

Tribal Newsletter

UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS



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Updates and Highlights

'Ookwe park opening in the City of Richmond and Our Tribes partnership with Oakland Roots Soccer team.

Water is Life, We Are Still Here

Sii 'Uhti 'Išša 'E hemmete-mak

For thousands of years, hundreds of generations of Ohlone people have lived on the land that is now known as the East Bay.

There are several Ohlone tribes, each with its' own geography and history. Shellmounds are sacred burial sites of the Ohlone and Coast Miwok people. They are considered by the Ohlone people as living cemeteries, places of prayer, veneration, and connection with their ancestors. As settlers flooded into the San Francisco area during the Gold Rush, the leveling and desecration of Shellmounds began and continues to this day. Currently, only a handful of these sacred Shellmounds remain in a natural state. Most lie buried beneath parking lots and buildings. The Ohlone people still live here today and pray at and protect their Shellmounds and Sacred Sites.

In 2015 Ohlone Lisjan Shellmounds were discovered on this site during the excavation for the Officer Bradley Moody Memorial Underpass. This public art project was designed in collaboration with representatives of the Ohlone tribe and the artist. An essential part of this environmental artwork was the integration of native plants and trees in the design. The planting beds hold a variety of native species such as Soap Root, Angelica Root, Elderberry, and Manzanita that will be cared for and harvested by Ohlone tribal members for medicinal and traditional crafts uses. In addition, three young native Oak trees have been planted, representing one of their historical food sources and for the future generations to witness them growing into mature trees.

"Ookwe" means "Medicine" in Chochoeny, the traditional language of this area, spoken by the Ohlone people. In 2020 this public art project, also known as "Ookwe Park", was installed as a collaborative effort between The Confederated Villages of the Lisjan Ohlone and the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission.

Opening of Ookwe' Park in Richmond July 1st 2021

-On July 1st we had the public opening for 'Ookwe Park located in Richmond, CA located at 1100 S. 27th Street. 'Ookwe in Chochoeny means Medicine. The park is full of traditional medicinal plants and is also now home to huge boulders that were hand carved by Japanese artist Masayuki Nasage who was commissioned by the City of Richmond to do this project, to which he replied that he would only do it if we, the traditional peoples of this land, were brought into the project. We have been working with the City of Richmond and Yuki for about 5 years on this project and it is finally in the last stages. The park is open to the public and we will just be coming up with signage in the coming month. The signage will include the history of the park, the partnership we have with the park and about the plants and uses. Tribal members are the only ones who are allowed to harvest the plants from this space and we are the ones who will upkeep this space in maintaining the health of the plants and the land. We plan to gather in this space once a year for ceremony or to just be in space with each other, dates TBD.



Partnership with Oakland Roots Soccer Team

-The Tribe has been in collaboration with the semi-pro soccer team Oakland Roots. They have begun their opening games with a land acknowledgement and have actually added our Tribal logo to their new field rollout, to be presented on July 31st or August 14th. The entire team has come to the land to learn more about us and some of them intend on visiting the land more to volunteer with working the land.



The Tribe has been very busy:

The Tribe has been working with multiple City Governments within our traditional territories. We are collaborating on multiple projects that will create more visibility of Ohlone People in the East Bay and will use this as leverage to gain visibility in other counties that we have traditional ties to. Look for emails on upcoming exciting news as these developments occur. Our Tribe is also in collaboration with the Him-r'en Tribe on many of these projects, who are currently in the process of getting on the NAHC list and are also of Chochenyo speaking descent, their Matriarch is Ruth Orta.

Tribal Enrollment

Our Tribal enrollment is now open! [Tribal Enrollment Form](#) Tribal enrollment is currently open to members that have direct ties to Jose Guzman lineage.

We are proud that the time has come for our Tribe to be able to offer ID cards and numbers. Once we've received your application, with the correct documents attached, we can send you a letter with your individual Tribal ID number. After you have received your letter, you can decide if you'd also like a Physical Tribal ID, with your picture.

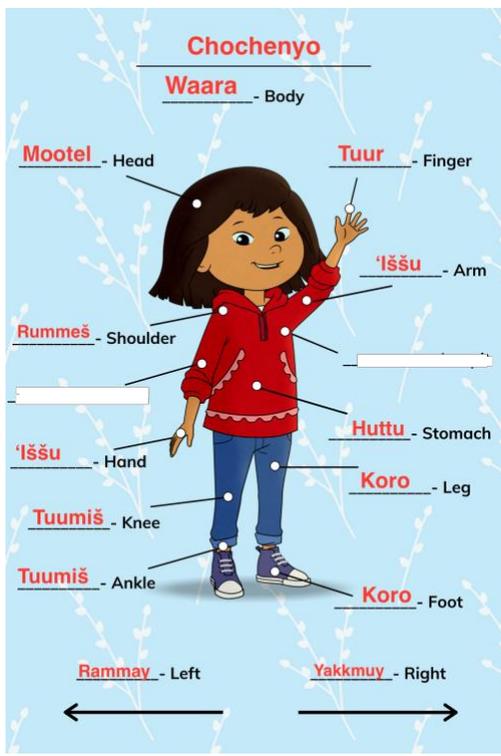
Tribal Website

The Tribal website is under construction and will be up soon. Once it is up and running you will be able to access our Tribal application, more about our history, culture and language info, and so much more. All of our public upcoming events will also be listed here as well as our accomplishments as a Tribe. The website is

<https://villagesoflisjan.org>

Chochenyo Language Class

We have a language Facebook page called Makkin Nonwente Mak Noono (We Speak Our Language). On that page we talk about upcoming classes and also may have a “word of the day” or just some resources folks might be able to access. We intend on holding in person classes again this August, the classes will happen outdoors for the time being and may resume on Zoom after the Fall. During Covid times we have held classes on Zoom and have welcomed new members into the class, we starting a conversation piece, created a “washing your hands” tutorial in Chochenyo and even translated “Head, Shoulders, Knee’s and Toes” (Motél, Ruumeš, Tuumiš, Tuur), we were also able to send out language care packages to those who were dedicated in attending the class. Due to more folks wanting to join the language class we are thinking about holding two separate classes, one for beginners and another one for those who have been in the classes continuously. We have made so much progress with language and we just need to keep going so that we continue for generations to come.



Cultural Classes

We haven't done many cultural classes, but we plan to in the future, especially with things opening up more. During the pandemic, we processed/cleaned rabbit furs, which is a long and timely process. The furs will be used for regalia when we get to that point. We also had tons of acorn that we separated in order to process into acorn flour. We plan to harvest Tule later this year to make mats for our arbor, our arbor that is the first one to be put up in our territory in over 250 years.

