

Meeting Date: 11/21/2022

To: Sanitation and Streets Commission
Maryo Mogannam, Chair
Ike Kwon, Vice Chair
Thomas Harrison
Kimberlee Hartwig-Schulman
Christopher Simi

Through: Carla Short, Interim Public Works Director

From: Bob Fuller, Commission Secretary
Beth Rubenstein, Deputy Director of Policy and Communications

Subject: Commission Land Acknowledgement

Director's Recommendation: Informational presentation, discussion and possible action to recommend a land acknowledgement statement or policy specific to the SAS Commission for future consideration.

Executive Summary: Multiple City and County of San Francisco public bodies, including the Board of Supervisors, have adopted statements acknowledging that San Francisco is on the unceded homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone people. The Sanitation and Streets Commission may adopt a statement that is substantially similar to those adopted by other commissions or one that is specific to this Commission's mandate and values.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1: Presentation Land Acknowledgement SAS 2022-11-21.ppt
- Resources:
 1. San Francisco Board of Supervisors Motion [M20-196](#) instituting the reading of a land acknowledgement statement at Board of Supervisors Meetings – December 8, 2020
 2. The Association of Ramaytush Ohlone [Guide and Call to Land Acknowledgement](#) - <https://www.ramaytush.org/land-acknowledgement.html>
 3. Land acknowledgement statements by San Francisco commissions, organizations and institutions:
 - [SF Arts Commission](#)
 - [SF Library Commission](#)
 - [SF Commission on the Environment](#)
 - [SF Fire Commission](#)
 - [SF Health Commission](#)
 - [SF Rent Board](#)
 - [UCSF](#)

Commission Land Acknowledgement
Sanitation and Streets Commission Meeting: November 21, 2022

- [California College of the Arts](#)
- [de Young Museum](#)
- [Exploratorium](#)
- [San Francisco Design Week](#)
- [SF Shakespeare Festival](#)



SAN FRANCISCO SANITATION & STREETS

Land Acknowledgement

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Deputy Director, Policy & Communications

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Things to Consider

Why?

Before you begin writing a Land Acknowledgement statement you should ask yourself why it is important to do so.

What does it mean to be a settler on someone else's stolen land?

It's for You.

Land Acknowledgement statements are primarily for you, not for us, and **YOU** should read them to open meetings, events, etc., not us.

Be creative . . . or not.

Land Acknowledgement statements can take different forms, from a formal policy to performance art.

Work with us.

We are here to offer advice, but we encourage you to write them on your own, and then let us review it before it is finalized.

Coherence.

Integrate your organization's (or personal) values, initiatives, principles, etc. into the statement in order to enhance coherence or to show alignment.

Exclusivity.

Contrary to the practice of inclusivity, Land Acknowledgement statements are exclusive to the original peoples of the land where you live and work.

Land Acknowledgement Plus!

How does the Land Acknowledgement statement live in your work? In other words, activate the ideas and commitments behind the Land Acknowledgement statement – make it more than just a symbolic statement. We are excited to partner with you in those actions.

An Example

The San Francisco Sanitation & Streets Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory.

As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

As an organization which is focused on stewarding and caring for the public right of way and public spaces – the streets, the sidewalks, the street parks, gardens and more, we value the example of the Ramaytush Ohlone in their relationship with the land.