



DENVER AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION





WHO WE ARE



RAVEN PAYMENT
Co-Chair
Ojibwe/Kanien'kehá:ka



SHANNON ALCOTT
Co-Chair
Diné/Lakota



CECELIA DUNCAN
BULL BEAR
Oglala Lakota



DALLIN MAYBEE
Seneca/Enrolled Northern Arapaho



JONATHAN NELSON
Diné



DANIELLE SEEWALKER
Húnkpap̄ha Lak̄hóta/Standing Rock
Sioux Tribe



PHILLIP GOVER
Choctaw Nation/Pawnee



TRENNIE BURCH
Southern Ute/Ute Mountain Ute/Diné



THOMAS ALLEN
Sac & Fox/Northern Arapaho/Euchee



NOELLE BAILEY
Mescalero Apache



DONNA CHRISJOHN
Sicangu Lakota/Diné



CARLA RESPECTS
NOTHING
Oglala Sioux Tribe



JOSHUA EMERSON
Diné



BRENDAN MORRISON
Tsimshian



NICOLE FOSTER
Ute Mountain Ute/Diné



ALISON BUTLER
Caddo



WHAT WE DO

The Denver American Indian Commission advocates for the local American Indian community by striving for positive changes that improves well-being and addressing systemic inequalities. This is done through:

- **Representation:** engaging the community in various forums and elevating their voices in decision-making processes.
- **Raising Awareness:** highlighting the community's issues and challenges to a broader audience, including city and county departments, the media, and the general public.
- **Support and Empowerment:** providing resources, information, and support to community members.
- **Policy:** tracking policy and legislation that affects the American Indian community, ensuring that they have opportunity for input and consultation.
- **Collaboration:** building alliances with other organizations, groups, and individuals to strengthen advocacy efforts and achieve common goals.
- **Education:** informing both the community and the wider public about relevant issues, rights, and opportunities.



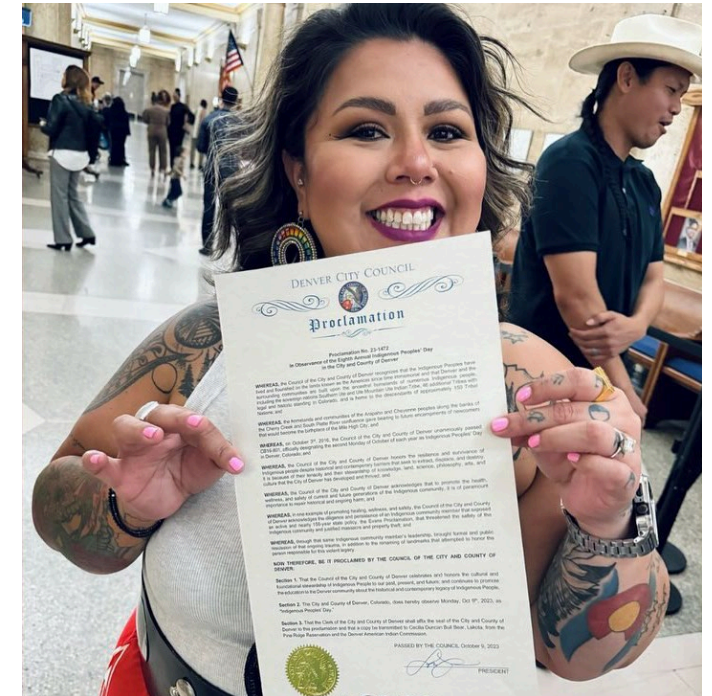
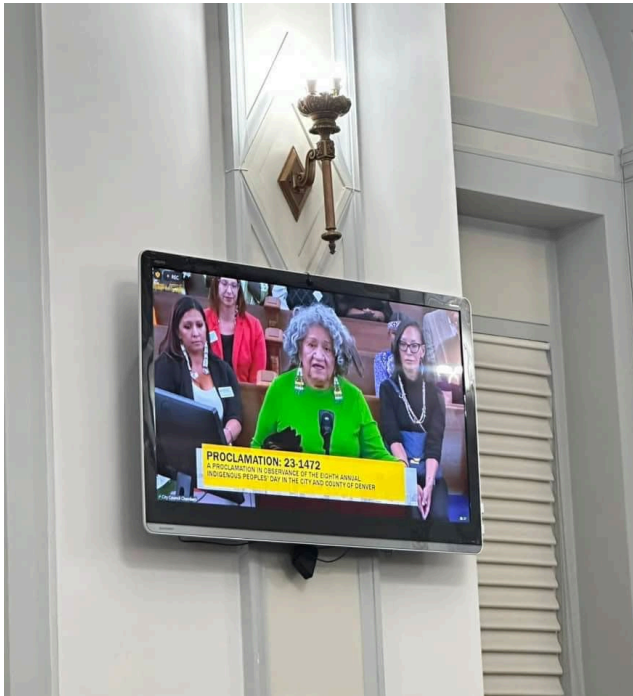
SUBCOMMITTEES

- Arts & Culture
- Land Acknowledgments
- Legislative
- Grassroots
- Communications
- Renaming
- Education



DAIC SUCCESSES - 2023/24

- Arts & Culture
- Bison Transfer
- Legislation & Policy
- Indigenous People's Day Proclamation
- Orange Shirt Day Proclamation
- Community Resources





CENTURIES OF ANTI-NATIVE POLICY CREATES CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

Background:

Natives have served in the military in every US conflict but were not US Citizens until **1924**.

Natives were not guaranteed the right to vote until **1962** - Ute people living on reservations in Colorado could not vote until **1970**.

It was illegal for Natives to engage in their own spirituality until **1978**.

It was legal to take Native children from their families and place them with white households until **1978**.

The last Indian “Boarding School” closed in **1996**.

Non-Native perpetrators of violence on reservation land could not be prosecuted until **2013**.

It was legal to kill Natives in Colorado and take their property until August of **2021**.



CHALLENGES

HEALTH DISPARITIES

- ▶ We are the only demographic with a decreasing life expectancy in Colorado.

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

- ▶ Discrimination and cultural disconnection in curriculum hinders academic achievement.
- ▶ Lack of education and misinformation about American Indian people and history create additional barriers

HOUSING INSTABILITY

- ▶ Disproportionate barriers to affordable housing and home ownership that are intersectional with employment and educational challenges.

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

- ▶ Disproportionate barriers to navigating resources and lack of tailored services.

EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS

- ▶ Discrimination in job market and qualifications that make stable, well-paying jobs difficult.

VIOLENCE & MISSING PERSONS

- ▶ 64% of unsolved homicides of Native people in the entire state resides in Denver PD's jurisdiction.
- ▶ 40% of CO's Missing Indigenous Person Alerts (MIPA) originate from Denver PD.
- ▶ Three commissioners also serve on the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Relatives Task Force of Colorado

OUR GOAL: EMPOWERING AMERICAN INDIAN FUTURES

We envision a Vibrant Denver where American Indians are at the forefront of Denver's growth and transformation by actively rectifying injustices and centering and empowering American Indian leadership, wisdom, and perspectives.

