



# AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

DENVER HUMAN RIGHTS &  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Mission of the Denver American Indian Commission is to **enhance** present and future **communications** between the Denver American Indian Community and the City and County of Denver, to **advocate** for social and cultural **awareness** and to **promote** economic and political **equality**.

**Main Strategic Goal:** *To increase the visibility and awareness of American Indians in the Denver metro area by improving the American Indian quality of life and promoting positive concepts of American Indian heritage and culture.*



DAIC Commissioners and Community Partners  
from IIIRM and the Stronghold Society Inc.

Photo credit – Mervyn L. Tano (February 6, 2016)



# DAIC Commission Focus Areas:



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

- # 1:** An efficient and effective commission structure.
- # 2:** Provide regular venues for Native peoples to share all forms of traditional and contemporary Native Arts and media with the community at large.
- # 3:** Regular lines of communication with, and positive interactions between, Denver public safety agencies and the Native communities in the Denver-metro area.
- # 4:** Create a positive, visible Native presence and promote indigenous perspectives throughout the Denver area.
- # 5:** Enhance, promote Native educational scholarship & Conference opportunities in the Denver area.
- # 6:** Represent the interests of the Denver Native community in the area of Health.
- # 7:** Create/Maintain the community resource directory and promote the comprehensive economic impact study.



The Denver American Indian Commission host monthly meetings the second Wednesday of each month from 5:00pm to 6:00pm at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver 80205). Right after each meeting the DAIC is proud to present the monthly 2017 Indigenous Film Series @ DMNS' Phipps Theater: films start at 6:30pm, with the doors opening at 6:00pm and end time between 7:45 – 8:30pm. The format will be a film screening followed by discussion with the audience. Free and open to the public.



INDIGENOUS  
FILM & ARTS  
FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DENVER MUSEUM OF  
NATURE & SCIENCE

AMERICAN INDIAN  
COMMISSION  
DENVER HUMAN RIGHTS &  
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

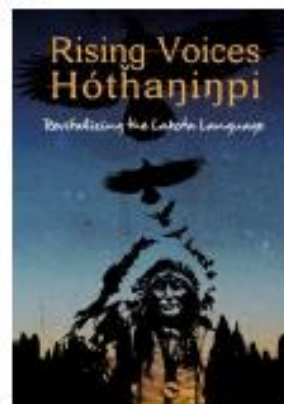
2017

## Rising Voices/Hóthanjipi *Revitalizing the Lakota Language*

February 8, 2017 ♦ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Rising Voices/Hóthanjipi** (directors Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey). This hour-long documentary braids together the current struggles of Lakota to learn their tribal language, the historical attempt by the United State to annihilate the language, the rise of immersion language schools, and the participation of outsiders in the rescue of the Lakota language. Short films about the culture, created by Lakota filmmakers and artists, are interwoven with the history to present a multi-faceted picture of the revitalization of the Lakota language. (Florentine Films/Hott Productions and Vision Maker Media, 2015, 57 min.) *In English and Lakota with English subtitles.*

*Closed captioned. A sign language interpreter will be provided upon request for the film discussion - three business days' notice requested. Contact [SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org](mailto:SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org).*



Denver American Indian Commissioner Kimimila Locke (Lakota and Ahtna Dine) will lead a discussion with the audience following the film. Kimimila currently teaches Lakota within the Denver Public School System.

*Special Thanks to our 2016-17 Series Sponsor*



Mile High  
Behavioral  
Healthcare

**A MONTHLY INDIGENOUS FILM SERIES – FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY**  
(Suggested Donation \$5)

Denver Museum of Nature & Science ♦ Phipps Theater – East Entrance  
2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205

Additional info: [www.dmus.org](http://www.dmus.org) and [Facebook/Indigenous Film & Art: Festival](https://www.facebook.com/IndigenousFilmArtsFestival) or email: [film@iirm.org](mailto:film@iirm.org)



Governor's Commission to Study  
American Indian Representations  
in Public Schools

