

# Uncovering Indigenous Stories Through Digital Tools at UBC

**GRANT RECIPIENTS**  
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**PROJECT LEAD**  
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*This work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm-speaking Musqueam people, which has always been a site of learning - long before the development of the University of British Columbia.*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project leverages and strengthens existing partnerships through pedagogical capacity support to better understand relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

This project will enable access to three substantive digital resources, *The Power of a Name*, *Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet*, and *Where Are We in the World?*, by implementing them as flexible learning tools.

We are providing thousands of UBC students opportunities to interact - physically and virtually - with Indigenous presence across UBC and Vancouver by designing, intergrating, and evaluating the following deliverables:

- 🌐 online resources
- 📁 instructor toolkits
- 👤 professional development workshops

## OBJECTIVES

- Deepen student, staff, and faculty understanding of the history and contemporary relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples at UBC
- Foster ethical relationships across our campus and wider communities
- Help fulfill the aims of the Musqueam-UBC Memorandum of Affiliation, UBC's Aboriginal Strategic Plan, Place and Promise: the UBC Plan, and the UBC President's Task Force on Gender-based Violence and Aboriginal Stereotypes

## INSTRUCTOR TESTIMONIALS

*"Each of these multimedia projects is a robust and thoughtfully constructed introduction to Indigenous-settler relations at UBC, both historically and in the present moment. Students learn that they, too, are part of a longer trajectory of colonial relationships, and that campus spaces are marked by those relationships in ways that we sometimes don't appreciate."* -Dr. Evan Mauro



### PARTNERSHIP

Each project team is working in consultative partnership with a Musqueam advisory committee from the Musqueam Treaty, Lands and



### REACH

Endorsement from faculty, staff, students, and administrators from over 20 academic, service, and orientation units on campus.

**THE POWER OF A NAME**

*The Power of a Name* film series reveals the historical context of the site known today as Totem Park Residence. It sheds light on the contested history of the building naming process that was conducted in the 1960s without community consultation, and the new naming process that took place in partnership with the Musqueam Nation in 2010-2011.

By featuring UBC-Indigenous relations, this series revitalizes stories of living connections between UBC units and the communities represented through the Totem Park Residence names. It explores the power that traditional and colonial names carry, as well as our individual and collective responsibilities on unceded Musqueam land.



*"Our great-great-great grandparent, qiyəplənəx", had a fort just below the Museum of Anthropology called qəlyəxən, and he was the warrior and our relative that welcomed the first visitors that came into this area - Captain Narváez under the Spanish flag, and Captain George Vancouver under the English flag."*  
Elder Larry Grant, Musqueam

**where are we in the world?**

*Where Are We in the World?* is a film series that features sites around the Lower Mainland shaped by hidden histories of struggle and agency that are often ignored.

The focus of this initiative is to provide a strong foundation to answer the question of "where" we are in terms of UBC and Vancouver as places on unceded Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories. Two of the films introduce Vancouver's Chinatown as a contested space and the Komagata Maru Incident of 1914. They are called "Chinatown in the Making of Vancouver" and "Who Welcomes Immigrants to this Land?". The next films in the series that are currently in development will feature Musqueam legal histories and Musqueam-UBC relations.



*"The Government of Canada, and the Province of Canada, on separate occasions, have apologized for events that have been a detriment to minority ethnic groups...but I would hope that it would not be just left as an apology - words and only words."*  
Howard E. Grant, Musqueam

*"We have to galvanize and mobilize our allies in resistance to discrimination at all points. That's the real legacy of the Komagata Maru - it's not to live and have a safe remembrance of the story of 1914...but let's have those difficult conversations regarding identity and racism, and let's move forward in addressing issues that still exist today."*  
Naveen Girm

*"The innovative materials created by projects such as 'The Power of a Name' and 'Where Are We in the World?' have made hidden histories of UBC and Vancouver come alive for my students and prompted them to reflect on how their lives are shaped by these complex pasts."* -Dr. Chris Lee

*Knowing the Land Beneath Our Feet* (KLBF) reveals the layers of contested meaning on what is commonly known as the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, restoring Musqueam and Indigenous presence on this land.

KLBF aims to contribute to the collaborative relationship defined in the Memorandum of Affiliation between the Musqueam community and UBC through the use of smartphone applications (developed and maintained by the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program) that familiarize students, faculty, staff, and visitors with Musqueam sites and Indigenous artworks on the UBC Point Grey campus.

As a mobile media archive, KLBF can also be used as an information and story-sharing tool for the Musqueam community. Additionally, through university and FNIS funding, KLBF offers research-based job opportunities for Musqueam students and the chance to train with FNIS faculty and staff to help lead this project as it is launched and integrated into the UBC infrastructure.

KLBF is currently in consultation and development with Musqueam.



**KNOWING THE LAND BENEATH OUR FEET**

*"I know a great purpose for offering that pole to the university and my mother's heart, was for this university to open their doors to Aboriginal students...and she believed that we all needed to work together to come to the future that we're at now."*  
Elder Theresa Neel, Kwagwiltsh

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