



AGENDA & NOTICE

LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY
NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026, 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 Listen Via Telephone: 669 444 9171
Webinar ID: 849 3010 6957
Webinar Passcode: 584524

To View Via Web:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84930106957?pwd=ibT6tb5OdmamvbCuMhBTRVM1v1Aqjr.1>

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.

MARK VILLASEÑOR, Chairperson
Fernandeño Tataviam

BRYCE LEWIS-SMITH, Vice Chairperson
Citizen Potawatomi Nation

DR. CAROLINE BHALLA, Secretary
Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin

RENE' WILLIAMS, Treasurer
Colville Tribes

DENISE ESCOTO, Commissioner
Northern Cheyenne

CHRISIE CASTRO, Commissioner
Navajo

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

VIVIAN GARCIA, Commissioner
Cherokee

SHAWN IMITATES DOG, Commissioner
Lakota

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

VACANT, Commissioner

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director
Tlingit/Athabaskan

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1. CALL TO ORDER
 2. INVOCATION & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
 3. ROLL CALL
 4. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS
 5. PUBLIC COMMENT
 6. ACTION ITEMS

**AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026, 6:30 PM**

- 6.1. Adopt the May 19, 2026, Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

7. PRESENTATION

- 7.1 *Updates on LA City-County MOU Process*, Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy - LA County Department of Arts and Culture & Rafael Garcia, Senior Administrative Analyst – LA City Office of the City Administrative Officer

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.1 Discuss AIAN Homelessness in LA County
- 8.2 Discuss Impacts of Federal Administration on LA County's AIAN Community
- 8.3 Discuss 2026 Native American Heritage Month Theme and Honoree Selection Processes

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 General Updates

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 10.1 LA County Draft Tribal Consultation Policy Update
- 10.2 Federal Office of Management and Budget Proposed Rules Change Update
- 10.3 LANAIC Website Migration Update

11. COMMITTEE & AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11.1 Mayoral Appointed Commissioners
- 11.2 50th Anniversary Planning Ad Hoc Committee
- 11.3 2026 Native American Heritage Month Planning Ad Hoc Committee

12. COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2026, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Location: Hall of Administration, Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, LA, CA 90012

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at 213-738-3241 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

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

Approved:



Chairperson Mark Villasenor



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 19, 2026**

The May 19, 2026, 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 Acknowledgment

Chairperson Mark Villaseñor called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

An invocation was not provided

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Mark Villaseñor
Vice Chairperson Bryce Lewis-Smith
Secretary Dr. Caroline Bhalla
Dr. Andrea Garcia
Vivian Garcia
Shawn Imitates Dog
Dawn Jackson
Rudy Ortega Jr.
Mona Morales Recalde
Ted Tenorio

Absent: Treasurer Rene' Williams (Excused)
Chrissie Castro (Excused)
Denise Escoto (Excused)
John Only A Chief (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, LANAIC Executive Director
Megan Moret, Board Liaison – Department of Arts and Culture

Quorum was met.

Commissioner Introductions

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



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Public Comment

No public comment was submitted for the meeting.

Action Items

6.1. Adopt the March 17, 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 Vice Chairperson Bryce Lewis-Smith to approve the unapproved March 17, 2026, LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented.

The motion passed.

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

6.2. Establish the 2026 Native American Heritage Month Planning Ad Hoc Committee

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Bryce Lewis-Smith and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde to establish the 2026 Native American Heritage Month Planning Ad Hoc Committee

The motion passed.

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

Commissioners Lewis-Smith, Imitates-Dog, Morales Recalde and Jackson volunteered to serve on the ad hoc.



