



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 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 July 18, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

- 6.2. Review and take possible action adopting a letter to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Recommending that they support the seating of the Cherokee Nation's delegate to the United States House of Representatives per the 1835 Treaty of New Echota
- 6.3. Review and take possible action to formally sponsor the 2023 Indigenous Pride LA event

7. PRESENTATION

- 7.1 *Care First Community Investment Updates* (Joey Williams, LANAIC CFCI Designee & Tencha Chavez, LANAIC CFCI Alternate)

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1. Discuss possible strategies to ensure that the work resultant of the [Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness Motion](#) (October 2019) continues beyond the expiration of the County contract with Watson Consulting Group in September 2023

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 Potential partnerships with LA County Library American Indian Resource Center and AARP

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1 FY22-23 LANAIC Annual Report Updates
- 10.2 Feather Alert Town Hall Updates

11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 Self Governance Board
- 11.2 Executive Committee
- 11.3 Homelessness Committee
- 11.4 2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day & Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee
- 11.5 Governance Ad-hoc Committee
- 11.6 2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee

12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. 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 213-738-3241 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) 738-3241



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 18, 2023**

The July 18, 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 & Land Acknowledgment

Chairperson Cheri 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
Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro
Secretary Rene' Williams
Treasurer Shawn Imitates Dog
Denise Escoto
Andrea Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde (*Attended Virtually; Just Cause*)
John Only A Chief
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon
Mark Villasenor
Audra Wise

Absent: *None*

Quorum was met.

Staff Present: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager (attended virtually)

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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



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Public Comment

Elena Nourrie share that she was attending as a member of the public.

Cesar Aranguri did not have a comment.

Action Items

Review & approval of the Unapproved June 20, 2023, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to approve the unapproved June 20, 2023 LANAIC Meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.

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

Review & take possible action directing the LANAIC Executive Director to explore options for sponsorship of the 2023 Indigenous Peoples Day Event by an elected official(s)

Alexandra Valdes shared that the 2018, 2019 and 2022 Indigenous Peoples Day events were sponsored by former LA City Councilmember O’Farrell and that this type of event requires the sponsorship of an elected official. Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that he does not believe that the LANAIC has the manpower to hold an event. He also shared that Indigenous Pride LA reached out to him because they are interested in doing a joint event. He added that he believes the LANAIC should do something small and build on it in the future. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that this motion would be a step in the right direction and that the (2023 IPD and Native American Heritage Month) ad hoc committee could figure out what the available resources are. Commissioner Chrissie Castro stated that she recommends sending a memo to the Mayor’s Office. Commissioner Castro stated that it would be great if we could institutionalize everything so that they could do it each year. She also stated that the LANAIC doesn’t have the infrastructure to hold large events. Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that she agrees with sending a letter to the Mayor’s Office which includes other documented needs.



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A motion was made by Commissioner John Only A Chief and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. to direct the LANAIC Executive Director to explore options for sponsorship of the 2023 Indigenous Peoples Day Event by an elected official(s). The motion passed.

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

Presentations

County of Los Angeles Land Acknowledgement Toolkit and Training Resources

(Desiree Martinez, President – Cogstone Resource Management & Ashley Dobson, Vice President – Avid Core)

Alexandra introduced the presenters and a brief overview of how they were solicited by the Department of Art and Culture to develop the County of Los Angeles Land Acknowledgement Toolkit and Training Resources. Desiree Martinez stated that the team will be working with the County and participating tribes to develop toolkits, resources, and directs about histories about local tribes, and guidance on how to implement the County adopted land acknowledgement. Ms. Martinez also shared that all materials will be visually appealing, with content that is accessible to a wide range of audiences and how to implement the tools without causing further harm to local tribal communities. Ms. Martinez stated that the team will reach out to all 22 tribes from the AB 52 State list for invitations to participate in the project.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia asked Ms. Martinez if the material will be owned by the County, because as a County employee there is not a lot of accessible media content. Ms. Martinez stated that there will be a media release, and the images taken for the project will be available for County use.

Commissioner Chrissie Castro recommended the inclusion of a self-assessment in the toolkit for employees and County entities to utilize to help ensure it is not a performative act. Commissioner Cheri Thomas asked if the LANAIC can be advised of the groups who choose to participate and those who choose not to participate.

