



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTMEBER 21, 2021**

The meeting of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission September 21, 2021 was held virtually.

Chairwoman Chrissie Castro called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Commissioner Mark Villasenor provided an opening blessing.

Present: Chrissie Castro (Chairwoman)
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Vice Chairperson) (Left meeting at 6:05 PM)
Cheri Thomas (Secretary)
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Allison Hicks (Left meeting at 6:06 PM)
Dawn Jackson
Kimberly Morales Johnson
Randall Murphy
Ted Tenorio
Mark Villasenor
Rene' Williams

Absent: Shawn Imitates-Dog (excused)
Fred Leaf (unexcused)
Joseph Quintana (excused)

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

All commissioners present and Alexandra Valdes, the Executive Director, provided brief introductions.

Public Comment

Josh Candelaria with San Manuel Band of Missions Indians introduced himself to the Commission.

Action Items

Review & Approval of the Unapproved August 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Vice Chairperson Rudy Ortega Jr. to approve the unapproved August 17, 2021 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.



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YES	Castro, Ortega, Thomas, Garcia, Hicks, Jackson, Murphy, Tenorio, Villasenor, Williams
NO	
ABSTAIN	Morales Johnson
ABSENT	Imitates-Dog, Leaf, Quintana

Review the submitted biographies for Robert Judkins and Joey Williams and hold a vote to select a new Community Elected Commissioner to serve on the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and the Self Governance Board through January 16, 2023

Executive Director Alexandra Valdes held a vote to fill the vacant Community Elected seat. Robert Judkins was selected by the majority.

Review and take possible action selecting a 2021 Native American Heritage Month theme.

Executive Director Valdes held a vote to select the 2021 Native American Heritage Month theme. A *Community United in Strength & Resolve* was selected by the majority. The vote tabulations were as follows:

Vote in Support of A Community United in Strength & Resolve	Vote in Support of Strength through Adversity
Murphy, Villasenor, Garcia, Williams, Castro, Tenorio	Thomas, Morales-Johnson

Executive Director Report

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

Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 Board Motion (Tentative: September 28, 2021)

Alexandra updated the LANAIC that she is working with Chair Solis' Office to develop a 2021 IPD motion that is set to appear on the September 28, 2021 Board of Supervisors' agenda.

Native American Heritage Month 2021 Board Motion (Tentative: November 2, 2021)

Alexandra updated the LANAIC that she is working with Chair Solis' Office to develop a 2021 Native American Heritage Month motion that is tentatively set to appear on the November 2, 2021 Board of Supervisors' agenda.

LANAIC 45th Anniversary Board Motion (June 22, 2021)

Alexandra shared that per the LANAIC 45th Anniversary Board Motion she is working with the County's Department of Human Resources to develop the first event in a multi-part DIALOGUE series focused on



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the County's American Indian and Alaska Native population. The event is schedueld to take place on October 14, 2021 and will be open to all County employees.

Acknowledge and Apologize for the Historic Mistreatment of California Native Americans by Los Angeles County (July 13, 2021)

Alexandra shared that she is working with the named Departments in this motion as well as the City of LA to develop an intentional process to engage with local tribal leaders to further this critical work.

LA County Department of Arts & Culture Grant Programs Info Session (September 22, 2021)

Alexandra provided an update that on September 22, 2021, the LANAIC in partnership with Metzli Projects and the County of Los Angeles Department of Arts & Culture will be hosting an informational session targeted to the American Indian and Alaska Native and Indigenous communities to ensure community members are aware of the numerous arts opportunities with the Department of Arts & Culture.

2022-2023 Executive Committee Nominations & Selection Process

Alexandra reminded the LANAIC that they would be holding Executive Committee elections at the November 2021 meeting. The newly elected Executive Committee will serve for two consecutive calendar years, 2022 and 2023. She provided a recap of the nomination and selection process.

