



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024, 6:30 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. 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

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

VIVIAN GARCIA, Commissioner
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner
Saginaw Chippewa

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH, Commissioner
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner
Gabrielino 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

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
3. ROLL CALL
4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 *Presentation on the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities – Kim Ortega (Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis), Anthony Baker (County of Los Angeles)*

Chief Executive Office), Starr Coleman (County of Los Angeles Office of County Counsel) and Heather Rigby (Department of Arts and Culture)

- 6.2 *Care First Community Investment Updates* - Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)

7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1. Adopt absentee excuses
- 7.2. Approve the June 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
- 7.3. Amend the Minutes for the February 20, 2024 meeting previously adopted on March 19, 2024 to reflect that Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde was granted an excused absence
- 7.4. Adopt draft letter recommending that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors neither support nor oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1 Discussion about [Continuing the Work of Reparations in Los Angeles County](#) Board Motion (June 4, 2024)
- 8.2 Discussion about possibility of working with the [State Native American Graduation Adornments Taskforce](#) to host a community listening session in LA County

9. PRESENTATIONS

- 9.1 *Care First Community Investment Updates* - Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)
- 9.2 *Presentation on the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities* – Kim Ortega (Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis), Anthony Baker (County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office), Starr Coleman (County of Los Angeles Office of County Counsel) and Heather Rigby (Department of Arts and Culture)

10. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 10.1 General Updates/Announcements

11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 11.1 Peter Pan at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre
- 11.2 County of Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture Community Impact Arts Grants Revised Eligibility Guidelines

12. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024, 6:30 PM**

- 12.1 Self Governance Board
- 12.2 Homelessness Committee
- 12.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 12.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee
- 12.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

13. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

15. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Location: Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, LA, CA 90012

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

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow background. The signature appears to read "Shawn Imitates Dog" followed by a stylized flourish.

Shawn Imitates Dog
Chairperson



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024**

The June 18, 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 & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:43 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner Ted Tenorio provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villaseñor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Caroline Bhalla
Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Bryce Lewis-Smith
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon

Absent: Chrissie Castro (Excused)
Rene' Williams (Excused)

Staff: Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy
Stephanie Guadron, LANAIC Administrative Manager

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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



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Discussion Items

Review and discuss the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations memo on a possible opposition position to HR 6589: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that this is the third time that the LANAIC is addressing the current item and that the matter is outside of the body's purview. Commissioner Garcia also stated that with the findings that came back from LAIR she does not recommend that the LANAIC should take a stance because the letter will cause harm and the charge of the LANAIC is to promote the equity of marginalized groups. Commissioner Garcia shared that there are meeting minutes that reflect members of the body sharing that this action is not in the purview of the LANAIC and that the topic is far reaching.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the discussion is the same that it was three months ago and last month the discussion took a turn. He shared that he was interested to see if there were any opinions on the item.

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he understands that the door could close behind any other [Tongva] tribe that would also like to go for Federal recognition. Commissioner Ortega also stated that the LANAIC could recommend to the congresswoman to follow the process that is established with the Office of Federal Acknowledgment. Commissioner Ortega presented a motion proposing that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors do not take any action for HR6589

Please see section below, '*Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items*', for the presented motion and voting information.

Presentations

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

This item was tabled by the chair until the next meeting.

County Process Updates, Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, LA County Department of Arts and Culture)

Heather Rigby stated that there has been an interest in reviewing the LANAIC Bylaws and that the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) has initiated the review process with County Counsel. Heather also stated that an Ad Hoc will be established once the review from County Counsel is finalized. Heather stated that upon initial review there are items that stood out that clearly require amendments since they go against County Code and policy. Heather shared that one prime example of the misalignment is how the LANAIC Bylaws state staffing practices that are in violation to Civil Service policies. Additionally, Heather stated that it is



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unusual and uncommon for a County commission to have bylaws, as bylaws are typically needed for non-profits that require a Board of Directors.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that he mentioned to Heather during a recent discussion that the LANAIC commissioners were probably more involved than they should have been in the development of the LANAIC staff position. Commissioner Andrea Garcia asked if the majority of County commissions have bylaws. Heather Rigby stated that she can find out and provide examples of some bylaws that may be in existence. Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that the LANAIC has been around for 47 years and asked if the LANAIC was created in a totally different way as other commissions that do not adopt bylaws.

