



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION SELF GOVERNANCE BOARD

October 21, 2025 Approved Meeting Minutes

The October 21, 2025 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission Self Governance Board (LANAIC SGB) 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

Chair Dawn Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

INVOCATION

No invocation was provided

ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were present:

Chairperson Dawn Jackson
Secretary Denise Escoto
Treasurer Dr. Andrea Garcia
Mona Morales Recalde
Rene' Williams

The following Commissioners were absent:

Vice Chairperson John Only A Chief
Shawn Imitates Dog

Quorum was met.

The following staff were present:

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

COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioners provided brief introductions, including their names, the office for which they were appointed, and their tribal affiliation.



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
SELF GOVERNANCE BOARD**

**REVIEW AND TAKE POSSIBLE ACTION ADOPTING UNAPPROVED AUGUST 19, 2025 LOS ANGELES
CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION SELF GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

A motion was made by Treasurer Dr. Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene’ Williams to approve the unapproved August 19, 2025, LANAIC SGB Meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.

YES	Jackson, Morales Recalde, Garcia, Escoto, Williams
NO	
ABSTAIN	
ABSENT	Only A Chief, Imitates Dog

CHAIR’S REPORT

2026 LANAIC SGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATION & ELECTION PROCESS

Alexandra will email LANAIC SGB members and request Executive Committee nominations. Nominations are due by November 10, 2025 and will be included in the November 18, 2025 meeting agenda.

During the discussion, Chairperson Dawn Jackson asked whether the Executive Committee positions are one-year or two-year terms. Alexandra responded that they are one-year terms and members can serve two consecutive terms. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde inquired if she could vote through an alternative method due to her expected absence in November. Alexandra explained that, due to the Brown Act, alternative voting is not permitted, but she will confirm with County Counsel.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT NATIVE AMERICAN SET-ASIDE PROGRAM AND FISCAL REPORT

Alexandra provided the LANAIC SGB with an update on the July and August 2025 CSBG expenditure invoices. She offered to email the Commission the expenditure figures and service category breakdowns. Alexandra also reported that Julien is currently conducting a required contract monitoring of Pukúu Cultural Community Services/. Given the high volume of service requests typically seen during the holiday season, Alexandra noted that Pukúu should be able to utilize its 2025 funding fully.

Treasurer Dr. Andrea Garcia, speaking as a service provider, requested that the LANAIC SGB receive a list of eligibility criteria for services at the next meeting. She explained that some of her clients have had mixed outcomes seeking services at Pukuu, and having clearer criteria would help case managers make more informed referrals to Pukúu. Alexandra agreed and added that the ongoing monitoring efforts have helped the team become more familiar with the program.

Commissioner Rene’ Williams suggested that the information provided by Alexandra be provided in a written document, including a breakdown in personnel and non-personnel costs. Alexandra responded that she is cautious about privacy concerns about the contracting agency as well as the relationship between the LANAIC SGB and Pukuu as a County contractor. Commissioner Williams clarified that names did not need to be



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION SELF GOVERNANCE BOARD

disclosed. Alexandra confirmed she would follow up in writing and include the requested information that is appropriate to share in a public setting.

CSBG IMPACTS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Alexandra noted that the government shutdown continues with no resolution in sight, and there have been no changes since the August meeting. She reported that the State of California has received the full CSBG Calendar Year 2025 allocation and that the County was able to request an extension through April 30, 2025 to spend the CY2025 funding. This extension will give Pukúu additional time to utilize its funding. Alexandra will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

COMMISSIONER GENERAL COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Secretary Denise Escoto raised concerns that, due to the ongoing government shutdown, CalFRESH benefits may not be available to families in need during the next disbursement cycle. She asked whether any resources could be assembled to support affected families. Alexandra suggested revisiting a partnership formed during the COVID-19 pandemic with the AIAN Working Group and the food bank, which had proven effective. Secretary Escoto recalled distributing numerous food boxes during that time. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde mentioned that San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians has a Tribal Food Bank and that it could assist families in need. She offered to coordinate efforts if the Commission wanted to provide fresh produce in addition to dry goods. Alexandra asked whether a social media post was available to share, and Commissioner Morales Recalde confirmed that one could be created.

Treasurer Dr. Andrea Garcia asked Commissioner Morales Recalde whether advance notice was needed to request assistance. Commissioner Morales Recalde confirmed that while dry goods are readily available, fresh produce requires prior coordination. Treasurer Garcia asked whether food assistance is provided by Pukúu via a gift cards, and Alexandra confirmed that gift cards are provided for nutrition assistance for eligible clients. Alexandra added that they would reach out to Pamela from Pukúu to explore co-marketing opportunities with CSBG.

Treasurer Garcia also raised concern about the limited nature of food resources, asking whether families could qualify for assistance more than once. Alexandra explained that eligibility is determined by agency policy. Secretary Escoto suggested advocating for monthly aid. Secretary Escoto then asked about Project Angel Food, and Treasurer Garcia explained that the organization provides medically tailored meals for individuals with qualifying diagnoses. She offered to reach out to the organization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer Dr. Andrea Garcia proposed revisiting the number of LANAIC SGB meetings held annually, noting that the current schedule of twelve meetings per year often results in redundant agendas. While she acknowledged the importance of staying informed about federal changes, she suggested that a quarterly meeting schedule might be sufficient. Chairperson Dawn Jackson asked about the requirements for such a change. Alexandra explained that the decision rests with the LANAIC SGB and the County and emphasized the importance of maintaining quorum for any meetings the body agrees to hold.

Alexandra further clarified that the bylaws allow for amendments so the proposal to reduce the number of meetings should be added to a future meeting agenda. A two-thirds vote would be required to approve the



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION SELF GOVERNANCE BOARD

change and that the item would need to first be agendaized for discussion at the November meeting and then for action at the December meeting. Chairperson Jackson expressed concern about how the change might be perceived and wanted to ensure it wouldn't reflect negatively on the commission. Alexandra suggested including language in the bylaws, such as "at least X number of meetings per year," allowing flexibility to schedule additional meetings as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no public comment.

BOARD ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dawn Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.