Cherokee Nation’s Request to Seat their Delegate in the United States House of Representatives (Cynthia M Ruiz, Council Member – Tsa-La-Gi & Laurie Doctor, Council Member – Tsa-LA-Gi)

Cynthia Ruiz presented an overview of the Tsa-La-Gi’s call for support to the LANAIC regarding the enforcement of a treaty agreement that allows a Cherokee Nation Delegate in the United States House of Representatives. Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. asked Ms. Ruiz if she could submit a list of all the entities that have provided support. Ms. Ruiz shared that she would send a list to Alexandra.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 18, 2023

Discussion Items

Review and provide edits on a draft letter from the LANAIC to the Board of Supervisors Recommending they support the seating of the Cherokee Nation's delegate to the United States House of Representatives

Chair Thomas shared that she drafted a letter for the LANAIC to discuss and edit. The letter would advocate to the Board of Supervisors that they support the seating of the Cherokee Nation's delegate to United States House of Representatives. Alexandra shared that she would be requesting additional edits via email by August 1 and then will be including the final draft letter for the body's consideration for adoption at the August meeting. Chair Thomas asked Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. if he recommends adding as an attachment the list of supporters that Ms. Ruiz will be submitting to Alexandra. Commissioner Ortega Jr. confirmed that he does recommend the addition of a list of supporters as an attached to the letter.

Chair's Report

LA Metro 2023 Native American Heritage Month TAP Card Updates

Chairperson Cheri Thomas shared that Metro has been expanding their series of community outreach cards. She shared that there is no other update at the moment.

Executive Director's Report

Upcoming LANAIC Executive Committee Elections

Alexandra provided a reminder that the LANAIC Executive Committee members serve two-year terms and that there will be elections at the November 2023 meeting to select the incoming Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. The new Executive Committee will begin their terms in January 2024 and serve through 2025.

FY22-23 LANAIC Annual Report Updates

Alexandra reminded the Commission that the FY22-23 LANAIC Annual Report is due to the Board of Supervisors by September 30. She plans to include the final draft for possible adoption by the Commission at the September 19 meeting.

Feather Alert Town Hall Updates

Alexandra shared that she is working with Assemblymember Ramos' Office and California Native Vote Project staff to firm up logistics for the Feather Alert Town Hall event scheduled for fall 2023.

Erasure Video Updates

Alexandra shared that former LANAIC Creative Strategist will be editing his short video Erasure to include the County of Los Angeles adopted land acknowledgement per the request from the LANAIC to Department of Arts and Culture Director Kristin Sakoda on June 20, 2023.



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Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that she highly encourages Commissioners to join the County New Commissioners Virtual Workshop on August 3. She stated that the training workshop is only one hour long and has valuable information including on the Brown Act and the County's legislative process.

Executive Committee

None

Homelessness Committee

None

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

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the committee has been meeting bi-weekly. Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. stated that Grand Performances was interested in possibly partnering for IPD and that he would connect their CEO with Alexandra. He also shared that Councilmember Monica Rodriguez's Office reached out to the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians inquiring about Native American Heritage Month. He shared he intends to share with her office how the LANAIC has historically been involved in the planning of NAHM. Alexandra shared that there are three honoree awards that are given for NAHM Heritage Month and that she will be soliciting nominees in late July and that the body will selecting the 2023 honorees at the September 19 meeting.

Governance Ad-hoc Committee

None

2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that the committee did not meet.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog shared that there are two upcoming film screenings and that he would send information to Alexandra for her to send to the Commission.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde shared that she will forward an email to Alexandra to share out with the Commission about a film screening on July 27.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Imitates Dog shared that United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (UAI) is hosting a pow wow at the Autry on November 4.

Commissioner Chrissie Castro stated the LANAIC has the authority to change their own bylaws and as such could change their meeting schedule which currently requires 12 monthly meetings a year. Chairperson Cheri Thomas stated that would mean we would discuss this item in October and vote to make the change in November.



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Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of July 18, 2023 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 7:50 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
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Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

August 15, 2023

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Board of Supervisors,

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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors support the seating of the Cherokee Nation's delegate to the United States House of Representatives per the 1835 Treaty of New Echota.

In 1835, the Cherokee Nation and United States signed the Treaty of New Echota. The treaty forcibly removed the Cherokee from their homelands, which led to over one-quarter of the Cherokee Nation perishing on the "Trail of Tears." That same document, however, also guaranteed the tribe a delegate to Congress. For almost 200 years, the U.S. House of Representatives has failed to act or honor this promise. In 2019, Chief Hoskin Jr. nominated Kim Teehee as the Cherokee Nation delegate and committed to the effort of finally demanding Congress live up to its agreement. Thousands have acted by calling on Congress to vote to the seat the Cherokee Nation delegate. Historic progress has been made, including in November 2022, when the U.S. House Rules committee held a congressional hearing to discuss the issue.

The Treaty of New Echota has no expiration date. It's time for the U.S. government to fulfill its promise and uphold its legal obligation to guarantee the Cherokee Nation a delegate to Congress. We respectfully ask that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors authorize advocacy for this critical representation and add this advocacy position to the County of Los Angeles Federal Legislative Agenda.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

Cheri L Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson