

## Miami Tribal Seal



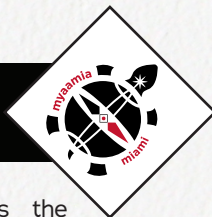
The **Seal** of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma appears prominently on the Nation's flag and is an important symbol of sovereignty. The **Seal** includes a silhouette of a **sandhill crane** that flies over a **turtle**. The **Seal** also includes a ring of colors to represent the four directions: yellow (*awaansaapiciši* [eastward]) stands for birth and the rising sun of a new day. Blue/green (*maayaahkweeciši* [southward]) represents youth and growth in the pursuit of knowledge. Red (*pankihšinkiši* [westward]) symbolizes responsibility and sacrifice. And black (*pipoonahkionkiši* [northward]) honors the elders and wisdom. The white inner area of the circle signals peace and harmony. Six eagle feathers hang from the bottom. Each represents a large village community of the Tribe at the time of European contact.

## Myaamia Heritage Logo



The **Myaamia Heritage Logo** is inspired by one of the Tribe's traditional art forms, ribbonwork. It features three diamonds. The black diamond on the left symbolizes the Miami Tribe and represents time, respect, wisdom, and connection to their historical land. On the right, the red diamond represents Miami University and symbolizes the commitment to knowledge, responsibility, and sacrifice involved in this relationship. The center white diamond represents the cooperation and respect that are necessary for this unique relationship. Each partner learns and works with the other. Inside the white diamond is a red dot that stands for the "fire" lit by this relationship and the need to nurture it.

## Myaamia Heritage Turtle



The **Myaamia Heritage Turtle** centers the **Myaamia Heritage Logo**. This logo also highlights the unique relationship between the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University. It features elements which unite culture and tradition for both the Tribe and the University such as the **turtle**. Around the **turtle** design, the words "myaamia" and "miami" highlight the Tribe and the University.



# Symbols Guide

## Sandhill Crane



The **sandhill crane** is an important symbol for the Myaamia community. The significance of the **sandhill crane** within the Myaamia culture is evident in their lunar calendar. It represents the third month of the lunar calendar. The **sandhill crane** is also used by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to represent the Myaamia people in the **Seal** of the Miami Tribe. Across Miami University's campus are sites illustrating the Tribe's relationship with the University that feature the **sandhill crane**.

## Turtle



The **turtle** is an important symbol to the Miami Tribe because it represents the homelands of the Miami Tribe. The **turtle** appears on several tribal symbols, including the **Miami Tribe Seal**. The **turtle** is also seen on the base of the sundial on campus, which features a circle of copper **turtles**. Students who are seeking good luck can touch the heads of the copper **turtles**. Both the Tribe & Miami University use **turtles** as symbolism.



# Neepwaantiinki Tour



## Learning From Each Other

(1-2) Photos by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma  
(3) Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center  
(4) Photo Courtesy of Musee-du-quai-Branly, Paris, France

Photo by Doug Peconge, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

*aya ceeki!*

*mihši neewe*

## Hello everyone!

In 1972 Chief Forest Olds of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma was on a business trip to Cincinnati, Ohio and decided to make an impromptu visit to Miami University to see the school that shared a name with his tribe. The connection was more than a common name, it was also a common place. Oxford, Ohio, home to Miami University is part of the historic homelands of the Miami Tribe. Chief Olds was graciously received and given a tour of campus as then president Phillip Shriver was away. Two years later Chief Olds returned for a meeting with President Shriver and the spark of a relationship was lit. It is a relationship that has developed into a strong and vibrant partnership and it has grown significantly. 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of that initial visit.

This tribally led and university supported partnership has had many successes and achievements. Central to the mission is the revitalization of Myaamia language, culture, and education.

In 1991 the first Myaamia “heritage students” enrolled at Miami University thanks to a scholarship program. Since that time, over 100 Myaamia students have graduated from the university.

In 2001 the Myaamia Center was created and it serves as the research arm for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. It is a unique model because the initiatives are tribally led. In addition to language reclamation and revitalization; the center develops educational material for Myaamia youth; conducts summer youth programs; provides programming and support for the Myaamia heritage students; and is a model for many tribes engaged in language and cultural revitalization.

The *Neepwaantiinki* Tour explores the dynamic partnership in learning between Miami University and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma through place. The sites included in this brochure feature permanent sites on campus and in the surrounding Oxford community that speak to this thriving reciprocal relationship.

## Acknowledgments

As we achieve more together than we could alone we'd like to thank the partners that have made this brochure possible!