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6.3. Approve partnering with the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens to host a Panel Discussion and Reception on the Evening of Monday, October 12, 2026, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Bryce Lewis-Smith and seconded by Secretary Dr. Caroline Bhalla to approve partnering with the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens to host a Panel Discussion and Reception on the Evening of Monday, October 12, 2026, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission

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

Presentation

7.1 Christopher Columbus Statue Loan to the Craft Contemporary – Lalena Vellanoweth, LA County Department of Arts and Culture - Conservation & Collections Manager, Civic Art Division & Frida Cano, Craft Contemporary - Senior Curator

Lalena Vellanoweth, Conservation & Collections Manager at the Department of Arts and Culture, provided a brief update about a recent request the County received from the Craft Contemporary to borrow the County’s Christopher Columbus Statue that has been stored at Carnevale & Lohr since its removal from Grand Park in 2018. Craft Contemporary Senior Curator Ms. Frida Cano then presented the museum’s proposal to borrow the Christopher Columbus Statue for an upcoming exhibit titled *Vandalismo Artesanal* by artist Carlos Castro Arias.

The commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the request. While it was expressed by some commissioners that they appreciated the thoughtfulness of Frida's presentation, they had numerous questions for her and shared several concerns with the requested loan and overall expressed a desire for the County to not loan the statue for this exhibit. Because of the risks, possible harm, and unintended consequences associated with this exhibition, the LANAIC overall felt there was no reason that the County should be involved.

The following questions and concerns were shared:

- How would the Craft engage with Gabrieleno tribes and people for this exhibit?
- How would the truth of Columbus be provided in this exhibit?



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- Removing this statue from storage and putting it back in public view would anger and upset members of Native and Indigenous communities, including those who advocated for its removal and spent time providing public comment.
- Any accountability for backlash or negative response would fall on the LANAIC for supporting this loan and exhibition.
- The Commission would rather support an exhibit that uplifted and celebrated Indigenous leaders that the general public has little to no awareness of.
- Within Native cultures, when someone is banished, they are not welcomed back.
- While the artist's intent was understood, the adornment in Indigenous beadwork felt that it beautified and venerated Columbus.
- There was also a concern regarding this exhibit coinciding with the political environment we are in, and that right now is very fraught and could elicit extremely strong responses from both sides of the political spectrum.
- The timing of the exhibit starting in Native American Heritage Month was also flagged as a concern.

Discussion Items

8.1 Discuss AIAN Homelessness in LA County

No discussion was had.

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

No discussion was had.

Chair's Report

9.1 General Updates

No report was provided.



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Executive Director's Report

10.1 General Updates

No report was provided.

Committee & Ad Hoc Committee Reports

11.1 Executive Committee

No report was provided.

11.2 Self Governance Board

Self Governance Board (SGB) Chairperson Dawn Jackson requested that Alexandra share a brief update. Alexandra shared that the LANAIC SGB met earlier tonight and discussed a timeline to complete the upcoming FY27-28 Community Services Block Grant Community Action Plan and Community Needs Assessment.

11.3 50th Anniversary Planning Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Villasenor shared that the LANAIC will partner with the Huntington to host a panel and reception to commemorate its 50th anniversary on Monday, October 12, 2026.

Alexandra shared that the Committee is in the early days of planning the panel and had identified Commissioner Dawn Jackson as a possible panelist.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Vice Chairperson Bryce Lewis Smith shared that the California Strategic Growth Council released funds for the [Tribal Capacity Building Program](#) and the application is open through August 11, 2026.

Commissioner Ted Tenorio announced the opening of the first Federal Native American Cemetery in Riverside. He also shared details of a community-driven process undertaken to build a statute at the cemetery.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia requested that a standing item be placed on future agendas entitled "Mayoral Appointed Committee."



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Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Villaseñor announced that the next LANAIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Administration, Room 372, located at 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

DRAFT



Process of Selecting Native American Heritage Month Honorees

The Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) selects three individuals or organizations to honor during Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) and recommends that the LA City Council and the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors also honor them. This year's NAHM honorees will be selected at the Tuesday, August 18, 2026, LANAIC meeting. Nominations must be submitted via email to Alexandra Valdes (aferguson@lanaic.lacounty.gov) by Tuesday, August 11, 2026, by 5:00 PM. Nominations received after this time will not be considered.

Commissioners can submit up to 1 nominee per honoree category and are asked to submit a brief biography of the individual or organization (no more than 250 words) and a brief statement explaining why they should be considered a 2026 honoree for their respective category (no more than 250 words). Please ensure you submit both a bio and statement on the individual/organization so that fellow commissioners have information on all honorees when making their selections.

Eligibility for Nominees

- Must reside, work, or have an ancestral connection to Los Angeles County.

Honoree Categories

Spirit of Community

- Community leaders, activists & organizers
- Long-term employees of Native organizations, programs & initiatives

Spirit of Tradition

- Pow wow dancers, drum/singers, MCs, etc.
- California Native cultural bearers
- Cultural teachers

Spirit of Creativity

- Artists, designers, craftspeople
- Entertainment professionals

Previous Native American Heritage Month Themes

2008 – *Celebrating & Embracing the Diversity of the Los Angeles American Indian Tribal Community*

2009 – *Elders' Wisdom, Youth Vision*

2010 – *Circle of Strength, Harmony & Balance*

2011

2012 – *Honoring the Valor, Traditions & Dreams of Our Warriors*

2013 – *Many Nations, One Community*

2014 – (No Theme)

2015

2016 – *Tribal Traditions: Past, Present and Future*

2017

2018 – (No Theme)

2019 – *Strength Through Unity*

2020 – *Native Resiliency*

2021 – *A Community United in Strength & Resolve*

2022 – *Stronger Together*

2023 – *A Community Embracing the Future*

2024 - *Weaving Together a Community of Traditions, Cultures & Respect*

2025 - *Honoring Tribal Firefighters, Indigenous Stewardship, and Future Ancestors*

**Previous Native American Heritage Month Honorees
2010-2025**

2025

Tencha Chavez (Spirit of Community)
The Chapter House and founder Emma Robbins (Diné) (Spirit of Tradition)
Metzli Projects (Spirit of Creativity)

2024

Cynthia Ruiz (Spirit of Community)
Chief Anthony Morales (Spirit of Tradition)
Kenny Ramos (Spirit of Creativity)

2023

Roberta Javier (Spirit of Community)
Jimi Castillo (Spirit of Tradition)
Chris “Spanto” Printup (Spirit of Creativity)

2022

Dr. Carrie Johnson (Spirit of Community)
The Phoenix Family (Spirit of Tradition)
Cast & Crew of Reservation Dogs (Spirit of Creativity)

2021

Angie Behrns (Spirit of Tradition)
Tazbah Chavez (Spirit of Creativity)
Tracy M. Ball (Spirit of Community)

2020

Julia Bogany (Spirit of Tradition)
Keith Vielle (Spirit of Community)
Bird Runningwater (Spirit of Creativity)

2019

Saginaw Grant (Spirit of Tradition)
Omerlene Thompson (Spirit of Community)
Randy Reinholz (Spirit of Creativity)

In 2019 the LANAIC adopted 3 NAHM honoree categories: Spirit of Tradition, Spirit of Creativity and Spirit of Community.

2018

Glenda Ahhaitty (Cherokee)
Harold Freeland (Navajo)
Henry Hale (Navajo)
Lucy Hale (Navajo)
Toni Hawk (Navajo)

2017

Bethany Yellowtail
Ronald Andrade Sr.
Ashton Locklear

2016

UCLA
AICC- American Indian Community Council
Martin Sensmeier

2015

Janice Hahn
Andrew Marcel
Mitch O'Farrell

2014

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

2013

Torres Martinez Tribal TANF
TASIN- Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations

2012

NAVA- Native American Veterans Association

2011 – All Former Commissioners were honored.

Rev. Marvin Abrams (Seneca)
Zoie Adkins-Dungee*
Daron Ahhaity (Cherokee)
Glenda Ahhaitty (Cherokee)
Karen Allen
Iris Allrunner (Fort Peck Sioux)
Corrine Beckwith Garbani (Pechanga)
Angie Behrns (Gabrielino)
Lincoln B. Billedeaux (Piegan-Blackfeet)
Richard Bouchard
Violet Brown
Sharon Buckley (Lakota)
Michael Burgess (Comanche)
Roxanne Burgess (Hupa)
Tonantzin Carmelo (Gabrielino)
John Castillo (Apache)
Dr. Duane Champagne (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)
Iron Eyes Cody (Espera Oscar de Corti) Colleen J. Colson (Cherokee)
William Connolly
Juanita Connors
Sallie Cuaresma (Muskogee Creek/Cherokee)
Vincent D'Averso
Lakota
Rusty Deer
Sarah Deer (Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma)
Sandra A. Dooley (Osage/Seneca-Cayuga)
Carolyn Echeveria (Gabrielino)
Ira Englander
Ramon Enriquez (Tewa – Nambe Pueblo)
Tessa Evans-Campbell (Snohomish Tribe)
Shirley Jeanette Fiske
Hannah Fixico (Rosebud Sioux Tribe)
Joan Freeman (Seminole)
Fred William Gabourie (Seneca)
Michelle L. Garcia Holiday (Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma)
Danielle Glenn-Rivera (Osage)
Toni Goodin
Walter Hare (Yankton Sioux)
Shirley Hendricks
Delores Hinman

Janet Honanie (Hopi)
Cecile Johnson (Creek)
Suzanne Johnson
Andy Jones (Tohono O'odham)
Alfred Juneau
Maxine Judkins (Apache/Cherokee)
Patsy A. Kruse
Ronald Leos (Luiseno)
A. David Lester (Muscogee Creek)
Kevin Lewis (Navajo)
Lila Lewis
Kathryn Manness Grandstaff (Huron (Wyandot) Tribe)
Chuck Marshall (Muskogee Creek)
Eugene Martinez (Choctaw)
Robert E. Mele (Seneca) Mitch Mitchell (Comanche)
Kimberly Morales Johnson (Gabrielino)
Mitch Murdock (Navajo-Laguna)
Charles Nacho (Maricopa & Tohono O'odham)
Father Paul Ojibway (Fond du Luc Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)
Edward "Rudy" Ortega, Sr. (Fernandeno Tataviam)
Yvonne Paradise
Patricia M. Patterson
Kathy Pena
Katherine Pollock
Sister Grace Rabideaux (Chippewa)
David Rambeau (Paiute)
Carol Ramirez (Gabrielino)
Betty Ransom
Lois Red Elk (Fort Peck Sioux)
Melvin Anthony Rice (Luiseno)
Clifton Roman Nose (Southern Cheyenne)
Rev. Emmett D. Sarracino (Laguna-Pueblo)
Jack Shakely (Muscogee Creek)
Ian Skorodin (Choctaw)
Edward Stewart Sloan
Sanford K. Smith (Ute)
Steven Stallings* (Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians)
Dr. Lenore Stiffer (Gros Ventre)
Robert Sundance (Hunkpapa Sioux)
Beverly Sweetwater
Dennis A. Tafoya* (Santa Clara Pueblo)
Charles Toledo (Navajo)

Tanya Torres (Chiricahua Apache)
Timothy J. Turner, Esq. (Luiseno)
Karina Walters (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma)
Sherman Timothy Wapato (Colville Confederated)
Rose Clark Weahkee (Navajo)
Lucy Wilson (Choctaw)
Ben Lucero Wolf (Kiowa)
Howard Yackytoanipah "Yackus" (Comanche)
Mary York (Chiricahua Apache)

2010

United American Indian Involvement, Inc.
LA Unified School District Title VII Indian Education Program