

# MME 2024 Summer Workshop



Michigan  
Municipal  
Executives

## **Common Grounds: Local City Government and Indigenous Tribal Nations**

Mark Washington, City Manager, City of Grand Rapids

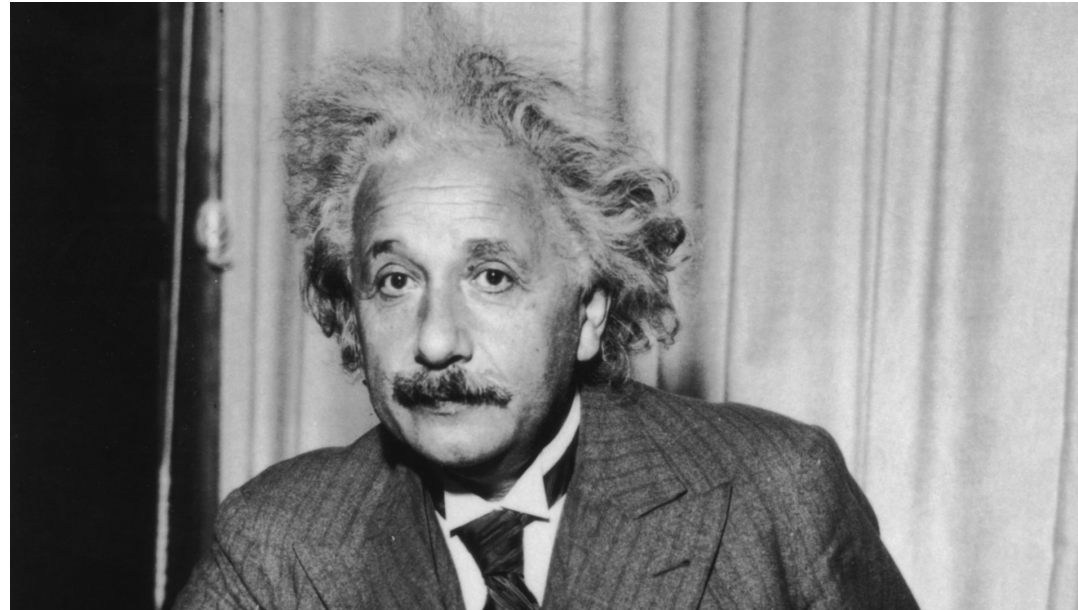
Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz, Community Engagement Manager, City of Grand Rapids

## GOALS FOR TODAY

- Discuss Overview of DEI Efforts within MME
- Importance of DEI and why it matters with our Tribal Nations communities
- Enhance cultural sensitivity and respect
- Implementing inclusive local government practices
- Recognizing economic contributions and opportunities from Tribal Nations communities to support inclusive growth.
- Enrich community projects by incorporating diverse perspectives and cultural richness.
- Build long-term, respectful partnerships with tribal nations to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Situation histories of Tribal Nations people within local government efforts.

## **DIFFERENCES ARE GOOD**

We must not only learn to tolerate our differences. We must welcome them as the richness and diversity which can lead to true intelligence.





# HOW DO WE HAVE LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL?



## **DEI COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Mark Washington, Grand Rapids
- Griffin Graham, South Haven
- Laura Lam, Kalamazoo
- Josh Eggleston, Wayland
- Shay Gallagher, Kentwood
- Tutt Gorman, Portland
- Mark Heydlauff, Charlevoix
- Erin LaPere, Delta Township
- Torrie Lee, Buena Vista Charter Township
- Darwin McClary, Lake Orion
- Susan Montenegro, Chelsea
- Jonathan Seyferth, Muskegon
- Mariah Walton, Eastpointe

## **COMMITTEE PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee is to provide an intentional focus on the presence of DEI issues within MME as an organization and its communities.

## THE MME DEI COMMITTEE WILL

Provide  
Educational  
Resources

Recognize  
Peer Work

Facilitate  
DEI  
Discussions

# RECOGNIZING PEER WORK

1

Highlighting peer work in DEI within different communities

2

Respecting diverse approaches across Michigan's communities

3

Guiding and offering ideas, not dictating solutions



# FACILITATING DEI DISCUSSIONS



# POLICY APPROACH AND INPUT



NO JUDGMENT ON POLICY  
APPROACHES TO EQUITY  
AND INCLUS



SEEKING INPUT FOR  
ASSISTING COLLEAGUES IN  
SERVING RESIDENTS  
EFFECTIVELY.



