



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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: 890 4754 7931
Passcode: 200874

To View Via Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89047547931>

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
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/Athabascan

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3. ROLL CALL

4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1. Adopt absentee excuses

6.2. Approve the July 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

- 6.3 Select the 2024 Native American Heritage Month Honorees for Spirit of Community, Spirit of Tradition and Spirit of Creativity

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1 Discussion on the July 16, 2024 *Presentation on the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*
- 7.2 Discussion on draft letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis requesting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during 2024 Native American Heritage Month

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 8.1 Recap of Peter Pan at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 9.1 Update on possible State Native American Graduation Adornments Taskforce community listening session in LA County

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

11. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 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:



Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 16, 2024**

The July 16, 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 6:35 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Caroline Bhalla
Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Bryce Lewis-Smith
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Rich Toyon
Chrissie Castro
Rene' Williams

Absent: Ted Tenorio (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director
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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Public Comment

Cynthia Ruiz – Cherokees of Los Angeles - Comment on Agenda Item 6.1

I have been in the community my entire life, second gen community advocate. The title of the report sounds good, but the fine print of it is an attempt to dismantle the commission. I don't think it should be done at the expense of the commission. Wants to transfer the staff and resources to the office and would render this commission operational. This has been the go-to commission for all Native things in the county. If you dismantle you will lose the voice of the community. If you lose the county resources, our elected commissioners don't have a point. The CEO will continue to identify cost savings. Disservice to community. Strongly oppose it.

Kimberly Johnson – Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians- Comment on Agenda Item 6.1

I was on the Commission from many years, I have two emails. One from 1993. They are on why the SGB was created and how the Department of Community and Senior Services was going to dismantle it. Ron fought that they should only be Community Elected and that it should be sovereign so that we will not be quieted down by the County.

Presentations

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 (Chief Deputy, LA County Department of Arts and Culture)

Kim Ortega (Office of Supervisor Solis) provided background on the motion and the report back and clarified to the Commission that Supervisor Solis is not seeking to dismantle the Commission but was looking at all the options as noted in the report back. Representatives from County Counsel and CEO were also in attendance and provided some summarization of various parts of the report back. Ms. Ortega also noted the County's investment to the Commission is much higher than the City and holds all liabilities. She also stated that the agreement between the City and the County is over 40 years old and that the agreement should be renegotiated or it may be better to develop unique bodies. Ms. Ortega stated that the lack of language in County Code may need to be amended.

There was a robust discussion from commissioners including discussion on autonomy, self-determination, the Commission's unique culture and a history of government disenfranchising Native people. There was also a discussion about the City's contribution and the opportunity for renegotiation with the City.



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Finally, there was discussion about the LANAIC’s bylaws and mandated trainings and adherence to laws and policies. The discussion concluded with representatives from the Office of Supervisor Solis sharing their intent to come back to the August meeting and Commissioners stating that they want to debrief and determine how they want to respond to the report back.

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

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

Action Items

Take action adopting absentee excuses for the July 16, 2024 meeting: Commissioner Ted Tenorio (Excused)

A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner John Only A Chief to adopt absentee excuses for the July 16, 2024 meeting: Commissioner Ted Tenorio (Excused). The motion passed.

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

Take action approving the June 16, 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 Villasenor to approve the unapproved June 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

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



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Amend the Minutes for the February 20, 2024 meeting previously adopted on March 19, 2024 to reflect that Commissioner Mona Morales-Reclade was granted an excused absence

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villasenor to amend the minutes for the February 20, 2024 meeting previously adopted on March 19, 2024 to reflect that Commissioner Mona Morales-Reclade was granted an excused absence. The motion passed.

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

Adopt draft letter recommending that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors neither support nor oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mark Villasenor to adopt letter recommending that 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, Bhalla, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Only A Chief, Toyon, A. Garcia, V. Garcia, Lewis-Smith, Castro, Williams
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Tenorio

Discussion Items

Discussion about [Continuing the Work of Reparations](#) in Los Angeles County Board Motion (June 4, 2024)

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he read an article about the County making reparations for Black Americans and shared that would like to advocate for access to County museums for AIAN residents during Native American Heritage Month.



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Alexandra Valdes stated that her recommendation would be to write a letter utilizing the June 4 motion as an example. She also stated that she read in the article that in order for access to the free services, participants had to complete a form with personal information.

The Commission supported Alexandra drafting a letter to Supervisor Solis for discussion at their August meeting.

Discussion about possibility of working with the [State Native American Graduation Adornments Taskforce](#)

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that he serves on a State taskforce and they heard from many community members that folks weren't allowed to wear their regalia at graduation ceremonies. He also shared that the taskforce asked if the LANAIC would be interested in hosting a listening session in LA County. Alexandra Valdes asked Rudy to make an e-introduction to the contact on the taskforce so that she could learn more hosting a listening session and report back to the Commission at their August meeting.

Chair's Report

General Updates/Announcements

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that Alexandra sent out an email asking for Native American Heritage Month nominees and asked for commissioners to submit nominations for the three categories before August 6 at 5:00PM.

Executive Director Report

Peter Pan at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre

Alexandra Valdes stated that there was a power outage at the Pantages and there is an updated invite that the commissioners should have received via email. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog encouraged commissioners to share the discount code that was provided by the Pantages.

County of Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture Community Impact Arts Grants Revised Eligibility Guidelines

Alexandra Valdes stated that within the Department of Arts and Culture there is a Community Impact Arts Grant and that the grant eligibility was recently revised to include local non-federally recognized tribes.



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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

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that a new position is needed to continue the work and that not much has moved since the last time. She also stated that CEO would like to have listening sessions with Black, Latino and Native community members. She stated that when the info is available she will share it out and that a new report will be ready before the next meeting.

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

None

FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

None

Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

None

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Chrissie Castro asked if the LANAIC is going to debrief about what happened during the meeting. Commissioner Mark Villasenor stated that a debrief should be added to the next month's agenda.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

None

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.



2024 Native American Heritage Month Nominees

Spirit of Tradition

1. Walter Ahhaityy

Biography

Walter Ahhaityy is a long time Los Angeles community member and leader and is from the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Walter has worked for several different Native organizations in Los Angeles over the years in working with our youth teaching them the songs and dances. Walter is currently working with United American Indian Involvement as a consultant teaching our Native youth on different styles of dancing, regalia, and songs.

Statement for Nomination

2. Roy Twobears Delarosa

Biography

Roy Twobears Delarosa is Yaqui/Apache, and has been a member of the Native American Veterans Association (NAVA) for over 19 years. In 2001, he was acting Vice President. Mr. Delarosa has also served on many special committees to further the mission of NAVA and the community of veterans. He visits recovering and ill veterans at the Veterans Affairs local hospital and was recognized as a spiritual leader and also volunteers at American Indian Changing Spirits.

Today, he is NAVA's Spiritual advisor and keeper of the Eagle Staff and is recognized by the Native American Orthodox Church of America. Mr. Delarosa is also a traditional California Gourd Dancer.

Mr. Delarosa is an United States Marine Corps veteran, and his last duty station was the 1st Marine Division HQ Bn. He served in the Reinforced Fleet Marine Force at Camp Pendleton 1st Fleet. Mr. Delarosa is a public speaker and founder of "Indian Talk" in California, lecturing at high schools and universities on Native culture and his life experience as an urban Indian. In 2013, he was an invitee and keynote speaker at Ornan's France as a guest of the Four Winds Society.

Statement for Nomination

He has dedicated his life to the cause of Veterans and is a strong advocate for today's Veterans and the Native community. Mr. Delarosa has been recognized by the City of Los Angeles, the County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET) for his dedicated service to the affairs of the community and for civic pride demonstrated by my numerous contributions for the benefit of all the citizens of Los Angeles County. He is an excellent nominee for this year's 2024 Spirit of Tradition award.

3. Chief Anthony Morales

Biography

Chief Anthony Morales is the leader of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. In the tribe's modern history, particularly noted for his role in securing state recognition for the tribe in 1994. This achievement marked a significant milestone in the tribe's ongoing efforts to reclaim their heritage and ensure their presence is acknowledged. His leadership values traditions from ceremonial duties, involving active engagement in cultural preservation, education, and legal advocacy. Chief Morales is committed to the preservation and revitalization of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians' cultural practices and traditions. He has overseen initiatives aimed at maintaining the tribe's language, rituals, and customs, ensuring these vital aspects of their identity are passed down to future generations. His efforts have included organizing cultural events, educational programs, and community gatherings that celebrate the tribe's rich heritage. Chief Morales has played a crucial role in the tribe's efforts to protect and preserve their ancestral lands. He has been actively involved in various campaigns to safeguard significant cultural and natural sites from development and destruction. Including a trip to the White House in May to see the signing of the Protection of the San Gabriel Mountains.

In addition to his focus on tradition, he and his wife distributed the Community Block grant for 26 years, assisting Native Americans in need. Going above and beyond they would not just distribute gift cards, they would create food baskets. Dedicating his personal time to ensure people were served and helped. His leadership is characterized by a commitment to justice, cultural integrity, and environmental sustainability. He continues to inspire his tribe with a vision of resilience and focuses on the youth of the tribe knowing they are needed to continue tribal traditions.

Statement for Nomination

Chief Morales embodies the essence of the Spirit of Tradition through his exemplary dedication as a California Native cultural bearer and cultural teacher. Chief Morales has demonstrated commitment to preserving and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Gabrieleno. As a cultural bearer, he keeps traditional practices, stories, and customs alive within the community. His efforts ensure that invaluable knowledge and wisdom of the Gabrieleno are passed down to future generations, fostering a deep sense of identity and pride among the tribe's members.

Chief Morales has made significant contributions to the broader community by sharing his extensive knowledge of the Gabrieleno history, traditions, and cultural practices. He engages in numerous educational initiatives, including school programs, community workshops, and public presentations, helping to raise awareness and appreciation for the Gabrieleno. Chief Morales's dedication extends beyond mere preservation; he adapts and revitalizes traditions to keep them relevant in the modern world. His leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that the Gabrieleno cultural heritage remains a living practice that continues to inspire and educate.

Under Chief Morales's guidance, there has been resurgence in cultural activities, language revitalization efforts, and the re-establishment of traditional ceremonies. His work has not only strengthened the bond within the tribal community but has also fostered greater understanding and respect for Native American culture among the wider population.

For his efforts as a cultural bearer and teacher, and his dedication to preserving and promoting the heritage of the Gabrieleno, Chief Anthony Morales is a deserving recipient of the Tradition Award. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the community and will continue to resonate for generations to come.

Spirit of Community

1. Julian Mendoza

Biography

Julian Mendoza has successfully taught the Circle of Life program in high schools, California State Prisons, Los Angeles County Jails, Juvenile Detention, and Probation camps for the past 30 years.

Statement for Nomination

Julian's primary focus is on Indigenous kids/students over a 28 day period emphasizing their mental and emotional wellness to help prevent recidivism and teach respect, anger management, substance abuse, human needs, family relationship and the power of forgiveness.

2. Cynthia Ruiz

Biography

She is a distinguished professor, best-selling author, executive coach, and inspirational speaker, renowned for her expertise in leadership.

Cynthia Ruiz served as a Commissioner on the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti and was the first Native American to serve on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Board.

Before her role as LADWP Commissioner, Cynthia held the position of Commission President at LACERS (Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System), overseeing a multibillion-dollar pension portfolio. She has authored or co-authored eight books and is a recognized authority in public sector leadership.

At the University of West Los Angeles (UWLA), Cynthia imparts her extensive knowledge of leadership to both graduate and undergraduate students.

Cynthia's dedication to her Cherokee heritage has been recognized with awards such as the Cherokee Nation "Community Leader of the Year Award" and the Cherokee Phoenix - Seven Feathers Award. She holds a Master's of Science Degree in Counseling from California State University Los Angeles and has completed a Leadership Course at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Cynthia continues to inspire and empower others through her work. Her mission is to be a beneficial presence on this planet, fostering a world characterized by love, compassion, integrity, and tolerance for future generations.

Statement for Nomination

Cynthia Ruiz embodies the essence of leadership, advocacy, and cultural stewardship that merits recognition as an Honoree for the Spirit of Community during Native American Heritage Month. As an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and Chairwoman of the Cherokees of Los Angeles, Cynthia's commitment to honoring and preserving her Native American heritage is deeply ingrained in her personal and professional life.

Cynthia has distinguished herself as a trailblazer and role model for her service to the community. Cynthia Ruiz has created opportunities for many Native Americans by pioneering the opening of doors for their advancement in Los Angeles.

Cynthia Ruiz maintains a strong connection to the Native American community in Los Angeles, serving as a dedicated leader and advocate for Native American issues. She mentors numerous individuals within the community, champions critical Native American causes, and plays a pivotal role in organizing and leading Native American events throughout Los Angeles.

Cynthia is a respected professor, best-selling author, executive coach, and inspirational speaker. She shares her profound wisdom and insights.

Cynthia's passion for cultural preservation is evident in her advocacy for Native American rights and visibility.

Cynthia Ruiz exemplifies the Spirit of Community through her unwavering dedication to Native American cultural heritage, leadership in public service, and commitment to fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society. Recognizing Cynthia as an Honoree for Native American Heritage Month would not only celebrate her achievements but also inspire future generations to embrace and cherish their cultural identities.

3. Jan Sampson

Biography

Jan has been living in Long Beach, CA for 50+ yrs. Her husband, Francis Curley (Navajo) is deceased. They have a son Kyle Curley (Navajo) who currently resides with her.

She is a 1979 graduate of CSULB with a major in Art and a certificate in American Indian Studies. While attending Long Beach State she spent time researching the history of the sacred site on campus called Puvungna. In 2012 she was awarded the CSULB Lillian Robles Award for her dedication to Puvungna. She continues to dedicate a lot of time and energy to protecting and caring for the land. She is currently a board member with Friends of Puvungna.

Jan worked primarily in the aerospace field for Northrop Aircraft Corporation. She was hired by the Art Department to design fighter jets for the US Air Force. She also spent many years working with the “stealth flying wing” program.

Statement for Nomination

Jan has been an activist in the Native community all her life. Outside of school and work she always supported the Native community by volunteering pow wows, serving on committees with The Iroquois Social, served for many years on the parent committee with EONA (Educational Opportunities for Native Americans), active with Prayer House 2000 under Ben Wolf, served on the board for Native American Institute of Orange County, attended LittleCrows Church for 30 years and volunteered countless hours working at Eagle Lodge and Main Artery Recovery Programs. She is one of the original co-founders of the American Indian Changing Spirits Drug and Alcohol Program in Long Beach.

4. Danielle Tobey

Biography

Danielle Tobey (Mashpee Wampanoag/Cape Verdean) is a Family & Children's Services Coordinator for Torres Martinez Tribal TANF where she advocates for the needs of American Indian/Alaskan Native families, many of whom are experiencing chronic homelessness. In 2020, she spearheaded a social movement to increase voter registration rates, and community involvement among Black and Indigenous People of Color in her hometown of Cape Cod Massachusetts. The impact successfully challenged oppressive systems and leadership in the local government.

Ms. Tobey previously served on the Parent Committee of the Los Angeles Indian Education Program. With over 16 years of experience caring for people struggling with health, mental health, and developmental challenges, she operates from the premise that safe and adequate housing is a basic human right. Her present social justice work focuses on finding and removing systemic barriers to permanent housing and integrating culturally specific practices.

Statement for Nomination

Danielle was a founding thought partner for the American Indian and Alaska Native Housing Collaborative, co-developed an AIAN e-Curriculum to be released by the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority, was a Social Justice Partners Racial Equity Initiative inaugural fellow, and wears infinitely more hats. Danielle has made indelible contributions to housing current and future generations...quietly, with humility, and for the love for her people.

Spirit of Creativity

1. Eric Hernandez

Biography

Eric Hernandez, a proud member of the Lumbee tribe, is an esteemed Native American hoop dancer with over 20 years of experience. Mentored by Terry Goedel, Eric's skills took center stage as the lead in Cirque du Soleil's "Totem," touring over 17 countries.

Statement for Nomination

A recent [TEDx speaker](#), his mission is to challenge stereotypes and spread ancestral wisdom about Native Americans through the art of hoop dance. Eric also gives back to his local Los Angeles community through countless school performances, through hoop instruction, and is well-known for his warm and friendly demeanor.

2. Julian Mendoza

Biography

Julian Mendoza is a Native of Southern California and is mostly a self taught artist putting in many years to perfect his unique style of art. He worked in commercial art for a number of years before deciding to capture what was around him ---his culture and his heritage as his main inspiration: from his Native American and Aztec Indian roots to the Zoot Suiters and vintage Chevrolets of the 40's. "This is not just what I do, this is what I am".

Statement for Nomination

He has sold his art all over the world and has illustrated for feature films, specifically the costumes for American Me, directed by Edward James Olmos.

Julian is a remarkable human being always dedicated to his community, his family and his art.

3. Kenny Ramos

Biography

Kenny Ramos is a theater artist from the Barona Band of Mission Indians / Kumeyaay Nation. He grew up on the Barona Indian Reservation in southern California, graduated from UCLA with a BA in American Indian Studies.

Kenny is currently on tour with Larissa FastHorse's rewrite of Peter Pan, which currently played in Los Angeles at the Pantages Theatre, and was a recipient of First Peoples Fund's Cultural Capital Fellowship, Theatre Communications Group's Fox Foundation Resident Actor Fellowship, and Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, & Transnational Migration's 2021 Mellon Arts Practitioner Fellowship.

Statement for Nomination

Kenny is passionate about creating theater that uplifts Native perspectives, asserts tribal sovereignty, and challenges settler colonial realities of American society and he is super grateful to First Peoples Fund for including him on the journey of creating.



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Colville Tribes

September 17, 2024

Honorable Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District
500 W Temple St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisor Solis,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (Commission). We would first like to extend our appreciation to you for authoring the Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) board motions in recent years and using them as an opportunity to celebrate the Commission's selected NAHM honorees and further your commitments to LA County's American Indian and Alaska Native community.

Since you have authored the past NAHM motions over the last several years, we anticipate that you will author the motion declaring NAHM this year. Should you choose to author the 2024 NAHM motion we would like to request that you consider the inclusion of language granting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during the month of November.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

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

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director