

September 2025 Land Acknowledgement

Indigenous tribes and bands have been with the lands that we inhabit today throughout Oregon and the Northwest since time immemorial and continue to be a vibrant part of Oregon today. We would like to express our respect to the First Peoples of this land. Present day Portland is located on the traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco (Wass-co), Cowlitz (Cow-litz), Kathlamet (Cath-la-mitt), Clackamas, Bands of Chinook (Cha-nook), Tualatin Kalapuya (Cal-ya-poo-ya), Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. In addition to the federally recognized tribes, we acknowledge the presence of numerous "unrecognized" tribes and indigenous groups, whose stories, pasts, presents and futures also demand our attention.

Let us also acknowledge the robust Native and Indigenous communities made up of tribal diversity that originates from around the country, and whose journeys have brought them to Portland by ways of forced displacement or seeking opportunities.

Today, these same communities celebrate their heritage, showing resilience no doubt inspired and celebrated by their ancestors.

It is also essential for us to support movements like "LandBack" that seek to decolonize and return land to the indigenous peoples who cultivated, honored and protected it for time immemorial. These movements exist near and far, Columbia, Palestine, Australia, Hawaii and here on the land known as Turtle Island. [LANDBACK](#) is more than just a campaign. It is a framework that allows for deepening of relationships across the field of organizing movements, activism, supporting lasting ceasefires and working towards true collective liberation.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and National Recovery Month. Speaking truth to power, acknowledging the harms of white supremacist structures and working to correct or dismantle these structures is a vital way to reduce harm, protect our communities and prevent addiction and suicide.

We at MESD acknowledge how vital it is to highlight the phenomenal resources, opportunities and healing spaces created by local indigenous leaders in our community and throughout Oregon.

I would like to encourage you to visit NAYA's website and calendar to see their upcoming events, ranging from college prep nights, playgroups and garden work days:

- <https://nayapdx.org/events/list/>
- As well as the Portland Indigenous Market happening on September 28th <https://indigenoussmarketplace.org/>
- And Come Thru: Black & Indigenous Market, open 1st and 3rd Mondays, June - October <https://www.comethrupdx.org/>