21st Annual

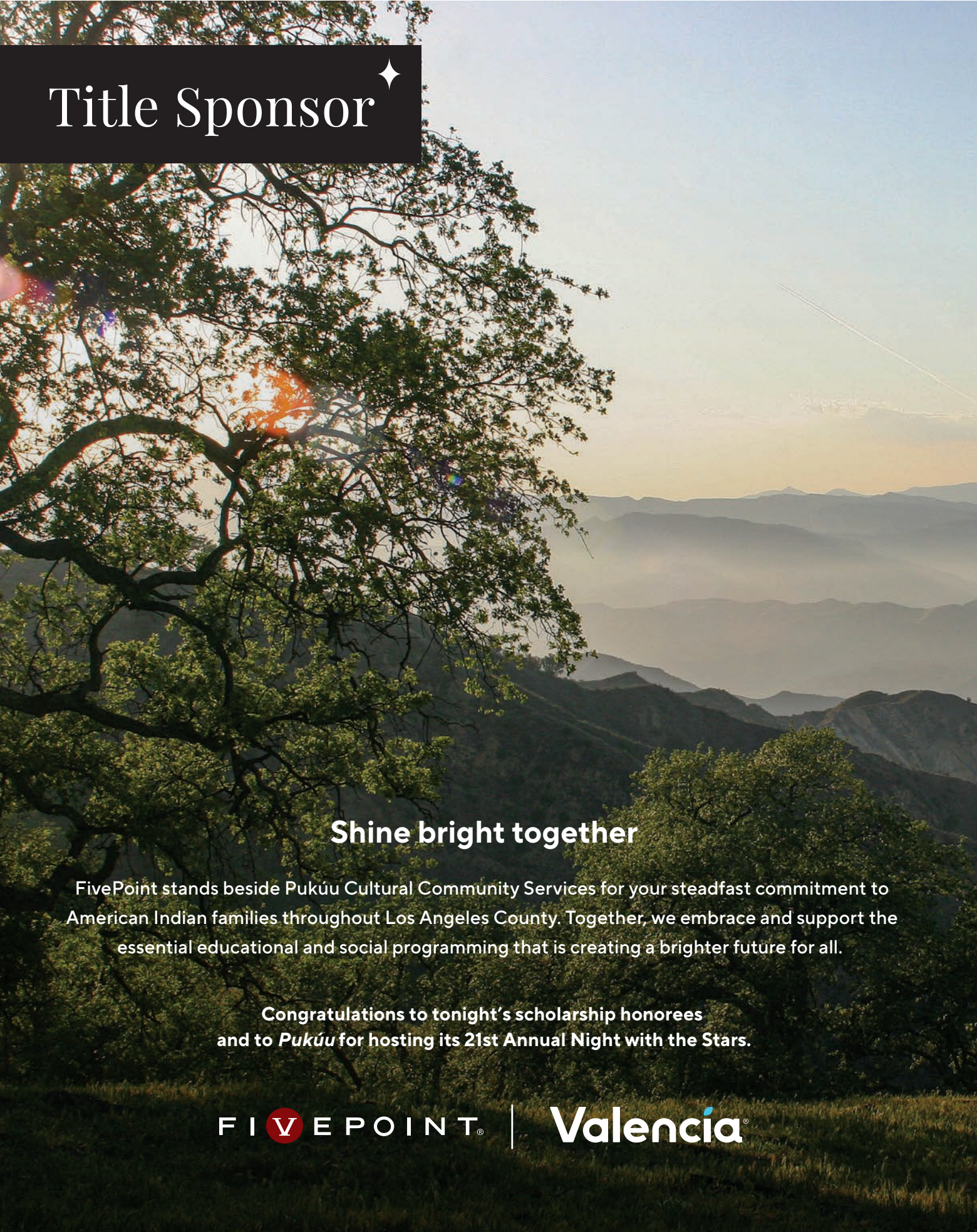
Night with the Stars gala

pukúu
CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

November 7, 2025

Skirball Cultural Center

Los Angeles, California


Title Sponsor
Shine bright together
FivePoint stands beside Pukúu Cultural Community Services for your steadfast commitment to American Indian families throughout Los Angeles County. Together, we embrace and support the essential educational and social programming that is creating a brighter future for all.
Congratulations to tonight's scholarship honorees
and to *Pukúu* for hosting its 21st Annual Night with the Stars.
FIVEPOINT
Valencia

