

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

WHY?

- Offering recognition, reverence, and respect for Alaska Native Peoples and the land
- Opens gatherings and spaces in a good way
- Leading with your intentions
- Countering colonial narratives of “discovery” and supports truth telling
- Creating spaces for the invisible and reparation of relationships
- Impactful gesture of respect for the many insurmountable losses experienced throughout history

HOW

Step 1- Prepare

- Ask knowledgeable locals or conduct research to find out whose land you are on.
- Note that it may be more than one group. Look here: <https://native-land.ca/>

Step 2- Invite

- Invite local peoples to give a prayer or welcome before your land acknowledgment.
- Ask permission of the local peoples in the room to speak on their ancestral lands.

Step 3: Identify

- “I am honored to be with you today on the homeland of the Eklutna Dena’ina.”
- “I would like to acknowledge that this gathering is being held on the ancestral land of the Yup’ik people.”

Step 4- Articulate respect and intentions

- “I would like to pay my respect to Elders both past and present.”
- “I want to respectfully acknowledge the Dena’ina peoples who have stewarded this land throughout time immemorial.”
- “I would like to share that I come with good intentions.”

SIGNS

Email

- “I acknowledge my residence in Bentah (Wasilla), the ancestral territory of the Dena’ina and Ahtna Peoples. I offer my reconciliation and respect to their elders past and present.”

Website

- “The Anchorage Museum sits on the traditional homeland of the Eklutna Dena’ina. The Museum is committed to recognizing and honoring the land, culture and language of the Dena’ina people. We recognize and respect the continuing connection, by Alaska Native people and all Indigenous people, to the land, waters and communities.”

Building Signs

- “Dena’inaq eñen’aq’ gheshtnu ch’q’u yeshdu. I live and work on the land of Dena’ina.”