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YA NUUNUKNE

Official Newsletter of the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust
Spring in Bloom!

Ya Nuunukne
"They Tell A Story" In Chochenyo

As we continue our work of Rematriation, we invite our community and supporters to listen to our stories from the land and our growing programs and projects, through our seasonal newsletter.

Sogorea Te' calls on Native and non-Native peoples to heal and transform the legacies of colonization, genocide, and patriarchy and to do the work our ancestors and future generations are calling us to do.
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 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.
While we can't host everyone at our rematriated sites, we are actually all on Indigenous land and it needs your care!

Give us a hand! This April in honor of our earth we invite guests on Ohlone land to help us out by cleaning up the land we are on.

Every year we get hundreds of requests from people who want to visit “the land” and help out.

How to Participate

- Pick up trash on your own, with friends, or organize a whole group!
- Clean up, care for and beautify your neighborhood, local park, or favorite place in Oakland!
- Take a before and after photo, or estimate the amount of trash you collected and let us know!

We will be keeping track and will keep you posted in our social media stories.

Other ways you care for the land you are on is plant native plants in your yards, restore habitats, remove invasive species, be mindful about your water and gas use, and of course, support your local Indigenous led land trust. <3

Are you hosting a clean up? Let us know [here](#) and we will send you some of our stickers to share with your crew! Thanks for your help. We appreciate you!
Launching with our pilot last fall, we welcomed 12 high schoolers from Huchiun to join us in our decolonial youth program: Mitiini Numma. Mitiini Numma means “To Grow the Truth” in Chochenyo.

To us, growing the truth with youth is an opportunity to learn the real history of this land, to empower youth in their leadership, and to create a space for youth in the Bay Area to critically think about how the world around them has come to be.

We focus on a number of themes including Land and Water based learning, community organizing, Indigenous history of California, and cultural revitalization. In partnership with the University of Tkaronto CIRCLE Lab Research team, Mitiini Numma participates in Youth Participatory Action research, a tool designed for youth led research.

Youth participate in weekly sessions. Through fun and creative activities youth have learned traditional methods of basket weaving and altar setting, along with art-making practices such as block printing, zine-making, cyanotype and more! On weekends, our youth program travels with youth to significant and historical sites. Connecting to the land we are on.

To kick off this winter-spring wave, Mitiini Numma took a walking trip to Lake Merritt from our office, with guest land team member Robert. Sharing the story of the land surrounding the lake, the people, and how this lake came to be, youth were asked to envision what the space before colonization and after decolonization.

In addition to our creative workshops, our youth program focuses on building a strong relationship between the participants and STLT's rematriated sites, including the first rematriated site Lisjan, as well as Rammay and recently rematriated site Pinnantak. Youth learn about land stewardship skills including weeding, planting, harvesting, mapping waterways, and connecting with the land.

By reconnecting with the natural spaces, youth are introduced to living in reciprocity with the land. Another form of connecting to the land in Huichuin is by learning Chochenyo.

We are thankful to language keeper Deja Gould for introducing us to the names of California native plants and words and numbers. By speaking Chochenyo, we are able to call upon ancestors and revitalize the connection between language and land.
As we begin to heal and transform the legacies of colonization, genocide, and patriarchy and to do the work our ancestors and future generations are calling us to do, we invite those who have benefitted from stolen land and settler-colonialism to contribute to our vision of Rematriation, to help us build Indigenous Sovereignty, and support our movement to Rematriate the land.

Shuumi Land Tax This Tax Season!

The Shuumi Land Tax is a voluntary annual contribution that non-Indigenous people can make to support Sogorea Te' Land Trust's critical work returning Indigenous land to Indigenous hands.

If you already give shuumi, another way to support is to share shuumi! Let your neighbors, ask your boss if they have heard of it, organize your reading group to participate, see if your school or city would consider participating in a voluntary tax to support Indigenous women led land work. Give Shuumi today!

Rematriate the Land Fund

Our purpose is to return Indigenous lands to Indigenous hands, to rebuild a land base in one of the most expensive real estate markets in the country.

The Rematriate the Land Fund is dedicated to cover expenses associated with bringing land back into Indigenous stewardship including the purchase and care of land, capital improvements, permits and fees, studies, surveys, remediations, restoration, and related costs.

In the last two years we have purchased five land sites with funds from the Rematriate the Land Fund.

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far!
Celebrating & Dreaming

BY INES IXIERDA

On December 13 members of Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, The Confederated Villages of Lisjan, the City of Oakland and hundreds of supporters gathered to sign and celebrate the historic cultural easement returning the land formerly known as Sequoia Point to Indigenous care.

The land has been named Rinihmu Pulte’irekne by Chochenyo language keeper Deja Gould. Meaning “above the red ochre,” the name honors the place and the sacred pigment once abundant in the East Bay hills.

Rinihmu Pulte’irekne spans about 4 acres in Joaquin Miller Park. The easement grants access and land use rights to the tribe through the land trust. Sogorea Te and the City have been collaborating to create new tools to engage innovative approaches to easements for Indigenous land return.

The long term vision of this project is to recreate a thriving, beautiful, ceremonial gathering place and structure where Indigenous people and their guests can come together, and share cultural information and celebrations.
CREATIVE FELLOWSHIPS

We are delighted to be working with the amazing Cece Carpio! Cece recently received the Culturestrike Constellation Fellowship to work collaboratively with STLT around Indigenous placemaking in the SF Bay Area.

STLT MEDIA FELLOWSHIP
Honoring the Heartbeat of our 2Spirit Ancestors, by STLT Media Fellow Canelo Cabrera, a local Bay Area artist, focusing on how to reclaim tools and knowledge that have been held from us in order to visibilize the work STLT does!

CONSTELLATIONS FELLOWSHIP
We are delighted to be working with the amazing Cece Carpio! Cece recently received the Culturestrike Constellation Fellowship to work collaboratively with STLT around Indigenous placemaking in the SF Bay Area.
Mitiiini Numma Visits

By Eliana Hernandez & Araceli Nunez Lee

On Alcatraz, we shared a day learning about the occupation of the island. In the fall, we were joined by Eloy Martinez, a member of the occupation in 1969, and Decolonize Academy, a no-tuition school run by low-income families that teaches the real history and connects children to decolonization practices. We also visited the “Red Power” exhibit, and various areas of the island that hold the history of Indigenous people. It is important for youth to learn about the treatment of Indigenous people on Alcatraz, and by invoking our living memories, we honor their lives.

Additionally, to enhance the knowledge of young people about the deep organizing history of the Bay Area led by Indigenous, Black, and people of color, we visited the Oakland Museum of California, to visit the Hella Feminist and Angela Davis: Seize the Time exhibitions. This spring, youth will attend the first Red Market of the year, and pay homage to Oscar Grant III by visiting his commemorative mural at the Fruitvale Bart station.

Join Mitiiini Numma Summer Wave Today!

Starting June 27th & Closing on August 5th

Sessions will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1 - 4 pm. There are 12 spaces open to youth ages 13 – 18 (in high school) - who live or study in Huchiun (unceded Lisjan territory, what is now known as Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Piedmont, Emeryville and Albany). If you, or a young person you know, would like to join please fill out our interest form by May 31, 2023.
For group volunteering, please reach out to volunteer@rematriatetheland.org
Our team is currently working on Volunteering with STLT Guidelines so keep a lookout for that within the next few months.

We had over 100 volunteers!

Folks joined our team at our Saturday work days, helped create thank you cards, tapped into supporting celebratory events and helped spread awareness about the work we do through sharing materials within their networks. Our team is incredibly grateful for all the support and time community members share with us.

SIGN UP TODAY!
If you are interested in receiving emails with volunteer opportunities, fill out this form!

BY SHARON MARCOS
Restoring the Land & Waterways

BY ROBERT WILLIAMSON

Our land restoration team has been tending to ancestral Lisjan waterways, by clearing and pruning the riparian area at one of our land sites. This work helps open up the canopy to allow more sunlight in, making the creek more accessible for both human and nonhuman relatives, and promotes fire safety by reducing fuels. We also built some steps with the support of some of our community partners! We look forward to continuing to build relations with both Lisjan land and waterways in a healing exchange of reciprocity.

We’ve also planted more natives to help support the biodiversity within the landscape. Totaling over 100 native plants at our Irhite Ujima site in the fall, right before the rains. Pictured here are native Buckwheat, Black Sage, and Mugwort, in what is now known as West Oakland.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Indigenous Red Market
5/21

Running Is My High
6/3

Many Nations One Land
6/10

WISH LIST

Macbooks For Youth

Electric or Hybrid Car

Well Running Van

Work Truck

Houses for Indigenous People

Land in Huchiu
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WE LOOK FORWARD TO EVERY SEASON OF REMATRIATION WITH YOU.