

Minutes

Indigenous Advisory Council

Friday, December 12, 2025

12:30 PM PST – 2:30 PM PST

In-Person Meeting Location: Seattle City Hall 600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Room 370; [Instructions for visiting Seattle City Hall \(bus access, parking, & building access\)](#)

Remote Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

Members Present

Councilmember Jay Mills, Tia Yazzie, Suzanne Sailto, Derrick Belgarde, and Jaci McCormack

Members Excused

Councilmember Donny Stevenson, Councilmember Jeremy Takala and Esther Lucero

Meeting Guests

Francesca Murnan, Office of Intergovernmental Relations; Dylan Ordonez and Leo Flor, FIFA Seattle Local Organizing Committee; Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss

Items

Number	Topic	Time
1	Welcome and Opening Blessing	5 min
2	Approval of the Agenda (December) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved without changes. Approval of the Minutes (November) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved without changes. 	5 min
3	Seattle Women’s Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Neighborhoods staffed shared updates from the co-chair of the Seattle Women’s Commission who has expressed interest in opportunities to collaborate with the IAC, specifically around work plan items related to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). IAC members offered several urban Indian organizations in Seattle that provide direct services and policy work in the areas of MMIP that could be potential resources and partnership the commission. IAC members noted that a Tribe recently acquired a clinic in Kitsap County to expand healthcare services to Indigenous women in the area. Staff will compile referrals to share with commission to guide their outreach and engagement of a diverse range of Indigenous partners that work on these issues. 	15 min
4	Final Discussion and Possible Adoption of 2026 Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 Work Plan approved. Discussion of next steps for submitting the Annual Work Plan to Mayor’s Office and Seattle City Council as 	20 min

directed by the IAC ordinance. Timing is subject to change with the onboarding of new IAC liaison.

5 **Old Business** **10 min**

- **City Budget**
 - Seattle Councilmember Dan Strauss joined IAC members to discuss the recently passed City budget. Discussion of the impacts of the April and October revenue forecasts and the ongoing economic uncertainty that informs the City budget.
 - Discussion on the funding of Thunderbird Treatment Center and efforts to fund capitol and operating support costs for culturally attuned behavioral health services.
 - Discussion on the need to continuously report about how recommendations from the Tribal Relations Summit are being implemented. Discussion that this work is setting a positive example for the rest of the nation and is long overdue.
 - Discussion of the July deadline for submitting funding requests and encouraged the IAC to work with staff at the Department of Neighborhoods to ensure that their priorities are included in the Mayor's Proposed Budget.
- Human Services Department (HSD) Invoicing
 - IAC members expressed concerns about HSD changes to invoicing payment policy mid-contract without informing grantees in a timely manner. Staff are seeking additional information on the policy language from HSD.

6 **FIFA World Cup Local Organizing Committee (LOC)** **35 min**

- Representatives of the FIFA Seattle Local Organizing Committee, provided a brief overview of the role and scope of the LOC and explained that the LOC is not formally part of FIFA, but is a nonprofit that coordinates activities outside the stadium with the goal of producing a lasting benefit for local communities and small businesses.
 - Their work is guided by six legacy pillars: (1) accessibility, (2) human rights, (3) sustainability, (4) children, (5) community, and (6) culture.
 - The events are estimated to bring 750 million visitors to the Seattle area and generate more than \$900 million in revenue from June 15 to July 9, 2026. The committee wants to ensure that this money will be distributed broadly across Seattle's communities and leverage the national and international attention created by the games.
 - It is estimated that visitors will stay an average of one week in Seattle. Not all visitors will have tickets to the matches. The LOC wants to avoid what happened during the recent Major League Baseball event where local businesses prepared for an influx of visitors that did not materialize.
 - Team USA will compete in a June 19th match in Seattle. The match coincides with Juneteenth celebrations.
 - They are conducting Tribal outreach across Washington State and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a Presenting Legacy Partner. They're also
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partnering with Tribal elementary schools in the region to build new soccer fields to support future generations of soccer players.

- Members expressed concern about increased fan violence, which disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities. They suggest that Seattle Police Department to reach out to Tribal law enforcement agencies who could offer additional law enforcement support through a more culturally relevant lens. Directed impacted partners are in discussions with the LOC to explore options that increase security in and around Pioneer Square.
- The LOC acknowledged that human trafficking is a significant concern and they're working to provide training for 2,500 people in the hospitality sector to improve identification of harmful situations and work to mitigate them. The LOC is also working with the Attorney General's Office and Tribal Nations to develop an Indigenous-led awareness campaign in coordination with other events on MMIP Awareness Day, May 5, 2026.
- There will be multiple events and opportunities for people to be part of the World Cup celebrations.
- The LOC is developing an app that will encourage people to visit additional neighborhoods and businesses around the 'Unity Loop' around downtown Seattle, including the waterfront and Seattle Center. The app will include games and prizes, including very limited World Cup tickets.
- The app will include information about the Lushootseed language, cultural locations and Native-owned businesses.
- IAC members encouraged opportunities to highlight Native food and perhaps host a shared clambake and discussed opportunity to elevate organizations that empower Native youth.
- Members also noted that 2026 also marks the 250th anniversary of the US Constitution, which is also an opportunity to honor Indigenous liberty.

7	Member Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hummingbird Family Center's annual holiday party is this Saturday, December 13.	Up to 5 min
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8	Hybrid Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no public comments	
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9	Closing & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New IAC Liaison will start mid-January 2026.• December IAC meeting agenda items may include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Department of Education and Early Learning – Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise 2025 Levy Implementation Planning	
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