

Emory University

Indigenous Language Path Engagement Report

October 27–28, 2022

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Listening Session Agenda

Land Acknowledgement:

Emory University acknowledges the Muscogee (Creek) people who lived, worked, produced knowledge on, and nurtured the land where Emory's Oxford and Atlanta campuses are now located. In 1821, fifteen years before Emory's founding, the Muscogee were forced to relinquish this land. We recognize the sustained oppression, land dispossession, and involuntary removals of the Muscogee and Cherokee peoples from Georgia and the southeastern United States. Emory seeks to honor the Muscogee Nation and other Indigenous caretakers of this land by humbly seeking knowledge of their histories and committing to a respectful stewardship of the land.

Welcome:

- Agenda
- Agreements
- Purpose

Purpose:

The purpose of the Indigenous Language Path listening sessions is to present findings from the April 2022 campus engagement and to refine and discuss them with the Emory community and the Muscogee Nation, in particular soliciting insights about where the path should be visible, and what Emory and the Muscogee community members should see at those locations.

Indigenous Language Path Timeline:

- Before 2020: Over the years, there have been several initiatives to learn about the history of the land and its people. Try to make Emory aware of this history in the present moment.
- 2020: Emory's new president Gregory L. Fenves restarted a Task Force to examine stories of under-represented communities and to learn about Emory's history.
 - o Task Force recommended a Land Acknowledgment statement
 - o Task Force recommended an Indigenous Language Path (ILP)
- The ILP is a concept to create physical reminders and rituals on both campuses regarding the history and current relationship(s) with the Muscogee Nation
 - o From the start, the whole process has involved building relationship(s) with Muscogee with hopes for a more positive future
 - o In addition to weekly meetings, readings, and presentations, 17 Emory community members were invited to visit the Muscogee Nation in Oklahoma in March 2022
 - o Following that visit, KAI led a first engagement session for the Emory community
 - o The purpose of this session is to bring together the Emory community and the Muscogee Nation to see current concepts, where we are and what should change

Indigenous Language Path Vision:

- As developed by the ILP Working Group:

The Indigenous Language Path at Emory University provides a physical and virtual orientation to the landscape of Emory's campuses through Muscogee history, culture, and language, and an infrastructure to support the movement to keep the Muscogee language alive through efforts to teach and learn the first language of this land.

We align ourselves with the work of the College of the Muscogee Nation to preserve language and culture. We seek to assimilate Emory University into Muscogee knowledge and pedagogy, in a way that encompasses Muscogee values, to honor the Indigenous language and culture of this land.

This includes learning about and fully acknowledging the past and continuing education on Muscogee culture and language—can be a physical path and a virtual path and a metaphorical path—we want this to relationship to continue.

Video: Emory Learning Journey to Oklahoma

Indigenous Language Path Themes

- Honor Muscogee Nation
- Build relationships through the land
- Plan for permanency

Comments on Muscogee Worldview

- o Rev. and Mekko Chebon Kernell (all sessions)
- o Muscogee Nation Second Chief Del Beaver (Atlanta student session)
- o College of the Muscogee Nation President Monte Randall (Atlanta student session)

Examples of Related University Projects and Proposed Concepts

Small Group Discussions

Closing

Oxford Campus:

Students, Faculty, and Staff Dinner Listening Session

Thursday, October 27, 2022, 5:30-7:30 pm, Dean's Dining Room, Oxford Campus

Attendance:

- Emory and Muscogee Nation: 37 in person, 13 zoom; 50 people

Zoom Attendance and Slides:

- [EU Listening-Session Zoom - Google Slides](#)

Comments on Muscogee Worldview:

- Rev. and Mekko Chebon Kernell, Muscogee Emissary

"It's fourteen months after answering an email to be a part of the Emory ILP. Called to come and share with communities, partners, and for Muscogee to come back to the very near birthplace of our people. Starting to relearn what the birthplace of Muscogee people means to us now. Over time and over history what is recognized internally in the Muscogee community "is that for so many decades and generations we have been taken from the origins of our people, the birthplaces we see and the story behind them, the plants we historically used, all these things did not originate in Oklahoma. I would welcome you to Oklahoma, but these are not my homelands." For us as Muscogee it is my understanding, we have a right to know what our origins are. Have a right to know how many thousands of years our ancestors lived and thrived on these lands; our family was laid to rest on these lands. Many ancestors are still misplaced and are not laid to rest. This country is still in diapers compared to our people. We have the right to come back to do what we see fit on our lands."

"For some they do not want to come back but for others they want to come back and learn the history. We lived here for so long and did not harm the Earth -- in the past 300 years the harm that has been done—we remind ourselves even what we see is only a small fraction of what was once was. I stand here today for all of us because where to do we go know with this understanding of dispossession? My hope is that the words that we shared in working group a few weeks ago is that somehow in the mix of academy's pursuits, somehow through our interactions, and the video we just heard, we can expand our academic locations and can open to it up to Indigenous and all people. There is no one way of existence."

"Today we are in a moment of trying to recover. Elders would say all the things you do, you are passing on to generations that are yet to come. Everything that we do, we are mindful, prayerful, and hopeful that one day we will pass this knowledge onto new generations. Our people inhabited this entire area all the way to the state of Alabama and to Florida. We came from these territories and were pushed south before we were able to recreate our stories, embrace our values, our respect for this Earth. Remembering our place, not just in life but our place in this country. We have all to come back to the place on where we walk on this earth. Muscogee have been displaced from understanding mother nature, the ground we have walked on. Everything she provides to us as a mother, all the necessities of life. This mother has been faithful to us and have been given to everyone here. As a human species we have been the ones who forgot, we have been the one selling lands and gaining profit. Today as

indigenous we must come back. We are getting to the point where the lungs of this earth mother are being put in jeopardy because we are tearing down so much. Today we have to realize the sacred nature energy and the sacred energy that is in us. My hope is whatever Emory does it will be one that lives in harmony with the voices of indigenous peoples.”

