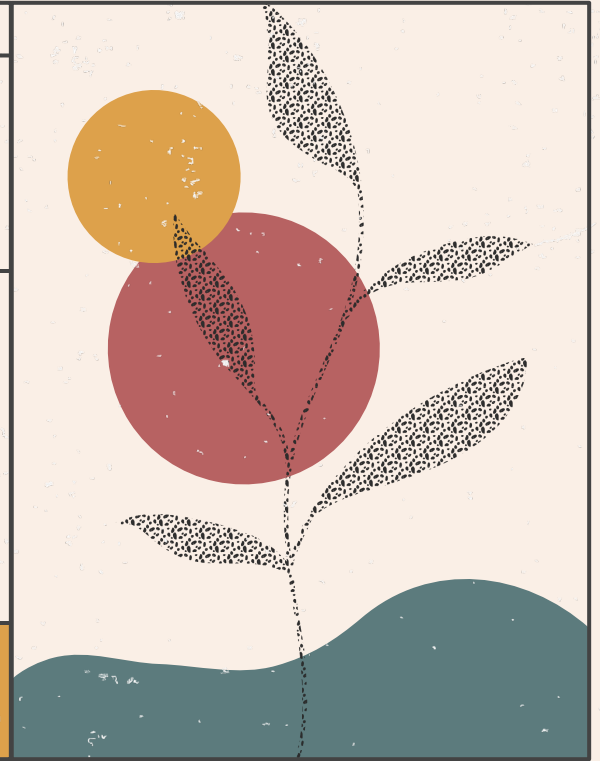


'24

Land & Labor Acknowledgements †

SSPC Presentation | May, 2024



Centering Our Students



Our students were the ones to say we need this—Land and labor acknowledgements are a low effort, high stakes way institutions acknowledge and uplift marginalized communities.

(And the deep critical discussions around campus that have come from this draft is really cool.)



Why at Cañada?

01

We can commit to uplifting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) histories and present day community wherever and whenever we can.

02

Our EAPC Mission is to disrupt and dismantle systemic racism, and acknowledging our histories is a start.

03

EAPC has heard from Umoja, Black Minds Matter, and the Black Student Union that there have been numerous incidents of our campus perpetuating anti-Blackness and we need public commitments towards justice.

04

In listening session this week with community members we heard from our Black community members in North Fair Oaks that they want to know that they can trust us as an institution.

05

Student Equity and Achievement Program Plan data shows that we have 133 less Black students applying to Cañada since 2021.

06

Umoja has set this example of African diaspora and ancestor acknowledgements at our Spring Flex Day opening session, and called us in to do the same.

Connections to Our College Values

- **Anti-racism:** commit to actively combat individual racism and to interrogate racist structures and policies
- **Diversity:** a community where different cultures are represented, recognized and celebrated



Timeline of Evolution



**June
2018**

Student Senate leader **Jasmin Padilla Valencia** creates a land acknowledgment for Student Senate after attending the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity



**Sept.
2022**

Student leaders, Professor Field, and Dr. Kealoha meet with Dr. Cordero from the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone to revise the statement.



**Nov.
2023**

EAPC recommends the 2022 land acknowledgement to be the official college land acknowledgement, and be posted on the college website.



**Spring
2024**

Inspired by Umoja's opening presentation at Flex Day, which included a Sankofa Ancestral Acknowledgement, a new acknowledgement has been drafted.

Why we are here?

We are bringing you a **proposed revision to our current Land Acknowledgment**, co-created with students, Student Life, and Dr. Cordero from the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, and approved by the president through recommendation of EAPC to be posted on our website.

We'd like your feedback and approval.

