



October 10, 2023

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

Honorable Members:

Subject to your confirmation, I have appointed Ms. Tria Blu Wakpa to the Board of Cultural Affairs Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2028.

I certify that in my opinion Ms. Blu Wakpa is especially qualified by reason of training and experience for the work which shall devolve upon her, and that I make the appointment solely in the interest of the City.

Ms. Blu Wakpa will fill the vacancy created by the departure of Karen Richardson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT FORM

Name: Tria Blu Wakpa
Commission: Board of Cultural Affairs Commissioners
End of Term: 6/30/2028

Appointee Information

1. **Race:** API
2. **Gender:** Female
3. **Council District and neighborhood of residence:** 7 - North Valley
4. **Are you a registered voter in the City of Los Angeles?** Yes
5. **Prior commission experience:**
6. **Highest level of education completed:** Ph.D., Ethnic Studies Department, University of California, Berkeley
7. **Occupation/profession:** Assistant Professor in Dance Studies, Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, Core and Affiliated Faculty, American Indian Studies, Affiliated Faculty, Center for Community Engagement, University of California, 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
Unger, Catherine	West LA	5	Caucasian	F	6/30/2028
Olatunji, Asantewa	South LA	10	African American	F	6/30/2027
VACANT					6/30/2028
Ho, Thien	Central	1	API	F	6/30/2026
Jimenez, Ray	West LA	5	Latinx	M	6/30/2027
VACANT					6/30/2024
Vinson, Robert	North Valley	12	Latinx	M	6/30/2025



Tria Blu Wakpa

Assistant Professor in Dance Studies, Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance
Core and Affiliated Faculty, American Indian Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Center for Community Engagement
University of California, Los Angeles

<https://www.wacd.ucla.edu/people/faculty/tria-blu-wakpa>
<https://www.triabluwakpa.com/>
(formerly Tria Andrews)

World Arts and Cultures/Dance Dept
University of California, Los Angeles

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ethnic Studies Department, University of California, Berkeley 2017
Dissertation Title: "Native American Embodiment in Educational and Carceral Contexts: Fixing, Eclipsing, and Liberating"

M.A., Ethnic Studies Department, University of California, Berkeley 2012

M.F.A., Department of English and Comparative Literature, San Diego State University
2009
Thesis Title: "Elle Souffre"

B.A., Summa Cum Laude, English Department, Oklahoma State University 2003

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Ford Postdoctoral Fellow 2021-2022
Department of English
University of California, Riverside

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow 2017-2018
Department of Dance
University of California, Riverside

OTHER PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Dancer, Atamira Dance Collective, Aotearoa (New Zealand) 2014
Global Cultural Ambassador Artist, Dancing Earth: 2014
Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Filipino Stick Fighting Instructor, Combat Kali, Manila, Philippines 2013
Certified Yoga Instructor, Prana Yoga Center, La Jolla, California 2009
Certified Massage Therapist, Napa Valley School of Massage, Napa, California 2003
Third-degree Black Belt in the Martial Arts, Pinewood Karate School, Napa, California 2001
Women's National Champion, USA Wrestling 1999
Women's National Champion, USA Wrestling 1994

RESEARCH AND ARTISTIC INTERESTS

Indigenous dance and performance, Native American athletics, Indigenous martial arts, North American Hand Talk (Indigenous Sign Language), human and more-than-human interconnections, critical dance studies, critical yoga studies, Native American education and incarceration, community-engaged research, decolonizing methodologies, creative writing

COMMUNITY SERVICE

American Indian Parent Committee

Parent Advisory Committee, Education and Cultural Learning Department, **Fernandeño**

Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Parent Representative, Los Angeles Unified School District, 2023-Present

Judge

Dance Choreography Competition, Anza Elementary School, 2021-2022

Consultant

JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee, Broadway Elementary School, 2021

Board of Directors Member

All Relations United, 2017-2019

Dancing Earth: Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations, 2014-2019



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

October 10, 2023

Dear Ms. Blu Wakpa:

I am pleased to inform you that I hereby appoint you to the Board of Cultural Affairs Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2028, 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.

Should this apply to your commission, you will be receiving a packet from the City Ethics Commission containing information about the City's conflict of interest laws, and a copy of the State Form 700/Statement of Economic Interests. You are required to complete and return this form **within 21 days** of your nomination to the City Ethics Commission via the California Fair Political Practices Commission's eDisclosure website, or by mailing the forms to City Hall at 200 N. Spring Street, 24th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any inquiries regarding this form should be directed to Nicole Enriquez at the City Ethics Commission by email at nicole.enriquez@lacity.org.

As part of the appointment process, Monica Rodriguez, 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.

Ms. Tria Blu Wakpa
October 10, 2023
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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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Bass" clearly distinguishable.

KAREN BASS
Mayor

KB:tga

Attachment I
Ms. Tria Blu Wakpa
October 10, 2023

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. Before your appointment is heard in committee or full council (you will be contacted by the Clerk's Office with this date):

- ☐ File the following forms with the City Ethics Commission. If you are required to file, you will receive these forms via email from that office. Be sure to take no more than 21 days to file, per City law.

- Statement of Economic Interest ("Form 700")
IMPORTANT: The City Council will not consider your nomination until your completed form is reviewed by the Ethics Commission.
- CEC Form 60

III. 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 Monica Rodriguez
- ☐ Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Chair of the Council Committee considering your nomination

IV. Public Meetings at City Hall:

- ☐ Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee Hearing
- ☐ Full Council Hearing