



**Honoring the First Stewards**

**DOCENT  
NATURALIST**

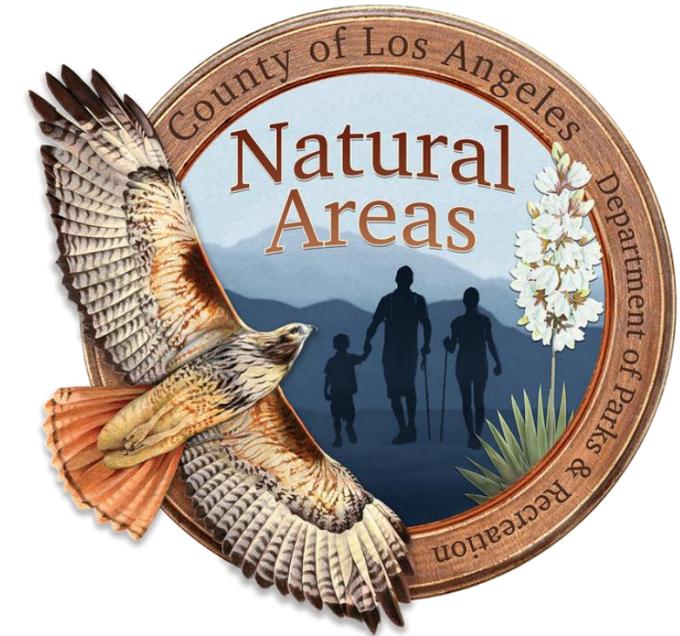
VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSE

Jenee Ornelas - Tribal Liaison



# **Hamiinat** (HAH-MEE-NAT) **and welcome!**

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Please share

- Your name
- Something you're excited for as a future Docent

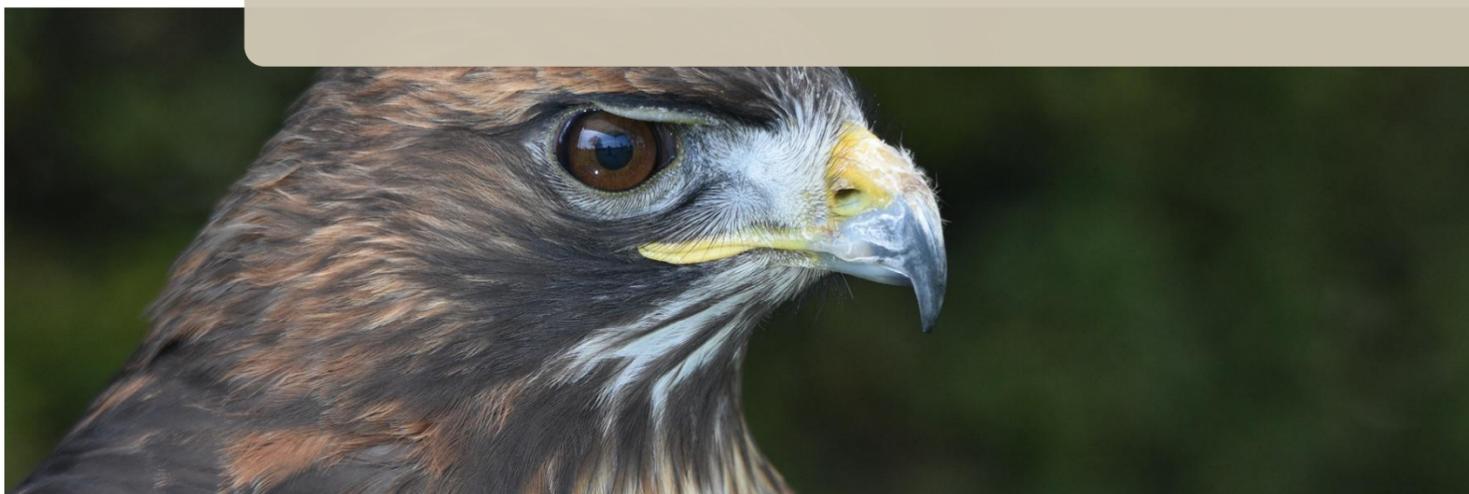
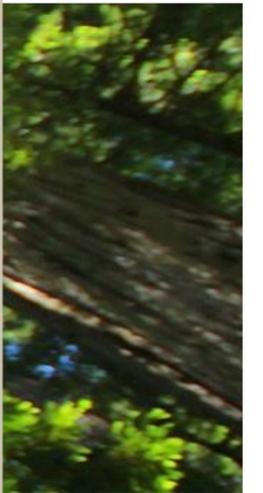
# TRAINING GOALS:



- Understand respectful engagement with local tribes.
  - Learn why **land acknowledgements matter**
  - Recognize the role docents play in sharing inclusive narratives
  - Gain practical language and tools for interactions
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**What comes to mind when  
you hear  
“Land Acknowledgement”?**



# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Honors the history and contributions of local tribes
- Connects visitors to the deeper meaning of the land
- Encourages ongoing learning and dialogue
- Example of how a docent can weave it into a tour or presentation
- Who should **NOT** deliver the Countywide Land acknowledgement?
  - It is not appropriate to ask a representative from a local Tribe, Native American, Alaska Native, or Indigenous Person to deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment. The Countywide Land Acknowledgment is a commitment from the County to the First Peoples and their descendants, and it should be delivered by a representative of the County to fulfill its intended purpose.



QUICK POLL:

**Have you ever read or heard  
the County's Land  
Acknowledgement at an  
opening of a program or  
event?**

## **WHEN TO USE:**

At the beginning of a public program, event or meeting

## **TIPS:**

Use Tribe- reviewed language and pronounce name accurately



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants -- past, present, and emerging -- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the:

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians  
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council  
Gabrieleno /Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians  
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation  
Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation  
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians  
Coastal Band of Chumash Nation  
Gabrielino /Tongva Nation  
Gabrielino Tongva Tribe

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TIPS & TOOLKIT

[lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/](https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/)

- Land Acknowledgment – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
- Copy of the Countywide Land Acknowledgement
- We are Still Here - a Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes
- Toolkit
- Translated Countywide Land Acknowledgement
- Pronunciation Guide; Phonetics and Audio Recordings
- Glossary of Terms
- Videos from LA County Tribal Leaders on the Importance of Land Acknowledgements
- FAQ



# PRONOUNCING TRIBAL NAMES

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Fernandeño **[fur-nan-day-en-yo]** Tataviam **[tah-taah-vee-um]**  
Band of Mission Indians

Gabrielino **[gab-ree-uh-lee-noh]** Tongva **[tong-vuh]**  
Indians of California Tribal Council

Gabrieleno **[gab-ree-uh-lay-noh]** /Tongva **[tong-vuh]**  
San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleño **[gab-ree-uh-lay-en-yo]**  
Band of Mission Indians – Kizh **[keech]** Nation

# PRONOUNCING TRIBAL NAMES

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Yuhaaviatam [**yu-HAH-vee-ah-tahm**] of San Manuel Nation

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Coastal Band of Chumash [**chew-mosh**] Nation

Gabrielino [**gab-ree-uh-lee-noh**] /Tongva [**tong-vuh**] Nation

Gabrielino [**gab-ree-uh-lee-noh**] Tongva [**tong-vuh**] Tribe

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva [**tong-vuh**], Tataviam [**tah-taah-vee-um**], Serrano [**suh- raa-noh**], Kizh [**keech**], and Chumash [**chew-mosh**] Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

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**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

# LET'S EXPLORE THE WEBSITE!

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[lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/](https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/)



**“WE ARE  
STILL HERE.”**

**A REPORT ON PAST, PRESENT,  
AND ONGOING HARMS  
AGAINST LOCAL TRIBES**

Developed in collaboration with representatives from the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.



Questions so far?

# BREAK

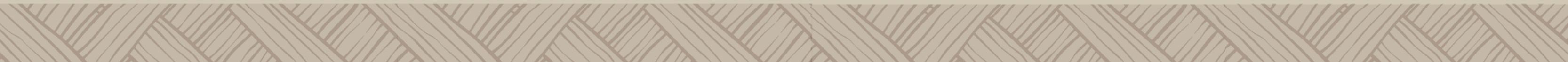
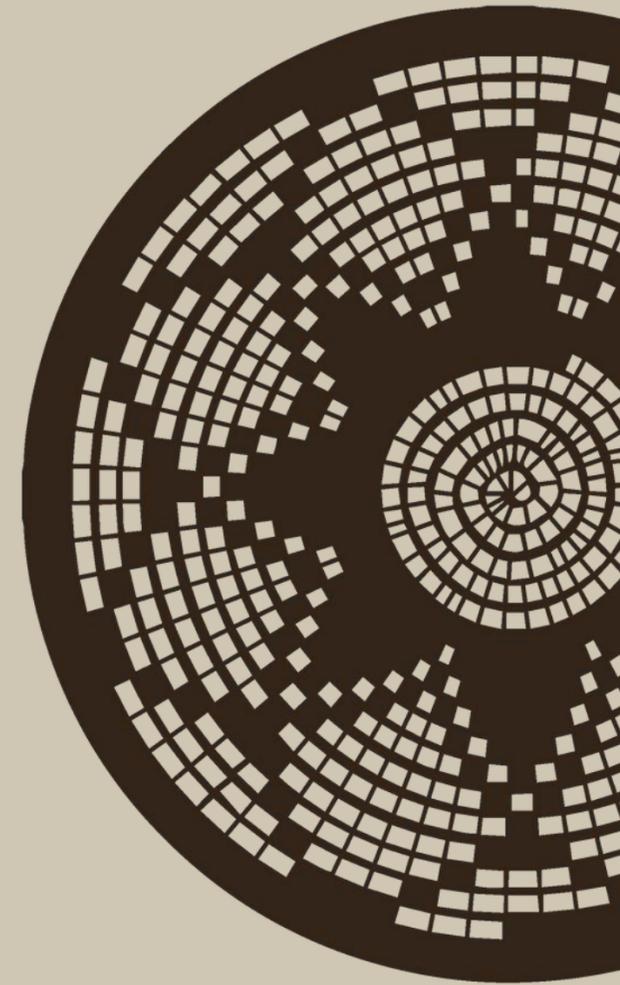
# TERMS & IDENTITY

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- Always use the name that community uses for itself (Tribe, Nation, Band, etc.).
- Avoid outdated or pan-Indian language when specificity is possible.

