Worksheet for Developing a Tribal Intellectual Property Policy
Digital Stewardship Curriculum

When planning for the development of tribal Intellectual Property (IP) policy, there are a few questions to consider related to internal tribal governance processes. These will be different for each community. The questions below are meant to help identify key stakeholders and issues as your work to define the needs for developing a tribal IP policy.

1. First, it is helpful to identify what the processes for the development of **any** tribal policy are. This will help you navigate the proper channels within your tribe. How does your tribe make tribal policy generally? For example does it develop policy through centralized governance processes linked to the Tribal Council? Or can policies be made through specific Tribal Departments? Are there other ways in which tribal policy are created?

2. Do you think there are other tribal departments that are engaging with intellectual property and that would be interested in developing a tribal IP policy? These could include cultural and historic preservation departments, IT departments, youth initiatives, natural resource departments, food sovereignty departments for example. Can you identify these departments?

3. What kind of tribal structures can you identify that could help develop a tribal IP policy? For instance developing a specific committee, or a specific working group? What would work well for your community?

4. What are the best ways in your community to start conversations around intellectual property? Do you think that external support and advice from other tribes who have been through this process would be useful?

5. If you choose to develop and adapt a Collaborative Curation Model, what steps do you think are most relevant to intellectual property and copyright? If you have not already, identify these steps within your Collaborative Curation Model.

6. As you read IP statement examples from other tribes, what strikes you as important? What sections or ideas would you like to adapt and use in your own tribe's IP statement?