



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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 contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please note "LANAIC SGB Public Comment" in subject line. 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. DISCUSSION WITH LA CITY MAYOR KAREN BASS REGARDING LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION & AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND NEEDS**

7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1. Review and take possible action adopting the August 15, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
- 7.2. Review and take possible action selecting the 2023 Native American Heritage Month Honorees for Spirit of Community, Spirit of Tradition and Spirit of Creativity
- 7.3. Review and take possible action adopting the FY22-23 LANAIC Annual Report and directing the Executive Director to submit the report to the Board of Supervisors and Commission Services by September 30, 2023
- 7.4. Review and take possible action adopting a letter to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, requesting a sustainability plan following the end of Watson Consulting Group's contract with CEO Homelessness Initiative focused on addressing American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness
- 7.5. Review and take possible action adopting a letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass requesting a sustainability plan following the end of Watson Consulting Group's contract with CEO Homelessness Initiative focused on addressing American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness
- 7.6. Review and take possible action adopting a two-page AIAN Homelessness in LA County Infographic.
- 7.7. 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

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1. Discuss "Advancing Indigenous Housing Rights in Los Angeles: International Best Practice and a Legal Framework" report

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 LANAIC Project Budgets and Controls
- 9.2 2023 Native American Heritage Month Collaborations

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1 September 26, 2023 Feather Alert Town Hall Updates

11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 Self Governance Board
- 11.2 Executive Committee
- 11.3 Homelessness Committee

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

- 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 AUGUST 15, 2023**

The August 15, 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 6:32 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
Secretary Rene' Williams
Treasurer Shawn Imitates Dog
Andrea Garcia
Dawn Jackson
John Only A Chief
Rich Toyon
Mark Villasenor
Audra Wise (Attended remotely, Just Cause)
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Ted Tenorio

Absent: Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro (Excused)
Denise Escoto (Excused)
Mona Morales Recalde (Excused)

Quorum was met.

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

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

Public Comment

None



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023**

Action Items

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ted Tenorio and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to approve the unapproved July 18, 2023 LANAIC Meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.

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

Review & 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

Alexandra stated that they have not received the list of entities who have provided support which the Commission requested at the July 18, 2023 meeting.

The Chairperson tabled this item.

YES	N/A
NO	N/A
ABSTAIN	N/A
ABSENT	N/A

Review & take possible action to formally sponsor the 2023 Indigenous Pride LA event

Alexandra stated that the LANAIC does not possess the capacity and resources to host large community events and programming due in part to not having a mechanism to receive and use donated monies. Alexandra shared that the LANAIC had the opportunity to leverage one-time funding through the County Equity Fund to provide support for an existing community Indigenous Peoples Day event or program such as the 5 annual Indigenous Pride LA event at the Autry on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked when this matter was not discussed at the 2023 Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous Peoples Day Ad Hoc Committee prior being presented to the LANAIC. Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that after reviewing information about past events, it became clear that the LANAIC is not equipped to host an IPD event especially in light of Councilmember O’Farrell no longer being in office. Commissioner Imitates Dog also stated that he brought up Indigenous Pride LA to see if there was a way to fund an already existing event and she shared information about the Equity



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023**

Funding; and that was the reason why the item made it to the agenda to bring it to the whole group. In order to pursue this opportunity action needs to be taken at this meeting due to County timelines.

Commissioner Rene Williams stated that moving forward the LANAIC should continue to look at partnerships for events like this because even though we are not hosting the event, sponsorship is still a way of showing up for community and helping. Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that Indigenous Pride LA has hosted this event for many years and is established in the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rene Williams and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to approve sponsorship for the 2023 Indigenous Pride LA event.

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

Presentations

Care First Community Investment Updates

(Tencha Chavez, LANAIC CFCI Alternate)

Tencha Chavez, the LANAIC’s alternate designee to the Care First Community Investment (CFCI) Advisory Committee, stated that there is a year two funding opportunity with Amity Foundation for an Indigenous Youth Empowerment program, and she encouraged sharing out about this opportunity with community organizations that may be interested. Tencha also shared that Measure J was upheld by the courts as constitutional and that this is a win for community, as it means that millions of dollars of funding will be available for future programming.

Discussion Items

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 contact with Watson Consulting Group in September 2023

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that she recommends sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the LA Mayor to fund and create a position that is full time that could be housed in the County to support the homelessness work for the AIAN community. She shared that the plan is to present draft letters at September’s meeting for the consideration of the LANAIC. Commissioner Andrea Garcia also shared that it is important for the County and City commissioners to go to their respective offices to present the letter if they are adopted.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023

Chair's Report

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

Chair Cheri Thomas stated that there are possible partnerships with the LA County Library American Indian Resource Center and AARP and that if the LANAIC is interested, we could reach out to the organizations. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that the organizations could attend a LANAIC meeting. Commissioner Dawn Jackson shared that the LANAIC has historically worked with the American Indian Resource Center. Alexandra shared that she recommends reaching out to the American Indian Resource Center to see if we could relaunch the Indigenous Peoples Day booklists that the LANAIC helped develop in 2021.

Executive Director's Report

FY22-23 LANAIC Annual Report Updates

Alexandra shared that she is drafting the FY 22-23 LANAIC Annual Report for the review of the LANAIC at the September 19, 2023, meeting. She reminded the LANAIC that an annual report is required for all County commissions and is due on September 30, 2023 to the Board of Supervisors and Commission Services. She noted that Chair Thomas was the only commissioner to submit content for the report.

Feather Alert Town Hall Updates

Alexandra shared that she continues to meet regularly with Assemblymember James Ramos' team regarding the September 26, 2023 Feather Alert Town Hall event that will take place in LA County and that she will provide more information when it becomes available.

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

LANAIC SGB Chair Dawn Jackson requested that Alexandra provide the report. Alexandra shared that the LANAIC SGB adopted their newly developed strategic plan at their meeting earlier tonight and that the body will now be shifting to developing an implementation plan. She also reminded the LANAIC that the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside funds (CSAIBG) Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) is open and requested that commissioners share about the open competitive opportunity with their networks. Statement of Qualifications are due by 5:00 PM on September 7, 2023.

Executive Committee

None

Homelessness Committee

Commissioner Andrea Garcia shared that there is a group called, "The Housing Collaborative" that could potentially bring in philanthropic dollars and that one-page information sheets will be shared at the next meeting for review and possible adoption.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
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2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day & Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee

Alexandra shared that Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. redirected Monica Rodriguez's office to her and they informed her that their office would like to continue the prior NAHM process developed between former Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and the LANAIC. Alexandra also shared that Councilmember Rodriguez's Office is really looking to the body for recommendations about the procession for the ceremony. Alexandra also shared that the date being held is Wednesday, November 1 for an in-council presentation and that in previous years City Hall was lit up for the event and they are open to do that again this year using the same colors. The Office also brought up the Bridge Gallery, which is a program where they put up art by community artists. Alexandra also shared that she will touch base with the office to reestablish the logistics of the event, because Commissioner Dawn Jackson did most of the work of coordinating the art pieces with little assistance.

Governance Ad-hoc Committee

None

2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee

None

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Shawn Imitated Dog shared that the upcoming Sunday is the Native American Heritage game at the LA Dodgers. Commissioner John Only A Chief shared that on August 19-20 the 20th Annual Friendship Powwow in Carson. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. asked about the legislative report and if updates could be provided on the State Climate Bonds. Alexandra stated that she will reach out to the County legislative analyst to see if there are any updates on those topics. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that if there is a need for money, how to we get to that point to support for what community wants to see and that next year is 100 years of citizenship. Alexandra shared that part of what helps with big events is securing big partners and that we have to keep in mind that we are a County body and beholden to its fiscal solicitation policies. Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that you can't ask for money without a detailed plan and that takes a lot of preparation.

Commission Adjournment

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission meeting of August 15, 2023 was adjourned by Chairperson Thomas at 8:09 PM.



2023 Native American Heritage Month Honoree Nominations

SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY NOMINEES

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

Vanessa Brierty – Laguna Pueblo

Biography

Vanessa Brierty is an enrolled tribal member from the Pueblo of Laguna, and previously served as the consultant to the California Native American Legislative Caucus chaired by Assemblymember James Ramos. She is currently serving in the position of District Director for Assemblymember Ramos. She is one of the few Native American staffers to serve in the legislature. Vanessa has a bachelor's degree in Health Education and Health Promotion and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She is currently a graduate student studying Indigenous Education. Last year, she gave a TedX talk sharing the importance of incorporating traditional cultural practices in one's overall health and wellness. Due to her experience working alongside Native American communities in the nation she is able to share her knowledge to provide solutions and reach goals. She has developed long lasting relationships with tribal community members through her work in implementing prevention and early intervention programming as well as growing up in the community. She hopes to continue to empower individuals to bring accurate representation to spaces while upholding the traditional cultural values that are essential to them.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

I nominate Vanessa Brierty for the Spirit of Community. She continually empowers individuals and communities to live healthier lives by improving their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health by increasing their knowledge and influencing their attitudes about caring for their well-being while incorporating traditional cultural beliefs. Vanessa is well achieved through her hard work and dedication to tradition, culture, and community. She's a young inspiring trailblazer and this is only the beginning. I'm excited to see where she leads herself and her Native community in the future.

Roberta Javier – Sac and Fox & Cherokee

Biography

Roberta is from Sac and Fox, and Cherokee nations. She is a long time Los Angeles Native community member, has her Master of Social Work and worked for the Department of Children and Family Services for over a decade. She retired from DCFS in 2018 and continues to volunteer and serve on various boards within the Native community giving back to our people.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

There is an annual toy drive for Native foster kids in LA, and Roberta is the mastermind behind this, giving gifts and memories to those who need it most. She is a true warrior in our community and continues to volunteer and give back even in retirement.

Chris "Spanto" Printup - Seneca and White Mountain Apache

Posthumous nomination

Biography

Chris "Spanto" Printup was born and raised in Venice and was a co-founder of the iconic Los Angeles based streetwear brand Born X Raised. "Born X Raised is like a love letter to the city that I once grew up in, that's gone now," he said referencing the impact of gentrification on his neighborhood. Spanto's initial design of a Native man surrounded by the phrase, "Gentrification is genocide" is what sparked a conversation and eventual partnership between Spanto and his co-founder, 2Tone.

Although Spanto's company saw much success through large partnerships with the LA Dodgers, Kings, Lakers, Rams, and so on, this success came after a life of learning, grit, and finding a way to channel his experiences. From growing up poor, to stints of incarceration, and a diagnosis of terminal cancer which he beat, Spanto found art as a way to convey emotions that were universally felt.

Spanto was a warrior for all of the communities he represented, including the heartfelt representation of his Native American community. Born x Raised collaborated with the dance troupe Indigenous Enterprise to drop a collection of pieces worn by Navajo elders. More recently, a Born x Raised collaboration with Levi's paid homage to Spanto's late father Butch, where he also collaborated with various Indigenous creatives in the campaign. Spanto was no stranger to the local Native community, having attended Los Angeles Indigenous People's Day celebrations, and ensuring Native participation in his well-known Sadie Hawkins Winter Formal.

"I started this so I could help my people and help my family. That's always going to be the goal. That's always going to be the mission." And that, he did and continues and to do.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

Spanto deserves this nomination because he was a warrior for all of the communities he represented. In his collaborations with the Native community, he uplifted artists by not only

sharing his platform, but bringing his full presence and genuine kindness to every interaction. One such artist shared on his platform, "We stood with you as you paid respects to your ancestors and humbly shook people's hands. You bought gifts for community members and listened to elders as they connected dots that were busting from your heart. You told us this was the most personal and heartfelt project of your life...." In another story, "Last month, Spanto gifted Nike SBs to the entire graduating class of Venice High School. This was only one of the hundreds of times Spanto showed his cultural values of generosity and reciprocity. He truly was a people's champ and big homie and mentor to many..." Beyond this, Spanto was larger than life, and his impact on Los Angeles as a whole and beyond will last forever. As his company says, Spanto Lives.

SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY NOMINEES

- Artist, designers, craftspeople
- Entertainment professionals

***Dark Winds* Cast & Crew**

Biography

Dark Winds is a visually stunning 6-episode AMC television series based on Tony Hillerman novels "Leaphorn & Chee" filmed in various Navajo Nation locations. Season one and two were based on *Listening Woman* and *People of Darkness*.

Core cast are Zahn McClarnon (Hunkpapa Lakota), Kiowa Gordon (Hualapai), Jessica Matten (Red River Metis/Saulteaux-Cree) and Deanna Allison (Colorado River Indian Tribes) along with other Native American and Indigenous recurring cast members. Executive producers include Graham Roland (Chickasaw Nation), Chris Eyre (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes), and Zahn McClarnon. The writers' room is reported as all Native American.

Viewers are transported to northeastern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, southeastern Utah to experience the Navajo Nation authentically instead of on a Hollywood backlot. When watching the 1970's setting some will be reminded of reservation life prior to compacts of self-governance that guide tribal sovereignty today.

In response to criticism from the *Navajo Times* regarding lack of authenticity in representation of Navajo people and language, cultural advisor George R. Joe was hired to create more accurate portrayals.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

The creative wonder of *Dark Winds* comes from the legitimacy of the location, cast, crew, and portrayal of Native American experience truthfully. At times this is painful to watch in storylines including Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, military draft lottery, and violence against women. Primarily it is a point of pride to have a positive depiction of Native American life that does not cater to stereotypes.

Pyet DeSpain - Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe

Biography

Pyet is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe and is a professional Chef. She is known for her big win on Gordon Ramsay's food competition on live television, Next Level Chef. Pyet is focused on uplifting her community and celebrating her cultural heritage by storytelling and cooking with her own personal flare.

Her focus is creating Indigenous food and sharing her Native recipes with the world. Since moving to LA, she has focused on becoming a traveling private chef. This allows her to cook the food she is passionate about with more traditional ingredients.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

Pyet is a young Native woman bringing back traditional foods in a unique way to our community. Pyet is inspiring and a great role model for our youth.

Chag Lowry – Yurok, Maidu, and Achumaw

Biography

Chag Lowry is of Yurok, Maidu, and Achumawi ancestry from northern California. He is the author of the World War One graphic novel *Soldiers Unknown* from Great Oak Press, *The Original Patriots: Northern California Indian Veterans of World War Two* and *The Original Patriots: California Indian Veterans of the Korean War* from Original Voices. He collaborates with Native artists and writers and is the publisher of several comic stories about California Native people and culture. Chag's book *Soldiers Unknown* is endorsed by the United States World War One Centennial Commission and by the American Indian Veterans Association of Southern California. His most recent comic is titled *Where the Water Flows Strong* with art by Tongva artist Weshoyot Alvitre.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

I nominate Chag Lowry for the Spirit of Creativity. Chag is the co-producer and director of multiple PBS documentaries about the history of California Indigenous people and flawlessly translates that to his comic books. It's a brilliant educational tool that attracts readers of all age groups, genders and cultures. He is an Indigenous author, comic book writer and publisher with the true spirit of creativity.

