

Suffer The Children

Learning About Our Community



"“Where is it?” Madeline Delilah frantically searched the base of the tree. This massive Black Oak tree has been here longer than her house, longer than her block. It was probably here when the Mississippian Indians lived on this land. Ancient and mystical. She stood there with her eyes closed, silent, hoping perhaps here she would find the answer..” -Mariah Richardson, *Madeline Delilah Book*

Suffer the Children is a show about the different people and cultures that form a Community. We invite you to learn more about where our Community began, who were the first people here, and how to take action against issues that threaten the prosperity of OUR COMMUNITY.

Let's start by learning about the history of the first communities that lived here:

Pre-1673
Missouria and Osage Tribe
hunted in STL area.

1803
France sold Missouri to the
United States.

1830
The Illini were forcibly
removed

Current:
Northern Cherokee Nation
of the Old Louisiana
Territory- band is the only
tribe in Missouri today (not
federally recognized)

From 950-1050 A.D
Mississippian culture
emerged. City of Cahokia
thrived as the largest
Indigenous city north of
Mexico.

1673
The area that is now STL is
occupied by the Illini
Confederacy.

1808
The Osage Nation were forced to sign
Cession 67, which ceded 52.5 million acres
of their land in Missouri and Arkansas. In
exchange, the US government gave them
\$1200 in cash and \$1500 in merchandise.
The Osage Nation reservation is now
located in Osage County, Oklahoma.

1881
The Otoe-Missouria Nation
were the last tribe forcibly
removed from Missouri.

Honoring the first Communities

Land Acknowledgements

Land acknowledgements help us honor a place's Indigenous people - past and present - and recognize the history that brought us to where we are today and the fact that our communities are in stolen lands. Here is COCA's Land Acknowledgement:



In alignment with our mission to enrich lives and build community through the arts, COCA chooses to learn about, come to terms with, and share the truth of Westward Expansion.

COCA acknowledges its community spaces, studios, and theatre rest on the traditional lands of Native People, including the Illini Confederacy, Osage Nation and Missouriia tribe. We acknowledge this land is stolen land and acquired through a history of violence. We honor these tribes now and the other tribes who made their homes in St. Louis before us. We encourage you to learn more about native communities and land where you live.

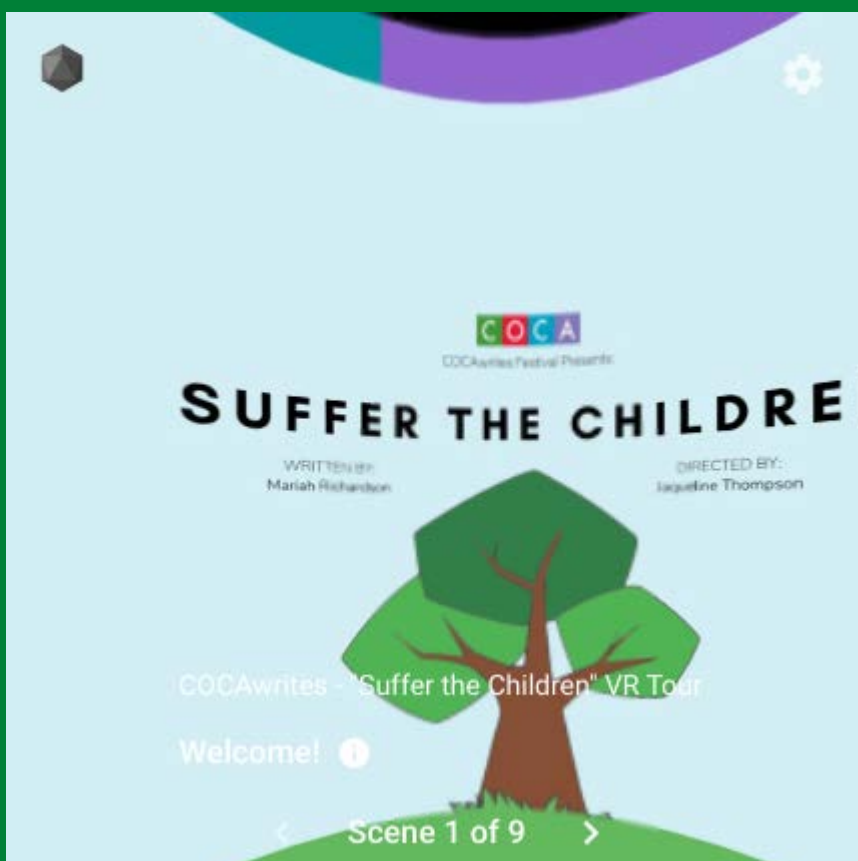
We encourage you to research and learn about which Native Land your home is resting in.