**Greater Oxford Community Foundation,**  
whose generous grant funded this brochure

**The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma**

**Miami University**

**The Myaamia Center**

**Dr. Sandra Garner, Chief Floyd Leonard**  
**Faculty Fellow for the Myaamia Center**  
(Associate Professor, Global and Intercultural  
Studies, American Studies)

**Students in American Studies 301 course**  
(Spring and Fall 2022)

**Dr. Cameron Shriver**

**Lela Troyer, Graphic Designer**  
(Citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and  
Miami University alumni)

## Neepwaantiinki Tour Map



Look for the  
**Neepwaantiinki**  
Bus in Oxford!

Photo by Jonathan Fox,  
Myaamia Center



Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



# Digital Map



With the exception of a few updated sites, this tour is also available in a digital format by scanning the QR code on this page.

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



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## Corner of High and Main

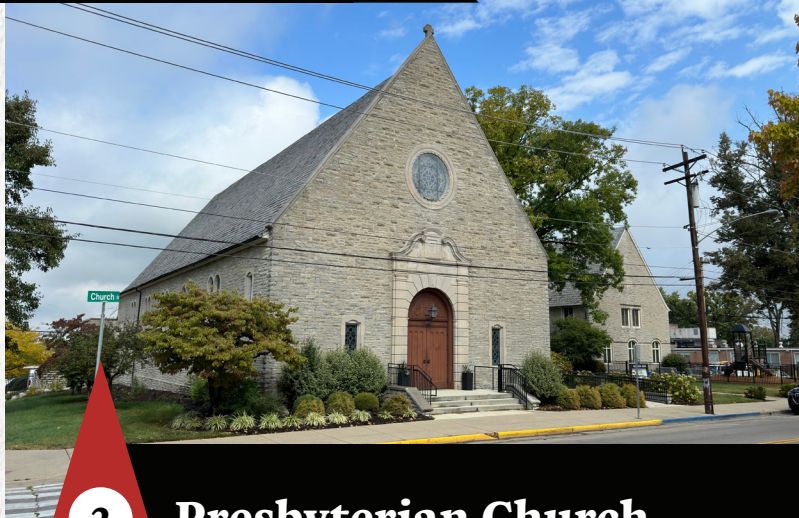
### We Acknowledge History

Founded in 1809, Miami University, has a unique and strong relationship with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. We acknowledge the Tribal Nations who previously occupied the land as a sign of respect for their Indigenous sovereignty. We acknowledge the Miami and Shawnee Tribes who were stewards of this land before the University's founding and continue to be connected to this place. More information about the University's land acknowledgment can be found on the University Land Acknowledgment website, which states:

*Miami University is located within the traditional homelands of the Myaamia and Shawnee people, who along with other Indigenous groups ceded these lands to the United States in the first Treaty of Greenville in 1795. The Miami people, whose name our University carries, were forcibly removed from these homelands in 1846.*

Miami University and the Miami Tribe have an enduring relationship in which both parties learn with each other for the betterment of all. The result of this action is what has allowed the University and the Tribe to continue to have a positive relationship.

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



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## Presbyterian Church

### The Society, A Mission, and The Tribe

Beginning in the 1830s, the Society of Inquiry—a Presbyterian missionary group of Miami University students founded by Professor Thomas Armstrong—regularly convened at the college’s chapel for lectures, readings, and meetings. The foundational purpose of the society was to pray for and actively participate in the conversion of the world to Christianity. In 1838 the society was combined with the Missionary Society of the Associate Reformed Church because of their shared goals and plans of action. In 1840, members of the Society of Inquiry (with approval from the school and both churches) set out for the Myaamia homelands in northern Indiana in hopes to convert them to Christianity. The students met with three leading families in the community: *Šimaakanehsia*, Jean Baptiste Richardville (*Pinšiwa*), and Francis Godfroy (*Palaanswa*).

### Memorial Building



Although Chief Richardville and Francis Godfroy were both Catholic, the Miami students concluded that Catholicism was the wrong Christianity and that it was their duty to convert the Myaamia, even Catholics.

Efforts of conversion were halted once the United States government forced Native American tribes, such as the Myaamia, to relocate further west in the mid- 1800s. The Society of Inquiry eventually came to an end by the 1850s, but both churches remain in Oxford, Ohio today.

