



# AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY  
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023, 6:30 P.M.**

**Meeting Location:** Chapter House LA  
1770 Glendale Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

**To Provide Public Comment:** You may submit written public comment via email to [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov). Please note "LANAIC 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/Athabascan*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 6. ACTION ITEMS**
  - 6.1. Review and take possible action adopting the November 21, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
  - 6.2. Review and take possible action adopting an LANAIC Bylaws revision that would change the number of required annual meetings from 12 to 11
- 7. CHAIR'S REPORT**
  - 7.1. Brown Act Reminders
- 8. 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](http://www.lanaic.lacounty.gov), [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov), or (213) 738-3241



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

The November 21, 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 6:37 P.M and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner Ted Tenorio provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Cheri Thomas  
Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro  
Secretary Rene' Williams  
Treasurer Shawn Imitates Dog  
Andrea Garcia  
Mark Villasenor  
Audra Wise  
Ted Tenorio  
John Only A Chief  
Mona Morales Recalde

Absent: Denise Escoto  
Dawn Jackson  
Rich Toyon  
Rudy Ortega Jr.

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

Joe Cisneros provided an information sheet and the following statement on a public comment card at the November 21, 2023 meeting:



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“I am willing [to] talk on business as a public benefit. With flyer explaining new take on accounting.”

Cynthia Ruiz provided the following public comment via email during the LANAIC meeting that was read aloud on her behalf due to technical difficulties:

“I am on Zoom but can’t hear anyone. I wanted to speak on the Cherokee Nation Delegate item. We have now submitted resolution from National Congress of American Indians which is over 600 Tribes. Also submitted resolution from All Pueblo Council of Governors (20 Tribes), California Nation Indian Gaming (not sure of number). Approximately 700 Tribes support seating of the Cherokee Nation Delegate in Congress. I ask for an Yes vote. Thanks”

Action Items

**Review & approval of the Unapproved November 21, 2023 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villasenor to approve the unapproved November 21, 2023 LANAIC Meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.*

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

**Review & take possible action adopting a letter to the LA County Homelessness Initiative with recommendations on how to optimize the continued work on AIAN homelessness**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Rene’ Williams and seconded by Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog to approve the letter to the LA County Homelessness Initiative with recommendations on how to optimize the continued work on AIAN homelessness as presented. The motion passed.*

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



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**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**

Chair Thomas stated that she brought this item to the LANAIC a few months ago and that letters of support were provided and included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Chrissie Castro asked the Chair if the letters of support were provided before a statement was made by the Chief of the Cherokee Nation at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention that was held on November 12-17, 2023 in New Orleans.

Commissioner Castro explained that there was an amendment that was proposed to amend NCAI to limit membership to federally recognized tribes. Commissioner Castro read a statement made by Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. of the Cherokee Nation that was made in support of the proposed amendment. Commissioner Castro also stated that she supports sending a letter in support, however she would like to discuss a statement that was made about non-Federally recognized tribes because she feels conflicted on the heels of that conversation.

Commissioner Mark Villasenor stated that the Cherokee Nation has always had the stance of not recognizing non-Federally recognized tribes. Commissioner Mark Villasenor also stated that some members of the Cherokee Nation may not agree with the statement made by their leader and that filling the seating of a Cherokee Nation delegate to the United States House of Representatives may let other tribes also fill a seat in the House of Representatives. Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that this item has been happening for months and that Cynthia Ruiz is just asking for support. Commissioner Imitates Dog also stated that the statement from the Cherokee Nation leader is a different issue. Commissioner Villasenor stated that leaderships change.

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that this situation has been brewing for a while and he doesn't want to get caught in the middle. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he sees the proposed amendment and the statement as a protection for their nation, however he does not agree with it. Chair Thomas asked Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde what the stance is from the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that her preference is to table the item, educate herself more and invite Cynthia to attend the meeting that it will be tabled to.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the ask for the letter of support is so close to what happened at the NCAI conference and that the LANAIC should consider the work that the County has been doing for local tribes and if both matters align. Commissioner Andrea Garcia also stated that she recommends tabling the item for a few months and that the LANAIC should seek community comments. Commissioner Rene' Williams stated that she agreed with Commissioner Garcia. Commissioner Williams also stated that her concern is the recent comment because in Los Angeles County there are State recognized tribes that are important and supports tabling the item for a few months. Commissioner Ted Tenorio stated that he agreed with Commissioner Williams and that the LANAIC shouldn't be caught not knowing the impact.



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Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that the LANAIC should state in the letter of support that the LANAIC recognizes state tribes and support the filling of the seat. Commissioner Imitates Dog stated that this is a tough situation and that he still believes that there are two different issues. Chair Thomas stated that the amendment did not pass at the NCAI conference. Commissioner Only A Chief stated that the LANAIC is going to have to make a decision at some point.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde and seconded by Commissioner Andrea Garcia to revise the 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 to include the LANAIC’s support of local tribes and discuss at the following meeting.*

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

Discussion Items

**Discuss proposed LANAIC Bylaws revision that would change the number of required annual meetings from 12 to 11.**

Commissioner Chrissie Castro stated that she proposes adding language that addresses when the meeting falls on a holiday week, that the meeting would be moved to the week prior to the holiday. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he does not have a problem with 12 meetings because community members look to the LANAIC to meet regularly.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that she is OK with the LANAIC modeling taking care of its members. Commissioner Chrissie Castro stated that not holding the LANAIC meetings does not mean that the work is not getting done and that lowering the number of meetings in a year would free up staff time that could be dedicated for other priority items.

Chair Thomas stated that the LANAIC would vote at the December 2023 regular meeting about December meetings ceasing beginning in 2024 and that the body will discuss whether they would like to continue meeting in July of each year at a following meeting.

**Discuss potential issues including links on the LANAIC website to websites of tribes named in the County Land Acknowledgement**

Alexandra stated that the County Land Acknowledgement has been posted on the LANAIC website under “Resources” and shared that links to the local tribes named in the Land Acknowledgement were not added because of a concern that she received from a member of one of the named local tribes. Commissioner Morales Recalde suggested linking to the NAHC as a way to address the concern but also provide a resource for how to get in contact with local tribes.



## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Alexandra shared that the link to the Native American Heritage Committee would be added to the LANAIC website.

### Chair's Report

#### **Proposed Internal LANAIC Communication Protocols**

Alexandra stated that the Proposed Internal LANAIC Communication Protocols is a tool for the body to consider. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she was looking for the document to be a robust communication guide and would like to know how often she is supposed to be in community. Commissioner Chrissie Castro stated that the LANAIC Bylaws state that Commissioners are not supposed to be free agents. Commissioner Audra Wise asked, "Who speaks on behalf of the body?" Alexandra stated, "Cheri speaks on behalf of the body, when given guidance to by the Board of Supervisors". Commissioner Castro stated that each commissioner should check to see how organizations intend to address the commissioner on communications or quotes. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that there should be guidance for new commissioners.

#### **Status Update of Development of LANAIC Internal Calendar**

Chair Thomas shared that Commissioner Jackson will provide an update on the calendar at a future meeting.

### Executive Director's Report

#### **Board Motion: Proclaiming November 2023 as *Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities (November 7, 2023)***

Alexandra stated that the Chief Executive Office is working on the report back. She also stated that she will share back after 180 days from November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the report has been filed.

#### **Yaangna Park Sign Unveiling Event (November 28, 2023 at 9:00 AM)**

Alexandra stated that all Commissioner should have received email invitations from the City Department of Recreation and Parks with event information and logistics. Alexandra also stated that the program for the event would last about 45 minutes.

### Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

#### **Self-Governance Board**

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that James Scott from the California Department of Community Services and Development gave an introductory presentation about the CSAIBG program. Commissioner Imitates Dog also stated that James would be visiting Los Angeles in May.

#### **Executive Committee**

None

#### **Homelessness Committee**

None



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

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog thanked everyone who attended and thanked Alexandra. Commissioner Imitates Dog also stated that although he is used to the Native American Heritage Month event being twice in size, that it was a good event because more council members were engaged during the presentation.

**Governance Ad-hoc Committee**

None

**2023 Arts & Culture Ad-hoc Committee**

None

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Chrissie Castro asked about the status of the County's survey of statues. Alexandra shared she inquired with the Department of Arts and Culture following the October LANAIC meeting and is awaiting a response. She shared she would reach out again for an update.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that the CSUN Pow Wow would be held that Saturday, November 25, 2023 and that there will also be the Cabezon Pow Wow that weekend.

Commissioner Rene' Williams stated that the Year Three CFCI Funding opportunities have a deadline in early January and encouraged other commissioners to help spread awareness.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that there was a renaming of Joat Park and that the Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council worked with the San Gabriel Mission to plant native plants in their gardens.

Commissioner Shawn Imitates Dog stated that on December 1<sup>st</sup> Pukuu would be hosting their annual fundraising gala.

Commissioner Imitates Dog suggested holding the December meetings at Chapter House LA followed by a holiday potluck.

Commission Adjournment

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.



**Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission**

**November 21, 2023**

**Public Comment & Correspondence**



For the Service of the Ever-Living God  
Acct'ing for the People © Joe Cisneros 2023

Accounting is a get-give system which comes directly from the world of bartering and trading. As an example, in business a person gets, when they give. It's just that simple.

Business operates with six general account categories. These accounts are the "in" into business.

Get Account Explanations	Give Account Explanations
Assets: records things the business <u>gets</u> to own and use.	Debts: records credit and loans <u>given</u> by lenders and creditors.
Cost of sales records services and goods <u>getting</u> bought by customers at their purchase, make or servicing costs.	Owner(s) Capital: records money <u>given</u> in exchange for shares of stock and proportional business ownership.
Spending: records the costs <u>getting</u> made so the business can operate.	Earnings; records sales <u>given</u> with all the mark ups.

Transactions Tell Their Own Story the Get-Give way:

A business gets cash, given from the owner's capital.

The business gets cash, given by a bank loan.

The business gets equipment, it gives cash.

The business gets merchandise inventory, and it's given on \$2BPaid/Cr. account.

The business gets cash for giving merchandise sale.

The business gets the rent paid, it gives cash.

The business expects to get \$2BRec'd/Cr. for giving an account sale.

The business gets equipment, and it's given as \$2BPaid/Cr. account.

Financial Statements the Get-Give Way

Financial statements are nothing more than a measurement or summary of get-give transactions.

Balance sheet: is used to prove if all get-give transactions equal out.

Profit-Loss Statement: shows if sales given along with other money earned was greater, equal or less than the amount of money which got spent, in a year's time, resulting in either net income, a breakeven or net loss.

Cash flow Statement (Indirect Method): shows how much cash a business has got left, after analyzing the sums gotten and given out in a year's time by different categories.

Business Begins with a Give

What will you give.

Who will you give too.

Where is the best place to give.

When is the best time to give.

Why exactly do you think your give choice is the best.

Another way of dividing the six general account categories are by operations and finance.

Operations	Finance
All get accounts are operational.	All give accounts are financial.
Operations are defined by requirements, meaning can the business <u>get</u> what it needs to operate.	Finance is defined by money, meaning can the business be <u>given</u> enough funds to be financially sound

Removing all the confusion associated to accounting, business, and finance. Using easy to understand words and a bit of faith, to ensure this makes sense. This is a non Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, method of teaching. Any Questions? Call 323.666.0149, between 4:00 – 7:00 pm.

**From:** [Cynthia Ruiz](#)  
**To:** [Contact](#)  
**Subject:** LANAIC Public comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:46:12 PM

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CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

I am on Zoom but can't hear anyone.

I wanted to speak on the Cherokee Nation Delegate item  
We have now submitted resolution from National Congress of American Indians which is over 600 Tribes  
Also submitted resolution from All Pueblo Council of Governors ( 20 Tribes)  
California Nation Indian Gaming (not sure of number)

Approx 700 Tribes support seating of the Cherokee Nation Delegate in Congress.  
I ask for an Yes vote.

Thanks

Cynthia Ruiz



## Proposed Bylaws Revisions

The following proposed bylaws revision is being presented for possible adoption at the December 19, 2023 meeting of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. Revisions to the LANAIC bylaws require support from 2/3s of the body.

Section XVI: Meetings, Subsection A., currently reads as follows:

Section XVI: Meetings

- A. The Commission should hold regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at such place and time as determined by the Commission, except that the Commission may change the date of the meeting at its discretion as long as at least one regular meeting is held each month. Meetings shall be scheduled at a time suitable to accommodate a regular work schedule in private industry (Monday-Friday) and regular work hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), so as not to be in conflict with Commission meetings.

The proposed revision would amend Section XVI: Meetings, Subsection A, as follows:

- A. The Commission should hold regular monthly meetings 11 times per year on the third Tuesday of the month at such place and time as determined by the Commission, except that the Commission may change the date of the meeting at its discretion as long as 11 regular meetings are held annually. In addition, if a regularly scheduled meeting were to occur during the work week of a County-recognized holiday, the Chair has the option to reschedule the meeting to the week prior. Meetings shall be scheduled at a time suitable to accommodate a regular work schedule in private industry (Monday-Friday) and regular work hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), so as not to be in conflict with Commission meetings.