feedback on a public project that have representations of Indigenous people. Some consultations are cultural and are referred to the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation (Ohlone).

Please keep in mind there are many sensitive issues around access to Indigenous knowledge, representations, and cultural practices.

Sometimes, even efforts that start with an idea of being respectful, inclusive or supportive can end up impacting Indigenous people in a way that is extractive and exploitive.



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CONSULTATIONS

Consider:

- What is your intention with this information or representation?
- What will it be contributing to creating?
- Who will be credited?
- Is someone getting paid? Who is getting paid?
- Who will have access to the project, research, interview, etc?
- How can you make this a more transformative interaction?
- Can you leverage your position?

Please spend time with our questions for reflection before reaching out for a consultation.

To request a consultation please use our [Inquiry Form](#).

PRACTICE RESPECT. CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE IS SACRED. REFRAIN FROM ASKING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE QUESTIONS ABOUT CLOSED PRACTICES, CEREMONIES, AND TRADITIONS.

BOUNDARIES

Avoid contacting people through personal social media platforms, family or in person with Sogorea Te' requests. The fastest way to get a response is our request form or email:

info@rematriatetheland.org

Refrain from using/participating in Indigenous medicines and ceremonies that are known closed

practices or not from your own lineage. Treat us as you would any other expert in their field.

Allow Indigenous people to speak on behalf of their own lived experience.



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FUNDRAISERS

Hosting fundraising through your networks and communities is a great way to support our work. Many of our projects are funded through small individual contributions and grassroots fundraisers. If you are going to host a fundraiser please make sure to send us a message at info@rematriatetheland.org and let us know first. Please use the following fundraising accountability practice: if you publicly post our name to collect money on our behalf, we request also publicly posting your donation receipts.

**DON'T JUST USE OUR NAME TO
GENERATE SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT
OR PROMOTE YOUR 10% OFF SALE.
ENGAGE WITH OUR WORK.**

We appreciate fundraising support efforts and also encourage institutional allies, businesses and organizations to move beyond sales based percentage fundraisers, to give Institutional Shuumi Land Tax, to link their personal or business fundraisers directly to our website, to distribute our outreach materials, to redistribute.

**PAY SHUUMI! OR YOUR LOCAL
HONOR/LAND TAX! CONTRIBUTE TO
THE REMATRIATE THE LAND FUND!**



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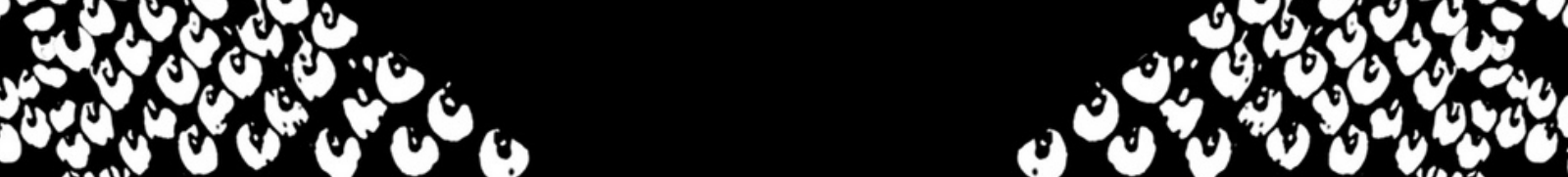
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:
A WAY TO RECOGNIZE THE ORIGINAL
AND ANCESTRAL PEOPLE OF THE
LAND YOU ARE ON.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are many different practices and protocols around land acknowledgements. Historically, there are always Indigenous traditions around ways of acknowledging and entering other peoples ancestral territories.

Today, many organizations, institutions, cities and entities of all different backgrounds are beginning to practice land acknowledgement as a way to recognize a small piece of this history and present day reality.

There are many resources around land acknowledgments created by Indigenous people. Sogorea Te's "So You Want To Do A Land Acknowledgement" resource was created as a way to navigate our own land acknowledgement collaborations, and support the development in Lisjan territory. This resource is available on our website, and can be a helpful tool for folks interested in not only implementing a land acknowledgement, but going beyond.





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Additional land acknowledgement resources include:

- Beyond Land Acknowledgements by the Redbud Resource Center
- Territory Acknowledgement from Native Land
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement from Native Governance Center
- Land Acknowledgement Explained From Teen Vogue
- Honor Native Land by the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ARE NOT REPARATIONS. GO BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Indigenous people are still here. Acknowledging the original people of every land you are on is important. Please do so in a respectful way. But just “acknowledging” occupation or presence on Indigenous lands with no other relationship or action, actually recreates extraction and erasure. We encourage our allies to engage more deeply.

A key step in how we navigate land acknowledgements is implementing time for research and reflection! We have a number of questions that we have put together to help folks engage with their own relation to stolen land and why they might be interested in creating an acknowledgement.

We also always encourage "Action Steps", to take the acknowledgement into a relationship of reciprocity and go beyond performative or extractive practices.

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DO YOUR PART! TAKE ACTION!

- For those settling in the East Bay, pay your Shuumi Land Tax!
- For those outside of the East Bay and interested in supporting our work, contribute to the Rematriate the Land Fund!
- Do you have access to land, opportunities, equipment, skills, funds? See how you can use those resources to aid the efforts of Indigenous people!
- If you don't have disproportionate resources, maybe you can share something else or maybe you know someone who does. Talk to them!
- Support Indigenous businesses and artists

- Learn about and protect the sacred sites of the land you are on.
- Organize to take down monuments of racists and colonists.
- Organize to change racist or colonial names of local school, parks, etc.
- Plant native plants in your neighborhood and communities.
- Protect your local creeks and watersheds.
- **Be a good guest!**

Thank you for engaging with us.

We appreciate you.

- Sogorea Te' Land Trust

This is a collectively created living document and may change as we develop our processes.