Photo by Scott Kissell, Miami University



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## Roudebush Hall

### The Spark of the Relationship: Tribe and University

Inside Roudebush Hall, home of Miami University's administration and leadership offices, is a new sculpture designed to represent the beginning of the relationship between Miami University and the Miami Tribe. The Miami Tribe gifted this sculpture to the university to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of their relationship. In 1972 while on business in Cincinnati, Chief Forest Olds made an impromptu visit to Miami University. Although President Phillip Shriver was away at the time,

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Chief Olds was given a tour of the University by alumni and staff. Two years later he returned to meet President Shriver, forging the relationship between the Miami Tribe and Miami University. The sculpture was donated to commemorate this historic meeting between Chief Olds and President Shriver, one that undoubtedly sparked the relationship between the Tribe and University.

Chief Olds and President Shriver's meeting was the beginning of the collaborative efforts between the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University as partners in learning. Some of the most notable achievements in this partnership include the establishment of the Myaamia Heritage Program, which gives full tuition scholarships to Myaamia students attending the university, as well as the Myaamia Center, which leads culture and language research and revitalization efforts for the Miami Tribe.

This unique relationship is expressed through a shared commitment to *neepwaantiinki* ("learning from each other") and has played a key role in establishing a *Myaamiaki Eemamwiciki* - a Myaamia awakening. As a result, the first generation in nearly 100 years is now learning to speak *Myaamiataweenki*, the Myaamia language.



Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center

## A Sense of Place: the Myaamia

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# Hefner Museum

## A Sense of Place: The Myaamia

An exhibit titled 'A Sense of Place: The Myaamia,' is located on the first floor of Upham Hall outside of the Hefner Museum. The exhibit features three displays: The *myaamia kiilhswaakani* or 'Myaamia Lunar Calendar,' *myaamia miincipi* or 'white corn,' and *eemhkookani* or 'tobacco box gourd'. Each of these sections highlight important elements of Tribal traditions.

The central part of the exhibit is the Myaamia Lunar Calendar. The Lunar Calendar provides a way for the Myaamia people to keep track of the stages of the moon through observations in nature or events that correlate with certain times of the year. For example the Young Bear Moon signals the start of the new year, and the Grass Burning Moon signals the end of summer and the beginning of fall.

*myaamia miincipi* includes three ears of white corn and explains the historical and cultural significance of this traditional corn to the Tribe. A photo is included within this display of Miami Tribe of Oklahoma citizen Dani Tippman.

The tobacco box gourd was created by Indiana based artist Patria Smith. Smith uses dried plants and gourds to create art while also helping to create something usable and even meaningful.

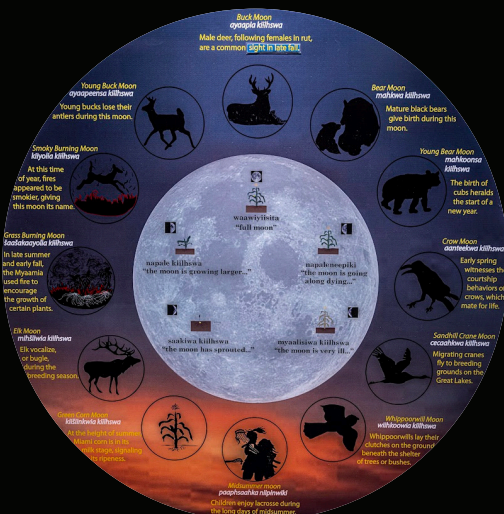
# White Corn

*myaamia miincipi*



# Myaamia Lunar Calendar

*myaamia kiilhswaakani*



# Tobacco Box Gourd

*eemhkookani*



Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



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## Shade Room

### Tended Over Time: Partners in Learning

The Shade Family Room in the Armstrong Student Center was supported by the Shade Family Foundation in 2014 and is decorated to reflect the heritage and history of Miami University through a series of photo collections. One series is dedicated to the relationship between Miami University and the Miami Tribe.

In 1972, The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University began to build a relationship. It has grown and deepened over the last 50 years. Highlights of this relationship are displayed on one of the eight columns of photos at the main entrance in the Shade Room. The images feature numerous interactions between past Miami University Presidents and various Miami Tribal Chiefs, the Myaamia Center logo, the Partners in Learning agreement, and other significant events, such as the first Miami Tribe citizens to enroll at Miami University.

Beginning with Chief Olds' visit to campus in 1972 to the creation of the Myaamia Center in 2001, the relationship between the Tribe and the University has fostered mutual appreciation and understanding, which is illustrated in the photo collection.

Photos by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center

# THE SPACE WE SHARE

From Miami University to the Great Miami River,

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY BEARS THE NAME OF THE MYAAMIA PEOPLE

who have called these lands home since time immemorial.

The Myaamia people's deep connection to their homelands existed long before the United States of America — that these ties endure today despite centuries of colonization and immeasurable loss is a testament to their strength and resilience as a people.

The living Myaamia community, known officially as the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, has more than 6,000 citizens in 49 states.

Today, the Miami Tribe is engaged in a vibrant resurgence of their heritage of Oklahoma, and cultural practices like storytelling, weaving, and basketry are threads that connect all Myaamia people.

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## 2nd Floor

### Wiikiaami Room Graphics

The murals outside the Wiikiaami Room in the Armstrong Student Center share information about the history, traditions, and culture of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. From left to right:

**Time is Like a Pond:** *saakiweesiipiwi* 'the coming out river' serves as the beginning of the story for the Myaamia people in their homelands. Today there are over 6,000 citizens of the Miami Tribe living across 49 states. The lunar calendar is important to Myaamia people, and it serves as a reminder of their connection to the environment. Additionally, *Myaamiataweenki*, 'the language of Myaamia people' is one way Myaamia people continue to connect to one another.

**The Space we Share:** You cannot tell the story of the Myaamia people without discussing the land they have called home. This mural explores the moves the Myaamia people have made and the places they have called home.

**Learning From Each Other:** The relationship between the Miami Tribe and Miami University has grown tremendously over the last 50 years. The land where Miami University resides is within the homelands of Myaamia people. Now the two groups work together to learn from each other and to help advance the work of the Miami Tribe. Through the work of the Myaamia Center, Miami University supports the work of the Miami Tribe to revitalize the Myaamia language while also helping Myaamia students learn about their history.

### Wiikiaami Room

The *Wiikiaami* Room serves as a space to educate visitors about the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and share its history and the current activities of the Myaamia Center. It is sponsored by the Smucker family and opened in 2014 after designs were developed in an architecture design studio class from 2007-2009. This room is enriched with several symbols, such as ribbonwork, the **Heritage logo**, and colors significant to the Tribe. The room is circular in shape, and its entrances face east to symbolize a *wiikiaami*, the Myaamia word for home. The wood inlay on the bench that extends from the floor to the top of the bench represents the poles that would make up the *wiikiaami*. This decorative inlay was created by Myaamia artist Jody Gamble.

Four display cases can be found in the Wiikiaami Room which contain text and images reflecting the history of the Tribe, its relationship to the university, the revitalization of Myaamia culture and language, and the sovereignty of the Tribe. The displays are rotated to include the most significant and recent photos and information about the Tribe. While this space can only be reserved by students, all are encouraged to visit.

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center

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## Foyer

### Flags of Our Nations

The foyer in MacMillan Hall includes flags of every country from which Miami University students originate, including students who are citizens of The Miami Tribe. Citizens of Tribes are also citizens of the United States.

The MacMillan Hall Flag website states: Global Initiatives is pleased to display over 100 flags from around the world in MacMillan Hall. Each flag represents a country of origin for our past and present international students. The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma flag is included with other national flags, representing the Tribe's national sovereignty.

The flag's colors represent aspects of Myaamia life, correlated with cycles of life. The **Miami Tribal Seal** on their national flag emphasizes tribal sovereignty and pays respect to citizens of the Miami Tribe and Myaamia students attending Miami University.



Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center

Sovereignty can be understood as the right of a group of people to govern themselves, including controlling their own land.

For more information on The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, you can check out their website. To further represent their partnership in learning, Miami University recently gifted the Myaamia Tribe with a new educational space in Room 212 upstairs in MacMillan Hall.

Photo by Scott Kissell, Miami University



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## Brick and Ivy

### Myaamia Heritage Collection

Miami University and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma present the Myaamia Heritage Collection showcasing the **Myaamia Heritage Logo** on clothing and other merchandise. The **Myaamia Heritage Logo** was inspired by the Myaamia art form of ribbonwork. The collection is available at Brick and Ivy and online.

The Myaamia Heritage Collection celebrates the 50th anniversary of the multi-layered collaboration that rose from a common name and place and grew into today's deeply rooted educational partnership. The collection highlights *neepwaantiinki*, a Myaamia term which translates to "learning from each other."

The royalties from The Myaamia Heritage Collection merchandise provide support to Myaamia students who attend Miami University through the Myaamia Heritage Award Program.

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



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## Outside Boyd Hall

### *Kitahkinaani*

*Kitahkinaani*, or 'Our Garden,' in the Myaamia language, is located next to Boyd Hall on Western Campus. The garden incorporates an image of a **turtle**, an important symbol to the Tribe. The presence of this garden is one of the many physical reminders on campus that represent the mutual understanding and lasting relationship between the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and Miami University.

Many cultural traditions, such as the Myaamia language continue to be revitalized through community efforts. The inclusion of culturally significant plants in the garden represents the revitalization of traditional foods as well. When in bloom, the garden will be able to provide viewers with not only a representation of traditional foods, but what is important to the Tribe. This garden will provide visitors the opportunity to engage with Myaamia culture and be able to learn firsthand about Myaamia ethnobotany through the QR code featured here, as well as what can result through community engagement and collaboration.



The Myaamia Center's Ethnobotanical Database, which contains information regarding the plants that are significant to the Tribe, will be available to all viewers of this map who utilize the QR code on their personal cellular devices.

Photo by Jonathan Fox, Myaamia Center



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## Art Museum Outdoor Sculpture Garden

### **A Tribe Named Miami, A Surveyor's Stake, A Town Named Oxford**

A Tribe Named Miami, A Surveyor's Stake, A Town Named Oxford, was created by contemporary Myaamia artist Eugene Brown. Born in Quapaw, Oklahoma, Eugene was a citizen of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Eugene Brown passed away in 2017, however, his legacy lives on. Before his passing, Eugene Brown stated "I want to preserve American Indian culture. If just one generation keeps it and doesn't pass it on, then it is lost." The sculpture was unveiled in 2008 at the closing ceremony of an exhibition at the Miami University Art Museum and sculpture park. The original wooden sculpture, which was used as a model for the bronze sculpture can be found inside the art museum.

The sculpture represents the relationship between the Miami Tribe and Miami University. It features a **sandhill crane**, **turtle**, and a white stake that strikes through the center of the sculpture. Brown used the **turtle** to symbolize the world or land because the **turtle**'s curved shell mimics the curvature of the horizon.

He also included the seal of Miami University on the **turtle**'s back, symbolizing the shared land between the University and the Tribe. Finally, the white surveyor's stake represents the land the Miami Tribe inhabited being transformed into a new territory from which the Tribe was removed.



Photo by Scott Kissell, Miami University

Photo by Jeff Sabo, Miami University



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## Goggin Ice Arena

### Two Miamis: Athletics and Miami Tribe Relations

The **Myaamia Heritage Logo** is a symbol of the close relationship held between Miami University and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and is used by Miami athletics to highlight the relationship. The **Myaamia Heritage Logo** has been incorporated into Miami athletics facilities and uniforms. In the Fall of 2019, the **Heritage logo** was added to the Goggin Ice Center in the form of a large wooden plaque in the arena, decals on the outer edges of the stadium seats, and the hockey pucks.

The logo can be seen in multiple athletic facilities including Millett Hall, Hayden Park, and Yager Stadium. Several sports teams also have alternate jerseys featuring the **Heritage logo**, and a 50th anniversary patch. Each fall, there is a week-long event “Celebrating Miami: Tribe and University” celebration where Myaamia students and Tribal members participate in various educational activities during athletic contests.

Part of this relationship is founded on educating the Miami University community about the Tribe. This includes an education program for the athletes to learn about the meaning of the symbol and the rich relationship. Additionally, the land acknowledgment is read before each athletic event.

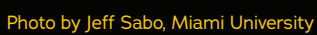
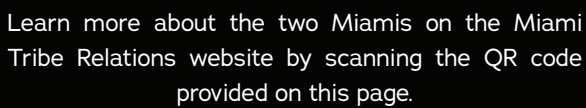


Photo by Karen Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma



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## Bonham House

### The Myaamia Center

Bonham House is home to the Myaamia Center on Miami University's Oxford campus. In 2001, the "Myaamia Project" began in King Library with a single employee. The Myaamia Project transitioned to the Myaamia Center in 2013, and today is housed in Bonham House. The center houses office spaces, a conference room, and a gathering space for Myaamia students.

The Myaamia Center's overarching goal is to revitalize Myaamia language and culture. There are 7 departments with 18 staff members who work in areas such as education, Tribe relations, outreach, and language. They work on projects such as The National Breath of Life, Indigenous Perspectives, and other programs. One specific project the Center heads is the Miami Heritage Award Program. This program allows students from the Tribe to receive financial aid to attend Miami University. The full (four-year) undergraduate college experience allows students to take Myaamia Heritage Courses, which are centered around Myaamia knowledge.



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# By Harrison Hall

## **Under Construction**

To further represent their partnership in learning, Miami University recently gifted the Miami Tribe with plans to build a new outdoor educational space. Upon completion you will be able to visit the site outside of Harrison Hall.

