Land Acknowledgement

Purpose: To address invisibility of Indigenous People in society today. The statement should be empowering, not injuring. The statement should leave people knowing and celebrating a living culture rather than reflecting an oppressed state of Indigenous people & culture.

Thought: Invaders doing a land welcome? When possible ask an Indigenous representative and/or attendee to participate. Non-Indigenous people have to come to terms with, and acknowledge, the illegal occupation of the land.
Remember protocol:

- Make an offering to the person (tobacco or small gift)
- Use the Dakota (or traditional) place names in your messaging
- Acknowledge the living beings of the native lands- animals, water etc.

As organization or institution…

1) Why are you doing the acknowledgement, what is the purpose or reason? To appease guilt? You should agree something tangible comes out of the acknowledgement and that people learn from it.
2) As an organization, municipality or European individual, what will you give up? What is the tangible change, are you returning land? Are you advocating for Indigenous rights, or fighting alongside Indigenous community's for a specific cause?
    - Be sure your efforts do not undermine sovereignty!
    - Acknowledge the past, present and future- incorporate the autonomy of Indigenous people.
    - Remember to honor the ancestors!
    - Know your organizations, municipality's history.
3) What is being acknowledged? Are you delegating power or authority that proliferates the disruption of power dynamics or dominant narratives?
    - Acknowledge the historical deficits: genocide and ethnic cleansing.
    - Raise consciousness- don't use benign language!
    - What strategies are you taking to decolonize your institution/municipality?

Use land acknowledgement as a tool to educate.

Remember to acknowledge the people, land & culture of where you've traveled.