



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.*

Commissioners with Tribal Affiliations

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

DAIC Commission Focus Areas:



- # 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.



Indigenous Peoples' Day in Other Cities*

City	Date Passed	Type of Recognition
Berkeley, CA	1992	Permanent
Seattle, WA	October 2014	Permanent
Minneapolis, MN	Spring 2014	Permanent
Saint Paul, MN	August 2015	Permanent
Albuquerque, NM	October 7, 2015	Permanent
Santa Fe, NM	October 2015	Permanent
Lawrence, KS	October 6, 2015	1 year proclamation
Portland, OR	October 7, 2015	Permanent
Anadarko, OK	September 2015	Permanent
Olympia, WA	August 2015	Permanent
Ann Arbor, MI	November 2015	Permanent
Anchorage, AK	October 2015	Permanent
Durango, CO	January 5, 2016	Permanent
Boulder, CO	August 2, 2016	Permanent



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Indigenous Peoples' Day in Denver

- Historically, the second Monday of October has been recognized as Columbus Day at the federal and state level
- Columbus Day is not recognized in the City & County of Denver.
- The first city to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday of October is Berkeley, CA in 1992.
- In 2015, Seattle and Minneapolis each passed resolutions to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in their respective cities.
- South Dakota recognizes the second Monday of October as Native Americans Day and the State of Alaska has recently recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Last year and this year many more cities have joined the list of recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Councilman Paul D. Lopez (Dist. #3) Introduces a City and County of Denver Proclamation No. CP15-0761 **Proclaiming October 12, 2015 as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" in Denver, Colorado**



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The DAIC would like the City & County of Denver to establish **Indigenous Peoples' Day** on the 2nd Monday of every October through ordinance

Denver is located on the ancestral homelands of 48 tribes, and is currently the home to descendants of the Cheyenne, Lakota, Kiowa, Navajo, and approximately 100 other tribal nations

- DAIC firmly believes that the positive outcomes of recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City & County of Denver will be:
 - Unifying and educating Denver communities
 - Creating opportunity to build capacity and partnerships in Denver and surrounding communities
 - Promoting knowledge about and respect of Indigenous peoples
 - Combating prejudice and helping to eliminate discrimination against Indigenous peoples
- DAIC plans to host cultural and educational events to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City & County of Denver