



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GUIDE

**EMPOWERING URBAN INDIGENOUS VOICES FOR
HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN LENAPEHOKING**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Urban Indigenous Collective (UIC) Community Advisory Board (CAB) Guide. This document outlines the purpose, roles, responsibilities, and processes related to the CAB. UIC is committed to ensuring that Indigenous community leaders and champions have a strong and influential role in shaping the organization's programming and initiatives. The CAB is an integral part of UIC's governance structure, contributing to the betterment of Urban Natives' health and wellness within the tri-state area.

At UIC our community is at the heart of everything we do. We are in service of Urban Natives living within the tri-state area. We describe Urban Natives as Native American, Alaska Natives and Indigenous peoples of the Americas and the Carribean. We recognize the expertise and lived experiences of our Urban Native community, and we actively engage them to determine the priorities and focus of our organization and programs.

We have established a robust governance structure that includes an Indigenous-led board, a CAB, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Trans and Two-Spirit People (MMIWGT2S) task force. This structure ensures that stakeholder voices are central to our decision-making processes and that we operate in an equitable and sustainable manner.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

OUR MISSION

The Urban Indigenous Collective's mission is to provide access to culturally-tailored health and wellness services for self-identified Indigenous peoples in Lenapehoking (NYC) and the greater NYC area (NY, NJ, CT, PA). UIC envisions a world where Indigenous Peoples' rights and sovereignty are acknowledged, and where Urban Natives have access to culturally appropriate resources to support, heal, and live healthy lives.

OUR PURPOSE

Driving the inclusion of Urban Natives by indigenizing existing infrastructures and ensuring cultural humility in health and wellness services to build more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous communities.

OUR VISION

UIC envisions a world where the rights of Indigenous Peoples and sovereignty are acknowledged and respected with cultural humility. We will model continuous consent and free prior and informed consent and consultation as protocol in each of our programming areas. Working holistically with traditional knowledge keepers and western medicine will enhance the overall mental and physical well-being of our urban Indigenous Community. We see a world where Urban Natives are visible in all spaces and will have access to culturally appropriate resources to support, heal, and live healthy lives.

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**IDENTIFY AS AMERICAN INDIAN
OR ALASKA NATIVE
IN THE FIVE BOROUGHES
OF NYC**

PURPOSE OF CAB

The Community Advisory Board serves as a vital link between the Urban Indigenous Collective and the Urban Native community. Its purpose is to provide valuable insights, expertise, and guidance to UIC's programs and initiatives, ensuring they remain culturally relevant, responsive, and impactful. The CAB facilitates direct communication and collaboration between community members and UIC leadership.



COMPOSITION

The CAB is comprised of Indigenous community leaders and champions who reside within the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania). CAB members reflect a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences, and expertise within the Indigenous community. They embody the cultural richness and variety of the communities UIC serves.

RESPONSIBILITIES

CAB members play a crucial role in advising UIC on programming and implementation, offering feedback on the Community Health Forum and other initiatives. Their responsibilities include:

- Providing feedback and recommendations on UIC's programs, services, and initiatives.
- Sharing community insights and perspectives to ensure cultural sensitivity and appropriateness.
- Participating in quarterly CAB meetings and engaging in active discussions.
- Contributing to the development of culturally-tailored health and wellness solutions.
- Advocating for the rights and needs of Urban Natives within the tri-state area.
- Collaborating with UIC staff and other CAB members to create positive impacts.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for CAB members is designed to ensure diversity and expertise. Applications are accepted annually October 1 - December 31st. Joining the CAB involves the following steps:

- Apply by sending your resume/CV with a cover letter to Info@urbanindigenouscollective.org, subject line: CAB
- The CAB will review the submitted resumes/CVs and relevant experience.
- Interviews will be hosted to assess alignment with UIC's mission and values.
- Voting among existing CAB members will determine new members.

BENEFITS

As a CAB member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Shape the direction of UIC's programs and initiatives.
- Advocate for the health and wellness of Urban Natives.
- Network with fellow Indigenous community leaders and champions.
- Be a part of positive change and meaningful impact in the community.

TERMS & COMMITMENTS

CAB members serve a term of one year, beginning from the date of their appointment. During this period, members are expected to actively contribute to the CAB's mission and objectives. The structure of the term and the nature of engagement are detailed below.

Quarterly General Meetings

The CAB holds quarterly general meetings to discuss UIC's initiatives, strategic plans, and ongoing projects. These meetings are essential for members to provide input, share insights, and collectively contribute to the growth of UIC's programs. The meetings are typically hosted over Zoom to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all members, regardless of their location within the tri-state area.

Meeting in Kinship

During general meetings, respectful and inclusive behavior is expected from all CAB members. Open dialogue, active listening, and the valuing of honoring different viewpoints contribute to a healthy and collaborative environment of kinship. It is encouraged to share your insights, provide feedback, and engage in discussions that honor your cultural knowledge and expertise.

Flexibility and Accessibility

UIC values flexibility and accessibility in its engagement approach. While general meetings are primarily conducted virtually via Zoom to accommodate members across the tri-state area, efforts are made to create inclusive environments that allow for both in-person and online participation. This approach ensures that all members can actively contribute to UIC's mission, regardless of their location or circumstances.

Consistent Attendance

Active and consistent attendance at general meetings is vital to the CAB's impact. Your presence and input during these meetings directly influence the decisions and recommendations that shape UIC's initiatives. As UIC relies on the diverse expertise and perspectives of its CAB members, your engagement ensures that the organization remains responsive to the needs of the Urban Indigenous community.

Attendance Policy

Missing two consecutive general meetings without prior notice may result in termination from the CAB. However, UIC recognizes that unforeseen circumstances may arise. If a member faces difficulties attending meetings due to genuine reasons, they are encouraged to communicate with the CAB coordinator or UIC leadership to discuss their situation.

Reapplication Process

A member whose participation is terminated due to attendance issues may reapply to join the CAB in the following year. This reapplication process provides an opportunity for individuals to re-engage with the CAB, reaffirm their commitment, and contribute to UIC's goals.

SUBCOMMITTEES

UIC's CAB recognizes the importance of focused efforts to address specific aspects of Urban Indigenous health and wellness.

Subcommittees are established to delve deeper into key areas, leveraging the expertise of CAB members to drive positive change. These subcommittees are instrumental in shaping recommendations, policies, and initiatives. Subcommittee's Include:

- Health Equity
- Cultural Preservation and Revitalization
- Restorative Justice
- Youth Empowerment

These subcommittees may choose to meet in person at the UIC community center or virtually, depending on the preferences and convenience of subcommittee members. The frequency of subcommittee meetings will be determined by the subcommittee's objectives and initiatives. These focused efforts align with UIC's mission and values, allowing CAB members to channel their expertise and passion toward meaningful change. As UIC continues to grow, the establishment of additional subcommittees may further extend the organization's reach and impact.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UIC values the contributions of its Community Advisory Board members. Your insights, wisdom, and passion are essential to our mission of fostering health and wellness within the Urban Native community. Thank you for your dedication to improving the lives of Indigenous peoples in the tri-state area.

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For more information, inquiries, or to become part of the CAB, please contact us at info@urbanindigenouscollective.org visit our website at www.urbanindigenouscollective.org.

For Urban Natives, by Urban Natives.

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR ORGANIZATION