



# The UAI Source

Serving the American Indian Community since 1974

Vol. 8, Issue 1

On Saturday, December 3rd, after a few rainy winter days in Los Angeles, the sun beamed onto the heart of downtown LA with not a cloud in the sky. UAI gathered our LA Native community to celebrate the LA POWWOW 2022 at Grand Park, with over 500 attendees joining in a day of great food, music, and celebration. Spirits were high as our community came together to the rich backdrop of drums, singers, and dancers, for the first time since the pandemic brought a pause to such gatherings. The festivities began early in the morning and continued well into the night. Highlights included the fry bread stand, which saw long lines all day, dance contests for which winners won prizes, and stirring stories from community members who sought togetherness and healing on this day of culture and bonding.

Daniel Razo expressed pride in his son, Head Teen Boy Gabriel Razo (Choctaw and Kumeyaay Nations), and stressed the importance of tradition and ancestral knowledge, “We were stripped of our culture when I was growing up, we were never allowed to speak our language, we were never allowed to ask where our people came from, so I’m very proud of [Gabriel] for learning these ways and sharing them with you all today.” Glen Begay (Red House Clan of the Navajo Nation), Master of Ceremonies, also shared his thoughts before he and his family performed, “Some of these dances aren’t done anymore. My daughter and my niece are going to showcase a portion of [the basket dance],”



## UAI Hosts LA POW WOW 2022

Los Angeles City Hall is the backdrop of the Annual LA POW WOW 2022

which he describes as a significant mark of the harvest and of coming-of-age. A duo of artists from Luxembourg also flew to Los Angeles specifically to capture the spirit and resilience of Native peoples living in LA: David and Stephanie Brognon filmed their video of a ring of Native peoples’ palms connected through their life lines, which will premiere soon at an art exhibit in Belgium. They could not contain their gratitude for the experience, and stated, “We thank you for this incredible day at the Powwow. It was so

intense and we met great people. Thanks for allowing us to participate and for your trust on our project.”

As the sun set on Grand Park, and attendees came and went, a sense of peace and unity could be felt in Los Angeles as its Native peoples came together to celebrate their languages, cultures, families, and lives. Thank you to all who came and participated, we will see you all next year!



Grand Entry lead by Rick Two Bears Myers at the LA POW WOW 2022. Right: Fancy Dancer, Baac Garcia





## Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center WIND Program

Throughout the holiday season, our WIND program continued to provide supportive services, by offering a cultural outing and several holiday themed acrylic art workshops for our youths, families, and community.

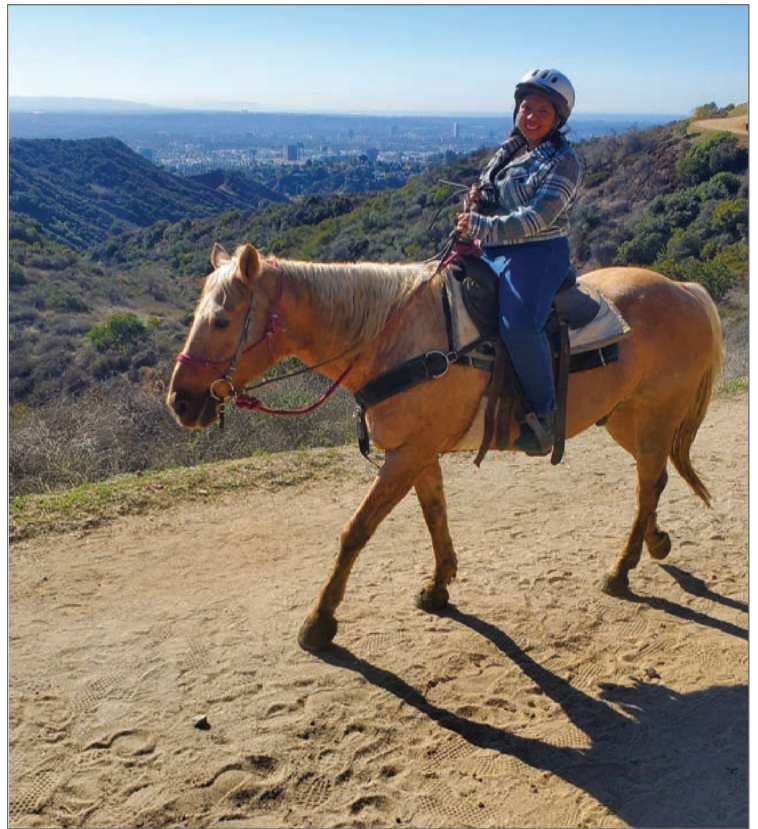
In late November, we held a horseback riding outing at Sunset Ranch in Hollywood and it was definitely a great experience for new and returning participants, especially since horseback riding is beneficial to our physical and mental health. In fact, horseback riding allows you to disconnect from social media and life's stressors for a bit and reconnects you with nature by breathing in the fresh air and taking in the beautiful scenery. It even allows you to spend time with animals and exercise, and doing this releases a hormone called serotonin, which can improve your mood and decrease stress levels. This type of outing also allows our community to connect to their culture and gives families an opportunity to bond and perhaps even experience something new and adventurous together!

