

Dear USF Community,

Monday, Oct. 11, 2021 is recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day in the City and County of San Francisco. Established in San Francisco in 2018, Indigenous Peoples Day is intentionally celebrated on the second Tuesday of October in order to honor and elevate the lives, cultures, and histories of the original inhabitants of this land. As we reflect on the painful history and contemporary struggles that are acknowledged on this day, we hope that you find ways to foster accurate and complete narratives about the founding of this country and find ways to support Native American struggles for sovereignty.

We recognize that righting wrongs against Indigenous communities involves far more than an annual celebration. This year, USF embarks on a year of discernment — led by Professor Kouslaa Kessler-Mata (Chumash and Yokut) and sponsored by the Lane Center and Office of the Provost — to initiate conversations on the historical relationship between Jesuits and California Indians, and to identify ways Jesuit universities and colleges might become allies to Native American communities within the university and beyond.

To our Indigenous community members, we recognize and elevate you. The work to advance Indigenous issues at the university should seek your collaboration and center your voices. For those students who are aiming for involvement and community around their Indigenous identity, the Culturally Focused Clubs Council invites you to **contact them** to connect and build on the efforts of past students.

Our recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day as a university this year will focus on the Ohlone people, specifically the **Ramaytush Ohlone**, on whose ancestral homeland our Hilltop and Downtown campuses reside. USF's Cultural Centers have updated the **Indigenous Peoples Day Resource Guide** for 2021 to support you in finding local in-person offerings that center the Ohlone people. The guide also provides broad resources for you to build your understanding of Indigenous peoples, with an emphasis on the present day.

We encourage community members to participate in USF-sponsored programs that week, which include:

### Land Acknowledgement at USF Discussion

**Monday, Oct. 11 | 12–12:50 p.m.**

Learn more about the history of USF's current Land Acknowledgement Statement, and best practices for incorporating land recognition in your programs, classes, and organizations. This session features the voices of USF alumni, students, faculty, and staff. [Register now »](#)

### Indigenous Foodways: A conversation and cooking demonstration with Vincent Medina and Louis Trevino, founders of mak-'amham: Contemporary Ohlone Cuisine

**Wednesday, Oct. 13 | 6:30–8 p.m.**

Join us in learning from the founders of *mak-'amham: Contemporary Ohlone Cuisine* as they share their stories and knowledge of Ohlone food and culture.

[Register now »](#)

### Wakan Wiya Two Spirit Drum

**Thursday, Oct. 14 | 11:45 a.m. –12:45 p.m.**

**Privett Plaza outside of the University Center Third Floor**

The Wakan Wiya Two Spirit Drum was founded and led by Indigenous Two Spirit women in the Bay Area. Their Native American medicine drum serves our Bay Area Two Spirit communities and their friends, families, and allies. Participants can join them on the drum and learn more about this Native cultural form of healing and wellness.

While our focus will be on the Ohlone people, we also recognize the displacement of Indigenous peoples that has occurred at USF's additional campus locations and properties, which include the **Gabrielino-Tongva** people (Orange County campus), the **Nisenan** people (Sacramento campus), and the **Coast Miwok** people (Star Route Farms). For those of you who attend classes and work on these campuses, there are more resources available through the **Indigenous Peoples Day Resource Guide**, and we encourage you to be a part of the event conversation toward land acknowledgement, which will consider how to honor the ancestral lands of these locations.

Please join us in recognizing the importance of this day, and being in solidarity with and for Indigenous peoples.

Sincerely,

Chinyere Oparah  
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Erin Echols  
Director of the Cultural Centers

Join the conversation **#USFCA**



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