Pako Kima

(WELCOME)

FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM TRANSLATION

SOCIAL HOUR
OUTDOOR PATIO

MASTER OF CEREMONY
JOEY WILLIAMS
KAWAIISU-NUWA

GREETING
PAMELA VILLASEÑOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PUKÚU CCS
FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM

INVOCATION
FERNANDEÑO TATAVIAM BAND
OF MISSION INDIANS SINGERS

SILENT AUCTION

DINNER

HONOREES
SUPERVISOR LINDSEY HORVATH
DR. MICHAEL ORTEGA
ROBERT JUDKINS

ENTERTAINMENT
HALE & CO
POW WOW DANCERS

HONOR SONG
HALE & CO

VIDEO SNEAK PEAK
TABOO: #DENASTRONG

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
TOMIAR RUDY ORTEGA SR
CAITLIN GULLEY MEMORIAL
AUSTIN MARTIN MEMORIAL

21ST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

NIGHT *with the* STARS

pukúu
CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

pukúu
CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

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For more than twenty years, Pukúu's Annual Night with the Stars Gala has united the Los Angeles Native American community in connection, recognition, and celebration. What began as a small gathering has grown into a cherished tradition honoring those who uplift Native communities and celebrating our exceptional scholarship recipients—the true stars of our community.

As we mark twenty years of this tradition, we look ahead to the next generation of Honorees, Scholars, and community leaders. The Pukúu Board of Directors remains firmly committed to our community and to continuing this gala as a place of celebration, reflection, and inspiration. Guided by the vision of our founders, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, we will continue building programs that create opportunity and support cultural education.

Together, we look forward to a bright future and many more years of celebration as one community.

Sincerely,

Samantha Ortega
Guachichile
Chair of the Board








OAKTREE
HARVARD WESTLAKE
CALIFORNIA
FIVEPOINT
WEINGART
pukúu
OAKTREE






pukúu
CALIFORNIA NATIVE VOTE PROJECT







History

Serving our community Since 1971

Pukúu Cultural Community Services is a community based nonprofit founded by the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians as an organization to serve both the local tribal community and Native Americans living in the ancestral territory of the Tribe.

The mission of Pukúu is to invest in sustainable programs that bridge and improve opportunities for Native Americans with culturally-based community services now and for future generations. The word pukúu (poo-koo) derives from the Fernandeño Tataviam language meaning “one”, representing the unity amongst our community.

Pukúu’s programs uplift the needs of Native Americans while advocating for system change that better support Mental, Emotional, Physical, and Spiritual Wellness.

54 YEARS OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1971

2024: OVER $509K IN DIRECT COMMUNITY SERVICES

TUTČINT INDIGENOUS YOUTH PROGRAMS

In 2019, Pukúu launched Tutčint Youth Empowerment to address juvenile justice by cultivating the next generation of social justice leaders through Indigenous Knowledges and holistic well-being. Tutčint (two-cheant), meaning “youth” in the Fernandeño Tataviam language, has empowered 12 cohorts of Indigenous youth.

This year, Pukúu evolved its second social justice program into the Tutčint Power Fellowship- an Indigenous leadership academy beyond a service model. TPF uplifts Native youth to build power and drive systemic change in Los Angeles, home to the largest urban Native community in the U.S. Through healing, civic engagement, and leadership development, Pukuu supports youth in becoming powerful agents of change.

ONE STOP EMERGENCY SERVICES

Pukúus OSES program has significantly expanded over the past year to meet growing community needs- from rental assistance to transportation support. In response to evolving challenges, OSES now includes wellness services such as harm reduction and targeted outreach. During the recent Southern California wildfires, Pukúu mobilized emergency assistance for families and individuals directly impacted in Los Angeles County through our Fire Disaster Assistance fund. Additionally, Pukúu continues to provide vital holiday support to Tribal families and elders, distributing toys, PPE, and culturally relevant food packages to ensure care and connection during the season.

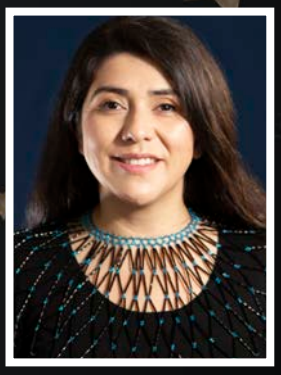
HARAMOKNGNA AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Haramokngna, meaning “place where people gather,” is an American Indian Cultural Center focused on historic and contemporary tribal culture. Haramokngna provides a place where the region’s First Peoples: Gabrielino (Tongva), Ventureño (Chumash), Fernandeño (Tataviam), Kitanemuk, and Serrano -- continue to share their histories. It’s a place where tribal nations share their cultures and sustain traditional spiritualities in Southern California.



pukúu
CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Executive Director



Hamiinat!

It's extraordinary to reflect on how far we've come- over two decades of Night with the Stars, a gathering rooted in celebration, culture, and shared purpose. Each year, this gala shines as a living archive of our collective journey, illuminated by the brilliance of our Honorees, Scholars, partners, and you- our community.

This past year reminded us of both our strength and our responsibility. When the devastating LA fires swept through our region, our team acted swiftly, transforming grief into purpose through the activation of our Fire Disaster Assistance Fund, supporting those most deeply affected. In that moment, our commitment was renewed: to stand as a trusted, culturally grounded resource for our people in times of need.

We also stepped boldly into a new era of possibility. In partnership, we helped establish the first-ever housing for Native Elders in Los Angeles- a historic milestone that honors our Ancestors and affirms our vision for dignified, culturally rooted futures for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this night, and this vision. Your presence affirms what is possible when we walk together, as one community, one purpose, one pukúu.

Pamela Villaseñor
Fernandeño Tataviam
Executive Director

Entertainment



MASTER OF CEREMONY

JOEY WILLIAMS
NUWA (KAWAIISU)

Joey Williams, a member of the Nuwa (Kawaiisu) people out of the Kern Valley Indian Community, began organizing over 15 years ago as a youth pastor working to dismantle the school to jail & prison pipeline in Bakersfield. He has been a product of the foster care, jail, and probation system since age 7. Joey committed his life to bringing people of color, young people, and disenfranchised targeted communities off the sidelines and into the big fight for good jobs, quality education, and ending mass incarceration and police brutality. Joey is the former Co-Vice Chair of the LA County Cares First Community Investment Advisory Board-CFCI (Measure J) representing the Native American Community, which is allocating $100 million from the LA County Sheriff's Department, and investing back in the communities they have harmed. Joey is formerly the Director of Organizing at the CA Native Vote Project, and is committed to dismantling White Supremacy, and building Native Power so that all our people can be free, self determined, and live the full life their Creator intended.



FTBMI SINGERS

The Singers of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians are led by Head Singer Mark Villaseñor, who descends from the village at Encino, California. Reflecting the diverse origins of the Fernandeño community, whose ancestors were brought together through Mission San Fernando, the singers carry and share songs representing their lineages, including Pipimaram, Chumash, Kitanemuk, Kaivitam/Serrano, and Tataviam traditions.

In accordance with traditional kinship protocols, only designated citizens of the FTBMI are permitted to sing certain songs, whether these songs were entrusted to them by a neighboring Tribe or passed down by an FTBMI elder. Through their songs, the Singers honor their ancestors, maintain cultural continuity, and strengthen relationships with surrounding Tribal governments.



HALE & CO

Hale & Company is from the Navajo (Diné) Nation and is originally from Oak Springs, Arizona. Their father, the late Henry Hale, resided in the Los Angeles area for over 65 years. Henry learned the Southern Plains style of singing and had been singing at the drum for over five decades. Hale & Company consisted of three sons of Henry Hale, grandsons, great-grandson, and other relatives and friends who come from various tribal nations. Tonight, Kevin Hale and Nathan Logan will be representing the drum. Kevin is a graduate of UCLA, and a past recipient of the Chief Little Bear Scholarship.

Hale & Company have been participating within the Powwow arena all of their lives, at first as Fancy Feather Dancers, and then as singers at the Southern Drum. Hale & Company has been hosting many Powwows throughout California and the Southwestern United States. Hale & Company would like to thank Pukuu Cultural Community Services for providing the honor to Hale & Company to be a part of the 21st Annual 'Night with the Stars.' Hale & Company congratulates the scholarship recipients and asks for Creator's blessings for everyone attending the event.

Sneak Peek Video

TABOO

Taboo, born Jaime Luis Gomez, is a multifaceted artist known for his role as a member of the iconic pop group the Black Eyed Peas. His journey began in Los Angeles, California, where he was born to a half-Mexican, half-Native American family. Taboo's unique blend of Spanish and English lyrics, along with his flamboyant style, has made him a standout performer in the music industry. He has released numerous albums, inclu0ding "Boom Boom Pow," "I Gotta Feeling," and "Monkey Business," and has also ventured into acting with roles in films like "Dirty" and "Cosmic Radio." Taboo's influence extends beyond music, as he promotes cultural pride and diversity through his work. His autobiography, "Fallin Up – My Story," and his contributions to the Marvel Comics series "Werewolf by Night" showcase his versatility as an artist.

2025 Honoree



SUPERVISOR LINDSEY HORVATH

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath is a trailblazing leader and reformer, serving as the first millennial and only renter on Los Angeles County's all-women Board of Supervisors. In 2024, she became the Board's youngest-ever Chair, bringing a fresh, results-driven approach to regional challenges. In 2025, she continues to lead with urgency—spearheading disaster recovery after the Palisades Fire and driving a comprehensive overhaul of the County's homeless services system.

Under her leadership, Los Angeles County achieved its first decrease in homelessness in nearly a decade. She has advanced bold climate initiatives through the Blue Ribbon Commission on Climate Action & Fire-Safe Recovery and the LA County Water Plan. A champion for equity, she strengthened reproductive freedom through the Abortion Safe Haven Program and prioritized LGBTQ+ and marginalized communities in County work.

Previously, she served as a West Hollywood Councilmember and the city's longest consecutively serving Mayor.

2025 Honoree



DR. MICHAEL ORTEGA

COMMUNITY AWARD

Dr. Michael Ortega's journey reflects perseverance, faith, and a lifelong commitment to serving others. The first in his family to earn a doctorate, he graduated from dental school in 2013 at age 28 while raising two children—a milestone achieved through determination and faith in God's plan.

While a dental student, Dr. Ortega was an elected official of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and served on the Education and Health Committee, advocating for academic and community advancement—a foundation for his enduring passion for leadership and service. In 2018, he founded his own dental practice, guided by integrity, compassion, and excellence. His focus extends beyond patient care to fostering unity, accountability, and growth within his team.

Deeply rooted in faith, Dr. Ortega believes success lies in using one's gifts to uplift others. Through charitable dental programs and community outreach, he provides care to underserved populations. A devoted husband and father of four, he continues to lead with purpose, gratitude, and service.

2025 Honoree



ROBERT JUDKINS

COMMUNITY AWARD

Born and raised in Echo Park, Los Angeles, Robert Judkins brings over three decades of experience in broadcast media, technology, and sports production. As Executive Producer and Director of Broadcast for the Native American Basketball Invitational's NABI Network, he champions Native American athletes by creating inclusive, high-quality broadcasts featuring an all–Native American announce team. His leadership ensures that Native voices and stories reach audiences worldwide, promoting cultural pride and unity through sports.

Before joining NABI in 2021, Robert served over six years as Commissioner for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, where he helped secure vital resources to address socioeconomic challenges impacting Native communities. With a career that includes 13 years at the NFL and roles at Technicolor, Matchframe Video, and Positive Sound Recording, Robert continues to merge innovation with advocacy—using storytelling and sports as powerful tools for representation, empowerment, and social change.

Scholarships

Supporting scholars who will impact our Native community.



2 scholarships awarded

San Fernando Valley Inter Tribal, Inc. awards $500 scholarships to two students enrolled at California State University, Northridge, for the fall semester. From left are Rudy Ortega, Inter Tribal diector; scholarship recipients Sylvia Ortega and Cindy Groset, and Johnny de La Cruz, treasurer of Inter Tribal, Inc.

Valley News Photo

Valley Green Sheet Aug 17-1977 Wednesday

Tomiar Rudy Ortega Sr. Scholarship

In 1971, Pukúu's founders, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, established a scholarship fund that provides awards to help American Indian students with higher education studies. Upon the passing of the Tribe's Tomiar (traditional captain) and late Tribal President, Pukúu's board of directors named this fund in his honor: "Rudy Ortega Sr. Scholarship."

Cultural Defender Caitlin Gulley Memorial Scholarship

Endowment established by FivePoint

Caitlin Gulley, a graduate of University of California Los Angeles, began her journey with the Tribe in 2014 as a Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation officer. She was instrumental in defending and preserving the cultural resources of a non-federally recognized tribe and became determined to further her education in law due to the legal aspects intertwined with the practice of cultural resources protection.

Tribal Senator Austin Martin Memorial Scholarship

Endowment established by the Martin Family

Tribal Senator Austin Martin served as a Tribal Senator on the legislative branch of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. Senator Martin had the spirit for uplifting his people towards a bright future and was especially passionate about empowering Tribal youth.

Congratulations
TO OUR SCHOLARS!

TOMIAR RUDY ORTEGA SR. SCHOLARSHIP


DINEH BARRAGAN


ABIGAIL GALLARDO


EMMA GALLARDO


ETHAN MOLINA


CAMRYN REDMOND

CULTURAL DEFENDER CAITLIN GULLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

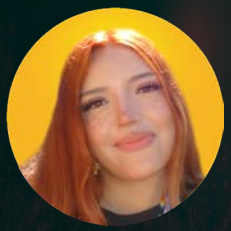

TENCHA CHAVEZ


ANALISA GARCIA


TOIPUREENAH OROZCO


AIMEE TASHPA SCOTT

TRIBAL SENATOR AUSTIN MARTIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP


KAPURI OROZCO

Spotlight

Community Member Francine Rosales

Rosales finds her spark again with help from Pukúu Cultural Community Services, the social services non-profit of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

How Pukuu's Social Services Uplift Native Self-Sufficiency

Now, most folks don't realize it, but more Native Americans now live in Los Angeles than in any other county in the country. KCAL News' Kara Finnstrom takes us to San Fernando, where a local tribe is working to make sure they're seen and supported. "I'm doing things differently because I changed my life around."

We met Francine Rosales in what used to be a Native American village.

The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians helps manage this historic San Fernando park. The tribe also started the nonprofit Pukúu Cultural Community Services, which has supported Rosales through huge challenges.

Transcription of the KCAL News CBS News
2024 Feature



Pukúu provides its services from the City of San Fernando, California - a traditional village of its founding Tribe, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

"Homelessness, abuse, everything. And I came out of it."

Pukúu is now helping Rosales pay her bills, go to cosmetology school, and dream again. "I'm going to be finishing in six months. And just opening my own business."

She's doing it for herself and her five-year-old son. She's a single mom. "He's special needs, non-verbal. But he's doing good. He's in their program." He's in a program because Pukúu's says that this past year, they helped more than 500 people get everything from housing and food to clothing. The aid goes to anyone who qualifies.

But leaders say historical traumas continue to greatly impact Native Americans. "Some of the highest homeless rates, some of the highest incarcerated rates. That loss of history can really impact an individual," says Mike Villaseñor, Case Manager, Pukúu Cultural Community Services, and also a Tribal Citizen of the FTBMI.





Francine with her five-year-old son, who is Pukúu's program. More than 500 people have been assisted by Pukúu in the year 2024 alone.

> Homelessness, abuse, everything... and I came out of it.
>
> Francine Rosales

So Pukúu's other mission is fostering unity and pride. Some of that happens here in Rudy Ortega Sr. Park. "We built a traditional house called a kich."

The Fernandeño tribe says their ancestors were living in Southland villages thousands of years before the first Spanish settlers arrived. "There used to be Indian reservations right here in Los Angeles. This was the village of Patzkunga. And our families fought for this up until 1891 in court cases," says Pamela Villaseñor, Executive Director of Pukúu and Tribal Citizen of the FTBMI.

Today, the FTBMI and the City of San Fernando co-manage these acres together. Pukúu uses them to restore cultural traditions. "Just a few weeks ago, we met with youth and families, gathered acorns, processed them, even ate it right there," says Director Villaseñor.

"I'm showing him his history." Rosales brings her son to Pukúu's events. The nonprofit started over 50 years ago, and she says this thriving community is strengthening her.

Pukúu is helping **her pay her bills, go to cosmetology school, and** dream **again.**

"Because it's been a journey."

When asked what's been the most challenging part, Rosales replied, "Loving myself through Pukúu and through the community helping me. It's... it's been a blessing."

818-336-6105

SHELTER

- Homeless individuals may receive temporary shelter for approximately 1 week.

FOOD

- One-time food voucher for a local supermarket.

TRANSPORTATION

- One time emergency gas voucher for a local gas station

UTILITY

- Partial payment may be made directly to the utility company in order to prevent a utility from being turned off.

COUNSELING & REFERRAL

- Educational counseling to individuals in high school and college.
- Crisis counseling can also be provided as a secondary service.
- Referrals to agencies that can service emergency needs such as medical services, employment services and health needs.

CULTURE & RECREATIONAL

- Cultural Activities are organized throughout the year to provide social and communal celebrations of Native heritage and culture.



WE'RE LISTENING.

Wellness Services

- Coming Soon -

Our **Community**, Together, As **One**.

Fire Assistance

Were you impacted by the wildfires during the 2025 state of emergency? We're here for you.

HÜKOTKIN

Elderberry Tree House, A Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians ***Senior Living***







Partners:
Pukúu Cultural Community Services
Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Aszkenazy Development, Inc.

Funding Partnership:
California Housing Community Development Department, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, & County of Los Angeles

Congratulations!

The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians proudly honors your dedication, leadership, and service to our shared communities. May your work continue to inspire future generations.



tataviam.us

WEINGART FOUNDATION

All in for **Justice**

Weingart is pleased to support Pukuu Cultural Community Services in serving the Native American and Indigenous communities.

A sincere congratulations to all the scholarships recipients and honorees.



Celebrating 50

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

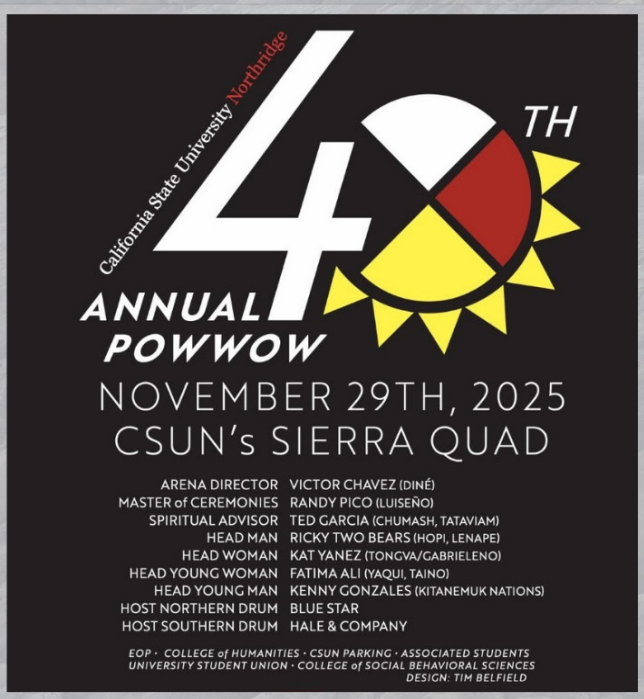
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

1975 - 2025



CSUN Powwow Photo Credit: Corina Roberts

The California State University Northridge's American Indian Studies Program, Faculty and Advisory Board congratulate Pukúu Cultural Community Services on its 21st Annual Night with the Stars Gala! We look forward to our continued partnership!





