



Tongva Conservancy Kuuy (Guest) Donor Covenant

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together. – Lilla Watson

The Tongva/Gabrieleno people are the Native people in Tovaangar, the LA basin, and have been here since *time immemorial*; many of us now call this place home. For Tongva Tribal members to return to and steward this land, we need the support of good guests / *kuuyam* who live here. The Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy (TTPC) is a Tongva-led 501c3 created to steward lands in Tovaangar. The TTPC is by and for Tongva people and is focused on providing space and opportunities for cultural and educational engagement.

Traditionally, when people travel and move into a new territory they first seek permission from both the land and traditional stewards. This “permission” invites a relationship. We invite *kuuyam*, the Tongva word for guests, into a new covenant with resources, land, and Tongva people. We enthusiastically invite you to be a *kuuy* (guest) and join us in sharing resources and land with Tongva people who are still here for this generation and those to come.

“This is bigger than just a landowner or a piece of land, this is a commitment to those who have been invisibilized. This is an important time for Tongva people, it’s time to bring back trust, this can bring back trust between a decimated peoples... “Land back” means more than recognition; it allows us to be stronger - any assistance in the fight to be who we are gives us the strength to move onto more generations fighting against this. Our mandate from creator is to care for this place. It’s not that hard to be an ally to us.” L. Frank (Tongva/Ajachemem)

It was over 180 years since colonization for one acre to be returned to Tongva stewardship. We need each other, and so we want to be in right relationship with each other. In the nonprofit and philanthropy worlds, relationships between donors or funders and organizations can be powerful and complicated, fraught and transformative. There are high thresholds that determine whether an organization deserves support. Just because something has not happened before, does not mean it is impossible.

This Donor Covenant is one piece of what it means to us to be in right relationship.

What you can expect of us...

- We will be conscientious stewards of your donation.
- We will treat you with respect and dignity. We commit to seeing and honoring you in your fullness as a human being, as well as a donor.
- We will be good hosts to you all, kuuyam, and Taraxat (Indigenous people) in Tovaangar.
- We will center healing in our work, how we relate to one another, the land, plant people, other animals, ancestors, and descendants.
- We will invite you into a deeper connection and reciprocity with the land and native people where you live.
- We will offer you ways to support our work, getting to the root of the harms of colonization through release of resources and shifting relationship with land.
- We will treat every donor - whether you give \$10 or \$10 million - as an integral support. The size of your check does not dictate the depth of respect or quantity of time to which you are entitled, or correlate with the value you offer as a guest.
- We will invest in the people who make this work possible, by compensating our team in a manner that respects and honors the value of their work. We believe that overhead costs are not separate from the work and mission of the TTPC, they are a critical component of building a just and sustainable organization.

What we hope and ask of you, our kuuy donors...

- You will make unrestricted, long-term donations, trusting TTPC leadership's decisions to allocate your donation according to our needs.
- You will ask first, prioritizing consent and relationship building over convenience / speed and respect our ability to respond according to our lives and the land.
- You will always treat TTPC employees, board members, tribal members, the land, and plant people, with care and dignity. You will remember that we are human beings, and you will respect our boundaries as whole people with lives and responsibilities beyond our respective roles.
- You will compensate us for our time, expertise, traditional knowledge, and representation.
- You will find connection with the land where you are and not demand to visit Huhungna.
- You will do research and me-search, reflecting on the heavy history that is a part of the land, and think of how your connection can show respect and reciprocity to the original caretakers of the land.
- You will reimagine your relationship with ownership of land and resources.
- You will follow-through on your commitments, through uncertainty and discomfort.

- You will ask permission before using our words, art, images, and culture.
- You will treat us as you would any other expert in their field and also not expect us to know everything.
- You will communicate with us directly about your needs, requests, and any feedback - we are more powerful together, and want to hear from you! We deeply appreciate and welcome your proactive communication and your understanding of our limited capacity to respond to all feedback.
- If you would like to give but you are struggling financially, please don't give money. There are many other ways to be a good guest. Respect Mother Earth, learn about the original people of the land, build a loving relationship with Native plants and people of Tovaangar, and invite others to support.
- You will use the language that is listed on our website Tongva.Land when sharing about the TTPC. Do not add your own narrative into Tongva people's story.
- You will be open to hearing our feedback, in service of moving all of us closer to the world we seek.

Thank you for being part of unprecedented healing where you live.
 'Anaangere 'ekwaa woon — we are still here."

Your donation to the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy, and our acceptance of that donation, will be understood as an embrace of this covenantal agreement.

I, _____, a kuuy (guest) in Tovaangar (LA basin), am giving nahwá'a, an offering of _____
 _____ to the Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy.

Signature:

Date:

Witness:

Follow-Up with me at:

*TTPC is a 501c3 (EIN 87-1422866). Checks to: Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy
 PO Box 608 Claremont, CA 91711. Covenant + questions [send to info@tongva.land](mailto:info@tongva.land).*

