



Introducing Land Acknowledgments

Presented by Neighbors West-Northwest



What is a Land Acknowledgment?

A stylized teal leafy branch with several elongated leaves, positioned in the top right corner of the slide.

A land acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes the relationship between Indigenous communities and the land, and reminds listeners to bring in Indigenous voices, experiences, and issues to their community.

A stylized teal leafy branch with several elongated leaves, positioned in the bottom left corner of the slide.

Why would we make one?

NWNW exists to serve the community,
Indigenous people are part of our community.

Land acknowledgements show that we are
thinking about, including, and listening to
Indigenous voices and communities.

What do they do?

- Offer recognition and respect
- Promote public awareness and education
- Inspire ongoing action and support
- Make communities more accessible

Land acknowledgments help show that we've done the research, we care, and we're listening.

What research?



"Imagine this practice widely adopted. . .millions would be exposed to the names of the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of the land they are on, inspiring them to ongoing awareness and action" - USDAC.org

"Territory acknowledgement is a way that people insert an awareness of Indigenous presence and rights in everyday life." - NativeLand.ca

"When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It's a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future." - Mary Lyons, Native.Gov



Who else is making them?

- Portland State University
- Portland Community College
- Lincoln High School
- Multnomah County Library
- Portland Art Museum
- Portland NAACP
- Rose City Track Club
- ...and many others

What could ours look like?



Land Acknowledgements typically follow this format:

- Naming that we are on stolen land
- Naming the Indigenous tribes in our area
- Naming the ongoing effects of colonialism
- Naming organizational efforts towards inclusion



What next?



If we talk the talk, let's walk the walk!

Land acknowledgements become meaningful when coupled with inclusion initiatives that support Indigenous communities.

This could look like:

- Inviting Indigenous speakers
- Partnering with local advocacy groups
- Promoting & supporting cultural events
- ...and many more options



Wrap-Up



Land acknowledgements are a starting point.

How we support Indigenous communities is a long-term conversation! But it starts with listening to Indigenous voices and leaders, and making small changes accordingly.



Sources

- Native.Gov "[A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgement](#)"
- USDAC "[Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call To Acknowledgement](#)"
- Native Land "[On Territory Acknowledgement](#)"
- Portland.Gov "[The Native American Community in Multnomah County](#)."
- Luna Jiménez Institute "[Acknowledging the Original People of this Land](#)"
- University of Portland "[Leading with Tradition](#)"
- Northwestern University "[About Land Acknowledgements](#)"
- Insight Into Diversity "[Acknowledging Native Land is a Step Against Indigenous Erasure](#)"
- Multnomah County "[Board Declares Indigenous People's Day](#)."