

# Formats, Accessibility & Cultural Care

This appendix offers practical considerations for designing and hosting IYRP activities that are accessible, culturally grounded, and responsive to diverse community needs. Partners are encouraged to adapt these guidelines to local context and collaborate closely with community members and Tribal Nations.

## A. Format Considerations

Choose formats that support multiple ways of knowing and participating:

### 1. Multi-Modal Engagement

Include a mix of:

- Visual (photos, diagrams, maps, illustrations)
- Text-based (captions, labels, stories)
- Hands-on (seed exchanges, fiber arts, scent bells, dyes)
- Audio/oral (QR-linked stories, soundscapes, interviews)
- This ensures people with different learning styles and sensory capacities can fully participate.

### 2. Low-Tech + High-Tech Options

While digital tools expand reach, every activation should function without them. Always offer:

- Paper alternatives (response cards, printed stories, takeaways)
- Analog experiences (dye demonstrations, seed packets, tactile materials)
- Clear labeling when QR codes or digital audio are used

### 3. Mobile & Adaptable Formats

Design displays so they can travel and set up in:

- Community centers
- Libraries
- Fairs/markets
- Schools
- Outdoor venues

This expands reach—especially for rural or underserved areas.

## B. Accessibility Guidance

Ensure exhibits and programs are welcoming to all visitors, including those with disabilities.

### 1. Physical Accessibility

- Keep pathways 36 inches wide or more.
- Install kiosks and signage at accessible heights.
- Provide seating for rest and reflection.
- Avoid tripping hazards (loose rugs, cords, uneven flooring).

### 2. Sensory Accessibility

- Offer noise-free or low-stimulus times when possible.
- Provide tactile elements (fabric, fibers, seeds) as appropriate.

- Include scent elements only when opt-in, not ambient—respect sensitivities.

### 3. Visual Accessibility

- Use high-contrast labels (dark text on light background).
- Minimum font size: 14 pt for printed materials.
- Provide alt-text for digital materials.
- Offer large-print handouts when possible.

### 4. Linguistic Accessibility

- Use plain-language descriptions.
- Translate key materials into regionally relevant languages when possible.
- Avoid jargon (“rangelands,” “stewardship”) without context.

## **C. Cultural Care & Protocols**

Honor local cultural knowledge, Tribal sovereignty, and community stewardship traditions.

### 1. Collaborate Early, Not After the Fact

When working on or near Indigenous land or with Indigenous knowledge:

- Reach out to Tribal cultural departments or community liaisons early.
- Ask about appropriate protocols for stories, imagery, and plant/seed use.
- Compensate cultural knowledge-holders fairly.

### 2. Respect Intellectual & Cultural Property

- Some stories, songs, and practices are not meant for public display.
- When in doubt, ask permission or choose a different example.

### 3. Ethical Harvesting

- If gathering natural materials (e.g., plants for dye, sagebrush, juniper berries):
- Follow safe harvesting notes provided in the Toolkit.
- Do not collect from culturally sensitive areas without permission.
- Avoid overharvesting or disturbing habitats.

### 4. Accuracy & Representation

- Avoid tokenizing images of pastoralists or Indigenous communities.
- Use locally relevant examples rather than generic stock imagery.
- When quoting or sharing stories: credit source communities respectfully.

### 5. Trauma-Informed Engagement

Some themes (colonization, displacement, climate impacts) may resonate deeply. Provide:

- Clear framing of content
- Optional participation
- Space for reflection without forced emotional sharing

## **D. Consent & Media Use**

If capturing images or audio at events:

- Use simple consent forms.

- Never photograph minors without explicit parental permission.
- Clearly inform participants how materials will be used.
- Honor all requests to remain unphotographed or anonymous.

### **E. Inclusive Hosting Practices**

Small choices make a big difference. Provide:

- Water and shade for outdoor events
- Seats for elders and caregivers
- Clear event signage (“Start here”, “Touch here”, “Take one, leave one”)
- All-gender and accessible restrooms when possible

Use facilitation that:

- Encourages listening over debate
- Welcomes quiet participants
- Respects local knowledge equally to scientific knowledge

### **F. Event Checklists**

Before Your Event:

- Materials available in multiple formats (print, audio, tactile).
- Accessible pathways and seating.
- Translations or plain-language versions prepared.
- Permissions or cultural consultations completed.
- Ethical harvesting protocols followed.
- Photo/recording permission signage posted.

During Your Event:

- Greeters available to orient visitors.
- Optional participation communicated clearly.
- Clear signage on interactive materials.
- Accessibility needs monitored and responded to.

After Your Event:

- Collect feedback or Creative Response Cards.
- Share outcomes with partners and cultural knowledge-holders.
- Store or archive materials using the file naming and crediting conventions.