Heather stated that there was not a lot of involvement or support provided when the LAANIC was under WDACS, and in its transition to Arts and Culture there is more support. As the work portfolio grows and there is growing interest from the Board of Supervisors, there are more eyes and there is more necessity to adhere to County policies.

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he serves on multiple commissions and that more has to be done for Indian Country and that the LANAIC is told that there will be Brown Act violations when there will be none. Commissioner Ortega stated that we [the LANAIC commissioners] are not 'yes' people for the BOS and that his father was on the first [LANAIC] commission and that he has seen it since 1984. Commissioner Ortega stated that as rules and policies are developed, he doesn't want to lose what there is and how the Harms Report was conducted is a good template.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that when he stepped into the role of Chairperson he heard stories about the wild west times with Ron and now. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the LANAIC is running into roadblocks and he has to go back to the commissioners to tell them that we are not able to put things on the agenda. He stated that it is a balancing act with needing to be in compliance and that he hopes we could find a happy medium because in the last six (6) months he has heard more "no's" than "yes".

Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that he agrees with Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and that as a community elected commissioner the direction that he feels the LANAIC moving toward is in becoming a County commission. He stated that the commission should reflect the community and that he is all for having a balancing act, but that this is for the Native American Indian community who he represents.

Kimberly Ortega stated that Supervisor Solis is a strong champion of the LANAIC and has supported with the Harms Report and advocated to CEO for more funding. Kimberly stated that on behalf of her office there is no tokenizing of appointees and the LANAIC. Kimberly also stated that her office fights for their voices and last year for Native American Heritage Month presented a motion for what the next 50 years looks like. Kimberly stated that Supervisor Solis is very interested in establishing an Office of Tribal Affairs. Kimberly shared that during the report back process, CEO found a lot of issues with the City/County agreement – the County is making a greater investment than the side of the City and that she wants to get the report back



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to the LANAIC so that the body could see for itself if the County should establish the Office of Tribal Affairs and make the County commission separate from the City.

Heather Rigby stated that the CEO Report Back was filed last month and there will be a presentation at next month's meeting to go over the report.

Kimberly Ortega stated that it is very challenging that there is no staffing counterparts at the City or anyone specifically to reach out to about tribal matters. She also stated that having separate bodies may result in additional resources for the community.

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked if County Counsel will review the bylaws to see if they are aligned with one code? Heather Rigby replied that they are reviewing against the entire municipal code. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he believes that the unique culture of the tribal people [on the LANAIC] will not make it an easy transition.

Introduction to United American Indian Involvement, Inc. Charlene Harrison (CEO, United American Indian Involvement, Inc.)

Charlene Harrison provided an introduction of herself and the current projects that UAI has been working on building out. There are plans to expand services to include medical, dental and mental health programs for eligible participants.

Action Items

Take action adopting absentee excuses for the June 16, 2024 meeting: Commissioner Chrissie Castro (Excused); Commissioner Rene' Williams (Excused)

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villaseñor to adopt absentee excuses for the June 16, 2024 meeting: Commissioner Chrissie Castro (Excused); Commissioner Rene' Williams (Excused). The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villaseñor, Escoto, Bhalla, Garcia, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Only A Chief, Toyon, Tenorio
NO	
ABSTAIN	Garcia, Lewis-Smith
ABSENT	Castro, Williams



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Take action approving the May 21, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villaseñor to approve the unapproved May 21, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villaseñor, Escoto, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Only A Chief, Toyon, Tenorio
NO	
ABSTAIN	Bhalla, Garcia, Garcia, Lewis-Smith
ABSENT	Castro, Williams

Adopt draft letter requesting that LA City Council designate areas of West Los Angeles Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde to adopt a draft letter requesting that LA City Council delegate areas of West Los Angeles Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villaseñor, Escoto, Bhalla, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Only A Chief, Toyon, Tenorio
NO	
ABSTAIN	Garcia, Garcia, Lewis-Smith
ABSENT	Castro, Williams

Chair's Report

Establish a Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee and appoint members

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the Ad Hoc Committee would be established and appointed once the Report Back from County Counsel is completed.

