Message to the Local Contexts Community

Anally with the timing of Local Contexts community events

I officially started my Fifth Executive Director two months ago, and it has been an exciting time to work with such a vibrant group.

As we look towards a year of exciting new events, we are encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest shown in our initiatives. Through our continued focus on fostering dialogue and collaboration, we aim to create a platform that celebrates and honors the diverse perspectives and experiences of our communities.

In response to growing interest, Local Contexts is focused on bolstering our regional networks with support from institutions that hold these collections to respectfully and ethically work with Indigenous communities. Through partnerships, we are working to develop sustainable non-profit models for Native American and Indigenous research. The program is supported by the Mellon Foundation and features the Lake Michigan Cultural Conservancy, the University of Oklahoma’s American Indian Studies, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

In November, we held a Local Contexts Summit in Wisconsin, where we discussed strategies for supporting Indigenous data sovereignty and sustainability through local consultation and leadership. Following the Summit and film, we will host a virtual discussion on the URI framework for 21st-century Indigenous data sovereignty. The framework is designed to promote Indigenous knowledge, data, and intellectual property rights, and to provide inclusive and equitable access to knowledge.

As we here at Local Contexts look to the year ahead, we have some big goals we are working on. Our primary initiatives include expanding our subscriber base, increasing our partnership network, and showcasing ongoing projects through our newsletter. The Arkansas Archeological Survey and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission are some of our partners who have contributed to our efforts.

As an organization focused on fostering dialogue and collaboration, we are dedicated to fostering ongoing partnerships and working towards a more inclusive and equitable future. We are constantly working on ways to improve the Local Contexts platform and increase our visibility.

We would love to hear from you! Do you have something else you would like to share in the Local Contexts newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

— Stephanie Bunsell, Johnson

Welcoming first Local Contexts Hub subscriber

One of our organization's key goals is to translate into a sustainable approach to support Indigenous data sovereignty. We are grateful to be part of all the wonderful work going on in the new year with our first subscriber highlighted in this newsletter.

The Arkansas Archeological Survey and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission are some of our partners who have contributed to our efforts. We are excited to continue to work with them and other organizations as our first subscribing organization.

As we here at Local Contexts look to the year ahead, we have some big plans and lots of exciting events happening. We will be launching our subscription model, and we have our very first subscriber. We are grateful to be part of all the wonderful work going on in the new year with our first subscriber highlighted in this newsletter.

— Stephanie Bunsell, Johnson

Summit & film premiere

Late last November, we hosted our third Local Contexts Summit in Wisconsin, where we discussed strategies for supporting Indigenous data sovereignty and sustainability through local consultation and leadership.

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Upcoming events

February 2024

February 24 | Convening and Ethnics Program for Native Students, University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK) | Local Contexts Virtual Events

March 2024

March 9 | Local Contexts Virtual Information Session
March 13 | Maine Archeology and Museum Virtual Event Panel on Local Contexts: Sustainability and Indigenous Knowledge Preservation
March 20 | Local Contexts Virtual Hub Demonstration

April 2024

April 2 | Local Contexts Virtual Information Session
April 11–15 | US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network (Tucson, AZ, USA) (US) Virtual Data Sharing Summit & A Conference
April 18 | Local Contexts Virtual Hub Demonstration

Contribute to the newsletter

Are you using Local Contexts? Are you making an effort centered on Indigenous data sovereignty? Do you have something else you would like to share in this Local Contexts newsletter? We would love to hear from you.

— Stephanie Bunsell, Johnson

Local Contexts

As a nonprofit organization, Local Contexts is dedicated to fostering dialogue and collaboration among Indigenous communities, institutions, and scholars to promote Indigenous knowledge, data, and intellectual property rights. Our mission is to support Indigenous data sovereignty and sustainability as a means to address the challenges facing Indigenous communities and ensure their voices are heard.

Learn More

Hub & API updates

The Local Contexts Hub has received a major update in February 14, 2023. Below are highlights from this update:

Label and Notices embedding

Define labels and notices for your own APIs and provide them to those who can use them.

Learn More

New

API authentication

The Mellon Foundation has awarded Local Contexts funds to support our initiatives and expand our reach to more institutions and researchers. The program is supported by the Mellon Foundation and features the Lake Michigan Cultural Conservancy, the University of Oklahoma’s American Indian Studies, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

For more information about the Lake Michigan Cultural Conservancy, visit their website at

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Visit us and find out more about our next event or contact us.