

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

November 4, 2025

AND LINDSEY P. HORVATH

Proclaiming November 2025 as Native American Heritage Month

November is nationally recognized as Native American Heritage Month (NAHM), a time to honor the rich history, diverse cultures, and lasting contributions of Native American communities across the United States. This month serves as both a celebration and an opportunity for education, reflection, and action. By uplifting Native narratives, we acknowledge the languages, cultural practices, and traditional wisdom that continue to shape our nation.

Los Angeles County is home to numerous First Peoples, including the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash, whose ancestral lands we inhabit. The County also has a vibrant American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population representing more than 200 tribes. This month, we honor their resilience, creativity, and the many ways Native peoples have enriched our society.

In the face of renewed threats from the Trump administration to tribal sovereignty, land protections, and essential health and education programs, it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity with AIAN communities. Policies that attempt to weaken tribal self-determination or restrict access to critical resources undermine

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Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
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centuries of resilience and cultural survival. Los Angeles County remains firmly committed to advancing equity, inclusion, and reconciliation, and to ensuring that Native voices are centered in the decisions that affect their communities.

Over the past several years, Los Angeles County has worked to integrate Native voices into policymaking, cultural preservation, and educational initiatives that celebrate Native heritage. Through partnerships with tribal leaders and community organizations, the County continues to promote justice, respect, and mutual understanding.

Each year, the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) recognizes three AIAN community members or entities as honorees for NAHM. This year's honorees are:

- Tencha Chavez (Diné/Navajo), Spirit of Community
- The Chapter House, Spirit of Tradition
- Meztli Projects, Spirit of Creativity

Spirit of Community Honoree

Tencha Chavez is Diné/Navajo, born to the Meadow People and for the Mexican people (Chicana). Raised in Los Angeles County, her homeland is the Little Water Reservation within the Navajo Nation in New Mexico. Her professional and personal mission is to advance healing and equity for Native communities by addressing generational trauma, dismantling systemic barriers, and supporting sustainable opportunities. Her recovery journey, grounded in the Red Road, informs her leadership

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and commitment to service. In Fall 2025, Ms. Chavez will begin a dual master's program in Public Administration and Urban Planning with a concentration in Arts & Culture at the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy. This program reflects her long-term commitment to developing creative, equitable, and culturally rooted solutions for Indigenous communities. Ms. Chavez currently serves as co-secretary of a weekly Wellbriety group, providing a consistent space for sobriety, healing, and reconnection. She has assisted unsheltered relatives in securing housing and supported community members in achieving educational and employment goals. Her advocacy extends to increasing resources for American Indian and Alaska Native-serving organizations in Los Angeles County. Her work reflects humility, cultural integrity, and a vision for stronger, healthier Native communities for future generations.

Spirit of Tradition Honoree

The Chapter House (TCH) is a community organization based in Echo Park, led by Native Women, that cultivates Indigenous joy through art, performance, celebration, and collaboration in order to nurture a vibrant, re-emergent Indigenous identity for LA Urban Indians. Through events such as comedy nights, the LA NDN Flea Market, Indigenous Drag Show, improv classes, fundraising events, and yoga sessions, TCH offers a place where Native community members can gather, share stories, and celebrate shared Urban Indian identity. Their gatherings center Indigenous presence/thriving in an urban landscape where Native Peoples are often made

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invisible. By offering consistent, creative, and welcoming programming, TCH has become a space for connection, culture, and collective joy - embodying the Spirit of Tradition.

Spirit of Creativity Honoree

Meztli Projects, led by a collective of Native artists, is an Indigenous creative studio and cultural platform that centers Native voices, histories, and futures through art, design, and storytelling. Meztli Projects blends traditional knowledge with contemporary creative practices to make Indigenous presence visible, celebrated, and healing. Their work spans murals, public art, graphic design, and cultural programming such as men's and women's circles. Their work is grounded in Indigenous sovereignty, reciprocity, and connection to place. Meztli Projects embodies the Spirit of Creativity by using art to celebrate Indigenous identities, reclaim cultural spaces within Los Angeles, heal the community and protest the harms caused to their relatives. Meztli Projects has continuously uplifted the work of the Native community to protest injustices being committed against Indigenous Peoples across the world by colonial governments. During the ICE Raids in Los Angeles, Meztli Projects organized community gatherings and distributed posters that read: "Keep ICE out of Tongvaar" and beaded bracelets with chip-connected beads leading to know your rights resources - centering the shared struggle for justice. In Los Angeles where Native histories are often erased, Meztli Projects boldly centers the ancestral legacy of resistance.

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In January 2025, as catastrophic fires swept through Los Angeles County, 15 tribal nations from California and beyond deployed their firefighter crews to help protect lives, homes, and sacred lands. In addition to honoring this year's NAHM honorees, the LANAIC recognizes the immense bravery and profound acts of mutual aid from the following tribal nations:

- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Klamath Tribes
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Navajo Nation
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

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- Yurok Tribe

Let us celebrate Native American Heritage Month with respect, gratitude, and solidarity, honoring the resilience of Native peoples and continuing our shared work toward a just society where their rights, histories, and cultures are uplifted and celebrated.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim November 2025 as Native American Heritage Month in Los Angeles County and encourage all County departments and residents to participate in related events and programming that honor Native American history, culture, and contributions.
2. Acknowledge and celebrate Tencha Chavez (Spirit of Community), The Chapter House (Spirit of Tradition), and Meztli Projects (Spirit of Creativity) as this year's Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) honorees.
3. Recognize and thank the following tribal nations for their bravery and selfless dedication in assisting with firefighting and recovery efforts during the January 2025 Los Angeles County wildfires:
 - Barona Band of Mission Indians
 - Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

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