Executive Director Report

Updates on the Traveling Exhibit "100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans"

In Alexandra's absence Stephanie Guadron provided a brief update about the exhibit that was installed in the main floor of the Hall of Administration for the first two weeks of June.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2024

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that the Community Needs Assessment survey is live and she made signs with QR codes to help collect responses.

Homelessness Committee

None

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that the in chambers session will be held and that a reception may be taking place at an alternative location after the session.

FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

None

Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he is interested in potentially supporting a listening session for wearing regalia at graduations and in policies about reparations or a prescription about how land can be comanaged with tribes.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde asked what the status was with updating the LANAIC website. Heather Rigby stated that the Department is in the beginning state of finding funding for this ask and that in the interim, commissioners are welcome to send over examples of websites that they would like to highlight.

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked if County Counsel is the only resource that is available to review the bylaws or if the LANAIC could hire a third party lawyer to conduct the review. Heather Rigby stated that County Counsel is the only resource available to review the LANAIC bylaws because they are the in-house experts for Los Angeles County.



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Announcements/Future Agenda Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde recommending the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors neither support nor oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023. The motion passed.

YES	Imitates Dog, Villasenor, Escoto, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Only A Chief, Toyon, Tenorio
NO	
ABSTAIN	Garcia, Garcia, Lewis-Smith, Bhalla
ABSENT	Castro, Williams

Public Comment

Anna Hopkins – Farm2People (anna@farm2people.org)

Anna Hopkins stated that Farm2People would like to connect about how they may support local food insecurity barriers for Indigenous foodways through food delivery. She stated that Farm2People would like to partner with Native local farmers and invited commissioners to share her contact information with anyone in their networks who may be interested in meeting with her.

Cesar Aranguri – Indigenous Ark Urban Technologies (cesar@urbanarktech.org)

Cesar Aranguri stated that he has been working with Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde on the major issue with zoning updates for the proposed Indigenous District in Sawtelle West Los Angeles. He also stated that he is in support of an Indigenous District in Sawtelle West Los Angeles because the champions of this cause would like this land to become a cultural core for community organizations to protect cultural practices. Cesar also stated that cultural housing would be huge in Los Angeles and that there are other major cities that this model could be shared with. Commissioner Dawn Jackson asked Cesar if he has experienced any opposition to this project. Cesar stated that homeowners of the immediate 2-3 blocks of land may be in opposition to zoning changes.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 8:14 PM.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Fesia A. Davenport

May 16, 2024

To: Supervisor Lindsay P. Horvath, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport FAD
Chief Executive Officer FAD (May 15, 2024 11:23 PDT)

REPORT BACK ON PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2023 AS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND INVESTING IN AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES (ITEM NO. 8, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023)

On November 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer to conduct an in-depth review and study to explore the establishment of an Office of Tribal Affairs (Office), as well as an assessment of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) as it relates to roles and responsibilities shared between the County of Los Angeles (County) and the City of Los Angeles (City), and report back within 180 days.

Background and Process

On June 25, 1976, County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and City Mayor Tom Bradley signed an ordinance establishing the LANAIC at the former Los Angeles Civic Mall. The historic establishment of the LANAIC came at the behest of the City's and the County's American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. For more than 45 years, the LANAIC has been dedicated to uplifting and advocating for the concerns and needs of the AIAN community, the largest of any county in the U.S. In 1993, the Board also approved the creation of the LANAIC Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB) to jointly administer Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside (CSAIBG) funds with the Board.



In recent years, and as described below, the tribal and AIAN community has identified the need for a dedicated Office to improve government-to-government relationships and provide a centralized location within County government to meet growing internal and external needs. The County and many of its departments have increased their interest in and commitment to improving relationships with local Tribes and services to AIAN communities. This movement has highlighted the need for an Office to centralize, manage, and respond to internal inquiries for support and best practices, and to ensure appropriate government-to-government consultation with Tribes.

