



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

Meeting Location: County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration
Sybil Brand Room 372
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Listen Via Telephone: (669) 444-9171
Webinar ID: 843 3844 9426

To View Via Web: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84338449426>

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting.

CHERI THOMAS, Chairperson
Quinault/Yurok

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Vice Chairperson
Navajo

RENE' WILLIAMS, Secretary
Colville Tribes

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Treasurer
Lakota

DENISE ESCOTO, Commissioner
Northern Cheyenne

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D., Commissioner
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO, Commissioner
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON, Commissioner
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Commissioner
Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE, Commissioner
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabaskan

-
1. CALL TO ORDER
 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 3. ROLL CALL
 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS
 5. PUBLIC COMMENT
 6. ACTION ITEMS
 - 6.1. Review and take possible action adopting the May 16, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

- 6.2. Review and take possible action adopting a letter to Kristin Sakoda, Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, requesting the addition of the County of Los Angeles Land Acknowledgment to former LANAIC Creative Strategist Jacob Pratt's video Erasure
- 6.3. Review and take possible action accepting the invitation from Assemblymember James Ramos to partner to host a town hall to raise awareness of the Feather Alert on September 26, 2023

7. PRESENTATION

- 7.1 *LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department's Discrimination Enforcement Overview* (Kim Kasreliovich, Assistant General Manager)

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1 Preparing for the July 18, 2023 LANAIC meeting with Mayor Karen Bass

9. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 9.1 Self Governance Board
- 9.2 Executive Committee
- 9.3 Homelessness Committee
- 9.4 2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day & Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee
- 9.5 Governance Ad-hoc Committee
- 9.6 2020 Census Analysis Ad-hoc Committee
- 9.7 2023 Indian Child Welfare Act Ad-hoc Committee
- 9.8 2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee

10. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-723-8832 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: www.lanaic.lacounty.gov, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or 213-723-8832



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023**

The May 16, 2023, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at the County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Call to Order

Chairperson Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Cheri Thomas
Denise Escoto
Andrea Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
John Only A Chief
Rudy Ortega Jr. (*Attended Virtually; Just Cause*)
Ted Tenorio
Mark Villasenor
Audra Wise

Absent: Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro (*excused*)
Secretary Rene' Williams (*excused*)
Treasurer Shawn Imitates Dog (*excused*)
Rich Toyon

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Welcome to New Commission Audra Wise

Newly appointed Commissioner Audra Wise (Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo) provided an introduction about herself. The other commissioners extended a warm welcome to her.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office and tribal affiliation.

Public Comment

Alexandra shared that public comment was submitted via phone call by Professor Michael Craig Grant and a transcription of the public comment was provided in the meeting packet.

Professor Michael Craig Grant (5/16/2023)

Adjacent to Olvera Street is First Cemetery, with hallow and concreated ground. 300 Native Americans and a large contingent of the Hispanic aristocracy. Approximately 10 years ago and again repeated in 2019 a group of unscrupulous and unethical archeologists went to First Cemetery under the auspice of Supervisor Gloria Molina. They went to First Cemetery and desecrated and grave robbed 120 gravesites. Gloria Molina used the power of her office to commit fraudulence. Fraudulence as when she applied for federal, city and county funding, she misreported certain essential facts. 1. She told agencies that the cemetery was no longer there which was a lie. What confirmed her lie was that when she began excavating, she brought human remains to the surface. There are regulations and laws in place that stipulate that when such an event presents itself you are supposed to cease and desist and report to the proper authorities. She failed to do so and continued to excavate. And continued to bring more and more human remains. I am working on this project with my colleague Gary Stickles who is the Archeologist for the Kizh Nation. When Dr. Gary Stickles found out he wrote a letter and made phone calls to NAGPRA and let them know what she had done. They wrote her a letter demanding that she reintern them. Her idea of a proper reinterment was to put them in a paper bag and then dump them in a single hole and cover them with dirt. To this moment in time First Cemetery lays in waste. It looks like how the gravesites at WW2, Jewish holocaust, the criminality is the same. The heinous atrocity was the same because they both involved the destabilization of the fabric of humanity. Again, my colleague and I are seeking to do is number 1 get First Cemetery restored and preserved. And number 2 get the perpetrators brought to justice. We have been working hard on that. In order for the individual hearing this to understand the import, they have to ask themselves how they would feel if they went to a cemetery and their family members were disintermed the way the individuals at First Cemetery were. Native Americans are people too.

