Values for Clockshop's Relationships with Native Communities of the LA Basin

ADOPTED JANUARY 2024
REVISED NOVEMBER 2026

As a settler organization, Clockshop strives to be a gracious guest, and to continue our respectful support of members of Indigenous communities who are Native to the LA Basin.

We are an arts-based organization with a commitment to working with artists to deepen the connection between Angelenos and the land they live on. In order to instill the responsibility of good land stewardship encoded in this mission, we feel a deep obligation to invest support and resources towards priorities identified by Native people and their sovereignty. We also understand, especially within arts and cultural non-profit contexts, that projects or events involving Native peoples are often exploitative, singular, unsustainable, or to the benefit of the non-profit over the benefit of the priorities of the Native community. Instead of repeating this troubled type of relationship, Clockshop wishes to work with the Native communities of this region to put their priorities first and to be in an informed relationship as good guests.

We have learned from the leadership of tribes and long-time allies, how to remain accountable in our relations with Indigenous communities. We are still learning, and want to recognize the importance of acting on the critical feedback that has been shared with us throughout our learning journey.

Below are our commitments and values when entering into relationships with Native peoples. We make these public to serve as the foundational basis for relationships that will hopefully grow over time, but also to hold ourselves accountable to facilitating meaningful change.

- **We will share our resources with the Native people of this region, if and when this is desired, such as staff support, our physical office space, monetary support when possible, and our public platform and connections.**

- **We will move at the speed of trust in our relationships with Native people. We will always be okay with things taking the time they need to take, regardless of grant timelines, fiscal years, or any other arbitrary imposed deadlines.**

- **We will be clear, honest, and respectful in our communications, and will always compensate Native People for their time, expertise, traditional knowledge, and representation, insofar as they are willing to engage in a relationship with us or our programming.**

- **We will respect when Native people decline to engage with us, and will seriously reflect internally on why that is the case. This reflection may include facilitated restorative justice work, self-education in Native issues and history, and equity and care training for staff and board as it pertains to Native issues.**

- **We will always ask first when planning to offer resources or support, or to enter into collaborative efforts, prioritizing consent and relationship building over convenience or speed.**

- **When offering support or resources, we will be clear on what we can commit, and what might be possible or not possible. We will be open to feedback and adjust our expectations and plans accordingly.**

- **We will follow through on our commitments, through uncertainty and discomfort.**

- **We will ask permission before using Native words, artwork, images, culture, and documentation of events. We will continue to ask permission as opportunities arise for changing formats and audiences.**

- **We will treat Native peoples as experts in their field.**

- **We will not add our own narratives into any Native person's or tribe's story. If any stories or narratives are entrusted to us, we will be respectful caretakers and always give clear credit. We will never seek to own the words, images, or stories of Native peoples, only to be a platform and support when that is desired and agreed upon.**

- **We will remove ourselves from conversations about priorities and planning of Native Peoples unless explicitly invited, and yet will be guided by those priorities as determined by Native People in our actions.**

- **We will refrain from engaging in questions of Indigenous identity and lineage. With the intent of**

respecting each Native community's sovereignty to determine their own members, we may seek advice in such sensitive matters. Our use of a collaborator's self-identification does not mean we are affirming their claims.

- **We will build connections with the land we occupy by following the leadership and traditional knowledge of Native peoples, and will treat the land, animals, plant persons, and all tribal members with care and dignity. We will reimagine our relationships in order to steward land and resources, and continue to find new ways to show respect and reciprocity to the original caretakers of the land.**

NOTE: The values above are part of a living document, and though the intent behind them remains consistent, the language we use may shift depending on listening to the advice and guidance of the Native peoples of the LA Basin we are in relationship with. They will be revisited every six months.

In our collaborations with California State Parks and in work around LA public lands, we adhere to the Tribal Consultation best practices detailed here: https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Tribalaffairs/TribalConsultation