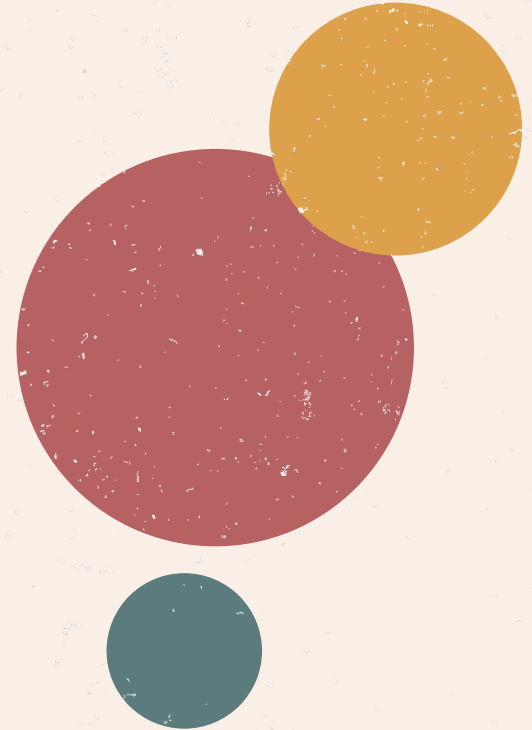


What is a Land and Labor Acknowledgement?

These statements **acknowledge our economic and developmental success is tied to historic and ongoing systems of oppression.**

These acknowledgements are being vocalized across the nation with organizations and schools **before events, meetings, and in class syllabi.**

It is a **tool to hold all of us accountable** for knowing these injustices have occurred and not shy away from the truth, while starting and sustaining the conversation on this topic. It can also be a **commitment to move forward collectively.**



Why Are There Land and Labor Acknowledgements?

They are an ever-evolving way to engage in critical reflection starting with the lands in which we educate, live, work, and exist on.

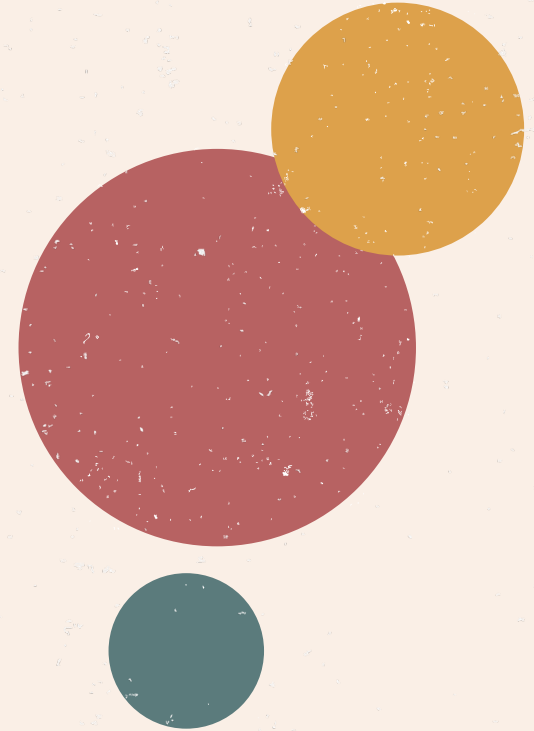
We aim to do this by purposefully remembering our histories and continued impact on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color still today.

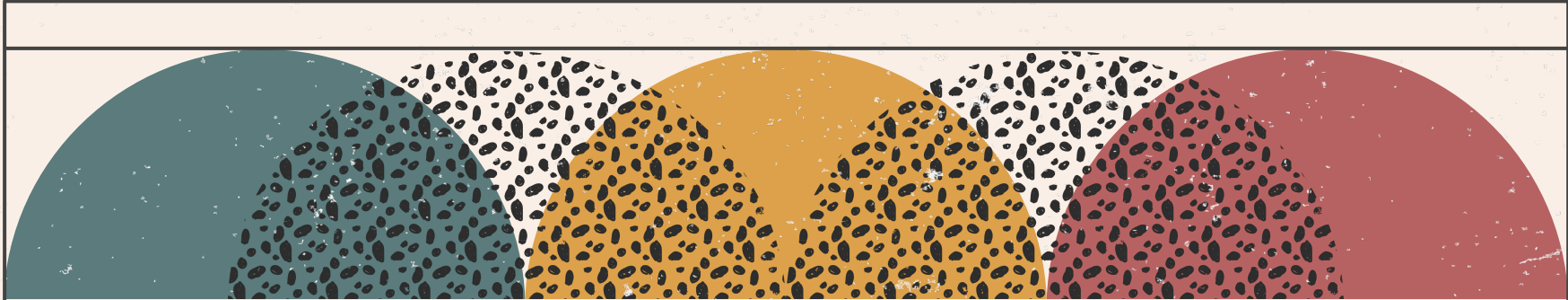
These statements and commitments ensure people coming to our events like Commencement, like our Equity and Antiracism Planning Council, and even our classes know our values as a college right from the beginning.



