



## **LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED 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.



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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



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**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.*



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<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.



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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.



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### 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.



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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.



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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.