

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION



## Community Acknowledgement

We thank and honor the Indigenous nations of this land who contributed to the building of this country we recognize the forced and unpaid labor of California Indigenous peoples under Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. rule especially within the Mission system, where Native people were enslaved to build infrastructure, harvest food, and serve colonial institutions. Our ancestral lands, knowledge systems, and labor continue to shape the cultural and economic foundation of this state. Native Nations in California contribute to the arts, governance, land management, cultural revitalization, and health sovereignty.

We acknowledge and thank the people of African ancestry who were stolen from their homelands and brought to this country and whose free labor played a major role in the formation and economic wealth of this country. We also honor the contributions of Black ancestral scientists, inventors, and entrepreneurs whose contributions were stolen or never acknowledged. We honor and will not forget the thousands upon thousands of lives lost at the hands of enslavers, vigilantes, law enforcement, and other forces of suppression in this country. We affirm and uplift those of African ancestry living in this country today, as a living testimony of the strength, love, faith, and fortitude of a resilient people.

We acknowledge the International and Global Immigrant contributions who shaped this country's economy and help build its infrastructure. We honor the contributions of Asian immigrant community including Chinese railroad workers, Japanese farmers, Filipino cannery workers and Fieldworkers, and other Asian workers.

We acknowledge Latinos and Mexican immigrants have been integral to shaping economic growth in the U.S. from building homes, filling roles of agricultural needs, and other service industries have been influential to providing everyday needs to fellow Americans. These communities have filled critical workforce gaps and enriched American society with different intersectionalities of culture and beliefs.

We recognize the impacts of U.S. militarism, colonial oppression, capitalistic tourism, appropriation of cultural heritage, and more have affected Pasifika and Oceanic people and island relations. We acknowledge the harms of climate change and environmental pollutants from global powers that are harming islands and destroying oceans. Thank you for your community's contributions in roles of service and public health, the teachings of reciprocity and how those lessons can be woven into societal structure serves as a model of hope and change for this country.