

## California Native Mukurtu Hub Code of Ethics

The California Native Hub at UCLA's American Indian Studies Center (AISC) aims to provide basic support and training to Tribal communities and organizations interested in setting up their own Mukurtu sites. It does this by providing localized training/workshops for developing and maintaining Mukurtu sites. The Hub also creates "user stories," that is, accounts of not only the experience of those uploading and viewing the materials but also what communities would like to see and how to view it happen in the platform. We report to Mukurtu based on the Spokes' needs, ensuring that future development within Mukurtu is driven directly by community needs as they define and document them. The Hub's first priority is to help communities build digital archives that foster relationships of respect and trust while enabling healthy collaborations.

### 1. Purpose and Intent of the Code of Ethics

A. This Code of Ethics (The Code) is a result of discussions of the California Native Mukurtu Hub Team, the Mukurtu CMS team at Washington State University and other Hubs and Tribal communities using Mukurtu, regarding the ethical and appropriate/culturally-responsive use of Mukurtu by Spokes willing to set up their own Mukurtu sites. The Code is intended to: 1) give Spokes guidance in determining how to make decisions regarding the use of Mukurtu, including the creation of Communities, Cultural Protocols and Categories within the site; 2) to allow the CA Native Hub to enter into understandings and agreements with Spokes regarding their relationship; and (3) ensure a productive and meaningful engagement with communities.

B. The Code is not intended to be a set of hard and fast rules or to address every possible situation, but rather is intended to provide guidance to Spokes in how to involve community members/tribal representatives and the Tribe's governing bodies when making decisions regarding the use of Mukurtu and the set up of their Mukurtu sites. We are fully aware of the different types of organizations of Indigenous communities and organizations. Thus, a one size fits all approach is not viable and these ethics are a guide to achieve best results for the Spoke. The Code is intended to be a living document, subject to change with the evolving mission of both the Hub and the Tribes and organizations with whom we work as Spokes.

2. We acknowledge tribal or organizational ownership of information and knowledge, respect privacy, and will be mindful of contextual nuances. The Hub does not claim or maintain ownership over any information generated by the Tribes/groups we work with.

3. We will define roles and responsibilities. All parties will work to minimize or refuse harm in their approaches. If harm occurs, we will take steps to rectify and alter practices.

3. Transparency is an important part of our practice. We enter into partnership to share knowledge where appropriate, understand others, and be transparent and truthful.

4. We focus on Identifying community-relevant needs for site building and promise to work to reduce harm.

5. We emphasize the building of horizontal relationships with communities. We center forms of expertise that are grounded in community knowledge practices.

6. To achieve this, we urge the highest level of community involvement/consultation, made possible in the following ways:

- a. The participation of tribal representatives in every training session offered by the Hub – both online and in-person. If the project’s manager is a non-tribal member, it is still necessary to involve tribal members.
- b. If one or more tribal members, non-tribal participants, or Hub members would like to invite other participants to a training session, approval must be provided in writing by the project’s tribal representatives or tribal governing body.
- c. We ask that our Spokes enter into direct community consultation when making decisions about:
  - The Communities, Cultural Protocols, and Categories within a Mukurtu site.
  - How to determine culturally appropriate access to the Tribes’ cultural heritage and knowledge (Open and/or closed Cultural Protocols).
  - How to select, vet, and curate materials in the site so that they appropriately represent the histories, languages, cultural belongings and contemporary lives of the participating Tribe(s).
  - Who will attend training sessions offered by the Hub.

7. We respect the time of all stakeholders and will work to honor commitments and cultural priorities.