For our next event, our WIND program will be offering a Basket weaving workshop on Saturday February 25th from 10:00am-12:00pm, which will take place at the UAII Community Center. Basket weaving is the art of creating woven baskets. They are a vital and beautiful tool that can be used to collect food, hold water, cook, and so much more! Youths and families who participate in this Basket weaving workshop will learn a broad cultural history of basket weaving through the lens of Navajo philosophy, with the inclusion on local tribal community basket weaving practices, while making two baskets to take home. Join us for an introductory workshop to learn about basket weaving and how we are connected in its practice. Please note: WIND is an early intervention and prevention program for youths ages 12-24 and we ask that at least one youth be registered with WIND in order for the family (household) to participate.

If you would like to know more information about our WIND program or are seeking mental health support services, please contact Youth and Family Services Manager, Janet Scott at [jpadilla@uaii.org](mailto:jpadilla@uaii.org)



Arturo Corona, Pima/Navajo



Alyssa Rios, Pima/Navajo




United American Indian Involvement.  
Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center

# INTRO TO BASKET WEAVING

Saturday, February 25, 2023  
10:00am - 12:00pm

Basket weaving is the art of creating woven baskets. They are a vital and beautiful tool that can be used to collect foods, hold water, even cook! They also can be given as gifts, made artistically to reflect the journey of life itself. The acts of gathering materials, weaving and using the basket, or presenting it as a gift, are all expressions of culture. Join us for an introductory workshop to learn about basket weaving and how we are connected in its practice.

- Ages 12-24
- Open to WIND-Registered Families
- All materials and refreshments will be provided
- RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 7
- Event will be hosted in the UAII Community Center
- 1453 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90026




For more information, contact Janet Scott at [jpadilla@uaii.org](mailto:jpadilla@uaii.org) or (213) 202-3970.

Funded by Indian Health Service/SAPTA & SAMHSA/Native Connections



# LA Mayor Inauguration

A new day has dawned in Los Angeles, as this last election season saw major changes in local politics. On Sunday, December 22th at the Microsoft Theater in downtown, L.A., our UAII Board Chairperson Hope Craig-Corlew and Interim Chief Executive Officer Joseph Quintana attended the inauguration of the 43rd Mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass. The event also celebrated the inauguration of the first woman to preside as mayor.

The day was highlighted by a performance by legendary musician Stevie Wonder and a poem by Amanda Gorman as they shared their thanks with Governor Gavin Newsom and outgoing Mayor Eric Garcetti. Mayor Bass was sworn into office by Vice-President of the U.S., Kamala Harris, and concluded with a resounding speech by Mayor Bass addressing the need for housing for L.A. residents – she demonstrated her commitment to her position by immediately proclaiming a state of emergency based on the housing crisis.

We look forward to continuing to build strong partnerships and connections with those who represent us so that we may address the issues that impact LA Natives within the city's infrastructure, such as housing, healthcare, employment, and more. Let us continue to share our stories and our needs as a community with one voice!



Newly elected Mayor Karen Bass



UAII Board Chairperson Hope Craig-Corlew posing with CA Governor Gavin Newsom.



UAII Interim CEO Joseph Quintana with former Mayor Eric Garcetti.



# Elders Holiday Party



Wellness staff L-R: Roger Possner, Jessica Dixon, Hekehta JealousOfHim, CEO Joseph Quintana, Omerlene Thompson, Darin Hirasuna, Chris Kamatani, Kevin Hale, Veronica Minchaca.



Andy Jones shows the teepee he made during the Senior Crafts Activity Day.



Helen Williams displays her teepee craft during Bingo.



Joseph and Hekehta begin handing out gifts to the seniors.



# The Clubhouse and the LA Rams Bring Football Camp to Los Angeles



At the end of last year, the American Indian Clubhouse worked with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and the LA Rams Youth Football Program to host a football camp for American Indian youth. Under the supervision of Mo “Coach Mo” Streey, the Rams brought plenty of staff to teach a variety

variety of football skills to our youth. Along with the trainers, the Rams brought their mascot “Rampage” and members of the LA Rams Cheerleaders. The event was great as members of our 2023 Flag Football team got a chance to learn new skills, while members of the Clubhouse Cheer Team learned new moves from the professionals. The event was exciting and ABC7 News created a video segment that can be seen on our website, <https://uaiiclubhouse.org/news>, or on our American Indian Clubhouse YouTube Channel.

In December, the Clubhouse held its first practice for our coed Flag Football Program. During the months of January & February, our team will be facing off against the tribal communities of Santa Ysabel, Barona, San Pasqual, Viejas, and Morongo.

To support our Football Program, the Clubhouse Cheer Program will travel to games and perform during breaks. Following up on the Football Camp with the LA Rams Cheerleaders in November, our cheer program started their season in December as they participated in the Children’s Christmas Parade in West Covina.



LA Rams Youth Football Camp @ the Salvation Army, Red Shield Center in Downtown LA  
 Pictured: LA Rams Cheerleaders, Rampage, Angel Ayala (AIC Youth), Keith Rivera (AIC Youth), Anthony Ayala (AIC Youth).

# The S.A.G.E. Project Contributes to Another Successful Archery Season



Archery Club Meeting @ El Dorado Park in Long Beach  
 Pictured: AIC youths, from left: Michelle Jackson, Noah Tillmon, Richelle Jackson  
 Hitting Zombie targets at the Club’s Halloween-themed event.



The Strengthening All Generations through traditional Experience (S.A.G.E.) Project is part of the Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian County grant administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal of our S.A.G.E. Project is to reintroduce traditional activities that can lead to healthier communities. One of the objectives of our S.A.G.E. Project is to

support the American Indian Clubhouse Archery Program. Through this support, the archery program has grown, and expanded into the Lancaster/Palmdale area of Northern Los Angeles County.

Our Fall season concluded this past December. During this time, our program worked with over 150 participants over the 3-month season, including new families from the Antelope Valley. Our practices at the Archery Range at El Dorado Park in Long Beach brought together families and community members for a good time slinging arrows downrange and feasting on potluck dishes.

Although our season has come to an end, the S.A.G.E. Project will continue to support all our archers in the program. To encourage our members to continue their progression during our off-season, we have loaned-out archery gear to some of our members. Additionally, we will be offering tradition-based workshops like arrow making, leatherwork, and traditional hunting practices & storytelling.

For more information on the S.A.G.E. Project, please visit our webpage [uaiiclubhouse.org/sage-project](http://uaiiclubhouse.org/sage-project), or contact the S.A.G.E. Project Program Coordinator, Val Contreras at: [vcontreras@uaii.org](mailto:vcontreras@uaii.org)

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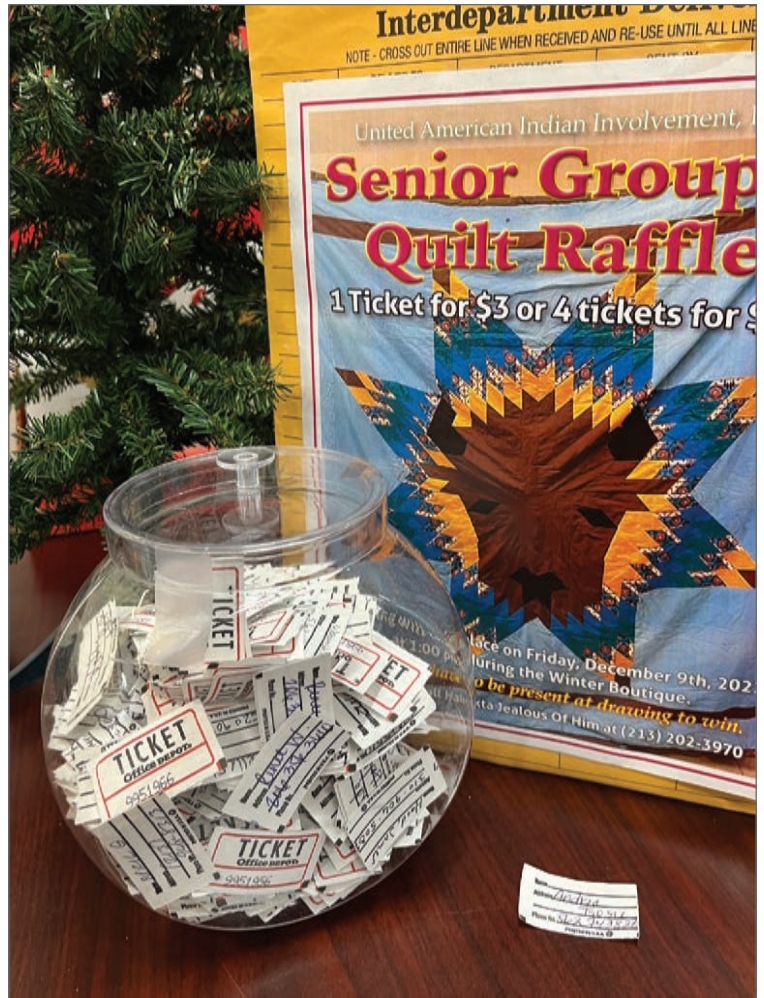
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# UAI Winter Boutique

On Friday, December 9th our Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center welcomed back our Winter Boutique, which helps support our Elders Program. The event was lead with a raffle, which featured a grand prize of a beautiful hand made star quilt with a large buffalo design. The raffle alone brought in almost \$1,500 to support the program which is used throughout the year for activities and field trips that are planned by the group.

The elders also managed their own booths and were joined by local Native American artists who gleefully anticipated the return of this special event. Attendees were also treated to delicious frybread and chili made with bison meat – the food was a big hit. We want to share a big “thank you!” to our UAI staff and volunteers for organizing another terrific event, and to our community who were able to come out and support! Please see the February 2023 calendar for more senior group activities coming up, taking place in our Community Center. To sign up, please contact Hakekta JealousofHim at [hjealousofhim@uaii.org](mailto:hjealousofhim@uaii.org). Hope to see you there!



The Star Quilt Raffle's lucky winning ticket.



More crafts for sale and Senior Raffle Quilt on display.



Vendors and customers doing business and visiting with friends during the boutique.



# UAI's Jingle Ball Celebrates Staff

United American Indian Involvement, Inc. was recently able to spread holiday cheer and show appreciation for our hardworking staff at our second annual UAI Jingle Ball. Held on Tuesday, December 6th in the beautifully decorated ballroom of St. Athanasius Episcopal Church, the nutcracker-themed celebration was deemed “even better than last year” by Jason Chung, HR Coordinator.

The 3-hour long event allowed for plenty of jolly activities, including but not limited to a surprise appearance and performance by Mrs. Claus, a round dance sung by our own Kevin Hale, Substance Abuse Counselor - joined by all those present, an ugly Christmas sweater contest, and a Christmas-themed photo booth. As usual, all attendees were entered into a raffle for coveted prizes like gift cards and holiday gift baskets. When asked what their favorite part of the celebration was, Hime Chadwick, Development Assistant said, “It’s great to spend time with everyone, and the food is amazing!” The celebration’s barbeque spread was catered by Anthony and Maricela of Culturally Inspired Catering and met with rave reviews. So much so that the HR Department was able to formally confirm that this was not the last we would be seeing of Culturally Inspired. The ball concluded with an abundance of leftovers and even a surprise gift distribution from the Board of Directors who were able to interact and gift employees with a one-day pass to be used in 2023. Many employees expressed their excitement for what was to come next year!



Mrs Claus Sings Leads Staff in Song.



Kevin Hale Opening Song and Round Dance.



UAI Board Chair Hope and staff.



## UAll Attends the US Dept of Labor Conference



Keynote Address given by Interim CEO, Joseph Quintana

To end the year, several of our staff and leadership attended the U.S. Department of Labor's Western Regions Native American Employment and Training Conference at the Wildhorse Hotel near Phoenix, Arizona. The conference kicked off with a special welcome by a friend and supporter of the organization, Governor, Stephen Lewis of the Gila River Indian Community.

The conference welcomed over 300 attendees from other Workforce Investment and Opportunity funded programs across the western part of the country that serve the American Indian/Alaskan Native/ Native Hawaiian community. Many of our staff from the Workforce Development and Training department were in attendance and took part in many of the event's activities and listened intently during the daily presentations. Training that focused on the preparation of a workforce to build skills necessary for long-term employment and career development was also offered.

The U.S. Department of Labor also has displayed an interest in increasing access for the American Indian workforce to enter apprenticeship roles and to seek positions that have limited access to certain skilled positions in health care, such as electricians, and builders in construction. The event also saw one of the youngest

entrepreneurs who started his own yard cleaning business on a reservation.

The conference concluded with a keynote address by our own, Joseph Quintana who also serves as Chairman of the Native American Employment and Training Council. During his remarks, he focused on establishing a unified approach to addressing the issues that impact Native American workers. In his address, he stated, "Building stronger partnerships, we want to silo bust! We get so comfortable sitting in the areas we know and prefer - that makes it difficult for us to establish partnerships". During his 40-minute speech, Mr. Quintana also spoke of the importance of investing in future generations by, "making sure our youth have advantages that we didn't have, or our grandparents didn't have,... that they could see themselves not just in food service (which are good jobs) but as the managers, or as business owners." The conference also ended with the announcement that the longtime Division Chief of the Division of Indian and Native American Programs, Athena Brown, would be retiring at the end of the year. Our organization shares our gratitude for her support and guidance. We look forward to welcoming a new Division Chief, and we look forward to our continued partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor.



Joseph Quintana, Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Lewis and Vice Chair of Advisory Council Kay Seven



Visit to Tucson Indian Center.







Robert Sundance Family Wellness Center  
 Senior Program Services  
**February 2023**



**For More Information Contact: Hakekta W. Jealous Of Him - Senior Program Coordinator  
 @ (213) 202-3970, Ext., 7149 or email: [hjealousofhim@uaii.org](mailto:hjealousofhim@uaii.org)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 <b>SENIOR GROUP:</b> 10am-2pm Color Me Mine Pottery 	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 <b>SENIOR GROUP:</b> 10am-2pm 	15	16	17	18
19	20 <b>UAI CLOSED</b> 	21 <b>SENIOR GROUP:</b> 10am-2pm Medicare 2023 Workshop <b>Hygiene Kits</b>	22 UAI Walking Club @ LA Historic State Park, 2pm	23	24	25
26	27	28 <b>NO SENIOR GROUP</b>				



# EDUCATION SUPPORT



For elementary, middle, and high school students

A PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE UCLA AMERICAN  
INDIAN RECRUITMENT  
PROGRAM



- ★ Tutoring (Group & Zoom)
- ★ STEAM Workshops
- ★ Field Trips



Meetings are every Thursday from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Youth Center at UAI. Register for our program and sign up for sessions on our website: [uaiiclubhouse.org](http://uaiiclubhouse.org)



For more information call (213)202-3970, ext 7120,  
or email: [clubhouse@uaii.org](mailto:clubhouse@uaii.org)