Indigenous Perspectives on Learning and Engagement

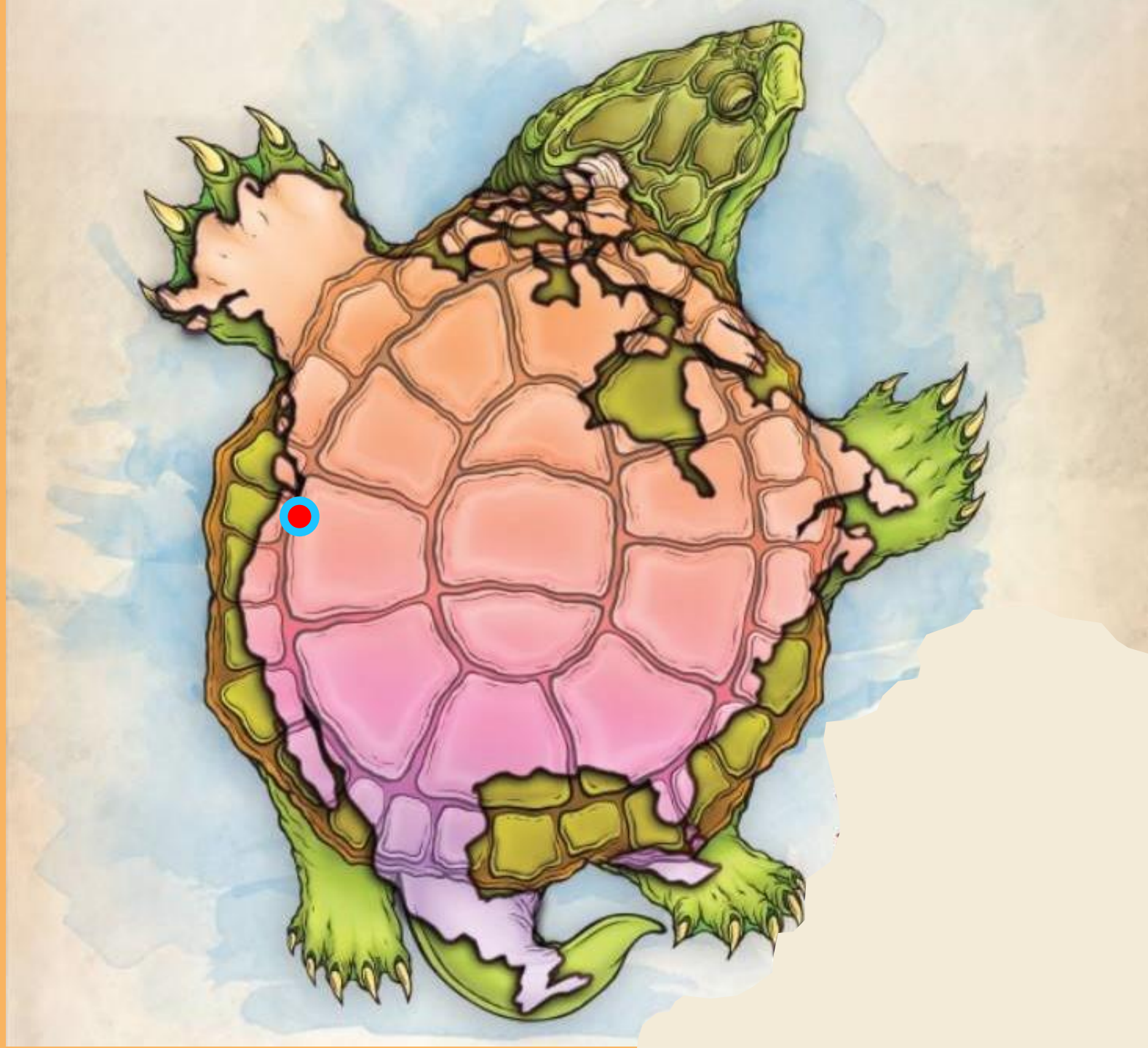
What we can all learn

Land Acknowledgement

spuyaləpabš (Puyallup)

Turtle Island

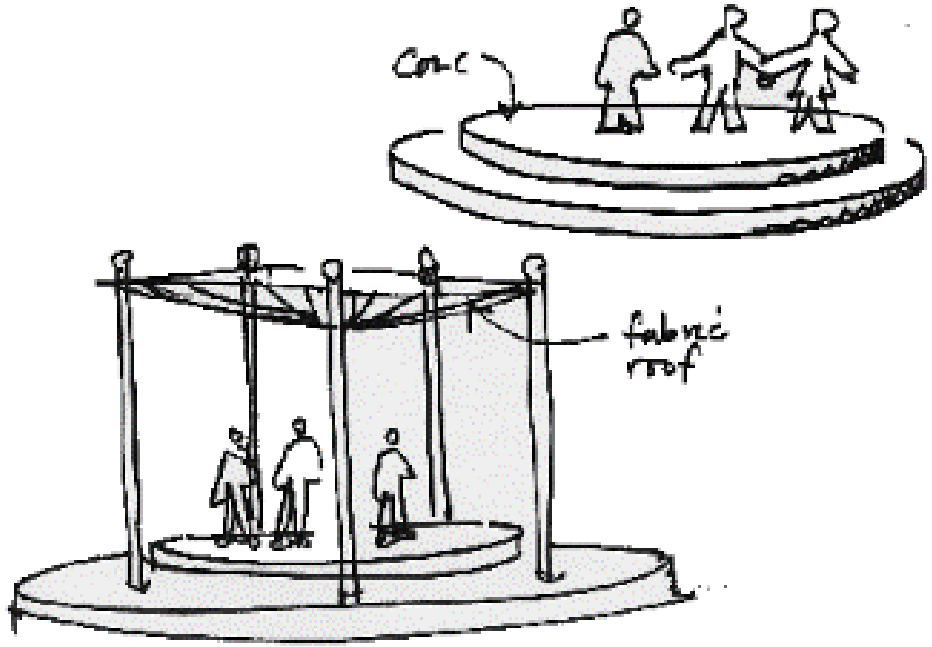
www.native-lands.ca

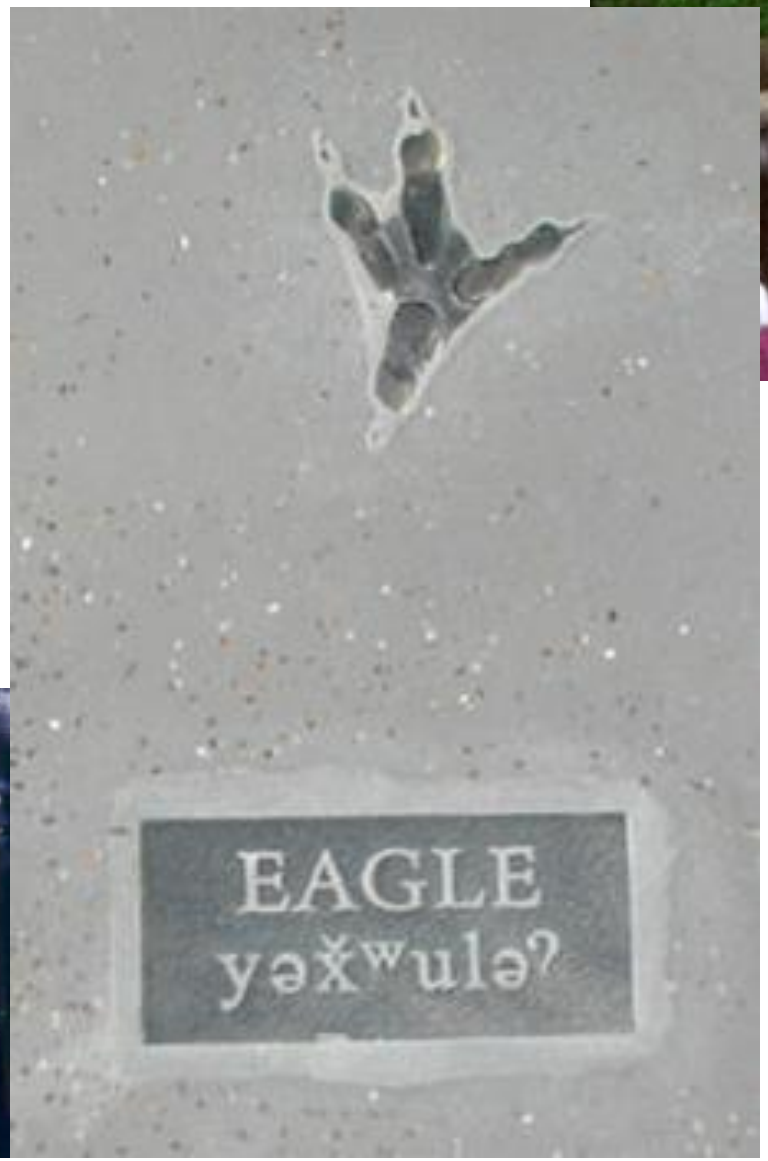


Suzanne Donaldson
Bald Eagle Woman

Cultural Engagement Consultant
Project Management Support
Film/TV Cultural Consultant
Qualitative Research
Strategic Advisor

LEARNING FROM ELDERS
&
LEARNING FROM PEERS





Kas Kinkead

Kas Kinkead

Wanda Dalla Costa, AIA, FRAIC, LEED A.P.

- Architect (www.tawarc.com)
- Institute Professor (ASU)
- Director, Indigenous Design Collaborative (ASU)

Ross Parker

Introduction

Context
Design in Place
New Perspectives – Role Playing

Resources

Suzanne Donaldson
Bald Eagle Woman
Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Donaldson Consulting LLC

Wanda Dalla Costa AIA FRAIC
Saddle Lake First Nation
Tawaw Architectural Collective

Kas Kinkead FASLA
Osborn Consulting

Ross Parker AIA ALEP
BCRA

Learning Objectives:

1. Develop greater awareness of **Indigenous perspectives** on relationships, time, place, and our role in the natural environment.

2. Learn how the **Indigenous cultural and educational practices** can help us develop and improve collaborative, evidence-based, and physically and culturally contextual design processes and outcomes.

3. Learn how to use specific **tools and activities** to incorporate Indigenous perspectives and practices into the planning and design of learning environments.

4. Learn how we can design and build learning environments to support **best learning practices outdoors** - in addition to or instead of the now-traditional indoor environments.

Goals:

Two-eyed seeing: Indigenous & Western

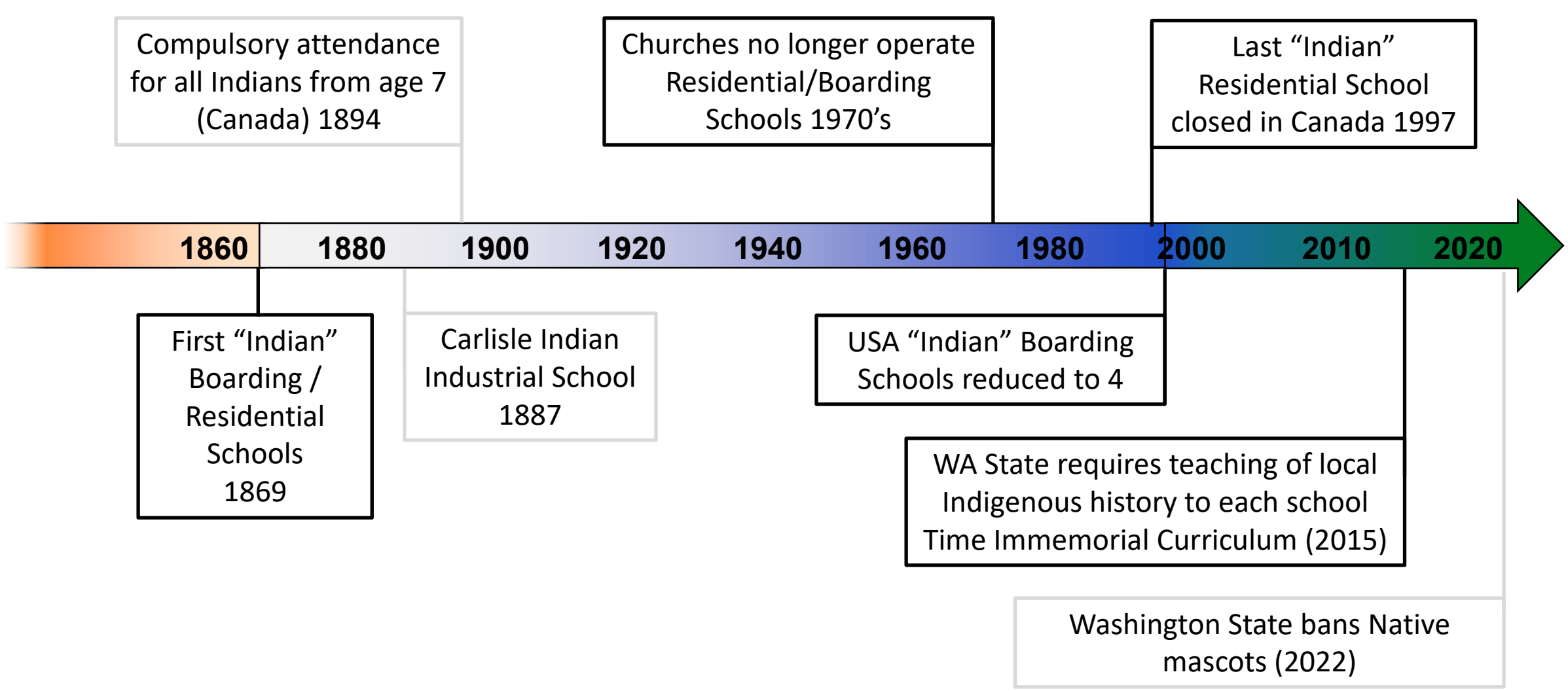
The right questions: Listen

Engage: Stakeholders through new perspectives.

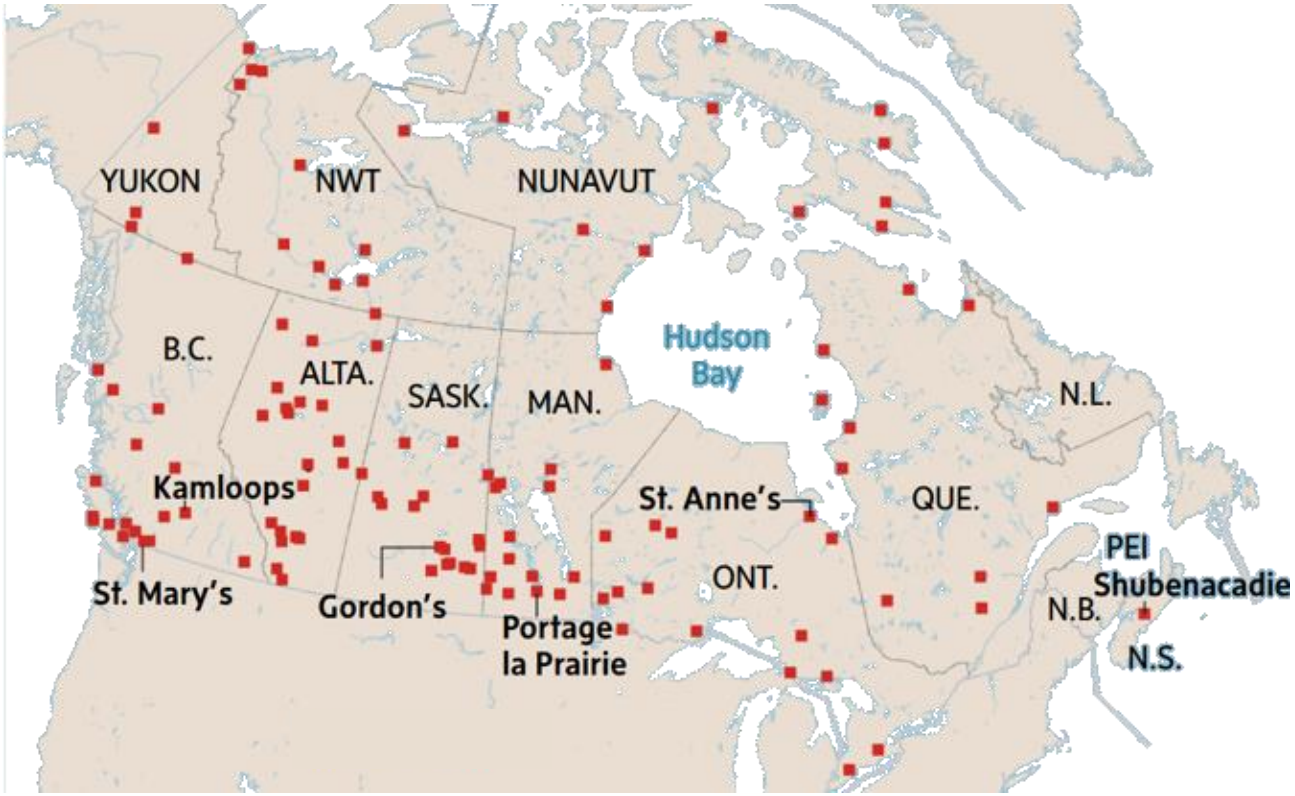
Local Indigenous Communities

Indigenous consultants, designers, builders and artists – effectively and with authenticity.

Residential / Boarding Schools Timeline



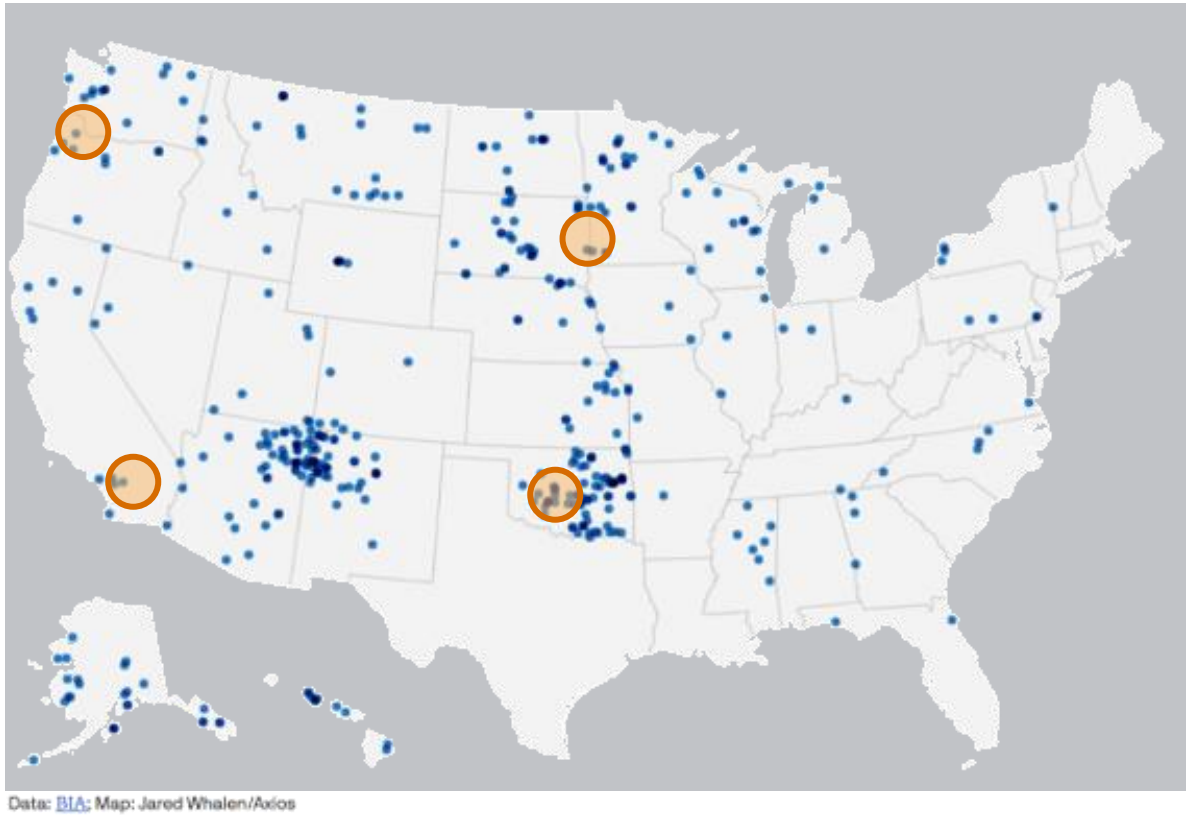
Residential / Boarding Schools



130+ in Canada

Chemawa Indian School

Flandreau Indian School

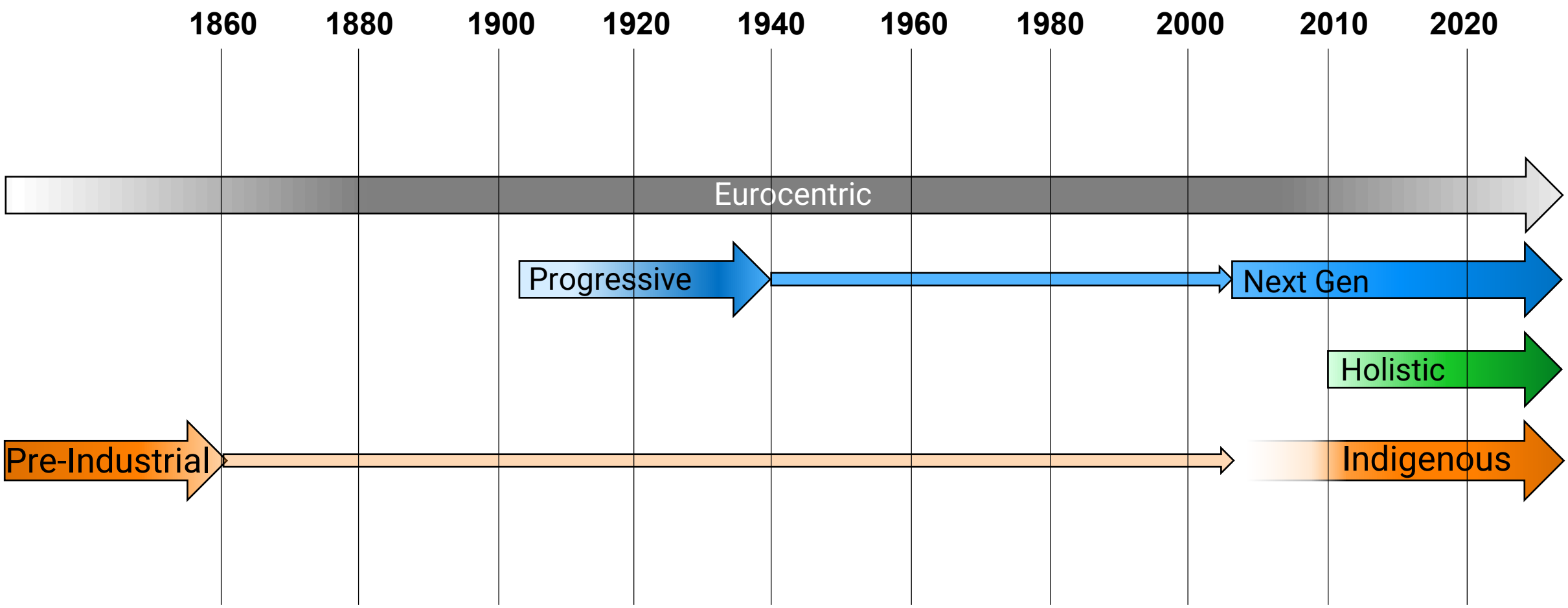


Sherman Indian School

Riverside Indian School

526+ in USA

Educational Models Timeline



Pre-Industrial + Indigenous

(since time immemorial)

Skills based
Collaboration
Communication
Creativity
Critical Thinking
Integrated
Community/Citizenship
Experiential
Natural Connections
Culture

Eurocentric

Knowledge Based
Rote Learning
Separate Disciplines

Eurocentric

Knowledge Based
Rote Learning
Separate Disciplines

Progressive

+

21st century

Skills based

Collaboration

Communication

Creativity

Critical Thinking

Integrated

Community/Citizenship

Experiential

Current

Holistic

Skills based
Collaboration
Communication
Creativity
Critical Thinking
Integrated
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Natural Connections
Culture

Indigenous + Pre-Industrial

(since time immemorial)

Skills based

Collaboration

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Community/Citizenship

Experiential

Natural Connections

Culture

Current

Holistic

Indigenous + Pre-Industrial

(since time immemorial)

Current

Holistic

Whole child

Holistic / integrated

Relationship-based

Land-based

Whole child

Separate / distinct

Individual-based

Reaching outside

Two-Eyed Seeing

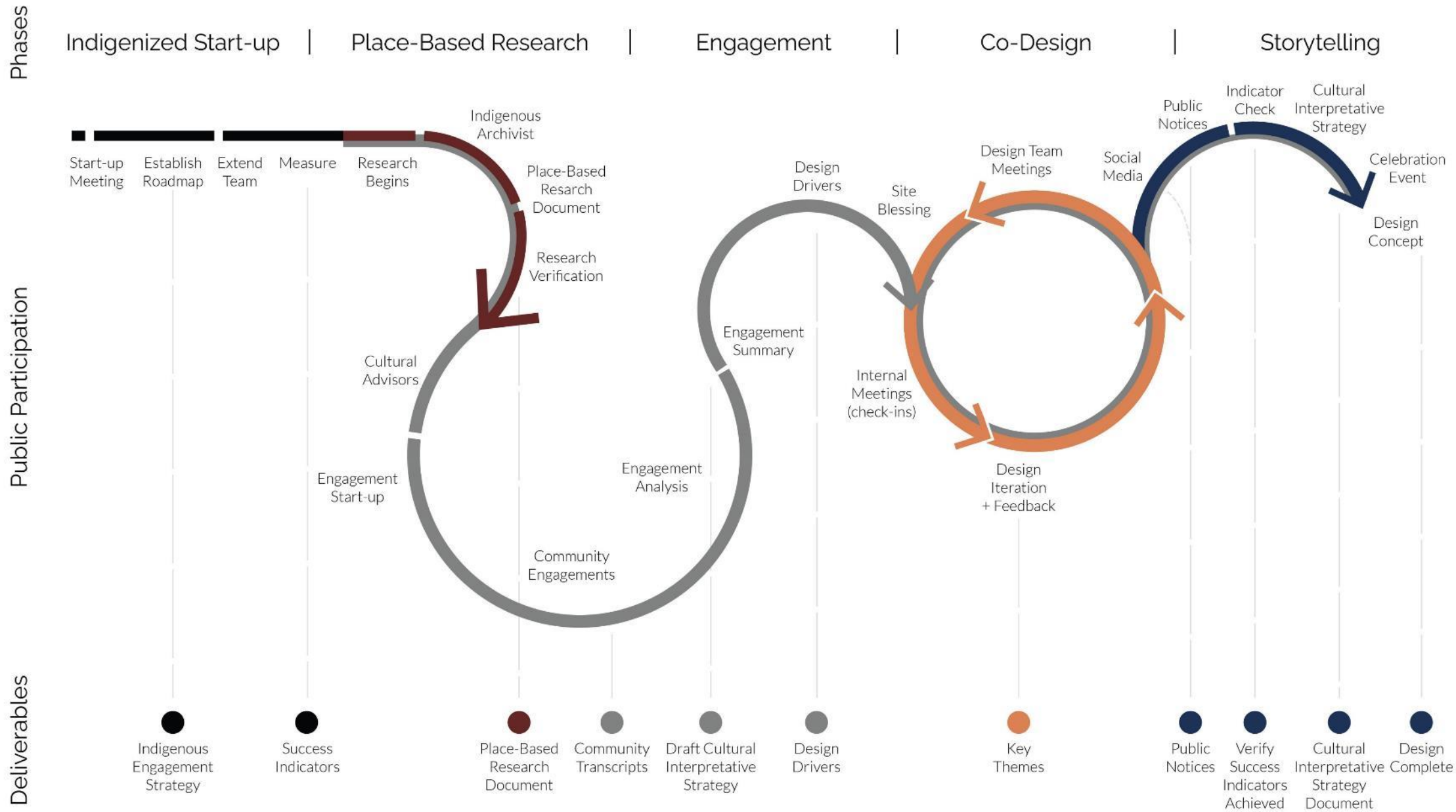
‘the gift of multiple perspectives’

to learning to see from one eye with the *strengths* of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the *strengths* of Western knowledges and ways of knowing, and to using both these eyes together, for the benefit of all.

Elder Albert Marshal (Moose Clan of the Mi'kmaw Nation, Eskasoni First Nation)

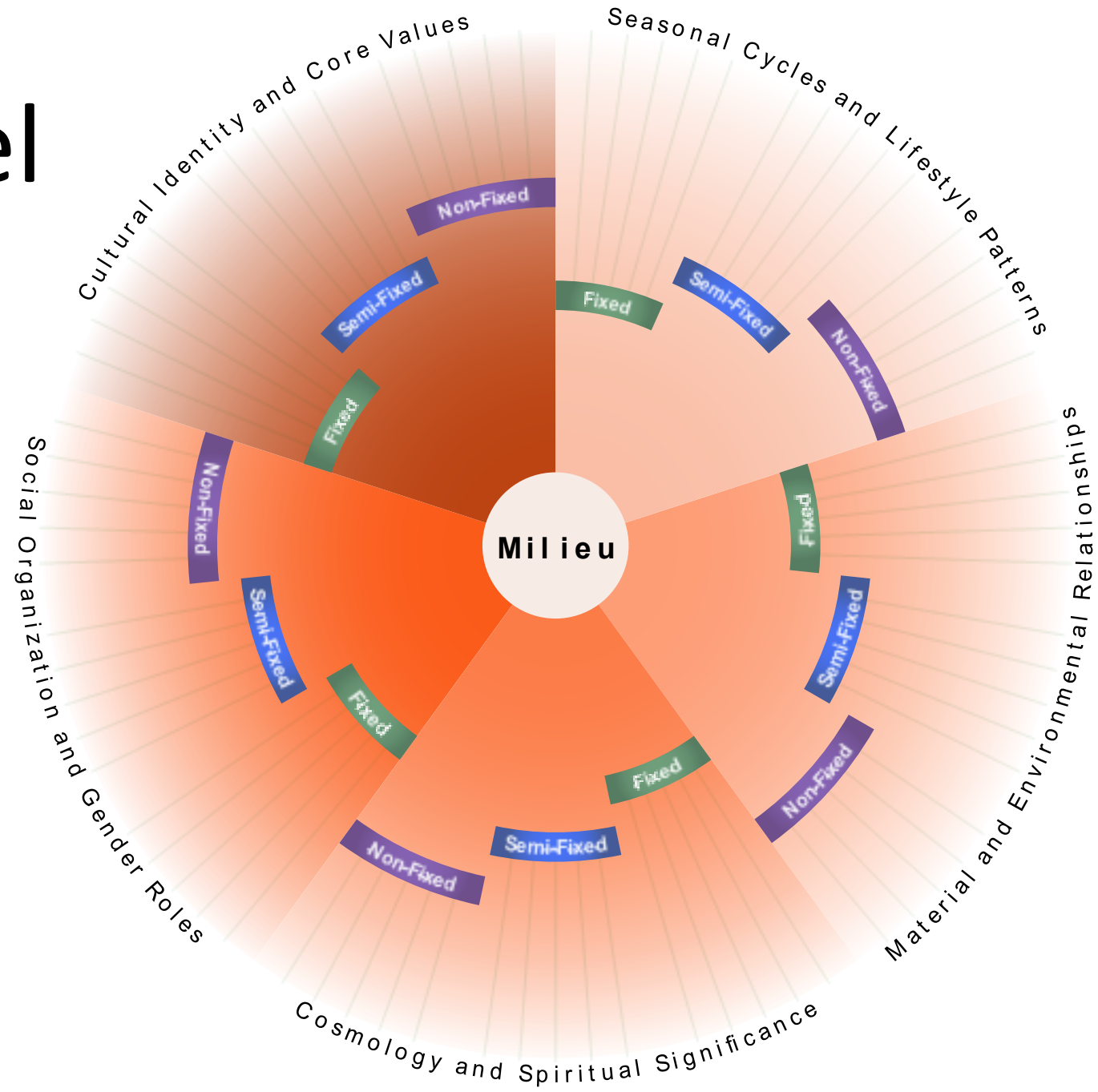
Indigenous PlaceKeeping Framework™

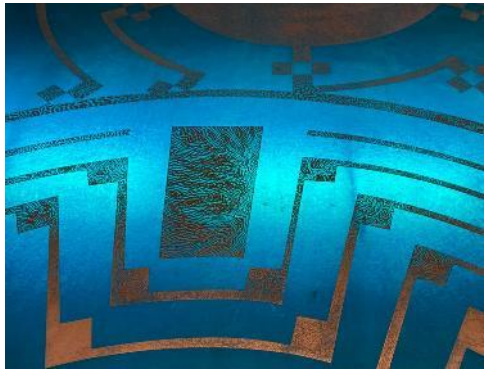
TAW
TAWAW ARCHITECTURE COLLECTIVE INC.

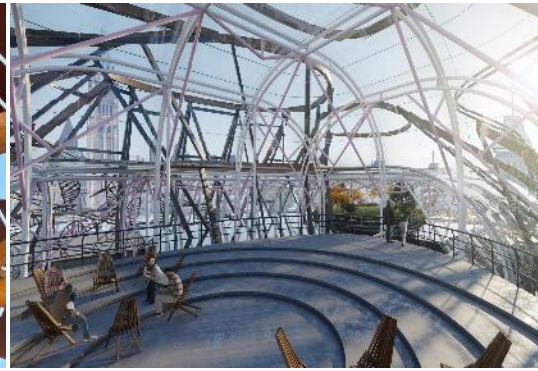


Indigenous Model of Design

- Cosmology and Spirituality
- Community and Identity
- Land and Nature Relationships
- Narrative and Storytelling
- Process and Protocol (Ethical Design)

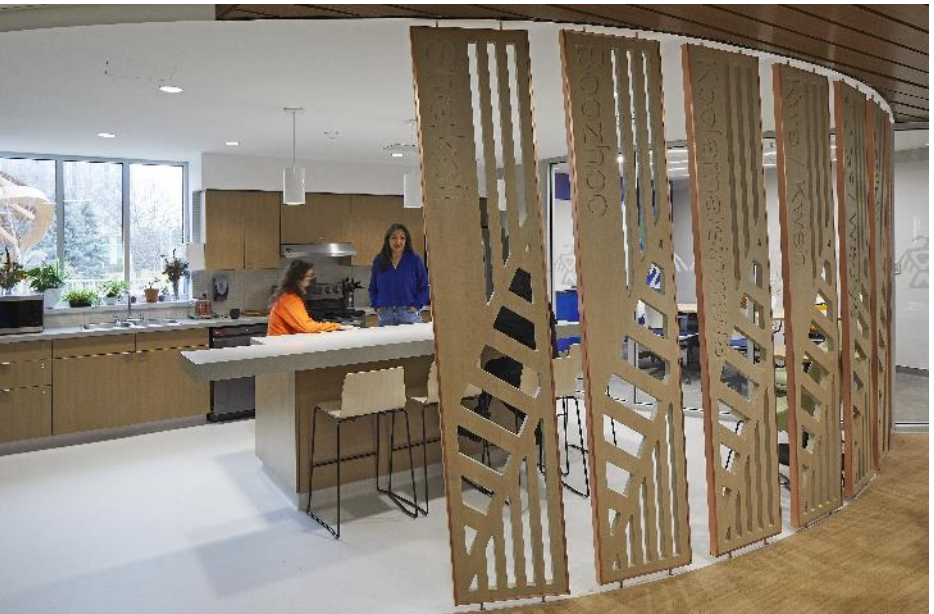






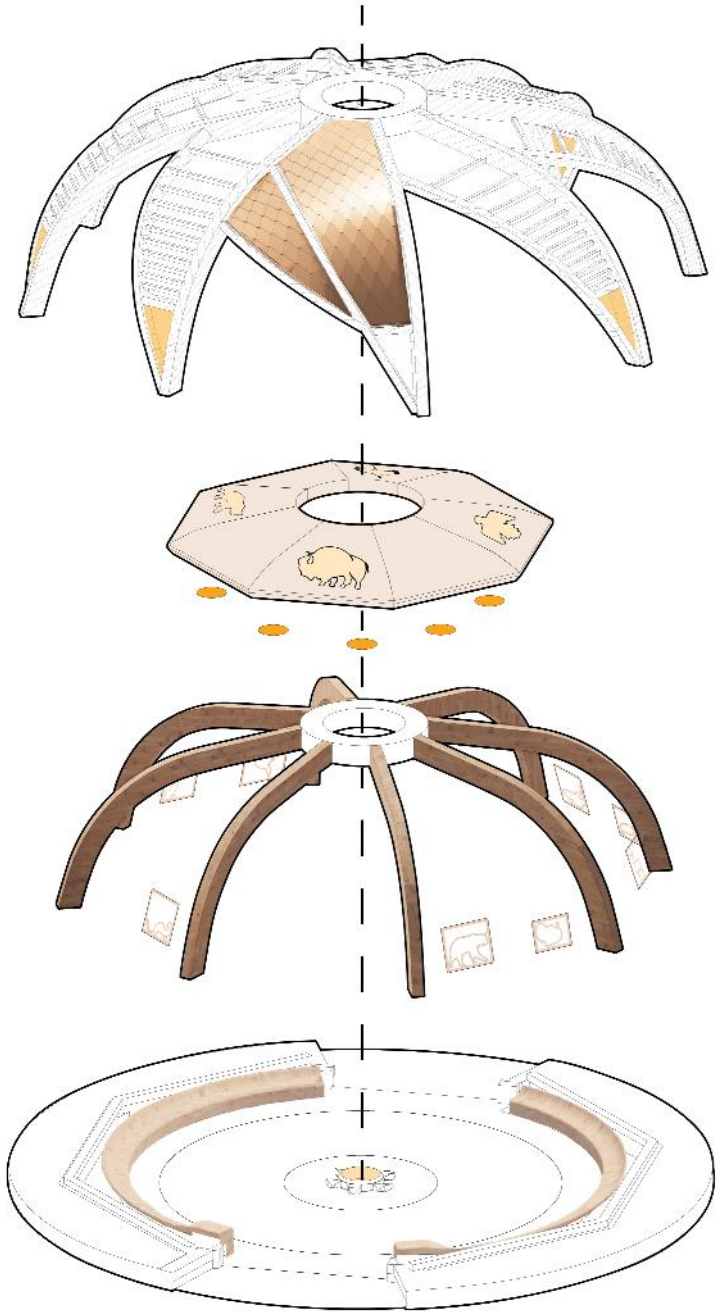
okī dānit ada umbā-wathtich tawnshi kwaï kwe tânisi waachiyaa waachiye tānisi tānisi qey kuei koolamalsi waachiya Bous-hoū ānīn kwe' aanlin Hadïh dåné t'é Bun Dad Hoonzoo dahooja gweta?aghunt'i edlánet'é masì dénht'ā? danachea nezu dágóts'e negha dágóht'e chachōlon hoti'e wa-é ák-wé drin gwiinzii dännch'e? déht'ā nänjit dähonch'e? do'eent'aa? wotziye umbā-wathtich háu aba washdad háu háu aangai tunngahugit tunngasugit tunngahugit Ya'wc' Yaù Gilakas'la ƛuɬ ʔii kuu ʔaɬ ƛuɬaʔƛs dačoo ʔałq ʔeyicx nit amhl wilawina? Aama hiihlukw ´niit n'dawil lawaan sgę:nǫ:ʔ shé:kon nyaweñha Sgănoñh cwe'n she:kóli' nyawëh Sgënö' kwe ya tis inacw ʔi mot tatᵊ kʷʊnome ʔaʔʃɛčχʷot kwéleches éy swayel Uy' skweyul Kalhwá7acw way xast sxəlxált lY CECIL ʔiy te kwiykwiy Weyt-k Hauthl Sqwyl Tun Up ʔéx kʷ n kiʔsuʔk wiɬnam Sing.ng.aay l'aa Hello Bonjour

Niitsitapi Learning Center, Calgary, AB



Westeren University Indigenous Student Centre, London, ON

Lambton College, Indigenous Outdoor Space, Sarnia, ON



Cultural Layers

- Seven Grandfather Teachings
- Copper Petal
- Cardinal Constellations
- Moon Ring
- Ten Clan Representation
- Ceremonial Fire Pit

Traditional Knowledge:

handed down, based on stories and experiences of a people through time

Empirical Knowledge:

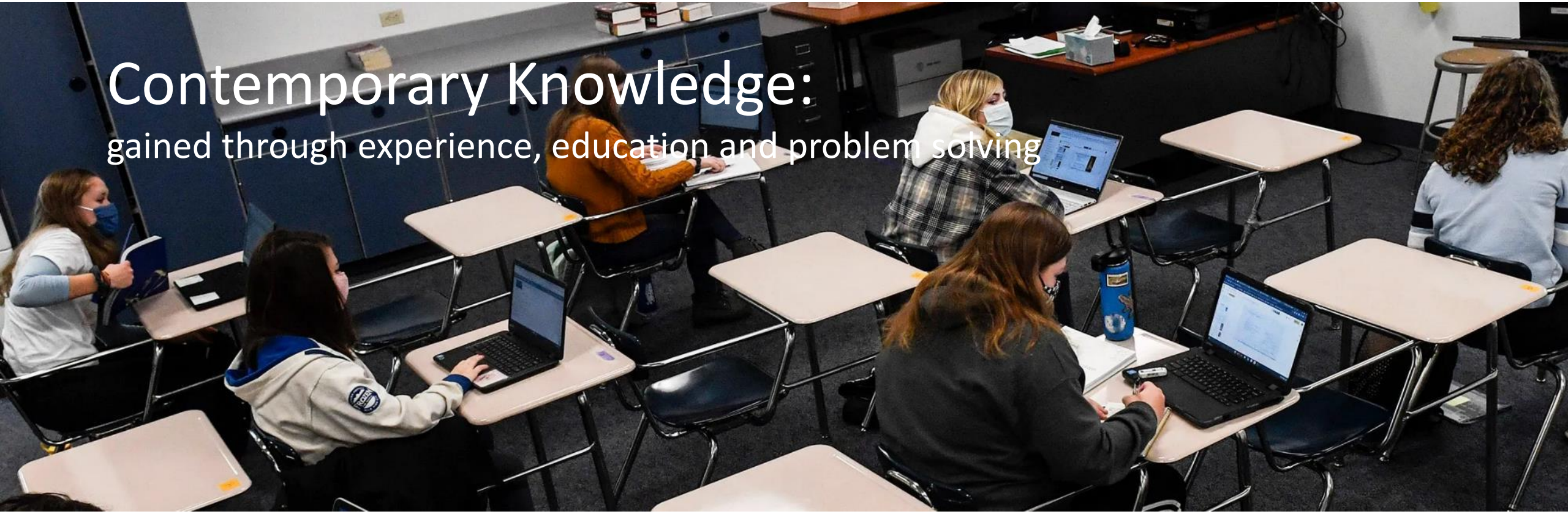
gained through careful observation and practice over time

Revealed Knowledge:

gained through vision, ritual and ceremony

Contemporary Knowledge:

gained through experience, education and problem solving



Design in Place

Design in Place

CHARACTER
CRITTERS

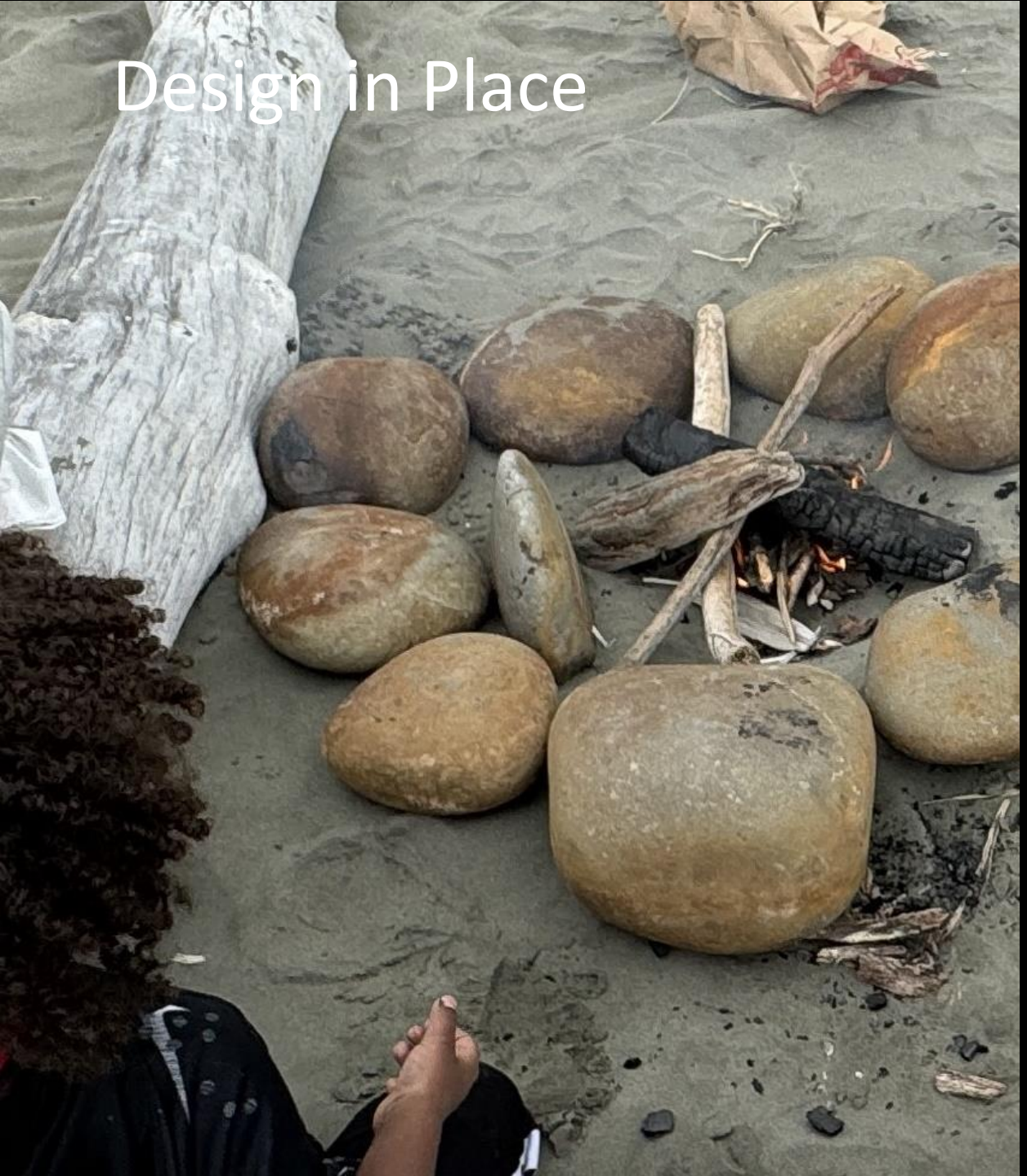
PROMPT
WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

CHARACTER
CHITWHIN

Design in Place

Design in Place

Design in Place



Changing Perspective
Role Playing

Select a card

Complete the story

- Free thinking
- Design, describe, discuss

Report out

- What is the one thing you have experienced or heard here that you will apply to your current or next project?

What we can all learn

Two-eyed seeing

Questions

- which ones
- how to ask

Engage

- authentic, unscripted, generational, nature-based
- knowledge: traditional, empirical, revealed, contemporary
- storytelling

Indigenous Design Resources:

TAWAW ARCHITECTURE COLLECTIVE INC.
www.tawarc.com

DONALDSON CONSULTING, LLC
donaldsonconsultingllc.com

Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Partnering with Tribes Native Education

Indigenous Education Institute
indigenouseducation.org/

First Nation School Board
www.fnsb.ca/

Qwustenuxun Consulting
www.qwustenuxun.com

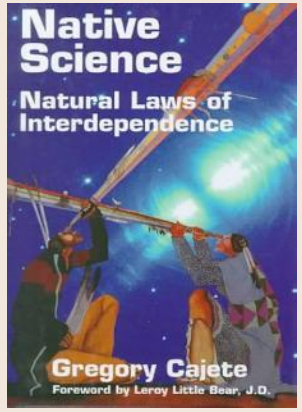
Implementing Indigenous Thinking:

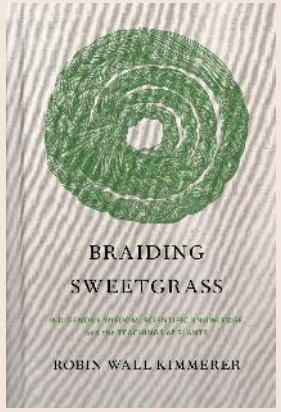
COCONUT THINKING
COCONUT THINKING
LEARNING THAT REGENERATES LIFE IN THE PLACES WE BELONG
coconut-thinking.com/

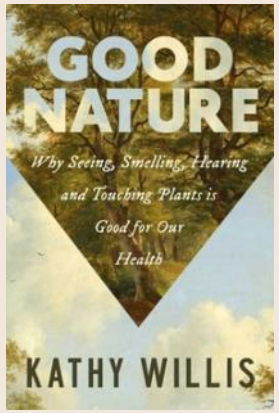
green school
www.greenschool.org/

www.nps.gov/subjects/tek/description.htm

Reading / Viewing:







Scientific American: What Conservation Efforts Can Learn from Indigenous Communities

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