

Enhancing CCC-CSU-UC Collaboration (EC3) Workshop Main Site: Table Mountain Rancheria Room, Library

Native American Landmarks at CSU, Fresno Library

The design of the California State University Fresno Library is inspired by Native American culture and natural elements. The Table Mountain Rancheria donated \$10 million during the construction of the new wing, transforming its design by celebrating the Native American culture prominent in the Central Valley. The architects thoughtfully wove traditional Native American patterns into the design of the building itself.

- *Exterior:* The Table Mountain Rancheria Tower, a five-story Elliptical Tower, symbolizes a twined cooking basket. The exterior also features “The Lady in Red” (see below).
- *Second Floor:* The Library houses an exhibition of Native American baskets. Mosaic glass artist Erin Adams also created three lighting pieces in the Starbucks seating area on that incorporate the basket weaving theme. Leon S. Peters Gallery showcases Native American baskets, sculptures, photography, and framed artwork.
- *Third Floor:* The Table Mountain Rancheria Reading Room on the third floor has an 11-panel, nine-foot by 30-foot glass mural that tells the history of Table Mountain Rancheria.
- *Interior:* The grand staircase is covered in woven, stainless steel mesh honoring Table Mountain’s basket-making tradition. The stairs also reflect the region's mountains and symbolize the learning journey. Custom fabrics were used for the upholstered lounge and upright chairs. These fabrics were inspired by Native American basket patterns such as the deer hoof, butterfly, and stair-step. The designs took about 18 months to develop.

“The Lady in Red”



“The Lady in Red” is stunning after sunset (on the north side of the Library).

You will be viewing the world’s longest art performance, the first of its kind in the U.S. The 700-foot-tall LED curtain displays Lois Conner, a North Fork Mono artist, weaving a basket from start to finish over the course of 12 months. Her devotion to her craft reflects student and faculty's commitment daily on campus. “Making a basket is a responsibility for me. For students, it’s a responsibility to get your education,” Conner said. “We’re both quietly working. The students are studying. I’m up there and working, and we both have a goal in mind, and that’s finishing.” The basket she is weaving is a gambling basket which is displayed inside the library (second floor).

Native Plant Garden

The Native Plant Garden is just outside the tower and north of the library's main entrance. This no-irrigation, organic garden features river sage, redbud trees, deer grass and other critical ingredients in the basket weaving process. Names of the plants and tools are etched into the granite walls in three languages: Mono, Gashow, and English. *Note:* Construction may make this area inaccessible in October.

Sculpture: Buffalo Head Pillar

If you stroll out of the library's main entrance and head east through the campus, you will come across the Buffalo Head Pillar. Artist Cannupa Hanska Luger "created a life-size cast of Buffalo skull forms to represent Indigenous people's prosperity. The art piece contains approximately 10 ceramic life-size Buffalo skulls stacked as a pillar form with a metal pipe infrastructure that's bolted onto a concrete base in the ground." Students decorated the skulls with various colors of beads.

Land Acknowledgement

"The Fresno State campus sits amid the San Joaquin Valley, a valley rich in the traditions and representation of Native American peoples and cultures. We are grateful to be in the traditional homelands of the Yokuts and Mono peoples, whose diverse tribal communities share stewardship over this land." To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory you reside on and a way of honoring the Native people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

[American Indian Native Landmarks](#)