

A COMMUNITY  
EMBRACING THE FUTURE



NATIVE AMERICAN  
2023



HERITAGE MONTH



**Presented by**  
Los Angeles City/County  
Native American Indian Commission  
Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez,  
LA City Council District 7



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles





# Karen Bass

**Mayor**

**City of Los Angeles**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to join the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) in celebrating Native American Heritage Month. As we remember that the City of Los Angeles was settled on sacred land, we join together in celebrating indigenous peoples' distinct contributions to our history, our progress, our culture and our future.

With the largest Native population of any city in the western United States, the Native community has and continues to make significant and unique contributions to our City. This month presents an opportunity to celebrate these contributions and bring attention to the culture, traditions, and achievements of Native communities. I was honored to be the first sitting Los Angeles Mayor to attend the Commission and look forward to completing the dedication of Yaanga Park (formerly Serra Park) with members of the LANAIC.

I look forward to a memorable celebration.

**Karen Bass**

**Mayor**

**City of Los Angeles**





# Paul Krekorian

**Los Angeles City Council President**  
**Councilmember District 2**

November, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to join in the celebration of Native American Heritage Month. The history of American diversity begins with the indigenous First Nations of North America. This is an especially important part of the heritage of the City of Los Angeles, ancestral home of the Chumash, Tongva and Tataviam peoples. Native Americans remain an essential component of the unique blend of cultures that make up modern Los Angeles. I am thrilled that every year, our celebration of Native American heritage becomes more expansive and inclusive.

Today, Los Angeles is home to the largest Native population of any city in the western United States. We hope that our commemoration this month will help preserve, promote, and celebrate Native American culture, and educate the wider community to the unique role and invaluable contributions of Native Americans. Please accept my best wishes for what I know will be a successful celebration.

Very truly yours,

**Paul Krekorian**

**Councilmember District 2**  
**Los Angeles City Council President**





# Monica Rodriguez

**Los Angeles City Councilwoman,  
District 7**

Dear Los Angeles,

It is with great respect and honor that the City of Los Angeles celebrates the 2023 Native American Heritage Month.

As the Councilwoman of the Seventh District, which encompasses the Northeast San Fernando Valley and home to a rich Native American history, I take pride in commemorating Native American Heritage Month.

This is a time to recognize and pay respect to the ancestral home of the First Nations of America on which our city is built upon. For far too long, indigenous people, their practices and history have been suppressed or completely erased. This month sparks a necessary movement for change and recognition across the country. In a city with one of the largest Native American populations in the county, it is essential to raise awareness and celebrate the Native American community.

I want to thank the Los Angeles City and County Native American Indian Commission, Tribal leaders, and community members for their continued efforts to educate and uplift the Native American community.

Sincerely,

**Monica Rodriguez**

**Los Angeles City Councilwoman,  
7th District**





DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
*City of Los Angeles*

# Daniel Tarica

**General Manager**

**City of Los Angeles  
Department of Cultural Affairs**

November, 2023

Dear Friends,

The Department of Cultural Affairs is proud to celebrate the 2023 Native American Heritage Month. Recognizing our City's Native American heritage underscores our continued preservation and revitalization of indigenous languages, arts, and customs, which are essential for cultural continuity. The cultural traditions and heritage of the indigenous inhabitants of the great land surrounding Los Angeles promote awareness and understanding of Native American history and heritage.

Together, we honor the experiences and cultural traditions that shape our City including residents from American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

We are honored to partner with the Office of Mayor Karen Bass, Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez and the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, and our community collaborators to celebrate the 2023 Native American Heritage Month in LA.

Please join us in this celebration!

**Daniel Tarica**

**General Manager**

**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**







# Cheri Thomas

Quinault/Yurok

**Chairperson**

**Los Angeles City/County  
Native American Indian Commission**

November, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission we are proud to celebrate Native American Heritage Month with the City of Los Angeles.

