

## Land Acknowledgment Best Practices

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

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the Indigenous people and their traditional territories. It recognizes the history of the land, pays respect to the past, and acknowledges the devastating impact of colonialism for Native people.

### **Why is a Land Acknowledgment important?**

A Land Acknowledgment makes Indigenous people visible and highlights their presence and importance. It is a step on our journey of being anti-racist and inclusive.

### **What should we do with our Land Acknowledgment?**

#### Board Meetings:

One of the benefits of stating the land acknowledgment at the beginning of each board meeting is that it puts our EDI focus at the forefront of everyone's mind as official business is conducted.

I contacted the Downers Grove Public Library to see how their library utilizes their Land Acknowledgment. Their library board president reads it before every meeting.

We recommend that the board continue to read the land acknowledgement before meetings. If this is not feasible, they could read it quarterly at board meetings. The text of the land acknowledgment could also be posted on the agenda if not read aloud.

#### In the Library:

Staff can read it before programs where it is appropriate.

Staff can read it before staff meetings or staff trainings if deemed appropriate.

The land acknowledgement is posted on the library's EDI webpage. We recommend creating a separate webpage with information from the first two sections of this document to give context to our land acknowledgment.

The land acknowledgment can be posted as a sign or plaque at library entrances to inform visitors.

#### Going Forward:

Land acknowledgements are meant to be living documents that change (such as the library's staff culture statement or library policies). It is recommended to revisit the land acknowledgement within 3 – 5 years. We also recommend working with a Native led group (and paying them for their time) for future versions of the land acknowledgment.

Land Acknowledgments are just one way to support and recognize Native communities. We must continue to add books and other materials by Native authors and creators to our collection, present informational, cultural, and entertainment programs showcasing Native voices, and form relationships with Native community groups.

Resources Consulted:

[KNOW THE LAND – Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group \(lspirg.org\)](https://www.lspirg.org/)

[Tribal Land Acknowledgements - What they Are and Why We Need to Do Them – Embracing Equity](#)

[GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS LAND AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS \(nyu.edu\)](https://www.nyu.edu/library/indigenous/)

[Land Acknowledgment: Native American and Indigenous Initiatives - Northwestern University](#)

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