



GUAINÍA TAÍNO TRIBE

IUKAIEKE GUAINÍA

29 January 2022

To: Taíno Leadership Summit Organizers and participants

Taigüei guaitiaono:

Iukaieke Guainía would firstly like to congratulate you for bringing together relatives across diverse iukaieke (yucayeque) and other groups. Our community looks forward to these kinds of gatherings and communications between Taíno Peoples. At times we can be separated by oceans, histories and state lines but when we can meet in a good way, whether digitally or in person, we truly have opportunities to return to the honorable ways of our ancestors.

Convening this volume of people is no easy task and perhaps in the future we can help shoulder some of this work. We believe these types of events offer us all great opportunities and perspectives on what our collective Taíno experience has been like before and during this Global Pandemic.

One of the challenges we wish to point out is the importance of providing adequate translation that would encompass the multiple languages spoken in our ancestral territories. Our Guainía community is an affiliate of the United Confederation of Taino People (UCTP) and we would encourage your administration to seek guidance from UCTP on translation sources for future summits.

We also submit a suggestion for future summits, and that is that we collectively allow for other communities to host or rotate the curation of the summit. Doing so would create a landscape of collaboration and help us identify what issues and/or projects are impacting each respective group and iukaieke. Hence, highlighting the accomplishments of each group and also offering space to facilitate support of other groups and communities.

As we are aware that our people traditionally spanned across the Greater and Lesser Antilles, into the Bahamas and the southern tip of Florida, by rotating the hosting of future summits, we can receive some nuanced teachings that we could all benefit from, by sharing and exploring together for current and future initiatives.

We were excited to hear the ways our relatives are all contributing to local and international initiatives, entities, and various community works. We look forward to our collective contributions and opportunities to share space as an expanded community. We reaffirm the fire shared, encouraging viewers to do their research and learn about their culture. In our view, the diverse iukaieke and groups featured at the Summit are here to serve and bridge the gaps between people and Nationhood.

In closing, we say hahom (thank you) for the invitation and to hope to work with you in the future.

Seneko Kakona,

Kasike R. Múkaro Agüeibaná Borrero

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