

59TH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN DAY



HON. ERICA M. PINTO

Chairwoman, Jamul Indian Village of California

Erica M. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Jamul Indian Village of California (JIV), one of the 13 tribes of the Kumeyaay Nation. Serving for more than 27 years on the JIV Tribal Council, Chairwoman Pinto has been elected consecutively since 1997. In 2015, she became the first woman elected Chairperson of JIV.

Ms. Pinto also serves as Chairwoman of the California Tribal Chairpersons' Association and Vice-President of the Southern California Tribal Chairpersons' Association. She is a Board Member on the Board of Directors of the Southern Indian Health Council, alongside other elected Tribal leaders in the region, helping to improve the quality of healthcare in San Diego Native communities.

Closer to home, Ms. Pinto serves as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors for the Jamul Indian Village Development Corporation, the entity that owns and manages the Jamul Casino and JIV's other economic enterprises.

Chairwoman Pinto serves on several state transportation committees and is co-founder of the Acorn to Oaks tribal program, which organizes activities focused on culture, youth development, health and fitness, and technology, all designed to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy, while promoting education and family togetherness.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Ms. Pinto grew up with her three brothers on the JIV and Viejas Band Reservations, where she witnessed the hardships of her people. Her mother, who has been active in Tribal government for several decades, instilled in her the importance of respecting our ancestors and giving back to JIV, lessons she carries with her to this day.

ARTIST FEATURE: CARL AVERY



Carl Avery, a self-taught artist since 2007, has made a name for himself through his captivating murals, intricate logo designs, and a thriving online platform where he showcases and sells his Native American art and prints. Growing up on the Hupa reservation, Carl's work is deeply influenced by the natural world and traditional cultural designs, offering a unique and authentic voice in the art world. His art invites viewers into a deeper appreciation of both his heritage and the environment. More about Carl Avery and his work can be found online at Carl Avery Studios www.carlaverystudios.com.

For over a decade, Carl has been painting murals throughout Northern California, using his public art to infuse native traditions into contemporary spaces. His pieces are not just artworks, but visual connections to Native American heritage, focusing on nature's beauty and spirit. Each mural reflects a deep respect for his culture and fosters vibrant, inclusive environments for all visitors. His dedication to weaving cultural stories into modern landscapes has made his work a staple in communities across the region.