Chris "Spanto" Printup - Seneca and White Mountain Apache

Posthumous nomination

Biography

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SPIRIT OF TRADITION NOMINEES

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

Jimi Castillo – Tongva/Acjachemen

Posthumous nomination

Biography

Jimi Castillo, a Tongva/Acjachemen Pipe Carrier and Sun Dancer, was a proud member of the Statewide Bear Clan Society and a Marine Corps veteran (1960 to 1965) having served in the Vietnam War for which he received the Warriors Medal of Valor. For several decades, he served Native youth in California Prisons. Working as Native American Spiritual Leader for the California Youth Authority, Jimi led sweat lodge ceremonies for imprisoned Native American youth creating a space to ease tensions, practice equality, and resolve gang differences. In 2010, Jimi Castillo ran for Lieutenant Governor on the Green Party hoping to make a difference in California.

Jimi and his wife, Jeanette Castillo are well known on the Southern California pow wow trail, as he was often called upon to act as spiritual leader. Mr. Castillo worked at American Indian Changing Spirits providing sweat lodge for the clients as well as acting as Spiritual Counselor.

In 2016, Jimi and his wife, Jeanette, received President Obama's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award for their service to the Native American Indian Community, and the same year received the Aquarium of the Pacific Heritage Award. On August 30, 2021, Jimi was asked to open the ceremony at the opening of the Academy Awards Museum with Mayor Garcetti and was featured on KTLA's Gayle Anderson's series on "Rethinking Thanksgiving." Mr. Castillo passed away on Friday, April 21st at 12:40 am accompanied by the Bear Songs from his Clan Brothers.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

To be quite honest, I'm surprised that "Uncle Jimi," as he's affectionately known, has not already been a recipient of this honor. Aside from his indisputable service to his country, to Indian Country at large, and our local Indian community, Uncle Jimi taught us lessons about selflessness, humility, kindness, tenacity, and integrity. His service as a spiritual leader for incarcerated Native American youth and Native men in recovery is emblematic of his humility and fundamental belief that everyone is redeemable and deserves healing. Even through the physical pain he endured in his latter years, Uncle Jimi would still pick up the phone to check on others and volunteer his time when he could. Uncle Jimi's story of incredible service and character deserves to be told and recognized as an integral part of the fabric of Los Angeles.

Eric Michael Hernandez - Lumbee

Biography

Eric Michael Hernandez is a member of the Lumbee tribe. He is an American actor, producer, model, dancer, influencer and motivational speaker. He was the lead hoop dancer for Cirque du Soleil's production "Totem". As a professional hoop dancer, Hernandez is an Ambassador for Native American Culture and has traveled to over 20 countries showcasing his hoop dancing skills. Hernandez also owns a YouTube channel CirqueLIFE, through which he shares his journey and experiences with the viewers. He has competed at the 32nd Annual World Championship Hoop Dancing Contest held on March 26, 2022, at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. He has participated in the Annual Hoop Dance Contest six times and led the production of the virtual program The Heard Museum World Championship Hoop Dance Contest 2021.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

I nominate Eric Michael Hernandez for the Spirit of Tradition. He's well respected in the Native community in Los Angeles and beyond. Eric Michel keeps his stories and Native culture alive through his hoop dancing. He mesmerizes audiences of all ages while educating them about Native history, hoop dancing, and his personal journey. Eric Michael honors the ones that came before him that weren't allowed to celebrate their dances, languages, culture, or traditions. We desperately need the Native youth to learn everything they can about their traditions so that we don't lose our beautiful and sacred culture. Eric Michael Hernandez inspires them in an engaging and fun way to be proud of who they are and to embrace tradition.

David Patterson- Kiowa

Biography

Dave is a long time Los Angeles Native community member and has been in the Pow Wow circuit for many years with his family. Dave has also been a teacher and mentor to many of the youth through United American Indian Involvement, Inc., teaching them how to sing and dance and continuing with our traditions.

Statement on Why to Consider Nominee

Dave is one of those guys you can always count on to come sing and dance for any community event in the area without question. Dave and his family are very involved with our community and well respected.

FY 2022-2023 Annual Report



Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
LANAIC.lacounty.gov | (213) 738-3241

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

*Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians*

LANAIC Roster (2023)

Chairperson Cheri Thomas, *Quinault/Yurok*, Second Supervisorial District Appointee
Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro, *Navajo*, Mayoral Appointee
Secretary Rene' Williams, *Colville Tribes*, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee
Treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog, *Lakota*, Community Elected
Andrea N. Garcia, M.D., *Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara*, Mayoral Appointee
Denise Escoto, *Northern Cheyene*, Community Elected
Dawn Jackson, *Saginaw Chippewa*, Community Elected
Mona Morales Recalde, *Gabrieleno Tongva*, Community Elected
Randall Murphy, *Choctaw/Lakota*, Mayoral Appointee (January 1, 2023-April 1, 2023)
John Only A Chief, *Pawnee Nation*, Community Elected
Rudy Ortega Jr., *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Third Supervisorial District Appointee
Joseph Quintana, *Kewa Pueblo*, Mayoral Appointee (January 1, 2023 – April 17, 2023)
Ted Tenorio, *Tiguan Nation*, First Supervisorial District Appointee
Rich Toyon, *Acjachemen*, Fifth District Appointee
Mark Villasenor, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Mayoral Appointee
Audra Wise, *Zia Pueblo/Laguna Pueblo*, (April 25, 2023 – Present)

Staff (2023)

Alexandra Valdes, *Tlingit/Athabaskan*, Executive Director
Stephanie Guadron, *Pascua Yaqui*, Administrative Manager

LANAIC Roster (2022)

Chairperson Cheri Thomas, *Quinault/Yurok*, Second Supervisorial District Appointee
Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro, *Navajo*, Mayoral Appointee
Secretary Kimberly Morales Johnson, *Gabrieleno Tongva*, Community Elected
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
Robert Judkins, *Apache*, Community Elected
Randall Murphy, *Choctaw/Lakota*, Mayoral Appointee
Rudy Ortega Jr., *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Third Supervisorial District Appointee
Joseph A. Quintana, *Kewa Pueblo*, Mayoral Appointee
Ted Tenorio, *Tiguan Nation*, First Supervisorial District Appointee
Rich Toyon, *Acjachemen*, Fifth District Appointee
Mark Villasenor, *Fernandeño Tataviam*, Mayoral Appointee
Rene' Williams, *Colville Tribes*, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee

Staff (2022)

Alexandra Valdes, *Tlingit/Athabaskan*, Executive Director

Part II. Mission Statement

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-AIAN 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.

Part III. Historical Background

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 advocacy efforts of the City and County's American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. For over 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 LANAIC 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 AIAN community through elections held every 4 years.

While the LANAIC was originally established 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 for the County to remain 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 individuals and families living at or below 100% Federal Poverty Line. In 2021 the LANAIC was successful at leveraging CSAIBG funding to secure \$500,000 in annual FY 21-22, FY 22-23 and FY 23-34 County Care First Community Investment funding to address homelessness and housing insecurity experienced by the AIAN population. In addition to administering two programs that provide direct services to LAC residents, the work of the LANAIC has expanded to meet the evolving directives and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and City of LA's Mayor and City Council.

