

Solidarity and Support for Indigenous Un-erasure

Thank you for attending a performance of Listen to Sipu, which highlights some of the painful history of dispossession of the peoples native to this area. One way you can continue to be involved with local efforts towards un-erasure is with the Pigsgusset Initiative.



Pigsgusset Initiative is a group dedicated to healing and justice through the un-erasure of Indigenous peoples from the place now called Watertown. Pigsgusset is the name for Watertown used by its original inhabitants from the Pequossette band of the Massachusetts tribe. This is an English language corruption of an Indigenous word, which to the best of our knowledge, means “the meadows at the widening of the river.”

- **We work to educate ourselves and our neighbors** about the original peoples of this land; settler colonialism and its relationship to genocide; erasure and un-erasure; land dispossession and the land back movement; and, the history of the place we call home.
- **We work to challenge and change false narratives** that fill our public spaces by transforming local government imagery such as the town seal; local history as conveyed on the Watertown website; public markers, monuments and place names; and public holidays. It is our longer term goal to infuse more content about Indigenous peoples, both historically and today, into local school curricula.
- As members of Pigsgusset Initiative, we are each also **committed to our own ongoing learning, unlearning, and solidarity**. We aim to build a culture of practice that can hold hard history as we heal and transform society and ourselves.

→ Please [get in touch](#) if you want to join our monthly Pigsgusset Initiative meetings and/or be added to the email list to learn about upcoming events and actions.

→ Read the [Watertown False Narratives call to action](#).

→ **Offer meaningful, not performative, land acknowledgements:**

It is important to offer meaningful land acknowledgements that come from the heart, and are not just a performative act. Here are some resources that may be helpful with developing and offering a land acknowledgment, with special attention to factors to be careful with:

- [“Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgment.”](#) US Department of Arts and Culture
- “A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment.” Native Governance Center
- Debbie Reese, [“Are you Planning to Do a Land Acknowledgment?”](#) *American Indians in Children’s Literature Blog*, March 19, 2019

A land acknowledgment is an important, and only first step for settlers to contribute to un-erasure, be in active solidarity with indigenous struggles, and take steps to offer repair.

→ **Learn about and ask your legislators to co-sponsor the [MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda!](#)**