



TÍA CHUCHA'S

CENTRO CULTURAL & BOOKSTORE

"Where Art and Minds Meet -- For a Change"

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July 1, 2016

Re: Establishing Indigenous Peoples Day

Dear City of Los Angeles

Tia Chucha's Cultural Center & Bookstore draws on the creative capacity within persons, families, and communities to foster healing and growth. We assert the arts are the best way to connect to nature, our own natures, and each other. These tenets are based on indigenous concepts rooted in this land for tens of thousands of years. For this reason, Tia Chucha's hosts a Mexica (Aztec) danza group here (Temachtia Quetzacoatl); healing circles for women, men, and youth based on native traditions; and workshops in the Nahuatl language and indigenous cosmology, among other offerings.

We wholeheartedly support changing Christopher Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day in the City of Los Angeles. Columbus' voyage began what is considered the worst human genocide in history. This historical trauma continues through the present as Indigenous Peoples are removed from history, degraded as less than human, and denied adequate resources. By declaring Indigenous People's Day Los Angeles can set the record straight about Columbus and honor all indigenous peoples in the city from throughout the United States, as well as from Mexico, Central America, and other countries across the hemisphere.

We applaud the organizations and individuals who are also submitting letters by July 15th urging Los Angeles to establish Indigenous Peoples Day as a legal holiday in the city..

Respectfully,
Luis J Rodriguez, Board President

Trini Rodriguez, Interim Executive Director