



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

The September 17, 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 Ted Tenorio provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Heather Rigby shared that Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia is joining virtually under the Just Cause exemption of AB 2449.

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Chrissie Castro
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Bryce Lewis-Smith
John Only A Chief
Ted Tenorio
Rene' Williams

Absent: Caroline Bhalla (Excused)
Dawn Jackson (Excused)
Mona Morales Recalde (Excused)
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Excused)
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director (Virtually)
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
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

Public Comment

Tencha Chavez, the LANAIC Alternate Designee on the Care First Community Investment Advisory Body, provided information about the Thursday, September 19, 2024 CFCI Advisory Body meeting at Magic Johnson Park. At the meeting the CFCI Advisory Body will be voting on recommendations for how the Board of Supervisors should budget the next 12 million dollars in CFCI. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the meeting gradually or in person and shared that she would send Alexandra the meeting flyer.

No items of correspondence were provided.

Action Items

6.1 Adopt absentee excuses

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Rene’ Williams to adopt Commissioners Bhalla, Jackson, Morales Recalde, Ortega Jr., and Toyon’s absentee excuses for the September 17, 2024 meeting. The motion passed.

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

6.2 Approve the August 20, 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 Williams to approve the unapproved August 20, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes with the following revisions:

- In section 10.2 Homelessness Committee edit Housing Policy Summit to Homelessness Policy Research Institute Symposium.
- In section 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 add “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.”



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

The motion passed.

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

6.3 Select a Secretary to fill the current vacancy and serve until January 19, 2026

A roll call vote was taken and Commissioner Bryce Lewis-Smith was selected to serve as the Secretary until January 19, 2026.

	Bryce Lewis-Smith	Mona Morales Recalde	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
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

6.4 Approve letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis requesting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during 2024 Native American Heritage Month

A motion was made by Chair Imitates Dog and seconded by Treasurer Escoto to approve a letter to Supervisor Hilda Solis requesting free access for Native American residents to County parks and museums during 2024 Native American Heritage Month.

The motion passed.

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

Discussion Items

7.1. Discussion of draft letter to Board of Supervisors objecting to the findings of the Report Back on Proclaiming November 2023 as Native American Heritage Month and Investing in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities (Item No. 8, Agenda of November 7, 2023)

Chairperson Imitates Dog facilitated a discussion and invited Commissioners to provide edits to the draft letter that he and Commissioners Castro, Jackson and Ortega Jr. drafted. Commissioner Castro shared that the letter was broad but named support for a County Office of Tribal Affairs Office and opposition to reconstituting the Commission.

Commissioner comments and suggested edits included that the letter did not include mention of the changes to the LANAIC since joining the Department of Arts and Culture, the desire to include explicit language about the need for LA City and LA County to renegotiate the outdated MOU, questions around the use of self-determination and self-governance and its implications, the need to clarify what an Indian 101 training is and the need to be bolder in the ask to the County for required trainings.

Heather Rigby shared that County Counsel reviewed the draft letter as is standard practice, and that Counsel noted that referencing the LANAIC as a self-governing body is inaccurate because it was established by the Board of Supervisors and so is subject to County policy and governance. Heather Rigby also shared County Counsel's recommendation to change the language regarding LANAIC's right to self-governance, to instead request meaningful



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

consultation with the County, which would be more accurate. She also acknowledged the LANAIC could accept or decline such recommendation.

Commissioners discussed that, historically, since they have had their own bylaws that County Counsel reviewed, that they have been operating with the assumption of self-governance and determining their own rules of procedure. Commissioners discussed solutions including the body advocating to the Board to codify the tripartite nature of the LANAIC or seek to be established as a joint powers authority.

Kim Ortega, Communications Deputy with the Office of Supervisor Solis, shared that she is excited to receive the letter and reiterated that her Office had no intention of dismantling the Commission. She shared that the County had been proactive about engaging with City regarding updating the MOU however the City has been nonresponsive.

The discussion concluded with Chair Imitates Dog noting that the letter would be edited and that the Executive Committee would hold a meeting to approve the final draft letter to ensure it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible.

7.2. Discuss the LANAIC co-hosting an American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness research symposium on November 21, 2024 in partnership with the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia shared that the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute wrote a report for the LANAIC in past about data on homelessness. She shared that the Institute offered to host a symposium and provide the virtual platform and marketing.

Commissioner Garcia shared that the purpose of this agenda item is to ensure the intention of the proposed partnership and virtual symposium is clear. Chair Imitates Dog shared that next steps would be to formalize the partnership via an action item at the October meeting,

7.3 Discussion of draft FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to the Board of Supervisors

The LANAIC discussed the draft letter and requested that Alexandra add language to the letter requesting that the BOS allocate funding to develop a mandated Countywide training to increase the understanding of the County workforce about the AIAN community. Alexandra confirmed she would add that language and that the final draft letter will be included in the October agenda as an action item.

7.4 Discussion of draft FY25-26 Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass

The LANAIC discussed the draft letter and requested that Alexandra add language to the letter requesting that the Mayor allocate funding for a full time employee within LA City dedicated to supporting the LANAIC, increase the City's annual contribution to the LANAIC and dedicate ongoing funding for Native American Heritage Month and Indigenous Peoples' Day. Alexandra



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

confirmed she would add that language and that the final draft letter will be included in the October agenda as an action item.

Presentations

8.1 Overview of Community Programs, LA Health Services – Housing for Health, Office of Diversion and Re-Entry and Harm Reduction Division (Angel Martinez, Jeanette Ban West, Jessica Reyes, Jocelyn Vilchez)

Angel Martinez, Jeanette Ban West, Jessica Reyes and Jocelyn Vilchez from the LA County Department of Health Services provided a 10 minute presentation on the projects and initiatives within the Housing for Health, Office of Diversion and Re-Entry and Harm Reduction Division.

Chair's Report

9.1 General Updates

Chair Imitates Dog expressed gratitude to Commissioner Chrissie Castro for the time and energy she put into drafting the letter to the Board (Item 7.1).

Committee & Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

10.1 Self Governance Board

Alexandra Valdes shared a report out on behalf of SGB Chair Dawn Jackson. She shared that an order had been made for custom LANAIC and LANAIC SGB table clothes to be utilized at community events including upcoming events where the SGB will be disseminating the [Community Services Block Grant Community Needs Assessment survey](#),

10.2 Homelessness Committee

No report was provided.

10.3 2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad-hoc Committee

Chair Imitates Dog shared that there will be a presentation in LA City Hall Council Chambers on November 1, 2024 hosted by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez. He shared that the 2024 NAHM Ad Hoc is still working to secure a space to host a reception and that he reached back out to Sean Starkey with CD7 about the allowability of using the City Hall Forecourt if food is provided via food trucks across the street.

10.4 FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

Alexandra shared that the purpose of the Committee was to draft content of the Commission's achievements in FY23-24. Committee Chair Castro asked Alexandra to draft the report as she had in previous years and suggested utilizing LANAIC meeting minutes as a reference of work



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

completed. Alexandra shared she would include a draft report for discussion at the October agenda.

10.5 Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc

No report was provided. Commissioner Castro inquired when this ad hoc and the Annual Report ad hoc would sunset. Alexandra shared she would check her records and report back to the body in October.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Chair Imitates Dog shared that he would like the body to consider holding meetings at different community spaces. He shared that in the past a lot of LANAIC meetings were held at other agencies and moved around. Commissioner Castro supported the idea. Chair Imitates Dog shared that the Hall of Administration was not accessible for the community and suggested holding meetings at the Autry Museum of the West.

Commissioner Castro shared that she received an email from Department of Arts and Culture regarding LA Regional convenings on the Olympics. Heather Rigby shared about the email is about multi-part series of convenings related to the Olympics that the Department of Arts and Culture is helping to coordinate with LA Commons, CARs, LA City and LA28. She confirmed that all LANAIC commissioners should have received the email referenced by Commissioner Castro for the convening on September 30.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Williams shared that California Native Vote Project will be hosting the Skoden Music event on October 26 and that she will send out more information once it is finalized.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Imitates Dog shared that the next meeting of the LANAIC will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024 from 6:30 pm at the Sybil Brand Room 327 in the Hall of Administration. He adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM in honor of Glenda Ahhaitty.