2021 Native American Heritage Month Honoree Selection Process

Alexandra provided a recap of the Native American Heritage Month honoree selection process and requested that Commissioners submit their nominations for the three honoree categories to her via email by October 12 and include brief biographies for each nominee. She shared that the LANAIC will be taking action to select the 2021 Spirit of Tradition, Spirit of Community and Spirit of Creativity honorees at the October 19, 2021 meeting. Finally, Alexandra shared she would send out the list of all prior NAHM honorees.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group

Commissioner Garcia provided a brief recap of the work of the Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group. Sharing that the Working Group continues to meet biweekly and respond to the emergent needs of the AIAN community.

2021 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

Alexandra shared that the 2021 NAHM Ad Hoc Committee has met and decided upon holding one virtual NAHM event at the beginning of November, similar to last year's event. She shared that they



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have developed a run of show and will be partnering with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell again this year.

2021 Indigenous Peoples Day Ad Hoc Committee

Alexandra shared that she will be scheduling a meeting with the 2021 IPD Ad Hoc Committee to solidify programming.

Commissioner General Comments On Non-Agenda Items

No comments were made.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

No announcements or future agenda items were provided.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of September 21, 2021 was adjourned by Chairperson Castro at 6:48 PM.

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2021 Native American Heritage Month Honoree Nominations

SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY NOMINEES

- Community leaders, activists & organizers
- Long term employees of Native organizations, programs & initiatives

Angie Dorame Behrns

Mrs. Behrns was born and raised in West Los Angeles. She is a Gabrielino/Tongva Indian and is Federally registered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She has documented her paternal genealogy from the early 1800's in Los Angeles. Historical landmarks associated with her family include: Henninger Flats (formerly Clara's Basin) which was named after her Grandmother; and Los Encinos State Park (Formerly Rancho Los Encinos). Mrs. Behrns has also appeared in numerous documentary videos and television interview shows. Her poetry has been the cornerstone for a documentary video on the Santa Monica Mountains. Mrs. Behrns is a founder and former president of the Gabrielino/Tongva Springs Foundation which is currently seeking to revitalize the Sacred Springs at University High School which was once the sight of a thriving Tongva Indian village.

Avril Cordova

Avril Cordova is an enrolled member of the Taos Pueblo Tribe of Taos, New Mexico on her father's side and 6th Generation from Chief Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota Nation from Pine Ridge South Dakota on her mother's side. Avril is the owner/operator of AC and Associates and has been an Entrepreneur since October 2019 starting her own business after more than 13 years at Seven Generations Child and Family Services Prevention & Aftercare program through United American Indian Involvement in Los Angeles, CA as a Care Coordinator.

Avril has coordinated, hosted and facilitated online community events with Pukúu Cultural Community Services since the start of the pandemic with April 1st 2020 as the launch of virtual programming. Avril's work includes parent advocacy, care coordination on treatment teams, technical assistance, and family/youth activities including training and facilitation of Positive Indian Parenting and Gathering Of Native Americans (GONA) curriculum as a master facilitator. Recently connecting communities through GONA virtual events such as Chuckchansi, Lakota, Alaskan nations. Avril was born and raised in Downey, CA. She is an active community member in the Los Angeles American Indian/Alaskan Native population, and as well is involved with different American Indian committees. She is a proud parent of a 27-year-old daughter and a Unci (grandmother) of two 8th Generation Chief Red Cloud grandchildren who are 3 and 6 years old. Avril currently holds the honor of Board

Member for the American Indian Community Council. Avril is a NICWA Community Tribal Trainer and has facilitated training to the social worker's core academy around Basic ICWA.

Avril goes back to her reservations on a regular basis to attend and participate in ceremonial traditions. Avril is currently on the path as a language warrior taking Taos Pueblo Language classes facilitated by Taos Pueblo Education Department.

Avril has been on the red road for the past 16 years and role models a positive and honest lifestyle to her daughter/grandchildren and those around her on a daily basis.

Indigenous Circle of Wellness

Indigenous Circle of Wellness is a group private practice located in Southeast Los Angeles but provide tele-therapy throughout California. They provide quality mental wellness services, grounded in holistic healing (mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical balance) through a culturally inclusive approach. They value interdependence, family, community, healthy sustainable relationships, inclusion, and social justice.

