



PRESS RELEASE

Gabrielino Tongva Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GABRIELINO TONGVA NATION BLESS LA PLAZA CEMETERY *Over 275 honor nation's Eldest Man and Woman of the tribe.*

(LOS ANGELES, CA) The Gabrielino Tongva Nation gathered at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Museum downtown Los Angeles, Saturday October 5, 2013, to bless the remains of their ancestors who are reinterred at the cemetery.

As Los Angeles's first consecrated cemetery, (LA Cultural Monument #26), the cemetery contains the remains of not only early Spanish and Mexican settlers but also the Native Americans to whom they were intermarried. The cemetery opened in 1822 and closed in 1844 when it was determined that the lot was too small.

As part of the day's historic events, Gabrielino Tongva members celebrated the oldest woman of the Gabrielino Tongva Nation, **Guadalupe Thomasa Simental**, born December 21, 1926, and the oldest man, **John White**, born April 8, 1926, in San Gabriel, California down the road from Mission San Gabriel.

Gabrielino Tongva Tribal Council Chairwoman, Sandonne Goad stated, " Today we all acknowledge and celebrate with our beloved ancestors and elders, the historical sacred place of La Placita Church and LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes Museum." She continued, "For our nation's heritage, we look forward to working together to share resources for outreach and cultural preservation important to all Angelinos and Native Americans."

PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of Alexander the Great

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About the Gabrielino Tongva Nation (<http://www.gabrielino-tongva.com>) The people of the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, are a Sovereign Nation indigenous to (*Tovangar*) today known as the Los Angeles Basin including the four channel islands. They have inhabited, since time immemorial.

About LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes (<http://www.lapca.org>) Located at 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The mission of LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes is to celebrate and cultivate an appreciation for the enduring and evolving influence of Mexican and Mexican-American culture, with a specific focus upon the unique Mexican-American experience in Los Angeles and Southern California.