



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025, 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration
Sybil Brand Room 372
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To Provide Public Comment: You may submit written public comment via email to contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov. Please note "LANAIC Public Comment" in the 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

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. Adopt the August 19, 2025, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes
- 6.3. Adopt the draft letter to the LA City Council Requesting the Preservation of Flat Top Rock
- 6.4. Adopt the draft letter to LA City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson recommending that LA City Council rename 3446 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004 to "Ernest Stevens Sr. Square"

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1 Discuss AIAN Homelessness in LA County
- 7.2 Discuss Impacts of Federal Administration on LA County's AIAN Community
- 7.3 Discuss LA City Parks Needs Assessment Steering Committee Updates
- 7.4 Discuss FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Priorities
- 7.5 Discuss the Draft LA City/County Native American Indian Commission FY24-25 Annual Report

8. PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1 *Presentation on the County of Los Angeles American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) People Experiencing Homelessness Dashboard* - Tolu Wuraola (Principal Analyst, LA County Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative)

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 General Updates

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1 General Updates

11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 Executive Committee
- 11.2 Self Governance Board
- 11.3 2025 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.4 LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee

12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Location: Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, LA, CA 90012

AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025, 6:30 PM

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, contact@lanaic.lacounty.gov, or (213) 738-3241

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Villaseñor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Vice Chairperson Mark Villaseñor



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

The August 19, 2025, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian (LANAIC) meeting was at the County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner John Only A Chief provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Caroline Bhalla
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
John Only A Chief
Rich Toyon
Rene' William

Absent: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Chrissie Castro
Vivian Garcia
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Ted Tenorio

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director
Megan Moret, Department of Arts & Culture Board Liaison and Special Assistant
Julien Tan, LANAIC Administrative Manager

Quorum was met.

Commissioner Introductions

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



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
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Public Comment

A member of the public named William Bailey shared that he’s currently weighing different paths—whether to pursue a tribal, federal, or state route. He expressed a personal belief that anyone with a Social Security Number is, in a way, is Native American. William mentioned that he’s formed a small political party and is working to get more people involved. He also spoke about an upcoming initiative aimed at making California its own country, to remove federal government authority from the land. However, he noted uncertainty about who would hold jurisdiction if that initiative moved forward.

Action Items

6.1 Adopt absentee excuses

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia and seconded by Treasurer Denise Escoto to adopt Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog, Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor, Commissioner Chrissie Castro, Commissioner Vivian Garcia, and Commissioner Ted Tenorio’s absentee excuses for the August 19, 2025, meeting. The motion passed.

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

6.2 Approve the July 19, 2025, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia and seconded by Treasurer Denise Escoto to approve the unapproved July 19, 2025, LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented.

The motion passed.

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



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025**

6.3 Select the 2025 Native American Heritage Month Honorees: Spirit of Creativity Honoree, Spirit of Community Honoree, and Spirit of Tradition Honoree

Roll call votes were taken for the 3 NAHM honoree categories (the vote breakdown is below.) of The Chapter House and founder Emma Robbins (Diné) were selected as the 2025 Spirit of Tradition Honoree, Tencha Chavez was selected as the 2025 Spirit of Community Honoree, and Metzli Projects was selected as the 2025 Spirit of Creativity Honoree.

2025 Spirit of Tradition Honoree		
	Emma Robbins (Diné) of the Chapter House	Absent
Imitates Dog		X
Villasenor		X
Lewis-Smith	X	
Denise Escoto	X	
Bhalla	X	
Castro		X
V. Garcia		X
A. Garcia	X	
Jackson	X	
Morales Recalde	X	
Only A Chief	X	
Ortega Jr.		X
Tenorio		X
Toyon	X	
Williams	X	



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025**

2025 Spirit of Community Honoree (Round One)						
	Tribal Firefighters	Tench Chavez	Billy Mills	Kimberly Morales Johnson	Dr. Claradina Soto	Absent
Imitates Dog						X
Villasenor						X
Lewis-Smith					X	
Denise Escoto		X				
Bhalla					X	
Castro						X
V. Garcia						X
A. Garcia					X	
Jackson		X				
Morales Recalde				X		
Only A Chief			X			
Ortega Jr.						X
Tenorio						X
Toyon				X		
Williams		X				

2025 Spirit of Tradition Honoree (Round Two)			
	Tench Chavez	Dr. Claradina Soto	Absent
Imitates Dog			X
Villasenor			X
Lewis-Smith		X	
Denise Escoto	X		
Bhalla		X	
Castro			X
V. Garcia			X
A. Garcia		X	
Jackson	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
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2025 Spirit of Creativity Honoree (Round One)					
	Metzli Projects	Sierra Nizhoni Teller Ornelas	Ian Skorodin	Ben West	Absent
Imitates Dog					X
Villasenor					X
Lewis-Smith	X				
Denise Escoto				X	
Bhalla				X	
Castro					X
V. Garcia					X
A. Garcia	X				
Jackson		X			
Morales Recalde	X				
Only A Chief			X		
Ortega Jr.					X
Tenorio					X
Toyon			X		
Williams				X	