We acknowledge the ancestral lands of the First Peoples of what is now known as Los Angeles County – the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh and Chumash as well as those brought to Los Angeles through the Indian Relocation Act of 1956.

Members of more than 200 Native American tribes from around the United States share their cultures, traditions, and histories in the diverse "urban reservation" that is Los Angeles.

Please attend events this November and share in our celebration of the Native American community. Our theme for Heritage Month is *A Community Embracing the Future* and we invite all residents of Los Angeles to join us and draw strength from standing in solidarity as one family.

Sincerely,

**Cheri Thomas**

**Chairperson**

**Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission**





## Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commissioners

[lanaic.lacounty.gov](http://lanaic.lacounty.gov)



**Cheri Thomas**  
*Quinault/Yurok*  
Second Supervisorial  
District Appointee  
**Chairperson**



**John Only A Chief**  
*Pawnee Nation*  
Community Elected



**Chrissie Castro**  
*Navajo*  
Mayoral Appointee  
**Vice Chairperson**



**Rudy Ortega Jr.**  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*  
Third Supervisorial  
District Appointee



**Rene' Williams**  
*Colville Tribes*  
Fourth Supervisorial  
District Appointee  
**Secretary**



**Ted Tenorio**  
*Tiguan Nation*  
First Supervisorial  
District Appointee



**Shawn Imitates-Dog**  
*Lakota*  
Community Elected  
**Treasurer**



**Rich Toyon**  
*Acjachemen*  
Fifth District Appointee



**Andrea N. Garcia  
M.D.**  
*Mandan, Hidatsa,  
Arikara*  
Mayoral Appointee



**Mark Villaseñor,**  
*Fernandeño Tataviam*  
Mayoral Appointee



**Denise Escoto**  
*Northern Cheyene*  
Community Elected



**Audra Wise**  
*Zia Pueblo/Laguna  
Pueblo*  
Mayoral Appointee



**Dawn Jackson**  
*Saginaw Chippewa*  
Community Elected

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**Alexandra Valdes**  
*Tlingit/Athabaskan*  
**Executive Director**



**Mona Morales  
Recalde,**  
*Gabrieleno Tongva*  
Community Elected

**Stephanie Guadron**  
*Pascua Yaqui*  
**Administrative Manager**











**Mercedes Dorame** (Tongva)  
Woshaa'axre Yaang'aro  
(Looking Back)  
Mixed media

**River Garza** (Tongva)  
self portrait with cherubs, 2023  
Mixed media on paper (acrylic,  
spray paint, marker, color pencil  
and pastel) 22"x30"



**Adrienne Kinsella** (Tongva)  
Tovangaar, 2023  
Inkjet print and colored pencil on frosted mylar





# City of Los Angeles

**Elected Officials | [lacity.org](https://lacity.org)**

## **City of Los Angeles**

Karen Bass  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles

Hydee Feldstein Soto  
Los Angeles City Attorney

Kenneth Mejia  
Los Angeles City Controller

## **Los Angeles City Council**

Paul Krekorian  
District 2  
Los Angeles City Council President

Eunisses Hernandez  
District 1

Bob Blumenfield  
District 3

Nithya Raman  
District 4

Katy Young Yaroslavy  
District 5

Imelda Padilla  
District 6

Monica Rodriguez  
District 7

Marqueece Harris-Dawson  
District 8

Curren D. Price, Jr.  
District 9

Heather Hutt  
District 10

Traci Park  
District 11

John S. Lee  
District 12

Hugo Soto-Martinez  
District 13

Kevin de León  
District 14

Tim McOsker  
District 15



# Department of Cultural Affairs

City of Los Angeles | [culturela.org](http://culturela.org)



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
*City of Los Angeles*

## Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

Daniel Tarica  
General Manager

Chris Concepción  
Assistant General Manager

Juan Garcia  
Acting Director of Marketing,  
Development, and Design Strategy,  
Public Information Director

## Cultural Affairs Commission

Thien Ho  
President

Robert Vinson  
Vice President

Ray Jimenez

Asantewa Olatunji

Catherine Unger

## Booklet Design

Ray Rivera Design, LLC  
[rayriveradesign.com](http://rayriveradesign.com)





Each year the Los Angeles City/  
County Native American Indian  
Commission selects individuals,  
families or organizations to honor  
during Native American Heritage



Month in November. The City of  
Los Angeles is pleased to celebrate  
this year's Native American  
Heritage Month **honorees!**





## Roberta Javier

### Spirit of Community

Roberta Javier was born in Nampa, Idaho, and grew up in Arizona, Oklahoma, and California. Her ancestors are Cherokee and Sac and Fox. From 1958, when she was six years old, to 1968, Roberta was raised in Los Angeles County foster homes. During those years, she was strictly forbidden to explore her Native heritage or connect with other Natives. She married at age 16 and raised a son and three daughters. Once her children were grown, Roberta returned to school, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2005 and a Master's degree in Social Work from California State University, Los Angeles, in 2009. She then worked in the American Indian Unit of Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Family Services for 12 years. Roberta continues to volunteer and serve on various boards within the Native American community giving back to our people. Roberta plans an annual holiday toy drive for Native foster youth, providing gifts and memories specific to their needs and wishes.

Roberta helps children achieve their dreams and build self-confidence and self-worth. She is a true gift to our community.





## Chris "Spanto" Printup

**Spirit of Creativity (posthumous)**

Chris "Spanto" Printup (White Mountain Apache & Seneca) was born and raised in Venice and was a co-founder of the iconic Los Angeles based streetwear brand Born X Raised. "Born X Raised is like a love letter to the city that I once grew up in, that's gone now," he said referencing the impact of gentrification on his neighborhood. Spanto's initial design of a Native man surrounded by the phrase, "Gentrification is genocide" is what sparked a conversation and eventual partnership between Spanto and his co-founder, 2Tone.

Although Spanto's company saw much success through large partnerships with the LA Dodgers, Kings, Lakers, Rams, and so on, this success came after a life of learning, grit, and finding a way to channel his experiences. From growing up poor, to stints of incarceration, and a diagnosis of terminal cancer which he beat, Spanto found art as a way to convey emotions that were universally felt.

Spanto was a warrior for all of the communities he represented, including the heartfelt representation of his Native American community. Born x Raised collaborated with the dance troupe Indigenous Enterprise to drop a collection of pieces worn by Navajo elders. More recently, a Born x Raised collaboration with Levi's paid homage to Spanto's late father Butch, where he also collaborated with various Indigenous creatives in the

campaign. Spanto was no stranger to the local Native community, having attended Los Angeles Indigenous People's Day celebrations, and ensuring Native participation in his well-known Sadie Hawkins Winter Formal.

In his collaborations with the Native community, he uplifted artists by not only sharing his platform, but bringing his full presence and genuine kindness to every interaction. One such artist shared on his platform, "We stood with you as you paid respects to your ancestors and humbly shook people's hands. You bought gifts for community members and listened to elders as they connected dots that were busting from your heart. You told us this was the most personal and heartfelt project of your life...." In another story, "Last month, Spanto gifted Nike SBs to the entire graduating class of Venice High School. This was only one of the hundreds of times Spanto showed his cultural values of generosity and reciprocity. He truly was a people's champ and big homie and mentor to many..."

"I started this so I could help my people and help my family. That's always going to be the goal. That's always going to be the mission." And that, he did.

Spanto was larger than life, and his impact on Los Angeles as a whole and beyond will last forever. As his company says, Spanto Lives.







## Jimi Castillo

**Spirit of Tradition (posthumous)**

Jimi Castillo, a Tongva/Acjachemen Pipe Carrier and Sun Dancer, was a proud member of the Statewide Bear Clan Society and a Marine Corps veteran (1960 to 1965) having served in the Vietnam War for which he received the Warriors Medal of Valor.

For several decades, he served Native youth in California Prisons. Working as Native American Spiritual Leader for the California Youth Authority, Jimi led sweat lodge ceremonies for imprisoned Native American youth creating a space to ease tensions, practice equality, and resolve gang differences. In 2010, Jimi Castillo ran for Lieutenant Governor on the Green Party hoping to make a difference in California.

Jimi and his wife, Jeanette Castillo are well known on the Southern California pow wow trail, as he was often called upon to act as spiritual leader. Mr. Castillo worked at American Indian Changing Spirits providing sweat lodge for the clients as well as acting as Spiritual Counselor.

In 2016, Jimi and his wife, Jeanette, received President Obama's Volunteer

Service Lifetime Achievement Award for their service to the Native American Community, and the same year received the Aquarium of the Pacific Heritage Award. On August 30, 2021, Jimi was asked to open the ceremony at the opening of the Academy Awards Museum with Mayor Garcetti and was featured on KTLA's Gayle Anderson's series on "Rethinking Thanksgiving." Mr. Castillo passed away on Friday, April 21st at 12:40 am accompanied by the Bear Songs from his Clan Brothers.

Uncle Jimi taught the Native American community lessons about selflessness, humility, kindness, tenacity, and integrity. His service as a spiritual leader for incarcerated Native American youth and Native men in recovery is emblematic of his humility and fundamental belief that everyone is redeemable and deserves healing. Even through the physical pain he endured in his latter years, Uncle Jimi would still pick up the phone to check on others and volunteer his time when he could. Uncle Jimi's story of incredible service and character deserves to be told and recognized as an integral part of the fabric of Los Angeles.



# A COMMUNITY EMBRACING THE FUTURE







**LOS ANGELES**

# POWOWOW

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 2023**

**at the Autry Museum**  
**from 10am-10pm**

*Free Parking  
Food, Art &  
Craft Vendors  
Contests  
And Much More!*

MC: WALTER AHHAITY  
AD: VICTOR CHAVEZ  
Headman: GLEN BEGAY  
Head Woman: NICOLE CROW  
Head Young Man: NATHAN LOGAN JR  
Head Young Woman: SKUYA JACKSON  
Head Gourd Dancer:  
Host Northern Drum: WHITE CLOUD JR'S  
Host Southern Drum: HALE & CO.  
Head Dance Judge & Tabulation:  
SUSAN JACKSON & SHANDIIN BILHILITSO

**DRUG/ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT**

**MORE DETAILS AND INFO...**  
[LAPOWWOW@uail.org](mailto:LAPOWWOW@uail.org)

**UAIL.ORG**

**AUTRY MUSEUM**  
OF THE AMERICAN WEST





17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**LASKINSFEST**  
A NATIVE AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL

**NOVEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

# EMERGING FILMMAKERS

**Fri Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 5pm PST**

**Location: TCL Chinese Theater #6 HOLLYWOOD**  
**6801 Hollywood Blvd. Hollywood, CA 90028**



**Isolation**  
Director Rainie Dawn Jones



**Destiny's Lines — logged event**  
Director Kristen Calderon



**Spirit Girl**  
Director Kim Soo Goodtrack



**Tell Me About Boarding school**  
Director Shima Sani



**American Psycho**  
Director Daniel Osorio



**Epiphany Dream**  
Director Sarah Pearl Hall



**Stay on the Path**  
Director Brandon Martinez



**O'odham Su:dag- The People's Water**  
Director Jasmine D Lopez



**Remember**  
Director UAI Native Youth









# 38th ANNUAL CSUN POWWOW

**Nov. 25, 2023**

**11AM-9PM SIERRA QUAD**  
**11AM GOURD DANCING**  
**12:30PM GRAND ENTRY**

**Head Woman Auriah Vasquez**  
**Head Man Gavin Watts**  
**Head Girl Fallen Star Padilla**  
**Head Boy Nathaniel Gonzalez**  
**Southern Drum Hale & Co.**  
**Northern Drum Blue Star**  
**Arena Director Victor Chavez**  
**MC Randy Pico**



**Sam Sierra, Head Man 2022**

Sponsored by CSUN Parking Services, Associated Students, University Student Union, the College of Humanities, & CoH Academic Programming Fund.

