

GETTY LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT FAQs

What is a land acknowledgment and why do it?

A land acknowledgement recognizes and pays respect to Indigenous peoples as traditional caretakers of a particular land or region. It is an important first step to acknowledge and express gratitude to the living descendants who reside today on the ancestral lands where we live and work. This is often done at the beginning of public lectures, programs and other public events to raise awareness and encourage reflection.

Why does the Getty not have an official land acknowledgment statement yet?

Developing a land acknowledgment correctly and respectfully is a complex, multi-part process that includes research, consultation, collaboration, and the forging of relationships. It is not simply a matter of finding the right names on a map and writing a sentence or two. We are at the very beginning stages of this process and even very basic questions raise a host of issues for us to research and consider.

Will Getty be consulting with local Indigenous communities?

Yes, that is an essential part of this process. We are taking the appropriate steps to prepare internally and to consult respectfully with local leaders so that we offer an appropriate form of partnership.

How long do you expect this process to take?

We recognize the urgent desire for progress on this action. However, we do not know how long it will take and recognize that it is not something that can—or should—be done hurriedly. Consultation and collaboration with local Indigenous leaders will take time and we must be respectful and responsive to their time table. Guidance from tribal leaders is in high demand at this time as many American institutions are pursuing similar processes.

What will the Getty do beyond creating a land acknowledgment statement? Shouldn't there be action behind the words?

Verbal or written land acknowledgment must indeed be part of a more comprehensive engagement and ongoing relationship between Getty and local Indigenous communities. The land acknowledgment should grow out of a formal and purposeful engagement to establish and work toward beneficial aims.

Can I offer a land acknowledgment at the beginning of my talk or on my email signature?

Yes. Staff are free to offer their own land acknowledgments. At this stage in our process, such statements should be presented as a personal acknowledgement, rather than one that is being made on behalf of Getty. It is advisable to use phrasing that has been developed in

collaboration with and approved by local tribal leaders; when you are researching the topic you may wish to draw upon language that has been adopted by local institutions and approved by members of the local Indigenous community (for example, UCLA and UCSB). We have listed some helpful resources below. This temporary measure was suggested to us by a Tongva cultural leader.

We've developed a land acknowledgment for use within our department. Would the committee review it for us to make sure it is appropriate?

Until this committee has formally engaged with local tribal leaders to form a land acknowledgment, we suggest that you explore the resources below to determine if your statement aligns with statements that have already been vetted. This temporary measure was suggested to us by a Tongva cultural leader.

If you have a question that is not addressed here, please get in touch with any of the members of the Getty's Land Acknowledgment Committee:

Shauna Burns-Staudt, Facilities

Lyra Kilston, Museum

Kara Kirk, Publications

Tom McClintock, GCI

Steve Olsen, CFO/COO

Rebecca Peabody, GRI

Greg Sandoval, Museum

Local Recommended Resources:

[UCLA's land acknowledgement guidelines, approved by local tribal leaders](#)

[UCLA's usage flow chart](#)

[UCSB's land acknowledgement, approved by local tribal leaders](#)

[California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center tool kit](#) (pdf)

General Resources:

[Native Governance Center: Guide](#)

[Native Governance Center: Beyond Land Acknowledgements](#)

[Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions](#)