Rooted in Relationship

Research and Co-Creation of Knowledge
Katirkvik Cultural Center
Kawerak, Inc.
Understanding

Indigenous Peoples are of that place for thousands of years
Respect for parallel Knowledges, Ways of Life and Values
Acknowledge difficult history
Acknowledge power imbalances
Awareness of ethical engagement
OLANNA WHALE HARPOON
FOUND ON SHORES OF SHISHMAREF IN 2017
EST. 2200 YEARS OLD
SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP

INTRICATE, DETAILED

HONOR AND RESPECT
MULTIDIMENSIONAL CONNECTION

HARMONY AND BALANCE

“OUR ANCESTORS TOOK GREAT CARE OF EVERYTHING AROUND THEM AS THEY LIVED THEIR LIVES BECAUSE THEY FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT EVERYTHING HAD AWARENESS. THEY KNEW THAT EVEN FISH BONES WERE CONSCIOUS AND PERCEPTIVE.” DR. PAUL JOHN

AWARENESS AND SPIRIT

“EVERYTHING AND EVERY LIFEFORM HAS AWARENESS. ANIMALS, PLANTS, WIND, LAND AND WATER CAN HEAR YOU. EVERYTHING HAS SPIRIT, EVEN THE ROCKS. IT IS THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT.” – VINCENT PIKONGANNA
RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY

“YUPIK LAW IS TO LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY, BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF.”
DR. OSCAR KAWAGLEY

“THE ANIMALS THAT ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE HARVESTED WERE HONORED GUESTS. THEIR SPIRITS WERE THANKED THROUGH EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS AND PROTOCOL.”
DR. THERESA JOHN

“THE ANIMALS VIEW COMPASSIONATE AND RESTRAINED HUMANS AS DESIRABLE EVEN PITIABLE.”
ELDER THERESA MOSES
Some Important Questions

Who is proposing the research?

What is the purpose of the research?

Is the research relevant to the Indigenous community?

What is the research trying to prove?

What are the unstated assumptions in the research?

Who will the research benefit?

Will the data be detrimental to the Indigenous community?

What are the local laws about sharing knowledge?

How can we be respectful regarding sacred knowledges that cannot be shared freely?

Is there community consensus for the project?
You are establishing new and lasting relationships. Talk with the Tribal Council (written, zoom, email, telephonic, in person) about your project.

Take the time to introduce yourself properly, and hear the introductions of those you are speaking with. Express gratitude.

Formally present your idea, ask permission (before seeking funding for project). Ask about any customary laws related to the project that should be respected. Allow the community time to consider your request.
Meaningful Collaboration

Collaboration – Design it together, create it together, implement it together, share ownership, share in the benefits (friendship, employment, training, compensation, scholarships, co-authorship, copyrights) – establish meaningful lasting partnerships for future collaboration.
Quyaana, Igamsiqanaghkhalek, Quyaana Caknek, Taikkuu, Iliğanamiik, Thank You

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