**PARKING** in B-3 structure. Enter campus at Reseda Blvd. & Prairie St.

**FREE ADMISSION**

For information:  
[csunaisa@gmail.com](mailto:csunaisa@gmail.com)

**Cal State University, Northridge**





# RED EARTH GAZE

October 12 — December 9, 2023

Public Opening Reception: October 12th, 5–8pm



Weshoyot Alvitre • Miranda Calvin • Avis Charley • Joe Galarza • River Garza • Tochtli Melissa Govea  
Jesús Jesse Gutiérrez • L. Frank Manriquez • Nicole Merton • Isaac Michael • Tony Portillo  
Xochitlmilko Portillo • Laurie Steelink • Marissa Magdalena Sykes • Mi'randra Nana Villanueva  
Alexandria Ybarra • Veronica Ybarra • Mer Young

Curated by Gloria Gem Sánchez



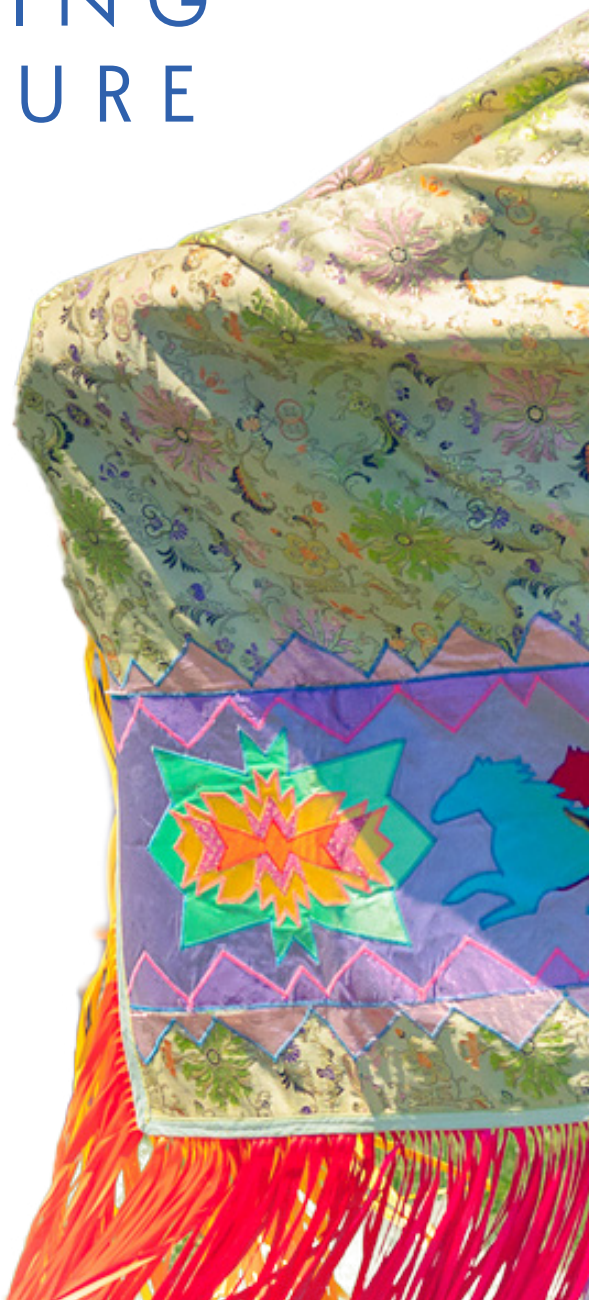


2023

NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH



# A COMMUNITY EMBRACING THE FUTURE





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NATIVE AMERICAN



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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
*City of Los Angeles*

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