



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

The April 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 6:32 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Caroline Bhalla
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Rene' Williams

Absent: Treasurer Denise Escoto (Excused)
Chrissie Castro
Andrea Garcia (Excused)
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon (Excused)

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

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

Public Comment

On March 26, 2024 a Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) was sent to the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. The CIS was included as correspondence in the meeting agenda and packet.



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

On April 11, 2024 Josh Candelaria submitted a flyer for the 2nd Annual 2024 Candlelight Vigil for Missing & Murdered Indigenous People. The Flyer was included as correspondence in the meeting agenda and packet.

On April 3, 2024 Dr. Gary Stickles called the LANAIC and requested that his research paper entitled “WHY THE ORIGINAL INDIAN TRIBE OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA IS CALLED KIZH NOT TONGVA” be shared with LANAIC commissioners as general public comment at the next meeting. The link was provided as public comment in the meeting agenda and packet ([link](#)).

Action Items

Take action approving the March 19, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to approve the unapproved March 19, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

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

Take action selecting a 2024 Native American Heritage Month theme

The theme was selected with a series of two voting sessions. The first voting session allowed one vote per commissioner for one of the twelve submitted themes. The second voting session allowed one vote per commissioner between the two highest voted themes from the first voting session.

The final selection was theme #7 – Weaving together a Community Traditions, Cultures & Respect. The votes are recorded on the tables below.

Round One:

Proposed Theme #	# of Votes	Names
1. We are here	0	
2. Our land, our relatives	0	
3. Connection of land and people	0	
4. From the mountains to the oceans	1	Morales Recalde
5. Celebrating our Heritage, Honoring our Cultures and Arts	0	



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

6. A Community Rising: Emerging Voices, Stories and Achievement	1	Imitates Dog
7. Weaving Together a Community Traditions, Cultures & Respect	3	Villasenor, Jackson, Ortega Jr.
8. A NATIVE NEXUS: Traditional and Modern	0	
9. THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN: The Core of Our Communities	3	Bhalla, Williams, Only A Chief
10. CELEBRATING THE POWER OF NATIVE WOMEN AND NAITVE MOTHERS	0	
11. SONGS OF STRENGTH: Our Native Sisters	0	
12. THE EARLIEST AMERICAN HERITAGE: Native Arts and Crafts	0	

Proposed Theme #	# of Votes	Names
7. Weaving Together a Community Traditions, Cultures & Respect	5	Williams, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., Jackson, Villasenor
9. THE STRENGTH OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN: The Core of Our Communities	2	Bhalla, Only A Chief

Approve action supporting effort to bring the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans” curated by the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress subject to locating a venue and necessary resources to the County of Los Angeles and host an opening reception to inaugurate the time limited exhibition on a date TBD in June of 2024

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to support efforts to bring the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans” curated by the Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress subject to locating a venue and necessary resources to the County of Los Angeles and host an opening reception to inaugurate the time limited exhibition on a date TBD in June of 2024. The motion passed.

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

Alexandra Valdes stated that the total cost to rent the exhibit is \$1500 and that there are many logistic and operational items to consider. Alexandra also stated that the motion being voted on is requesting that staff inquiry into the feasibility within the truncated timeline.



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

Request that the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs utilize FY24-25 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) funding in the amount of \$13,000 to:

Options Presented	
1.	RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA City NAHM Booklet
2.	Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA-based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers
3.	Design and produce a 2024 NAHM Calendar and Cultural Guide between 150-200 pages that features work by LA- based Native American visual and narrative artists and 2024 NAHM community event fliers and have the LANAIC secure partnerships to support the cost of a November 1, 2024 NAHM reception.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Dawn Jackson to request that the City of LA Department of Cultural Affairs utilize FY24-25 NAHM funding in the amount of \$13,000 to RFP an event coordinator to produce a 2024 NAHM reception on November 1, 2024 at LA City Hall and to hire and manage a graphic designer to develop the 2024 LA city NAHM booklet with the added amendment to include a request for the LANAIC to provide recommendations for deliverables in the DCA contracted Statement of Work. The motion passed.

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

Alexandra Valdes stated that sole sourced procurements are not being allowed this year by the LA City Attorney. She also stated that RFP solicitation scenarios are outlined in the memo provided in the meeting agenda and packet. Alexandra stated that the options were developed with Council District 7.

Request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2024 in chambers NAHM celebration and provide tables, chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde and seconded by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor to request that LA City Council District 7 reserve the LA City Hall Forecourt for three hours following the November 1, 2023 in chambers NAHM celebration and



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

provide tables, chairs, table linens, sound equipment and any necessary event permitting including sanitation costs. The motion passed.

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

Presentations

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

Alexandra Valdes read an email update that was sent to her by Tencha Chavez. The update stated that the advisory body has been listening to presentations by the CFCI agencies and that evaluations of original programs is beginning to be rolled out.

Chair’s Report

Appoint Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to the Mayoral-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog appointed Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to the Mayoral-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board.

Appoint Commissioner Rene’ Williams to the Board of Supervisors-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog appointed Commissioner Rene’ Williams to the Board of Supervisors-Appointed Seat on the Self Governance Board.

Discussion Items

Discuss the process taken by LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department to develop the draft LA City land acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor stated that the process is under the purview of LA City and it’s not on the LANAIC to dictate their process, but the LANAIC could sign off that the City has a process that was followed. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she disagrees with Commissioner Villasenor because the LANAIC has a responsibility to ensure that there is truth if the City casts a wide net.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024

Alexandra Valdes stated that the LANAIC could take to a vote and each commissioner could go on their record with their stance or we could tell LA City that the LANAIC is not going to take a stand at this point. Commissioner Villasenor stated that the LANAIC cannot decide which tribes are named in the LA City land acknowledgement because the LANAIC doesn't confirm who is and isn't a tribe. Commissioner Villasenor also stated that LA City followed the State of California's process and that the LANAIC must serve all Natives. Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that the LANAIC cannot tell LA City to remove a group, but that the LANAIC could ask the City if there are other requirements to be named in the land acknowledgement. Commissioner Ortega, Jr. also stated that his tribe is giving the City guidance about what they are unhappy about, but as a commissioner he does not feel comfortable stating who should be named. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she recommends for a future action item to be, "Take action to oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity's process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgment and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area." Commissioner Villasenor seconded the motion.

Discuss enhancing/strengthening the LANAIC website and roles for commissioners to update the content

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she would like go back to the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) to see about support could be provided related to the LANAIC website and asked what happened to the website developer that was supporting the LANAIC. Alexandra Valdes stated that the DAC had a temporary contract for office assistant support and the temporary staff revamped the commissioner bios on the LANAIC website, but that he was not specifically brought on for website development. Alexandra also stated that requesting support for the LANAIC website was not identified as a priority when budget recommendations were developed last year, but would recommend the LANAIC including it into the budget letter for this year's recommendations. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she would provide a draft of the letter to the Chair.

Executive Director Report

Commissioner Audra Wise's Resignation

Alexandra Valdes stated that Audra Wise resigned and that the City is actively trying to fill both vacant seats.

Office of Management and Budget Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD-15) Revision Updates

Alexandra Valdes stated that the LANAIC asked the BOS to provide recommendation to the Office of Management and Budget regarding Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD-15) and the recommendations that were shared on the four-signature letters are now a part of the SPD-



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

15 revisions.

Update on meeting with City of Long Beach staff about proposed Native American Commission and request for commissioner questions for City of Long Beach regarding the proposed commission

Alexandra Valdes stated that she has scheduled a meeting with the City of Long Beach per the request of the LANAIC and asked the LANAIC for questions that the body would like her to ask at the meeting. The LANAIC provided Alexandra with the questions listed below.

- Why does the City of Long Beach feel like they need a separate commission?
- Is there a gap that the LANAIC is not providing the City of Long Beach that they would like to develop?
- Was the idea of creating a commission come as a result of community advocacy?
- What is the sustainability or funding for this commission?

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Alexandra Valdes stated that one of the requirements of the Community Services Block Grant program is a Community Action Plan and a Community Needs Assessment that must be facilitated every two years. The next due date for this process is May 31, 2025 and must include a public hearing, public comment periods, and survey collection. Alexandra also stated that the survey tool that was previously used will be revamped and distributed for data collection at community events.

Homelessness Committee

None

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

None

FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

None

Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

None

Anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, June 2, 1924 Ad Hoc Committee

None



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2024

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked how the LANAIC could get appointees for the vacant seats on the body. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the City is posting the vacancies on their website and asking people to fill out a form online. Commissioner John Only A Chief asked if the commissioners could have access to the links. Alexandra Valdes stated that she could reach out to the City to see if the links are still live and that the LANAIC would like an update on the vacancies. Commissioner Caroline Bhalla stated if the LANAIC could ask for a snapshot of the process.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that she would like the website to be a future agenda item and what the options are to provide staff resources to update the website. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that there is an event at Chapter House on May 4. Alexandra Valdes stated that she reached out to Supervisorial District 3 about the Reimagination of Peter Pan at the Pantages on July 9 at 7:00 PM and that the office is reserving 50 tickets for opening night for commissioners and community. She also stated that the Pantages is looking for ways to bring students and community in and that they have programs for nonprofits to provide sponsorships and see this opportunity as the beginning of a partnership.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.