



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 20, 2024

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Mr. Bryce Lewis-Smith to the Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission for the term ending October 07, 2024.

I certify that in my opinion Mr. Lewis-Smith is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon him, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Mr. Lewis-Smith will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Audra Wise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karen Bass'.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Bryce Lewis-Smith
Commission: Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission
End of Term: 10/7/2024

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** Native American
2. **Gender:** Male
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 13 - East LA
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** N/A
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Master of Marine and Environmental Affairs & Graduate Certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies, University of Washington School of Marine and Environmental Affairs
7. **Occupation/profession:** Associate II, Better World Group, Los Angeles
8. **Experience(s) that qualifies person for appointment:** See attached resume
9. **Purpose of this appointment:** Appointment
10. **Current composition of the commission (excluding appointee):**

Commissioner	APC	CD	Race	Gender	Term End
VACANT			Native American		10/7/2024
Castro, Chrissie	East LA	1	Native American	F	10/7/2025
Garcia, Andrea	Central	10	Native American	F	10/7/2025
VACANT					10/7/2025
Villasenor, Mark	North Valley	7	Native American	M	10/7/2027

Bryce Lewis-Smith (Citizen Potawatomi)

(he/him)

Passionate, community-oriented environmentalist specializing in equitable approaches to climate resiliency, ecological restoration, and Indigenous environmental justice. Expertise in using mixed quantitative, qualitative, and Indigenous approaches to complicated issues of environmental justice, climate change, and tribal sovereignty.

EDUCATION

MMA - University of Washington School of Marine and Environmental Affairs Seattle, WA
Master of Marine and Environmental Affairs & Graduate Certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies
BA Environmental Biology - Occidental College Los Angeles, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Better World Group - Los Angeles, CA 2023 - Present

Associate II

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Office of Environmental Justice

- Wove Native American environmental justice priorities into the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health's strategic plan by interviewing Tongva, Chumash, and Tataviam Tribal and cultural leaders.

Washington State Clean Shipping Campaign

- Mobilized local network of Tribal leaders, environmentalists, and community NGOs to support the expansion of California's port electrification policies to regulate localized pollution and reduce CO2 emissions.

The University of Washington - Seattle, WA

sʔilwit - Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies (CAIIS) 2022 - 2023

Community Liaison

- Advocated Indigenous student needs for the expansion of wəłəbʔaltxʷ (our on campus longhouse) to 30+ tribal leaders at the 2023 Tribal Leadership Summit in Washington State.
- Revitalized the Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars program by fostering a network of Native American, Pacific Islander, and Alaskan Native faculty, staff, and students from across campus.

Center for Human Rights 2021 - 2022

Graduate Research Assistant

- Partnered with Native youth from Chief Leschi Tribal School to share the importance of Indigenous language revitalization for environmental justice and restoration of the Salish Sea.

City Plants - Los Angeles, CA 2021 - 2022

Tree Ambassadors Project Assistant

- Conducted assessment of pathways to green disadvantaged neighborhoods, with a focus on formerly redlined communities, and provided on-the-ground support to low-canopy and urban heat vulnerable regions.
 - Established partnerships with Cahuilla, Tongva, Chumash, and Kizh environmental leaders to ground the Tree Ambassador in place-based knowledge and to promote the use of native tree species for urban greening.
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GRANTS, AWARDS, and FELLOWSHIPS

American Indian and Indigenous Scholars, UW American Indian Studies 2022 - 2023

The qacagʷac Award, UW American Indian Studies 2023

Outstanding Community Impact Award, UW College of the Environment 2022

PUBLIC LECTURES and PANELS

Responsibility & Reciprocal Relationships with the Land, OxyArts 2023

Bisakaabiiyang "Returning to Ourselves" with Kyle Whyte, Trent University 2023

Braiding Sweetgrass with Robin Wall Kimmerer, UW Public Lecture 2023



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 20, 2024

Dear Mr. Lewis-Smith:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Los Angeles City-County Native American Indian Commission for the term ending October 07, 2024, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

To begin the appointment process, please review, sign, and return the enclosed Remuneration Form and undated Letters of Separation **within one week** of receiving this letter. These documents are necessary to ensure the most efficient, open, and accountable city government possible.

Mayor's Office policy requires all potential commissioners to be fingerprinted as part of the background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with Personnel's Background Unit so that you may schedule an appointment to have this done. You must schedule the appointment **within one week** of receiving this letter.

As part of the appointment process, Hugo Soto-Martinez, your Councilmember, and Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, the Chair of the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, may wish to meet with you to answer any questions they have. Our office will assist with arranging these meetings.

Mr. Bryce Lewis-Smith
May 20, 2024
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Additionally, you will be required to attend public meetings at City Hall where your appointment will be considered. You will be hearing from our office and a City Council Clerk who will let you know when your appointment will be considered by the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee. Sometime thereafter, you will be notified of the date when your appointment will be presented to the full City Council. Before you may begin serving, you will be required to take the Oath of Office in the City Clerk's Office located in Room 395 of City Hall. If you require parking for these meetings, please contact my Commissions team by email at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Per the City Charter, most commissioners must be registered voters of the City of Los Angeles, and must therefore reside within Los Angeles. If you move at any point during your term, or your contact information changes, please contact my Commissions team immediately at the email address listed below. While we hope that you complete a successful term, if for some reason you intend to resign, please do so in writing to my Commissions team at myr-commissions@lacity.org.

Congratulations, and thank you for agreeing to serve the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Mr. Bryce Lewis-Smith
May 20, 2024

Nominee Check List

I. Within 7 days:

- Email the below completed documents, found on the last three pages of this letter, to: myr-commissions@lacity.org OR mail them to:

Office of the Mayor
Attn: Thomas Arechiga
200 N. Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Remuneration Form
- Undated Separation Letters (2)

- Schedule an appointment to get fingerprinted to complete a background check. The Commissions team will assist in connecting you with the Personnel Background Unit.

II. The Mayor's Office will notify the below Councilmembers of your nomination, so that they may reach out to schedule a meeting with you should they wish.

- Your City Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez
- Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

III. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee Hearing
- Full Council Hearing