2025 Spirit of Creativity Honoree (Round Two)			
	Metzli Projects	Ben West	Absent
Imitates Dog			X
Villasenor			X
Lewis-Smith	X		
Denise Escoto		X	
Bhalla		X	
Castro			X
V. Garcia			X
A. Garcia	X		
Jackson		X	
Morales Recalde	X		
Only A Chief	X		
Ortega Jr.			X
Tenorio			X
Toyon	X		
Williams		X	



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

Discussion Items

7.1 Discuss AIAN Homelessness in LA County

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia gave a shoutout to Commissioner Caroline Bhalla for organizing the 2025 State of Los Angeles County Housing and Neighborhoods (SOLACHAN) event at The California Endowment on August 18, 2025. The gathering marked the release of LA County's first Housing and Neighborhood Report. The report provides key data on homeownership, rentership, demographics, and homelessness, offering the county a starting point to track progress and remain accountable. Commissioner Bhalla will share the report links with everyone, and other commissioners are encouraged to let her know if there's anything they'd like to add.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia also spoke about her interview with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), which focused on questions about AIAN homelessness. Commissioner Dr. Garcia strongly urged the GAO to create a separate report on urban Native homelessness, since Native people make up about 80% of the AIAN population and deserve a focused study.

She also presented findings from the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, focusing on American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous individuals. The percentage of Native people experiencing homelessness rose from 3% to 4%. Although the data are limited due to small sample sizes, they still reveal disparities. A chart with red and green boxes indicates which data is reliable. On the second page, health and disability stats stand out: 33% of Native respondents reported substance use disorders—higher than the Latino population. Mental health issues were reported by 40%, and rates of physical and developmental disabilities were nearly double the county average.

Commissioner Dr. Garcia emphasized that service providers should take these needs seriously. She expressed frustration over the lack of accurate data, calling it "ludicrous" that whole numbers are still hard to get. Still, she noted a small win: the report now includes the full definition of homelessness, which is a step forward.

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith asked if other major cities have similar reports and if so, suggested it may be useful to compare the findings. Commissioner Dr. Garcia said no but agreed it would be a helpful study. She mentioned Seattle as an example—no but pressure, they revised their data collection methods. At one point, Seattle reported a 15% homelessness rate, which later dropped. In comparison, LA County reports 4%, but Commissioner Dr. Garcia noted that unreleased data suggests LA may have the highest homelessness rate across all racial groups. Secretary Lewis-Smith agreed that having accurate numbers is essential and thanked everyone for their efforts to improve the data.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

7.2 Discuss Impacts of Federal Administration on LA County's AIAN Community

Alexandra reported that the county has received Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding, with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) receiving a larger share. Legislatively, there's ongoing advocacy to maintain this funding. Although President Trump advocated to cut CSBG funding in his FY25-26 budget, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a budget to maintain CSBG funding levels for FY25-26.

Commissioner Rich Toyon emphasized the importance of honoring tradition and creativity, especially during difficult times. He noted that this year's NAHM honorees play a vital role in keeping that spirit alive and relevant.

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith expressed concerns about UCLA's undergraduate programs, which have faced significant cuts and even potential disbandment. He encouraged anyone who knows college-age students at UCLA to offer support and care. Alexandra added that advocacy and mutual aid should be prioritized. Commissioner Caroline Bhalla noted that USC is facing a federal budget deficit, leading to layoffs and program cuts.

Angel Martinez, Department of Health Services, spoke from his experience at UC Santa Cruz as a mentor and emphasized the importance of mentoring and community support for UC students. Secretary Lewis-Smith encouraged everyone to think about actionable ways to support Native students.

Commissioner Bhalla reiterated that mentoring remains a valuable option, even in tough times. She acknowledged the ongoing nature of these conversations and urged everyone to take personal responsibility in supporting students. Commissioner Rene' Williams agreed, saying it's crucial to get involved—whether through mentoring, showing up, or simply participating once a month in collective action efforts.

Secretary Lewis-Smith proposed a listening session between USC and UCLA to strategize ways to help. Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia suggested that service-related organizations do intentional outreach, especially for students in mental health fields. She recommended that all organizations consider sending letters of support to students to show solidarity and care.

7.3 Discuss LA City Parks Needs Assessment Steering Committee Updates

Commissioner Rich Toyon shared that the LA City Parks Needs Assessment Steering Committee met and is finalizing the Parks Needs Assessment. He shared that they are aiming to release it on September 3rd, with public meetings to follow. The project is moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3, which will focus on sharing results with the public.

Over the past three years, they've studied LA city parks to understand what's needed. Compared to other cities like Dallas, LA invests the least per acre in parks. Areas requiring the most help include Eastern LA and the Western Valley, where there's a lack of green space, shade, and



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

places for residents to gather. These areas also face challenges like homelessness and climate impacts.

