



4343 Leimert Park Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90008

TEL: 323.620.6822 • beth@lacommons.org

July 27, 2018

Monica Garcia, Board President
Los Angeles Unified School District
Board of Education
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Support Renewal of the Charter of Anahuacalmecac

Dear Monica Garcia,

On behalf of the children, youth, parents, and educators that make up the Anahuacalmecac community, I call for your support for the renewal of the charter of Anahuacalmecac.

Anahuacalmecac is currently the only public school in Los Angeles that includes as a part of its core curriculum indigenous language and culture in a comprehensive, college preparatory, International Baccalaureate World School continuum. Over its sixteen year history, Anahuacalmecac has received acclaim from various respected external organizations including the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the International Baccalaureate, the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, the California Charter Schools Association, the National Council for La Raza (UNIDOS US) and the Native American Alliance for Charter Schools. Over the years, Anahuacalmecac students have represented their community before the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and even the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues under the guidance of educators and elders.

Graduation from Anahuacalmecac is a milestone comprised of improved academic achievement in Mathematics and English Language Arts, college and career readiness, cultural curriculum, and intellectual and linguistic indigenous knowledge, becoming what we call an IndigeNations Scholar. Additionally, Anahuacalmecac has notably advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples by developing a curriculum responsive to its own People. The inclusion of indigenous arts, music, sports, dance and mathematics continues to prepare well-rounded youth for the 21st century with a grounded sense of self and community.

LA Commons has hosted the Aztec Dance Troupe of Anahuacalmecac for the past two years of the Leimert Park Day of the Ancestor, Festival of the Mask. The troupe really brings authentic culture and deep commitment to community. This is an invaluable resource for youth and nurturing of healthy community. At LA Commons we particularly appreciate the troupes willingness to engage, teach and learn from cultural exchange with African American community during the blessing, procession, and performances with the Leimert Park Day of the Ancestor Festival of the Mask.



4343 Leimert Park Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90008

TEL: 323.620.6822 • beth@lacommons.org

For all these reasons, LA Commons strongly support and urge you to renew the Charter of Anahuacalmecac.

Sincerely,
Beth Peterson
Community Arts Programs Director, LA Commons
LA Commons