

City of Reno
Human Rights Commission
Land Recognition Statement

Adopted April 28, 2022

The City of Reno Human Rights Commission acknowledges the history of the land we gather upon today. We recognize the indigenous people the Wa She Shu (Washoe), Numu (Northern Paiute), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Southern Paiute) of the Great Basin, whose ancestral homelands were stolen and developed into what is now known as Nevada.

We also recognize that government programs separated indigenous children from their families and placed them in 367 boarding schools across the United States, including the Stewart Indian School located in our state capital, in an attempt to assimilate indigenous culture. We mourn the loss of their traditions, languages, and all of the wisdom, knowledge, and family members who cannot be replaced. We recognize that in spite of these human rights atrocities, there are 27 sovereign tribal nations, bands, and colonies in Nevada that continue as stewards of the land today.

May this acknowledgment demonstrate a commitment to working together to dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression and inequities and recognize the current and future contributions of indigenous communities in Nevada. Please join us in this commitment to action.

History:

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes the long lasting stewardship and relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories and history. The Human Rights Commission began the process of developing a land acknowledgement statement through various discussions and engagements with community members and organizations with lived experience.

In December 2021, the Nevada Indian Commission, the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, and the City of Reno Arts and Culture Commission joined a commission meeting to discuss the history and purpose of land acknowledgement statements. In March 2022, the commission participated in an educational tour and talk at the Nevada Museum of Arts centered on indigenous rights, arts, and activism, including the art of Jean LaMarr. Based on the various discussions and community input, the commission created and adopted their land acknowledgement statement at the April 28, 2022 commission meeting.

The Human Rights Commission thanks participating community members and organizations for their time and contributions in sharing their stories, knowledge, and history that helped shape this land acknowledgement statement.