Acknowledging 22 tribes in Arizona, including the territorial homeland of the Akimel O’odham and Pee-posh peoples.

This ASU independent study was spearheaded by Bryan Brayboy, Special Advisor to the President on American Indian Affairs. The aim is to initiate a dialogue and approach for honoring 22 Arizona tribes on four ASU campuses, including Sun Devil 365 Stadium. The all-Indigenous team, led by Dalla Costa, an architect and member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, included Indigenous students in Architecture, Urban Planning, Industrial Design, Graphics Design and Environmental Design.

Indigenous Placekeeping

Placekeeping is distinct from design thinking in that it prioritizes culture, negotiates an expanded role of local citizen experts, and utilizes Indigenous methodologies as a means of accessing local narrative.

Creating ‘Welcoming’ Campus Environments

The research question posed to our team of Indigenous researchers: How do we ensure that diverse student populations feel welcome on ASU’s campuses? We envision this project as a yearly studio, added to, by the incoming class.

Sharing Local History

Phoenix is situated within the homelands of the Akimel O’odham and Pee-Posh peoples, whose ancestors (the Hohokam) engineered 500 miles of water canals, and brought water to Phoenix long before the City was incorporated in 1881.