Why at educational institutions?

Educational institutions have been at the forefront of this work, because as the California Community College Chancellor's Office states, "Our institutions were founded upon exclusions and erasures of Indigenous peoples [and People of Color]." So land and labor acknowledgements and commitments is "a call to action to work towards new and different ways of doing and knowing" (Professor Field).





Additionally, these statements remind us that Indigenous people have not been given this land back, African Americans have not been provided reparations, and that immigrants and undocumented people still suffer from injustice.

A wrong has not been made right, and our equitable teaching inside and outside of the classroom should remind our community of that.

We purposefully link land and labor because we recognize systems of colonization, capitalism, imperialism, and racism, intrinsically link land and labor.

How we've utilized Land Acknowledgements as a reminder to take action:

- **June 2018** - Student Senate attends National Conference on Race and Ethnicity and realized our college lacked awareness of the surrounding indigenous community and land we are on. Student Senate goes into inquiry on how to create land acknowledgements.
- **August 2019** - First land acknowledgement on campus is spoken and written in every Student Life meeting (Student Senate and Inter-Club Council)
- **November 2021** - Student Life hosts first virtual Indigenous People's Day event
- **January 2022** - The Library creates a LibGuide on the Ramaytush Ohlone & land acknow.
- **May 2022** - First land acknowledgement at Commencement
- **August 2022** - College offers first Ethnic Studies Intro to Native American Studies course
- **September 2022** - Students, faculty, and staff meet with Dr. Cordero from The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone and share Student Senate land acknowledgement, then revise and update the statement.
- **November 2022** - Student Life hosts first in-person Indigenous People's Day campus-wide event
- **November 2022** - Student Senate asks for and creates an ACES task force
- **November 2022** - Student Life invites participants campus-wide to participate in Indigenous Peoples' Sunrise at Alcatraz
- **January 2023** - College President gives first land acknowledgement at Flex Day and a workshop is held
- **February 2023 EAPC Land Acknowledgements and Beyond Team Formed**
 - Alison Field, Kiran Malavade, Mary Ho, Michiko Kealoha, Yuliana Leon Subias, Jasmin Padilla Valencia, Manuel Alejandro Pérez, Karen Engel
- **March 2023** - Land acknowledgement is said at the Orgullo y Educación (OYE) Conference
- **April 2023** - EAPC Land Acknowledgements and Beyond Team put on Earth Day event
- **May 2023** - On Mother's Day Weekend, members of the Equity and Antiracist Planning Council Subcommittee "Land Acknowledgements and Beyond" and the EMP Cultural Center Workgroup joined in community with Native and Indigenous peoples at the Stanford Powwow. Together, they experienced the Grand Entry, Drum Contests, and special performances by the Stanford Pacific Islander Student Association, and the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento Youth Group. The group enjoyed fry bread together, found art to decorate the Dream Center, and met location association community members.
- **August - May 23-24:** Cultural Center hosts events with BAAITS, does an Equity Excursion to Alcatraz, Equity Excursion to the San Jose State University Native American Indigenous Students Success Center, and "Kapuchatoli" on the lawn games, co-hosts Black History Month Programming and Equity Excursions to learn about Black Panthers



Undocumented Community Center



"I think that a Land Acknowledgement is crucial and an updated one shows our effort to be more inclusive every time."

"It is a beautifully written statement and I am super grateful for all the thought and care that went into writing it."

Student Senate



"It looks great to me!"

Feedback Received via Email



Faculty

"This looks great and if you ever need a volunteer to read it at an event, happy to do so"

"This is great! I really appreciate the addition of acknowledgment of immigrant labor and undocumented people too."



Umoja + BSU

"I think it looks great."

"This looks really good to me"

Feedback Received in Planning Councils:



EAPC

"Hearing it out loud is so powerful. I got some feelings and emotions. It would be amazing to have this read at Commencement. How impactful for graduates and their families. To be publicly acknowledged and acknowledged often is great. In a place where sacrifices of their families and people in conjunction with a celebration of loved one is the work." - Krystal

"It resonated with how deep and committed we continue to be as a campus; to be this inclusive in our acknowledgement. We are setting a precedent of what true acknowledgements can be." - Eileen

"We are an educational institution and it is direct and clear and strong. It's unapologetic!" - Yolanda

"It is very intentional and a best practice." - Mahitha

"I like how it set a tone of respect and mindfulness, which permeates throughout our campus culture."

