

# Lincoln Park: Change the Name, Ditch the Penny



# Long Beach Change The Name Coalition

We are a grassroots group of Native American community members including:

- The local Tongva
- Mental Health Professionals
- Educators
- Native veterans and Cultural Workers

Our focus is on education, truth telling, and the healing of historical trauma.

# Lincoln Park and the New Penny

Lincoln Park reopened with a ribbon cutting on February 11, 2022, touting a new 13-foot Lincoln penny monument and selfie spot. The reopening of this park with the Lincoln name is a step backwards for the city and community of Long Beach.

- Lincoln was responsible for the largest mass execution in United States history; in December 1862, 38 Dakota men were hanged under his order.
- Beginning in 1863, the Lincoln administration oversaw the removal of 8,000 Navajos, forcing them to march 450 miles to Bosque Redondo in The Long Walk; eventually, more than 2,000 died before a treaty was signed.
- Under Lincoln's watch was the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in southeastern Colorado, which resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Cheyenne and Arapaho.

# Long Beach Change the Name Coalition

We call for Lincoln Park in Long Beach to be:

- Renamed with consultation with the Tongva people,
- An official removal of the new penny statue and the Lincoln statue
- Creation and placement of a new monument, in dedication to the Native Peoples of the Long Beach region, the Tongva

# Historical and Intergenerational Trauma

Historical trauma is cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma.

According to Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, the four components to healing trauma are:

- Confronting historical trauma and embracing our history
- Understanding the trauma
- Releasing our pain
- Transcending the trauma

# Framework for Reconciliation

On June 23, 2020, Long Beach City Council unanimously adopted a Framework for Reconciliation which contains four key steps to ending systemic racism:

1. Acknowledging the existence and long-standing impacts of systemic racism in Long Beach and the country;
2. Listening to accounts and experiences of racial injustice, inequity, or harm to community members; and
3. Convening stakeholders to analyze feedback from the listening sessions and racial disparity data to recommend initiatives that shape policy, budgetary, charter, and programmatic reform;
4. Catalyzing action that includes immediate, short-term, medium-term, and long-term recommendations for the City Council's consideration.

# Racial Equity and Reconciliation Report

Goal 1: End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation.

Goal 2: Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention.

Goal 3: Redesign police approach to community safety.

Goal 4: Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

# Focusing on the Report's Goal 1

**GOAL 1: End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation.**

- A. Read past research, integrate it, and build on it by continuing to document the role of racism throughout the history of Long Beach and incorporate it into the Historic Context Statement and racial equity timeline. Immediate
- B. Create a process to review the names of public parks, schools (in partnership with LBUSD), buildings, and monuments with a racial equity lens.



## A New Era

We are in a new era of righting the wrongs and confronting America's genocidal acts and policies against Native People - across this state, in the past years, Californians have begun to witness the removal of Christopher Columbus and Junipero Serra statues, and even the local California State University, Long Beach's Prospect Pete statue - as well as the removal and renaming of harmful names - including S-word ("Squaw") Valley, on Washoe tribal homelands in Northeastern CA.

## Governor Gavin Newsom issues apology

On June 18, 2019 Governor Gavin Newsom signs executive order formally apologizing to California's Native Americans for historical mistreatment, violence and neglect

Establishes Truth and Healing Council to provide Native Americans a platform to clarify the historical record and work collaboratively with the state to begin the healing process

"It's called genocide," he said. "That's what it was, a genocide. No other way to describe it. And that's the way it needs to be described in the history books."

# Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti issues apology

- October 11, 2021 - Mayor Eric Garcetti issued apology to Native Americans.
- Announced plans to rename Father Serra Park in downtown Los Angeles — one of several policy initiatives intended to right historical wrongs and rectify the city's relationship with its Indigenous people.
- Garcetti also announced plans to develop a cultural easement that will grant tribal members priority access to the park for traditional ceremonies, part of a broader new city policy direction regarding land taken from Indigenous communities.

# City of Long Beach

- Long Beach celebrated their first Native American Heritage Month in 2016, and in that same year, made a statement of support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
- In 2017, Long Beach adopted Indigenous People's Day, in lieu of Columbus Day.

**Honoring the Native People of these lands beyond these symbolic statements requires that the City of Long Beach tell the truth and atrocities of history; including tangible actions to call out the minimization of genocidal acts and romanticization of Manifest Destiny.**



DAKOTA 38  
LONG WALK  
OF THE  
NAVAJO  
SAND CREEK  
MASSACRE

CHANGE  
THE NAME  
DITCH THE  
PENNY

LINCOLN HAS  
BLOOD ON HIS HANDS

