



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

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

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:30 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
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Bryce Lewis-Smith
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Ted Tenorio
Rene' Williams

Absent: Chrissie Castro
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director
Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy Department of Arts and Culture
Megan Moret, Board Liaison & Special Assistant Department of Arts and Culture

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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



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

Public Comment

Commissioner Chrissie Castro provided public comment for Item 7.1. See attached letter.

Action Items

6.1 Adopt absentee excuses

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde to adopt Commissioner Rich Toyon’s absentee excuse for the August 20, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Ortega Jr. to approve the unapproved July 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.

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



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

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

Roll call votes were taken for the 3 NAHM honoree categories (the vote breakdown is below.) Chief Anthony Morales was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Tradition Honoree, Cynthia Ruiz was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Community Honoree and Kenny Ramos was selected as the 2024 Spirit of Creativity Honoree.

2024 Spirit of Tradition Honoree					
	Walter Ahhaitty	Roy Twobears Delarosa	Chief Anthony Morales	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog	X				
Villasenor			X		
Escoto			X		
Bhalla		X			
Castro					X
A. Garcia		X			
V. Garcia			X		
Jackson			X		
Lewis-Smith			X		
Morales-Recalde			X		
Only A Chief			X		
Ortega Jr.			X		
Tenorio		X			
Toyon					X
Williams		X			



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

2024 Spirit of Community Honoree						
Commissioner	Julian Mendoza	Cynthia Ruiz	Jan Sampson	Danielle Tobey	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog		X				
Villasenor		X				
Escoto		X				
Bhalla		X				
Castro						X
A. Garcia				X		
V. Garcia		X				
Jackson		X				
Lewis-Smith		X				
Morales-Recalde		X				
Only A Chief			X			
Ortega Jr.						
Tenorio				X		
Toyon						X
Williams				X		

2024 Spirit of Creativity Honoree					
Commissioner	Eric Hernandez	Julian Mendoza	Kenny Ramos	Abstain	Absent
Imitates-Dog			X		
Villasenor			X		
Escoto			X		
Bhalla			X		
Castro					X
A. Garcia			X		
V. Garcia			X		
Jackson			X		
Lewis-Smith	X		X		
Morales-Recalde					
Only A Chief			X		
Ortega Jr.			X		
Tenorio			X		
Toyon					X
Williams			X		



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

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

Chairperson Imitates Dog provided context and framing for the discussion item. He shared he wanted the Commission to have an opportunity to freely express themselves related to last month's presentation provided by County staff on the *Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities*. Additionally, he shared that since the August meeting he has had additional conversations outside this body with offices but not with County staff.

Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the August presentation, the impact of the report back and the report back process as well possible next steps the body could take including formalizing their position in a letter to the Board of Supervisors which could include their own analysis and observations.

Staff from the Offices of Supervisor Solis and Hahn were present and provided context and clarity throughout the discussion.

Commissioner John Only A Chief suggested inviting Board of Supervisors to LANAIC meetings over the next year or schedule every 3 months and Chair Imitates Dog suggested first inviting Board Chair Horvath.

Chair Imitates Dog and Commissioners Castro, Ortega Jr and Jackson agreed to draft the letter.

Commissioner Castro was absent from the meeting but participated in this discussion and provided a letter for the record, which is located under public comment.

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

Chair's Report

8.1 Recap of Peter Pan at Hollywood Pantages Theatre

Chair Imitates Dog provided a brief recap about the Peter Pan show at the Pantages. He shared that it was a beautiful event and show and that he was very proud of playwright Larissa FastHorse and the actors. He shared that Pantages were wonderful hosts and that they look forward to working with LA's Native community more.



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

Executive Director's Report

Alexandra provided a recap of her August 15, 2024 meeting with Judy Delgado, the American Indian Education Consultant with the California Department of Education's Integrated Student Support and Programs Office. At this time Judy was unsure if they would be able to host additional community listening sessions to hear from AIAN students and parents about their experience in public school as a result of a State travel freeze. Alexandra shared they agreed to stay in contact in case Judy and her team could travel to LA County for a listening session.

Commissioners provided the following locations as possible sites of a listening session: California Native Vote Project, LAUSD and the LA River Center.

Alexandra also shared that the County has provided ARDI Equity Funds to The Music Center (TMC) to produce Indigenous Peoples Day programming with the Chapter House. She shared that TMC would love recommendations from the LANAIC on vendors for the events and also offered a table for the LANAIC to distribute materials. She also shared that TMC offered to come present at a future LANAIC meeting if the Commission wanted that.

Committee & Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

10.1 Self Governance Board

SGB Chair Dawn Jackson reminded the Commission that the [Community Services Block Grant Community Needs Assessment survey](#) is live and requested that Commissioners encourage community members to take the brief survey.

10.2 Homelessness Committee

Committee Chair Dr. Andrea Garcia reminded the Commission that the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative is hosting a Community Listening Session with BIPOC Advisory Groups on August 22, 2024. She shared that this session was an opportunity to share with CEO HI about what you want them to fund and about your experiences. She encouraged commissioners to attend and make their voices heard.

Dr. Garcia also reminded the Commission about the recent release of the [Advancing Indigenous Housing Rights in Los Angeles: International Best Practices and a Legal Framework](#) and shared that the UCLA partners will likely be giving a talk on the report at a Homelessness Policy Research Institute Symposium with USC in November. She also requested that Commissioners help share it with their appointing offices and that the Homelessness Committee would be happy to write talking points for commissioners if that would be useful.

Megan Moret offered to make a toolkit for the report for Board deputies. Dr. Garcia accepted the offer.



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

10.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee

Chair Imitates Dog reminded the Commission that LA City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez is hosting this year's NAHM in chambers presentation on Friday November 1, 2024.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde requested to the Chair that she could provide updates on Indigenous Peoples Day. She shared that Councilwoman Eunnisses Hernandez is hosting this year's in chambers Indigenous Peoples Day present on October 11 and an event at Sycamore Park on October 12 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. She also shared the Chair Imitates Dog, Commissioner Ortega Jr and her have a meeting with the Councilwoman's Office on Monday, August 26, 2024.

10.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

No report was provided.

10.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc

No report was provided.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Chair Imitates Dog shared a personal update.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

None.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Imitates Dog shared that the next meeting of the LANAIC will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024 from 6:30 pm at the Sybil Brand Room 327 in the Hall of Administration. He adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.



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

DRAFT