



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

The February 15, 2022 meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Holding Meetings via Teleconference

Chairperson Thomas read the following teleconference statement allowing for the LANAIC meeting to take place via teleconference:

*Welcome everybody, before we begin I have a brief announcement; this teleconference meeting is in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 361 and the Board of Supervisor's action taken at their February 8, 2021 meeting and subsequently renewed every 30 days to continue meeting by teleconference to limit the spread of Covid-19 and to promote social distancing where possible.*

Invocation

Commissioner Judkins provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present:

Cheri Thomas (Chairperson)  
Chrissie Castro (Vice Chairperson)  
Shawn Imitates-Dog (Treasurer) (joined at 6:10 p.m.)  
Dr. Andrea Garcia  
Allison Hicks  
Dawn Jackson  
Randall Murphy (joined at 6:00 p.m.)  
Joseph Quintana  
Ted Tenorio (joined at 6:15 p.m.)  
Rene' Williams

Absent:

Kimberly Morales Johnson (Secretary) (excused)  
Rudy Ortega Jr. (excused)  
Fred Leaf (unexcused)  
Mark Villasenor (unexcused)

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director



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Action Items

**Review & Approval of the Unapproved January 18, 2022 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Garcia and seconded by Vice Chairperson Castro to approve the unapproved January 18, 2022 LANAIC Meeting Minutes with the following edit: note Commissioner Judkins' absence from the January 18, 2022 LANAIC meeting as excused and Commissioner Leaf's absence from the same meeting as unexcused. The motion passed.*

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

Presentations

**Introduction to Watson Consulting Group, Lisa Watson (Principal) & Crystal Coyazo (Project Manager)**

Commissioner Garcia introduced Lisa Watson, Principal of Watson Consulting Group and Crystal Coyazo, Project Manager at Watson Consulting Group. She shared that after a long procurement process Watson Consulting Group was contracted by the County to continue efforts to address Native American homelessness tied to the 2018 AIAN Homelessness Board Motion. Crystal and Lisa provided a brief presentation about themselves, their organization and the work they are charged with leading.

**Introduction & Welcome to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Lorayne Lingat (Assistant Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors)**

Alexandra briefly introduced Lorayne Lingat, Assistant Executive Officer with the County Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (EO). Alexandra shared that with the transition of the LANAIC from the Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services to the EO effective January 16, 2022, that her position now directly reports to Ms. Lingat.

Ms. Lingat provided a warm welcome to EO for the LANAIC. She provided a brief personal introduction and shared how she plans to support the work of the LANAIC and Alexandra in her position of Executive Director.

**Introduction to Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Sandra Jackson-Dumont (CEO & Director)**



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Chair Thomas welcomed Sandra Jackson-Dumont, the CEO & Director of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art to the meeting. She invited her to provide her presentation.

Ms. Jackson shared a brief personal introduction and provided a PowerPoint on the Lucas Museum and their commitment to supporting historically underrepresented communities including the Native American community.

**Public Comment**

Stephanie Mushrush addressed the LANAIC. She shared about an issue that has come to light in Long Beach, CA that negatively impacts the wellbeing of the Native American community. Ms. Mushrush shared about the reopening of Lincoln Park - the oldest park in the city and previously closed since 2017, due to construction – which reopened with a ribbon cutting on February 11, 2022, touting a new 13-foot Lincoln penny monument and selfie spot. Ms. Mushrush shared that the reopening of this park with the Lincoln name and penny statue is a step backwards for the city and community of Long Beach, which is home to a strong Native American community.

She shared that the coalition is asking for support from the Native community near and far in the form of petition signatures and petition sharing, as well as support from allies and organizations. She also invited Commissioners to be present for the gathering the coalition is hosting on so called President's Day Monday, February 21 at 2 pm, at Lincoln Park in Long Beach, CA.

**Care First, Community Investment Advisory Committee Report**

**CFCI Updates, Joey Williams (LANAIC Lead Designee - CFCI Advisory Committee)**

Tencha Espino, LANAIC Alternate Designee – CFCI Advisory Committee, provide the monthly CFCI updates in Joey Williams absence. Ms. Espino shared that the County has hired Street Level Strategy as the community engagement consultant and that the search of a Third Party Administrator is still underway.

Alexandra shared that \$450,000 of the \$500,00 in Care First Community Investment funds that were secured to address Native American housing insecurity and homelessness have been contracted through an open competitive Request Statement of Interest process to Pukuu Cultural Community Services and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. Services will become available to eligible clients in late March.

**Executive Director's Report**

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

- **Truth, Healing & Transformation Projects**

Alexandra shared that through a open competitive Request for Proposal process administered by the Department of Arts & Culture Cogstone Resource Management has been selected to



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facilitate engagement with tribal leaders and members of the American Indian and Alaska Native community in the service of creating a set of proposals for Land Acknowledgment and Land Access policies, protocols and toolkits for the County.

Chairperson’s Report

**Appointments to the 2022 Elections Committee**

Chairperson Thomas shared that per the LANAIC bylaws she has appointed Commissioners Tenorio, Villasenor and Williams to serve on the 2022 Elections Committee. Alexandra shared that she would be reaching out to the members soon to schedule the first meeting.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

**Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group**

Commissioner Dr. Garcia shared a brief update about the work of the Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group. She shared that the Group continues to meet bi-weekly and respond to the emergent needs of the AIAN community.

**Executive Committee**

Alexandra shared that the Executive Committee held a meeting on Thursday February 3, 2022 to review a letter of support for Los Angeles County’s American Rescue Plan Act Good Jobs Challenge EDA Grant application. The letter was adopted unanimously.

<b>YES</b>	Thomas, Castro, Imitates-Dog & Morales Johnson
<b>NO</b>	
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	
<b>ABSENT</b>	

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No general comments were provided.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Garcia shared that in a role she performs outside of the LANAIC, she supports a diabetes research project with Dr. Claradine Soto. They have partnered with Project Angel Food to provide two meals a day for three months to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native participants with diabetes. They are currently enrolling their second cohort of participants and requested Commissioners help spread the word with their respective networks.



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Commissioner Murphy shared that he has a meeting scheduled with Commissioners on the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission. He noted that he is attending this meeting outside of his LANAIC Commissioner capacity.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of February 15, 2022 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 7:01 p.m.



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