Report 2016



# Four Guiding Principles

- The elimination of derogatory and offensive American Indian mascots, imagery, and names and strong recommendations for communities to review their depictions in facilitated public forums.
- The recognition and respect of Tribal sovereignty and a strong recommendation for schools to enter into formal relationships with federally recognized tribe to retain their American Indian imagery.
- The recognition and respect of local control by elected boards of education and an active involvement of local communities, students, and citizens around the topic of American Indian mascots.
- A strong educational focus and outreach



# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 16-0939  
In Observance of First Annual *Indigenous Peoples' Day* in  
The City and County of Denver

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples have lived and flourished on the lands known as the Americas since time immemorial, and that Denver and the surrounding communities are built upon the ancestral homelands of numerous Indigenous tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the seasonal encampments of the Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples along the banks of the Cherry Creek and South Platte River confluence gave bearing to future settlements that would become the birthplace of the Mile High City; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado encompasses the ancestral homelands of 48 tribes and currently the City and County of Denver and the surrounding communities are home to descendants of approximately 100 tribal nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes and values the vast contributions made to our community through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, science, philosophy, arts and culture, and through these contributions the City of Denver has developed and thrived, and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977, by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 3, 2016 the Council of the City and County of Denver unanimously passed CB16-801, officially designating the second Monday of October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Denver, Colorado.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver celebrates and honors the cultural and foundational contributions of Indigenous People to our history, past, present and future; and will continue to close gaps in equity and promote increased access to healthcare, housing, education, economic opportunity and civil rights for all people.

**Section 2.** The City and County of Denver, Colorado, does hereby observe and proclaim October 10, 2016 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

**Section 3.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Denver American Indian Commission, the Denver Agency for Human Rights & Community Partnerships, the Denver Public Library, the City and County of Denver School District No. 1, History Colorado, the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs and the Governor of Colorado, John W. Hickenlooper.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 10, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPONSOR



# Activating the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights

Join us for an evening with Dean James Anaya and distinguished panelists as we celebrate **Indigenous Confluence Week, Oct. 4 -14, 2016**

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

Denver Post Building Atrium &  
Auditorium -101 W. Colfax Ste. 800  
Denver, CO 80202

4:00 p.m.- Art, music, community sharing and gathering

6:30 p.m. -Symposium Reception

7:00 p.m.- Symposium: *Activating the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights*



Dean James Anaya is the Dean of CU Law School and has taught and written extensively on international human rights and issues concerning Indigenous peoples. He served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from May 2008 to June 2014.

## FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Sponsored by the City and County of Denver and the Denver American Indian Commission



# 2016 Festival Schedule

All events are FREE and open to the public\*.

WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER ▶ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

## **Roundtable: Just Communities, Just Nations**

Cosponsors: Denver American Indian Commission, University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus - Office of Inclusion & Outreach

WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER ▶ 5:45 - 8:30 pm

## **Alamar**

**Reception:** 5:45 pm **Festival Opening** by Ernest House, Jr., Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs;  
**Welcome** from Consulate General of Mexico, and LatinasGive! **Film:** 6:45 pm

## **Cableland**

4150 Shangri-La Drive, Denver 80246

Supported by a grant from LatinasGive!

**RSVP  
required to  
film@jilrm.org**

THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER ▶ 5:30 - 7:30 pm

## **Art Opening - Tsitsistas: Our Cheyenne Family, with artist George Curtis Levi**

**Reception:** 5:30 pm **Artist Talk:** 6:15 pm  
**University of Anthropology**  
Room 102 Sturm Hall, 2000 E. Asbury, Denver 80208  
Cosponsor: DU Department of Anthropology

FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER ▶ 6:30 - 8:30 pm

## **Sumé: The Sound of a Revolution**

**University of Denver Davis Auditorium**  
Room 248 Sturm Hall, 2000 E. Asbury, Denver 80208  
Cosponsors: University of Denver Department of Anthropology

SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER ▶ 4:00 - 9:00 pm (Double Feature & Reception)

**Short Films from Around the World** ▶ 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
• Konāngxeka: The Maxakali Flood • Ogress of the Gravelbank • The Fox of Shichigorosawa • Kamix'd • Returning • Marie's Dictionary • Water Song • Inc'd • The Spectacular Imagination of the Pohara Brothers

**Q&A** by Morris Te Whiti Love, Raukura Consultants

**Reception by Tocabe** ▶ 6:00 - 6:30 pm



SATURDAY, 8 OCTOBER ▶ 4:00 - 9:00 pm (continued)

## **Mekko** ▶ 6:30 - 8:30 pm

**Student Commons Bldg., Room 1500**  
**1201 Larimer Street, Auraria Campus, Denver 80204**

Cosponsors: University of Colorado Denver American Indian Student Services, Ethnic Studies Department, and Anschutz Medical Campus - Office of Outreach & Inclusion

SUNDAY, 9 OCTOBER ▶ 6:00 - 9:00 pm

## **Message from Mungo**

Q&A with Chip Colwell, Ph.D., Senior Curator of Anthropology, DMNS

**Denver Museum of Nature & Science**  
2100 Colorado Blvd., Denver 80205  
Cosponsor: Denver Museum of Nature & Science

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER ▶ 6:30 - 8:45 pm

## **The Price of Peace**

**Welcome** by Patricia Limerick, State Historian: 6:30 pm  
**Film:** 6:45 pm; **Q&A** with Tame Iti (via Skype), moderated by Morris Te Whiti Love, Raukura Consultants  
**History Colorado** - 1200 Broadway, Denver 80203  
Cosponsors: History Colorado, Kumulau Foundation, and Pi'ilani Hawaiian Civic Club of Colorado

## **Festival Finale**

WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER ▶ 6:30 - 8:30 pm

## **Chasing the Light**

Q&A with director Blackhorse Lowe  
**Denver Museum of Nature & Science**  
2100 Colorado Blvd., Denver 80205  
Cosponsor: Denver Museum of Nature & Science

\* Suggested donation \$5

A sign language interpreter will be provided upon request for the film discussions - three business days' notice requested. Contact [SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org](mailto:SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org).

See synopses for films with open captions and subtitles.



# RESOURCE GUIDE



**T**he Denver American Indian Commission was formed in 2007 to improve communications between the Native community and the City and County of Denver. Nearly a decade and some 40 commissioners later, the DAIC continues to serve as an example of proactive civic engagement, where urban Indian concerns such as economic impact, social and cultural awareness and political equality are brought to the attention of city leadership through members of the Native community appointed by the Mayor.

The DAIC promotes community excellence and models civic responsibility through monthly meetings and annual gatherings. The commission also serves as a resource for the Native community, creating partnerships and promoting positive awareness in the non-Native community.

Forexample, the DAIC worked with Denver City Council to proclaim Oct. 12, 2015, as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Mile High City. Though this recognition was for one day only, commission members resolved to establish a permanent day of observance.

**You thrive. I thrive. We thrive.**

The DAIC pooled resources with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce to conduct the first of its kind Colorado American Indian and Alaska Native Economic Impact Report in 2015. The study determined that Native

individuals, businesses and tribes added more than \$1.5 billion annually to the Colorado economy.

Since 2011, the DAIC has partnered with the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science to present Indigenous themed, mostly independent documentaries, followed by facilitated discussion with commissioners and non-Native audience members. The Indigenous Film Series has showcased Native topics and Native peoples' firsthand experiences to increase the visibility and awareness of American Indians in the Denver area.

In 2010, the DAIC launched a special alliance with the Stronghold Society Inc., a local nonprofit devoted to staging the annual One Gathering Skate for Life event at downtown's Denver Skate Park. The event has become the largest skateboarding competition for American Indian youth in the country.

**Native American businesses and tribes add more than \$1.5 billion to the Colorado economy every year.**

In addition to organizing such annual events as Pathways to Respecting American Indian Civil Rights, where Native people whose civil rights may have been violated can safely discuss potential legal and regulatory issues with federal and state civil rights enforcement staff and advocates, the commission creates this guide, which celebrates and promotes everything from health and family services to culture, education, legal, federal and tribal resources.