A representative from Metzli Projects shared about the Acknowledge and Refrain Project regarding a mural at Santa Monica City Hall. Over 300 comments have been collected about community views asking that the mural be replaced because of its portrayal of historical inaccuracies. The City of Santa Monica is preparing to remove the current mural and is seeking community input for the second phase of this project that centers around specific wants and needs for a new mural. Community members are encouraged to complete a Google form online to provide feedback and support for this project. The presenter recommended that persons who identify as AIAN include that information in their comment. Comments are being accepted through June 10, 2023.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023**

Action Items

Review & Approval of the Unapproved April 18, 2023, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villasenor to approve the unapproved April 18, 2023 LANAIC Meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.

YES	Villasenor, Thomas, Escoto, Morales Recalde, Only A Chief, Jackson , Garcia, Ortega, Tenorio
NO	
ABSTAIN	Wise
ABSENT	Castro, Imitates Dog, Williams, Toyon

Discussion Items

Creative Strategist Jacob Pratt’s Erasure Film Screening Recap (April 22, 2023)

Alexandra shared that Jacob Pratt’s Creative Strategist Residency with the Commission concluded shortly after the screening of his short video *Erasure*. She noted Kim Glann, Senior Manager for Cross Sector Initiatives at the Department of Arts and Culture joined virtually this evening to field any program related questions as she manages the Creative Strategist Program. She also shared Heather Rigby, the Arts and Culture Chief Deputy also was joining virtually.

Jacob shared that the original plan was to host the screening with a dome projection and the original location did not work out, however they were able to secure a location and a business that produced quality screening equipment for a great event. Jacob shared that the event went well.

Kim Glann shared that the Creative Strategist program launched in 2018. The program is an artist residency and an avenue for reaching cultural equality. The purpose of the program is to meaningfully use artistic practice to help departments solve issues creatively. Kim also stated that Jacob embodied the spirit of the program and is thankful for the partnership with the LANAIC. Kim shared that the Creative Strategist Program is being rolled out with the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources next and will continue to other departments Countywide.

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that we had to keep adding chairs to the audience at the event because over 70 people were in attendance. Alexandra offered a thank you to Dawn for facilitating the partnership with Los Angeles City College and securing a location for the event. Commissioner Garcia thanked Jacob for all of his hard work throughout his residency. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that the event was fantastic. She also stated that as a Tongva tribal member she would be remiss if she did not share that the film caused harm. She shared that because it was paid for by Los Angeles County on her ancestral homelands, she felt erased for not being a part of the movie. As a result, Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that a letter was submitted to the County from Tribal Chairman Anthony Morales.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023

Developing FY23-24 Calendar

Commissioner Dawn Jackson offered support with the development of a calendar and stated that color coding the events for different groups (SGB, Community, etc.) with links on the document would make it easy to read and access. Items that were shared out that should be considered for the calendar are: legislative agendas, Native Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples Day, State Auditing (for SGB), Annual Report items, and Metro Tap card collaboration. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that agendas from the last 18 months should be reviewed for upcoming events. Alexandra stated that a focus should be placed on internal items not community events.

Chair's Report

2023 Native American Heritage Month LA Metro TAP Card Update

Chairperson Cheri Thomas shared an update that the recommendation to include the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgement on the Tap card design was shared back with Metro however due to limited space that inclusion of it will not be feasible. She shared she will be meeting again with Samuel Harper from Metro and will provide another update at the next meeting.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program

Chairperson Cheri Thomas shared that the information about the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee program is provided in the agenda packets for community dissemination. She also shared that the Mayor of Los Angeles has a focus on homelessness and recommended a partnership between Los Angeles City/County and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that it is important to make note that most California tribes are not Federally recognized and cannot access the program. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that dedicated navigators would be ideal to help individuals find out about housing programs and assistance with eligibility determination and the application process. Chairperson Cheri Thomas stated that the Section 184 program website allows interested persons to access a list of approved vendors who facilitate classes that are mandatory for program participants.

