

**ARTICLE 16 OF THE 1817 TREATY OF FORT MEIGS AND TRANSLATION.
THE TREATY WAS ORIGINALLY ONLY IN ENGLISH, BUT HAS BEEN TRANSLATED HERE INTO
ANISHINAABEMOWIN BY FLUENT SPEAKER AND ELDER, ALPHONSE PITAWANAKWAT.**

**AANIN OJIBWAA, CHIPPEWA, MINWAA POTAWATOMI BEMAADZIIK, ZHITWAAWIN WIJIIYEMAGAK,
SOME OF THE OJIBWA, CHIPPEWA, AND POTAWATOMY TRIBES, BEING ATTACHED TO THE CATHOLIC RELIGION,**

**MINWAA DEBWETAMING JI BGOSENDAMOWAAD AANIN DABINOOJIIHMOWAANH JI KINOMAAGAAZNID,
AND BELIEVING THEY MAY WISH SOME OF THEIR CHILDREN HEREAFTER EDUCATED,**

**BIGIDNIGAAZA GENWENDANG NAMEGAMIG ETEG DETROIT, ST. ANNE,
DO GRANT TO THE RECTOR OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ANNE OF DETROIT,**

**WII-NAKAAZAD WI NAMEGAMIG, MINWAA DETROIT KINOOMAAGEGAMIG,
FOR THE USE OF THE SAID CHURCH, AND TO THE CORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE AT DETROIT,**

**WII-NAKAAZANG WI KINOOMAAGEGAMGOONG, WII-MJIGANAGAADEK MAAGE WII-DAAYIING,
FOR THE USE OF THE SAID COLLEGE, TO BE RETAINED OR SOLD,**

**WA EWAAYIINJGAAZAD GENWENJIGET MINWAA KINOOMAAGEGAMIG DAA-DABAAKWANAANAN WEYIIP,
AS THE SAID RECTOR AND CORPORATION MAY JUDGE EXPEDIENT,**

**BEBEZHIK, AAPTA NSWI KIIN. JI TEMAGAK NGODWAASWAAK-SHI-NIIMDANA KIIN,
EACH, ONE HALF OF THREE SECTIONS OF LAND, TO CONTAIN SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY ACRES,**

**NMEBINIZIIBIING, MACON EZHNIKAADEK; MINWAA NSWI KIINSAN MSHI-MKIGAADESINOO,
ON THE RIVER RAISIN, AT A PLACE CALLED MACON; AND THREE SECTIONS OF LAND NOT YET LOCATED,**

**NIWE KIINSAN GAA SHKONAGAADEGIN, NISHNAABEK EZHI-NIKAAZIIK WII-NAKAAZWAAD,
WHICH TRACTS WERE RESERVED, FOR THE USE OF THE SAID INDIANS,**

**WI GAA WAAWIINDIMAAGENG DETROIT, GII-MDAASWI-SHI-NSHWAASWAAK-SHI-NIIZHWAASWI;
BY THE TREATY OF DETROIT, IN 1807;**

**MINWAA KCHI-GIMAA NISHNAABE AADZIWIN, MICHIGAN KIING,
AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, IN THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN,**

**BIGIDNIGAADE, NISHNAABEK EZHINIKAAZIIK, JI ZHIIGOONMOWAAD KIINSAN.
IS AUTHORIZED, ON THE PART OF THE SAID INDIANS, TO SELECT THE SAID TRACTS OF LAND.**



Join us for a conference at U-M exploring the role of treaties in the development of both the University of Michigan and the state of Michigan, while considering how their effects continue to resonate today for an Indigenous present and future. Free and open to all. Learn more at inclusivehistory.umich.edu/events.

Living with Treaties: The 1817 Project, the University of Michigan, and the Western Expansion of the United States

✳️ **Quillwork:** A pre-contact Anishinaabe art form that was used for practical purposes such as labeling and makaks (birchbark containers), clothing, bags, and moccasins. Quills were dyed with the natural dyes listed above.

✳️ **Birchbark biting:** Used by Anishinaabe women to create symmetrical patterns using their eye tooth for distinct lines and molars for shading. Birchbark biting is a social activity and storytelling medium.

✳️ **Birchbark is also used to create an array of cultural items such as makak (containers), canoes, scrolls, patterns, and motifs.**

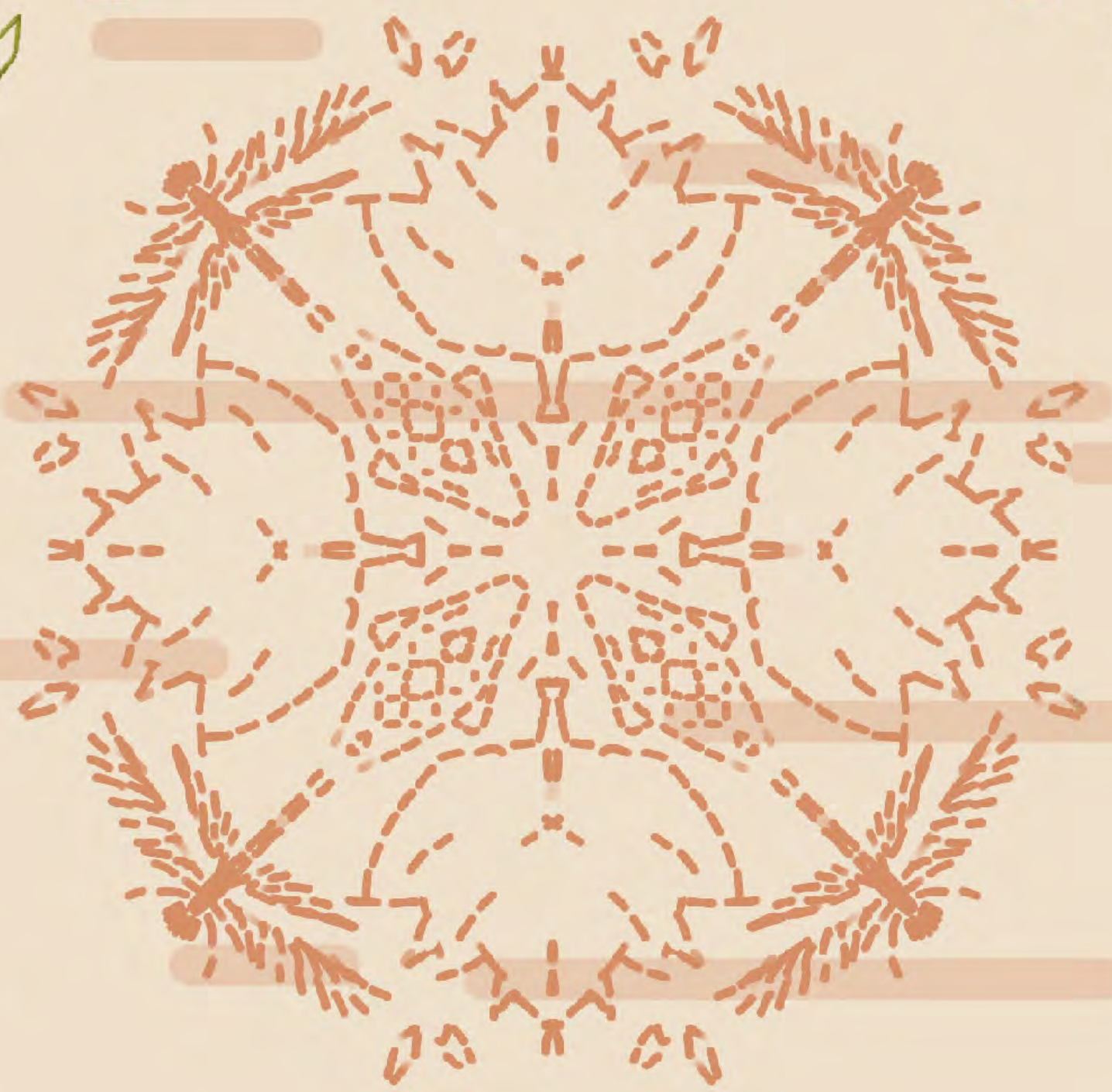
✳️ **The color palette for this project was inspired by the use of natural dyes.** For example, sumac was used to create a bright crimson color, bloodroot plant to create red and orange, and fungi to create different colors such as a bright green-blue.

The Anishinaabeg use sophisticated artistic techniques with materials from the surrounding environment of their homelands. What appears in this guide (and on the banners and posters displayed on campus) are references to the following:

✳️ **Design Inspiration** The design of the banners, posters, and pamphlet of EnaaJimang 'What the Story is' is rooted in Anishinaabe artistic traditions and materials, including abstract floral forms, animal and leaf motifs, and natural materials such as plant fibers, porcupine quills, wood, and birchbark.

About EnaaJimang 'What the Story is' displays banners and posters around the U-M campus in winter 2026 to raise awareness of Article 16 of the 1817 Treaty of Fort Meigs. Article 16 resulted in one of the largest land transfers in the University of Michigan's history, granted by the Three Fires Confederacy so that their children may be educated.

ENAAJIMANG 'WHAT THE STORY IS'



The 1817 Treaty of Fort Meigs (also called the Treaty of the Maumee Rapids or Treaty of the Foot of the Rapids) came at a time of profound upheaval for the Anishinaabe and Wyandotte peoples of what is now Michigan. The treaty was signed by Indigenous leaders and American treaty commissioners on September 29, 1817. Although most of the treaty dealt with Wyandotte land in northwestern Ohio, Article 16 concerned Anishinaabe land in the Michigan Territory, granting "six sections" or 3,840 acres of land, to the "college at Detroit," Catholicism, or University of Michigan, as well as Sainte Anne de Detroit, Detroit's University of Michigan, as well as Sainte Anne de Detroit, Detroit's reservation lands—some of the few remaining lands the Anishinaabeg held in southeastern Michigan—and the proceeds from the sales of this land helped U-M's leaders develop the institution.

Context of Treaties

The Three Fires Confederacy is an alliance between the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi tribal nations within the Great Lakes Region. The nations collectively identify as the Anishinaabeg or "original peoples." The Ojibwe are thought of as the elder brother, the "keepers of tradition," while the Odawa are the middle brother, the "keepers of trade," and lastly, the Bodewadmi are the youngest brother, the "keepers of the fire."

Further Resources

- 1817 Project: Land, Culture, Memory, and Repair
- Ziibiwing Center of Anishinaabe Culture and Lifeways in Mt. Pleasant www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing
- Around Lake Michigan: American Indians, 1820–1850*, Gerard Van Bussel and Eric Hemenway, 2021.
- Seeing Red: Indigenous Land, American Expansion, and the Political Economy of Plunder in North America*, Michael Witgen, 2021.
- "Ottawa Adaptive Strategies to Indian Removal," in *The Michigan Historical Review*, James M. McClurken, 1986.
- Chippewa Treaty Rights: The Reserved Rights of Wisconsin's Chippewa Indians in Historical Perspective*, Ronald N. Satz, 1996.
- In the Company of Our Relatives: The Richard Pohrt, Jr. Collection*, M. J. Raphael & M. Deleary, 2025.
- "Embellishing Birchbark: All Bark, and Some Bite," McCord Museum, Sonia Kata, 2022.
- Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes*, David W, Penney, et al., 2013.

Contributors

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