



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

2940 16th Street, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94103-3664
Phone: (415) 641-4482
Fax: (415) 641-1298
Email: iitc@treatycouncil.org
www.treatycouncil.org

For Immediate Release: October 7, 2018

Contact: Nicole Yanes, Nicole@treatycouncil.org, 520-248-7402

**Mayor London Breed to Acknowledge and Participate in
San Francisco's First Official Indigenous Peoples Day**

San Francisco, CA: On January 7, 1851, California's first Governor, Peter Hardeman Burnett, in his Second Annual Message to the Legislature, stated "that a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct, must be expected." This policy of systematic racism and genocide resulted in the widespread extermination of California's diverse Indigenous Peoples which was sanctioned and funded by the State of California and ultimately the US Government.

On October 8, 2018, 167 years later, Ms. London Breed, San Francisco's first African-American woman Mayor will also make history, this time acknowledging the widespread historic brutality against California's Native Peoples, and affirming the vitality and resilience of Indigenous Peoples through the City Proclamation recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day (IPD) as an alternative to "Columbus Day" in San Francisco, called Yelamu in the language of the Ohlones, the original Peoples of the Bay Area. She will read the proclamation at a gathering organized by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) at noon at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco). "It's a small but significant step in rectifying the incredible atrocities carried out against California's First Peoples, and one that has been a long time coming," says Morning Star Gali, a member of the Pit River Nation and Community Liaison for the IITC.

San Francisco now joins a growing number of cities that are formally recognizing this country's original inhabitants and challenging "Columbus Day" myth of discovery. In the Bay Area, Berkeley was the first city to declare IPD in 1992, on the occasion of the Columbus Quincentenary. Los Angeles also this year removed Columbus Day and replaced it with Indigenous Peoples Day. South Dakota is still the only state that recognizes "Native American Day" in lieu of Columbus Day. The movement reflects a consciousness of the incalculable costs this country's First Peoples paid in the process of colonization of what are now known as the United States and the Americas.

"This day is very significant for Indigenous Peoples of the Bay Area, California and the entire continent. Today San Francisco becomes one of the major international cities of the world that has joined with Indigenous Peoples in rejecting the myth of Columbus' discovery of our homelands, recognizing the subsequent history of genocide affirming this as Indigenous Peoples Day," says Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Nation and IITC's Executive Director.

*Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples
Trabajando por el reconocimiento y los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas*



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

2940 16th Street, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94103-3664
Phone: (415) 641-4482
Fax: (415) 641-1298
Email: iitc@treatycouncil.org
www.treatycouncil.org

While this recognition is new to the general populace, affirming the cultural resilience and survival is a longstanding practice and tradition among Native Peoples Carmen says. “The IITC has been holding sunrise gatherings in Alcatraz Island since 1979 on what has been celebrated by non-Indigenous Peoples as “Columbus Day”. She further states that “for us it has always been a day of solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere and the World, a day to celebrate our collective resilience and survival, share our cultures and commit our solidarity and support to one another in the struggles we continue to face.”

A full day of celebratory programs is planned, including an Alcatraz Sunrise gathering, a noontime Yerba Buena celebration where Muwekma Ohlone Vice-Chairwoman Monica Arellano will open the event at noon and **Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Vallie Brown** will attend and speak at 12:30 pm. This event will be followed by an educational forum highlighting how Native Peoples in California are healing their communities from the legacies of the California gold rush and other atrocities they experienced.

The two new events would not be possible without funders, supporters and allies. Barbara Mumby of the San Francisco Arts Commission, says “The San Francisco Arts Commission is proud and honored to support the first official Indigenous Peoples Day for San Francisco. We recognize the importance of acknowledging the original peoples of Yelamu and thank the Ohlone people for sharing their beautiful lands with us. Likewise, Linda Lucero, Executive/Artistic Director of co-sponsor Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, says “Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is beyond thrilled to host San Francisco’s 1st Official Indigenous Peoples Day. Aho!” IITC also expresses its appreciation to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation and the Christensen Fund for their support of the Indigenous Peoples Day activities.

The IITC also extends its special appreciation to the City, saying “We thank Mayor London Breed, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and all the citizens of the City of San Francisco for honoring and recognizing Indigenous Peoples in this way. Together with the recent removal of the “Early Days” Statue, this marks a new beginning for the city of San Francisco in forging a respectful relationship with the original Ohlone Peoples of the Bay Area, throughout California and what is now called the Americas.”

The full schedule of programs is detailed below and is available on the IITC website at www.iitc.org.

The full lineup of events includes the following:

Indigenous Peoples Day Commemoration, October 8, 2018, [Yelamu](#), aka, San Francisco, CA

Sponsor International Indian Treaty Council will commemorate the First Official IPD declared by the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors in January, 2018

Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples
Trabajando por el reconocimiento y los derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas



International Indian Treaty Council
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios

2940 16th Street, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94103-3664
Phone: (415) 641-4482
Fax: (415) 641-1298
Email: iitc@treatycouncil.org
www.treatycouncil.org

Gathering: [Sunrise Gathering](#). 6 AM -8 AM

Location: Alcatraz Cruises, Pier 33, Ferry Tickets Available: \$11.00, Boats depart at 5:00, 5:15 and 5:45 AM. Tickets still available. Go to bottom of page for: [Alcatraz Cruises](#) for IPD tickets.

All welcome for prayers and cultural sharing Program will be aired live on kpfa, 94.1, or online at kpfa.org.

Celebration: [An Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration](#), 12 PM-3 PM

Location: Yerba Buena Gardens Esplanade, on Mission Street between 3rd & 4th Streets, SF,.

With special speakers and Pomo, Hawaiian, Aztec, Bird Singers, and Intertribal dancers and singers.

Muwekma Ohlone Vice-Chairwoman [Monica Arellano](#) will open the event at noon and **Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Vallie Brown** will attend and speak at 12:30 pm. Co-sponsor: [Yerba Buena Arts & Events](#)

Collective Action: *How California's Indigenous Peoples are healing their communities.* 4 PM -7 PM

Location: 56 Julian Avenue, Seating capacity 130, arrive early. Co-sponsor: [Friendship House Assn. of American Indians](#)

All events are handicap accessible, free (although tickets are required to take the Ferry to Alcatraz Islands) and open to the community and the public. For more info: <https://www.iitc.org>. Contact: Nicole Yanes, nicole@treatycouncil.org, 520-248-7402. IITC has operated an office in San Francisco since 1979.

The IITC was founded in June 1974 at a gathering on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota attended by more than 5000 representatives from 98 Indigenous Nations to support Indigenous Peoples' struggles for human and Treaty rights, self-determination, food sovereignty, environmental health and justice. IITC's office in San Francisco is located at 2940 16th St. Ste 305 in San Francisco, phone number (415) 641-4482, email to iitc@treatycouncil.org.

#