They encourage healing that centers the ancestral wisdom and cultural practices from their own lineages, reclaiming the healing practices of their ancestors. They acknowledge interconnections to all that has been created in this life and the unseen world. Their reverence for ancestral teachings, include creation stories, a deep respect for Mother Earth, Father Sky, the four winds/directions and the elements of water, fire, earth, and wind to allow us to find balance as they are our greatest teachers.

Dr. Carrie Johnson

Dr. Carrie Johnson (Wahpeton Dakota) is a licensed clinical psychologist and the Vice President of Behavioral Health at United American Indian Involvement in Los Angeles, California. For the last 20 years, Dr. Johnson has provided Behavioral Health services to American Indians in Los Angeles County, including mental health treatment, grant writing, integrating traditional healing into services and evaluation of the services. Dr. Johnson is involved with local county-wide and State wide advisory boards to increase the access and cultural competence of services provided to Native Americans. She is also an experienced trainer and consultant in the impact of intergenerational trauma on Indian children, families, and communities; and provides consultation, training, and workshops on a Community and Family Healing Model she has developed. Dr. Johnson also provides TA on program development, grant writing, evaluation and direct services for Native Americans.

Maxine Laurel Judkins

Maxine Judkins born in El Paso, Tx, the second daughter of a Chiricahua Apache father and Lipan Apache Mother. At the age of 7 her mother decided to move the family from El Paso, TX to Los Angeles. Maxine attended John Marshall High School and then went on to attend Chouinard Art Institute to further develop her artistic talents. Maxine was the first female layout artist for a local newspaper "The Hollywood Citizen News". She then became involved in the political arena working in local politics with former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, Congressman Mervyn Dymally, and eventually moving to Washington D.C. working in the US State Department and finally on President Ronald Reagan's Western White House Advance Team.

After leaving Washington D.C. she then decided to concentrate her attention to Indian Country. First by working closely with Linda Burhansstipanov, M.S.P.H., Dr.P.H. on a project regarding Breast Cancer among Native American Women. She then served for over a decade as a Commissioner on

the Los Angeles City/County Native American Commission. Maxine also worked with the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census Bureau to improve the Census count for Native Americans. Maxine has never hesitated to use her political contacts on the Local, State and Federal level to further the advancement of Native American Initiatives.

Tracy Perez

Tracy M. Perez (Diné) is a former Commissioner the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and Self Governance Board. Tracy is an active member of Los Angeles Native American community volunteering and participating with many community programs and activities. Tracy started working as a Community Liaison for the LA Urban Indian Health program, United American Indian Involvement (UAI) for Native families with the Veteran Affairs program in Long Beach.

Passionate for the community, Tracy has sat as board member for several organizations such as American Indian Community Council (AICC), APLA-Red Circle Projects and a member of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) taskforce of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

United American Indian Involvement, Inc. – COVID Response Staff

The United American Indian Involvement, Inc. COVID response efforts have led to 1,422 vaccines administered since December 1, 2020 with 700 total individuals immunized. In-home Johnson & Johnson vaccinations are offered for elderly and at-risk individuals. Vaccination booster shots are available to immunocompromised individuals or those living with them. COVID-19 testing is also available to community members.

Preventative efforts include free distribution of personal protective equipment including masks, hand sanitizer and printed COVID-19 resources.

Additional resources include grocery assistance, rental assistance, case management support and health literacy and education.

This nomination would encompass doctors, nurses, Community Clinic staff, Case Managers and staff providing workshops and events to lend to the mental well-being of community members at risk during isolation or quarantine.

UAI has been serving the American Indian community since 1974 providing culturally sensitive services focused on the holistic treatment of clients' health.

UCLA's Tribal Legal Development Clinic

The Tribal Legal Development Clinic connects law students directly with tribal leaders, officers, and attorneys, to provide legal development services to Indian tribes. The clinic hosts non-litigation, tribally-driven projects that cover a wide cross-section of subjects. Students work in teams, consult regularly with the tribal liaison, and produce a work product under the supervision of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Legal Development Clinic Director.

The clinic is designed to foster the next generation of tribal lawyers. Students are exposed to the complexities, historical contexts, and professional and ethical responsibilities of tribal lawyering. Whenever possible, clinic students travel to Indian country to meet with tribal clients to collaborate, deliver work products to governing bodies, and participate in relevant meetings and hearings.

