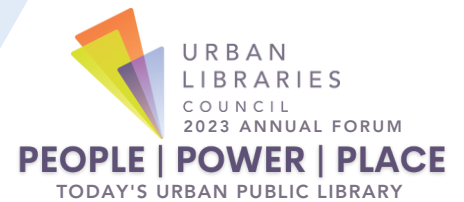


# LAND RECOGNITION



Muckleshoot Land Recognition Ceremony  
October 26, 2023

"We (Indigenous People) work diligently to make our voices heard, tell our stories and histories, advocate for accurate representation, and right the wrongs that have been done."

"The land we are standing on is part of our traditional village area of d'zid'əlalíč, which means "the shaking ground place". Although the landscape looks different due to the historical displacement of our People, we maintain a strong connection with this land and the waters that surround it. Just down the street for example, in Elliott Bay, is where we regularly practice our canoe culture, where we host gatherings, fish, share songs and good words with each other. These lands and waters right here are good medicine for our People."

"It's important to understand that land acknowledgments have been a traditional protocol in Indigenous communities since time immemorial. This is not a new concept. This protocol shows respect to whose lands we are guests on, identifies kinships and community ties, and gives respect to the lands and waters directly. So, to help us be respectful guests on this land today, I will honor these lands with an acknowledgment in its original language, Lushootseed."

"I encourage you to reach out to tribal communities, tribal colleges, and find ways to collaborate. Because at the end of the day, we are all stronger when we are working together."

Elise Bill-Gerrish  
Muckleshoot Language Caretaker,  
Native Education Specialist