

Land Acknowledgments at Bright Morning

Bright Morning operates on the unceded, ancestral homelands of Native people. We acknowledge the theft of land and attempted genocide of Native people and pay our respects to the Indigenous ancestors, elders, and relatives on whose land we live.

Bright Morning's sessions begin with a land acknowledgment to hold a sacred pause in which we can connect with the land on which we live and work, and to pay our respects to Native elders, both past and present, who have tended the land. We recognize that prior to colonization, all of our ancestors lived in a healthier balance with Nature; we remember that we can return to a healthy relationship with our planet through simple, everyday actions.

A land acknowledgment is a statement that formally recognizes and pays respect to the Indigenous people of a place. It is an effort in reducing invisibility of Native people and is intended to raise awareness about the history of colonization. A land acknowledgment is also an opportunity to affirm our commitment to rectifying the injustices of the past and present, including those experienced by Native people.

We hold that a land acknowledgment is a springboard for action, and we engage in a range of actions--as individuals and as an organization--to support justice for Native communities, and to uplift and uphold Indigenous people's sovereignty and self-determination. These actions include learning about Indigenous people, amplifying Indigenous voices, advocating for policy change, and making financial contributions to Native organizations.

In addition, we recognize that we have been conditioned in the values and assumptions of colonization, including those of us whose ancestors were also colonized. As such, we believe that it is imperative for our own liberation and that of others to rigorously work to uproot that conditioning from our minds, hearts, bodies, and spirits. Our individual transformation and healing is necessary for community transformation and healing.

Resources for Learning:

Native Land: A resource to learn about the indigenous peoples on whose land you live.

Podcasts:

- All my Relations
- Crooked

NativeKnowledge360

NDN Collective: NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building, and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.

Land Acknowledgments at Bright Morning

Organizations to which Bright Morning teammates donate:

- Sogorea Te' Land Trust: An urban Indigenous women-led land trust in Oakland, CA., that facilitates the return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people. Non-Indigenous residents of this region can choose to pay a Shuumi Land Tax - a voluntary annual contribution to support the work of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust.
- Manna-hatta Fund: The Manna-hatta Fund is an invitation to all settlers and non-Native people who wish to acknowledge the legacy of theft and genocide that comprise the history of New York City and the United States. 100% of all Manna-hatta Fund donations go directly to American Indian Community House. Anyone who lives anywhere in North America is invited to contribute to this fund.
- The Land Fund: The Amazon Conservation Team partners with indigenous and other local communities to protect tropical forests and strengthen traditional culture.
- Native American Health Center: NAHC is on a mission to provide comprehensive services to improve the health and wellbeing of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and residents of the surrounding communities with respect to cultural and linguistic differences. Based in Oakland, CA.
- Keres Children's Learning Center (listen [here](#) to a Bright Morning podcast episode with founder and school leader, Trisha Moquino)
- First Nation's Garden: Their mission is to provide a healing space for Chicago's First Nations communities and promote public knowledge and appreciation of Chicago's Indigenous landscape and ecosystems.
- Eighth Generation: a Seattle-based company owned by the Snoqualmie Tribe that produces wool blankets.
- Native Like Water: San Diego non-profit that curates experiences through an Indigenous lens, focusing on conservation and cultural practice. Adventure travel, surf, food, and music as medicine.
- Navajo Water Project: 30% of families in the Navajo Nation live without running water and drive for miles to haul barrels of water to meet their basic needs. We're on a mission to get clean, hot and cold running water to more households, so families can stop hauling and start enjoying the simple miracle of a working tap.
- Cheyenne River Youth Project: The Cheyenne River Youth Project is dedicated to giving our Lakota youth and families access to the culturally relevant, enriching, and enduring opportunities we need to build stronger, healthier communities and a more vibrant future together. Based in South Dakota.
- East Phillips Neighborhood Institute: an Urban Farm project in Minneapolis that promotes the personal, social, environmental, and economic health of area residents. This neighborhood includes the only Indigenous-preference Section 8 housing in the country, with tenants from 38 different Native Nations.