Clinic projects have included drafting statutes and other governing documents, researching and drafting appellate bench memorandums, building court infrastructure, and developing training materials. Prior projects have spanned the subject-matter spectrum and have included repatriation and cultural resource protection, family law, restorative justice, civil procedure, criminal procedure, non-profit development and more.

During the Fall 2020 semester the Tribal Indian Law Clinic developed a report entitled *A Trust Obligation to House Los Angeles's American Indians and Alaska Natives* for the LANAIC and in the Spring 2021 semester developed the *Cultural Land Use Access for Native Residents of Los Angeles County* report to help inform the work of the County of Los Angeles 2020 Indigenous Peoples' Day Board report back.

Rene' Williams

Rene'(Colville), grew up and was raised on her reservation including boarding school, Rene' is committed to working towards health equity (by building partnerships with consumers, businesses, Tribes, and community organizations) to address health disparities and the social determinants of health for indigenous people. During her 20 years of service with various Tribal entities and non-profits, Rene' held various leadership positions throughout the United States. She developed and implemented numerous health, educational, workforce development, and youth programs including two large regional tribally designed TANF programs among many HHS, DOL, DOI, DOE, and HUD projects. Rene' also serves as County Board of Supervisor Janice Hahn's appointee to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission.

SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY NOMINEES

- Artist, designers, craftspeople
- Entertainment professionals

Tazbah Rose Chavez

Tazbah Rose Chavez is a citizen of the Bishop Paiute Tribe in Payahuunadü (Bishop, CA), from the Nüümü, Diné and San Carlos Apache tribes. She is a performance poet turned director and television writer. She is currently a writer on NBCUniversal's new series RUTHERFORD FALLS and has previously written and consulted for SyFy's upcoming series RESIDENT ALIEN and FX's Reservation Dogs.

Tazbah is a director of film and music videos, and was recently part of AT&T's Hello Lab Filmmaker Mentoring Lab in which she wrote and directed the short film *Your Name Isn't English*, executive produced by Taika Waititi and currently streaming on DirectTV.

She has performed her poetry in acclaimed spaces such as the Smithsonian - National Museum of the American Indian, Meow Wolf and the Grand Performances Stage to name a few. She holds a degree in American Indian Studies from the University of California Los Angeles and is a former intern of Sundance Institute's Native and Indigenous Program.

SPIRIT OF TRADITION NOMINEES

- Pow wow dancers, drum/singers. MCs, etc.
- California Native cultural bearers
- Cultural teachers

Susan Jackson

Susan is Quechan and currently lives in LA County and is a Care Coordinator as UAI in Seven Generations in the Prevention and Aftercare Program. She has been Pow Wow dancing for over 20 years. She has traveled to many Pow Wows throughout Turtle Island. She is an all-around dancer but her dance style is the Women's, Fancy Shawl. She has been involved in many dance workshops throughout LA county and has also had individual one on one dance sessions outside dance workshops to help youth and adults learn more about pow wow dance protocol, regalia and learn more of the depths of the intricate footwork. She created and designed her own pow wow regalias and beadwork. She has taught many community/family members on how to create pow wow regalia and beadwork. Susan stated "It is important to learn how to create our own designs/regalia and most of all it is important to learn the pow wow protocols and meaning behind the dance categories on their region and origins. I love being able to help my community whether it is pow wow dancing or pow wow singing. It is important to continue teaching our next generations. I love being able to dance for my people, my community, my elders, my family, and my ancestors."

Phoenix Family

The Phoenix Family are beloved members of the Los Angeles Native American community. They are cultural leaders in our community and contribute greatly to youth programs and the Pow Wow community. They are generous, selfless, and always willing to support anyone in need.

Diana Terrazas

Diana is a member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe and has weaving baskets for seven years. Basketweaving is important to Diana as it is a multi-generational family tradition that she plans to pass down to her children. Diana is the former Community Outreach Manager at The Autry Museum in Los Angeles. Diana is a Board Member for the California Indian Basketweavers' Association. One of the main reasons she serves on the Board is her desire to bring awareness about the environmental impacts facing the land, water, plant materials, that basketweavers use.