



# AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY  
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, 7:00 PM**

**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](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. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson  
*Lakota*

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

AUDRA WISE, Secretary  
*Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo*

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer  
*Northern Cheyenne*

CAROLINE BHALLA, Commissioner  
*Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*

CHRISSIE CASTRO, Commissioner  
*Navajo*

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*

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner  
*Colville Tribes*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
Executive Director  
*Tlingit/Athabaskan*

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## 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 February 20, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

- 6.2. Review and take possible action recommending to LA City Council that they adopt the draft land acknowledgment developed by the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

- 7.1 *Care First Community Investment Updates*, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)
- 7.2 *Introduction to New United American Indian Involvement, Inc CEO Charlene Harrison*, Charlene Harrison (CEO, United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

**8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 8.1 2024 Native American Heritage Month theme selection process

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 9.1 FY23-24 Q3 & Q4 Priority Project Updates
- 9.2 Reminder to Complete Annual Form 700

**10. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 10.1 Self Governance Board
- 10.2 Homelessness Committee
- 10.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 10.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee
- 10.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee
- 10.6 Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee

**11. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**13. 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 FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

The February 20, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Invocation & Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor provided an invocation.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog read the County of Los Angeles Land Acknowledgement.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog  
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor  
Treasurer Denise Escoto  
Caroline Bhalla  
Chrissie Castro (Virtual; Just Cause)  
Andrea Garcia  
John Only A Chief  
Dawn Jackson  
Mark Villasenor  
Rene' Williams

Absent: Secretary Audra Wise (Unexcused)  
Mona Morales Recalde (Unexcused)  
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Excused)  
Ted Tenorio (Unexcused)  
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Heather Rigby, Department of Arts and Culture Chief Deputy  
Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director (Virtual)  
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Members of Public: Cesar Aranguri, Chuy Flores (Department of Public Health), Cynthia Ruiz, Megan Moret (Department of Arts and Culture) and Josh Candelaria

Quorum was met.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

Welcome New Commissioner Caroline Bhalla (Supervisor Mitchell Appointee)

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog provided an opening welcome to newly appointed Commissioner Caroline Bhalla (Supervisor Mitchell). Commissioner Bhalla provided a brief introduction about herself.

Public Comment

No written public comment was received.

Cynthia Ruiz provided comment via phone call-in that she welcomes Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission.

Action Items

**Review & approval of the Unapproved January 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene' Williams to approve the unapproved January 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.*

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

**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**

*Item was removed from commissioner consideration by Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog.*



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Presentations

***Care First Community Updates***, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)

*Item was tabled until March 19, 2024 meeting.*

**[Introduction to County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health](#)**, Christine De Rosa (Interim Director, LAC Department of Public Health)

Christine De Rosa provided an overview of the key functions of the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, example initiatives that the office leads, and details about the upcoming public review period of their Five-Year Plan development that is projected for Spring 2024.

**[Roles & Responsibilities of LANAIC Executive Director](#)**, Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, LAC Department of Arts and Culture)

Heather Rigby provided an overview of the LANAIC purpose as defined in [LA County Code Chapter 3.42.020](#) and outlined current LANAIC staff duties and responsibilities.

**[Framework to Establish a Land Acknowledgment for the Los Angeles City Council](#)**, Ronnell Hampton (Principal Equity Strategist, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department), Diamond James (Office of Race and Equity Director, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department) & Matthew Joun (Policy Analyst, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department)

Ronnell Hampton provided a comprehensive overview of the process that the LA City Civil Rights Office undertook to develop a draft LA City Land Acknowledgement statement. Ronnell shared the draft land acknowledgement statement and opportunities for LANAIC feedback.

Chair's Report

**February 1, 2024 Commission Services New Commissioner Training Recap**

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog encouraged commissioners to participate in trainings that are offered by the County to support their understanding of their roles and duties.

Executive Director Report

**Fiscal Year 2023-24 Quarter Three Priority Projects**

Alexandra Valdes shared that the following items are three priority projects for LANAIC staff in the current quarter of the fiscal year: Tribal Consent and Consultation Statement of Work;



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

Community Services Block Grant Full Fiscal and Program Monitoring; Report back for the Chief Executive Office Native American History Month Board of Supervisors Motion.

### Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

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

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that vacancies on the self-governance board will be appointed once vacancies in the LANAIC body are filled.

#### **Homelessness Committee**

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the homelessness infographic received a positive response. She also stated that the committee would like to present the information at a Board of Supervisors Homelessness Cluster Meeting and will be following up with LA City about the budget letter that the LANAIC sent them a few months back.

#### **2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc**

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that they are looking to come up with the theme for 2024 Native American Heritage Month and that the committee also has a tentative call with LA City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's Office on Friday to discuss her involvement.

### Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that LA County Department of Mental Health the LACTA solicitation for building public housing. The language that was incorporated encouraged developers to design culturally supportive housing and this is a win because it sets a precedent for cultural considerations to be taken during the development of public-funded projects.

### Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that Peter Pan is going to be at the Pantages. Commissioner John Only A Chief shard that Scott George was nominated for an Oscar award.

### Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.



**To:** LANAIC Commissioners  
**From:** Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director  
**Date:** March 14, 2024  
**Subject:** March 19, 2024 LANAIC Meeting – Agenda Item 6.2

On Tuesday, February 20, 2024 Ronnell Hampton, the Principal Equity Strategist with the LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department provided a presentation to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) entitled *Framework to Establish a Land Acknowledgment for the Los Angeles City Council*. The PowerPoint has been included for reference.

At the March 19, 2024 LANAIC meeting the Commission will take possible action recommending to LA City Council that they adopt the draft land acknowledgment developed by the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department.



LA Civil Rights

# Status Update: Land Acknowledgment Initiative

*Tuesday, February 20, 2024*







# Background

In September 2022, the City of Los Angeles’ Civil + Human Rights Department (LA Civil Rights) was instructed by Los Angeles City Council to collaborate with LANAIC, “and representatives from the Tongva, Tataviam and Chumash tribes” to report on the creation of a Los Angeles City land acknowledgment policy. As a result, LA Civil Rights issued a report in October 2023, and is drafting a revised report, which includes direct engagement with LANAIC commissioners, as well as ancestral groups. The department’s forthcoming report will place an emphasis on its process and procedures to draft language the City may adopt that does not cause harm and is appreciated by lived experience experts.

Source: [Council File 22-1142](#)





# LA Civil Rights' Key Goals

- Harm reduction
- Alignment with State legislation (SB18 and AB52)
- Learning LANAIC's recommendations for LA Civil Rights to either:
  - Adopt the [Los Angeles County's Land Acknowledgment Statement](#), but specifically name ancestral groups connected to the City, or
  - Draft a revised statement specific to the City of Los Angeles, based on new input from LANAIC and ancestral communities
- Propose a land acknowledgment statement for use within the City of Los Angeles

Source: [Council File 22-1142](#)





# Recent engagement has opened the possibly for revision.

Areas that have come up as points to refocus a City statement on:

- Concerns of erasure by listing tribes with no ancestral relationship to this area pre-colonialism.
- Harm as a result of a land acknowledgment statement
- The importance of preventing erasure of or creating political barriers
- Actual environment and appreciation for natural resources





# Lessons from Direct Engagement with Tribes

1. **RECOGNIZE MISSION-GROUP IDENTITY:** Groups have shared California's history resulting in intersecting lines of tribe, nation, mission, and band. It's been requested that any City statement should acknowledge these aspects of identity. The Missions in Los Angeles are San Fernando Rey De España , and San Gabriel Archangel. Many of the local tribes have lineage tracing back to these missions.
  - *How might this affect, or be factored into the City's statement?*
  - *Should any tribe not associated with those missions be acknowledged in the City's statement?*
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND:** It was requested that LA Civil Rights consider focusing a land acknowledgment statement explicitly on appreciation for natural resources, including flora and fauna, continued caretaking and stewardship.





# Lessons from Direct Engagement with Tribes

1. **HIGHLIGHT FIRST PEOPLES AND BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS:** Issuing a land acknowledgement gives the City the opportunity to recognize that Indigenous peoples residing on land that is now the City of Los Angeles had their life-ways disrupted by colonialism and legacies of harmful practices that persist today.
  - *How might we acknowledge collective harms experienced while individually uplifting the area's original inhabitants?*
2. **ACKNOWLEDGE POTENTIAL HARM:** LA Civil Rights aims to propose a statement that brings pride and recognition, and does not create additional harms. LA Civil Rights has learned the wording of the statement and specific naming of groups may be leveraged to cause harm.
  - *Do you envision the statement may be advantageous for some, and harmful to others?*
  - *How can our process and resulting statement mitigate harms?*





# Process Context

Our process yielded a grasp of land acknowledgement statements' historical and political significance. Working with the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Attorney, LA Civil Rights aims to craft a City of Los Angeles land acknowledgment aligned with the city charter, and reflects the insight and feedback we received during our engagement.

1. **LANAIC Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission RESEARCH:** Researched and drew language from County Land Acknowledgement, Harm Report, and the City's Civic Memory Report.
2. **ENGAGED IN DESKTOP & ACADEMIC RESEARCH:** In addition to desktop research, LACR met with Drs. Shannon Speed and Mishuana Goeman from UCLA, received and reviewed academic research for California tribes in the Los Angeles area.
3. **CA's NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION REQUEST:** Provided a list of 13 Tribal groups associated with the City of LA. LACR reached out and consulted these groups to gain insight from and feedback.





# Process Context Continued

1. **ANCESTRAL GROUP MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT:** Following SB18 and AB52, we reached out to tribes identified. Four tribal groups provided experience expertise provided insight on criteria the City should consider when including ancestral groups in land acknowledgment
2. **LANAIC PRESENTATION:** Present process and findings to LANAIC members during monthly meeting for insight and feedback.
3. **CITY OF LOS ANGELES PRESENTATION:** Present the response to council motion exploring the creation of a statement. This will include insight and feedback that supports the prevention of further harm



# Current statement updates, to date:

• Does listing any tribes as original inhabitants cause harm?

“The City of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the **Kizh, Tongva, Tataviam, 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, multigenerational trauma, **disruption of cultural practices, trade, and tribal relations.** 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 the City of Los Angeles. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands.”

• Including the ancestral groups of the tribes that provided input, or those who explicitly opted in

• This addition acknowledges tribal relations and customs, and the disruption as a result of colonialism.





# LA Civil Rights

To learn more about the Office of Race & Equity at LA Civil Rights, visit [LAisForEveryone.com](http://LAisForEveryone.com) or email [ore@lacity.org](mailto:ore@lacity.org). Connect with LA Civil Rights @lacivilrights on social media platforms, or call 213-978-1845 to speak with a team member by phone.

## LA Civil Rights

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