



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

January 19, 2023

To: Commissioners, Native American Heritage Commission
From: Mario Pallari, Staff Counsel
Re: Nomination of Dr. Larissa Nez to the UC Systemwide Committee as a UC Berkeley Campus Member

I. INTRODUCTION

The UC Nominations Subcommittee recommends the nomination of Larissa Nez, a Diné citizen, to the UC Systemwide Committee as a UC Berkeley Campus Non-Voting Member. Her application is attached as Exhibit 1, hereto. In brief, Ms. Nez not only meets the requirements put forth for UC Representatives in CalNAGPRA but far exceeds them. In sum, Ms. Nez is a well-respected scholar with both personal and applied experience in Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Museum research.

II. UC REPRESENTATIVE REQUIREMENT

All UC representatives must meet the following criteria:

- Have a graduate degree in either Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California.
- Have a minimum of five years' experience working in the applicable field of study.

Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

(Health and Saf. Code § 8026 (d)(1))

III. THE UC NOMINATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF LARISSA NEZ TO THE UC SYSTEMWIDE COMMITTEE AS A UC BERKELEY CAMPUS NON-VOTING MEMBER

Ms. Nez holds a Masters of the Arts from Brown University in the Public Humanities. Her comparative, interdisciplinary research explores the intersections between Indigenous Studies, Cultural Studies, Art History, Critical Theory, and Black Studies. Furthermore, Ms. Nez is a Ph.D. candidate in Ethnic Studies at the University of California Berkeley. Ms. Nez has extensive academic experience in Native American Studies and Museum Practices. Ms. Nez has been extensively published on a wide range of interdisciplinary topics including the restoration of cultural practices. Her doctoral research focuses on the connections between critical Indigenous theory, decolonial theory, and the Black Radical Tradition

In Ms. Nez's interview she made clear her understanding of the past harms and problematic practices of UC Berkeley. Ms. Nez highlighted the inadequate response by the UC System to the State Auditors recommendations. Furthermore Ms. Nez discussed the need for meaningful consultation as the path towards respectful repatriation. For these reasons the Subcommittee recommends the nomination of Larissa Nez to the UC

Systemwide Committee as a UC Berkeley Campus Non-Voting Member.



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- NOMINATION FORM -

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) seeks nominees for the University of California (UC) Systemwide and Campus Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Implementation and Oversight Committees (pursuant to Section 8026 of the California Health and Safety Code).

If you are interested in serving or nominating a candidate please review the criteria below, complete the following application materials, and submit completed packet to the NAHC nominations subcommittee: 1) Indicate the position(s) sought for the nominee, 2) Attach a short biography or resume demonstrating that the nominee meets the criteria below; 3) Attach a letter of support or tribal resolution with this form; and 4) Attach a list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.

Tribal Nominees: Support letters or tribal resolutions for tribal nominees should be from Tribal governments, tribal community organizations or Institutional leadership organizations, include the strengths of the candidate, as well as any information that might be relevant to the NAHC reviewing committee.

UC Nominees: Support letters for UC nominees should include professional experience demonstrating the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

Please note, even if you are not selected in the initial appointment group the NAHC will keep your application on file for Committee positions that may become available in the future.

Deadline: Nomination packets are due on the date(s) indicated at nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate.

QUALIFICATIONS

Tribal Nominees

Tribal Nominees must be a member of a federally or non-federally recognized California Indian tribe as defined by Section 8012 of the Health and Safety Code. And have at least five years of experience in any of the following:

- Repatriation of human remains and cultural items pursuant to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;
- Cultural resources protection under tribal, state, and federal law; or
- Consultation with state and federal entities and agencies.

Preference: Preference shall be given to members of a California Indian tribe.

UC Nominees

UC Nominees must be affiliated with or employed by the University of California and have the following:

1. A graduate degree in any of the following: Archaeology, Anthropology, Native American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Law, Sociology, Environmental Studies, or History, with a focus in California; and
2. A minimum of five years' experience working in his or her field of study.

Note: At least two UC nominees to the Systemwide one UC nominee to the Campus Committee(s) must be affiliated with an American Indian or Native American Studies program.

You are encouraged to submit a nomination if the nominee meets a majority of the requirements, even if you are unsure as to whether they meet a specific requirement. **In the event that you are uncertain as to whether a nominee may be qualified under a certain requirement, please include a brief explanatory statement supporting their qualifications in your nomination packet.** The NAHC shall consider all supporting materials and narrative to make a final determination of eligibility.

Preference: Preference shall be given to members who have demonstrated, through their professional experience, the ability to work in collaboration with Native American tribes successfully on issues related to repatriation or museum collection management.

COMMITTEE(S) SOUGHT

Please indicate the Committee(s) to which the nominee is seeking appointment. If nominating for a campus committee(s), list the campus(es) where the nominee is interested in serving, in order of preference. Check all that apply. If a nominee selects both the UC Systemwide Committee and Campus Committee, their application will be considered for both Committees and they may be appointed to either, however at this time Committee members will only serve on one Committee at a time, unless the pool of candidates does not allow.

- UC Systemwide Committee (*if only Systemwide please skip to Nominator Information below*)

- Campus Committee (*please fill out Section A below*)



A. If the Nominee would like to serve on a Campus Committee, please fill out the following additional information.

Campus Committee (*Preferred Campus*): _____

Alternative campus(es) Nominee will consider (candidates are encouraged to complete this section, if possible):

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Nominator Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Nominee Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Tribal/UC Institutional Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Position Sought: Tribal Nominee UC Nominee

Please attach:

(i) A short biography and, if desired, a resume or CV of the nominee,

(ii) A tribal resolution or letter of support, and

(iii) A list of at least three references, with names, telephone numbers, and email addresses for each.

Submit completed nomination packets to NAHC@nahc.ca.gov or 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100, West Sacramento, CA 95691 by the due date indicated at nahc.ca.gov/calnagpra/nominate.

Incomplete packets will not be considered.

Larissa Nez

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larissavsnez@gmail.com
<https://larissavsnez.com>

1838 Carleton Street
Berkeley, CA
94703

Larissa is a Diné citizen, academic, writer, cultural critic, and curator. Her comparative, interdisciplinary research explores the intersections between Indigenous Studies, Cultural Studies, Art History, Critical Theory, and Black Studies.

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of California, Berkeley Ethnic Studies Advisor: Shari M. Huhndorf	(Expected) May 2028
M.A.	Brown University Public Humanities Advisor: Dietrich Neumann	May 2022
B.A.	University of Notre Dame Art History Minor in Sociology	May 2019
--	Portland Community College Sociology	May 2018

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Native American Studies Summer Research Award , Native American Studies Program, UC Berkeley	2023
Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry Summer Research Grant , Division of Arts and Humanities, UC Berkeley	2023
Chancellor's Fellowship , The Graduate School, UC Berkeley	2022
Katherine Sweeney Fellowship , Division of Social Sciences, UC Berkeley	2022
Endowed Chair Fund , Department of Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley	2022
Navajo Nation Graduate Scholarship , Navajo Nation - ONNSFA	2020 to 2022
Loan for Service Program , Native Forward Scholars Fund	2022
The Cobell Scholarship , Indigenous Education Inc.	2021, 2022
Special Higher Education Summer Fellowship , American Indian Graduate Center	2020, 2021
Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund	2020
Native Scholar Award , Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums	2019

Native Student Scholar Award, Council for Museum Anthropology 2019

Extraordinary Service Award, Native American Initiatives of the University of Notre Dame to the Snite Museum of Art curators for their exhibition, Revisions: Native Contemporary Art 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Student Researcher Aug 2023 to Present
National Science Foundation award, "[Supporting Rightful Presence in Museum Spaces: Youth as Participatory Designers of Indigenous Mixed Reality Science Exhibits](#)"
Lawrence Hall of Science - UC Berkeley, School of Information - UC Berkeley, and mak-'amham/
Cafe Ohlone, Berkeley, CA

Borderlands Curatorial Fellowship 2022-2023, Present
Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School and the Center for Imagination in the
Borderlands at Arizona State University, NYC, NY

20th Century Art Curatorial Internship Jun to Aug 2023
New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM

Digital Indigenous Storytelling Fellowship Aug 2022 to Jun 2023
Forge Project, NY

Stolen Relations Research Internship Jun to Aug 2022
Stolen Relations Project, Department of History
Brown University, Remote

Pathways Fellowship Jun to Aug 2022
Association of Moving Image Archivists and the Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock, AZ

RISD Museum Jan to May 2022
Native American Art Intern
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

Reimagining New England Histories Graduate Proctorship 2021 to 2022
Department of African American Studies, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown
University, Providence, RI

Andrew W. Mellon Reimagining New England Histories Fellowship 2021
Munson Institute at the Mystic Seaport Museum, Brown University's Center for the Study of Slavery
and Justice, and Williams College

Curatorial Fellowship 2020-2021
Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, Brown University, Providence, RI

Critical Theory Workshop / Atelier de Théorie Critique Jun 2020
Paris, France

Andrew W. Mellon Native American Museum Fellowship 2020 to 2021
Snake River Fur Post, Snake River, MN and Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN

CURATORIAL + MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles 2022 to 2024

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, NM
Cultural and Academic Advisor, Catalogue Writer, Contributor

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: Memory Map 2022 to 2023
Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC, NY
Catalogue Writer, Contributor

Shaped by the Loom: Weaving Wolds in the American Southwest 2023
Bard Graduate Center
Research Symposium panelist, Museum Educator for the Digital Exhibition, Contributor

Decolonial Matter Spring 2022
Cogut Institute for Humanities, Brown University
Curator, Catalogue Writer, Exhibition Designer

erotic vision: poetics of body and image Feb to Mar 2022
John Nicholson Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage, Brown University
Co-Curator

Poetic Justice: Judith F. Baca, Mildred Howard, and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith 2021 to 2022
New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
Catalogue Writer

Color Riot!: How Color Changed Navajo Textiles 2021 to 2022
ArtTable in partnership with the Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ
Curator, Cultural Consultant, Educator (Docent, 3-8 Grade, Public)

Weetamoo Woods: More Than A Name Fall 2020
American Studies, Brown University
Curator

Revisions: Contemporary Native Art 2018 to 2019
Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
Research Assistant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI Oct 2021
Guest Lecturer, “Ceramics: Global Perspectives”

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Apr 2021
Guest Lecturer, “A Masterclass on Indigenous Archives, Art, Curation” at the *Dark Laboratory: Black and Indigenous Metropolitan Ecologies*

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN Oct 2019
Guest Lecturer, “Indigenous Communities: Responses to American History”

Haverford College, Haverford, PA Sep 2019
Guest Lecturer, “Visualizing Border/lands”

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN Sep 2019
Guest Lecturer, “Borderlands Art & Theory”

PUBLICATIONS

Nez, Larissa. "Reuniting and Returning: Balancing our Universe through Weaving," In *Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles*, edited by Dr. Hadley Jensen. Santa Fe, NM: Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and Museum of New Mexico Press, 2024.

Nez, Larissa. "Indigenous Cultural Revitalization: Notes on repatriation and preservation," *Arts of the Working Class*, 1, no. 27 (July 2023): 40-41. <https://artsoftheworkingclass.org/edition/arts-of-the-working-class-27>.

Nez, Larissa, Brianna Nez. "Dyeing & Coloring and Homeland, Creation, & Cosmology Educator Guide," for *Shaped by the Loom: Weaving Worlds in the American Southwest* exhibition, Bard Graduate Center, 2023. <https://exhibitions.bgc.bard.edu/shapedbytheloom/educators-guide/>.

Nez, Larissa. "Indigenous Power in Public Places," In *Jaune Quick-To-See Smith: A Retrospective*, edited by Beth Huseman. New York, NY: The Whitney Museum of American Art, 2023. <https://shop.whitney.org/jaune-quick-to-see-smith-memory-map.html>.

Nez, Larissa. "The Aesthetics and Ethics of Representation, Reclamation, and Resistance: The Art of Jaune Quick-to-See Smith," In *Poetic Justice: Judith F. Baca, Mildred Howard, and Jaune Quick-to-See-Smith*, edited by Merry Scully. Santa Fe, NM: New Mexico Museum of Art and Museum of New Mexico Press, 2022.

Nez, Larissa. "Finding our Way Past Trading Posts." *Asparagus Magazine*, Fall/Winter 2021. Vancouver, BC. <https://asparagusmagazine.com/rethink-indigenous-artifact-trading-posts-in-the-american-southwest-true-impacts-83f24dc6d5a8>.

Nez, Larissa. *A Letter to My Freshman Self: Words of Wisdom from Sons and Daughters of Notre Dame about Learning, Loving, and Living under the Golden Dome*. Edited by Jim Langford. 3rd ed. Notre Dame, IN: Corby Books, 2021.

Nez, Larissa, Sophia Ellis, Rai Terry. "The Aesthetic of Power: Porcelain and the Expansion of White Saviorism." *Spark Magazine*, May 30, 2021. National Center for Institutional Diversity. <https://medium.com/national-center-for-institutional-diversity/in-the-late-18th-century-wedgwood-porcelain-became-a-desired-luxury-commodity-among-the-british-9d597c3fa2f4>.

Nez, Larissa, Felicia Bartley, Alice Cole. *Weetamoo Woods: More Than A Name*. Methods in Public Humanities, Dec 2021. Brown University. <https://bit.ly/3dn9Ubl>.

Nez, Larissa. "Be the Light: Volume 4." *We Are ND*. University of Notre Dame, Apr 14, 2020. <https://weare.nd.edu/stories/be-the-light-volume-4/#nez>.

Nez, Larissa. "Exploitation of Native Imagery for Profit." *Terra Incognita Media*, Sep 13, 2017. <https://www.terraincognitamedia.com/features/exploitation-of-native-imagery-for-profit2017>.

PRESENTATIONS

Larissa Nez, Lynda Teller-Pete, Darby Overstreet, "Weaving Knowledge: Creativity, Value, and Kinship," Panel 1 moderated by Dr. Hadley Jensen for the opening of *Horizons: Weaving Between the Lines with Diné Textiles*, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Jul 2023.

Larissa Nez, Jeremy Dennis, Leonard Harmon, Sutton King, "Indigenous Cultural Revitalization: Repatriation and Preservation," Seminar 6 - *Correction** series, Vera List Center for Art and Politics, May 2023. <https://www.veralistcenter.org/events/seminar-6-indigenous-cultural-revitalization-repatriation-and-preservation>.

Larissa Nez, “Water Memory: Visual Representations of Water in the Afro-Atlantic,” Session IV: Water and the Caribbean in *Water in Nature and the Anthropic World: It’s Management, Cultural Expression and Sustainable Usage between Past and Present Conference*, Montclair State University, Apr 2023.

Pilar Jefferson, Larissa Nez, *Wading: A Symposium of Black & Indigenous Aquatics*, UC Berkeley, Apr 2023.

Larissa Nez, “Mapping Memory, Imagination, and Futurity.” *39th Annual Art History Symposium*, Florida State University, Mar 2023.

Larissa Nez, “We Are Alive: Restoring Meaning and Life to Navajo Weavings.” *Ecologies of Making: Knowledge and Process in Navajo Weaving: A research symposium in conjunction with the exhibition Shaped by the Loom: Weaving Worlds in the American Southwest*, Bard Graduate Center, Feb 2023. <https://youtu.be/iaxHtQIOjCg>.

Larissa Nez, “The AMIA Pathways Fellowship: Meet the Fellows.” The Association of Moving Image Archives Conference, Dec 2022.

Laura J. Allen, Larissa Nez, Velma Kee Craig, “Rug and Textile Appreciation Morning: Color Riot! How Color Changed Navajo Textiles,” George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, Apr 2022. <https://vimeo.com/700562582>.

Larissa Nez, “Indigenous Histories in New England,” Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University, Apr 2022. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WtQFi22gUVML3lfql0RTjsAgwd11f0ao/view?usp=sharing>.

Larissa Nez, Sophia Ellis, Rai Terry, Kate Hao, “Erotic Vision: Poetics of Body and Image.” John Nicholson Brown Center for the Public Humanities, Brown University, Feb 2022.

Larissa Nez, Jessie Young, “Larissa Nez — On Decolonizing Institutions.” *Fields of the Future: Unraveling the Loom* (podcast), Bard Graduate Center, Jan 2022. <https://www.bgc.bard.edu/research-forum/articles/689/s2e6-larissa-nez-on-decolonizing>.

Larissa Nez, “Teaching Hard Histories to Elementary Learners: Black and Indigenous Slavery and Oppression,” *Primary Source*, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University, Dec 2021.

Larissa Nez, Felicia Bartley, Christine DeLucia, Marty Blatt, “The Public History of King Philip’s War,” Wayland Historical Society and First Parish, Oct 2021. <https://youtu.be/YbugEfHE4jM>.

Allison McNulty, Larissa Nez, Felicia Garcia, Breylan Martin, Meranda Roberts, Melissa Shaginoff, “Land Acknowledgement Workshop,” The 109th College Art Association Conference, Feb 2021.

Larissa Nez, “Migrations, Meeting Grounds, and Memory,” Western History Association 2020 Conference, Oct 2020.

Anni Ankitha Pullagura, Anuradha Vikram, Larissa Nez, Bongisa Msutu, Chandra Frank, Areerat Worawongwasu, “A Third Museum Is Possible: Towards a Decolonial Curatorial Practice,” The 108th College Art Association Conference, Feb 2020.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

Creative Capital Artist Initiatives Department Artist and Grant Advisor	2023 to Present
Hessel Museum and Forge Project Reader on Native North American Art, Theory and Praxis Editorial Committee Member	2022 to Present
Raclin Murphy Museum of Art (formerly Snite Museum of Art) University of Notre Dame Advisory Council Member	2022 to Present
The University of Notre Dame Native American Alumni Board of Directors Communications Director	2019 to Present
Council for Museum Anthropology American Anthropological Association Member	2019 to Present
Museum of Indian Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Member	2022 to 2023
The College Art Association Student and Emerging Professionals Committee Member	2019 to 2023
The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Member	2019 to 2021
Swearer Center for Public Service Brown University Howard R. Swearer Engaged Faculty Award Committee Member Student Advisory Committee Member	2020 to 2021

Larissa Nez
References

Andrew Crowe
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