

**Are you  
honoring  
those whose  
land you  
stand on?**

**What is Land Acknowledgment  
and why you should do it?**



meztli projects (operating out of Tongva land)

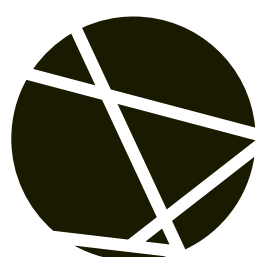
# Land Acknowledgment.

How can we truly heal ourselves if we don't heal that first scar caused to our body, our memory, our story, our spirit, and the land?

Practicing **land acknowledgments** can help us begin a process of reconciling how the majority of our existence is a continual displacement of Indigenous Peoples.

In our social justice (woke) spaces we use words like **decolonize, cultural appropriation, restorative justice** - but how can we truly do any of those things without centering on those who were/are the original stewards of the land.

Indigenous Peoples have always practiced the honoring of guests as-well-as their hosts when visiting other nations, communities, etc. It's time we do the same.



# **Land Acknowledgment (Basics).**

## **What is a Land Acknowledgment?**

A formal recognition of the original stewards of the land and their connection to it.

## **Why should we recognize the land?**

To honor and show gratitude as a sign of respect and willingness to heal. The more we talk about displacement and gentrification it is important to center the conversations of land use on Indigenous Peoples.

## **Sample Land Acknowledgment**

Today we gather here and acknowledge that this land was originally called (insert traditional land name) and is home to (insert name here) the original stewards of this territory. We are committed to uplifting the name of these lands and community members from these Nations who reside alongside us.

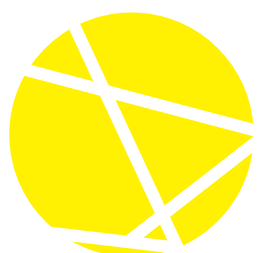


## **For organizers (events, meetings, etc.)**

- Begin by acknowledging the Peoples by their desired name and the land you're on by its original name.

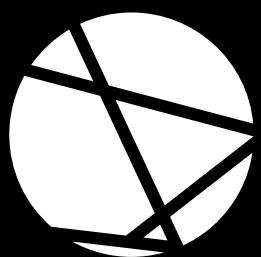
For example in DTLA you would use **Yaangna** and in Boyle Heights/East LA you would use **Apachiagna** as the land name and Tongva as the original stewards of these lands.

- Include the original name of the land in the event or organization's address such as **100 East 1st Street, Los Angeles (Yaangna), CA 90012**
- For large festivals or community events - ask the original stewards of the land if they can open the event with a blessing. Ask them far in advance (like now) and set aside a stipend for their time. If needed arrange for someone to pick them up.



## **For organizers (events, meetings, etc.)**

- Build actual relations with the original stewards by working with them to see how their perspectives fit into your work.
- You might not always get an answer (people are busy). Do not take offense but you should always ask for their participation.
- If possible ask in person. It is customary to offer an elder a gift when requesting their participation. Elders have real life needs, ask if they need anything specific such as coffee, tea, etc.
- Include Native artists in your programs. Indigenous Peoples are also land use experts, artists, conflict resolution experts, etc.
- For panels and similar talks if you can't find a Native person to participate, I would suggest findings ways to represent them.



## **For participants (attendee, artist, etc)**

- Ask the organizers how they plan to acknowledge the original people and land.
- If there is no planned acknowledgment please request they do so.
- If the organizers refuse to do an acknowledgment please consider withdrawing your participation.

For more resources on land acknowledgment please visit:

[www.bit.ly/NtvLand](http://www.bit.ly/NtvLand) or email: [info@meztli.com](mailto:info@meztli.com)



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