STRIVING FOR THE BEST  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE DELIVERY.

## EXPLORING TOPICS

- What types of events or social issues require local government managers to engage in challenging community discussions?
- What is the duty of a manager to shed light on issues or (failing) solutions?
- What role does data about programs and services serve in identifying issues that should be advanced in the community?
- Who are the partners that should be engaged in these discussions?

# Situating Michigan as Anishinaabeg Territory

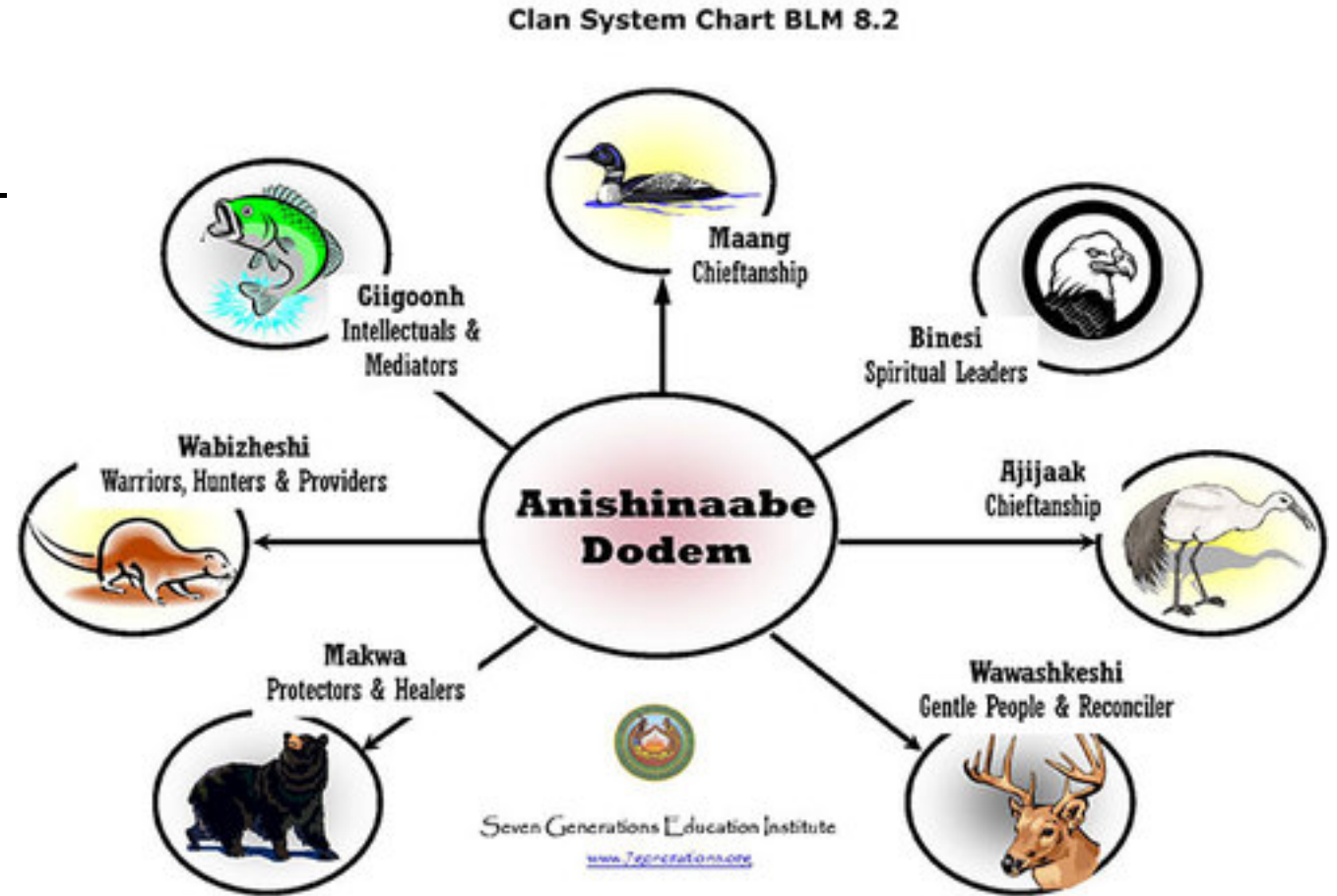
- We reside on land that is under the stewardship of Michigan tribal nations.
- Complex and complicated history
- Partnerships between municipalities and tribal leadership is essential
- How city managers can collaborate with their local tribal nations regarding issues that affect both parties?



