Uncovering Indigenous Stories Through Digital Tools at UBC

This work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the həːq̓əy̓ əmət̓ -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, interpreting, and evaluating the following deliverables:

- online resources
- instructor toolkits
- professional development workshops

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 connections between UBC units and the communities represented through the Totem Park Residence names. It explores the power that traditional and colonial connections between UBC units and the communities represented through the Totem Park Residence names.

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 Tleil-xwaŋ territories. Two of the films introduced Vancouver's Chinatown as a contested space and the homagaga Mura incident of 1914. They are called "Chinatown in the Making of Vancouver" and "Who Welcome Immigrants to this Land?". The next films in the series that are currently in development will feature Musqueam legal histories and Musqueam-UBC relations.

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 space are marked by those relationships in ways that we sometimes don’t appreciate.” - Dr. Evan Mauro

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 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 FNS funding, KLBF offers research-based job opportunities for Musqueam students and the chance to train with FNS 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.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support for this project provided by UBC Vancouver students via the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund. We would like to thank Lumoq Graphic Design, Senior Graphic Designer, Arts Communications, for creating this poster. For more information, visit Project Lead and Educational Developer, Sarah Ling at sarah.ling@ubc.ca.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Mark Turin (PI), Daniel Justice, Amy Perreault, Henry Yu

PROJECT LEAD

Sarah Ling