

# A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ENIKIA FORD MORTHEL: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HERITAGE MONTH



*November is Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Month, also known as Native American Heritage Month, which is an important time of year for our community to reflect on the vital role of the first and original stewards of these lands we now call the United States.*

*Our schools reside on xučyun (Huichin), the ancestral lands of the Lisjan Ohlone (Leeshawn) and Muwekma Ohlone tribes. We acknowledge and celebrate their ongoing role in Berkeley and their current day activism to preserve sacred shellmound sites, revitalize Indigenous practices and the Chochenyo language, and to rematriate land back to Indigenous stewardship. We recognize and affirm that globally, Indigenous peoples continue to be impacted by the legacies of colonization and we uplift their collective resilience.*

*As part of our district vision for students, "Our students embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute to our community." To that end, our School Board passed the resolution, DECLARING ANNUALLY THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HERITAGE MONTH. We will continue to deepen our commitments to support our students to embrace and learn about the diversity of Berkeley's first peoples. These resource guides for educators and families are just one small way that we are working toward this goal.*

*Through our Rethinking Thanksgiving Teaching Guide, we also invite community members to consider the painful legacy of Thanksgiving for many Indigenous peoples and the nuanced perspectives around this time of celebration and also mourning.*

*In community,*

*Enikia Ford Morthel*

*Superintendent, Berkeley Unified School District*



# THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' HERITAGE MONTH BUSD FAMILY GUIDE

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## 1. LISTEN

### Listen to the Lived Experiences of Indigenous Peoples

- [VIDEO POEM](#) on Native and Black identity by Andrina Wekontash Quonuwayu Smith
- [VIDEO](#) on the meaning of 2 Spirit
- [ARTICLE](#) "Yes, You Can Be Native & Jewish"
- [WEBINAR](#) on the Afro-Indigenous Experience
- [VIDEO](#) of Ohlone Youth Summit, Tule Boat Voyages
- [VIDEO](#) on Indigeneity and Latinidad

## 2. LEARN

### Learn About Ohlone Peoples & Local Indigenous Organizations

- [VIDEO](#) of Corrina Gould, founder of Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- [VIDEO](#) "In the Land of my Ancestors" about Ohlone elder, Ann-Marie Sayers (for older youth and up)
- [BROCHURE](#) Native Peoples of the East Bay Past & Present
- [LISTEN](#) to the song, "This is Ohlone Land" by the Alphabet Rockers
- [INVEST](#) in local Indigenous businesses at the Indigenous Red Market in Oakland
- [GET INVOLVED](#) with Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- [SUPPORT](#) the preservation of sacred Shellmounds in West Berkeley
- [Muwekma Ohlone Tribe](#)
- [American Indian Child Resource Center](#)
- [Intertribal Friendship House](#)
- [Native American Health Center](#)



Cece Carpio with Sogorea Te' Land Trust

## 3. LIFT UP

### Lift Up and Celebrate Indigenous Cultures With Your Family

- [LISTEN](#) to "Landback" by Rebelwise in collaboration with Sogorea Te' Land Trust
- [VISIT](#) the Museum of the American Indian in Novato
- [VISIT](#) the California Indian Museum & Cultural Center in Santa Rosa
- [EXPERIENCE](#) Ohlone food at Cafe Ohlone
- [TASTE](#) Indigenous food by Crystal Wahpepah, of Wahpepah's Kitchen
- [READ](#) books together, curated by the Berkeley Unified School District Library Team
- [VOLUNTEER](#) with Sogorea Te' Land Trust