**Please share this resource.**

*Darius Lee Smith (Navajo/Black) is the liaison to the DAIC Commission and the Director of the Denver Anti-Discrimination Office. He may be reached at 720.913.8459 or [Darius.Smith@denvergov.org](mailto:Darius.Smith@denvergov.org).*



**AMERICAN INDIAN  
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American Indian  
Positive Interactions  
with Public Safety

Community Training  
Since 2013

Reform Committee –  
Larry Left Hand Bull

Denver Sheriff Department  
Native Community Awareness Training  
Thursday, October 13, 2016

Denver Sheriff Training Academy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Event Center  
5440 Roslyn St, Denver, CO 80216 (near 54<sup>th</sup> & Quebec)

**9:00 Welcome and Introduction of DSD recruits** – DSD Representative

**9:10-10:30 Presentation on Native Justice and Indian Boarding Schools (Historical Trauma) – Bessie Smith (Navajo/Diné) and Darius Smith (Navajo/Diné & Black)**, Director, Denver Anti-Discrimination Office and Denver American Indian Commission liaison

**10:30 – 10:40 Break**

**10:40 – 11:15 How Trauma Impacts Brain Functioning in the Native Community - Dennis Swain**, Executive Director, Denver Indian Family Resource Center

**11:15-11:45 Panel of Native Experts Q&A** (5-7 minutes each) – Moderator Darius Smith

- **Bessie Smith (Navajo/Diné)** – Professionally Qualified Navajo Language Interpreter
- **Dennis Swain**, Executive Director, Denver Indian Family Resource Center
- **Erlidawn Roy (Meskwaki/Ojibwe)**, Outreach Enrollment Specialist, Denver Indian Health and Family Services, Inc.
- **Hannabah Blue (Navajo/Dine')**, Public Health Consultant with John Snow, Inc. Native American Youth, Women and LGBTQ/Two Spirit Community Advocate. Focusing on Health Disparities and Resiliency Factors.

**11:55 pm Closing** - DSD Representative

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch**



# 13th Annual *American Indian Achievement Awards Gala*

## 2016 Denver American Indian Commission Honoring



### AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

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#### Maymangwa

#### Flying Earth

Standing Rock Lakota  
| White Earth Ojibwe |  
Akimel O'odham  
DAIC Co-Chair

Maymangwa has been a commissioner on the Denver American Indian Commission since 2010 and is a Co-Chair of the Commission. She is a lawyer with expertise in small business development and government contracting. She earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Minnesota and her Doctor of Law from Cornell University. She is a former commissioner on the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs and former board member of the Denver Indian Health and Family Services.



#### Elicia

#### Good Soldier

Dine' | Spirit Lake Dakota  
DAIC Co-Chair

Elicia has been a member of the Denver American Indian Commission since July 2012 and is a co-Chair of the Commission. Ms. Goodsoldier is the Program Coordinator for People Engaged in Raising Leaders, a program within the Boulder County government. She recently completed a gubernatorial appointment to the Commission to Study American Indian Representations in Public Schools and served a term on the Board of Directors for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. She received her B.A. degree in History from Arizona State University.

November 5, 2016 | 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Marriott DTC | 4900 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237



# Mayor's Diversity & Inclusion Awards

2016 – [Ara Cruz & Café Cultura](#)



2015 – [Dianne Van Voorhees](#) (Turtle Mt. Chippewa)

2014 – [Shadana Dickerson-Sultan](#) (Oglala Lakota)

2013 – [Shawn Martinez](#) (Navajo)

2012 – [Walt Pourier/Stronghold Society](#) (Oglala Lakota)

2011 – [American Indian Veterans of Colorado](#) (Inter Tribal Members)



# Colorado American Indian and Alaska Native Economic Impact Report



# Economic Impact Study Preliminary Results

Category	Direct Revenue	Number of Employees	Economic Impact – Revenue	Economic Impact – Earnings	Additional Jobs Created
Native-Owned Private Business	\$795,250,352	6,671	\$1,141,917,328	\$424,207,534	7984
Non-Profits	\$55,100,079	268	\$79,579,358	\$32,803,151	853
Public Higher Education	\$22,674,226	2,599*	\$31,895,834	\$13,339,247	454
Tourism	**	**	\$30,500,000	**	**
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$874,024,657</b>	<b>6,939 (employees only)</b>	<b>\$1,283,892,520</b>	<b>\$470,349,740</b>	<b>9,291</b>

\* Number of students  
 \*\* Direct Data Not Available

*Even without the economic impact generated by ventures owned directly by the tribes (still being analyzed), Colorado benefits from \$1.2B in economic activity, nearly \$500M in wages, and nearly 9,300 jobs that it would not otherwise have. Including the direct revenue and employees, those numbers move to over \$2B in economic activity and over 16,000 jobs...*



# Events in 2017:

Run for the Stronghold Event @ East High School

April 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 – health event in partnership with DIHFS

UNITY National Conference – Denver –

July 22-26, 2017

Pathways to Respecting American Indian Civil Rights Conference

August 9-10, 2017

Denver Days event at Tocabe: An American Indian Eatery

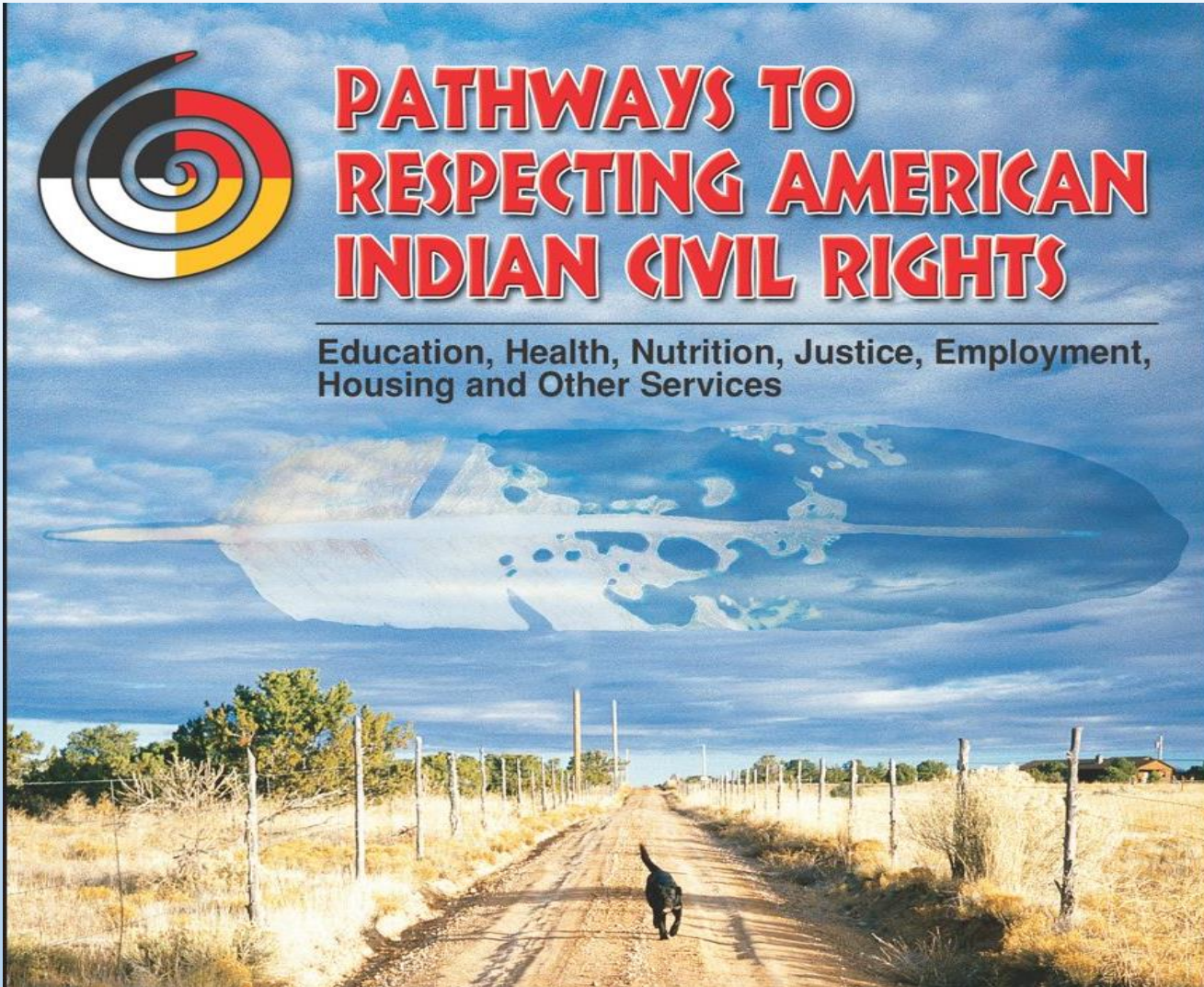
August 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

AISES National Conference – Denver –

September 21-23, 2017

Indigenous Peoples' Day Confluence Event

October 9, 2017



To be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 2017





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The Mission of the Denver American Indian Commission is to enhance present and future communications between the Denver American Indian Community and the City and County of Denver, to advocate for social and cultural awareness and to promote economic and political equality.

### Commission Subcommittees:

Health • Education • Arts • Public Safety • Public Relations

#### Goal # 1

Maintain an efficient and effective commission structure.

#### Goal # 2

Provide regular venues for Native peoples to share all forms of traditional and contemporary Native Arts and media with the community at large.

#### Goal # 3

Promote regular lines of communication with, and positive interactions between, Denver public safety agencies and the Native communities in the Denver-metro area.

#### Goal # 4

Create a positive, visible Native presence and promote indigenous perspectives throughout the Denver area.

#### Goal # 5

Enhance, promote Native educational scholarship & Conference opportunities in the Denver area.

#### Goal # 6

Represent the interests of the Denver Native community in the area of Health.

#### Goal # 7

Collaborate with the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs in updating the community resource directory and initiate a comprehensive economic impact study.





## Denver City Council reading of the 2015 Indigenous Peoples' Day Proclamation

Photo credit – Elicia Goodsoldier (October 12, 2015)





**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

# DAIC Commissioners with Tribal Affiliations

- **Kristina Bad Hand** (Sicangu Lakota/Cherokee)
- **Venus Boatner** (Bois Forte Ojibwe/Oglala Lakota)
- **Derek Brown** (Dine')
- **Stella Carrasco** (Sicangu Lakota)
- **Benito Concha** (Taos Pueblo)
- **Jacqueline Esai** (Athabaskan)
- **Co-Chair - Maymangwa Flying Earth** (Lakota, Ojibwe, Akimel O'odham)
- **Co-Chair - Elicia Goodsoldier** (Navajo Nation/Spirit Lake Dakota)
- **Donna Lafferty** (Cheyenne River Sioux)
- **Kimimila Locke** (Ahtna Dine, Hunkpapa Lakota, White Earth Ojibwe)
- **Michelle Perez** (Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians)
- **Mervyn "Merv" Tano** (Native Hawaiian/Indigenous Puerto Rican)
- **Lance Tsosie** (Dine')
- **Kimberly Varilek** (Eastern Shoshone/Oglala Lakota)

For detailed information about and the purpose of the DAIC Commission, visit their website at

<http://www.denvergov.org/NativeAmerican> or

*follow us on*



**Denver American Indian Commission**

**Darius Lee Smith** (Dine')  
Administrative/Staff Support  
to DAIC

(720) 913-8459 work

[darius.smith@denvergov.org](mailto:darius.smith@denvergov.org)