

**NEWS** from THE CAMPAIGN to  
SAVE THE WEST BERKELEY OHLONE  
SHELLMOUND & HISTORIC VILLAGE SITE



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
**America's 11 Most  
Endangered Historic Places**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 13, 2020**

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**In Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day:  
Lisjan Ohlone Leader Corrina Gould to Brief Berkeley City Council on the History of  
the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site on Tuesday, October 13th**

Berkeley, California: In recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day, the Berkeley City Council has invited Lisjan Ohlone leader Corrina Gould to brief council members and city staff on 5,700 years of Ohlone history in Huichuin, the land we now call Berkeley.

**The media and the general public are cordially invited  
to join this informative public Zoom briefing on**

**Tuesday afternoon, October 13, 2020,  
from 5:00 - 6:00 PM Pacific time by clicking [here](#).**

Ms. Gould's presentation will feature a new, four-minute animated sequence by local artist/ animator Chris Walker, showing the ancient Ohlone village and shellmounds, juxtaposed with the streets and buildings of Berkeley, and rare historic photos of the shellmounds. The animation helps the viewer to clearly visualize where the ancient village once was and what has replaced it.

The Ohlone village and shellmounds site was landmarked by the city of Berkeley in 2000 and recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the [11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America](#) in September 2020. You can read a recent blog post about the designation, find a list of the media coverage the national recognition generated, and see a variety of videos about the site [here](#).

An undeveloped 2.2 acre parking lot at the heart of the cultural site has been proposed for a 5-story retail-condo development that would destroy the cultural site, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

A better use of the site would be as a protected historic site. Corrina Gould has led a four-year effort to create an inspiring memorial park that would daylight Strawberry Creek and include a memorial and educational cultural center.

**Zoom link for October 13, 2020 at 5pm PT: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88371105282>**

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**Resources:**

- [Photos and Captions for use in Reporting](#)
- [Shellmound.org website: Campaign to Save the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site](#)
- [West Berkeley Shellmound Facebook Page](#)
- [Berkeleyside stories about the Shellmound Campaign \(since 2015\)](#)

**Press coverage of National Trust for Historic Preservation Announcement of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America**

- **SF Chronicle** 9/24/20: [Berkeley Native American site slated for homes named a key endangered historic place](#)
- **SF Gate** 9/24/20: [Bay Area site surprisingly named one of America’s most endangered places](#)
- **San Francisco Business Times** 9/24/20: [Designation for Native American burial grounds in Berkeley may impede planned housing development / PDF of full article](#)
- **ABC-7 KGO-TV** 9/24/20: [Berkeley Ohlone site named one of most endangered historic places in US](#)
- **Berkeleyside** 9/25/20: [West Berkeley Shellmound is now considered one of the U.S.’s 11 most endangered historic places](#)
- **Daily Cal** 9/25/20: [West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site named 1 of 11 most endangered historic sites in US](#)
- **KPFA Radio** 9/24/20: [Major development in the four-year campaign to save the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village site](#) by Christina Aanestad (MP3 audio, 4:27)
- **Earth Island Journal** 9/25/20: [Paved Over Ohlone Shellmound Site in Berkeley Listed as Endangered Historic Place](#)
- **Native News Online** 9/29/20: [Berkeley Shellmound Named One of America’s Most Endangered Places](#)
- **Fox-2 KTVU-TV** 9/25/20: [5,000-year-old Native American burial site in East Bay deemed historic site](#)
- **Washington Post** 9/25/20: [Preservation group lists Indigenous site in Va. among nation’s most endangered landmarks](#) (Related story, includes mention of Shellmound)
- **Sacred Land Film Project blog** 9/28/20: [11 Most Endangered](#)

**Background:**

The West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site was the first Ohlone village on the shores of San Francisco Bay, founded 5,700 years ago. The last remaining unbuilt portion of the village (1900 Fourth St.) was landmarked by the City of Berkeley 20 years ago but is today threatened by a 5-story retail and apartment complex that would excavate 10-feet into the earth. Local Lisjan Ohlone leader Corrina Gould has led a four-year effort to protect the historic site and create an inspiring green space and community park that would daylight Strawberry Creek and build a memorial cultural center.

**Corrina Gould bio:**

Ohlone leader Corrina Gould is the spokesperson for the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and the Co-Founder and a Lead Organizer for Indian People Organizing for Change. She has worked tirelessly to protect the 425 shellmounds that ring San Francisco Bay, and is currently focused on protecting the West Berkeley Shellmound and Village Site, the first and oldest Ohlone settlement on San Francisco Bay—a designated Berkeley City Landmark since 2000.

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