- Mariela

From Equity and Antiracism Planning Council Delegate Gonzalo Arrizon:

Why racism and capitalism are intertwined: From Dr. Kendi's How to Be an Antiracist text: "Capitalism is essentially racist; racism is essentially capitalist. They were birthed together from the same unnatural causes, and they shall one day die together from unnatural causes. Or racial capitalism will live into another epoch of theft and rapacious inequity, especially if activists naïvely fight the conjoined twins independently, as if they are not the same." Ibram X. Kendi, 2019

A rationale for WHY it is crucial that we connect land and labor: "Separation of people from land and the disconnection between land and our bodies is a purposeful tool of colonization to further dehumanization. Land acknowledgements without discussion of reparations only function to perform activism." (Source: Ellis 2020)

I don't think "economic exploitation" fully captures the racialized violence that's been perpetuated by yes, capitalism in the U.S.



Proposed Update



We acknowledge that Cañada College is situated on the traditional unceded land of the Ramaytush (Rah-my-toosh) Ohlone (Oh-LOW-nee) peoples, and we respect our past elders and honor the present community. Long before Cañada College existed, this area was home to the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples, who still have a presence in the Bay Area today.

We have a responsibility to acknowledge that we as a Cañada community have benefited from the use and occupation of this land and that the tragic legacy of colonization, genocide, capitalism, racism, and oppression still impacts people today.

We also recognize the labor upon which this educational institution, state, and country is built.

We acknowledge the peoples of African ancestry who were enslaved and forcibly brought to this land, and whose forced labor played a major role in the formation of this country. We are indebted to their uncompensated labor and their unwilling sacrifice over hundreds of years—which continues to impact generations today. We honor the legacy of the African diaspora and the continued contribution of their survivors.

We acknowledge the contributions of *all* immigrant labor, forced labor, and undocumented people who contributed, and continue to contribute, to the building and feeding of this land. We acknowledge their immeasurable sacrifices and work that allow us to gather in this space today.

Let us not forget. Let us honor and engage with the people who have stewarded and labored on this land for generations, and let us honor these truths—by taking responsibility as a college community to continually educate ourselves about these realities, to affirm our commitment to justice through continual action, and to protect and sustain this land.



Hopes...



Debut this at Commencement with our students and community.

Add to our website with resources.

More Context

This draft has been shared with:

- Umoja
- Black Student Union
- Undocumented Community Center
- Student Senate
- Jasmin Padilla Valencia and Alison Field (part of original team)

EAPC has voted unanimously to adopt this and recommend to our president that this be our college statement on April 23, 2024

IPC has voted to adopt this as of May 3, 2024

SSPC has voted unanimously to adopt this on May 8, 2024

[California Community Colleges: Land Acknowledgement](#)

CCC system and why we do them

[On Labor Acknowledgements and Honoring the Sacrifice of Black Americans](#)

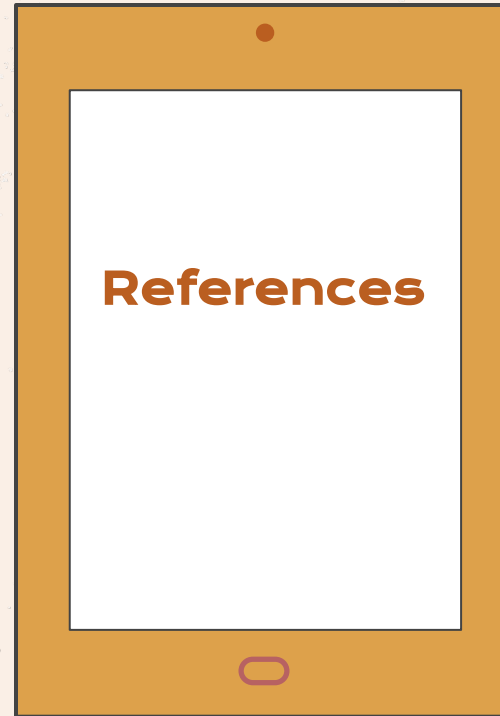
Why we should think about this in our classrooms and in our institutions

[ABOUT UNPAID LABOR](#)

African Americans collective contribution for 12 generations, 10 million people, 250 years to this country