Diversity of Our Communities Today

"We've got to reach out and get to know all of our neighbors. We may not save the world but we can start right here. What harm could it do?"
Suffer the Children

We also honor the communities that were here before us by opening our doors to the diversity and the different cultures of our community today. Inviting people to be a part of our traditions, sharing our cultures and languages with each other, and celebrating what makes us unique.

Suffer the Children takes place in many different locations around St. Louis. Join us in a Virtual Tour of the different neighborhoods and communities represented in our show:



Gun Violence in STL

A Critical Issue in Our Community

Children in St. Louis City have been killed at 10 times the national rate for decades, according to an analysis of FBI homicide data.



Learn from and support these organizations that work to prevent more children from being shot and killed in STL:

**Missouri Foundation for Health
Firearm Violence Prevention**

<https://mffh.org/our-focus/gun-violence-prevention/>

**Saint Louis Story Stitchers
Artists Collective**

<https://storystitchers.org/portfolio/gun-violence-prevention/>

The St. Louis Association of Community Organizations

<https://slaco-mo.org/>

Life Outside of Violence (LOV)

<https://publichealth.wustl.edu/gun-violence-initiative/gun-violence-initiative-projects-%e2%80%8elife-outside-of-violence-lov/>

Racial Equity and Social Justice



"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." James Baldwin

Advocacy/Justice Groups in St. Louis to help everyone in our Community

<https://manchesterumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Advocacy-Social-Justice-Groups-in-St.-Louis-2.pdf>

Learn more about the First Communities

“Future generations will say, ‘We had a home once and I wish my people had held that land.’” —Little Turtle, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, April 1895

THE TRIBES OF MISSOURI PART 1: WHEN THE OSAGE & MISSOURIA REIGNED

<https://missourilife.com/the-tribes-of-missouri-part-1-when-the-osage-missouria-reigned/>

THE TRIBES OF MISSOURI PART 2: THINGS FALL APART

<https://missourilife.com/the-tribes-of-missouri-part-2/>

THE TRIBES OF MISSOURI PART 3: HOMECOMING

<https://missourilife.com/the-tribes-of-missouri-part-3/>

Support organizations that work with Native American Communities in STL:

Missouri Humanities Native American Program

<https://mohumanities.org/programs/native-american/>

Kansas City Indian Center

<https://kcindiancenter.org/>

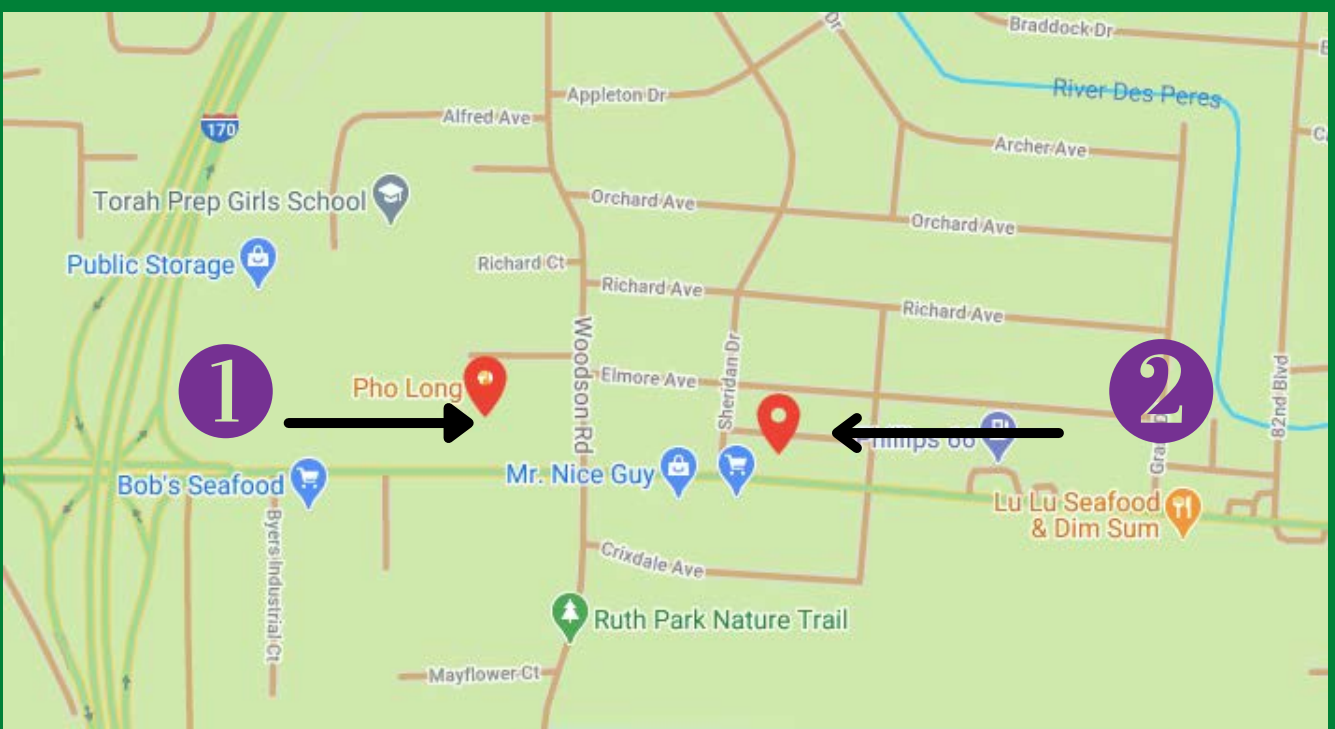
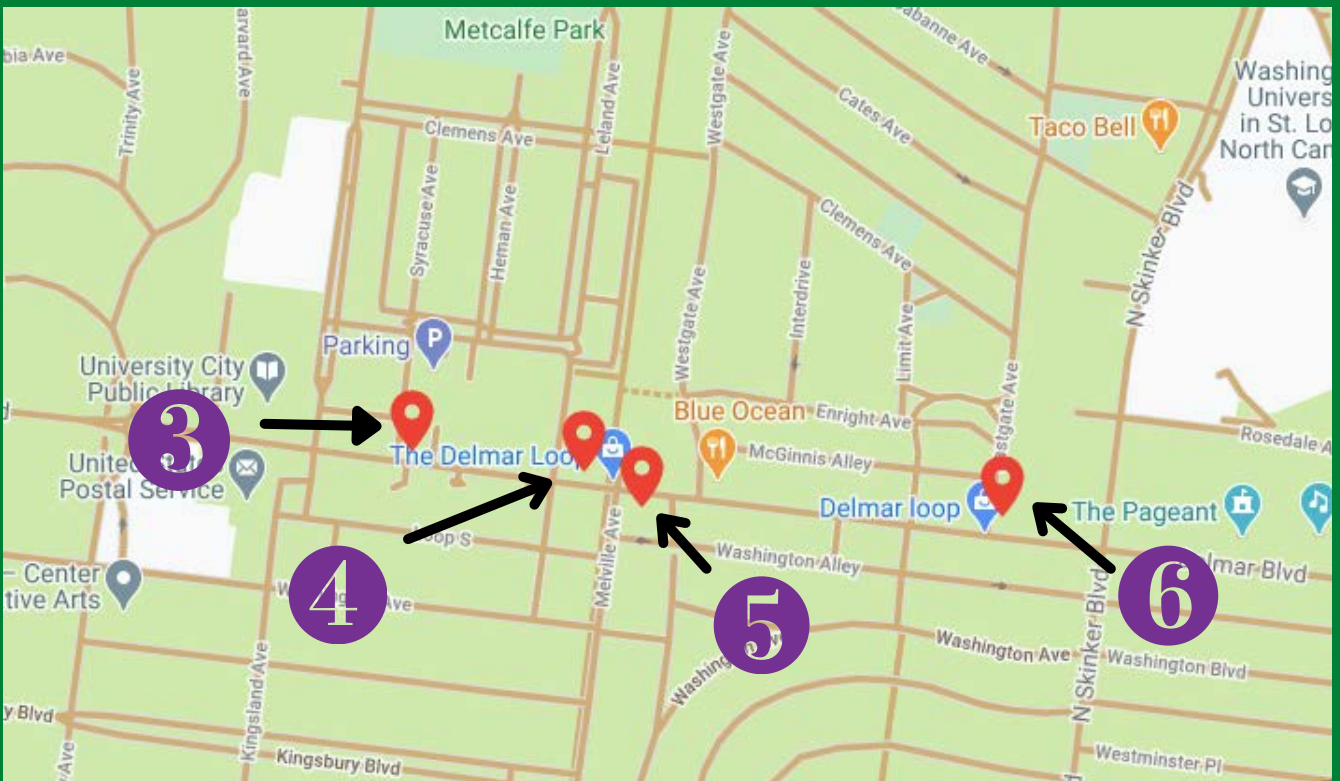
Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies

<https://sites.wustl.edu/budercenter/overview/>



Eat Before-You-Go

Before you attend the COCAwrites Festival, make sure you find some takeout at a one of our neighborhood spots



Restaurant Key List

- 1** **Pho Long**
8627 Olive Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132
- 2** **Asian Kitchen Korean Cuisine**
8423 Olive Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132
- 3** **Seoul Taco**
6665 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63130
- 4** **Fitz's Delmar**
6605 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63130
- 5** **Blueberry Hill**
6504 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63130
- 6** **Mission Taco Joint**
6235 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63130