CSUN | CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE

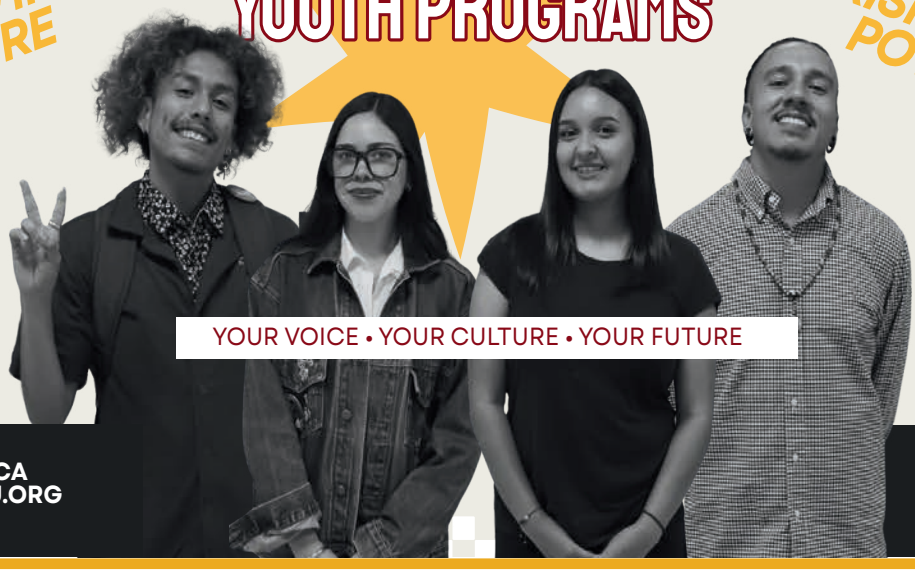
TUTČINT

A Program of Pukúu Cultural Community Services

ROOTED IN CULTURE

Indigenous YOUTH PROGRAMS

RISING IN POWER



YOUR VOICE • YOUR CULTURE • YOUR FUTURE

SAN FERNANDO, CA
TUCINT@PUKUU.ORG

TATAVIAM LAND CONSERVANCY
HERITAGE PRESERVATION EDUCATION

Re-matriating millions of acres of Tribal lands to Tribal hands.

TATAVIAM.LAND



Centering our work on the values & needs of the Tribe.

ASZKENAZY
DEVELOPMENT

Proud Partner

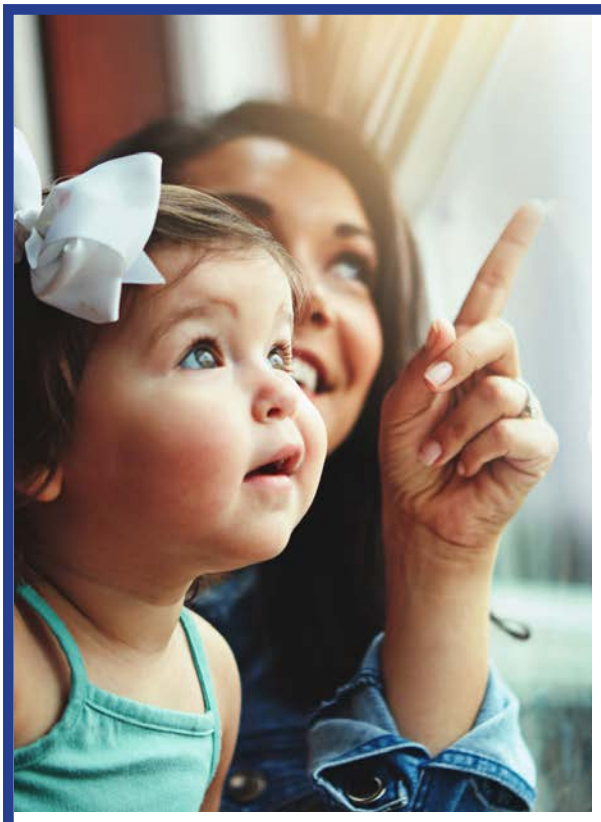
THE HÜKÁTKIN BUILDING

OPENING 2027



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES

SUPERVISOR LINDSEY HORVATH
ROBERT JUDKINS
MICHAEL ORTEGA, DMD



Honoring Community, Celebrating Futures.

For 20 years, Pukúu Cultural Community Services has uplifted Native communities across Los Angeles, empowering future generations. At First 5 LA, we share the vision of fostering strong communities and creating opportunities where every family and child can thrive.

Congratulations, Pukúu, on two decades of impact and celebration!

First5LA.org

first 5 la
Giving kids the best start

REISSA FOUNDATION

A FAMILY FOUNDATION PLEASED TO SUPPORT PUKUU CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES!

LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



Land Acknowledgement

Tonight, we gather at the Skirball Cultural Center between the villages of Tupa’nga and Siutcanga, now known as Topanga and Encino.

We ask our guests to uplift our founders, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, in your community work and beyond.

Hakuʻpaʻai

Thank You To All Of Our Supporters!

pukúu
CULTURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES