

Local Contexts is a global initiative that supports Indigenous communities with tools to reassert cultural authority in collections and data.

Local Contexts supports locally based decision-making and Indigenous governance frameworks for determining ownership, access, and culturally appropriate conditions for sharing historical, contemporary, and future collections of intellectual and cultural property, cultural heritage, environmental data, and genetic resources.

Indigenous and local communities can reinforce rights with the **Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Biocultural (BC) Labels**. The **Engagement, Disclosure, and Collections Care Notices** are a strategy for institutions, organizations, and researchers to disclose Indigenous interests and rights.



Examples of the Local Contexts Label and Notice icons, left to right: TK Attribution Label, BC Consent Verified Label, Open to Collaborate Notice, and Caring Notice.

The Labels and Notices are extra-legal, educational strategies focused on provenance, protocols, and permissions that connect people and places to knowledge and data. Together, the Labels and Notices function to advance aspirations for Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous innovation.

What can I do with Local Contexts?

Indigenous and local communities can use the **Local Contexts Labels** on their collections, data, and belongings. Using the Labels, communities can add information about access, use, and circulation that are consistent with existing community rules, governance, and protocols.

The Labels provide a practical application of the **CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance**. By establishing Indigenous cultural authority, the Labels clarify Indigenous and local community rights, interests, and relationships to collections and/or data.

Researchers and institutions use the **Local Contexts Notices** to support the recognition of Indigenous rights and interests in collections and data. The Notices activate researcher and institutional responsibility to identify potential Indigenous rights and interests in historical and future collections, also operationalizing the CARE Principles.

How did Local Contexts start?

Local Contexts began in 2010 from the expressed needs of Indigenous and local organizations wanting a practical method to deal with the range of intellectual property issues that arise in relation to managing cultural heritage materials. The TK Labels have been developed over the past 15 years through sustained partnership, iteration, and testing within Indigenous communities across multiple countries. The Notices and BC Labels have been in development since 2019.

Who is behind the Local Contexts organization?

To align with our mission and values, Local Contexts was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2022 under the laws and jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation and is recognized as a 501(c)3 non-profit entity with the US Internal Revenue Service.

Local Contexts is governed by an Indigenous-led Council. The Council is responsible for the strategic framework that ensures the organization's activities reflect its values and drive its mission. Currently, the Council includes founders of Local Contexts as Charter Members, as well as invited community members.

The Local Contexts team is made of Indigenous and allied individuals who work globally on tech development, design, operations, and outreach.

Where can I find more information?

For resources and contact information: www.localcontexts.org

Attend one of our upcoming monthly introductory information sessions:

www.localcontexts.org/events/info-and-hub-demo-sessions

Join a Working Group or Network: www.localcontexts.org/network-interest

For the latest updates: See our [blog](#), follow [@LocalContexts](#) (Instagram, Twitter/X, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Vimeo) and [@LocalContextsOrg](#) (Facebook), and sign-up for our seasonal [newsletter](#)