

# About the *LandBack* Movement



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Clockshop acknowledges that we are living on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples. We acknowledge and pay our respects to Tongva / Gabrielino, Chumash, Fernandeano Tataviam, and Kizh elders past, present, and emerging as the traditional caretakers of Tovaangar.

As a resource for our series *Dreaming Land Back into Reality*, Clockshop compiled this info sheet with adapted language from Indigenous individuals and Indigenous-led collectives. We do not hold ourselves as experts on the LandBack movement, and we look to the knowledge of Indigenous peoples. We offer these resources as we all strive to expand our relationships to the land we live on, and connect to the intersectional movements that work to rematriate lands to their original stewards.

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*What is the LandBack movement and what should we know?*

**The LandBack movement is about reestablishing Native sovereignty and healing through the return of land and systems of life.** Much of our world is founded on the theft of Indigenous and Black peoples' labor, lives, and land. The LandBack movement intersects with other calls for reparations and healing by Black folks and other peoples of color in the United States who experienced generational historic harm by the state. **LandBack and reparations can be practiced in many ways, including, but not limited to: full return of land sovereignty, co-stewardship, land trusts, land taxes, and monetary compensation.**

**Federal recognition** is a legal status that affirms a tribe's entitlement to self-determination and sovereignty. Hundreds of thousands of Indigenous people across the United States belong to non-federally recognized tribes like the Gabrielino Tongva and Fernandeano Tataviam in the Los Angeles Basin. It is crucial we recognize the important claims these tribes have, despite legal status.

There's an increasing public realization that we must look to Indigenous leadership and land stewardship knowledge to survive our current climate disaster. In 2020, Governor Newsom issued an executive order that committed to initiating a partnership with tribal organizations for the co-management of natural lands and the creation of pathways for access and reacquisition of traditional sites as a means of investing in sustainable climate-conscious land management practices.

## Vocabulary

<b>Rematriate</b>	To restore sacred relationships between Indigenous people and their ancestral land. Honoring our matrilineal societies, lineages, and ways of tending to the land, in opposition to patriarchal violence and dynamics. This is different from “repatriate” or “repatriation”, which is the process of returning a thing or a person to its origin.
<b>Reparation</b>	To make amends for a wrong that’s been done; the act of repair.
<b>Sovereignty</b>	The authority to exercise self-governance and self-determination over one’s territory, resources, cultural systems, and political affairs.
<b>Stewardship</b>	The protection and management of something entrusted to one’s care. Traditional management practices rooted in Indigenous knowledge and experience is essential for the sustainability and conservation of ecological systems.
<b>Land Trust</b>	A binding agreement wherein the title of the land is entrusted to a steward or organization to manage. These agreements facilitate the reacquisition and conservation of traditional land outside the constraints of the reservation system.
<b>Land (or Honor) Tax</b>	This is a “tax” out of respect and recognition of Native Nations’ sovereignty rather than a gift or donation. Some nations have them and some don’t.
<b>Decolonization</b>	Decolonization requires a profound recentering of Indigenous worldviews and a reimagining of the structures and systems put in place by settler colonialism. Syed Hussan, a Toronto-based activist, states: “Decolonization is a dramatic reimagining of relationships with land, people, and the state. Much of this requires study. It requires conversation. It is a practice; it is an unlearning.”

## Questions

*We invite you to consider your own relationship to the colonial occupation of this land:*

What is your relationship to this history? How did you get there?

Who are the Indigenous people of the land you are on? Where are the Indigenous people of the land now? What can you do to support them?

What are the Indigenous names of the people/territory/plants/animals?

What historical harms have impacted you?

What does it mean to heal and transform the legacy of colonization, genocide, and patriarchy, that our ancestors and future generations are calling us to do?

## References

- Native Land is a resource to learn more about Indigenous territories, languages, and lands
- Questions about the LandBack movement, answered by High Country News
- Rematriation Resource Guide by Sogorea Te’ Land Trust (Ohlone territory)
- Honor Native Land Guide by the U.S. Department of Art and Culture
- Decolonizing together: Moving beyond a politics of solidarity toward a practice of decolonization by briarpatch
- The Honor Tax Project (Wiyot Nation)
- Governor Newsom’s Executive Order to Restore Land for California Native Communities