



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release:

Local Contexts Welcomes Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields as First Founding Supporter

Local Contexts has made great strides in its work to create a sustainable platform dedicated to supporting and promoting Indigenous data sovereignty. Over the last six months, Local Contexts has been on the road participating in events, presentations, and discussions; hosted events, working groups, and support sessions; added [community boundary mapping](#) to the Hub platform among other improvements and new features; consolidated operations; launched the [subscriptions program](#); and announced the [Service Provider early adopter program](#).

Today, Local Contexts is pleased to announce the Founding Supporter program. This kickstarter program is dedicated to funding immediate needs during the first year of operations, including building our Help Desk capacity.

First Founding Supporter

Local Contexts is excited to announce the first Founding Supporter, the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, in Indianapolis, Indiana, who have committed to a \$10,000 donation. In addition, the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields will be joining Local Contexts as a subscriber.

“Collaborating with Indigenous communities is more important than ever as a core function of ethical collections stewardship,” said Anne M. Young, the Director of Legal Affairs and

Intellectual Property of the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields. “Through Newfields’ work to integrate the Local Contexts’ Notices and Labels, we are signaling our commitment to advance Indigenous intellectual property rights and to encourage Indigenous data sovereignty within cultural heritage institutions. To signify this commitment, the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields is leading the field through this important Founding Supporter donation and remains grateful for the work of the Local Contexts team.”

Newfields has created an [account](#) on the Local Contexts Hub and is using it to apply Notices to parts of their collection, demonstrating their commitment to working with Indigenous communities in ethical and reciprocal ways.

“We are thankful to Newfields for their support of Local Contexts during our first year of operations,” said Stephany Johnson, Executive Director of Local Contexts. “Their generosity in helping us grow and their partnership in our shared commitment to Indigenous data sovereignty is important and meaningful.”

Join the Campaign

Local Contexts is seeking to raise \$100,000 through the Founding Supporter program.

Founding Supporters are organizations who, in addition to their annual subscription or service provider fee, are able to support Local Contexts during the start-up phase with an additional donation of at least \$5,000 or a long-term loan of at least \$50,000.

The goal for these funds is to establish organizational infrastructure for a dedicated Help Desk function to allow the organization to meet the ongoing Hub user support needs of Indigenous communities, institutions, and researchers.

To learn more, please contact Local Contexts at info@localcontexts.org.

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About Newfields: Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve, and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Tobias Theater, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in

Columbus, Indiana—one of the nation’s most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information, visit [DiscoverNewfields.org](https://discovernewfields.org).

About Local Contexts: Local Contexts is a non-profit organization that supports Indigenous communities with tools that can reassert cultural authority in heritage collections and data. The primary objectives of Local Contexts are to enhance and legitimize locally based decision-making and Indigenous governance frameworks for determining ownership, access, and culturally appropriate conditions for sharing historical, contemporary, and future collections of cultural heritage and Indigenous data. The Local Contexts Hub began development in 2019 as a way to enable the customization of Labels and the application of Notices directly to Indigenous data and collections. The Hub works in tandem with already existing information/collections management systems and tools. The Hub generates Labels and Notices (with permanent identifiers) so these can be added to already existing catalog and collections management systems. For more information, please visit <https://localcontexts.org/>.