



# Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, March 8, 2024

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

## **In-Person Meeting Location**

Seattle City Hall 600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370

[Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

## **Remote Meeting Location**

WebEx

**Members Present**

Councilmember Jay Mills, Megan Castillo, Esther Lucero, Derrick Belgarde, and Jaci McCormack

**Members Excused**

Vice Chair Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala, Councilmember Suzanne Sailto, & Asia Tail

**Meeting Guests**

David Keyes, Will Booth, and Harte Daniels

**Items**

Number	Topic	Time
1	<b>Welcome and Opening Blessing</b>	<b>5 min</b>
2	<b>Approval of the Agenda (March)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved without changes.</li> </ul> <b>Approval of the Minutes (February)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved without changes.</li> </ul>	<b>5 min</b>
3	<b>Seattle Technology Access and Adoption Study</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seattle is working together for digital equity, to ensure all residents and neighborhoods have the information technology capacity needed for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. Reinforced by the 2020 Internet for All resolution #31956 adopted by City Council and signed by Mayor.</li> <li>• City’s digital equity work falls into four elements: 1) internet, 2) digital skills and technology support, 3) devices, and 4) applications and services.</li> <li>• City offers a varied of programming including Technology Matching Fund and Digital Navigator grants; Access for All program to provide free internet for non-profits, low-income internet consumer help, education and resource referral, computer access, wi-fi in libraries and community cetners, and technology access and adoption research.</li> <li>• The 2024 Seattle Technology Access and Adoption Study is the 6<sup>th</sup> study of its kind. The study results guide digital equity work and investments by government, community and other funders and it ensures resident voices are heard, especially those who are most impacted by technology challenges and opportunity gaps.</li> <li>• The 2024 study included 4,600 participants through a general population survey and focus groups (4,197 surveys and 40 focus groups across 10 focus populations in 6 languages).</li> <li>• See full report for comprehensive list of findings. Highlighted findings among American Indian and Alaska Native households include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compared to the overall population, Native community members have similar internet access, but also pay slightly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>35 min</b>

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- more, on average. They are less likely to find their internet completely adequate. More likely to experience interruptions. Many are unaware or do not use lower cost internet services for qualified low-income households.
- Overall, 2% of respondents live without internet. Of that, 5% are Native households.
  - Overall, 8% of households do not have internet at home and on-the-go, of which 12% are Native households.
  - In the past 12 months, Native residents were three times more likely to have gone without home internet for a month or longer (16% vs. 5% overall).
  - Native residents pay 6% more, on average, for their internet.
  - Native households are three times as likely to have to share devices. And are 8% less likely to have at least one laptop or tablet.
  - 17% of Native households do not have access to adequate screen size devices. Including 6% of total Native respondents that rely on smartphones only compared to just 3% of total respondents.
  - The three most common online activities among Native respondents are: buying and selling goods; telehealth, and medical, career, workforce and job searches
- Member feedback included: increase digital security training opportunities for elders and youth- may align with October digital inclusion and cyber security week; members expressed the need for increased advocacy around children’s right to privacy online including consent training and public campaigns that encourage youth to take control of their digital footprint; members drew attention to the need for increased access to internet and access to accessible devices among elders to reduce isolation and increase belonging another elders that may live long distances from their social support networks; members discussed support for state and federal efforts to address forced obsolesce practices that are pervasive across the technology industry; members inquired about low-income housing providers and internet access among residents- the City is working on a pilot with Seattel Housing Authority for “always on internet services” to ensure a base level of internet is provided rather than a reliance on the consumer to navigate and set up individual internet access; members discussed the benefits of municipal internet given that the City has relied heavily on a private sector model with one major provider; members discussed telehealth access and use pre and post COVID-19 pandemic and how that use is shown in the Technology Access Study data; members and staff discussed the upcoming renewal or possible end of a national low-cost internet programs and its potential impacts to low-income households
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nationwide-upcoming opportunities to join Congressional advocacy efforts to secure long-term program renewal.

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**4** **Old Business** **35 min**

Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee

- Councilmember Mills represented the IAC and the Suquamish Tribe at the April 3 Finance, Native Communities, and Tribal Governments Committee. Tim and Francesca provided an overview of the 2023 Tribal Nations Summit and featured a few progress updates since the summit. Archived presentations can be found on Seattle Channel and Legistar.

Legislative Meetings

- IAC members have met with 8/9 Seattle City Council members. These introductory meetings have included an overview of the IAC purpose, goals, and structure, recap of the 2023 annual report, and 2024 policy priorities.

UNEA Meet & Greet

- On 2/20/24, three IAC members attended a meeting of the Urban Native Education Alliance’s Clearsky Youth Council. The event included a shared meal, listening session of urban Native youth policy priorities, and questions and answers with IAC members and City staff.

IAC communications - annual report dissemination & blog posts

- The 2023 Annual Report has been disseminated Department of Neighborhoods channels. A blog post sharing Andrea Wilbur-Sigo's logo design is in development.

2024 IAC Retreat planning

- Members discussed their priorities and ideas for activities at an IAC retreat. These included, a review and evaluation of 2023 activities, an update of the strategic plan, development of the annual work plan, landscape assessment, and relationship building time.

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**5** **Indigenous Peoples’ Day** **20 min**

- City of Seattle has celebrated Indigenous Peoples’ Day (IPD) since 2014 which was a result of years of community organizing efforts. For the past 10 years there has been several IPD celebrations citywide. In 2022, the City recognized IPD has a City holiday. Department of Neighborhoods has asked that the IAC oversee IPD resources.
- Members discussed IAC roles and expectations and how best to support community efforts to celebrate IPD. Members discussed the



need to support a diversity of Native groups, including generational diversity; members discussed the need to be mindful of current events and help elevate Indigenous priorities and issues through IPD

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6	<b>Member Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No member announcements.</li></ul>	<b>10 min</b>
7	<b>Hybrid Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There were no requests for public comment.</li></ul>	<b>Up to 10 min</b>
8	<b>Closing &amp; Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Quarterly invoicing for Jan-March is due April 30.</li></ul>	

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