Small Group Discussions:

1: What is missing from or what would you like to add to these concepts?

- Portraits of people. This allows them to resonate
- Muscogee in current times, braided timelines
- Muscogee youth to help shape the concepts
- Develop an app. to go along with teaching concepts
- Whatever capacity for Emory to have portraits of Muscogee people. Adds substantial value to the story
- Muscogee in current times – meaning all are beautiful concepts is there a way to bring in how Muscogee continue to thrive in current time
- Leading in ways that Muscogee youth can shape the places and shape some of the concepts
- History course
- Trips to OK
- Provided a course of the history of Muscogee
- Connection to people in Oklahoma a travel course to get Emory students to visit
- Entire campus should look like the farm (stewardship of the land, the farm is trying (not perfect)
- Our choices should put us back in the circle of nature
- All of the campus covered with native plants
- Need a way to bring Muscogee people to campus
- Connection to and buy in from the community surrounding the campuses (because that was Muscogee land as well)
- Native foods – learning can happen in the dining halls
- Connection to support from surrounding community not just the campus
 - o How is the community going to be connected to this
- Library resources medicine, plants and labeling to learn from connections to the land
- Use farm to create space to learn about plants
- Collaborative exchanges between communities’ spaces and Oxford such as Oxford house to learn
- Collaboratives exchanges between communities
- Lot of thoughts about how to learn about plants and the uses of plants in the Muscogee culture
- Created spaces at Oxford such as the farm and the science center using these places to learn from
- Library resources to support the learning
- Look at Middlebury work - any inspiration from their progress?
- How much input from Muscogee delegation on proposed concepts?
 - o All generated from Emory so far, but some of them really resonate with things Muscogee people have said, and I hope you heard that in Chebon’s remarks— plants, a place to reconnect and gather
- Housing availability year-round to open the door to Muscogee partners
 - o Seek input on this from delegation - what would make a space inclusive
 - o Multiple spaces - one just for Muscogee and one to facilitate exchange/learning

- Student and faculty engagement (connecting to Indigenous communities locally)
- Help local teachers; training on Indigenous knowledges so it can be transferred to the classroom (particularly Muscogee (Creek) history)
- Invite local Indigenous leaders to visit the classroom/experience the education experience at Emory campus
- How do each of these potential spaces/locations be administered? Who will be taking responsibility about these spaces? The Muscogee nation? Emory administrators?
- Use Muscogee (Creek) language for signs (for example, words for cafeteria, bathroom, library, etc.) in Muscogee language. Or name buildings or places after Muscogee historical figures?
- A monument where there is a lot of foot traffic so people can see it and be exposed to it. Near the cafeteria?

2 and 3: Which locations on campus do you imagine these kinds of landmarks? What physical form do these concepts take on our landscape?

- Designated space for Muscogee in and out
- Cardinal directions on campus
- Cardinal directions on campus
- Q3 Description:
 - o Lawn space for prayer or have a stomp dance celebration (no steps required)
 - o Designated space – “go to that Muscogee circle”
 - o Inside and outside for fellowship
 - o Space can be on the east side of campus, welcome in through that direction
 - o User friendly space
 - o Covered space for elders with canopy with signage to explain space
- To create a designated space, acknowledge Muscogee. A user-friendly place that Muscogee can use when they are here. Signage and explanations for the non-Muscogee
- Add tribal direction signage – which way are we going now instead of waiting for the sun to go down. Maybe there was a time today we wanted to pray but did not know what direction it was
- Space on each campus where benches could be put so Muscogee can come and sit, have a gathering. A place where with full directions for people to me
- Dining Hall – Exhibit multimodal (maybe student center)
- Farm Muscogee employees
- Library – contextualized
- Exhibit multimodal like at the Civil Rights Center interactive
- Agricultural/natural resources grads from CMN to farm
- Dining hall or library because they are very central
- The farm – specifically incorporating Muscogee farming practices. Have Muscogee come visit and education practices
- Exhibits that could be more on campus – the Civil rights center and how they have very interactive exhibits
- Contemplative space/communal space
- Native garden (whole campus is the garden)
- Indigenous plant knowledge and medicine
- Reserve a special place that is off campus that Muscogee people can visit
- Add online force
- Replace Dooley statue on ALT campus
- Plant hickory trees for next generation of Muscogee people

- For Muscogee people secluded place for ceremony Muscogee to carve
- High traffic locations (including indoors)
- House near the science center for dedicated space to visit and private needs renovation
- Being here on this campus and walking in the forest looking at the tall trees, do not see these trees a lot of Hickory that grows here, we utilize hickory in some practices. I want to come here and utilize hickory and make something of it
 - o As a Muscogee this is just for me, the things I want to come here and utilize. Take the Hickory wood it is not to be on display for everyone. The right to come back here and do these things that do not have to be on display. Some of these things need to be just for Muscogee people and away from everyone else.
 - o How would it feel for someone to go where our creation story is and to do something there rather than where we are transplanted. Go back to the source the real source that we come from is different and hard to put words to. When you go to the source that is where the knowledge lives.
- Muscogee Creek Road—house near preserved land
- Integrate language path locations into sustainability and environmental impact plans at the university
 - o Senate Committee on the Environment - forming a working group about campus forests - will reach out to language path working group
- Q3 Description:
 - o Replacing Dooley sculpture—removing markers that are harmful is synergistic with adding markers that are helpful
 - o Focused very much on using Emory’s space and understanding how that looks like. Having a space not for just Muscogee and students but for Muscogee community members to come to. There should be a way for people to come here free of charge and in a respectful manner.
 - o The Arbor equity statue – replacing that and updating it with history
- A monument/statue describing the Muscogee in front of the oldest building on campus (Phi Gamma Hall)

Atlanta Campus:

Faculty and Staff Breakfast Listening Session

Friday, October 28, 2002, 10:00-11:30 am, Convocation Hall

Attendance:

- Emory and Muscogee Nation: 86 in person, 40 zoom; 126 people

Zoom Attendance and Slides:

- [Emory Atlanta Zoom Participants Fac/Staff Day 2 - Google Slides](#)

Comments on Muscogee Worldview:

- Rev. and Mekko Chebon Kernell, Muscogee Emissary

“It makes more sense as we come together as a community. When I think about what is being asked of me to come share Muscogee worldview. We are coming from context and people who still have a sense of time, we still go and do ceremonies, that we do not limit to free time. Today, gratitude is to everyone here, to the Muscogee people to the university. “

“Think about worldview, what is it like to think of relationship we are trying to foster with Emory and Muscogee people. We have to still recover from trauma of removal. We are not sure how to feel about coming back and what it means. When talking with elders I ask have you ever been back to our homelands? Many elders have not been back. For us it starts with acknowledgment, with who we are and we need to recognize the trauma. We are still in the moment of recovery.”

“How do we handle the emotion the rage and knowledge that has happened? We still practice the things we have done before contact with non-Indigenous peoples. It starts with acknowledging Mother Earth. Generation after generation 16,000 years we have been on this land. This mother that nurtures us never has denied us the essentials of life. It is our human species that have been unfaithful. Now we want to gain power and wealth of what the earth has provided us. We recognize that we are just one small connecting piece of the big picture of all creation. Some of the concepts and values we carry as Muscogee is centered on being humble, ceremonies are what remind us of that. These are the values that have carried us and these are the things. One day I hope that all children and grandchildren and who have yet to come to the earth have this way of life, the values of life. “

“Today, we think about this institution and the context and terminology how to assimilate the institution. All of these institutions worked to assimilate our people. Now we are working to assimilate the institutions back by people. Our hope is to create a healthy way of life without violence for the younger generations. Whoever may walk on these properties, that they will always feel that way. Create a world and atmosphere that eliminates violence. Today our hope is to create something beautiful.”

Small Group Discussions:

1: What is missing from or what would you like to add to these concepts?

Group Share Out: (Note: not all groups had time to share out)

- Missing concepts where things like wages, wage increases especially when it comes to having or ensuring staff representative from Muscogee

- Food ways, education on how to prepare
- Talked about music and dance
- Food as a representation of culture
- Audience is it students is it Emory community is it Atlanta
- Feel like we really need to have a social media presence and everything available
- Internship programing – a good way to incorporate
- Food
- Fashion and clothing traditions a lot of great designers out there doing great things
- Signage making it apart of the regular signage – ex: bathroom ext. with both languages
- Connecting with other displaced people because of colonializing
- Look at joint naming buildings on campus to make it more active everyday – if you have to go to a building that has both names is syncs it
- More educational programs part of their introduction to Emory
- Add the history into existing courses – a lot of areas to find related material
- Museum exhibit– not just at the museum but everywhere on campus – envision the museum to be across campus. This deserves to be everything
- Budling mor exchange of students – help to get people firsthand experience

Q1: Cards:

- Ensuring facility representation: Muscogee and Indigenous people to teach from a firsthand experience
- Fam and gardens: Food ways who prepare the food how it connects to the ways we eat today
- Include of cardinal directions
 - o Pray facing east
 - o Include signage that not only says the direction but also tells us the importance of cardinal directions
- Icon altar that tribes pray to
- Photos of Native people in each building (ancestors) and photos of those who build the buildings
- Storytelling
- Staring a space for continual story telling
- Developing a practice of engaging and honoring the land
- Capturing spirits worldview to the Muscogee peoples
- Have a annual day for Muscogee history education and assimilations
- Pipeline for elementary and middle schools and connecting Muscogee children to connect tomorrow’s leaders
- Health and wellness traditions
- Incorporation of Native words – signage tours or other ways of teaching the language
- Lone house as ceremony space
- Language courses
- Herbarium with collections and Native terms usage and encourage modern adoption of ancestral knowledge
- Native Emory EDU
- More extracurricular education
- Ability for Native students to just BE on campus without having to perform, represent or carry the burdens
- Music

- Portrait
- Food
- Social media – Emory program should be shared
- Scholarships
- Exchange program
- Internships
- Visibility - How do we create a sacred, safe space to museum, incorporating into the Carlos
- Regular educational programming
- Other campus partnerships like a Carlos Museum, office for sustainability library's
- Simple everyday reminders
 - o Reading of the land acknowledgement
 - o Normalizing the acknowledgement
- Not returning people – only land signs for Emory people options for scholarships community support exchange programs
- Music dance taught by Muscogee people
- Classes and events
- Food traditional
- Food recipes – events based on these
- Social media sharable programs to the larger community
- Always done by Muscogee people as to not be cultural appropriation
- Native American Student Association of Native American Club
 - o A group or club dedicated to students of AM/AN heritage that gather for support and social activities
 - o Somewhere students feel they can belong
- Cultural night kind of like a taken show but just to display cultural practices
- Scholarship for students and Muscogee Nation
- Usual representations
- Dedicated spaces office
- Efforts toward recruitment undergraduate
 - o Flying out high school students to help with college application and readiness
- Acknowledgment of Emory current Muscogee and other Indigenous people contributing to campus life
- During orientation learning phrases and Indigenous walking tour
- Scholarship for Muscogee students
- Exchange program – faculty and student going between two colleges
- Storytelling circles between two colleges
- Spaces for Muscogee member to enjoy on campus dedicated to
- Patience we are calling on people who were forcibly removed from this land to come up with new spaces t
- There needs to be lots of reflection time
- Reputation to Muscogee Nation
 - o Scholarships
 - o Equable employment opportunities
 - o Land ownership
- Exhibits at Carlos and library
 - o Digital collection
- Events community spaces partnerships in broader city of Atlanta
- Acknowledgment to trauma

- GERS to Muscogee history, present, sciences taught by Muscogee schools
- Culinary traditions
- Connecting with other displaced people
- Fashion and traditional clothing
- Integrate art around campus in permanent way
- Native artists work on campus spaces
- More visual representation sculptures images
- Yearly visit experience at the Oklahoma campus
- Consistent regular day of acknowledging the culture
- Signage in both Muscogee and English for all signs (bathrooms, etc.).
- Joint naming
- Educate program for new students
 - o Intro to Emory
 - o Incorporate into existing classes
- Museum outside
- Exchange of students
- Projects acknowledging the role of women elders
- Native paths and signage about their plans what they are used for
- How Emory being assimilation to Muscogee land stewardship principals
- Collaboration between Emory and College of the Muscogee Nation of projects and funding
- Audio stories on campus
- Visiting Muscogee professors
- Indigenous studies department
- Zoom from tribe
- Dining hall with Indigenous foods
- Themed housing
- Youth groups
- Natural space as physical facility dedicated
- Emory going to OK
- Welcome guest from east or Muscogee community
- Pointing to additional resource
- Physical space indoor and outdoor
- Archives or library
- Build collection of archives
- Events back and forth from Oklahoma and Emory
- Exchange and internships
- Joint naming buildings
- Education
- Muscogee staff or liaisons that can help in facilitating active engagement with different features on campus (land acknowledgment, tours of land, gardens, ext.)
- Ways of making an installation enjoying interactions meaningful informed by Muscogee people
- What specific days of season or holiday to be acknowledged regularly and intently
- Tying our sustainability to the values and worldview of Muscogee
- Formally preserving natural land current existing on campus
- Giving land back
- Formal partnership with College of the Muscogee Nation
- How can Emory as an institution relinquish controls

- Oral history archived
- Muscogee Nation students
- Formal Muscogee language
- Make the language path full sensory
- Opportunity to hear traditional interpretation of statement
- Sacred space for Muscogee to hold natural or ceremony when campus will
- Who will care for the space
- Ceremony space
- Dance
- Safe space for students
- Visibility across campus whose stories and visible
- Music
- Art more broadly (not strictly all visual - include audio, film)
- Events and programming
- tour of the land
- Please don't make a permanent land acknowledgment installation, since it should be a living document (unless it could be changing)
- What about arts and crafts of the nation? To showcase and teach
- This process is very helpful in having us all think about the history and trauma. How might we continue this process on campus? How might we open this up more to the public who comes onto the Emory campus, and to the hospital, for example? We should give them opportunities to learn too.
- Historical signage can help teach people.
- Short classes for students about history.
- It would be nice to have ongoing learning experiences with Muscogee Nation community members.
- I'd like to see working groups, or meditative sessions on how to do a one-off land acknowledgement, such as before a conference session. I've been attempting to answer the following questions in any LA's I've done: What do your actions do to support Native people on and beyond campus? What specifically can our institutions do to foster reciprocal, nurturing relations with the local Native people and the Native nations whose land we live and work on? And how, then, can you voice and acknowledge these commitments in your statement?
- Online resource to learn Muscogee language vocabulary.
- Education programming about Muscogee people now and in history for other institutions in our metro region.
- Portraits of Muscogee people, historical and contemporary.
- Indigenous crop focus with Oxford Farm CSA.

2 and 3: Which locations on campus do you imagine these kinds of landmarks? What physical form do these concepts take on our landscape?

Group Share Out: (Note: not all groups had time to share out)

- Thinking rather than creating a landmark – let's find an area that has been concreted over, tear it out and reclaim the land
- Let's make a natural impact with plants, what the plant is, what is used for ceremony. Have monthly walks down this path and have Muscogee teach about the culture. The path can be open to anyone at any time

- Wanted to look at the concept of resident's halls and that is the current halls. Make sure that not only classroom space has signage and artwork but integrate it into the dorms
- Locations quad, hospitals,
- Shuttles that go around the community and visit surrounding areas, add Muscogee information and signage. Spread the word
- Talked about creating a new structure on the campus we don't know where but a gathering and ceremonial space for indigenous students
- Language on buildings – a space on campus to incorporate Muscogee language
- Flame that traveled Muscogee group that travel to Oklahoma
- Native sports to athletic programs
- Native food ways into food practices into the community
- Muscogee into daily practices, signage, shuttles, admissions tours, teach language
- Teach native language for plans and uses
- Digital library
- Relationship with the land, there are streams on campuses that have acquired names and maybe there is a way to revisit the relationship with the streams and the very old trees on campus. And to understand the story of the land through Muscogee worldview
- Idea sharing it is unusual to have medical campus so closely related to the main campus and use this opportunity to highlight the healings from Muscogee and highlight this in the medical campus
- Having exhibits at the hospitals on medicine

Q2 & Q3: Cards:

- Quad
- Every building
- In the Emory college housing
- Park give Muscogee home
- Acknowledgment of entire region FL GA AL
- History
- Lullwater
- PE Center
- Creeks and Stream
- Food Hall

Q3

- Land art and installation that naturally changes with season
- Transplanted tree
- Congregate space
- Lullwater
- Baker woodlands

Q3

- Infrastructure for gathering people together in nature
- Lullwater
- Brad signage in all spaces
- A building or part of a building
- The path would go through locations that are important to both Emory and Muscogee people
- Something near the last year quad as a means of introduction and values setting

Q3:

- audio tours led by Muscogee voices
- The Quad/ arbor or camps small version of and ceremonial grounds
- ESC
- Library – Ingenious authors and thinkers
- Constant reminder of Muscogee as a living culture

Q3:

- Statues suggest that the people are no longer living calcified
- Emory village
- Language trail
- Guided tour, QR codes
- Acknowledge trauma gratitude for mother earth, humble no one abuse
- Long grass stays firm
- Love all creations
- The water airs
- Gather for a sense of belonging
- Music dance
- Internships
- Exchange programs
- Label most signage
- Joint naming
- Into to Emory freshman
- Monthly path walks
- Native sports clubs
- Native plans
- Arts
- Streams trees
- Worldview
- The Quad
- Academic buildings across campus
- Lullwater preserve
 - Paths here across campus

Q3:

- Language
- Trees animals
- Renaming buildings spaces
- Mapping network of trails
- Would allow people to follow the actual path of ancestors
- Historical info for river trails creeks ext.
- Lullwater
- Some landmarks in busy spaces people pass everyday
- Some landmarks in more remote woody spaces for quite reflection
- Quad
- Bridge

Q3:

- Path that starts at the gate with Muscogee language
- Digital connection – recording of people doing land acknowledgment or making specific commitments

- Representation of Muscogee scholarship arts sciences ext.
- Gardens
- Signage in both languages
- Artwork sculptures being displaced
- Residence halls
- Sculpture of Muscogee culture
- Book on campus
- Rather than creating landmarks take out concrete and restore the land
- Low impact natural path lines with indigenous plants. Muscogee language in signs
- Information on what plants are used
- Monthly walks at the path led by Muscogee teacher who can tell us about their culture path could be used by student's faculty and visitor anytime for reflection
- Signage across campus in both languages
- Health care setting perfect for connections sharing health and wellness
- Need to learn more about landscapes and physical forms that are meaningful to Muscogee people
- Landmarks should be at every entrance
- Banner or permanent tributes to Muscogee people should be placed around campus
- More people exchange
- Oldest trees on campus were witness to the removal of Muscogee is assimilation the right word
- Partnership about land classes how can we go forward to get here. How to make it visible permeate
- Local stories
- Center of campus
- Small locations
- Creating of a new structure on campus in an accessible place
- Landmarks on buildings
- Bringing the Muscogee flame back to the area
- Incorporating native sports incorporating Muscogee foods into student campus diet
- Incorporating Muscogee language into daily practices
- Something physical that leads to an intentional space physical landmark
- QR code tours
- Translation of Emory into the Muscogee language
- Some kind of landmarks in Lullwater preserve
- Everywhere on both campuses
- Lullwater
- EPC field station
- Quad
- Nature path
- Organic farm
- Exhibits and hospitals of indigenous medicine
- Trail to main center EPC
- Signage
- Belongings of community culture
- Naming resident halls with Muscogee language and connections
- Programming to foster more intersectional alliances
- Virtual spaces

- Moving beyond acknowledgment
- Co-creation with the national
- Student exchange
- Lullwater
- Space behind cox bridge
- Connection of both campuses
- Creek running along library a space for commemoration
- Lullwater
- Quad
- Own near baseball field for sacred space
- Creek by this area
- I also think these should be a more public space on campus on water
- Lullwater
- Why museum they are colonial artifact
- Muscogee professor
- Acknowledge the history
- Plants
- Trail path across campus
- Signage
- Everywhere
- Bathroom
- Building
- All signage with native language first
- We really liked Chebon's concepts at assimilating Emory to indigenous and Muscogee ways and language this means everything and faculty students' staff Muscogee people and community being present
- Quad – create path serving as representation being seen by student's staff faculty friends' family including times during ceremonies like graduation or additional programming to acknowledge landmarks
- The Lullwater park moment or pathway to expand
- Green
- Shuttles allow up to engage with the city and surrounding community
- Performances
- Festivals
- Quad
- Lullwater
- Bakers Wood
- Hospitals
- Science Gallery Atlanta at Emory University
- Areas beyond established campus locations (Oxford, Main, Briarcliff, Clairmont, etc.)

Q3: Description:

- Quad
- Lullwater
- Bakers Wood
- Hospitals
- Science Gallery Atlanta at Emory University
- Areas beyond established campus locations (Oxford, Main, Briarcliff, Clairmont, etc.)

- Hospital or around the hospital incorporating healing practices. Maybe a Muscogee healing garden by the hospital. Or in the lobby of the hospital, where people could learn. Or the lobby of Clinic B (the newer hospital)
- put something on a walking area on campus that a lot of people use, so that staff and Emory affiliates would see it. A garden would be good for that
- something in the library, maybe A storytelling space, where we can connect with each other through shared history

Q3 Description:

- Maybe a Muscogee healing garden by the hospital.
- maybe in the hospital lobby spaces, to have something about Muscogee community and healing– portraits or stories about the importance of community relationships in health and healing– in addition to video(s) or other stories about history / interactive kiosk, so that people can learn visually too.
- something in the library, maybe a storytelling space, where we can connect with each other through shared history. Where people can learn but also add to the story.
- another location for students: the Hatchery
- Portraiture - places where lots of people gather and pass through, especially the cafeteria and the libraries, as well as the entryway spaces for academic buildings (like those on the quad).
- Crops - community garden spaces, existing and new.

Q3 Description:

- Dedicating land for indigenous crops in a community garden space on the main Atlanta campus, in addition to the Oxford farm. This could involve students, too.
- Spaces for ceremony where visiting Muscogee can celebrate on the land. The university campus community can learn, as well.

Atlanta Students Lunch Listening Session

Friday, October 28, 2022, 12:00-1:30 pm, Convocation Hall

Attendance:

- Emory and Muscogee Nation: 34 in person, 10 zoom; 44 people

Zoom Attendance and Slides:

- [10/28 Session 2 - Google Slides](#)

Comments on Muscogee Worldview:

- Rev. and Mekko Chebon Kernell, Muscogee Emissary

[Add in transcription from the video recording]

-Second Chief Del Beaver, Muscogee Nation:

“Many times, traveling to DC or other places I am the first Native person people have met. It is something that should not be as common, but it is just a part of life that we are in, the world we live in now. Being back here at Emory, back at my homelands, whether it be Georgia or whether it be Alabama, I always take it as an opportunity to meet somebody new and an opportunity to talk to local people. We tell the story all the time. Back in about 2018, I was in Oxford, Alabama, and we had a ribbon cutting there for our park there in Oxford. The City of Oxford did a really good job, they've met with one of our tribal towns. They put kiosks around this one of our mountains there. And so, we had ribbon cutting there and I was sitting or standing there reading one of the kiosks. And when the town folks came up and says, you know, this is such a beautiful place, why'd you ever leave, and this was like a grown person. It's an indictment on your educational system. Because the more people I talked to the more people I realized they don't even know what the history is of the place where they live. So, we made it an effort to come back to our homelands and to educate people and not just people there that live there, but educate ourselves also, because it's so easy to lose, just to lose where you came from to lose sight of what our ancestors had to go through.”

“It's a pleasure being here. And just to kind of explain some things about the Nation. We are a tribal nation, which means we are also a tribal government. We have about 98,000 tribal citizens. We're not members, we are citizens of a nation. You know we hear “tribal members” all the time, and we take, I don't want to say we, I take offense to that. But if other tribes want to say that about their people, that's fine, but we consider people, our people citizens of a nation. And we have a three-branch government. The feds, you know, they took it from us, we didn't copy them, they copied us. We have an executive branch, which I'm part of, we have a principal chief that's elected. We have a second chief that's elected. We have a legislative branch, which is our National Council is a 16-member council. I was part of the council before I became a second chief. You are elected there for a four-year term. And then we have our judicial branch. We have a Supreme Court, and we have a district court. And so, we have four judges on our district court. We have a police department called our Light Horse police department, we have approximated 100 or 90 Light Horsemen, which is our police department, we police all of 11 counties in Oklahoma. “

“Within our reservation, we have a trust land. Trust land is land that's owned by the nation held in trust by the federal government. That's where our headquarters is on trust land, all our casinos. We have six casinos on trust land. That means that that land is held in trust by the government. It's nontaxable. We don't pay taxes on those lands. We can enforce tax, which we do, we enforce taxes, but the state doesn't receive any of it. That's not state land. It's our land. And so, the state has no jurisdiction on those lands. And then we have restricted land. It kind of acts the same but it's held by individuals or families. Each family was allotted 160 acres and that's restricted land. We don't pay taxes on it. And it's land for our families.” This becomes complicated regarding inheritance, but we try to keep it together.

-President Monte Randall, College of the Muscogee Nation:

“Mvskoke is our word for ourselves. Creek is the word that the English settlers gave to us. So, it kind of stuck with us. And for most of my life, I grew up being a Creek person. And then about the last 15-20 years I've seen where we started to go back to Muscogee, so you'll hear that a lot, Muskogee, and Creek, but technically, I'm not Creek, or Muskogee necessarily. In Oklahoma, I grew up not knowing my language. So, I've learned my language in the last 15-20 years or so. And I'm not fluent-- I can memorize some phrases and then I can, you know, I can say these phrases, and I can understand what people are saying, I can probably not converse with somebody, but I can say different words.”

“This is all relating to this language path, and the work that you're doing here. Because we are in somewhat of identity crisis maybe, there was a time in my life, when I didn't want to be Creek, I didn't want to be Indian, I didn't want to have to do the things that we had to do, the things that are more the things that we do not necessarily want to that we must do. And you're going to see some demonstrations later of the things that we do at the Teach-in. And for Indian people, we talk about, we live in two worlds, we live in our ceremonial or the specifically, culturally, church-related areas. And then we also live in this western world, we live in this society around us.”

“The United States came in and said we want to break up the lands and remove us. This was about assimilation. The US needed us to not exist anymore because of how this land was taken. That is where boarding schools came in. There was fire at the center of our ceremonial grounds. We have elected Muscogee today. They took care of the fire and took care of the people in government. We carried our fire to Oklahoma and we put the fire back down. We look at our values, community, government, and social services and took everything with us to form our own government and recreate in Oklahoma. We started to exist again and continued to exist.”

“My language path is about identity -- about knowing who I am, about my name and tribal town and clan and learning my language and culture, the songs, these prayers, and everything that we do.”

Small Group Discussions:

1: What is missing from or what would you like to add to these concepts?

- Tribal history is a part of the undergraduate history in MT maybe there is a way the Emory can add this to undergraduate or gen eds
- Exchange program between Emory and the College of Muscogee nation
- Course which specifically includes visiting exhibits about Muscogee nation
- Thinking about having Muscogee professors and a scholarship program for Muscogee students
- Forest management and ecology, how to recover and restore lands and put it into forestry plans

- Introductory courses
- What kinds of concepts can be brought into new practice areas and further knowledge about the land that they are on
- Rituals, education in the classroom
- Introduce Muscogee history into Emory underaged, gen ed core class
- Incorporate into orientation
- A course that involves a museum visit
- Muscogee professors and scholarships
- Indigenous studies department
- Indigenous forest management
- Exchange with college of Muscogee nation
- Introductory courses of teaching for grad students especially rooted in practice and profession settings
- Birth wisdom, women's wisdom

2 and 3: Which locations on campus do you imagine these kinds of landmarks? What physical form do these concepts take on our landscape?

- Spoke about a need for contemporary art and literate where students are going to interact daily.
 - o Represent global indigenous cultures
- Have representation in classrooms
- Integrate culture in an interactive way across campus
 - Having the land acknowledgement on rocks and stones around campus
- One of most visible is the Georgia pink marble - would be a visual acknowledge has been taken to build this entire university to embody the actual history and the original people of this land
- Places the encourage reflection and contemplation and stillness
- Location surrounding by nature trees water earth manifestations of our original earth mother
- Uncrowded areas that encourage reflection
 - o Plaques imparting history culture Muscogee language on a passing reading
 - o 3-D statues
 - o Etowah marble GA pink marble
- Native themes landmark's
- Contemporary native art on in campus buildings
- Asbury circle
- Stone series engraved
- Footsteps etched there
- Memorial of disposed and enslaved persons
- Lullwater preserve and perhaps the landmarks can be stone pillars
- More art by Muscogee people
- Art within native connecting people to native
- Exhibited in Carlos
- Quad
- On installation sculpture or collection of pieces created by Muscogee artists
- Ceremony returning ceremonial flame to this area
- Campus field guide and signs
- Muscogee words on signage

Appendix: Categories of Concepts

The tables in this appendix seek to disaggregate three main categories of ideas for action that emerged in the listening session conversations—ideas for Physical Reminders, Rituals, and Other Efforts. The tables disaggregate the three categories of ideas by each session.

Oxford Students, Faculty, and Staff Dinner Listening Session

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portraits of people. This allows them to resonate • Develop an app. To go along with teaching concepts • History course • Entire campus should look like the farm • All of the campus covered with native plants • Native foods • Library resources medicine, plants and labeling to learn from connections to the land • Use farm to create space to learn about plants • Invite local Indigenous leaders to visit the classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscogee in current times, braided timelines • Muscogee youth to help shape the concepts • Trips to OK • Our choices should put us back in the circle of Nature • Need a way to bring Muscogee people to campus • Connection to and buy in from the community surrounding the campuses • Collaborative exchanges between communities' spaces and Oxford such as Oxford house to learn • Student and faculty engagement • Help local teachers, training on indigenous knowledges • Integrate language path locations into sustainability and environmental impact plans at the university 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at Middlebury work • Housing availability year-round to open the door to Muscogee partners • signs • Designated space for Muscogee in and out • Cardinal Directions on campus • Lawn space for prayer or have a stomp dance celebration (no steps required) • Designated space – “go to that Muscogee circle” • Inside and outside for fellowship • Space can be on the east side of campus, welcome in through that direction • User friendly space • Covered space for Elders with canopy with signage to explain space • Dining Hall – Exhibit multimodal (maybe student center) • Farm Muscogee employees • Library – contextualized • Exhibit multimodal • Like at the Civil Rights Center interactive • Agricultural/natural resources grads from CMN to farm • Communal space • Contemplative space • Native garden (whole campus is the garden) • Indigenous plant knowledge and medicine • Replace Dooley statue on ALT campus • Plant hickory trees for next generation of Muscogee people • For Muscogee people secluded place for ceremony Muscogee to carve • High traffic locations (including indoors) • Muscogee Creek Road

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminders
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A monument/statue describing the Muscogee in front of the oldest building on campus (Phi Gamma Hall)

Atlanta Faculty and Staff Breakfast Listening Session

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring facility representation: Muscogee and Indigenous people to teach from a firsthand experience • Fam and gardens • Pipeline for elementary and middle schools and connecting Muscogee children to connect tomorrow's leaders • Incorporation of native words • Language courses • Herbarium with collections and native terms usage and encourage modern adoption of ancestral knowledge • Native Emory EDU • More extracurricular education • Ability for Native students to just BE on campus without having to perform, represent or carry the burdens • Social media – Emory program should be shared • Scholarships • Exchange program • Internships • Incorporating into the Carlos • Regular educational programming • Other campus partnerships like a Carlos Museum, office for sustainability library's • Simple everyday reminders • Reading of the land acknowledgement • Normalizing the acknowledgement • options for scholarships community support exchange programs • Social media sharable programs to the larger community • Native American Student Association of Native American Club • Cultural night kind of like a taken show but just to display cultural practices • Scholarship for students and Muscogee nation • Usual representations • Efforts toward recruitment undergrade • Acknowledgment of Emory current Muscogee and other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storytelling • Developing a practice of engaging and honoring the land • Capturing spirits worldview to the Muscogee peoples • Health and wellness traditions • Music • Portrait • Food • Music dance taught by Muscogee people • Food traditional • Scholarships • Equable employment opportunities • Land ownership • Culinary traditions • Connecting with other displaced people • Fashion and traditional clothing • Yearly visit experience at the OK campus • Consistent regular day of acknowledging the culture • Joint naming • Educate program for new students • Exchange of students • Tying our sustainability to the values and worldview of Muscogee • Formally preserving natural land current existing on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include of cardinal directions • Farm • Signage • Icon Altar that tribes pray to • Photos • Dedicated spaces office • Storytelling circles between two colleges • Spaces for Muscogee member to enjoy on campus dedicated to exhibits at Carlos and library • Events community spaces partnerships in broader city of Atlanta • Integrate art around campus in permanent way • Native artists work on campus spaces • More visual representation sculptures images • Signage in both Muscogee and English for all signs • Native paths and signage about their plans what they are used for • Audio stories on campus • Physical space indoor and outdoor • Sacred space for Muscogee to hold natural or ceremony when campus will • Ceremony space • Dance • Safe space for students • Visibility across campus whose stores and visible • Quad • Every building • In the Emory college housing • Park give Muscogee home • Acknowledgment of entire region FL GA AL • History • Lullwater • PE Center • Creeks and Stream • Food Hall • Lullwater • Baker woodlands • Lullwater • Brad signage in all spaces • A building or part of a building • The path would go through locations that are important to both Emory and Muscogee people

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous people contributing to campus life • During orientation learning phrases and Indigenous walking tour • Scholarship for Muscogee students • Exchange program – faculty and student going between 2 colleges • Patience we are calling on people who were forcibly removed from this land to come up with new spaces t • There needs to be lots of reflection time • Projects acknowledging the role of women elders • How Emory being assimilation to Muscogee land stewardship principals • Collaboration between Emory and College of Muscogee Nation of projects and funding • Visiting Muscogee professors • Indigenous studies department • Zoom from Tribe • Dining hall with indigenous foods • Themed housing • Welcome guest from East or Muscogee community • Pointing to additional resource • Archives or library • Build collection of archives • Events back and forth from OK and Emory • Exchange and internships • Joint naming buildings • Education • Muscogee staff or liaisons that can help in facilitating active engagement • Ways of making an installation enjoying interactions meaningful informed by Muscogee people • What specific days of season or holiday to be acknowledged regularly and intently • Giving land back • Formal partnership with college of the Muscogee nation • Oral history archived • Muscogee nation students • Formal Muscogee language • Make the language path full sensory • Opportunity to hear traditional interpretation of statement • Music 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Something near the last year quad as a means of introduction and values setting • The Quad/ arbor or camps small version of and ceremonial grounds • ESC • Library – Ingenious authors and thinkers • Constant reminder of Muscogee as a living culture • Emory village • Language trail • Guided tour, QR codes • Academic buildings across campus • Lullwater preserve • Bridge • Signage in both languages • Artwork sculptures being displaced • Residence halls • Sculpture of Muscogee culture • Book on campus • Signage across campus in both languages • Health care setting perfect for connections sharing health and wellness • Landmarks should be at every entrance • Banner or permanent tributes to Muscogee people should be places around campus • More people exchange • Oldest trees on campus were witness to the removal of Muscogee is assimilation the right word • Creating of a new structure on campus in an accessible place • Landmarks on buildings • Everywhere on both campuses • Lullwater ark • EPC field station • Nature path • Organic farm • Exhibits and hospitals of indigenous medicine • Trail to main center EPC • Signage • Virtual spaces • Creek running along library a space for commemoration • Bathroom • Building • All signage with native language first

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art more broadly (not strictly all visual - include audio, film) • Events and programming • Historical signage can help teach people. • Short classes for students about history. • It would be nice to have ongoing learning experiences with Muscogee Nation community members. • working groups, or meditative sessions • Online resource to learn Muscogee language vocabulary. • Education programming about Muscogee people now and in history for other institutions in our metro region. • Portraits of Muscogee people, historical and contemporary. • Indigenous crop focus with Oxford Farm CSA. • Bringing the Muscogee flame back to the area • Incorporating native sports incorporating Muscogee foods into student campus diet • Incorporating Muscogee language into daily practices • Moving beyond acknowledgment • Co-creation with the national • Student exchange 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bakers Wood • Hospitals • Science Gallery Atlanta at Emory University • Areas beyond established campus locations • Hospital

Atlanta Students Lunch Listening Session

Other Efforts	Rituals	Physical Reminder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Muscogee history into Emory underaged, gen ed core class • Incorporate into orientation • A course that involves a museum visit • Muscogee professors and scholarships • Indigenous studies department • Indigenous forest management • Exchange with college of Muscogee nation • Introductory courses of teaching for grad students especially rooted in practice and profession settings • Integrate culture in an interactive way across campus • Have representation in classrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rituals, education in the classroom • Birth wisdom, women's wisdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contemporary art and literate where students are going to interact daily. • Having the land acknowledgement on rocks and stones around campus • One of most visible is the Georgia pink marble • Location surrounding by nature trees water earth manifestations of our original earth mother • Uncrowded areas that encourage reflection • Plaques imparting history culture Muscogee language on a passing reading • 3-D statues • Etowah marble GA pink marble • Native themes landmark's • Contemporary native art on in campus buildings • Asbury circle • Stone series engraved • Footsteps etched there • Memorial of disposed and enslaved persons • Lullwater preserve and perhaps the landmarks can be stone pillars • More art by Muscogee people • Art within native connecting people to native • Exhibited in Carlos • On installation sculpture or collection of pieces created by Muscogee artists • Ceremony returning ceremonial flame to this area • Campus field guide and signs • Muscogee words on signage