Phase 3 will include public meetings starting September 3rd. Commissioner Toyon asked for a meeting with the full commission and suggested two tribal outreach options—either inviting tribal members or visiting their communities. He stressed that no parks will be removed, and the goal is to add more.

LA's current parks budget is \$223 million, but \$500 million is needed for proper staffing and services. A full wish list would raise the budget to \$5.2 billion, showing how underfunded the system is. They're exploring ways to use land like watersheds for parks, though it competes with housing and transit needs. More parks could help reduce crime and benefit the city as a whole. Private sponsorships are being considered, especially with the upcoming Olympics. Commissioner Toyon expects to receive the final report soon and will share it. Community meetings are planned for November, and all commissioners are encouraged to attend and give input.

7.4 Discuss the Preservation of Flat Top Rock in Lincoln Heights

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde shared that the Gabrielino Tongva are the original people of Lincoln Heights, and Flat Top Rock holds deep cultural and spiritual significance. The land was sold five years ago, and someone attempted to build a house on it. Now, the current owner is seeking permits to build not only on Flat Top Rock but also on the surrounding hillside. Commissioner Morales Recalde emphasized that Flat Top Rock is a sacred site, and for the Gabrielino Tongva, conflict resolution traditionally involves song and dance, making this land especially meaningful.

Commissioner Morales Recalde shared that a local tribe is actively opposing any construction on Flat Top Rock. She shared plans to confirm whether the site is officially listed as sacred site by the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). She hopes the LANAIC will support preservation efforts by writing a formal letter, which she is willing to draft for Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog review. She also expressed hope that Mayoral appointees will back the initiative.

Finally, Commissioner Morales Recalde shared that after conversations began with the landowner, fencing was placed on the site, preventing ceremonial use. Beyond its cultural importance, Commissioner Morales Recalde noted the location's stunning views as another reason to protect it.

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia requested additional information on Flat Top Rock and the efforts to protect it. Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith volunteered to be a thought partner in drafting the letter.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025**

Presentations

8.1 Presentation on How to Best Serve LA County's American Indian and Alaska Native Community - Andrea Diaz (Outreach Coordinator, Sacred Path Indigenous Wellness Center)

Sacred Path Indigenous Wellness Center Outreach Coordinator Andrea Diaz provided a [presentation](#) on How to Best Serve LA County's American Indian and Alaska Native Community.

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked whether Sacred Path assists individuals who come from Oklahoma for treatment but are removed from the program after violating its term? He also inquired if the organization helps with relocation costs. Ms. Diaz responded that Sacred Path has had opportunities to support in such cases. Commissioner Rene' Williams added that individuals must meet certain requirements, including having a formal diagnosis.

Ms. Diaz explained that Sacred Path is equipped to help streamline the process, remove barriers, and even handle documentation virtually to make access easier. Alexandra shared a personal example, thanking Sacred Path for stepping in to help a young woman in need, and praised the staff for their timely support.

8.2 Los Angeles County Community Engagement Efforts to Address Homelessness and Housing Insecurity – Danielle Tobey (Consultant, Change Well Project) and Angel J Martinez, M.S. (Chief, Equity and Engagement Officer at Community Programs at Los Angeles County Department of Health Services)

Change Well Project consultant Danielle Tobey and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Chief, Equity and Engagement Officer at Community Programs Angel J Martinez, M.S. provided a [presentation](#) on Los Angeles County Community Engagement Efforts to Address Homelessness and Housing Insecurity.

Ms. Tobey shared that commissioners have been invited to participate in each of the eight SPA (Service Planning Area) community workshops to help inform the design of the new County Homelessness & Housing Department. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde inquired whether local tribes were being included in the outreach efforts. Danielle confirmed that outreach had begun and asked for suggestions on strengthening government-to-government relationships. Commissioner Morales Recalde recommended requesting a contact list from the Native American Heritage Commission.

Mr. Martinez explained that the two-day workshops are designed to foster deep discussions about the future of the department, touching on issues many commissioners are already engaged in, such as homelessness, housing, mental health, and environmental concerns. Danielle added that the workshops will be safe spaces for people to voice concerns and offer solutions.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia asked if participants would be informed ahead of time about the key topics or “buckets” they’ll be asked to address. Commissioner Williams emphasized the importance of preparation, especially for those who may struggle to speak up due to past harms. Even simple bullet points shared in advance could make a big difference in helping people feel ready to participate.

Alexandra inquired if feedback from the recent AIAN Housing Summit had been consolidated and shared. Commissioner Williams said the information is available on a website and can be shared. Alexandra requested that it be sent out before the workshops to help commissioners prepare and be coordinated in their advocacy. Commissioner Caroline Bhalla added that having talking points in advance would be helpful.

Chair’s Report

9.1 General Updates

This item was tabled until the September 16, 2025, meeting.