Alexandra shared that Section 184 is operated by Federal funding that is paid directly to HUD approved lending partners and that it would not be possible to pursue this funding source for the purposes of funding navigator positions. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that the LANAIC tried applying for the Section 184 HUD program 10-15 years ago and was not able to meet the program requirements.

Executive Director's Report

Countywide Land Acknowledgement Toolkit Updates

Alexandra shared that the County has entered into contract with Cogstone Resource Management to develop a land acknowledgement toolkit for the County of Los Angeles and its employees.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Commissioner Dawn Jackson asked Alexandra to share the report out that was shared at the Self-Governance Board meeting. Alexandra provided an overview of the 2024-2025 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and Community Action Plan (CAP). Alexandra stated that the CNA and CAP drafts have been posted on LANAIC's website since April 27, 2023. She also shared information about the public hearing and encouraged commissioners to share information about the hearing to their networks. Alexandra stated that the CAP/CNA will be approved in June and that all commissioners have been sent a copy of the draft documents for review and feedback. Alexandra shared that the CAP/CNA are important because they guide the funding for the grant programs that the SGB administers.

Executive Committee

None

Homelessness Committee

Commissioner Andrea Garcia shared updates about the work that started in 2018 via a Board Motion. She stated that there is a need for the work to continue and if anyone is interested in joining the committee to contact her. The consultant providing support to the project met with community-based organizations and initiated a coalition to continue the work that was initiated by the Board motion. The consultant's contract with CEO will be ending in a few months.

2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day & Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee

Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he sent out an email about scheduling a meeting with the committee and hasn't heard back. Commissioner Morales Recalde shared that she can provide a Zoom link for the ad-hoc committee to meet once John provides a date and time.

Governance Ad-hoc Committee

None

2020 Census Analysis Ad-hoc Committee

None

2023 Indian Child Welfare Act Ad-hoc Committee

Chairperson Cheri Thomas stated that she will check in with her network to see if they have information that could be shared out.

2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that she met with Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog to discuss how the Commission could lift up Native artists. She stated that they also discussed how to leverage support from community members who currently work in the entertainment field. Alexandra stated that there is an opportunity to collaborate with our host County department. Commissioner Dawn Jackson added that she would like the Commission to be a conduit for all the County opportunities that involve trainings and apprenticeships for the AIAN community.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023**

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that Monterey Park has adopted a land acknowledgement.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Morales Recalde inquired if there were policies regarding how regularly each commissioner should be reporting back to their appointing office or electing population. Alexandra shared that at a retreat four years ago there were discussions about how to report back to County and City elected offices. Chairperson Cheri Thomas shared that her appointing office has specific instructions about what she shares back.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of May 16, 2023 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 7:49 PM.

DRAFT



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
CHERI THOMAS
Quinault/Yurok

Vice Chairperson
CHRISSIE CASTRO
Navajo

Secretary
RENE WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

Treasurer
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D.
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

June 20, 2023

Ms. Kristin Sakoda
Department of Arts and Culture
1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Ms. Sakoda,

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). The purpose of this letter is to recommend that the County of Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture add the LA County Land Acknowledgement to the beginning of the video *Erasure*.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Land Acknowledgment for the County of Los Angeles on November 1, 2022. The LANAIC represents the special interest and concerns of Native Americans of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, and social circumstances.

The LA County Department of Arts and Culture manages the Creative Strategist program, and placed artist Jacob Pratt (Dakota and Ojibway from Cote First Nation) as a Creative Strategist in residence with the LANAIC in 2022-2023. The goal of Jacob's residency with the LANAIC was to develop and prototype ways to increase awareness and understanding of local Tribes and the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community, especially their histories and cultural practices, to advance ongoing efforts to undo their systemic erasure. During the course of Jacob's residency, he collaborated with LANAIC staff and commissioners and developed and created a video, entitled *Erasure*, that shares three perspectives of the AIAN community in LA County.

After further discussion within the LANAIC we determined we should have recommended that Jacob include the County's adopted land acknowledgment in his short video. We believe that the addition of the Land Acknowledgment will help to increase awareness and understanding of local tribes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

Cheri Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson