



# AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY  
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 6:30 PM**

**Meeting Location:** Autry Museum of the American West -  
Classroom  
Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

**To Provide Public Comment:** You may submit written public comment via email to [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov). Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in subject line. Please submit your public comment or documentation as soon as possible but no later than 5 p.m. the night before the scheduled meeting. Public comment received after this time will be added to the next regular Commission meeting.

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Chairperson  
*Lakota*

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Vice Chairperson  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH, Secretary  
*Citizen Potawatomi Nation*

DENISE ESCOTO, Treasurer  
*Northern Cheyenne*

CAROLINE BHALLA, Commissioner  
*Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*

CHRISIE CASTRO, Commissioner  
*Navajo*

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

VIVIAN GARCIA, Commissioner  
*Cherokee*

DAWN JACKSON, Commissioner  
*Saginaw Chippewa*

MONA MORALES RECALDE, Commissioner  
*Gabrieleno Tongva*

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF, Commissioner  
*Pawnee Nation*

RUDY ORTEGA JR., Commissioner  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

TED TENORIO, Commissioner  
*Tiguan Nation*

RICH TOYON, Commissioner  
*Acjachemen*

RENE' WILLIAMS, Commissioner  
*Colville Tribes*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
Executive Director  
*Tlingit/Athabaskan*

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

## 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

## 3. ROLL CALL

## 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

## 6. ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1. Adopt absentee excuses
- 6.2. Approve the October 15, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1 Discussion of updated draft LA City/County Native American Indian Commission FY23-24 Annual Report

- 7.2 Discussion of draft letter to LA City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson regarding ordering of annual Indigenous Peoples' Day and Native American Heritage Month Council presentations
- 7.3 Discussion about possible collaboration with PolicyLink on a regional mini paper about LA's American Indian and Alaska Native community and housing affordability
- 7.4 Discussion on guidance for Commissioner's requested to speak at public events
- 7.5 Discussion on possibility of adding LANAIC pages to the Department of Arts and Culture website

**8. CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 8.1 Recap of November 15, 2024 Meeting Between LANAIC Chair Imitates Dog, Commissioner Morales Recalde, Professor Nancy Mithlo (UCLA) and Joshua Garret-Davis (The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens)
- 8.2 2025 LANAIC Retreat
- 8.3 Establish a Bylaws Ad Hoc and appoint members

**9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 9.1 General Updates

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

- 10.1 Executive Committee
  - 11.1.1 Adopted Letter Responding to Report Back on Proclaiming Native 2023 Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities
- 10.2 Self Governance Board
- 10.3 Homelessness Committee
- 10.4 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

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

**12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**13. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 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](http://www.lanaic.lacounty.gov), [contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov](mailto:contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov), or (213) 738-3241**

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 6:30 PM**

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature reads "Shawn Imitates Dog" in a cursive script.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

The October 15, 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

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor called the meeting to order at 6:44 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

### Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

### Roll Call

Present: Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor  
Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith  
Caroline Bhalla  
Chrissie Castro  
Dr. Andrea Garcia  
Vivian Garcia  
Mona Morales Recalde (Remote)  
John Only A Chief  
Rudy Ortega Jr.  
Rene' Williams (Remote)

Absent: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog (Excused)  
Treasurer Denise Escoto (Excused)  
Dawn Jackson (Excused)  
Ted Tenorio  
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director  
Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy Department of Arts and Culture

An in person quorum was met.

### Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

### Public Comment

No public comment or items of correspondence were received.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Action Items

**6.1 Adopt absentee excuses**

*A motion was made by Commissioner ( ) and seconded by Commissioner ( ) to adopt Commissioners Imitates Dog, Jackson, Escoto and Toyon's absentee excuses for the October 15, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.*

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

**6.2 Approve the September 17, 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 Andrea Garcia to approve the unapproved September 17, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented.*

*The motion passed.*

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



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**6.3 Adopt FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to the Board of Supervisors**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega Jr. to adopt the FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to the Board of Supervisors.*

*The motion passed.*

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

**6.4 Adopt FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Chrissie Castro and seconded by Commissioner Andrea Garcia to adopt the FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass.*

*The motion passed.*

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

**6.5 Approve the LANAIC cohosting an American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness research symposium on November 21, 2024 in partnership with the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Bryce Lewis-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to approve the LANAIC cohosting an American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness research symposium on November 21, 2024 in partnership with the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute.*

*The motion passed.*



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

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

Discussion Items

**7.1. Discussion of draft LA City/County Native American Indian Commission FY23-24 Annual Report**

Alexandra provided background on the annual report requirement and the process to develop the draft. She shared that it would be helpful if the Commission could have a discussion regarding the upcoming workplan section as well as the on-going long term projects section.

Commissioner Castro shared that the Commission had previously talked about wanting to create an archive. She floated the idea of adding into the workplan a project to capture the history of the Commission and the various achievements. Commissioner Garcia inquired if this could be an on-going long term project and Alexandra suggested it could coincide with the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commission in June 2026. The Commission had a robust discussion about what an archival project could look like including possible collaborations with the UCLA Oral History Project, the LA County Library American Indian Resource Center, and The Huntington.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia shared in addition to being in the on-going long term projects section, that homelessness should also be in the annual work plan section and this work could include continued advocacy including for a dedicated position in CEO HI.

Commissioner Castro shared that when developing this workplan that the LANAIC needs to be cognizant of capacity of staff as the body just went from 2 positions to 1 and that commissioners should understand that they would be the ones carrying out this work.

Commissioner Bhalla expressed that there is not much time for idea generation in meetings and that she does not have any ideas to share because she doesn't know what the possibilities are. Commissioner Lewis-Smith shared that he is still not sure what the scope of the commission is. Commissioner Castro shared that as volunteers, we can leverage our particular positions and resources to advance projects.



## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

Vice Chair Villasenor shared that the Chair assigns people to committees and that the Committees are designed to do a lot of that work.

Commissioner Andrea Garcia shared that retreats in the past have been really helpful for providing space for idea generation and that hopefully we can have another one soon. She also spoke to capacity, noting that homelessness is the last endpoint where all of these issues intersect and touch. There's prevention, economic development, education, etc. the Commission can be intentional about tackling them. She encouraged Commissioners to think deeply about that and the intersection with systems and think about what of that is interesting and within our capacities if that is something that we want to do.

Vice Chair Villasenor shared that Alexandra will update the report draft reflecting this discussion and solicit one more round of edits and additions in advance of next month's meeting. The estimated date for adoption and submittal is January 21, 2025.

### Presentations

**8.1 LA Metro Commemorative Tap Card, Native American Heritage Month, Tina Backstrom (Senior Director of Transportation; Mayor Karen Bass Office of Infrastructure), Kidada Malloy (Transportation Policy Manager; Mayor Karen Bass, Office of Infrastructure) and Samuel Harper (Senior Manager of Civil Rights Programs, Diversity & Inclusion; LA Metro Office of Civil Rights, Racial Equity & Inclusion)**

Members from the Office of Mayor Karen Bass and Metro had a last minute conflict and could no longer present. The presentation may be rescheduled for a later date. Alexandra handed out the 2024 NAHM Metro Card with commissioners on behalf of Anthony Pico (Office of Mayor Karen Bass.)

### Chair's Report

#### **9.1 General Updates**

This item was tabled until the November 19, 2024 meeting.

#### **9.2 LANAIC Response to Report Back on Proclaiming Native 2023 Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities**

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor shared that the Executive Committee had been unable to meet and that they will meet soon to adopt the draft letter to the Board of Supervisors.

#### **9.3 Establish a Bylaws Ad Hoc and appoint members**

This item was tabled until the November 19, 2024 meeting.





## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

Executive Director

### **10.1 General Updates**

Alexandra shared, per a request made at the September meeting, that she confirmed the FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc and the Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc have sunset.

Alexandra also shared that following the September meeting she conducted some research regarding how to establish mandated County trainings. What she concluded was that the easiest way to establish a Countywide training is via BOS motion

Commissioner Castro shared that she had a conversation with a Department of Public Health employee who shared that they had resources to contract a community vendor for a training. Alexandra asked Commissioner Castro to put her in to contact with her contact.

### Committee & Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

#### **11.1 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee had not met.

#### **11.2 Self Governance Board**

Alexandra Valdes requested that commissioners continue to help share out the [Community Services Block Grant Community Needs Assessment survey](#). She shared that the survey will remain open until end of January and that the LANAIC SGB is hoping for 200 responses.

Commissioner Castro extended gratitude to Commissioner Jackson and former Commissioner Cheri Thomas for braving the heat all day at the Hart of the West Pow Wow to share the assessment. Commissioner John Only A Chief also acknowledged Commissioners Denise Escoto and Vivian Garcia for assisting with the assessment dissemination.

Commissioner Caroline Bhalla shared that the survey was kind of hard and the questions tripped her up when she tried to complete it. She offered to give some recommendations on the survey the next time and noted that it was framed in a deficit perspective.

#### **11.3 Homelessness Committee**

The Homelessness Committee had not met.

#### **11.4 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee**

Commissioner Morales Recalde reminded the body that the NAHM events at LA City Hall are on November 1 and a reception will directly follow the in Council Chambers presentation on the Forecourt. Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez' Office will be providing lunch and Chair Imitates Dog is going to produce the run of show for the reception on the forecourt.



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Alexandra shared that the Councilwoman's Office plans to send out invitations next week and that they requested to the Council President, on multiple occasions, that this presentation be first.

### Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief shared the LANAIC branded shirt he had made. He reminded folks that information on how to order one was shared with the Commission. He shared that his intent with the shirt is to make sure the Commission is visible to community and help folks be able to identify commissioners at events.

Commissioner Bhalla shared that USC will be celebrating Native American Heritage Month and wanted to know if Commissioners would like to table at the event. She shared that she would a notice around with more information.

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde shared that the in Council presentation for Indigenous Peoples Day at LA City Hall in October was the 6th out of the 6 presentations that day. Commissioner Morales Recalde recommended writing a letter to the Council President requesting that going forward the presentation is first. Commissioner Bryce Lewis-Smith volunteered to draft a letter for the Commission to review and discuss at the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Castro shared that Chair Shawn Imitates Dog has been in conversation with the Autry and that the Autry can host the November LANAIC meeting. Alexandra requested that Chrissie put her in contact with folks at the Autry so that she could firm up logistics. Commissioner Lewis-Smith suggested that the meeting be announced on social media. Commissioner Castro also shared that she would like to coordinate a holiday gathering for the LANAIC. Alexandra shared that she would work with Chrissie to arrange.

A brief discussion took place regarding the status of the LANAIC website and social media. Commissioners expressed it can be a big barrier to community to know when we're meeting and what we're talking about.

Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, Department of Arts and Culture) gave a brief overview of County supplemental budget. And suggested that Commissioners look at the Arts Commission's pages on the Department's website as a possible substitute for a full website revamp. Alexandra shared that she will send out the links to the pages and that the Commission can discuss next month.

### Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Not announcements or future agenda items were shared.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2024**

Commission Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Villasenor shared that the next meeting of the LANAIC will be Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 6:30 pm and it may be held at the Autry Museum of the West. He adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

DRAFT

# FY2023-2024 Annual Report

DRAFT



Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission  
500 W. Temple Street, B-79-2  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
LANAIC.lacounty.gov | (213) 738-3241

*The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants — past, present, and emerging — as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the*

*Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians*

*Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council*

*Gabrieleno/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*

### **LANAIC Roster (2024)**

**Chairperson Shawn Imitates-Dog**, Lakota, Community Elected  
**Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor**, Fernandeño Tataviam, Mayoral Appointee  
**Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith**, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Mayoral Appointee (June 17, 2024-Present)  
**Treasurer Denise Escoto**, Northern Cheyenne, Community Elected  
**Caroline Bhalla**, Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Second Supervisorial District Appointee (February 20, 2024-Present)  
**Chrissie Castro**, Navajo, Mayoral Appointee  
**Andrea N. Garcia, M.D.**, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Mayoral Appointee  
**Vivian Garcia**, Cherokee, Mayoral Appointee (June 17, 2024-Present)  
**Dawn Jackson**, Saginaw Chippewa, Community Elected  
**Mona Morales Recalde**, Gabrieleno Tongva, Community Elected  
**John Only A Chief**, Pawnee Nation, Community Elected  
**Rudy Ortega Jr.**, Fernandeño Tataviam, Third Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Ted Tenorio**, Tiguán Nation, First Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Rich Toyon**, Acjachemen, Fifth Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Rene' Williams**, Colville Tribes, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee

### **LANAIC Roster (2023)**

**Chairperson Cheri Thomas**, Quinault/Yurok, Second Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro**, Navajo, Mayoral Appointee  
**Secretary Rene' Williams**, Colville Tribes, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Treasurer Shawn Imitates-Dog**, Lakota, Community Elected  
**Andrea N. Garcia, M.D.**, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Mayoral Appointee  
**Denise Escoto**, Northern Cheyenne, Community Elected  
**Dawn Jackson**, Saginaw Chippewa, Community Elected  
**Mona Morales Recalde**, Gabrieleno Tongva, Community Elected  
**Randall Murphy**, Choctaw/Lakota, Mayoral Appointee (January 1, 2023-April 1, 2023)  
**John Only A Chief**, Pawnee Nation, Community Elected  
**Rudy Ortega Jr.**, Fernandeño Tataviam, Third Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Joseph Quintana**, Kewa Pueblo, Mayoral Appointee (January 1, 2023 – April 17, 2023)  
**Ted Tenorio**, Tiguán Nation, First Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Rich Toyon**, Acjachemen, Fifth Supervisorial District Appointee  
**Mark Villasenor**, Fernandeño Tataviam, Mayoral Appointee  
**Audra Wise**, Zia Pueblo/Laguna Pueblo, (April 25, 2023 – Present)

### **Staff**

**Alexandra Valdes**, Executive Director

## **Mission Statement**

The primary purpose of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) is to improve the health and well-being of the Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community. It accomplishes its purpose through many strategies, including but not limited to increasing the acquisition of funding resources available to the AIAN community, advocating for policy that will improve the health and well-being of AIANs, and gathering and disseminating information about AIANs in Los Angeles County. In performing these functions, the Commission will represent the interests and concerns of AIAN of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, gender identities, and social circumstances.

## **Duties & Responsibilities**

The Commission interprets Ordinance 11409 § 3.42.110 to mean that the duties and functions of the Commission are to:

- 1.** Promote the health and well-being of AIAN in Los Angeles.
- 2.** To advocate for the development of funding resources and programs to serve urban AIANs and AIAN organizations.
- 3.** To advocate for legislation and policy favorable to urban AIANs;
- 4.** To research, prepare, and disseminate information about AIAN affairs, including but not limited to collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies.
- 5.** To advise and collaborate with non-AIAN community organizations and private agencies working for the concerns of AIAN people.
- 6.** To assist and coordinate collaboration among federal, state, county, and city agencies, and with AIAN agencies and organizations.
- 7.** To foster pride among AIANs and raise visibility of AIAN culture among Los Angeles City and County residents.
- 8.** To educate the public about the accurate history and contemporary issues of Tribes in Los Angeles and California, and center Los Angeles Tribes and Tribal Members.
- 9.** To engage and understand by means of conferences and public hearings conditions which affect the health and well-being of AIANs.
- 10.** To develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor and City Council that address the health and well-being of AIANs in Los Angeles.
- 11.** To advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, the City Council, and the departments and agencies of these respective governments, and/or other organizations and institutions on matters involving the health and well-being of AIANs in Los Angeles.

## Historical Background

On June 25, 1976, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and City of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley signed an ordinance establishing the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) at the Los Angeles Civic Mall, which is now Grand Park. The establishment of the LANAIC came at the advocacy efforts of the City and County's American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. For over 45 years, the LANAIC has uplifted and advocated for the concerns and needs of the AIAN community, the largest of any county in the U.S. The LANAIC is comprised of five members appointed by the LA County Board of Supervisors, five appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and five elected by Los Angeles County's AIAN community through elections held every 4 years by the LANAIC.

In the early 1990s the Board of Supervisors established the LANAIC's Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB). The LANAIC SGB is an eight member body that advises and supports the Board of Supervisors administering the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-aside (CSAIBG) program. CSAIBG funding is contracted to subrecipient agencies to provide critical poverty alleviating services to AIAN individuals and families living at or below 200% Federal Poverty Line. In 2021 the CSAIBG dollars were successfully leveraged to secure \$500,000 in annual FY 21-22, FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 County Care First Community Investment funding to address homelessness and housing insecurity experienced by the AIAN population. In addition to administering two programs that provide direct services to LAC residents, the work of the LANAIC has expanded to meet the evolving directives and priorities of the Board of Supervisors and City of LA's Mayor and City Council.

Since 1976 the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB have worked on a variety of projects and achieved many accomplishments. Below are some of the significant past accomplishments of the two bodies in chronological order:

**June 20, 1977** – The LANAIC supported the creation of the Indian Health Services Liaison Officer in the County Department of Health Services.

**March 6, 1988** – Steven L. A. Stallings, Chairperson of the LANAIC was quoted in the Los Angeles Times' article, "Back to Their Roots for Retirement: Aging Indians Finding They Can Go Home Again".

**1993** – The LANAIC SGB, in partnership with the County Board of Supervisors, became an eligible Community Action Agency (CAA) and began receiving and administering Community Service Block Grant Native American set aside funds (CSAIBG).

**April 15, 2002** – The LANAIC supported AB-2115, a bill to ban all Native American mascots from public schools in California.

**June 9, 2004** - The LANAIC supported AB-858 California Racial Mascots Act: athletic team names and mascots.



**September 30, 2004** – The LANAIC supported SB-18 Traditional tribal cultural places.

**2006** – The City of Los Angeles established November as American Indian Heritage Month and began partnering with the LANAIC to develop programming for the month.

**2009 to 2021**– The LANAIC partnered with San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to provide tickets for Native youth and their families to attend professional sports Native American Heritage Appreciation Nights.

**March 2012** – The LANAIC discovered that Native youth were being administered psychotropic medication while in foster care without the knowledge of their tribe or relatives and successfully fought to stop the practice in Los Angeles County. The LANAIC then worked with national Native organizations to have the Psychotropic Medication to American Indian Youth amendment added to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

**2012 – 2016** – The LANAIC in partnership with UCLA’s American Indian Studies Center, the California Wellness Foundation, and the American Indian Community Council (AICC) developed a series of policy briefs that analyzed and reported on 2010 US Census data. These policy briefs built upon this past work and included a comparative study of Los Angeles AIAN population trends. All four of the policy briefs addressed the Status of AIAN in Los Angeles, analyzing (1) population changes; (2) economic indicators post-Great Recession; (3) health insurance coverage; and (4) labor. The LANAIC hosted the Urban Indian Roundtable to discuss the findings of the policy briefs.

**November 2014** – The LANAIC was heavily involved in the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE) – the first-ever school environment listening tour.

**2015** – The LANAIC advocated against the sainthood of Junipero Serra.

**November 13, 2015** – The City of Los Angeles Arts, Parks, and River Committee passed Indigenous Peoples Day (Motion File No. 15-1343)

**November 13, 2015** – The City of Los Angeles Arts, Parks, and River Committee passed the Native American Locations/Report on History and Cultural Impact (Motion File No. 15-1341)

**September 2016** – The LANAIC helped organize the community in support of the Los Angeles City Council motion to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and against the Dakota Access Pipeline project. The LANAIC actively worked with and supported the Oglala and Sicangu Lakota, and other successful efforts to convince then President Obama of the Pipeline’s dangers.

**October 5, 2016** – With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several meetings, the County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations voted to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

**November 2016** - The LANAIC hosted the First Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**August 30, 2017**– With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several hearings, the Los Angeles City Council passed a motion creating Indigenous Peoples Day as an official City holiday, to be observed on the second Monday of each October.

**October 3, 2017** – With the strong urging and vocal support of the LANAIC, including testifying at several hearings, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion removing Columbus Day as an official County holiday and replacing it with Indigenous Peoples Day.

**November 2017** - The LANAIC hosted the 2nd Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**September 25, 2018** - The LANAIC hosted the Community Forum on Native American Homelessness at the California Endowment.

**October 8, 2018** - The City and County of Los Angeles celebrated the inaugural Indigenous Peoples Day (IPD) as a recognized City and County holiday in Los Angeles replacing Columbus Day. The LANAIC in partnership with Council Member Mitch O'Farrell planned, coordinated, and executed the inaugural celebration at Grand Park and City Hall.

**November 10, 2018** – The Columbus statue located in Grand Park was removed. The removal of the statue was the result of sustained action by the Los Angeles City and County's Native American and Indigenous communities.

**November 17, 2018** - The LANAIC hosted the 3rd Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**December 2018** – The LANAIC conducted key informant interviews with community members with lived homeless experience.

**Spring 2019** - The LANAIC SGB collaborated with the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI) to develop and administer two community needs assessment survey tools for Los Angeles County's AIAN community and service providers.

**March 9, 2019** – The LANAIC co-sponsored the Center for Health Equity's American Indian and Alaska Native Community in Focus event on March 9, 2019 at the California State Long Beach University.

**March 14, 2019** - In partnership with several community-based and local government organizations the LANAIC released a preliminary report entitled Understanding Native American Homelessness in Los Angeles.

**March 2019** – The LANAIC launched the AIAN Homelessness Portal on the LANAIC website.

**May 13, 2019** - The LANAIC co-sponsored LA County Chief Sustainability Office's Tribal & Indigenous Communities Feedback Session.

**June 1, 2019** - The LANAIC co-sponsored the LA River Master Plan's Native American Community Discussion.

**October 13, 2019** – The LANAIC, in partnership with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell planned, coordinated, and executed the Second Annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Grand Park and LA City Hall. The annual event was an opportunity to uplift the true history of the Los Angeles Basin and push back against the erasure of Indigenous Peoples, including AIAN peoples.

**November 2019** – In partnership with the Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the LANAIC produced the 3rd Annual Native American Heritage Month Bridge Gallery. The 2019 gallery featured eight professional LA based community artists from tribes including Kumeyaay, Apache, Ojibwe, Tejon and Chehallis. Commissioner and artist Dawn Jackson curated the event.

**November 1, 2019** – The LANAIC and Councilmember O'Farrell jointly recognized the 2019 Native American Heritage Month honorees at Los Angeles City Hall:

- Spirit of Tradition Saginaw Grant (Sac and Fox Nation)
- Spirit of Creativity Randy Reinholz (Choctaw)
- Spirit of Community Omerlene Thompson (Gila River)

**November 5, 2019** – The County Board of Supervisors honored the 2019 NAHM honorees in a presentation given by Supervisor Solis in the Board Room.

**November 16, 2019** – The LANAIC hosted the 4th Annual LANAIC Pow Wow at Grand Park.

**January 2020** – LANAIC Homelessness Ad hoc Committee Chair Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presented on the LANAIC's homelessness work at a workshop at the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) conference.

**March 23, 2020** – In partnership with several AIAN community-based organizations, the LANAIC hosted a community webinar on COVID-19 that was livestreamed to Facebook. As a result of this positive effort, participating organizations expressed an interest to continue to meet in order to work in coordination throughout the duration of the pandemic. As a result, the LANAIC created the ad hoc committee Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group.

**March 23, 2020** – The Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group began meeting every other week throughout the pandemic and through a collective effort has supported LAC's AIAN community in many ways, including food and essential items distributions, a video PSA, culturally supportive educational resources, advocacy efforts, two pop-up vaccine events and numerous partnerships and linkages to resources.

**April 2020** – The LANAIC created and launched a COVID Resources page on the LANAIC website (<https://lanaic.lacounty.gov/covid-19-resources/>). The page shares resources broken down by offerings at AIAN Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Housing & Utilities, Education & Childcare, Health & Mental Health, Employees & Employers, and Food.

**April 13, 2020** - The LANAIC submitted a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors for the Ensuring Collection of Full Racial and Ethnic Data of COVID-19 Patients throughout Los Angeles County Board Motion. Included in the letter was a set of recommendations advocating for proper data collection for the AIAN community to ensure the disparate effects that COVID-19 was having on the AIAN community were accurately captured. The LANAIC's letter of support and set of recommendations were referenced and included in the Department of Public Health's report back to the Board entitled Report on LA County COVID-19 Data Disaggregated by Race and Ethnicity.

**June 2020** – LANAIC Homelessness Ad hoc Committee Chair Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presented on the LANAIC's homelessness work at a webinar presentation in conjunction with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and the National Coalition to End Urban Indigenous Homelessness.

**July 2020** – FNX, First Nations Experience, aired the AIAN COVID PSA that the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group produced.

**August 2020** – KABC7 aired the AIAN COVID PSA that the LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group produced.

**August 18, 2020** - In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LA City Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell the LANAIC hosted the Native American Connections Webinar. The webinar was an opportunity for community members and City and County officials to learn from Native American Connections (NAC) and the ways in which they work with their local Continuum of Care.

**September 25, 2020** - In partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, LA City Mayor's Office and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, the LANAIC hosted the second Native American housing webinar. This webinar served as an opportunity for community members and City and County officials to learn from Chief Seattle Club and the ways in which they have developed culturally supportive housing in Seattle, WA.

**October 10, 2020** - In observance of Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 the LANAIC partnered with the LA County Library and the LA County Department of Arts & Culture to host a virtual reading and discussion of Waa'aka': The Bird Who Fell in Love with the Sun with author Cindi Alvitre (Tongva) and illustrator Carly Lake.

**October 12, 2020** - The LANAIC hosted a virtual Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration. The virtual event featured remarks from Chairwoman Chrissie Castro (Navajo) and LA City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte), a land acknowledgement from Julia Bogany (Tongva), a Tataviam welcome song from Vice Chairperson Rudy Ortega Jr.

and his son Noe, presentations from Marcos Aguilar (Masewalli Mexicano), Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) and Asena Filihia (Tongan) and a musical performance by singer Kelly Caballero (Tongva).

**November 2020** – The LANAIC, the Board of Supervisors and LA City Councilmember O’Farrell jointly recognized the 2020 Native American Heritage Month honorees during a virtual ceremony streamed to Facebook on November 7, 2020. The ceremony was part of a larger NAHM 2-part virtual program. The second virtual was streamed live to Facebook on November 21, 2020.

- Julia Bogany (Tongva) - Spirit of Tradition
- Bird Runningwater (Cheyenne and Mescalero Apache) - Spirit of Creativity
- Keith Vielle (Blackfeet) - Spirit of Community

**November 21, 2020 – January 4, 2021** - Tongva artist Mercedes Dorame created a temporary art installation in Grand Park, to coincide with the programming of Memory is in the Present, a program supported by the LANAIC and Department of Arts & Culture partnership. The artwork was available for viewing from November 21, 2020 – January 4, 2021 and was located in the second block of the park between Grand Ave and Hill Street.

**Spring 2021** - The Executive Director of the LANAIC and the LANAIC SGB submitted a proposal for Measure J funding to enhance and expand housing insecurity and homelessness services provided through the Community Services Block Grant Native American Set-Aside (CSAIBG) funds program. As a result of strong community advocacy, the proposal for \$500,000 was included in the Measure J Re-Imagine LA Advisory Committee: Spending Plan Recommendations for Year One (Fiscal Year 2021-2022).

**May 1, 2021** – The LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group partnered with Kedren Health Centers and Supervisor Solis to host the first of two pop-up vaccine events at LA State Historic Park. The events were targeted at LAC’s AIAN and Indigenous communities and provided a safe and supportive environment to receive a COVID vaccination. Food boxes, diapers, wipes and other items were distributed at the event as well. Two local Native artists performed during the event.

**May 29, 2021** – The LANAIC and Natives in LA COVID Response Working Group partnered with Kedren Health Centers and Supervisor Solis to host the second of two pop-up vaccine events at LA State Historic Park. The events were targeted at LAC’s AIAN and Indigenous communities and provided a safe and supportive environment to receive a COVID vaccination. Food boxes, diapers, wipes and other items were distributed at the event as well.

**October 5, 2021** – The Board of Supervisors adopted the Indigenous Peoples Day 2021 - Development of Land Acknowledgement and Land Access Policies motion. The motion secured funding to support the participation, knowledge, and emotional and mental labor of tribal participants throughout a process to develop a Countywide land acknowledgment policy, protocol and toolkit and document harms inflicted by the County on local tribes and people. The funding also supported the hiring of a facilitator and project management team. The LANAIC in partnership with the Department of Arts & Culture ran a competitive RFP process to procure a consultant team. The County entered into an agreement with a consultant on February 3, 2022, to facilitate engagement with tribal leaders and members of the AIAN community to complete this work.

**October 2021** – The LANAIC collaborated with LA County Library’s Cultural Resources Centers (American Indian, Asian Pacific, Black, and Chicano) and Pride Committee to develop Indigenous Peoples’ Day booklists for the education and enjoyment of LAC residents. The intent of the 4 booklists (Kids, Teens, Adults & Adults with a focus on California Native Peoples) was to encourage people to consider and rethink their assumptions about Indigenous history and literature and remind them about the power of story to create social and personal change (Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day – LA County Library).

**October 14, 2021 & January 26, 2022** - In June 2021 the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the Proclaim June 25, 2021, As the 45th Anniversary of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and Envision the Commission’s Future motion. The motion directed the LANAIC to work with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to develop a multi-part DIALogue series to increase awareness and understanding of County employees of the LAC AIAN population.

The LANAIC Executive Director produced the following two events that were video recorded and are available to all County staff via LearningNet: Combating Erasure: A Conversation with Native American Leaders (October 14, 2021) and Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act (January 26, 2022).

**November 2021** - In 2021 the LANAIC selected three NAHM honorees on behalf of the City and County:

- Angie Behrens (Gabrieleno Tongva) - Spirit of Tradition
- Tazbah Rose Chavez (Nüümü, Diné and San Carlos Apache) - Spirit of Creativity
- Tracy M. Ball (Diné) - Spirit of Community

The LANAIC, the Board of Supervisors, and LA City Councilmember O’Farrell jointly recognized the 2021 NAHM honorees during a virtual ceremony streamed to Facebook

on November 13, 2021. The virtual program included host Krista Hazelwood (Seminole), a welcome song and land welcoming given by Rudy Ortega Jr. (Fernandeno Tataviam) and Mark Villasenor (Fernandeno Tataviam), remarks on the impact of the COVID pandemic on LA's AIAN community delivered by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara), an acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by Native Veterans provided by Keith Vielle (Blackfeet), the 2021 NAHM honoree program presented by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (Wyandotte) which included NAHM Honoree acceptance videos, and videos from numerous elected officials including Board Supervisors Hilda Solis, Holly Mitchell, Sheila Kuehl, Janice Hahn and Kathryn Barger.

**January 2022** – The LANAIC and LANAIC SGB transferred from the former Department of Workforce Development, Aging & Community Services to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors.

**February 2022 – April 2023** - The LANAIC was selected by the Department of Arts & Culture as the 2022 host department for the 2022 Creative Strategist-Artist in Residence (Creative Strategist). Jacob Pratt (Dakota) was selected through a competitive solicitation process and began his residency with the LANAIC in February 2022. His residency concluded in April 2023.

During the first phase of his residency, he embarked on a listening tour, meeting with some of the LANAIC's 15 commissioners and others in the AIAN community. Through these conversations, an idea began to take shape: to use film as a medium to raise awareness and celebrate the diversity of the Native American community in LA County.

On April 22, 2023 Jacob debuted his film, Erasure, on the Los Angeles City College campus.

**June 21, 2022** - On June 21, 2022 the LANAIC Executive Director submitted and distributed the Report Back on Proclaim June 25, 2021, As The 45th Anniversary Of The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission And Envision The Commission's Future And Acknowledge And Apologize For The Historic Mistreatment Of California Native Americans By Los Angeles County (Item No. 61-A, Agenda Of June 22, 2021, And Item No. 16, Agenda Of July 13, 2021).

**August 31, 2022** - The California Legislature approved passage of ACR 177 (Bloom/Ramos) removing the "Christopher Columbus" designation on the California segment of the I-10, reversing a previous legislative resolution adopted in 1976. The resolution reflects another significant state and local effort to promote cultural sensitivity.

The resolution requires that if there are any efforts to replace the removed signage, these efforts should involve public input and feedback, including input and participation from the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the LANAIC.

On October 13, 2020 the County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Office, in partnership with the Los Angeles City/County

Native American Indian Commission and the Department of Public Works to collaborate with County partners in the state legislature and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for the removal of the Christopher Columbus Transcontinental Highway designation of the Interstate-10 (I-10) freeway and any signage.

**October 2022** – The LANAIC and LANAIC SGB transferred from the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors to the Department of Arts and Culture.

**October 10, 2022** - The LANAIC in partnership with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell hosted the 2022 Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Grand Park. The 4-hour celebration featured performances by the Asosal Ballet Folklorico de El Salvador, Manitoba Metis Federation Red River Metis Jiggers & Fiddlers, Intertribal Dancers and OneDrumm, screenings of Saging the World, the trailer of Spirit Rangers and One World (We Are One), a vendor marketplace and food trucks.

**October 18, 2022** - The LANAIC acted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they adopt the draft land acknowledgment statement developed by the Tribal Planning Group. The Board of Supervisors adopted the land acknowledgment on November 1, 2023.

**November 2022** - The LANAIC selected two 2022 Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) honorees. LA City Council and the LA County Board of Supervisors also honored the NAHM honorees.

- The Phoenix Family (Tohono O'odham) - Spirit of Tradition
- Dr. Carrie Johnson (Wahpeton Dakota) - Spirit of Community

The LA County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November NAHM via Board Motion at their November 1, 2022 meeting.

The LANAIC partnered with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs (LA DCA) to host a celebration of the 2022 NAHM honorees. The celebration took place at Clockshop on November 17, 2022, and included performances from Raye Zaragoza, LA Pow Wow dancers and a community reception. The LANAIC also collaborated with LA DCA to develop a 2022 Native American Heritage Month e-book.

**December 6 & 7, 2022** - Every 4 years the LANAIC holds County-wide elections for the 5 community-elected seats on the Commission. Elections were held on December 6 and 7, 2022 at three polling sites, the Department of Mental Health American Indian Counseling Center, Pukuu Cultural Community Services and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. The LANAIC partnered with the Registrar & Recorder/County Clerk to utilize secure ballot boxes.

8 candidates ran for the 5 community-elected seats. John Only a Chief, Denise Escoto, Shawn Imitates-Dog, Mona Morales Recalde and Dawn Jackson were elected to serve four-year terms beginning January 17, 2023.



**February 2023** - The LANAIC SGB in partnership with its home department Arts and Culture executed a contract with Center for Non-Profit Management (CNM) to develop a strategic plan. This strategic planning document reflects the work of LANAIC SGB in charting the board's direction for the next 3-4 years by developing its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan. The priorities align with its vision, values, and purpose to address reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people low incomes to become self-sufficient. The strategic plan also fulfills compliance requirements of CSBG/CSAIBG Organizational Standards Category 6, Strategic Planning.

The 5-month strategic planning process included organizational review and planning, strategic planning interviews and strategic planning sessions with LANAIC SGB members and the developed of strategic plan documents. CNM presented the draft strategic plan to the LANAIC SGB at their June 21, 2023 meeting. The LANAIC SGB took action to adopt the strategic plan at their August 15, 2023 meeting.

**March 11, 2023** - The County of Los Angeles issued a pursuit of support for AB1703: California Indian Education Act. In 2022 the LANAIC recommended to the Board of Supervisors, by ways of the State Legislative Agenda process, that they adopt a number of policy positions including "support proposals that promote communication and collaboration between local education agencies and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes." As a result of the adoption of this policy position, the County was able to issue a pursuit of support for AB 1703 and advocate for the bill. AB 1703 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 23, 2023.

**March 21, 2023** - The LANAIC adopted proposed responses to the Office of Management & Budget's (OMB) request for comments regarding the revision SPD15 - Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and requested that Board Chair Janice Hahn transmit a letter to OMB supporting these adopted responses. The Board of Supervisors acted at their April 18, 2023 to send a four-signature letter to OMB expressing Los Angeles County's support of American Indian and Alaska Native data best-practices in OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15. The 4-signature letter was transmitted to OMB on April 24, 2023.

**March 21, 2023** - The LANAIC acted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors take a supportive position on AB 776 - 210 Interstate Highway Renaming. On April 18, 2023 the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Executive Office, through the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch, to advocate in support of Assembly Bill 776, including sending a five-signature letter in support of the bill to Assemblymember Chris Holden. AB 776 was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023.

## **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

As an advisory Commission to the Board of Supervisors, the LANAIC understands that it is charged to ensure equity, diversity and inclusion among the constituents it serves. As such in the Summer of 2019 the LANAIC amended its bylaws to contain more inclusive language, specifically in the Purpose section where it states:

*The primary purpose of the Commission is to improve the health and well-being of the Los Angeles AIAN community. It accomplishes its purpose through many strategies, including but not limited to increasing the acquisition of funding resources available to the AIAN community, advocating for policy that will improve the health and well-being of AIANs, and gathering and disseminating information about AIANs in Los Angeles County. In performing these functions, the Commission will represent the interests and concerns of AIAN of all tribal and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, gender identities, and social circumstances.*

Currently, the bylaws do not include explicit language that promotes zero tolerance in relation to racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences.

The LANAIC strives to create an environment at all meetings that allows members, public and stakeholders, to share and express openly their ideas, opinions and beliefs. This is done so by the LANAIC opening meetings with an invocation, personal introductions by the Commissioners and with the Chair inviting the public and guests to introduce themselves. This approach creates a welcoming, respectful, and inviting environment.

## FY24-25 Work Plan

<b>Project:</b> Prepare and Submit FY25-26 Budget Request Letters to LA City and LA County	
<b>Purpose:</b> Ensure American Indian and Alaska Native community needs are reflected in the LA County FY25-26 budget and the LA City FY25-26 budget.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Draft FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	September 11, 2024
Draft FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	September 11, 2024
Discuss FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	September 17, 2024
Discuss FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	September 17, 2024
Adopt FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	October 15, 2024
Adopt FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	October 15, 2024
Submit FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	October 16, 2024
Submit FY25-26 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	October 16, 2024

<b>Project:</b> LA City/County Native American Indian Commission Retreat	
<b>Purpose:</b> Create a space where Commissioners can connect with one and other, and determine goals and the direction of the Commission's work.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Establish an LANAIC Retreat Planning Ad Hoc	November 19, 2024 or January 21, 2025
Develop a draft plan including date, time, location, and agenda by LANAIC Retreat Planning Ad Hoc	TBD
LANAIC Retreat Planning Ad Hoc Committee Report to LANAIC	TBD
LANAIC Adoption of Retreat Plan	TBD
LANAIC Retreat	TBD

<b>Project:</b> Review and Update LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws	
<b>Purpose:</b> Ensure that LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws are in alignment with County policy and State law, and clearly and accurately represent the Commission role, function and processes.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Establish a LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee	November 19, 2024
Establish a LANAIC SGB Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee	November 19, 2024
County Counsel Review of Existing LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws	December 1, 2024
Commission Discussion of Draft Bylaws Developed by LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee	January 21, 2025 LANAIC Meeting or LANAIC Retreat

LANAIC SGB Discussion of Draft Bylaws Developed by LANAIC SGB Ad Hoc Committee	January 21, 2025 LANAIC Meeting
County Counsel Review of Revised LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws	TBD
Commission Adoption of Revised Bylaws	TBD
LANAIC SGB Adoption of Revised Bylaws	TBD
Submission of Adopted LANAIC Bylaws to the State of California Department of Community Services & Development.	TBD

<b>Project:</b> American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness Advocacy	
<b>Purpose:</b> Increase LA County and LA City resources to address American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness in LA County.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Develop a draft FY24-25 communications plan including proposed letters to electeds as well as possible presentations (Homelessness Committee)	January 21, 2025
Develop talking points for CEO Homelessness Initiative dedicated staff person (Homelessness Committee)	January 21, 2025
Adopt draft FY24-25 communications plan including proposed letters to elected as well as possible presentations	February 18, 2025

<b>Project: LANAIC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archival Project</b>	
<b>Goal/Objective</b>	
Prepare for the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commission by documenting and archiving the history and past achievements of the Commission.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Establish a 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archival Project Ad Hoc Committee	November 19, 2024 or January 21, 2025
Development of a draft project plan by 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archival Project Ad Hoc Committee	TBD
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Archival Project Ad Hoc Committee Report to LANAIC	TBD

<b>Project: 2025 Native American Heritage Month</b>	
<b>Goal/Objective</b>	
Provide recommendations to LA County and LA City on the 2025 Native American Heritage Month theme, NAHM honorees and programming.	
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Establish a 2025 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee	January 21, 2025
Planning Meetings with hosting LA City Council Office	February 2025-November 2025
Submission of Commissioner 2025 NAHM theme nominations	March 2025
Selection of 2025 NAHM Theme	April 15, 2025

## **FY23-24 Accomplishments**

### **Meetings with LA City Mayor Karen Bass**

On September 19, 2023 LA City Mayor Karen Bass attended the monthly LANAIC meeting. This marked the first time a sitting Mayor of LA City attended an LANAIC meeting. During this historic meeting the LANAIC was able to share about the historical background of the LANAIC, issues that the American Indian/Alaska Native community is facing and the current funding, programs, and partnerships.

In December 2023 the 5 LANAIC mayoral appointed Commissioners met with Mayor Bass at LA City Hall.

### **Feather Alert Town Hall**

On September 26, 2023 the LANAIC, in partnership with the California Legislative Native American Caucus and the California Native Vote Project, held a town hall to raise awareness of AB 1314 Feather Alert at the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

A Feather Alert is a resource available to law enforcement agencies investigating the suspicious or unexplainable disappearance of an indigenous woman or indigenous person. The Feather Alert will provide immediate information to the public to aid in the swift recovery of missing Indigenous Persons.

### **2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day**

For 2023 Indigenous Peoples' Day (IPD) the LANAIC collaborated with the LA County Library's Cultural Resource Centers (American Indian, Asian Pacific, Black, and Chicano) and Pride Committee to develop IPD booklists for the education and enjoyment of LA County residents.

## **FY24-25 Budget Request Letters**

At the October 17, 2023 meeting, the LANAIC adopted FY24-25 budget request letters to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Bass. The request to the Board included funding for a dedicated position in CEO Homelessness Initiative to address AIAN homelessness and funding for County Counsel to retain tribal Indian law expertise. The request to Mayor Bass included funding support for the CEO HI position as well as ongoing funding to for Indigenous Peoples' Day programming.

### **2023 Native American Heritage Month**

LA City Council and the LA County Board of Supervisors honored the three 2023 NAHM honorees selected by the LANAIC:

- Jimi Castillo (Tongva/Acjachemen) - Spirit of Tradition Posthumous
- Robert Javier (Cherokee/Sac & Fox) - Spirit of Community

- Chris “Spanto” Printup (Cherokee/Sac & Fox) - Spirit of Creativity Posthumous

LA City Council proclaimed NAHM on November 1, 2023 and honored the NAHM honorees. The in Chambers presentation was followed by a community reception at the forecourt coordinated by the LANAIC. LANAIC also collaborated with LA City Department DCA to develop a 2022 Native American Heritage Month e-book.

The LA County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November NAHM via Board Motion at their November 7, 2023 meeting.

### **2024 Native American Heritage Month**

At the April 16, 2024 meeting the LANAIC selected *Weaving Together a Community of Traditions, Cultures & Respect* as the 2024 Native American Heritage Month theme to recommend to LA City and LA County.

### **Addressing AIAN Homelessness**

Throughout FY23-24 the LANAIC continued to advocate to City and County elected officials to dedicate resources and funding to adequately address the growing homelessness crisis impacting the AIAN community.

At the September 19, 2023 meeting the LANAIC adopted a letter to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, requesting a sustainability plan following the end of Watson Consulting Group’s contract with CEO Homelessness Initiative focused on addressing American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness. Additionally, the LANAIC adopted an AIAN Homelessness Infographic. The infographic was released on February 5, 2024.

At the October 17, 2023 meeting the LANAIC adopted the content of the “Advancing Indigenous Housing Rights in Los Angeles: International Best Practice and a Legal Framework” report. The designed report was released in August 5, 2024.

At the November 21, 2023 meeting the LANAIC adopted a letter to the LA County Homelessness Initiative making recommendations on how to optimize the continued work to address AIAN Homelessness.

At the May 21, 2024 meeting the LANAIC approved Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia to present at the June 13, 2024 County of LA Homelessness Policy Board Deputies Meeting. On June 13, 2024 Commissioner Dr. Garcia provided presented at the meeting. Her presentation included information on achievements to date and ongoing requests.

### **100 Years After The Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle To Guarantee Voting Rights To Native Americans Exhibit**

The LANAIC partnered with Supervisor Hilda L Solis to bring the *100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native*



*Americans* exhibit to Los Angeles County. The traveling exhibit curated by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress was on display at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for two weeks in June 2024. The exhibited helped raise awareness and understanding about this critical part of American history

### **HR 6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023 Discussion**

At the May 21, 2024 meeting the LANAIC took action requesting that County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Affairs (CEO-LAIR) review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023. At the June 18, 2024 meeting the LANAIC reviewed and discussed the CEO-LAIR memo on a possible opposition position to HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023.

### **Framework to Establish a Land Acknowledgment for the Los Angeles City Council**

Per LA City Council Resolution, the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department engaged with and sought the LANAIC's support of a draft land acknowledgment for LA City. At the May 21, 2024 meeting the LANAIC took action to oppose the land acknowledgment and recommended 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.

### **Support for LA City Council Designating Areas of West Los Angeles Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts**

At the June 18, 2024 meeting the LANAIC adopted a letter requesting that LA City Council designate areas of West Los Angeles Sawtelle as Indigenous Cultural Districts.

### **Improving the LANAIC Website**

At the May 21, 2024 meeting the LANAIC adopted a draft letter requesting that the Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission.

### **LANAIC Self Governance Board**

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that State of California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) secure a Community Action Plan (CAP), including a Community Needs Assistance (CAN) from each agency that receives CSBG funding.

Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act directs that receipt of a CAP is a condition to receive funding. Section 12747(a) of the California Government Code requires the CAP to assess poverty-related needs, available resources, feasible goals, and strategies that

yield program priorities consistent with standards of effectiveness established for the program.

To inform the 2026-2027 Community Action Plan, due to CSD by April 30, 2024, the SGB developed an updated Community Needs Assessment survey tool in the Spring of 2024 and began disseminating the survey in late FY23-24. The web-based survey will remain open through January 2025.

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## **Ongoing-Long Term Projects**

*Provide any ongoing or long-term projects that the Commission is continuing to work on.*

- Advocating for the County to establish an Office of Tribal Affairs.
- Advocating for resources to address American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness.

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## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

**Chairperson**  
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG  
*Lakota*

**Vice Chairperson**  
MARK VILLASEÑOR  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

**Secretary**  
BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH  
*Citizen Potawatomi Nation*

**Treasurer**  
DENISE ESCOTO  
*Northern Cheyenne*

CAROLINE BHALLA  
*Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*

CHRISSIE CASTRO  
*Navajo*

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

VIVIAN GARCIA  
*Cherokee*

DAWN JACKSON  
*Saginaw Chippewa*

MONA MORALES RECALDE  
*Gabrieleno Tongva*

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF  
*Pawnee Nation*

RUDY ORTEGA JR.  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

TED TENORIO  
*Tiguan Nation*

RICH TOYON  
*Acjachemen*

RENE WILLIAMS  
*Colville Tribes*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
*Executive Director*

January 21, 2025

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Krekorian,

I am writing on behalf of Los Angeles' Native American, Alaska Native, and Indigenous Communities to respectfully request that in future celebrations of Indigenous Holidays and Celebrations the City Council honor our Native American community by ensuring that Indigenous-centered ceremonies and recognitions are prioritized at the top of the agenda. As the original stewards of the Land, we deserve to be honored first.

The Commission deeply appreciates Councilmember Hernandez's invitation to our community to gather for a Council Presentation recognizing and honoring Indigenous Peoples Day. However we were deeply disappointed to find out our presentation was \_\_\_\_\_ on the agenda. As a result, our elders, youth and community members—who gathered on their ancestral lands to be honored — were made to wait through unrelated agenda items before being recognized.

The ordering of events and celebrations holds deep cultural significance for our communities, often reflecting generational protocols of respect and responsibility. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day at the top of the agenda would have more appropriately honored our community as the First Peoples of North America and the Lands we now call Los Angeles.

I urge the Council to make this simple yet powerful change in future observances of Indigenous Celebrations and Holidays, including but not limited to Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month, ensuring that our community, particularly our elders, are not asked to wait to be recognized. This respectful scheduling would deepen the City's celebration of Indigenous heritage and affirm its dedication to honoring our communities with the dignity and prominence we deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your ongoing efforts to celebrate and acknowledge the Indigenous Communities of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

LANAIC



## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

**Chairperson**  
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG  
*Lakota*

**Vice Chairperson**  
MARK VILLASEÑOR  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*

**Secretary**  
BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH  
*Citizen Potawatomi Nation*

**Treasurer**  
DENISE ESCOTO  
*Northern Cheyenne*

CAROLINE BHALLA  
*Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin*

CHRISSIE CASTRO  
*Navajo*

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

VIVIAN GARCIA  
*Cherokee*

DAWN JACKSON  
*Saginaw Chippewa*

MONA MORALES RECALDE  
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*Tiguan Nation*

RICH TOYON  
*Acjachemen*

RENE WILLIAMS  
*Colville Tribes*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
*Executive Director*

January 21, 2025

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (Commission) to respectfully request that in future celebrations of Indigenous holidays and celebrations the LA City Council honor our Indigenous communities by ensuring that Indigenous-centered ceremonies and recognitions are prioritized at the top of the agenda. As the original stewards of the Land, we deserve to be honored first.

The Commission deeply appreciates Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez's invitation to our community to gather for a Council Presentation recognizing and honoring Indigenous Peoples Day. However, we were deeply disappointed to find out our presentation was the 6<sup>th</sup> and final presentation on the agenda. As a result, elders, youth and community members—who gathered on their ancestral lands to be honored—were made to wait before being recognized.

The ordering of events and celebrations holds deep cultural significance for our communities, often reflecting generational protocols of respect and responsibility. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day at the top of the agenda would have more appropriately honored our community as the First Peoples of North America and the Lands we now call Los Angeles.

The LANAIC urges you as Council President to make this simple yet powerful change in future observances of Indigenous celebrations and holidays, including but not limited to Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month, as well as to encourage your successor to do the same. This respectful scheduling would deepen the City's celebration of Indigenous heritage and affirm its dedication to honoring our communities with the dignity and prominence we deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your ongoing efforts to celebrate and acknowledge the Indigenous communities of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

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



## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

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**Chairperson**  
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG  
*Lakota*

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MARK VILLASEÑOR  
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*Colville Tribes*

ALEXANDRA VALDES  
*Executive Director*

November 4, 2024

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

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

As members of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), we are writing to formally express our position regarding the July 16, 2024, report supporting the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs. While we strongly support this initiative and the associated recommendation to increase staffing to better serve Native American communities in Los Angeles, we must respectfully reject other elements of the analysis and proposals contained in the report.

The creation of the Office of Tribal Affairs is an essential step in ensuring the proper representation and inclusion of our community in county governance. It is critical for advancing tribal sovereignty and addressing the unique needs of Native peoples in Los Angeles. The staffing proposal is another vital component, as it directly impacts the Commission's capacity to engage effectively in the complex issues that face our community. We stand united in our advocacy for these measures, which will enhance our ability to serve Native American peoples in the region.

However, we must express our deep concerns with other recommendations in the report, as well as verbal presentations made by county staff during LANAIC meetings regarding the report, that particularly relate to reconstituting the Commission and detaching from the City of Los Angeles. These recommendations overlook the long history of collaboration and trust we have built with the City, which has been foundational to our advocacy efforts and to the success of the Commission's work since its inception in 1976.

### *Objection to Reconstituting the Commission's Composition*

Reconstituting the Commission threatens to dismantle over four decades of established trust and collaboration, which has been vital in addressing the needs of Native American peoples in Los Angeles. The current structure was intentionally designed to reflect the voices and concerns of our community. Any alteration would undermine our collective impact and disregard the successes the Commission has achieved over the years.

*Objection to Detaching from the City of Los Angeles*

The suggestion to detach from the City of Los Angeles is shortsighted and fails to acknowledge the importance of a unified approach to addressing Native American issues across both jurisdictions. This collaboration has been a cornerstone of our effectiveness, and any move to sever this relationship would only weaken our ability to advocate for the needs of our communities and dilute the progress we have made.

*Misrepresentation of the Commission's Compliance and History*

The report also contains misleading statements regarding the Commission's compliance and historical functioning. We strongly object to the characterization that the Commission has been out of compliance for decades. These claims fail to recognize the cultural, historical, and contextual nuances that have shaped our work and the challenges we face. Furthermore, such assertions diminish the significant contributions the Commission has made to advancing the rights and welfare of Native American peoples in Los Angeles.

*Call for Genuine Partnership and Respect*

We urge you to reconsider these proposals and engage with us in meaningful dialogue. It is essential that any changes to the structure or function of the Commission be made in full consultation with LANAIC and the Native American community we represent. Our self-determination must be respected as we continue to build on our legacy of service to the Native peoples of Los Angeles. As part of our recommendation, we would like any county staff interfacing or reporting on the LANAIC to take an Indian 101, introduction to working with Native American communities, training in order to have a basic understanding of the unique history and issues facing Native American people in Los Angeles. We would also like to engage in dialogue about how to make this training available for all county departments and their staff. Representatives from the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health have indicated their interest and support for this type of training.

In closing, we reiterate our strong support for the establishment of the Office of Tribal Affairs and the staffing increases that will support its mission. We remain committed to working with the City and County in a collaborative and respectful manner to ensure that the voices of Native American peoples are heard and that our communities thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature reads "Shawn Imitates Dog".

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