Executive Director’s Report

10.1 General Updates

Alexandra is currently preparing a draft of the FY 2024–2025 Report for the review and discussion of the LANAIC at their September meeting. She reminded the body that per their Code they are required to submit an annual report to the Board of Supervisors and Commission Services.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

11.1 Executive Committee

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith tabled the item.

11.2 Self Governance Board

Alexandra shared that Commissioner Chrissie Castro raised a key question about what would happen to the LANAIC Self Governance Board (SGB) if the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program was defunded by the federal government. Alexandra shared that she reached out to their CSBG Field Representative James Scott who explained that if CSBG funding were eliminated, it wouldn’t just be a budget issue, it would require a legal change in order for the SGB to be dissolved. The SGB’s role is tied directly to CSBG through statute, so defunding would essentially make the SGB ineffective, but the law would have to change to result in the dissolution of it.



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025

11.3 2025 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith shared that there were no significant updates, except that the honorees were officially voted on during tonight's meeting, and things are moving forward. Commissioner Dawn Jackson is currently working on the 2025 NAHM LA City Hall Bridge Gallery and emphasized the importance of being more intentional this year. She shared that last year, 56 art pieces were submitted so the goal now is to introduce a clear theme and encourage artists to follow it. Commissioner Jackson noted that only one person adhered to the theme last year.

Alexandra added that two of this year's honorees are deeply involved in the arts, which could be a great opportunity to highlight their work and tie it into the gallery.

11.4 LANAIC Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith tabled the item.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde thanked fellow commissioners who attended the ceremony on Saturday, August 2, 2025, celebrating the return of ancestral Land to the Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. She noted that once the site becomes ADA-compliant, it could possibly be a meeting location for the LANAIC.

Commissioner John Only A Chief shared that the event featured a thoughtful presentation and was graced by notable guests, including the Mayor of San Gabriel and California House Representative Judy Chu. Commissioner Only A Chief congratulated Commissioner Morales Recalde, who played a significant role in making this momentous occasion possible.

Commissioner Caroline Bhalla shared that during Supervisor Holly Mitchell's commissioner convening, someone asked if anyone was interested in joining the Beach Commission. She encouraged commissioners to speak with mayoral staff or supervisors about open commission seats and suggested referring Native community members for those opportunities.

Alexandra reported that by next month, commissioners will be able to preview the updated look of the LANAIC web page on the Department of Arts and Culture website. She mentioned that the content needs refreshing and asked commissioners to send high resolution headshots and updated bios. She shared that the Department already has strong visuals from its work with Native communities, but she invited commissioners to send additional credited photos, especially close-ups, scenic shots, or group photos that would enhance the site.

Commissioner Only A Chief reflected on the recent community prayer gathering at Griffith Park, calling it a beautiful and well-organized event. He also reminded everyone about upcoming powwows: one in Hawaiian Gardens over the weekend, and another in Pomona at the end of the month.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2025**

Treasurer Denise Escoto raised the idea of revisiting creating an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Committee, a topic that had been previously discussed. Alexandra responded with a recommendation to consider forming either a standing committee or an ad hoc committee to focus on ICWA-related efforts. She explained that while standing committees are subject to the Brown Act and come with more formal requirements, ad hoc committees are more flexible, but they must be project-based and time-limited.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

No announcements/future agenda items were provided.

Commission Adjournment

Secretary Bryce Lewis-Smith shared that the next LANAIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

DRAFT



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

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Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

October 21, 2025

LA City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear LA City Council Members,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), we are writing to express our profound and unwavering opposition to the proposed development on Flat Top Rock in the Lincoln Heights area. This sacred site, located on Prewett Street, is of immense cultural and historical significance to the Gabrieleno Tongva people, the original inhabitants and caretakers of this land.

For countless generations, Flat Top Rock has served as a revered ceremonial ground and a place of spiritual connection. It is not merely a geographic feature but a living part of our history, a place where elders and ancestors performed healing rituals, where community gatherings were held, and where the spiritual threads connect the people to the land. The land itself is seen as a relative, and to build on this space is to desecrate a sacred relative, a fundamental act of disrespect to our culture and heritage.

Flat Top is recognized by the State of California Native American Heritage Commission as a sacred site and is documented as such under AB 52. The proposed development, in its current form, represents another painful chapter of cultural erasure. Each new building erected on these ancestral grounds buries not just the soil, but the memory, history, and spiritual identity of the Gabrieleno Tongva. This is not simply a matter of land use; it is a direct continuation of a historical pattern that has systematically denied the presence and importance of Indigenous peoples in the narrative of Los Angeles.

We advocate for the immediate protection of this space. We urge City Council to halt all plans for development and to work collaboratively with the Gabrieleno Tongva tribes that have been working with the LA City Planning department. Preserving this space is a critical step towards reconciliation and a true acknowledgment of the City's rich, yet often overlooked, Indigenous history.