[How to Acknowledge a Shameful Past](#)

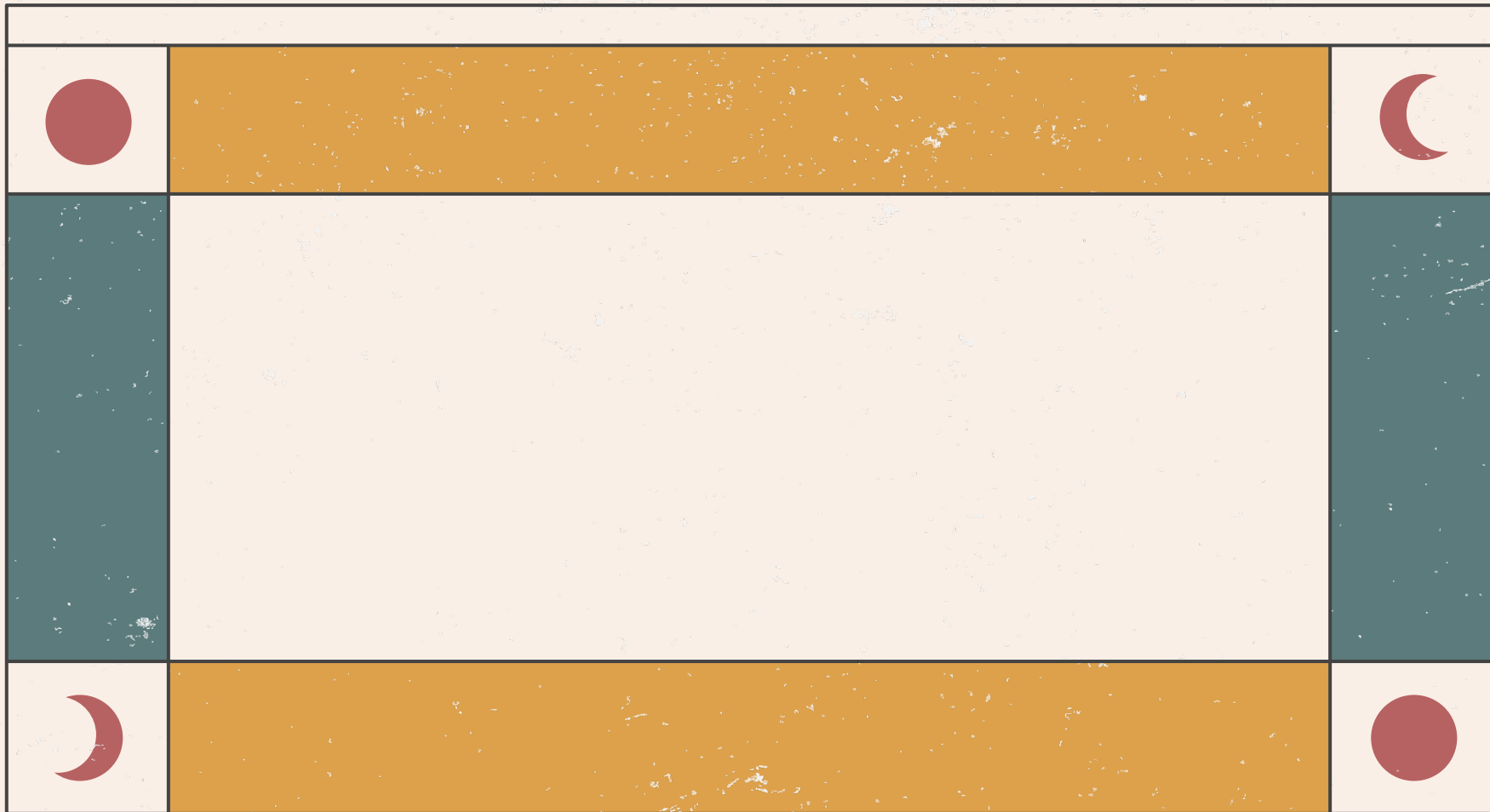
How schools are adopting this

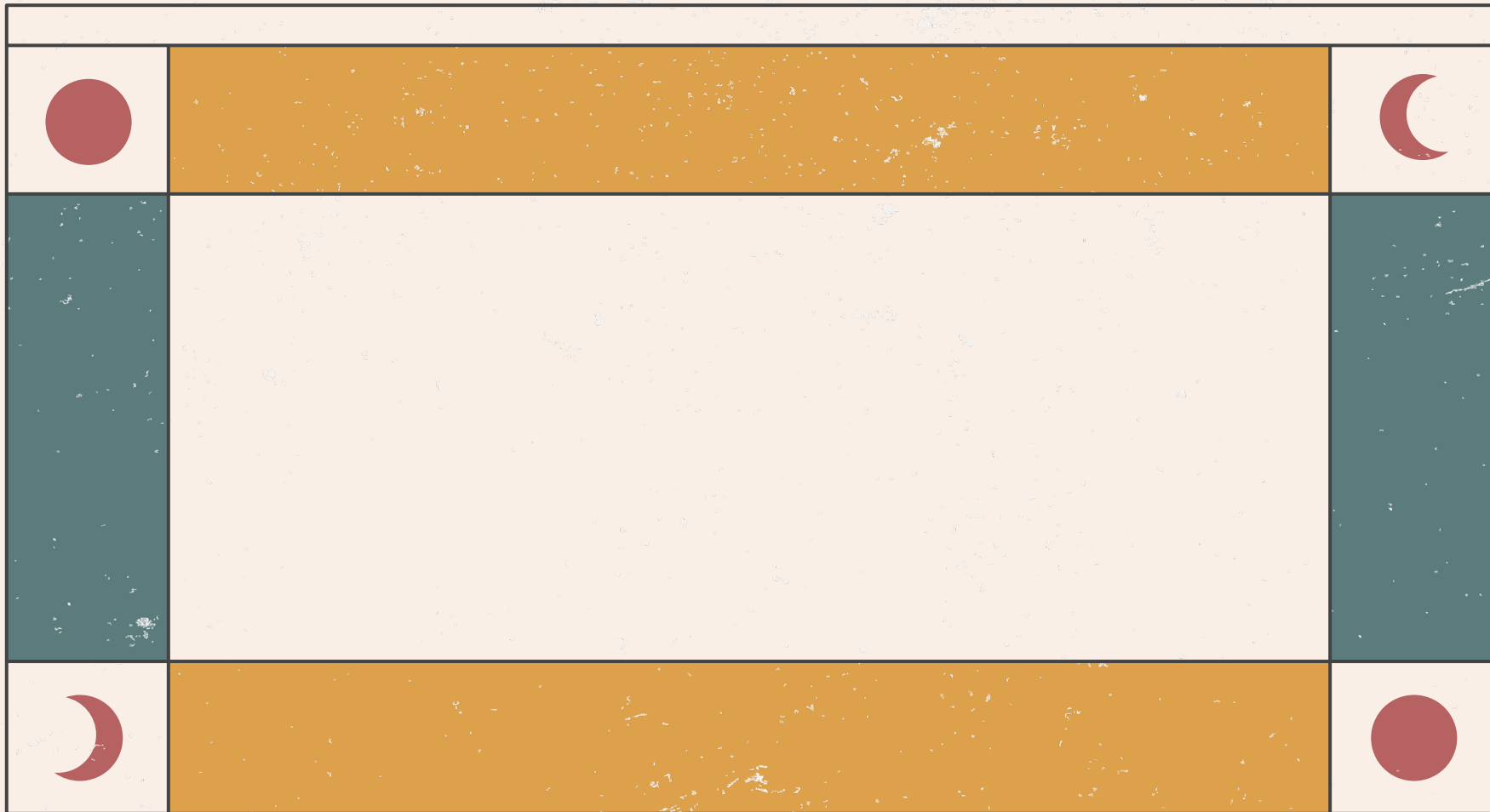




Q&A + Vote







Undocumented Community Center



"I think that a Land Acknowledgement is crucial and an updated one shows our effort to be more inclusive every time."

-Luis

"It is a beautifully written statement and I am super grateful for all the thought and care that went into writing it."

-Nimsi

Student Senate



"It looks great to me!"

-Yuliana

**Feedback
Received**



Faculty

"This looks great and if you ever need a volunteer to read it at an event, happy to do so"

- Rebekah

"This is great! I really appreciate the addition of acknowledgment of immigrant labor and undocumented people too."

-Diana



Umoja + BSU

"I think it looks great."

- Elizabeth

"This looks really good to me"

-Lesly