On September 29, 2020, the Board adopted a motion¹ directing the Chief Sustainability Office, in coordination with LANAIC and the County Departments of Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, and Public Works, to convene local tribal leaders and urban AIAN stakeholders to identify barriers resulting from county, state, or federal policies that tribal and native communities face in observing religious and cultural practices on County-owned lands. The motion further directed the named County departments to report to the Board on these barriers and to make recommendations on how to address them, with the goal of increasing equitable access to County-owned lands.

As reported back to your Board on October 5, 2021,² one of the six recommendations made was to develop countywide policies and programs to improve government-to-government relations, including the establishment of an Office within the County to centralize tribal relations. Since then, through multiple County-led parallel processes, tribal leaders have continued to recommend the establishment of an Office. On May 18, 2021, LANAIC adopted a resolution recommending the creation of an Office that would also house LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB. Most recently, the need for an Office was expressed during the land acknowledgement, harms, and land access listening sessions with local tribal leaders convened by LANAIC and the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), which took place from April 2022 through December 2022. Numerous participants of these sessions cited the need for such an office to improve interactions between the County and Tribes and affirm and strengthen the County's commitment to the AIAN community.

The Office of Tribal Affairs Organizational Structure

Mission and Responsibilities

The Office would facilitate long-term, positive relationships between the County and local Tribes and advance the well-being of the urban AIAN community.

¹ [09.29.20 Board Motion](#)

² [10.05.21 Report Back](#)

The Office would provide a centralized agency to coordinate engagement between County departments and local Tribes and the AIAN community and would be tasked with building and maintaining relationships and open communication with local Tribes; assisting Tribes in navigating County processes; and assisting departments with tribal engagement and consultation. To support the alignment of missions and services provided to this specific population, the LANAIC and LANAIC SGB would operate within the Office.

Preliminary responsibilities of the Office include:

- Provide comprehensive and coordinated policy support and guidance for the Board and County departments.
- Advise and guide departments on outreach to, interactions with, and effective service delivery to tribal governments and the AIAN community.
- Foster relationships with tribal governments and AIAN community-serving organizations.
- Support the operations and engagement of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB.
- Respond to consultation and engagement requests and inquiries from Tribes and the AIAN community and assist in the navigation of County policy and processes.
- Oversee and coordinate with County departments on the implementation of the Countywide Tribal Consent and Consultation Policy.
- Work in coordination with and develop resources and protocols for department-designated tribal liaisons.
- Develop a structural and systemic countywide approach to tribal engagement and AIAN outreach.
- Establish priorities for improving tribal relations and making County services and opportunities more accessible to local Tribes and AIAN community.
- Collaborate with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to advocate on relevant legislation.
- Provide training and learning opportunities for County staff.
- Administer current and future funding, including CSAIBG funding.

Placement and Structure

Historically, the LANAIC has been placed within multiple departments including the former Departments of Community and Senior Services, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, and Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services; as well as the Executive Office of the Board (Executive Office). In October 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the transfer of LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB from the Executive Office to Arts and Culture. The placement of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB at Arts and Culture has proven highly effective and beneficial for both entities.

As such, the LANAIC has indicated the establishment of the Office should also be at Arts and Culture.

Staffing

The initial staffing plan for the Office, developed in consultation with Arts and Culture and the LANAIC, includes two existing positions currently assigned to LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB, and the addition of four new positions to carry out the full scope of duties of the Office as described above. This is a preliminary staffing plan, and it will be subject to the regular annual budget and your Board's Fiscal Resilience Prioritization process. The CEO will continue to work with Arts and Culture to further refine the initial staffing plan, develop cost estimates, assess any additional anticipated needs, and identify potential efficiencies and cost saving measures.

Existing Positions

- 1.0 Executive Director, LANAIC – responsible for overall management of the Office, including LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB, resource development, public leadership, policy development and relationship development.
- 1.0 Administrative Services Manager I – responsible for contract and compliance management of all Office-administered projects and programs including working in partnership with County departments, partner organizations, and vendors.

Proposed New Positions

- 2.0 Senior Program Associates, Arts and Culture – responsible for providing subject matter expertise on specific Office projects (such as countywide tool development for tracking intra-County and public-facing consultation and engagement efforts with Tribes and the AIAN community), facilitating tribal consultation and AIAN engagement efforts, providing trainings to County staff, and managing junior staff.
- 2.0 Program Associates, Arts and Culture – responsible for supporting projects, partnerships, and office operations through communications, analysis, report writing, and tracking; and support scheduling and logistics associated with LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB meetings and Office meetings.

Name

It is important that the Office be appropriately named to reflect its focus populations: local Tribes and the AIAN community. The LANAIC indicates "Office of Native American Affairs" is appropriate as the Office would be charged with supporting the County's urban AIAN community in addition to Tribes. The name distinction is relevant in the County due to the local politics, dynamics, and the community. As home to the largest AIAN population in the country, it is important the name be inclusive of both local Tribes and individual AIAN community members. "Office of Tribal Affairs" or "Office of Tribal Relations" may lead internal and external stakeholders to believe that the Office solely advises the County on work with local tribal governments.

Roles And Responsibilities of the County and City as it Relates to LANAIC

On September 7, 1976, the Board created LANAIC by Ordinance No. 11409.³ The official name of LANAIC is the "City-County Native American Indian Commission" (LACC § 3.42.010.) The stated purposes of LANAIC are to: 1) secure federal funding resources to the socioeconomic problems of American Indians in the City and County; and 2) represent the special interest and concerns of American Indians of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, and social circumstances (LACC § 3.42.020). The LANAIC consists of fifteen members: five members are appointed by the Board; five members are appointed by the Mayor of the City; and five members are selected by the Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native community through elections conducted by LANAIC (LACC § 3.42.030). Additionally, LANAIC currently has two staff members that are County employees, while the City has no formal counterparts.

In July 1980, the County and the City entered into Agreement Number 37135 (Agreement) to provide for the City's participation in LANAIC. The Agreement requires the City to pay the County an annual monetary contribution "as its total share of support for the operation of the [LANAIC]" during each fiscal year. The Agreement was amended in 1988 to increase the City's monetary contribution and the City currently provides \$47,000 annually. This contribution is used to offset LANAIC's operating and administrative expenses. The Agreement may be terminated by either party with a 30-day notice.

County's Responsibilities Under the Agreement:

- Appoint five members.
- Provide support staff and facilities for meeting and administrative functions.
- Fund operating expenses, including staff salaries and employee benefits.

³ [Ordinance No. 11409](#)

- Maintain the financial records of LANAIC and provide to the City for review.
- Ensure LANAIC does not engage in activities that conflict or duplicate activities of the City.
- Share allocation authority for CSAIBG with the LANAIC/LANAIC SGB.
- Execute CSAIBG funding agreements with the State of California.
- Represent and indemnify LANAIC SGB members acting in their official capacity.
- Estimated County annual operating cost: \$0.5 million.

City's Responsibilities Under the Agreement:

- Appoint five members, (appointments are at the discretion of the Mayor's Office and subject to approval by the City Council).
- Provide \$47,000 annually to support the general operation of LANAIC.

The City Mayoral appointees must be confirmed by the City Council. The LANAIC is not referenced in the City Code or Charter; therefore, the confirmation of these appointments has become stalled in Committee for as long as two years. The delay in confirmation of City-appointed Commissioners creates structural issues for the Commission, including confusion about the authority of non-confirmed Commissioners to participate and vote in meetings pending confirmation of their reappointment. Additionally, because LANAIC is staffed by County employees and there are no formal City counterparts, there is no formal reporting to or from the City when this type of issue occurs.

The existing agreement between the City and the County has not been updated since 1980. However, there are several functions LANAIC and its staff have been unofficially and informally providing for the City in recent years that are not included in the agreement, including responding to City resolutions in which the body is named, and supporting event coordination for City-directed AIAN events. Additionally, the Agreement does not explicitly note the City's or the County's responsibility as it pertains to the five community-elected commissioners. The County provides all onboarding, including background checks and required commissioner trainings for all fifteen commissioners.

Community-Elected Commissioners

As indicated in the Ordinance, "Five members shall be selected by the Los Angeles Indian community pursuant to elections conducted by the commission." The LANAIC holds elections every four years, with the last being held in December 2022. Other than the brief language included in the Ordinance, there is no additional direction or explanation of the frequency of these elections, the method for the elections, or the eligibility for voters or candidates. As a result, it

has been left to the Commission to define and identify eligible voters and administer an election. This aspect makes the LANAIC a unique Commission including both appointed members and members elected from the community.

The lack of direction provided in the Ordinance also poses unique challenges related to backfilling vacancies and the removal of community-elected members. It is unclear how vacancies are filled, without holding a new community election, and who has the authority to remove filled seats, the Board or the City. Additionally, if a commissioner can be removed by a Supervisor, that individual can then run and win a community-elected seat.

LANAIC SGB

On February 23, 1993, the Board approved the creation of the LANAIC SGB, an eight-person body consisting of: five-community elected LANAIC Commissioners; one Board appointed LANAIC Commissioner; one City appointed LANAIC Commissioner; and the LANAIC's Chairperson serving as an ex-officio member. The LANAIC SGB was created to comply with Government Code section 12772 and serves as an eligible American Indian entity to qualify for CSAIBG funds. The County entered into Agreement Number 37135 with the LANAIC SGB in order to jointly administer CSAIBG funds. The LANAIC SGB agreed to provide policy direction to the development of the CSAIBG and partner with the County to provide planning, monitoring, and reporting. The County agreed to enter into contracts with the State grantor and be responsible for fiscal management (fiscal reports, reviewing expenditures, and approving disbursements). The County also agreed to extend certain protections from liability to the LANAIC SGB members when acting in matters related to CSAIBG. Unlike the LANAIC, the LANAIC SGB was never incorporated into County Code even though it is supported by County staff and assists in the award and administration of contracts administered by the County. Additional analysis of the function and authority of the LANAIC SGB may be warranted to ensure that its operation is aligned with State requirements for CSAIBG administration, and that its authority is clearly articulated and aligned with County policy related to the solicitation, awarding, and administration of contracts.

Conclusion

Establishment of an Office would affirm and strengthen the County's commitment to local Tribes and the AIAN community, improve government-to-government relationships and improve service delivery to local Tribes and AIAN communities. This Office would be appropriately placed in Arts and Culture, which serves as the current location of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB. As previously indicated, staffing plans are preliminary and would be subject to the regular annual budget and Fiscal Resilience Prioritization process.

The Agreement between the City and County establishing the LANAIC is over 40 years old and has not been updated to reflect the current financial costs of administering the Commission and the social and political environment relating to AIAN communities and local Tribes. The County's increased investments and interest in LANAIC, local Tribes, and the AIAN community in recent years may indicate that the Agreement should be renegotiated to provide a more equal contribution of resources, or that the City and County would be better served to establish and fund their own separate bodies to be responsive to the unique needs and structures of their governance and their own AIAN and tribal constituents.

The incorporation of community-elected commissioners in LANAIC is a unique aspect that complicates the structure of the body, not only via the administration of elections, but the lack of guidance in County Code on the governance of these positions. Further engagement with County Counsel is needed to confirm if any other County commissions have both appointed and elected commissioners. The lack of language in County Code regarding the community-elected commissioners may indicate the need to review and update the LANAIC County Code. As previously indicated, despite being created 31 years ago by an action of the Board, the LANAIC SGB is not referenced in County Code. This warrants a review of the Code, as well as the 1993 agreement between the Board and the LANAIC SGB, to determine if County Code should also be updated to include the LANAIC SGB.

The Board may direct Arts and Culture and County Counsel, in consultation with CEO, to work on the review and potential amendments to the County Code and Agreement related to LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB. In addition, Arts and Culture, in consultation with the LANAIC, may submit a funding request for consideration as part of the 2024-25 Supplemental Budget phase. The CEO will determine whether any motion or budget request is subject to your Board's Fiscal Resilience Prioritization process during the appropriate budget phase.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Rene Phillips at (213) 974-1478 or rphillips@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:MM
RP:AB:MN:kn

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Arts and Culture



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

Vice Chairperson
MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

CAROLINE BHALLA
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

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

VIVIAN GARCIA
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrielino Tongva

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

July 16, 2024

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

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (Commission) to request that your Board neither support nor oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 (Kamlager-Dove). HR 6859 seeks to grant Federal Recognition to the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation.

Sincerely,

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

Attachment: CEO-LAIR Legislative Summary/Findings Memo – H.R. 6859

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS**

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 723, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1100 ceo.lacounty.gov

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Fesia A. Davenport

ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Samara Ashley

**Legislative Summary / Findings
H.R. 6859 (Kamlager-Dove) – As Introduced on December 12, 2023
The Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023**

Summary: This bill would extend Federal recognition to the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation (Tribe). If enacted, the Tribe and each member shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the United States to Indians and federally recognized Indian Tribes beginning on the date of enactment, without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe or the location of the residence of any member on or near an Indian reservation. For purposes of the delivery of services and benefits to members, the bill would deem the service area of the Tribe to be the County of Los Angeles.

This bill would also require the Secretary of the Interior, within 90 days of enactment, to acquire and take into trust for benefit of the Tribe title to land identified by the Tribe that is located within the service area of the Tribe, not to exceed 300 acres. Lands taken into trust will be deemed part of the restoration of lands for an Indian Tribe restored to Federal recognition pursuant to federal law.

Finally, the Act would require the Tribe to submit to the Secretary, within 30 days after enactment, a membership roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled as a member of the Tribe. The qualifications for inclusion on the membership roll of the Tribe shall be determined in accordance with the Tribe's Constitution or Tribal laws pertaining to membership. Upon receipt of the roll, the Secretary shall immediately publish notice of such in the Federal Register.

Commission Recommendation: That the Board of Supervisors oppose H.R. 6859.

CEO Legislative Affairs Findings: There is Board policy to support proposals that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities.

Bill Status: H.R. 6859 was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on December 19, 2023.

May 30, 2024

AIAN Homelessness and Housing: Updates and Perspectives from the LANAIC

Andrea N. Garcia, MD, MS

Commissioner,

Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian
Commission



An Illustration of Data Genocide

Healthy LA Natives Study (2023)	American Indian Counseling Center (2023)	RAND Neighborhood Study (2022)*	Study of Older AIAN Adults (1980s)	2023 Point in Time Count**
14%	34%	19%	16%	3.8%*

*AIAN alone or in combo with other races

**2,700 AIAN people (Hispanic + Non-Hispanic)



Patterns of Health Care Access and Use in an Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Population

Andrea N. Garcia^{1,2} · Angela Venegas-Murrillo³ · Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth⁴ · Lisa V. Smith⁵ · Kenneth Wells⁶ · MarySue V. Heilemann⁷ · Lori Fischbach⁸ · Patricia L. Cummings⁹ · Tony Kuo¹⁰

Received: 8 December 2022 / Revised: 29 January 2023 /
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➤ [Am Indian Alsk Native Ment Health Res.](#) 2023;30(1):14-34. doi: 10.5820/aian.3001.2023.14.

Primary Psychiatric Diagnoses, Commercialized Tobacco Use, and Homelessness: Comparisons Between Urban American Indian/ Alaska Native and Non-American Indian/Alaska Native Adult Clinical Samples

[Daniel Dickerson](#), [Melanie Cain](#), [Andrea Garcia](#)

PMID: 37027498 DOI: [10.5820/aian.3001.2023.14](#)

A Sample of Where We Have Been













A SNAPSHOT OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HOMELESSNESS

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



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

-  Fernandefio Tataviam
-  Band of Mission Indians
-  Gabrielino Tongva Indians
-  of California Tribal Council
-  Gabrieleño/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

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

3.27%

of the total population of
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



In addition to local tribe
Los Angeles is also home
to individuals represent
more than **200 TRIBAL
NATIONS** from across the
United States.



AIAN is a **CULTURALLY DIVERSE POPULATION**
made up of more than **571 FEDERALLY
RECOGNIZED TRIBAL NATIONS**,
and numerous tribal nations who continue to
fight for their status to be recognized today



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



American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness

Background

Los Angeles County has a larger American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) population than any other county in the United States (165,513¹). The county also sits on the traditional homeland of three AIAN tribes: Fernandefio Tataviam, Tongva, and Chumash². However, the AIAN community is often underrepresented in sample data. Further, identity is often misclassified. For example, the 2019 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count found that approximately 1,800 people experiencing homelessness identify as AIAN (of both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic origin) – meaning that just over 1% of AIAN people in the county are experiencing homelessness. However, in the Healthy LA Natives study³, a 2016 survey of AIAN people in Los Angeles County, 14% of respondents reported experiencing homelessness. While the two data sources have different sample sizes and methodologies, the discrepancy in results warrants an examination of the underrepresentation of the AIAN population across sources data available in Los Angeles County. Historical underrepresentation and misclassification are problematic in that ignores the unique challenges of this population and may divert resources and services that are required to address the specific needs of the population. This brief builds off of Los Angeles County's Community Forum on Native American Homelessness report and analyzes data specific to the AIAN population experiencing homelessness.

4.04 How Can We Better Serve Urban Indigenous People



#NAEH2021

Will Robertson

Project Manager, Collaborative Solutions

Dr. Andrea Garcia

Physician Specialist in the Los Angeles County Department of
Mental Health

Ariana Yazzie Devine

President and Chief Executive Officer of Native American
Connections



A Sample of
Where We
Have Been
(cont.)

**COMING
SUMMER 2024**

UCLA School of Law
**Native Nations Law
& Policy Center**



DRAFTED

**A TRUST OBLIGATION TO
HOUSE LOS ANGELES'S
AMERICAN INDIANS AND
ALASKA NATIVES**

Where We
Are Going

Communications with the BOS

Data Advocacy

- 4 signature letter from the BOS to the OMB to support the proposed change to have a single combined race/ethnicity question and to discourage ethnic top-coding practices.

Budget Request

- Budget request letter included ask for FTE within CEO HI, and that County Counsel retain a firm or attorney with Indian law expertise

Sep. 2023

Apr. 2023

Oct. 2023

Item Request

Letter to BOS offices requesting stop-gap between consultant contract for CEO-HI as well as an FTE to be housed within CEO HI

November 2023 | Communication with CEO HI Encouraging:

Regular engagement with the LANAIC

Regular engagement with relevant AIAN stakeholders (e.g. the emergent AIAN Housing Collaborative and beyond)

Staff development:

- Foundational trainings on AIAN
- Attend relevant tribal housing conferences (with urban AIAN tracks)
- Complete site visits in other COCs with AIAN culturally supportive housing
- Become familiar with the body of work that the LANAIC is conducting that intersects with this work (e.g. Harms Report, Tribal consent and consultation policy, etc.)
- Any trainings or consultation that can provide an appreciation of AIAN specific statewide or Federal housing opportunities. This includes seeking out technical assistance, where possible.

November 2023 | Communication with CEO HI Encouraging:

Acknowledgement that the report and action plan may now be outdated, and an understanding that this may best be treated as a living document

In engaging other pertinent stakeholders, we learned the following:

- As it relates to the Internal County AIAN Working Group, there were questions about the function and path forward
- There was a direct question about County land that was to be identified as part of the original board motion

- CEO HI, LAHSA, LACDA, LACDMH and multiple other departments
- Data
- Policy
- Processes
- Representation
- Resources
- Relationships and repair

County
Systems

Community
Readiness:
AIAN
Housing
Collaborative

- Building organizational and community capacity to:
- Connect to HMIS
 - Apply for funding
 - Staff up and train as needed
 - Provide service provision, operations, and/or eventually build AIAN housing and beyond
 - *Dream and think outside the box*

- Tribal consent and consultation
- Harms Report
- Tribal Affairs Office
- Beyond land acknowledgement
- Building a knowledge base and partnerships

LANAIC
Foundational
Work

Room for the
unknown

- Home is *more* than housing!

Ongoing Requests

- Final report back and action plan from original board motion, "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness"
- One senior position FTE within CEO HI dedicated exclusively to AIAN homelessness and housing
- County Counsel retains expertise in Indian Law
- Ongoing support of adjacent LANAIC work that supports the holistic landscape of this work (tribal consultation and consent policy, researching a tribal affairs office, commitment to going beyond a land acknowledgement, repairing harm)



Additional Goals

- Continue to build off the AIAN language in the NOFA 30 for culturally supportive housing
- AIAN Vouchers
- ...and many many more goals!



Maacagíraac | Thank you

- Email: Garcia.andie@gmail.com