Protecting this site is an opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to demonstrate its commitment to honoring its past and respecting the rights of the First People of this land. We want to ensure that its historical and spiritual significance is preserved for future generations.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Mayor Karen Bass
LA City Department of Planning
LA City Planning Commission
Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

October 21, 2025

Vice Chairperson
MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

LA City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Secretary
BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Re: Designation of "Ernest Stevens, Sr. Square" at 3446 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004

Treasurer
DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson,

CAROLINE BHALLA
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), I am writing to encourage the designation of the intersection at 3446 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004 as "Ernest Stevens, Sr. Square."

CHRISSE CASTRO
Navajo

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

Ernest Stevens, Sr. (1932–2024) was a proud U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran of the Korean War and a nationally respected Native leader. Known as Atš·nis, he dedicated his life to advancing sovereignty, self-determination, and justice for Native peoples. His leadership during the 1960s and 1970s helped lay the foundation for many of the rights and opportunities that Tribal Nations benefit from today.

VIVIAN GARCIA
Cherokee

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

Designating this intersection in his honor is not only a tribute to his service and advocacy, but also a meaningful acknowledgment of Native veterans and leaders whose contributions have often been overlooked. Establishing "Ernest Stevens, Sr. Square" will create a visible and lasting reminder of Indigenous resilience, history, and leadership in Los Angeles, while reaffirming the City's commitment to honoring the diverse communities that shape its identity.

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

For these reasons, the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission encourages the Los Angeles City Council to approve this designation and ensure that the legacy of Ernest Stevens, Sr. is honored for generations to come.

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

RENE' WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

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

Timeline and Summary of Actions/Asks

Summary Table

Timeline	Milestone	Core Deliverables
Late Oct 2025	Public release of summit videos + one-pager	Email to appointing bodies, social media posts, public sharing
Mid-Nov 2025	Native American Heritage Month + dashboard release	Joint event, press visibility, coordinated advocacy messages
Late Nov 2025	Release of Commission advocacy letter	Data-driven call to action, distributed to City & County leadership, offer for individual briefings

Late October – Public Launch of Summit Videos + One-Pager

Goal: Build visibility and set the public narrative ahead of Native American Heritage Month. Frame as: “Beyond Native Heritage Month: Actions that can move Native people from houselessness to home”

Mid–November – Native American Heritage Month: Dashboard Release

Late November: Formal letters

At the October Meeting, take possible action in adopting two letters/emails. One to LA County and one to the Mayor’s Office (and council districts?)

1 Email to LA County Supervisors’ Offices

Subject: Beyond Native Heritage Month: Actions that can move Native people from houselessness to home

Dear Supervisor [Last Name] and Team,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, I am pleased to share materials that reflect the collective priorities and lived experiences of Los Angeles County’s Native American and Alaska Native community.

Earlier this year, a cross-section of Native leadership convened our community for the **Natives in LA Summit: Envisioning Home Across Generations**, which brought together Native community members, service providers, and a multitude of sector partners. The

videos below capture the community's vision: that moving from houselessness to home means not only addressing physical shelter but restoring belonging, visibility, and cultural safety.

 **Summit Video Highlights:**

- Summit Recap with Community Vision
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fydhPwKv44>
- Keynote Address: From Shelter to Self-Determination: What Indigenous Worldview Teaches Us About Home
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnDqPSbZXvA&t=943s>

We are also sharing the attached two-pager from the summit “**Native American Community Input on How to Move from Houselessness to Home**”, which summarizes community priorities and systemic levers for County action, including but not limited to:

- Donation of publicly held land to establish a **Native American Cultural District** and **culturally supportive housing**;
- **Dedicated AIAN representation** within governance (e.g., the Leadership Roundtable Homelessness Department, Affordable Housing Solutions Agency); and
- Strengthened **tribal consultation and consent** processes in County decision-making.

These priorities align with the County's motion on Native homelessness and its broader goals around equity and self-determination. They also anticipate the **County's Native American Homelessness Data Dashboard**, set for release this November during Native American Heritage Month—an ideal moment to highlight your office's leadership on this issue.

We would welcome the opportunity to brief your team on these findings and to explore how the Board might champion these priorities through upcoming budget deliberations, land policy discussions, and interdepartmental coordination.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to equity.

Warm regards,

Shawn Imitates Dog

Chair, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission
[Email Address] | [Phone]

2 Email to the Mayor's Office (City of Los Angeles)

Subject: Beyond Native Heritage Month: Actions that can move Native people from houselessness to home

Dear [Mayor, cc Mayor's Office Homelessness Policy Director, etc.],

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, I'm pleased to share materials that reflect the voices and priorities of Los Angeles' Native American and Alaska Native community.

Earlier this year, Native leaders, service providers, and residents gathered for the **Native American Housing and Home Summit** to envision how the City and County can work together to create belonging, visibility, and safety for Native Angelenos. The short videos below capture this community vision:

Summit Video Highlights:

- Summit Recap with Community Vision;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fydhPwKv44>
- Keynote Address: From Shelter to Self-Determination: What Indigenous Worldview Teaches Us About Home;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnDqPSbZXvA&t=943s>

The attached **AIAN Housing and Home One-Pager** summarizes core community priorities, including:

- Establishing a **Native American Cultural District** as a visible expression of belonging and healing;
- Embedding **Native representation** in City housing, homelessness, and cultural leadership bodies;
- Supporting **culturally supportive housing** and services that center identity, community, and wellness; and
- Strengthening **partnerships with Native-led organizations** and tribes across City departments.

These actions would affirm the City's commitment to visibility and equity, and ensure that Native voices are included in decision-making that affects our shared future.

We would welcome the chance to brief your team and align this work with the City's ongoing housing and cultural initiatives—especially ahead of **Native American Heritage Month** in November, when the County's **Native American Homelessness Data Dashboard** will also be released.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership.

Warm regards,

Shawn Imitates Dog

Chair, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission

[Email Address] | [Phone]

Native American Community Input on How to Move from Houselessness to *Home* In Los Angeles

The Takeaway

Native American people in Los Angeles desire **belonging**, **visibility**, **cultural safety**, and **self-determination**.

Native people in LA feel erased by mainstream culture, by our educational system, and by our larger systems. We are rarely included in data and reports, and have less access to resources as a result. **Visibility** in systems, data, everyday signage and art, in education, and beyond is an important antidote in helping Native people feel **belonging** in LA.

Many Native people often seek services from Native serving organizations, regardless of distance or travel time. Not only is this indicative of our desire to be seen as our full selves and feel like we're part of community (**cultural safety** and **belonging**), but it underscores how our agencies move beyond invisible boundaries physically, and in how we incorporate *love* into services.

Lastly, Native people know best how to engage and serve our people. While we value the importance of partners and allies, we ultimately wish to be able to **self-determine** our own future, not one that is defined by others or systems entrenched in colonial worldview and practice.

Over years of listening and learning, our community has made it clear that this is more than just fixing houselessness. We aim to heal not only the physical, but the cultural, and spiritual homelessness that has resulted in removal of Indigenous people from our homelands and cultural ways of being. We are looking to make LA a safe and healing *home* for current and future generations.

Community Needs

- **Native American Cultural District:** Native people desire a safe place to gather, and reconnect with cultural identity, traditions, and ways of being. This could strengthen belonging, visibility, sense of place and cultural pride, as well as things like the Native workforce, economy, and culturally supportive housing.
- **Culturally Supportive Housing:** Housing with culturally specific services and practices to enhance residents' well-being, identity, and sense of belonging.
- **Tribal Consent and Consultation:** The first peoples of these lands, the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples, deserve the respect of tribal consultation. That is, the formal government-to-government dialogue between government agencies and tribal Nations to discuss proposals, regulations, and policies that may affect tribes, respecting their inherent sovereignty and right to self-determination.

Systemic Responsibilities

Equity in Data and Policy:

- Ensure that best practices on Native data are incorporated into every work product. Update point-in-time count methodologies to more accurately count Native people experiencing homelessness (e.g. respondent driven sampling).
- Streamline contracting processes across County departments with Native-led organizations.
- Incorporate targeting questions into triage tools in order to ensure effective and equitable services.
- Develop a policy on culturally responsive housing in order to demonstrate the principles of targeted universalism and housing justice.

Equity in Resources:

- Donate publicly held lands to seed a Native American Cultural District and/or culturally supportive housing. This part of the 2019 [Board Motion](#) was never achieved.
- Fund Native-led organizations directly.
- Given the complexity of LA's expansive geography, Native-led organizations could benefit from a dedicated housing matcher and/or specific AIAN case conferencing.

Equity in Representation:

- Native representation in the respective governance tables is imperative. Lack of Native representation at decision-making tables further silences our needs.
- An ongoing full-time "AIAN Coordinator" like the position currently housed at LAHSA position is imperative.
- An ongoing Deputy Chief Equity Officer in the new department is imperative.
- Continuing the work of County's Internal AIAN Working Group on Homelessness, currently led by the Homeless Initiative is imperative.

Native American Community Needs, Systemic Levers, and Guiding Values to Move from Houselessness to Home

In the attached figure, the yellow/orange circles indicate community needs/desires, and the yellow boxes are the anchoring priorities in that work. The green circles indicate the conditions necessary to help achieve those community needs and desires, while the green boxes are the anchoring values.



Please refer to this [video](#), and these [illustrations](#) for more information.

FY2024-2025 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 (2025)

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

LANAIC Roster (2024)

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Rich Toyon, Acjachemen, Fifth District Appointee
Rene' Williams, Colville Tribes, Fourth Supervisorial District Appointee

Staff

Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Julien Tan, Administrative Manager

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.

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.

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 inclusive environment.

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 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 nearly 50 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 members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and five members 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 County Care First Community Investment funding for FY 21-22, FY 22-23, and FY 23-24 to address homelessness and housing insecurity experienced by the AIAN population. In addition to administering 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 the 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 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 the 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 University, Long Beach.

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 the 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, the 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 the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, the 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-19 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-19 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 the 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 four 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 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, Jacob 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. The 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 the 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 five 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, Pukúu Cultural Community Services, and United American Indian Involvement, Inc. The LANAIC partnered with the Registrar & Recorder/County Clerk to utilize secure ballot boxes.

Eight candidates ran for the five 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 the 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 the reduction of poverty, revitalization of low-income communities, and/or empowerment of people with 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 reviews and planning, strategic planning interviews, and strategic planning sessions with LANAIC SGB members, and the development 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 way 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 meeting 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.

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 commission, issues facing the American Indian/Alaska Native community, and the current funding, programs, and partnerships.

September 19, 2023 - 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 the 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.

September 23, 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.

October 2023 - 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.

October 17, 2023 -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 on August 5, 2024.

October 17, 2023 - 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 the 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 for Indigenous Peoples' Day programming.

November 2023 – The 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

The 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 the LA City Department of 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.

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

April 16, 2024 - 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.

May 21, 2024 - 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 presented at the meeting. Her presentation included information on achievements to date and ongoing requests.

May 21, 2024 - The LANAIC took action requesting that the 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 HR6589: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023.

May 21, 2024 - The LANAIC took action to oppose the draft LA City 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.

May 21, 2024 - 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.

June 2024 - 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 exhibit helped raise awareness and understanding about this critical part of American history

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

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FY25-26 Work Plan

Project: 2025 Native American Heritage Month	
Goal/Objective	
Provide recommendations to LA County and LA City on the 2025 Native American Heritage Month theme, NAHM honorees and programming.	
Actions	Deadline
2025 NAHM Planning Ad Hoc Committee Meetings	July 2025-November 2025
Planning Meetings with LA City Councilmember Padilla's Office	July 2025-November 2025
Select the 2025 NAHM Honorees	August 19, 2025
Notify Councilmember Padilla and the LA County Board of Supervisors of the selected 2025 NAHM Honorees	August 20, 2025
Provide LANAIC Chair's Letter to LA City Department of Cultural Affairs for the 2025 NAHM Cultural Guide & Calendar	September 17, 2025
LA City Hall 2025 NAHM Bridge Gallery	November 2025
LA City Council in Chambers NAHM Ceremony & Forecourt Reception	November 7, 2025

Project: Prepare and Submit FY26-27 Budget Request Letters to LA City and LA County	
Purpose: Ensure American Indian and Alaska Native community needs are reflected in the LA County FY26-27 budget and the LA City FY26-27 budget.	
Actions	Deadline
Draft FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	September 30, 2025
Draft FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	September 30, 2025
Discuss draft FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to the Board of Supervisors	October 21, 2025
Discuss draft FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	October 21, 2025
Adopt FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	November 18, 2025
Adopt FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	November 18, 2025
Submit FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to Board of Supervisors	November 19, 2025
Submit FY26-27 LANAIC Budget Request Letter to LA City Mayor Karen Bass	November 19, 2025

Project: LANAIC 50 th Anniversary	
Goal/Objective	
Prepare for the 50 th Anniversary of the Commission.	
Actions	Deadline
Determine how to commemorate the 50 th Anniversary of the LANAIC	TBD

Project: Review and Update LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws	
Purpose: Ensure that LANAIC and LANAIC SGB Bylaws are in alignment with County policy and State law, and clearly and accurately represent the Commission's role, function, and processes.	
Actions	Deadline
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

Project: American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness Advocacy

Purpose: Increase LA County and LA City resources to address American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness in LA County.

Actions	Deadline
Adopt AIAN Community Recommendations 1-Pager	October 21, 2025
Develop a draft FY25-26 advocacy plan including proposed letters to elected officials and presentations	TBD
Adopt draft FY25-26 advocacy plan	TBD

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FY24-25 Accomplishments

Peter Pan at the Pantages

The LANAIC collaborated with Supervisor Lindsay Horvath and the Pantages Theater to host a Native American community night for playwright Larissa FastHorse's (Sicangu Lakota) *Peter Pan* on July 22, 2024. The event began with a reception celebrating Ms. FastHorse.

2024 Indigenous Peoples' Day

The Department of Arts and Culture, the home department of the LANAIC, partnered with the Music Center (TMC) to program a 2-day Indigenous Peoples Day celebration. TMC engaged The Chapter House, a female Native led non-profit to produce the event. The event entitled, *The Chapter House Indigenous Peoples' Day Party*, created a space on two Saturdays in October 2024 for cultural affirmation and joy among the county's Indigenous communities to foster greater awareness, respect, and understanding of the ongoing cultural contributions of Indigenous people among Los Angeles County residents.

FY25-26 Budget Request Letters

At the October 15, 2024 meeting, the LANAIC adopted FY24-25 budget request letters to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Bass. The request to the Board included funding to stand up the County Office of Tribal Affairs and for a dedicated position in the CEO Homelessness Initiative to address AIAN homelessness. Additionally, the letter to the Board included requests for the County to allocate funding to procure a training focused on building the understanding of the County's workforce on the unique history and issues facing Native American people in LA, and for the development of a new LANAIC website. The request to Mayor Bass included funding support for the CEO HI position as well as ongoing funding for a dedicated full-time City staff position and an increase to the annual City contribution to the LANAIC. Additionally, the letter to the mayor included requests for ongoing funding to support an annual Native American Heritage Month reception as well as for Indigenous Peoples Day programming.

2024 Native American Heritage Month

LA City Council and the LA County Board of Supervisors honored the three 2024 NAHM honorees selected by the LANAIC:

- Chief Anthony Morales (Gabrieleno Tongva) - Spirit of Tradition
- Cynthia Ruiz (Cherokee) - Spirit of Community
- Kenny Ramos (Barona Band of Mission Indians) - Spirit of Creativity

The LA City Council proclaimed NAHM on November 22, 2024, and honored the NAHM honorees. The in-chambers presentation was followed by a community reception at the LA City forecourt coordinated by the LANAIC. The LANAIC also provided materials to

the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs for the 2024 NAHM Cultural Guide & Calendar.

At the September 17, 2024 meeting, the LANAIC adopted 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 LA County Board of Supervisors proclaimed November 2024 NAHM via Board Motion at their October 22, 2024 meeting and included the following directive - direct the Natural History Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Department of Beaches and Harbors, Department of Parks and Recreation, County Library, and other relevant Departments to, in coordination with the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, provide free access for one day on or about, and in celebration of, Native American Heritage Month, to appropriate facilities (such as museums and beach parking) for American Indian and Alaska Native community members.

LANAIC Retreat

On Saturday, January 25, 2025, the LANAIC held a day-long planning retreat at the Natural History Museum. Throughout the day, the LANAIC discussed priorities and developed a 2025 work plan.

Community Listening Session

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, the LANAIC hosted a listening session at the Autry Museum of the West for AIAN community members. The purpose of the listening session was for community members to share how they had been impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires, as well as questions and concerns they have about the new Federal administration. 19 community members participated. Participants were divided into 3 small groups and participated in small group discussions facilitated by LANAIC Commissioners. The following three questions were discussed:

1. How are you impacted by the wildfires?
2. What are your concerns about the federal executive orders and policy changes?
3. What support do you need?

At the March 18, 2025 LANAIC meeting, the body adopted synthesized notes from the community listening session as well as accompanying memos to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Mayor Karen Bass. These documents were transmitted via email to the BOS and Mayor Bass on March 19.

At the May 20, 2025 LANAIC meeting, the body adopted letters to the BOS and Mayor Bass that included formal recommendations, grounded in community reflections shared at the January 25, 2025 Community Listening Session, as well as the findings of *A Report on Harms Against Local Tribes* (January 2023), developed in partnership with five local California Native American Tribes. The recommendations were rooted in a

shared goal to ensure the City and the County's policies, practices, and partnerships respect tribal sovereignty.

2025 Native American Heritage Month

At the April 15, 2025 meeting, the LANAIC selected *Firekeepers: Honoring Tribal Firefighters, Indigenous Stewardship, and Future Ancestors* as the 2025 Native American Heritage Month theme to recommend to LA City and LA County.

Addressing AIAN Homelessness

Throughout FY24-25, 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.

On August 5, 2024, the LANAIC released the *Advancing Indigenous Housing Rights in Los Angeles: International Best Practice and a Legal Framework* report. The report release included social media assets, a website posting, and formal communications to elected officials.

As mentioned above at the October 15, 2024 meeting, the LANAIC adopted FY25-26 budget request letters to the BOS and Mayor Karen Bass, which included funding requests for a full-time AIAN position in the County's CEO HI.

At the October 15, 2024 meeting, the LANAIC approved the body cohosting a virtual American Indian and Alaska Native Homelessness research symposium on November 21, 2024, in partnership with the USC Homelessness Prevention Institute.

At the January 25, 2025 LANAIC meeting, the body approved sunsetting the Homelessness Committee and realigning the priority initiative back into the regular meeting of the LANAIC. The structural move was also symbolic as it affirmed the body's commitment to addressing AIAN homelessness.

LANAIC Self Governance Board

Public Law 105-285 (the CSBG Act) and the California Government Code require that the State of California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) secure a Community Action Plan (CAP), including a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) 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, the LANAIC Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB) developed an updated Community Needs Assessment survey tool in the

Spring of 2024 and began disseminating the survey in July 2024. The web-based survey remained open through January 2025. The survey findings, in addition to other reports and materials, informed the draft CAP/CNA that was shared at a Community Hearing at LA City College on Saturday, May 17, 2025.

The LANAIC SGB adopted the 2026-2027 CAP/CNA on July 15, 2025, and it was transmitted via email on July 16, 2025, to the State of California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD). CSD formally accepted the 2026-2027 CAP/CNA on August 22, 2025.

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Ongoing-Long Term Projects

- 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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