# ANISHINAABEG CLAN SYSTEM AS GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

- Roles and responsibilities by clan
- Beliefs around leadership
- Diplomacy as an ancient and culturally-fluid practice

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# TERMINOLOGY

- Indigenous
- Tribal Nations person
- American Indian and Native American
  - Federally-created terminology
  - Used to homogenize
- “Indian”
- When possible: refer by tribal nation and then Indigenous or tribal nations person



# TERMINOLOGY AND IMPACT ON RELATIONSHIPS

## Federally Recognized Tribe

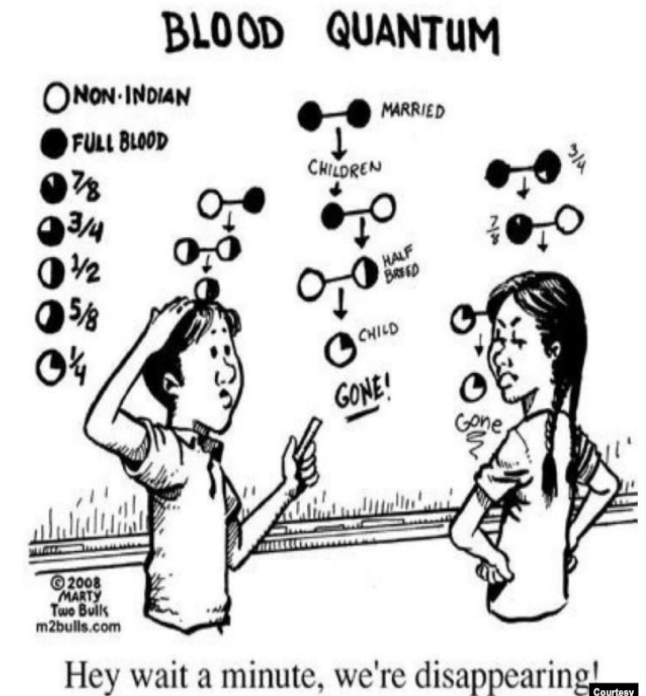
House Concurrent Resolution 108 of 1953

- Termination of a tribe to withdraw all federal aid
- Tribal nations became U.S. Citizens
- Public Law 280: gave State governments the power to assume jurisdiction over reservations

## Citizen or Enrolled in a Tribe

Blood quantum

- A system federal government placed to limit citizenship
- Dawes Rolls (General Allotment Act of 1887)



# SOVEREIGNTY AND SELF-DETERMINATION: PHILOSOPHY AND DEFINITIONS

Self-determination refers to the federal government giving decision making authority to federally-recognized tribes

- Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistant Act of 1975
- Indian Child Welfare Act (1978)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978)
- Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990

Tribal sovereignty is inherent authority to govern themselves

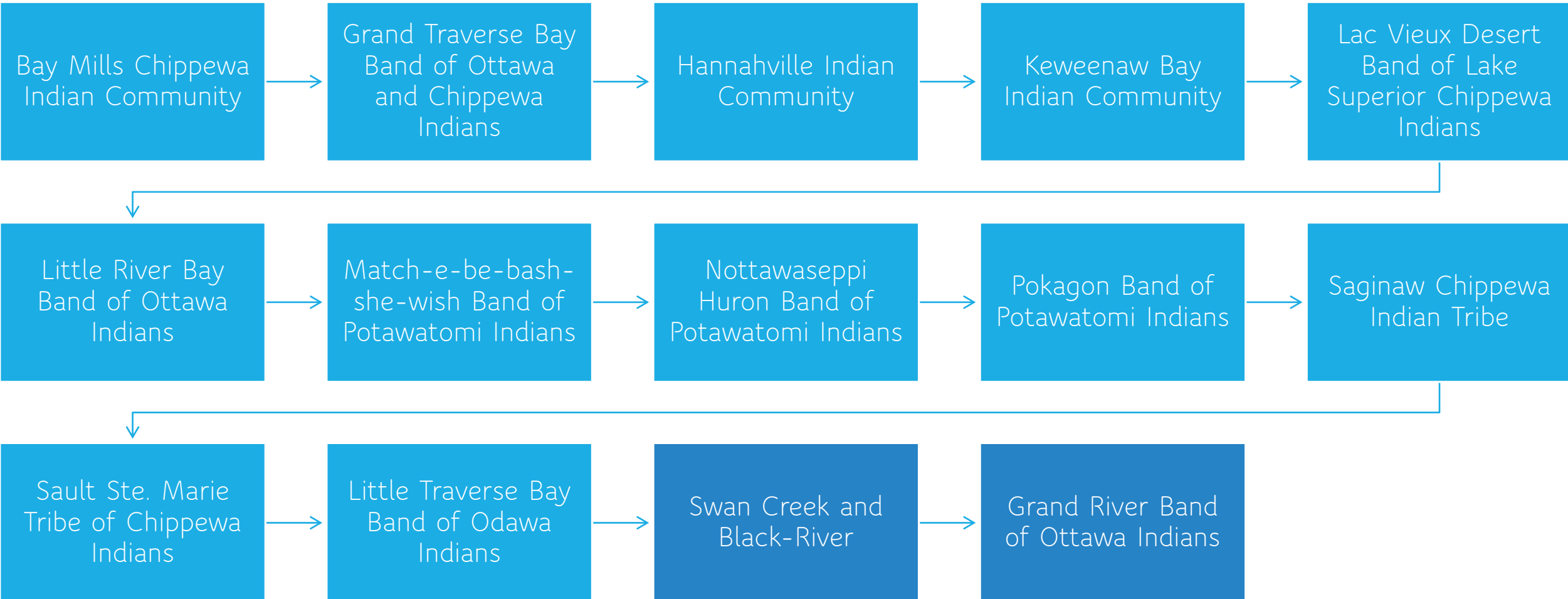
- Domestic dependent nations
- State recognition impacts sovereignty

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN: BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

- Anishinaabeg or People of the Three Fires
  - Ojibwe: oh-JIB-way
  - Odawa: oh-DAH-wah
  - Bodéwadmi: boh-DAh-wahd-mee
- Wyandot: WHY-uhn-dot (Huron) arrived in 17th Century
- Sauk, Fox, Miami, Lenape, Haudenosaunee
  - Sauk: SOK (rhymes with "rock")
  - Fox: FAHKS
  - Miami: my-AM-ee
  - Lenape: leh-NAH-pay
  - Haudenosaunee: ho-dee-no-SHOW-nee

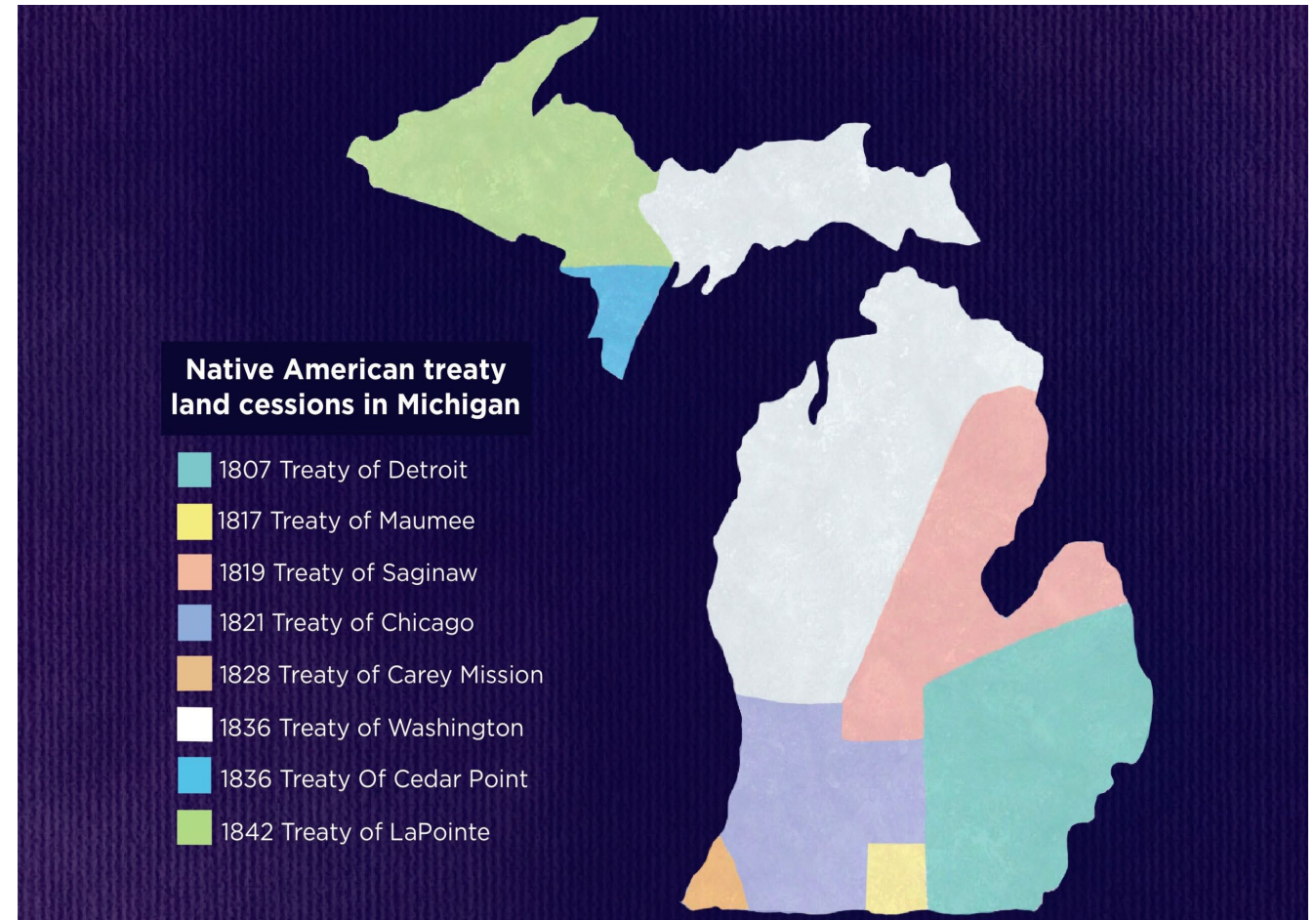


# TRIBAL NATIONS OF MICHIGAN



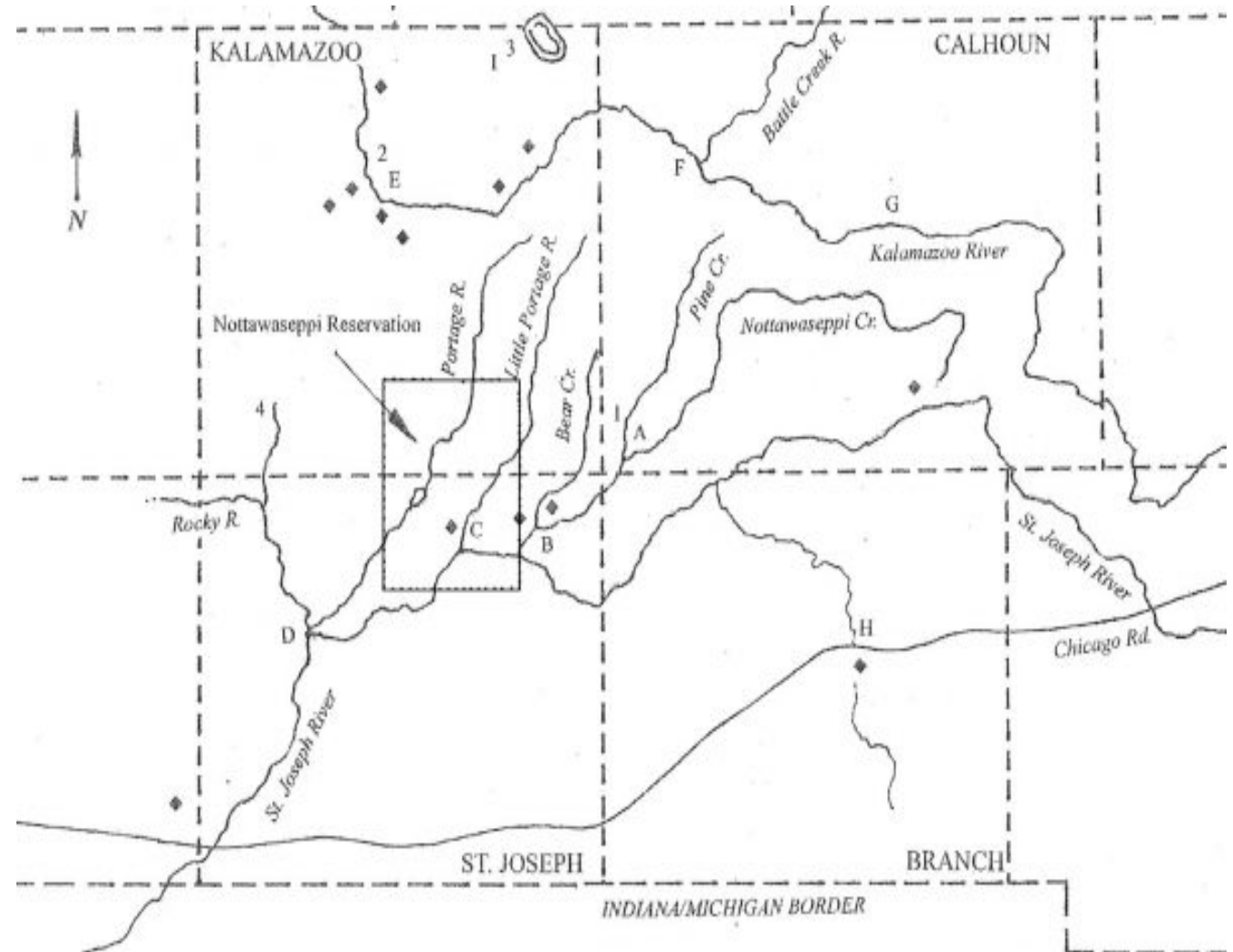
## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

- Identify the treaty associated with your city.
- Which tribal nations are impacted by this treaty?
- What experiences have you had working with tribal nations?

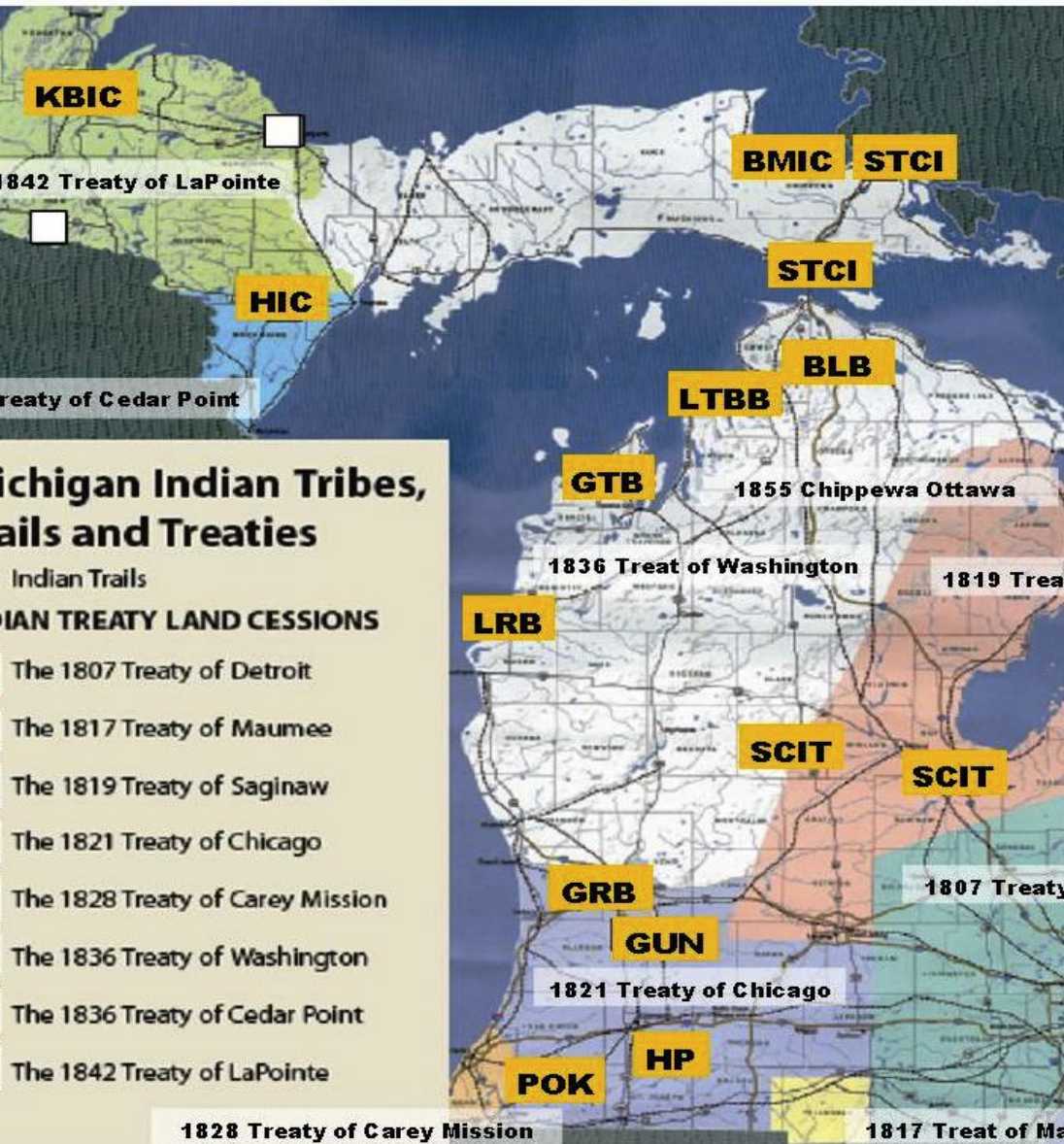


# TREATY OF CHICAGO, 1821

- Ceded lands to the United States south of Grand River and Jackson, Michigan.
- Impacted Nations:
- Grand River Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Pokagon and Nottawaseppi Bands of Potawatomi (eventual removal in 1833)
- Match-e-be-bash-she-wish Band of Potawatomi Indians







# SHARE OUT



What did you already know?



What did you learn?



What do you want to learn?

# PRACTICES FOR DIPLOMACY AND ENGAGEMENT

- Consider Indigenous approaches to time
- Invitation to the decision-making table
- Understand context (local, federal, state, and historical)
- Relationships should be long-term
- Role of gifts
- Beliefs around prosperity
- Truth *then* Reconciliation



## **LOCAL APPROACHES IN GRAND RAPIDS**

### **Collaborations, Restoration and River Projects**

- Mounds: Ongoing collaboration with the GR Public Museum on restoration and repair, including periodic sub-committee meetings since 2016. These efforts can enhance cultural heritage tourism, drawing visitors and boosting the local economy.
- Indigenous Focus Group for River Equity – In 2018, 26 tribal members participated in focus groups who provided guidance and direction to the River for All design team with respect to opportunity sites and design guidelines for river trails.

### **Advisory and Strategic Boards:**

- Tribal leader, Ron Yob, appointed in 2021 to the River Strategic Advisory Board where there is opportunity to shape significant urban development projects, ensuring they respect and integrate cultural heritage, enhancing community support and potentially attracting investments.

## **LOCAL APPROACHES IN GRAND RAPIDS (continued)**

### **Cultural and Community Events:**

- CRC Anniversary Celebrations: These events, which included smudging ceremonies, land recognition, or welcoming songs from the Native American community, promote cultural awareness and can attract tourism.
- Grand Rapids Neighborhood Summit (2013-present): Intentionally includes local Native American vendors and presenters, promoting local businesses and cultural heritage.

### **Proclamations and Cultural Recognition:**

- Indigenous People's Day Proclamation (2020): Such recognitions raise awareness and celebrate cultural heritage, potentially boosting local pride and tourism.
- Michigan Indian Day Celebration (2021 and 2022): Similar to Indigenous People's Day, this celebration can attract visitors and highlight the city's commitment to inclusivity.

### **Community Support and Funding:**

- Neighborhood Match Funding: Supports various initiatives such as Anishinaabek Essential Care Packages (2020), Anishinaabe Circle Native American Days (2021), and the 28th Annual Sobriety Walk (2023). These projects promote health, wellness, and cultural education, contributing to community cohesion and economic stability.



## CONCLUSION

- Collaboration with Tribal Nations people requires culturally responsive efforts and contextual awareness.
- The legacy of policy will impact government-to-government relationships and earning trust.
- It is essential to recognize economic contributions and opportunities from Tribal Nations communities to support inclusive growth.
- We can enrich community projects by incorporating diverse perspectives.
- Build long-term, respectful partnerships with tribal nations to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion