



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2021**

The meeting of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission June 15, 2021, was held virtually.

Chairwoman Chrissie Castro called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Commissioner Ted Tenorio provided an opening invocation.

Roll Call was taken by Alexandra Valdes. A quorum was in attendance.

Commissioners Present:      Chrissie Castro (Chairwoman)  
    Cheri Thomas (Secretary)  
    Shawn Imitates-Dog (Treasurer)  
    Dr. Andrea Garcia  
    Dawn Jackson  
    Kimberly Johnson Morales  
    Tracy Perez  
    Joseph Quintana  
    Ted Tenorio  
    Mark Villasenor  
    Rene' Williams (Joined at 5:40 pm)

Commissioners Absent:      Rudy Ortega Jr. (Vice Chairperson)  
    Allison Hicks  
    Fred Leaf  
    Randall Murphy

Staff Present:                      Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director

Action Items

**Review & Approval of May 2021 Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Morales Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villasenor, to adopt the unapproved minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion passed.*

<b>YES</b>	Castro, Thomas, Imitates-Dog, Garcia, Jackson, Johnson Morales, Perez, Villasenor,
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	Quintana
<b>ABSENT</b>	Hicks, Ortega Jr., Leaf, Murphy, Williams



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2021**

### Presentation

#### **FY21-22 LA City Budget**

Angie Aramayo (Senior Area Representative, Public Engagement Team Mayor Garcetti) and Elena Guevara (Budget Analyst – Mayor Garcetti) provided a presentation on LA City's Adopted FY2021-2022 Budget. Ms. Aramayo and Ms. Guevara shared about the City's budget process as well as pertinent budget line items including the pilot basic income program the Big Leap and the workforce development program LA Rise. The presentation concluded with commissioner questions.

### Discussion Items

#### **Preparing to Reopen & Hold in Person Meetings**

Alexandra shared that per Section 42 of Executive Order N-08-21 (June 11, 2021) that the body is allowed to continue to use the virtual meeting option through September 30, 2021. She also shared that she will be working on a survey to share with Commissioners regarding their interest in attending in person or virtually after September 30, 2021, as well as identifying IT resources and future meeting spaces

#### **LANAIC 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Board Motion (June 22, 2021)**

Alexandra shared that Supervisors Hahn and Solis will be introducing a motion in the June 22, 2021 Board of Supervisors agenda that will commemorate the Commission's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### **Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group Updates**

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia provided a brief recap of the May 29, 2021 pop-up vaccine clinic and provided information about the June 19, 2021 vaccine clinic hosted by United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

#### **County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Board Order Updates & Board Priority Updates**

Alexandra provided a brief update on the status of the Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 (September 29, 2020) – Accessing County-Owned Land in Los Angeles project. She shared that in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office they will be cohosting two listening sessions on June 28, 2021. The morning session will be with leaders of local tribes and the afternoon session will be open to all community. She shared that the intent of the sessions is to hear feedback on the draft land access report and recommendations and that people can provide written comment until July 16, 2021.



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Commissioner General Comments On Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Quintana shared that United American Indian Involvement, Inc. is currently conducting a Community Needs Assessment and would appreciate the Commission and Commissioners sharing UAI's social posts about it and encouraging community to complete it.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

No announcements or future agenda items were shared.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of June 15, 2021 was adjourned by Chairperson Castro at 6:48 PM.

# FY2020-2021 Annual Report



**Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission**

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Los Angeles, CA 90020

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### **Commission Roster (2021)**

**Chairperson Chrissie Castro**, *Navajo*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Vice Chairperson Rudy Ortega Jr.**, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Third District Appointee  
**Secretary Cheri Thomas**, *Quinault/Yurok*, Second District Appointee  
**treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog**, *Lakota*, Community Elected  
**Andrea N. Garcia, M.D.**, *Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Allison Hicks**, *Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation/Choctaw*, Community Elected  
**Dawn Jackson**, *Saginaw Chippewa*, Community Elected  
**Fred Leaf**, *Potawatomi*, Fifth District Appointee  
**Kimberly Morales Johnson**, *Gabrieleno Tongva*, Community Elected  
**Randall Murphy**, *Choctaw/Lakota*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Tracy Perez**, *Navajo*, Community Elected  
**Joseph A. Quintana**, *Kewa Pueblo*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Ted Tenorio**, *Tiguan Nation*, First District Appointee  
**Mark Villaseñor**, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Rene' Williams**, *Colville Tribes*, Fourth District Appointee

### **Staff**

**Alexandra Valdes**, *Tlingit/Athabaskan*, Executive Director

### **Commission Roster (2020)**

**Chairperson Chrissie Castro**, *Navajo*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Vice Chairperson Rudy Ortega Jr.**, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Third Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Secretary Pat Lopez**, *Taos Pueblo/Tiwa*, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog**, *Lakota*, Community Elected  
**Cynthia Begay**, *Navajo/Hopi*, Community Elected (January 1, 2020 - February 4, 2020)  
**Clementine Bordeaux**, *Sicangu Lakota Oyate*, Mayoral Appointee (January 1, 2020 - January 7, 2020)  
**Andrea Garcia, M.D.**, *Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Allison Hicks**, *Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation/Choctaw*, Community Elected  
**Dawn Jackson**, *Saginaw Chippewa*, Community Elected  
**Fred Leaf**, *Potawatomi*, Fifth Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Randall Murphy**, *Choctaw/Lakota*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Tracy Perez**, *Navajo*, Community Elected  
**Joseph A. Quintana**, *Kewa Pueblo*, Mayoral Appointee  
**Ted Tenorio**, *Tiguan Nation*, First Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Cheri Thomas**, *Quinault/Yurok*, Second Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Mark Villaseñor**, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Mayoral Appointee (October 16, 2020 - Present)

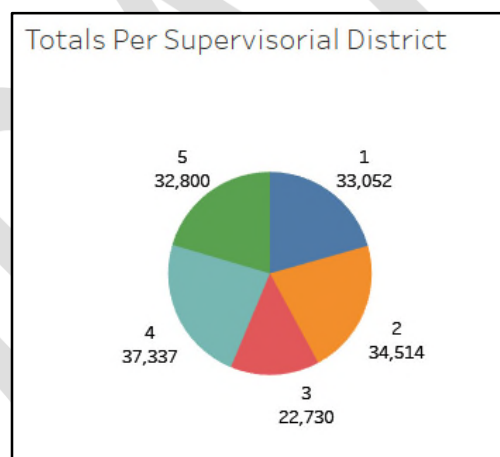
### **Staff**

**Alexandra Valdes**, *Tlingit/Athabaskan*, Executive Director

## Part II. Los Angeles County's American Indian & Alaska Native Population

Los Angeles County's (LAC) AIAN population is incredibly diverse, comprised of over 200 tribes including the Gabrieleño Tongva, Fernandeño Tataviam and Ventureño Chumash, who have called what is now known as LAC home since time immemorial. The policies of relocation and termination greatly contributed to today's large urban Indian population. Per Census Bureau data 7 out of 10 AIAN people reside in urban areas. LAC is home to the largest urban AIAN population of any county in the United States, with 171,163 people identifying as AIAN alone or in combination in the 2010 Census. Relocation policy was intentional in ensuring that Native enclaves were not able to form upon the relocation of Native people to cities in the mid-century. This tactic was to force assimilation. The impact of relocation policy is made visible by the relative equal population disbursement of LAC's AIAN population throughout each LAC Supervisorial District.

The pie chart below shows the AIAN population per Supervisorial District based on American Community Survey 2013-2017 5-Year population estimates, which are based on Census 2010 data. The total population size for LAC's AIAN alone or in combination with another race was 157,517 versus 171,163 in the 2010 Census.



Data Source: American Community Survey: 2017 5-Year Demographic Estimates for Los Angeles County. Retrieved by Urban Indian Health Institute on May 17, 2019.

Over 200 years of Federal Indian policy has had lasting impacts on Indian Country and the AIAN population including LAC's AIAN population. Federal Indian policy has created significant social, economic and health issues for AIAN populations today. AIAN in LAC are 3.4 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites (NHW) to live in households with an income below the federal poverty level, with approximately one in three urban AIAN children living in households with an income below the federal poverty level. Nearly a third of urban AIAN in LAC who are 25 years and older have not completed high school or passed the General Educational Development (GED) exam compared to 6% of the NHW population.

Due to a legacy of systemic racism and genocide, AIAN endure disproportionate symptoms of intergenerational trauma (e.g. mental health, chronic disease, substance use, and economic disparities). The health of individuals and populations is greatly influenced by social determinants including the conditions in which people live, learn, work and play. Research shows greater social disadvantages lead to poor health outcomes. This is evident in the significant number of health disparities affecting the AIAN population throughout the country and the urban AIAN in LAC. The diabetes mortality rate for AIAN is more than twice that of all races in LAC, and suicidal ideation among AIAN is more than 3 times higher than all races in LAC. Alcohol and pain reliever abuse or dependence is also twice as high nationally for urban AIAN compared to NHW. While the social, health and economic issues afflicting the nation's tribal populations including the urban AIAN population are recognized to be significant, the resources devoted to mitigating them has been and continues to be inadequate.

It is of note that the citizens of the Gabrieleño Tongva, Fernandeno Tataviam and Ventureño Chumash nations, the original peoples of what is now known as Los Angeles, face unique challenges as a result of being members of 3 of the over 50 California tribes that do not have federal recognition. Lack of federal recognition presents its own swath of problems for Native people, greatly affecting their ability to access services, funding, resources and cultural practices.

### **Part III. Mission Statement, Duties & Responsibilities**

The primary purpose of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) is to improve the health and well-being of the Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community. It accomplishes its purpose through many strategies, including but not limited to increasing the acquisition of funding resources available to the AIAN community, advocating for policy that will improve the health and well-being of AIANs, and gathering and disseminating information about AIANs in Los Angeles County. In performing these functions, the Commission will represent the interests and concerns of AIAN of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, gender identities, and social circumstances.

#### **Duties & Responsibilities**

The Commission interprets Ordinance 11409 § 3.42.110 to mean that the duties and functions of the Commission are to:

1. Promote the health and well-being of AIAN in Los Angeles.
2. To advocate for the development of funding resources and programs to serve urban AIANs and AIAN organizations.
3. To advocate legislation and policy favorable to urban AIANs;
4. To research, prepare, and disseminate information about AIAN affairs, including but not limited to collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies.
5. To advise and collaborate with non-Indian community organizations and private agencies working for the concerns of AIAN people.
6. To assist and coordinate collaboration among federal, state, county, and city agencies, and with AIAN agencies and organizations.
7. To foster pride among AIANs, and raise visibility of AIAN culture among Los Angeles City and County residents.
8. To educate the public about the accurate history and contemporary issues of Tribes in Los Angeles and California, and center Los Angeles Tribes and Tribal Members.
9. To engage and understand by means of conferences and public hearings conditions which affect the health and well-being of AIANs.
10. To develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor and City Council that address the health and well-being of AIANs in Los Angeles.
11. To advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the City Council, and the departments and agencies of these respective governments, and/or other



organizations and institutions on matters involving the health and well-being of AIANs in Los Angeles

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### **Part III. Historical Background & Significant Accomplishments**

Forty-five years ago, on June 25, 1976, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and City of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley signed an ordinance establishing the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) at the Los Angeles Civic Mall, which is now Grand Park. The establishment of the LANAIC came at the behest of the City's and County's American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities and was historic in nature. For 45 years, the LANAIC has worked tirelessly to uplift and advocate for the concerns and needs of the AIAN community, the largest of any county in the U.S. The Commission is comprised of five members appointed by the LA County Board of Supervisors, five appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and five elected by Los Angeles County's American Indian and Alaska Native community through elections held every 4 years.

While the LANAIC was originally created as a Citizens Advisory Commission over the past four and half decades the portfolio of work has grown and today it more closely mimics an Administrative Commission which is responsible for administering programs. In the early 1990s the Board of Supervisors established the LANAIC's Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB) in order to be eligible to administer the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside Funds (CSAIBG). Since then, the LANAIC SGB has administered CSAIBG funding and contracted with subrecipient agencies to provide critical poverty alleviating services to AIAN residents living at or below 100% Federal Poverty Line. In addition to administering a program that provides direct services to LAC residents the LANAICs work has expanded to meet the evolving directives and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and City of LA's Mayor and City Council.

Over the past 45 years the LANAIC has worked on a variety of projects and achieved many accomplishments. Below are some of the significant past accomplishments of the LANAIC in chronological order:

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977** – The LANAIC supported the creation of the Indian Health Services Liaison Officer in the County Department of Health Services.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1988** – Steven L. A. Stallings, Chairperson of the LANAIC was quoted in the Los Angeles Times' article *Back to Their Roots for Retirement: Aging Indians Finding They Can Go Home Again*

**1993** – The LANAIC's Self Governance Board (SGB) became an eligible Community Action Agency (CAA) and began receiving and administering Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Native American set aside funds.

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2002** – The LANAIC supported AB-2115, a bill to ban all Native American mascots from public schools in California.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004** – The LANAIC supported AB-858 California Racial Mascots Act: athletic team names and mascots.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004** – The LANAIC supported SB-18 Traditional tribal cultural places.

**2006** – The City of Los Angeles established November as American Indian Heritage Month and began partnering with the LANAIC to develop programming for the month.

**2009 to Present** – The LANAIC partnered with San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to provide tickets for Native youth and their families to attend Native American professional sports Heritage Appreciation Nights

**March 2012** – The LANAIC discovered that Native youth were being administered psychotropic medication while in foster care without the knowledge of their tribe or relatives and successfully fought to stop the practice in Los Angeles County. The LANAIC then worked with national Native organizations to have the Psychotropic Medication to American Indian Youth amendment added to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**2012 – 2016** – The LANAIC in conjunction with UCLA'S American Indian Studies Center, the California Wellness Foundation and the American Indian Community Council (AICC) developed a series of policy briefs that analyzed and reported on 2010 US Census data. Previously, the LANAIC and AICC worked with the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Policy Center at UCLA to publish similar policy briefs for the 2000 US Census. These policy briefs built upon this past work and included a comparative study of Los Angeles AIAN population trends. All four of the policy briefs addressed the Status of AIAN in Los Angeles, analyzing (1) population changes; (2) economic indicators post-Great Recession; (3) health insurance coverage; and (4) labor. The LANAIC hosted the *Urban Indian Roundtable* to discuss the findings of the policy briefs.

**November 2014** – The LANAIC was heavily involved in the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE) – the first-ever school environment listening tour.

**2015** – The LANAIC advocated against the sainthood of Junipero Serra.

**November 13, 2015** – The City of Los Angeles Arts, Parks, and River Committee passed Indigenous Peoples Day (Motion File No. 15-1343)

**November 13, 2015** – The City of Los Angeles Arts, Parks, and River Committee passed the Native American Locations/Report on History and Cultural Impact (Motion File No. 15-1341)

**September 2016** – The LANAIC helped organize the community in support of the Los Angeles City Council motion to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and against the Dakota Access Pipeline project. The LANAIC actively worked with and supported the Oglala and Sicangu Lakota, and other successful efforts to convince then President Obama of the Pipeline's dangers.

**October 5, 2016** – With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several meetings, the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations voted to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

**November 2016** - The LANAIC hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park

**August 30, 2017**– With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several hearings, the Los Angeles City Council passed a motion creating Indigenous Peoples Day as an official City holiday, to be observed on the second Monday of each October.

**October 3, 2017** – With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several hearings, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion removing Columbus Day as an official County holiday and replacing it with Indigenous Peoples Day.

**November 2017** - The LANAIC hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**September 25, 2018** The LANAIC hosted the *Community Forum on Native American Homelessness* at the California Endowment.

**October 8, 2018** - The City and County of Los Angeles celebrated the inaugural Indigenous Peoples Day (IPD) as a recognized City and County holiday in Los Angeles replacing Columbus Day. The LANAIC in partnership with Council Member Mitch O’Farrell planned, coordinated and executed the inaugural celebration at Grand Park and City Hall.

**November 10, 2018** – The Columbus statue located in Grand Park was removed. The removal of the statue was the result of sustained action by the Los Angeles City and County’s Native American and Indigenous communities.

**November 17, 2018** - The LANAIC hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**December 2018** – The LANAIC conducted key informant interviews with community members with lived homeless experience.

**Spring of 2019** - The LANAIC collaborated with the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) to develop and administer two community needs assessment survey tools for Los Angeles County’s AIAN Community and service providers.

**March 9, 2019** - The LANAIC co-sponsored the Center for Health Equity’s American Indian and Alaska Native Community in Focus event on March 9, 2019 at the California State Long Beach University.

**March 14, 2019** - In partnership with several community-based and local government organizations the LANAIC released a preliminary report entitled *Understanding Native American Homelessness in Los Angeles*.

**March 2019** – The LANAIC launched the *AIAN Homelessness Portal* on the LANAIC website.

**May 13, 2019** - The LANAIC co-sponsored LA County Chief Sustainability Office's Tribal & Indigenous Communities Feedback Session.

**June 1, 2019** - The LANAIC co-sponsored the LA River Master Plan's Native American Community Discussion.

**August 9, 2019** – AIAN Community Night - Los Angeles Dodgers.

**September 29, 2019** –AIAN Community Night - Los Angeles Galaxy

**October 10, 2019** – Los Angeles Clippers Native American Cultural Night.

**November 25, 2019** - AIAN Community Night - Los Angeles Kings.

**October 13, 2019** – The LANAIC, in partnership with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell planned, coordinated, and executed the Second Annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Grand Park and City Hall. The annual event was an opportunity to uplift the true history of the Los Angeles Basin and push back against the erasure of Indigenous peoples, including AIAN peoples.

**November 2019** – In partnership with the Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the LANAIC produced the 3rd Annual Native American Heritage Month Bridge Gallery. The 2019 gallery featured eight professional LA based community artists from tribes including Kumeyaay, Apache, Ojibwe, Tejon and Chehallis. Commissioner and artist Dawn Jackson curated the event.

**November 1, 2019** – The LANAIC and Councilmember O'Farrell jointly recognized the 2019 Native American Heritage Month honorees at Los Angeles City Hall:

- Saginaw Grant (Sac and Fox Nation)
- Spirit of Tradition Randy Reinholz (Choctaw)
- Spirit of Creativity Omerlene Thompson (Gila River) - Spirit of Community

**November 5, 2019** – The County Board of Supervisors honored the 2019 NAHM honorees in a presentation given by Supervisor Solis in the Board Room.

**November 16, 2019** – The LANAIC hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**January 2020** – LANAIC Homelessness Adhoc Committee Chair Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presented on the LANAIC's homelessness work at a workshop at the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference.

**March 23, 2020** – In partnership with a number of AIAN community-based organizations the LANAIC hosted a community webinar on COVID-19 that was livestreamed to Facebook. As a result of this positive effort, participating organizations expressed an interest to continue to meet in order to work in coordination throughout the duration of the pandemic. As a result the LANAIC created the adhoc committee Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group.

**March 23, 2020 – Present** – The Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group has met every other week and through a collective effort have supported LAC's AIAN community in a number of ways including food and essential items distributions, a video PSA, culturally supportive educational resources, advocacy efforts, two pop vaccine events and numerous partnerships and linkages to resources.

**April 2020** – The LANAIC created and launched a COVID Resources page on the LANAIC website (<https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/covid-19-resources/>). The page shares resources broken down by offerings at AIAN Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Housing & Utilities, Education & Childcare, Health & Mental Health, Employees & Employers, and Food.

**April 13, 2020** - The LANAIC submitted a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors for the *Ensuring Collection of Full Racial and Ethnic Data of COVID-19 Patients throughout Los Angeles County Board Motion*. Included in the letter was a set of recommendations advocating for proper data collection for the AIAN community to ensure the disparate effects that COVID-19 was having on the AIAN community were accurately captured. The LANAIC's letter of support and set of recommendations were referenced and included in the Department of Public Health's report back to the Board entitled *Report on LA County COVID-19 Data Disaggregated by Race and Ethnicity*.

**May 2020** – The LANAIC received the draft Identifying, Supporting and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives who are at *Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness (October 15, 2019) Report Back* from the assigned working group. The LANAIC provided robust feedback and, at the time of the submission of this annual report, is currently awaiting the finalized report back.

**June 2020** – LANAIC Homelessness Adhoc Committee Chair Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presented on the LANAIC's homelessness work at a webinar presentation in conjunction with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the National Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness.

#### **Part IV. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

As an advisory Commission to the Board of Supervisors, the LANAIC understands that it's charged to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion among the constituents it serves. As such in the Summer of 2019 the LANAIC amended its bylaws to contain more inclusive language, specifically in the Purpose section where it states:

*The primary purpose of the Commission is to improve the health and well-being of the Los Angeles AIAN community. It accomplishes its purpose through many strategies, including but not limited to increasing the acquisition of funding resources available to the AIAN community, advocating for policy that will improve the health and well-being of AIANs, and gathering and disseminating information about AIANs in Los Angeles County. In performing these functions, the Commission will represent the interests and concerns of AIAN of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, gender identities, and social circumstances.*

Currently, the bylaws do not include language that promotes zero tolerance in relation to racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences.

The LANAIC strives to create an environment at all meetings that allows members, public and stakeholders to share and express openly their ideas, opinions and beliefs. This is done so by the Commission opening meetings in a good way with an invocation, personal introductions by the Commissioners and with the Chair inviting the public and guests to introduce themselves. This approach creates a welcoming, respectful, and inviting environment.

## **Part V. FY21-22 Annual Work Plan**

The LANAIC will be holding a planning session later in 2021 to finalize a detailed FY21-22 Work Plan. At this time the date of this session has not been set however much of the work of the FY21-22 Work Plan is already known. It includes supporting the directives from various Board Motions and priorities, annual community programming as well as the administration of the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside Funds:

- Acknowledge and Apologize for the Historic Mistreatment of California Native Americans by Los Angeles County (July 13, 2021)
- LANAIC 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Motion (June 22, 2021)
- Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Board Motion (September 29, 2020)
- Renaming the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway Board Motion (October 13, 2020)
- Countywide Cultural Policy – Land Acknowledgement Statement, Policy & Toolkit
- 2021 Indigenous Peoples Day
- 2021 Native American Heritage Month
- 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Programming
- Community Services Native American Set-Aside Funds



## **Part VI. FY20-21 Accomplishments**

### **Board Motions & Priorities**

#### **45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Motion (June 22, 2021)**

The Motion directs the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the temporary Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services Department (WDACS) Supervising Administrator to engage with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), LANAIC Self Governance Board, and LANAIC staff to ensure that an optimal position within the County's organizational structure is determined upon the reorganization of WDACS. It specifically directs the CEO to explore the feasibility of creating a Tribal Relations Office and provide recommendations for staffing and funding sustainability and the optimal positioning of this type of office.

The Motion also directs the LANAIC to facilitate and co-lead a workgroup with the Executive Director of Racial Equity for the County's Antiracism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) that includes Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, the Chief Sustainability Office, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Arts and Culture, County Counsel, and leadership from the local tribes listed on the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission list for Los Angeles County and report back to the Board in 180 days with the following:

- Provide specific recommendations regarding the resources and funding needed to develop a systemic tribal consultation policy for the County;
- Provide specific recommendations regarding the resources and funding needed to develop a truth, healing and transformation council.
- Work with the CEO to prioritize funding for aspects of the Countywide Cultural Policy that pertain to the development of a Countywide land acknowledgement policy, protocol, and toolkit.
- Engage with the Department of Human Resources to develop a multi-part dialogue series to increase cultural literacy of the County's workforce of the local AIAN history and culture that will start no later than October 2021.

#### **Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 Board Motion (September 29, 2020)**

The Motion directs the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) to coordinate with the LANAIC, and the Departments of Parks Recreation (DPR), Beaches and Harbors (DBH), and Public Works (DPW) to address issues related to access of County public lands that local Native American Tribes and urban Indian communities in the County face when these communities are seeking to observe traditional cultural and religious practices.

This directive originated from the County's OurCounty Sustainability Plan (Plan), which the Board adopted in August 2019. In order to develop the Plan, the County held a series of stakeholder meetings, including a Tribal listening session that was attended by members of local Tribal nations, whose ancestral lands are within current-day Los

Angeles County. During that meeting, Tribal attendees uplifted the difficulties their community members have faced when trying to practice traditional cultural and religious ceremonies and other activities on public lands. Some examples of these challenges included onerous permit requirements, fees, and harassment by authorities or the general public. Attendees highlighted the existence of such barriers to cultural and religious practice as a serious equity issue, and as a result, the Plan included Action 78, directing the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to “collaborate with local Tribes to identify and address barriers to observance of traditional practices such as harvesting and gathering, particularly on County-owned land.” Following adoption of the Plan, the Board directed CSO to coordinate with County departments and other stakeholders on an annual basis to select priority actions from the Plan for implementation. Action 78 was prioritized for implementation during both the 2020 and 2021 prioritization process.

As directed by the Motion, CSO and LANAIC held a series of listening sessions and individual meetings focused both on local Tribes and urban American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) stakeholders. At the time of the submission of this annual report the feedback gained from the listening sessions had been included in a draft report that included 6 recommendations the County should consider to address access issues and had been shared back with the community and named departments for feedback prior to being finalized.

### **Renaming the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway Board Motion (October 13, 2020)**

The Motion directs the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in partnership with the LANAIC, to collaborate with our partners in the State Legislature and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the removal and replacement of the 1-10 Freeway’s designation as the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway, and to report back in 120 days. The Board further directed the Department of Public Works (DPW), in partnership with LANAIC, to identify and map any wayfinding or directional signage in Los Angeles County that references the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway; work with the appropriate jurisdiction for the removal and/or replacement of identified signs; and to report back in 120 days.

Immediately following the adoption of the Board motion, the CEO, DPW, and LANAIC formed a workgroup that meets regularly to address the directives in the Motion. The workgroup will submit periodic updates to the Board until all directives are completed. CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations’ Sacramento advocates met with CalSTA representatives and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to determine how the 1-10 Freeway was designated as the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Freeway. The California portion of the 1-10 Freeway was named by the State Legislature in 1976 through a joint Assembly Concurrent Resolution. The 1-10 Freeway, which begins in California, runs through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida spanning 3,000 miles. The DPW staff contacted Caltrans District 7 to identify and map any wayfinding or directional signage that reference the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway within the 1-10

Freeway right-of-way in Los Angeles County. One sign was identified on the 1-10 Freeway in the eastbound direction west of Cloverfield Boulevard in the City of Santa Monica (Attachment I). Caltrans District 7 staff indicated that the sign and posts could be removed if directed by their administration after a joint resolution of the Legislature is passed. Additionally, DPW staff contacted 14 cities in Los Angeles County to identify and map any wayfinding or directional signage that references the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway within non-Caltrans right-of-way in the vicinity of the 1-10 Freeway. All 14 cities, including the cities of Alhambra, Baldwin Park, Claremont, Covina, Culver City, El Monte, Los Angeles, Monterey Park, Pomona, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Gabriel, Santa Monica, and West Covina reported they did not identify any wayfinding or directional signage within their respective jurisdictions.

Concurrently, the LANAIC Executive Director, in consultation with LANAIC Chairwoman Chrissie Castro, worked to develop draft joint resolution language. The language reflects the Board's intent to remove the positive portrayal of Christopher Columbus in part because of the mental and emotional stress such portrayal has on Native and indigenous populations from the specified section of the 1-10 Freeway. Additionally, the language reflects the intent to rename that portion of the freeway following consultation with area tribal leaders and key stakeholders. Prior to submitting the finalized draft joint resolution language to the identified legislative author, the Sacramento advocates and LANAIC will submit the draft language to the authors of this Board motion to ensure it is aligned with their original intent.

### **Countywide Cultural Policy**

The LANAIC is the named lead in a collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture (LACDAC), as part of the Countywide Cultural Policy, to identify ways to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land at County public events and ceremonial functions, and celebrate the contributions of culture bearers and traditional arts practices of diverse communities. The LANAIC Executive Director and LACDAC staff meet weekly to move forth the directives and plan to send out invitations to local tribal leaders for a land acknowledgment advisory committee in Summer 2021. Concurrently, LANAIC and LACDAC are working to identify funding to support this critical work including funds to support stipends of local tribal participants, for a facilitator and a graphic designer.

### **Antiracism, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative (ARD)**

The LANAIC's Executive Director serves on the ARDI Stakeholder Engagement Steering Committee.

### **COVID-19 Response & Relief Efforts**

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted the AIAN Los Angeles County population. Due to higher rates of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, and other conditions that may lead to a compromised immune system, AIANs are at increased risk of severe illness and death caused by COVID-19.

Acknowledging the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic for the AIAN community, in partnership with numerous LA County AIAN community-based organizations, on March 23, 2020 the Commission hosted a community webinar on COVID-19 that was live streamed to Facebook. As a result of this positive effort, participating organizations expressed an interest to continue to meet in order to work in coordination throughout the duration of the pandemic. As a result of this interest the LANAIC established an adhoc committee known as the Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group. The LANAIC's Executive Director staffs the Working Group, and Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mayoral) chairs the Working Group. Chairwoman Chrissie Castro (Mayoral), Commissioners Cheri Thomas (Second District), and Rene' Williams (Fourth District) are also members of the Working Group. The group meets biweekly via videoconference to keep one another apprised of service shifts at AIAN organizations and to share that latest information about resources and services for community members. In addition, the Working Group offers the space to learn what staff are hearing on the frontlines to better address community needs. The meetings are also utilized by Commissioners and Commission staff to update the group on various AIAN-specific COVID advocacy efforts.

Throughout the pandemic, the LANAIC has worked to identify resources both inside and outside the County that could provide support to Working Group organizations. Throughout the pandemic the LANAIC has established partnerships with WDACS' East LA Service Center, WDACS' Aging Branch, WDACS' Workforce Development Branch as well as the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Services.

Acknowledging the importance and critical need to get community specific COVID messaging out to the AIAN population, the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group produced an AIAN COVID PSA. In July FNX, First Nations Experience, began airing the PSA and in August KABC7 began airing it. The Working Group also partnered with the Urban Indian Health Institute to develop AIAN COVID educational materials, an 8.5x11 educational one pager, and various social media assets for Facebook and Instagram.

In May the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group partnered with Kedren Health Centers and Supervisor Solis to host two pop vaccine events (May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>) at LA State Historic Park. The events were targeted at LAC's AIAN and Indigenous communities and provided a safe and supportive environment to receive a COVID vaccination. Food boxes, diapers, wipes and other items were distributed at the event as well. At the first event two local Native artists performed and at the second event raffle prizes were given out.

Through a collective effort throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Native-serving organizations, and the LANAIC have provided guidance, support, resources, and services to LAC's AIAN community. The Commission remains committed to supporting the AIAN community throughout the duration of the pandemic and into recovery.

## **Addressing Native American Homelessness**

AIAN in LAC are 5.5x more likely to experience homelessness according to their share of the population. This is higher than any other racial or ethnic group. Compared to the general population, AIAN in LAC are also disproportionately impacted by eviction or foreclosure, uninhabitable living conditions, and medical disability as reasons for homelessness ([USC AIAN Homelessness Brief](#)). The pandemic and economic consequences have only exacerbated these causes. A more critical analysis of the root causes of AIAN homelessness has concluded, "... modern indigenous homelessness is a direct extension of colonialism and structural racism." ([Understanding Native American Homelessness in Los Angeles County](#)). As such, it is no surprise that the largest barriers for AIAN people in LAC accessing services is a lack of cultural sensitivity in mainstream housing services, combined with a lack of accessibility by trusted community based organizations to the proper systems, partners, and resources ([Understanding Native American Homelessness in Los Angeles County](#)). These barriers may, at least in part, explain the alarming finding that 90% of AIAN in LAC who experience homelessness are unsheltered ([USC AIAN Homelessness Brief](#)). Unfortunately, this stark reality is not known by all. Because of this the LANAIC has become a driving force to elevate the AIAN homelessness crisis to City and County leadership.

In the Fall of 2019 the LANAIC advocated for and helped draft a Board Motion address AIAN homelessness. The motion directed numerous County agencies to address data, fair housing, equity, and resource needs of the AIAN homeless population. Throughout 2020 the Commission's Homelessness Subcommittee has continued to advocate to both the City and County for additional resources to address the homelessness epidemic impacting AIAN people. These advocacy efforts resulted in LA City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell introducing a motion to the Los Angeles City Council doing just that. Motion 20-1236 was adopted by the City Council on October 20, 2020. Through this adoption City Council instructed the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to identify funding, including the use of the State's Homeless, Housing, Assistance and Prevention program grant, to hire a consultant to make recommendations to the City and County to best address the needs of the Native American homeless community including, improved outreach, services, and housing. At the time of the printing of this report both the City and County had identified funding to support a consultant for a year and half contract.

Throughout 2020 the Commission's Homelessness Subcommittee has strengthened working relationships with LAHSA staff and other partners to address three core systems level areas for improvement: Access, Representation, and Data/Research. For each area there is a team of individuals that is helping to facilitate measurable, positive outcomes. This work has been shared twice at the national level within the past six months: a workshop at the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference in January 2020, and a webinar presentation in conjunction with NAEH and the National Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness in June 2020.

On August 18, 2020 in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LA City Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell the Commission hosted the Native American Connections Webinar. The webinar was an opportunity for community members and City and County officials to learn from Native American Connections (NAC) and the ways in which they work with their local Continuum of Care, how they navigate Fair Housing, and how they have developed culturally sensitive housing is accomplished.

On September 25, 2020 in partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LA City Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the Commission hosted the second Native American housing webinar. This webinar served as an opportunity for community members and City and County officials to learn from Chief Seattle Club and the ways in which they have developed culturally supportive housing in Seattle, WA.

The LANAIC's various homelessness efforts over the past few years have produced generative ideas for meeting the needs of homeless AIAN residents, including ensuring community participation in policy efforts and developing distinct Native housing. The LANAIC remains committed to working to address three core systems level areas for improvement: access, representation, and data/research.

## **Community Programming**

### **2020 Indigenous Peoples Day**

On Saturday October 10, 2020 in observance of IPD 2020 the Commission partnered with the LA County Library and the LA County Department of Arts & Culture to host a virtual reading and discussion of *Waa'aka': The Bird Who Fell in Love with the Sun* with author Cindi Alvitre (Tongva) and illustrator Carly Lake.

On October 12, 2020 the Commission hosted a virtual Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. The virtual event featured remarks from Chairwoman Chrissie Castro (Navajo) and LA City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte), a land acknowledgement from Julia Bogany (Tongva), a Tataviam welcome song from Vice Chairperson Rudy Ortega Jr. and his son Noe, presentations from Marcos Aguilar (Masewalli Mexicano), Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) and Asena Filihia (Tongan) and a musical performance by Tongva singer Kelly Caballero.

### **2020 Native American Heritage Month: Native Resilience**

Since 1976, the United States has recognized November as Native American Heritage Month (NAHM). Each November, the City and County of Los Angeles celebrate the culture, contributions and heritage of Native Americans.

In 2020 the Commission selected three NAHM honorees on behalf of the City and County:

Julia Bogany (Tongva) - Spirit of Tradition  
Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache) - Spirit of Creativity  
Keith Vielle (Blackfeet) - Spirit of Community

The Commission and Councilmember O'Farrell jointly recognized the 2020 Native American Heritage Month honorees during a virtual ceremony streamed to Facebook on November 7, 2020. The ceremony was part of a larger NAHM 2-part virtual program. The first part of the series included MC Kenny Ramos (Kumeyaay), a land acknowledgement given by Julia Bogany (Tongva), a Tataviam welcome song by Rudy Ortega Jr. (Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians) and Mark Villasenor (Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians), remarks on the impact of the COVID pandemic on LA's AIAN community delivered by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), the 2020 NAHM honoree program presented by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte), Chairwoman Chrissie Castro (Navajo) and Vice Chairman Rudy Ortega Jr., videos from Board Supervisors Hilda Solis, Mark Ridley-Thomas, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger, LA City Mayor Eric Garcetti and LA City Council President Nury Martinez, a panel entitled "Native Resilience" featuring leadership from AIAN CBOs and a jingle dance performance.

The second part of the series hosted on November 21, 2020 included MC Kenny Ramos, a land acknowledgment given by Vice Chairman Ortega Jr., remarks from Councilmember Mitch, an acknowledgment about the service of AIAN Vets by Commissioner Ted Tenorio (Tiguan) and Darren Henson (United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma), a feature on Native vendors, a pow wow dancing and drumming segment, a youth panel featuring AIAN youth speaking about their resiliency during the time of COVID and a musical performance by Mato Wayuhi (Lakota).

### **Memory & Futurity in Yaangna**

In July 2020, the Department of Arts and Culture put out a call for artists, in collaboration with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, to create a temporary artwork or program in response to the November 2018 removal of the Columbus Statue at Grand Park, downtown Los Angeles. Two projects were selected: a virtual engagement program by the Puvungna Collective and temporary art installation by Mercedes Dorame (Tongva).

#### *Virtual Engagement Program by the Puvungna Collective: Memory is in the Present*

Memory is in the Present... is a collaboration between Cindi Alvitre (Tongva), Carly Lake, and Scott Wilson. It reflects the convergence of a Tongva storyteller, an illustrator, and a cultural anthropologist, who have come together to tell the Puvuu'nga creation narrative accurately, and in a way that honors the culture from which it originates. The

resulting two projects—a traditional picture book and a virtual reality film—illuminate this story in a way that is transformative and ties people back to this place and this moment.

*Temporary Art Installation by Mercedes Dorame*

Tongva artist Mercedes Dorame created a temporary art installation in Grand Park, to coincide with the programming of Memory is in the Present. The artwork was available for viewing from November 21, 2020 – January 4, 2021 and was located in the second block of the park between Grand Ave and Hill Street.



## **Part VII. Ongoing Long-Term Projects**

- **COVID-19 Response, Relief & Recovery Efforts**
- **Addressing Native American Homelessness**
- **Resiliency & Visibility through Data**
- **Combatting Erasure**
- **Indigenizing Public Spaces**

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## Part VIII. Self Governance Board

The Commission's Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB) was established in 1993 by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. The LANAIC SGB is a Brown Act body that is composed of the five community elected members of the Commission, along with one City appointed Commissioner, one County appointed Commissioner, and the Chairperson of the Commission. The LANAIC SGB's primary purpose is to administer certain public and private funds, particularly funds that have Indian self-governance requirements. The SGB meets once a month separately from the LANAIC.

### Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside Funds

Since 1994, the LANAIC SGB has administered Community Services Block Grant Native American Set Aside funds (CSAIBG). This funding is intended to be utilized to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in LAC's AIAN community. The LANAIC SGB receives ongoing annual CSAIBG Baseline funding on a calendar year basis as well as Discretionary funding on an ad-hoc basis. In 2020 the LANAIC SGB received an additional \$451,857.00 in CSBG through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The term for this funding is March 27, 2020 through May 31, 2022.

Calendar Year 2020 CSAIBG Funding	
CY2020 Baseline	\$294,335.00
CY2020 Discretionary	\$32,000.00
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$326,335.00</b>

CSAIBG CARES Funding	
Baseline	\$ 411,487.00
Discretionary	\$40,370.00
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$451,857.00</b>

In 2020 and 2021 three American Indian and Alaska Native serving organizations received CSAIBG funding administered by the LANAIC SGB: Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council, Pukuu Cultural Community Services, and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. CSAIBG funded services provided in 2020 and 2021 included the following:

#### Education & Cognitive Development Services

- Financial Aid Assistance
- School Supplies Assistance

#### Housing Services

- Emergency Housing Payments – Eviction Prevention Services
- Emergency Utility Payments

#### Health & Social/Behavioral Development

- Congregate Meals
- Emergency Food Baskets
- Individual and Family Dental Payment Support
- Hygiene Kits

#### Additional Services

- Emergency Clothing
- Transportation
- Referrals

Two CSAIBG subrecipient agencies are providing CSAIBG CARES funded services: Pukuu Cultural Community Services and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. Nearly 91% of the total CSAIBG CARES funds awarded to LANAIC SGB are being utilized by these two agencies to provide direct services to income eligible community members impacted by COVID. Services include rental assistance, food assistance and utility assistance.

Every two years, as a requirement of CSBG, the SGB must conduct a community needs assessment of LAC's AIAN population and complete a Community Action Plan (CAP). In the Spring of 2021, the SGB conducted a community needs assessment and developed the FY2022-2023 CAP as well as held a grant required public hearing to share the draft CAP. The SGB adopted the CAP at a Special Meeting held on June 28, 2021. The following priority needs were identified and included in the FY2022-2023 CAP:

1. Culturally Centered Housing (Permanent Supportive Housing, Affordable Housing, Interim Housing & Rapid Rehousing)
2. Accessibility by trusted community-based organizations to the proper housing systems, partners, and resources
3. Housing Insecurity Services
4. Supportive Services to Address Immediate Needs
5. Culturally Centered Reentry Services

## **Measure J**

The Executive Director of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB submitted a proposal for Measure J funding to enhance and expand housing insecurity and homelessness services provided through the CSAIBG program. As a result of strong community advocacy, the proposal for \$500,000 was included in the *Measure J Re-Imagine LA Advisory Committee: Spending Plan Recommendations for Year One (FY2021-2022)*.

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