

INDIGENOUS CONCEPTS OF VALUE & ETHICAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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PREVIOUSLY

- How do we ourselves define value within our own communities?
- How do we do we distance ourselves from western or colonial bias when discussing value?



DEI CONCEPTS

- Diversity - Understanding that there are differences between people, cultures, and ideas - and that they should be welcome in any process moving forward.
- Equity - Acknowledging disadvantages and disparities while elevating underrepresented voices and creating a balanced space for all to be heard.
- Inclusion - Creating a space where all individuals and ideas are valued and celebrated for the unique perspective that they bring.



CULTURAL VALUES

- Traditional medicines
- Clay deposits, pigments & paints, other minerals
- Cultural sites
- Culturally significant plants & animals
- Language
- Land
- Ancestral/aboriginal lands



IDENTIFYING ASSETS

- **How can we respectfully and adequately identify community values and assets?**
- To address complexity: holistic or systematic approaches work best. *(Development of categories may help ensure complete coverage – infrastructure & buildings, cultural heritage sites, utilities, agriculture).*
- **Example:** The **PESTEL** model from climate adaptation planning can be used to develop an inventory of priority assets.



PESTEL MODEL

- **Political** – Tribal Council, State or Federal Government
- **Environmental** – Water Resources, Forested Lands, Grazing Pastures
- **Social** – Schools, Elders, Areas of Cultural Significance
- **Technological** – Cell Towers, Energy Infrastructure, Sewer Lagoon
- **Economic** - Tribal Businesses: Museums, Hotels, Casinos
- **Legal/Regulatory** – Tribal or Federal Agencies



COMMUNITY INPUT

- Planning Team Meetings
- Community Workshops
- Semi-Structured Interviews with Key Tribal Staff & Elders
- Community Surveys (Physical & Digital/Online)
- Community Events & Outreach
- Informal Communications



CHALLENGES IN ASSESSING ~~LOSS~~

- **Post-Incident:** Should easily assessable, western or colonial values overshadow the loss of irreplaceable items of community value?
- Do Federal, State, or Municipal reporting standards and guidelines ignore Indigenous values and priorities?
- How we respectfully identify and assess the loss of community values that do not fall under traditional western or colonial definitions of value?



SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT

- **Trust** is earned through **respectful** and **meaningful, repeated** engagement.
- Establish relationships now, before an incident or disaster occurs.
- Relationships should benefit all involved: **NOT** extractive/exploitative.
- Community needs and priorities must be addressed, not just the concerns of managers or elected/assumed leadership.



QUESTIONS?

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