Federally recognized, state-recognized, petitioning, unrecognized—status varies;

**RECOGNITION ≠ CULTURAL LEGITIMACY.**



# WHY THIS TRAINING MATTERS:

- Indigenous peoples have lived here since time immemorial.
  - Many sites we interpret are ancestral homelands and/or contain cultural resources.
  - Respectful engagement builds trust, community relevance, and program quality.
  - Aligns with County commitments to equity, inclusion, and partnership.
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# THE DOCENT'S ROLE

- **Why your voice matters:** You're the bridge between the public and Indigenous narratives
  - Represent accurate, respectful information
  - Support county efforts to honor tribal history and culture
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# CULTURAL PROTOCOL BASICS FOR DOCENTS

## BEFORE

- Confirm names, honoraria
- Accessibility/Accommodations
- Photography/Recording permissions

## DURING

- Introduce tribal guests first
- Follow their lead
- Listen, learn and engage in the program

## AFTER

- Ask about sharing photos
- Reminder:** If you have questions or feel unsure, contact the Tribal Liaison for guidance - I'm here to help!



# STORY USE & INTELLECTUAL/ CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE

- Use only authorized stories.
- Distinguish sacred vs. general teachings.
- When unsure: Refer to cultural partner.

# HANDLING CULTURAL MATERIALS & SACRED OBJECTS

- Use approved replicas; store respectfully.
- Don't allow visitor handling without permission.



# FIELD ENCOUNTER & CEREMONIAL SENSITIVITY

- Respect ceremonies; avoid photography unless invited.
- Try to not interrupt

## LEGAL/POLICY CONTEXT

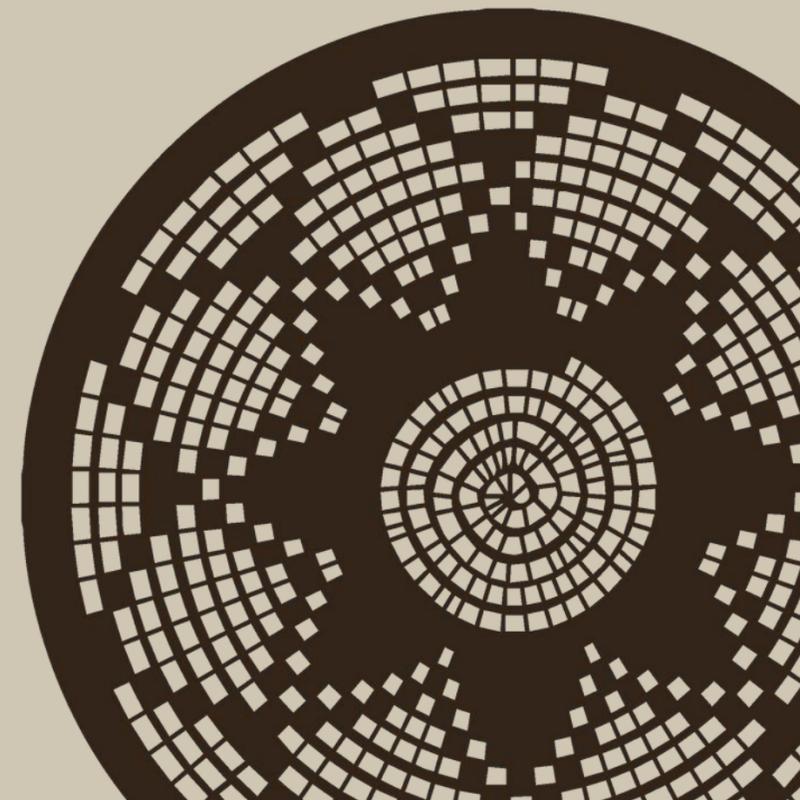
- Protection of cultural resources.
- NAGPRA, CalNAGPRA, and County protocols.
  - If you or a community guest find a possible artifact; leave it or put in a nearby safe location and notify staff



# TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE (TEK) & STEWARDSHIP

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- Connect TEK to restoration projects.
  - Restoration Efforts at the Nature Center
  - Native Gardens
- Share only with permission.



# VISITOR QUESTIONS: WHAT TO SAY/ NOT SAY

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- Provide respectful, accurate responses.
- Example Q&A for common misconceptions.
  
- Reminder: If you have questions or feel unsure, contact the Tribal Liaison for guidance.

# CONTACT INFO

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Work Cell: 626-787-4719

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# PAIKO TAN HIIV!

(pie-ee-ko-tahn hee-v)

(see you later!)