Since 1976 the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB have worked on a variety of projects and achieved many accomplishments. Below are some of the significant past accomplishments of the two bodies in chronological order:

June 20, 1977 – The LANAIC supported the creation of the Indian Health Services Liaison Officer in the County Department of Health Services.

March 6, 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 SGB, in partnership with the County Board of Supervisors, became an eligible Community Action Agency (CAA) and began receiving and administering Community Service Block Grant Native American set aside funds (CSAIBG).

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

June 9, 2004 - The LANAIC supported AB-858 California Racial Mascots Act: athletic team names and mascots.

September 30, 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 2021– The LANAIC partnered with San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to provide tickets for Native youth and their families to attend professional sports Native American 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 First 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 2nd 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 3rd Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

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

Spring 2019 - The LANAIC SGB 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.

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 LA 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:

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

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 4th 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 met every other week throughout the pandemic and through a collective effort has supported LAC’s AIAN community in many 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.

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.

July 2020 – FNX, First Nations Experience, aired the AIAN COVID PSA that the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group produced.

August 2020 – KABC7 aired the AIAN COVID PSA that the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group produced.

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 LANAIC 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.

September 25, 2020 - In partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LA City Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the LANAIC 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.

October 10, 2020 - In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 the LANAIC 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.

October 12, 2020 - The LANAIC 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 singer Kelly Caballero (Tongva).

November 2020 – The LANAIC, the Board of Supervisors and LA City 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 second virtual was streamed live to Facebook on November 21, 2020.

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

November 21, 2020 – January 4, 2021 - Tongva artist Mercedes Dorame created a temporary art installation in Grand Park, to coincide with the programming of *Memory is in the Present*, a program supported by the LANAIC and Department of Arts & Culture partnership. 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.

Spring 2021 - 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 Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside (CSAIBG) funds 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 (Fiscal Year 2021-2022).

May 1, 2021 – The LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group partnered with Kedren Health Centers and Supervisor Solis to host the first of two pop-up vaccine events 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. Two local Native artists performed during the event.

May 29, 2021 – The LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group partnered with Kedren Health Centers and Supervisor Solis to host the second of two pop-up vaccine events 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.

October 5, 2021 – The Board of Supervisors adopted the *Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 - Development of Land Acknowledgement and Land Access Policies* motion. The motion secured funding to support the participation, knowledge, and emotional and mental labor of tribal participants throughout a process to develop a Countywide land acknowledgment policy, protocol and toolkit and document harms inflicted by the County on local tribes and people. The funding also supported the hiring of a facilitator and project management team. The LANAIC in partnership with the Department of Arts & Culture ran a competitive RFP process to procure a consultant team. The County entered into an agreement with a consultant on February 3, 2022, to facilitate engagement with tribal leaders and members of the AIAN community to complete this work.

October 2021 – The LANAIC collaborated with LA County Library's Cultural Resources Centers (American Indian, Asian Pacific, Black, and Chicano) and Pride Committee to develop Indigenous Peoples' Day booklists for the education and enjoyment of LAC residents. The intent of the 4 booklists (Kids, Teens, Adults & Adults with a focus on California Native Peoples) was to encourage people to consider and rethink their assumptions about Indigenous history and literature and remind them about the power of story to create social and personal change ([Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day – LA County Library](#)).

October 14, 2021 & January 26, 2022 - In June 2021 the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the *Proclaim June 25, 2021, As the 45th Anniversary of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and Envision the Commission's Future* motion. The motion directed the LANAIC to work with DHR to develop a multi-part DIALOGUE series to increase awareness and understanding of County employees of the LAC AIAN population.

The LANAIC Executive Director produced the following two events that were video recorded and now available to all County staff via LearningNet: *Combating Erasure: A Conversation with Native American Leaders* (October 14, 2021) and *Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act* (January 26, 2022).

November 2021 - In 2021 the LANAIC selected three NAHM honorees on behalf of the City and County:

- Angie Behrens (Gabrieleno Tongva) - Spirit of Tradition
- Tazbah Rose Chavez (Nüümü, Diné and San Carlos Apache) - Spirit of Creativity
- Tracy M. Ball (Diné) - Spirit of Community

The LANAIC, the Board of Supervisors, and LA City Councilmember O'Farrell jointly recognized the 2021 NAHM honorees during a virtual ceremony streamed to Facebook on November 13, 2021. The virtual program included host Krista Hazelwood (Seminole), a welcome song and land acknowledgement given by Rudy Ortega Jr. (Fernandeno Tataviam) and Mark Villasenor (Fernandeno Tataviam), remarks on the impact of the COVID pandemic on LA's AIAN community delivered by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), an acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by Native Veterans provided by Keith Vielle (Blackfeet), the 2021 NAHM honoree program presented by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte) which included NAHM Honoree acceptance videos, and videos from numerous elected officials including Board Supervisors Hilda Solis, Holly Mitchell, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger.

February 2022 - The LANAIC was selected by the Department of Arts & Culture (Arts and Culture) as the 2022 host department for the 2022 Creative Strategist-Artist in Residence (Creative Strategist). The LANAIC supported a competitive RFP process ran by Arts & Culture as well as developed the focus on the year-long residency. Jacob Pratt (Dakota) was selected through the solicitation process and began his residency with the LANAIC in February 2022. The purpose of his residency is to help uplift stories of LAC's AIAN community and combat erasure. Throughout his yearlong residency he regularly attended LANAIC meetings and sought guidance and feedback from LANAIC commissioners.

June 21, 2022 - On June 21, 2022 the LANAIC Executive Director submitted and distributed the Report Back on *Proclaim June 25, 2021, As The 45th Anniversary Of The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission And Envision The Commission's Future And Acknowledge And Apologize For The Historic Mistreatment Of California Native Americans By Los Angeles County* (Item No. 61-A, Agenda Of June 22, 2021, And Item No. 16, Agenda Of July 13, 2021).

Part IV. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

As an advisory Commission to the Board of Supervisors, the LANAIC understands that it is 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 explicit 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 LANAIC 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. FY 23-24 Priorities & Projects

2023 Indigenous Peoples Day

The LANAIC took action at their August 15, 2023 meeting to formally sponsor the 2023 Indigenous Pride LA (IPLA) event on Sunday, October 8, 2023. At time of submission of this annual report, the LANAIC's home department was working through mechanisms to support the IPLA event.

Additionally, the LANAIC is providing support and advisement to both City and County elected offices for their respective IPD resolutions and events.

2023 Native American Heritage Month

The LANAIC will be selecting 2023 Native American Heritage Month honorees at their September 19, 2023 meeting. The selected honorees will be recognized by both LA City Council and the Board of Supervisors. The LANAIC will be providing support and advisement to both City and County elected offices for their respective NAHM resolutions and events.

Advocating for Increased Support of LANAIC and AIAN Community

Each year the LANAIC takes action to adopt a County budget request letter that is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. This fiscal year the LANAIC will be submitting both a County budget request letter and a budget request letter to the LA Mayor's Office.

Homelessness Committee

The Homelessness Committee (Committee) anticipates its work in FY 23-24 to fall into the following categories: 1) Narrative change and education, 2) Systems change advocacy, and 3) Community capacity building. Despite clear short-term objectives, the Committee also has the desire to engage in a more intentional strategic planning process.

1. **Narrative Change and Education:** The Committee is set to recommend to the LANAIC the adoption of two reports and an infographic this year. The infographic is more than just a document that shares current homelessness statistics. It also subtly provides context and education about the original inhabitants of this land, about the diverse identity of AIAN, and the implications for data collection, reporting, subsequent discrepancies across LA County systems, and implications for resources.

The first report anticipated to be brought forth for to the LANAIC adoption in Fall 2023 is tentatively titled, "Global Best Practices and a Legal Framework in

Addressing Indigenous Homelessness: Applications to Los Angeles." This report outlines how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) framework applies to Indigenous housing rights, and then convincingly draws parallels from best practices around the world, and how those lessons can be applied to Los Angeles. The second report tentatively titled, "A Trust Obligation to House Los Angeles's American Indians and Alaska Natives" provides further legal framework about the State's duty to consult, and provides specific mechanisms that the Continuum of Care can engage in to specifically support AIAN people experiencing homelessness (PEH), within the confines of fair housing. Aside from report release, the Committee's goal is to make these lessons accessible to community and therefore the hope is to distill these lessons down into social media friendly excerpts. The Committee also plans to engage commissioner's respective appointing offices to further this conversation and gain support.

2. **Systems Change Advocacy:** The Committee recognizes and appreciates the work and achievements in AIAN homelessness made possible by the initial AIAN housing and homelessness board motion that provided for an 18-month consultant contract. Given that the consultant's tenure will be ending in October 2023, the Committee is relentlessly working to advocate for a longer term sustainable solution to keep the systems work moving ahead. Specifically, by advocating for a full-time permanent County position to be created to implement the recommendations brought forth in the Board motion report back. The Committee will be actively engaging City and County appointing offices for support, as the Committee sees this position as pivotal in assuring movement, access, and equity. Realizing that new positions take time, a stop-gap measure is also being advocated for to ensure that the momentum to date does not halt.
3. **Community Capacity Building:** Although nascent in its existence, an "AIAN Housing Collaborative", consisting of AIAN led organizations who either provide direct services for AIAN People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH), or advocate for support of AIAN PEH, is actively meeting. The purpose of the Collaborative is to leverage financial resources that could, in turn, build individual organizational and community capacity to better serve unhoused relatives. Governance documents and membership have yet to be established, but it is the belief of the Committee that having the LANAIC at the table could be largely synergistic with this work, and provide potential pathways for leveraging resources and conversations.

Self-Governance Board

In August 2023 the LANAIC SGB in partnership with our home department the Department Arts and Culture released RFSQ for Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside funds. As of submission of this annual report the RFSQ is in the evaluation phase. Following completion of the evaluation, an eligible provider list will be compiled and then work orders for the CSAIBG program will be issued. New contracts will be executed January 1, 2024.

The LANAIC SGB will also be developing an implementation plan for their recently adopted strategic plan.

100-year Anniversary of Native American Citizenship

June 2, 2024 will mark 100 years since the passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 which declared all non-citizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States to be citizens. The Act authorized the Secretary of Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Native Americans. The Indian Citizenship Act was, in part, a response to recognize the thousands of Native Americans who served in the armed forces during the First World War. The LANAIC will be exploring opportunities to acknowledge the 100- year anniversary of Native American Citizenship.

2025-2026 State and Federal Legislative Agenda Process

In anticipation of the County's upcoming 2025-2026 State and Federal Legislative Agenda process (Summer 2024) the LANAIC will begin developing proposed policy positions to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in the County's State and Federal agendas.

LANAIC 50th Anniversary

The LANAIC was established on June 25, 1976. In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the LANAIC in 2026 the body will begin exploring opportunities to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Part VI. FY 22-23 Accomplishments

LANAIC

2022 Indigenous Peoples Day

On October 10, 2022 the LANAIC in partnership with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell hosted the 2022 Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Grand Park. The 4-hour celebration featured performances by the Asosal Ballet Folklorico de El Salvador, Manitoba Metis Federation Red River Metis Jiggers & Fiddlers, Intertribal Dancers and OneDrumm, screenings of *Saging the World*, the trailer of *Spirit Rangers* and *One World (We Are One)*, a vendor marketplace and food trucks.

2022 Native American Heritage Month

The LANAIC selected two 2022 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) honorees. LA City Council and the LA County Board of Supervisors also honored the NAHM honorees.

- The Phoenix Family (Tohono O'odham) - Spirit of Tradition
- Dr. Carrie Johnson (Wahpeton Dakota) - Spirit of Community

The LA County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November NAHM via Board Motion at their November 1, 2022 meeting.

The LANAIC partnered with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs (LA DCA) to host a celebration of the 2022 NAHM honorees. The celebration took place at Clockshop on November 17, 2022, and included performances from Raye Zaragoza, LA Pow Wow dancers and a community reception. The LANAIC also collaborated with LA DCA to develop a [2022 Native American Heritage Month e-book](#).

Increased Capacity of the LANAIC & LANAIC SGB

For over 25 years, the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB served their functions under the administrative and operational management of the former Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), however, effective January 16, 2022, the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB were transferred from WDACS to the Executive Office due to WDACS' separation and the establishment of the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Aging and Disabilities Department.

After careful consideration and review, it has determined that the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) is well positioned to provide the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB with the unique support that it needs to grow and thrive. The LANAIC and Arts and Culture have fostered a strong partnership over the last three years, collaborating on initiatives that have created ways for Native peoples to share their histories and

cultures. Arts and Culture has the administrative and operational infrastructure, shared values, and processes and practices that will support the continued success and expansion of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB. Furthermore, Arts and Culture grantmaking function and contracting and solicitations practices uniquely equip the Department to support the primary purpose of the LANAIC and will ensure not only continuity and success of existing programs, but the ability to leverage these funds to pursue additional funding sources to support the vast and varied need of the County's AIAN community. Additionally, Arts and Culture has expertise in supporting a commission and can provide advice and recommendations on best practices.

In October 2022 the LANAIC recruited for the position of an Administrative Services Manager I, with the support of Arts and Culture. This position was filled in December 2022. The administrative staff reports directly to the Executive Director of the LANAIC and the LANAIC Self Governance Board. Filling this position has provided critical support for the Executive Director by enhancing administrative and operational guidance to service providing agencies, supporting Brown Act bodies, and coordinating with partner organizations. This role has also assisted with the coordination of various grant-related requirements, such as, public meetings, technical assistance for agencies, contract management, program design and facilitating solicitations.

LANAIC Community-Elected Elections

Every 4 years the LANAIC holds County-wide elections for the 5 community-elected seats on the commission. Elections were held on December 6 and 7, 2022 at three polling sites, the Department of Mental Health American Indian Counseling Center, Pukuu Cultural Community Services and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. The LANAIC partnered with the Registrar & Recorder/County Clerk to utilize secure ballot boxes.

8 candidates ran for the 5 community-elected seats. John Only a Chief, Denise Escoto, Shawn Imitates-Dog, Mona Morales Recalde and Dawn Jackson were elected to serve four-year terms beginning January 17, 2023.

County Land Acknowledgement

On October 18, 2022 the LANAIC took action recommending to the Board of Supervisors that they adopt the draft land acknowledgment statement developed by the Tribal Planning Group. The Board of Supervisors took action on November 1, 2023 adopting the land acknowledgment.

Office of Management & Budget's Request for Comments on Proposed Revisions to SPD15 – Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

On March 21, 2023 the LANAIC took action adopting proposed responses to the Office of Management & Budget's (OMB) request for comments regarding the revision SPD15 -Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and requested that Board Chair Janice Hahn transmit a letter to OMB supporting these adopted responses. The Board of Supervisors took action at their April 18, 2023 to send a four-signature letter to OMB expressing Los Angeles County's support of American Indian and Alaska Native data best-practices in OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15. The 4-signature letter was transmitted to OMB on April 24, 2023.

ACR 177 - Removal of the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway Designation of the I-10 Freeway

On October 13, 2020 the County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office, in partnership with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and the Department of Public Works to collaborate with our partners in the state legislature and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the removal of the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway designation of the Interstate-10 (I-10) freeway and any signage. On November 15, 2021, LA City Council adopted a resolution authored by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte Nation) supporting the removal of the designation.

On August 31, 2022 the California Legislature approved passage of ACR 177 (Bloom/Ramos) removing the "Christopher Columbus" designation on the California segment of the I-10, reversing a previous legislative resolution adopted in 1976. The resolution reflects another significant state and local effort to promote cultural sensitivity.

The resolution requires that if there are any efforts to replace the removed signage, these efforts should involve public input and feedback, including input and participation from the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the LANAIC.

AB 776 - Renaming 210 Freeway

On March 21, 2023 the LANAIC took action recommending that the Board of Supervisors take a supportive position on AB 776 - 210 Interstate Highway Renaming. On April 18, 2023 the Board of Supervisors took action directing the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to advocate in support of Assembly Bill 776, including sending a five-signature letter in support of the bill to Assemblymember Chris Holden. At submission of this annual report AB776 was passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB1703: California Indian Education Act

On March 11, 2023 the County of Los Angeles issued a pursuit of support for AB1703: California Indian Education Act. In 2022 the LANAIC recommended to the Board of

Supervisors, by ways of the State Legislative Agenda process, that they adopt a number of policy positions including "support proposals that promote communication and collaboration between local education agencies and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes." As a result of the adoption of this policy position, the County was able to issue a pursuit of support for AB 1703 and advocate for the bill. AB 1703 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 23, 2023.

Creative Strategist – Artist in Residence

The LANAIC was selected by the Department of Arts & Culture as the 2022 host department for the 2022 Creative Strategist-Artist in Residence (Creative Strategist). Jacob Pratt (Dakota) was selected through a competitive solicitation process and began his residency with the LANAIC in February 2022. His residency concluded in April 2023.

During the first phase of his residency, embarked on a listening tour, meeting with some of the LANAIC's 15 commissioners and others in the AIAN community. Through these conversations, an idea began to take shape: to use film as a medium to raise awareness and celebrate the diversity of the Native American community in LA County.

With the time remaining in Jacob's residency, he knew he wouldn't be able to record everyone's story, especially given that LA County is home to the largest concentration of American Indian and Alaska Native people in the country. Instead, Jacob sought to interview people who could provide three distinct perspectives: as a member of a local Tribe, as someone who had been relocated here during the Indian Relocation Act, and as an AIAN community member who has recently moved to Los Angeles. Jacob filmed interviews with Keith Vielle (Blackfeet Nation), Pamela Villaseñor (Fernandeño Tataviam), and Janae Collins (Dakota and Crow) in a location or setting that was meaningful to them. Through the interview process, a common theme emerged, which Jacob used to weave their stories together: how each person has experienced and overcome erasure and invisibility.

On April 22, 2023 Jacob debuted his film, Erasure, on the Los Angeles City College campus. Several pow wow dancers performed and spoke about the significance of preserving their cultural heritage through dance including Susan Jackson (Quechan and Laguna Pueblo), who makes an appearance in the film; Shandiin Biililitso (Navajo); and Tso Yanez (Navajo, Yaqui, and Iroquois). Jacob also performed the hoop dance. Following the film screening, Pamela and Keith joined Jacob to answer questions and explore complex topics raised by the audience.

Feather Alert Town Hall

On September 26, 2023 the LANAIC, in partnership with the California Legislative Native American Caucus and the California Native Vote Project, will hold a town hall to raise awareness of AB 1314 Feather Alert at the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

A Feather Alert is a resource available to law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous woman or indigenous person. The Feather Alert will provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of missing Indigenous Persons.

LANAIC Self Governance Board

The LANAIC 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 LANAIC SGB meets once a month separately from the LANAIC.

Since 1994, the LANAIC SGB has administered Community Services Block Grant Native American Set Aside funds (CSAIBG). The intent of the funding is 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.

Calendar Year 2023 CSAIBG Funding	
CY 2023 Baseline	\$442,149.00
Total Funding	\$442,149.00

Calendar Year 2022 CSAIBG Funding	
CY 2022 Baseline	\$297,596.00
CY 2022 Discretionary	\$31,000.00
Total Funding	\$328,596.00

In 2022 and 2023 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.

2022 CSAIBG Annual Report – Baseline, Discretionary & CARES Awards

Per the CSBG Act Section 678E, CSBG grant recipients are required to submit an annual report to the Office of Community Services (OCS). In FY 2016, OCS implemented the CSBG Annual Report designed to complete the CSBG Performance Management Framework. The Performance Management Framework includes:

- 1) Organizational standards for local CSBG-eligible entities
- 2) Accountability measures for states and OCS

3) Results Oriented Management and Accountability Next Generation (ROMA NG)

The CSBG Annual Report submission that was due February 15, 2023, was for CY2022 CSAIBG baseline, CSAIBG Coronavirus Aid¹, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES, and CY2022 CSAIBG discretionary funding. The report which includes expenditures, service counts, outcomes data, and narrative responses. The report was completed and submitted by the February 15, 2023, deadline and has been accepted by the State of California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD).

2024/2025 CSAIBG Community Action Plan & Community Needs Assessment

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that State of California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) secure a Community Action Plan (CAP), including a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) from each agency that administers CSBG/CSAIBG funding. The CAP supported by the CNA is a two-year plan that shows how agencies will deliver CSBG/CSAIBG services.

Between February 2023 through April 2023 the LANAIC SGB developed the draft 2024/2025 CAP & CNA. As a part of this process, the LANAIC SGB developed a community needs assessment survey that was administered at the Cal State Long Beach Pow Wow on March 11, 2023 and at the Malibu Pow Wow on April 1, 2023 and was made accessible virtually via Survey Monkey. A requirement of the CAP & CNA process is to hold a public hearing on the draft documents and findings. The LANAIC SGB hosted a public hearing on May 25, 2023 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at LA City College.

On June 21, 2023 the LANAIC SGB took action at their regular monthly meeting to adopt the 2024/2025 CAP & CNA. The adopted document was submitted to CSD on June 29, 2023 and has been accepted.

Organizational Standards

As described in the Office of Community Services (OCS) Information Memorandum (IM) #138 dated January 26, 2015, CSBG/CSAIBG agencies will comply with implementation of the Organizational Standards (Standards).

The Standards are based on three main practice areas for organizational accountability and effectiveness. They include:

- Maximum Feasible Participation
 1. Consumer Input and Involvement
 2. Community Engagement

¹ In 2020 the LANAIC SGB received an additional \$451,857.00 in CSAIBG through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The term for this funding was March 27, 2020, through May 31, 2022.

3. Community Assessment
- Vision and Direction
4. Organizational Leadership
5. Board Governance
6. Strategic Planning
- Operations and Accountability
7. Human Resource Management
8. Financial Operations and Oversight
9. Data and Analysis

The LANAIC SGB, as a CSAIBG provider agency, completes multiple Organizational Standard submissions each year. The most recent was submitted on August 31, 2023. The LANAIC SGB's current Organizational Standards score is a 92%, 12% Increase from the 2022 submission.

Strategic Plan

In February the LANAIC SGB in partnership with its home department Arts and Culture executed a contract with Center for Non-Profit Management (CNM) to develop a strategic plan. This strategic planning document reflects the work of LANAIC SGB in charting the board's direction for the next 3-4 years by developing its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The priorities align with its vision, values, and purpose to address reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people low incomes to become self-sufficient. The strategic plan also fulfills compliance requirements of CSBG/CSAIBG Organizational Standards Category 6, Strategic Planning.

The 5-month strategic planning process included organizational review and planning, strategic planning interviews and strategic planning sessions with LANAIC SGB members and the developed of strategic plan documents. CNM presented the draft strategic plan to the LANAIC SGB at their June 21, 2023 meeting. The LANAIC SGB took action to adopt the strategic plan at their August 15, 2023 meeting.

CSAIBG RFSQ

The CSAIBG program requires reoccurring open solicitations for establishing service providers to administer services every five years. Between January 2023-June 2023, the Administrative Manager began an analysis of the program and how solicitations were designed in previous solicitation cycles. The Executive Director and staff began evaluating the different types of solicitation methods and decided to transition from a Request for Proposals (RFP) model to a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) to increase accessibility and encourage community organizations to respond. Staff worked with partner departments and organizations to develop a unique RFSQ that widened the scope of services that provider agencies can administer to assist individuals and families attain the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

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Quinault/Yurok

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Navajo

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Colville Tribes

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SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
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Gabrieleno Tongva

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Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

September 19, 2023

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

Dear Supervisor [XX],

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 respectfully request a sustainability plan to build on the great work of a Board Motion [co-authored] by your office, "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" (October 2019). As you may recall, the work of the Board Motion has continued for several years and garnered many wins, thanks in part, due to the hiring of a consultant in partnership with CEO Homeless Initiative (CEO HI) and the LANAIC, and made possible by Measure H funds. The consultant contract will expire this Fall, and a report back to the Board of Supervisors will be released. As you will soon read in the report back, there is still ample work and recommendations to be implemented across County departments, and we are convinced that a dedicated full-time position to lead this work is the best possible next step, and a stop-gap will likely be needed to ensure continuity beyond the expiration of the consultant contract.

In addition to requisite implementation of the recommendations outlined in the coming report back, the consultant has also helped initiate a few pathways worthy of future full-time coordination. These pathways include convening the internal AIAN County working group, leveraging their philanthropic network to seed creation of the AIAN Housing Collaborative, and liaising between tribes, AIAN-serving organizations, and County entities. A couple examples of this invaluable liaising include their added championship of a dedicated AIAN Continuum of Care Board At-Large position, and facilitation of a convening among County, tribes and tribal entities around opportunities to partner and apply jointly for Homekey funding.

While this body is not fully privy to County processes and items, we can share the attributes that we felt were and can be most helpful in continuing this work. Being positioned under CEO HI has allowed unparalleled content, policy, resource, and technical expertise, complemented by the expertise of the LANAIC in AIAN issues and our

ability to engage community. The convening power of CEO HI for the County internal working group has proven invaluable as well. Ideally this position would establish and maintain liaison with County departments, other government agencies, tribes and community based organizations. This position would participate in policy discussions, research, evaluate new and existing information, and be responsible for *implementation* of new and revised ways that County systems can support existing AIAN clients, AIAN serving agencies, and unhoused AIAN.

We acknowledge the fiscal context under which we are asking for a position. To that end, as a City/County body, we are also hoping to leverage our City relationship and prior will specifically around this issue. In September 2020 the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion to instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to identify funding to hire the above-mentioned consultant. While this funding unfortunately was never subsequently identified, we hope that political will still exists as another potential means to see this to fruition. Lastly, if philanthropic funds can be a bridge to identification of a permanent source of funding, we are also willing to engage in those conversations.

We are immensely grateful for the work and momentum that has transpired to date. While homelessness is the intractable issue of our lifetime, we are reminded and heartened by other urban communities in the United States and beyond who successfully house their Indigenous relatives in culturally appropriate ways. The very existence of this unique LANAIC body, other County-led AIAN specific structures, and the County report entitled "We Are Still Here," A Report on Past, Present, and Ongoing Harms Against Local Tribes," are all signals that we are primed for equitable action and investment. We look forward to carrying on the transformative work catalyzed by the Board Motion championed by your offices.

Sincerely,

Cheri L Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson

C: Supervisor



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Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

September 19, 2023

Los Angeles City Mayor Karen Bass
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Bass,

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 respectfully request support and City/County partnership in a sustainability plan to build on the great work of the LA County Board Motion co-authored by Supervisors Hahn and Solis, "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" (October 2019). The consultant contract will expire this Fall, and a report back to the Board of Supervisors will soon be released. There is ample work and recommendations to be implemented across County departments, and we are eager to parallel these processes with the City of LA as well. In the interim, we are convinced that a dedicated full-time position to lead this work is the best possible next step, and a stop-gap will likely be needed to ensure continuity beyond the expiration of the consultant contract.

The work of the Board Motion has continued for several years and garnered many wins, thanks in part, due to the hiring of a consultant in partnership with CEO Homeless Initiative (CEO HI) and the LANAIC, and made possible by Measure H funds. In September 2020 the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion to instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to identify funding to help hire the above-mentioned consultant. For a short period of time, City of LA staff also attended the County AIAN internal working group. While funding was unfortunately never applied, we hope that there is still will and possible resources to support creation of a more permanent solution (e.g. a dedicated full-time position) that can work in partnership with the City, County, and beyond.

In addition to requisite implementation of the recommendations outlined in the coming report back, the consultant has also helped initiate a few pathways worthy of future full-time coordination. These pathways have included convening the internal AIAN County working group (perhaps communication can also be had at the City level), leveraging their philanthropic network to seed creation of the AIAN Housing Collaborative,

and liaising between tribes, AIAN-serving organizations, and County entities. A couple examples of this invaluable liaising include their added championship of a dedicated AIAN Continuum of Care Board At-Large position, and facilitation of a convening among County, tribes and tribal entities around opportunities to partner and apply jointly for Homekey funding.

While this body is not fully privy to hiring processes and items, we can share the attributes that we felt were and can be most helpful in continuing this work. Being positioned under CEO HI has allowed unparalleled content, policy, resource, and technical expertise, complemented by the expertise of the LANAIC in AIAN issues and our ability to engage community. The convening power of CEO HI for the County internal working group has proven invaluable as well. Ideally this position would establish and maintain liaison with City and County departments, other government agencies, tribes and community based organizations. This position would participate in policy discussions, research and evaluate new and existing information, and recommend new and revised ways that City and County systems can support existing AIAN clients, AIAN serving agencies, and unhoused AIAN.

We acknowledge the fiscal context under which we are asking for a position. To that end, as a City/County body we are hoping that leveraging our City and County resources together will more likely see this position to fruition. Lastly, if philanthropic funds can be a bridge to identification of a permanent source of funding, we are also willing to engage in those conversations.

We are immensely grateful for the work and momentum that has transpired to date. While homelessness is the intractable issue of our lifetime, we are reminded and heartened by other urban communities in the United States and beyond who successfully house their Indigenous relatives in culturally appropriate ways. The very existence of this unique LANAIC body, other County-led AIAN specific structures, and the City's trailblazing leadership in acknowledging Indigenous People's Day, for instance, are all signals that we are primed for equitable action and investment. We look forward to carrying on the transformative work catalyzed by the support of your office and the City of LA.

Sincerely,

Cheri L Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson

C: Supervisor



A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HOMELESSNESS



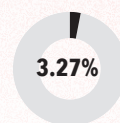
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



LOS ANGELES is the county with the largest number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) people in the United States

327,930+
+Census 2020

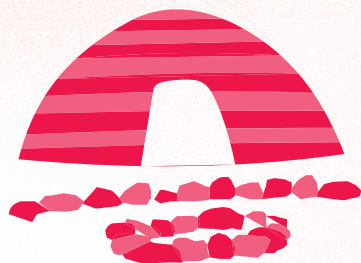
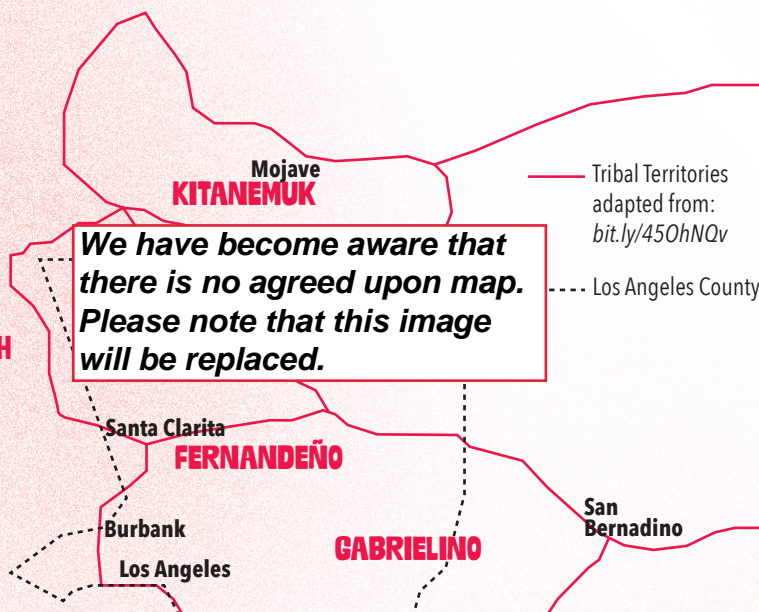
AIAN make up



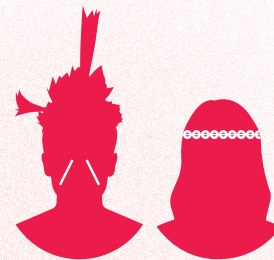
of the total population of **LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Los Angeles County occupies the unceded land originally and **STILL INHABITED BY:**

- ▶ Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
- ▶ Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
- ▶ Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- ▶ Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
- ▶ San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- ▶ San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

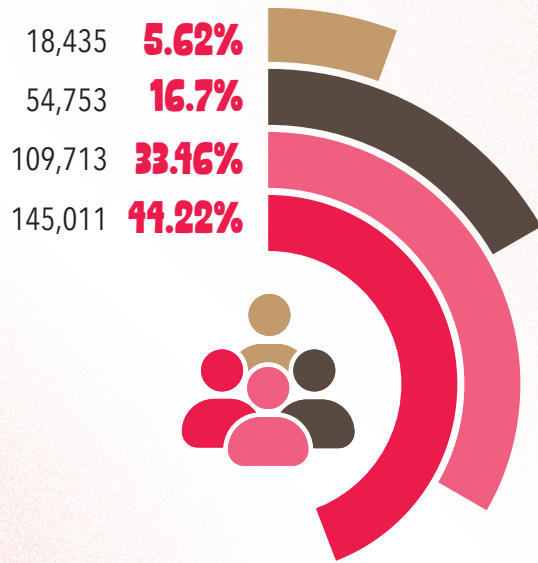


AIAN is a **CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATION** made up of more than **574 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS**, and numerous tribal nations who continue to fight for their status to be recognized today, such as most of the tribes listed above



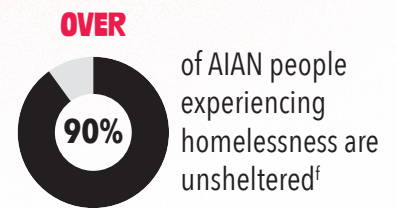
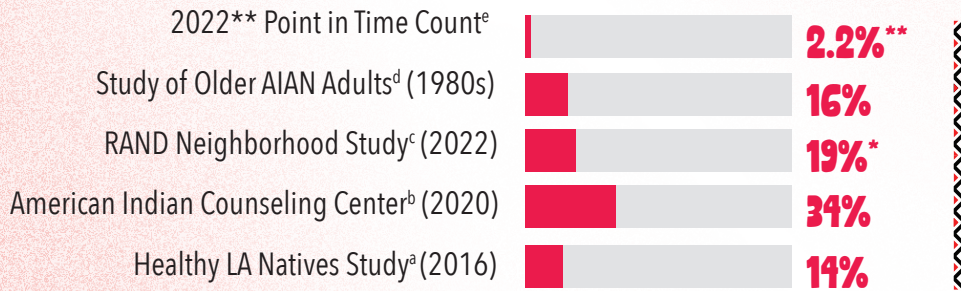
AIAN IDENTITY is shaped by a complicated and resilient past, such that racial and ethnic diversity is also part of our story

AIAN by **SUBPOPULATION**



- AIAN Alone
- Multiracial AIAN
- Multiracial AIAN and Hispanic
- AIAN and Hispanic

HOMELESSNESS DATA for AIAN is conflicting. Systems that do not use an inclusive definition of AIAN contribute to data genocide of AIAN people, and have consequential implications on resources and outcomes.



Of this population, **13%** identified as LGBT (**11%** bisexual; **2%** gay or lesbian), compared to just **7%** of the total unsheltered population in the LA CoC^f

VETERANS ARE OVERREPRESENTED in the AIAN unsheltered population, but report receiving Veteran's Administration benefits less often than non-AIAN veterans experiencing homelessness^f

23% of AIAN adults were former foster youth, compared to **13%** of the general homeless population^f

Economic factors such as unemployment and financial instability were the primary reasons cited for AIAN homelessness (**43%**)^f

However, a large proportion of AIAN adults reported eviction or foreclosure (**25%**) or uninhabitable living conditions (**14%**) as a condition that led to their loss of housing (compared to just **8%** and **5%** of the general population, respectively)^f



Compiled by **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION**

SOURCES

^a Garcia AN, Venegas-Murrillo A, Martinez-Hollingsworth A, Smith LV, Wells K, Heilemann MV, et al. Patterns of Health Care Access and Use in an Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Population. Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. Published online 2023:1-11.

^b Dickerson D, Cain M, Garcia AN. Primary Psychiatric Diagnoses, Commercialized Tobacco Use, and Homelessness: Comparisons between a Clinical Sample of Urban American Indian/Alaska Native Adults and a Non-Native Clinical Sample. American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research, 2023;30(1):14-34.

^c Ward, Jason M., Rick Garvey, and Sarah B. Hunter, Recent Trends Among the Unsheltered in Three Los Angeles Neighborhoods: An Annual Report from the Los Angeles Longitudinal Enumeration and Demographic Survey (LA LEADS) Project. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2023. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1890-2.html.

^d Kramer BJ, and Barker JC. "Homelessness among Older American Indians, Los Angeles, 1987-1989." Human Organization, vol. 55, no. 4, 1996, pp. 396-408. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44127857>. Accessed 4 Aug. 2023.

^e 2022 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count - American Indian / Alaskan Native - Los Angeles Continuum of Care. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. September 2022.

^f American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness. Homelessness Policy Research Institute, 2021. [Native-American-Homelessness-Brief_V1111.pdf \(usc.edu\)](https://www.usc.edu/research/ai-an-homelessness-brief)



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Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

September 19, 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