

## **Guide to Acknowledging Territory**

**Created by Alison Brookins for Ted & Company TheaterWorks**

When performing *Discovery: A Comic Lament* we will be gathered on land that has its own unique story and we ask our hosts at each venue to tell part of this story by acknowledging who lived on this land before European settlers arrived and which Indigenous Peoples may be resident there today.

A public acknowledgment raises settler awareness, animates settler responsibility to these stories and signals a desire to strengthen relationships between settlers and Indigenous Peoples. This is not difficult, and can be done with a few simple sentences.

### **Who lived/lives here?**

Check out this interactive map: [invasionofamerica.ehistory.org](http://invasionofamerica.ehistory.org) The map may tell you what group(s) lived on the land, when they lost it, and how, and which Indigenous bands and tribes may continue to live on this land. Further Internet searches can help fill in some information.

*Example: The map tells us that Orlando, Florida was home to the Seminole, ceded in 1832. Wikipedia then tells us that the Seminole, Miccosukee, and Muscogee tribes currently live on lands around the state of Florida.*

### **Check your information**

It can be tricky to determine some of this information, so if you are unsure it's a good idea to check directly with local Settler organizations working on these issues or Indigenous persons or organizations.

### **Write just a few sentences**

Once you have gathered and checked information, write a few sentences that acknowledge the original stewards of this land. Three examples:

*Orlando, Florida: I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are gathered tonight on the homeland of the people collectively known as the Seminole, ceded to the United States in 1832. Today, this is the home of the Seminole, Miccosukee, and Muscogee tribes.*

*Winnipeg, Manitoba: I want to begin tonight by recognizing with you that we are doing our work on Treaty 1 lands, a covenant made with the Anishinabek and Swampy Cree of southern Manitoba, and also homeland of the Metis Nation.*

*Redlands, California: I want to begin by acknowledging that we stand on traditional territory of the Morongo and Aguas Calientes tribes of the Cahuilla people.*