



34TH ANNUAL

PIONEER
WOMEN
AWARDS

SEPTEMBER 27. 2024



September 27, 2024

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my sincere pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the 34th Annual Pioneer Women Awards. This year, we celebrate the theme "Pillars of Change: Women in Public Service."

Each year, the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department ("LA Civil Rights"), along with its Commission on the Status of Women, invests in women and girls by providing community-building events and equitable services to create a more just Los Angeles. The Pioneer Women Awards is an opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to honor the women who make it their lifelong mission to promote gender equity and advance the status of women and girls in Los Angeles.

For nearly 50 years, the Commission on the Status of Women has dedicated itself to advancing the well-being of women and girls in Los Angeles. This year, I am delighted to join the members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Commission on the Status of Women in commemorating our esteemed honorees who are leading the way for future generations of female leaders.

I commend your contributions to the City of Los Angeles and extend my heartfelt wishes for a memorable celebration.

Karen Bass
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



MISSION STATEMENT

- **Inform and advise** the Mayor and City Council of the needs and challenges that Los Angeles women face, with special emphasis placed on women in City government.
- **Investigate** problems and conditions adversely affecting women.
- **Recommend** solutions to problems impacting women; identify programs that offer greater opportunity and ability for Los Angeles women to pursue choices without discrimination.
- **Propose** methods to alleviate gender-based inequity in job opportunities and pay.
- **Promote** awareness about trends affecting roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for women.
- **Maintain** relationships with advocacy groups committed to identifying and removing obstacles in order to facilitate personal development for women.



Commission on the Status of Women



Tracy D. Gray

President Gray is a leader in the movement towards equity and justice in the financial sector. Using a gender lens, she educates women on the importance of investing. Her company, The 22 Fund, intentionally targets women- and BIPOC-owned businesses to create clean, quality jobs in low- and moderate-income communities. She currently serves as the CSW's President.



Simona Grace

Vice President Grace is an advocate for women in politics and champions policies that promote gender equity. In 2018, she launched Moms in Office (PAC) in efforts to get more women in elected office. She is nationally recognized for her advocacy and has been featured in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and USA Today, among other publications. She currently serves as the Commission's Vice President and was the chair of the 2024 Pioneer Women Ad Hoc Committee.



**Jerilyn Lopez
Mendoza**

Commissioner Lopez-Mendoza is a leader in environmental justice. She has served as an appointed official on the international, state, and city level, including as the City of Los Angeles Harbor Commissioner and Public Works Commissioner. She earned her Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law and is currently an attorney at The Eviction Defense Network. She served on the 2024 Pioneer Women Ad Hoc Committee.

Commission on the Status of Women



Cristina Rose

Commissioner Rose has diverse experience in government, business, and board positions. She has held leadership roles in various organizations and currently chairs multiple boards including the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Los Angeles YMCA, the Claremont Colleges, and the Trusteeship, the Southern California Chapter of the International Women's Forum. Commissioner Rose has received various awards for her work and is a UCLA graduate.



Lucig H. Danielian

Commissioner Danielian is a human rights advocate with a focus on women's rights. She has a strong academic background and extensive experience in research and consulting. Commissioner Danielian has worked in Armenia, leading various projects related to democracy building and human rights. She is committed to serving her community and supporting initiatives for justice and equity in Los Angeles.



Katherine Yeom

Commissioner Yeom is the Executive Director at Korean American Family Services (KFAM) since 2020. She has significantly expanded KFAM's services and budget since 2015. Katherine is actively involved in advocacy for API communities and has served on various boards. She was recognized as an Emerging Leader in Koreatown in 2020. Prior to KFAM, she was a teacher in Los Angeles and South Korea, holding degrees from UMBC and USC.



Erma Bernard-Gibson

Commissioner Bernard-Gibson, appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2023. She works to enhance women's welfare and involvement in Los Angeles City government. She advocates for programs benefiting women, removes obstacles to their development, and supports AARP. With a background in business administration, she retired from Shell Oil after 25 years. Active in the Los Angeles Drifters, she served in various roles and is involved in community organizations.

34TH PIONEER WOMEN AWARDS

PROGRAM



LOS ANGELES CITY HALL
FORECOURT

September 27, 2024
8:00 A.M.- 10:00 A.M.

WELCOME

COMMISSIONER SIMONA GRACE
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
CAPRI MADDOX, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/GENERAL MANAGER, LA CIVIL RIGHTS
DEPARTMENT

REMARKS & AWARDS PRESENTATION

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN
COUNCILMEMBER KATY YAROSLAVSKY
COUNCILMEMBER HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
COUNCILMEMBER HEATHER HUTT
COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE
COUNCILMEMBER TIM MCOSKER
COUNCILMEMBER EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
COUNCILMEMBER KEVIN DE LEON
COUNCILMEMBER IMELDA PADILLA
DEPUTY MAYOR JACQUELINE HAMILTON
COUNCIL DISTRICT 11 DEPUTY MATTHEW HALDEN
COMMISSIONER SIMONA GRACE

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS



**NITHYA
RAMAN**

| Los Angeles
★ City Councilmember
| 4th District



COUNCILWOMAN

KATY YAROSLAVSKY

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL DISTRICT 5



LA Civil Rights

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special acknowledgment to the
Los Angeles City Council for the recognition of the
Pioneer Women in their districts



COUNCILMEMBER EUNISSES HERNANDEZ, CD1

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN, CD2

COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD, CD3

COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN, CD4

COUNCILMEMBER KATY YAROSLAVSKY, CD5

COUNCILMEMBER IMELDA PADILLA, CD 6

COUNCILMEMBER MONICA RODRIGUEZ, CD7

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON, CD8

COUNCILMEMBER CURREN PRICE, JR., CD9

COUNCILMEMBER HEATHER HUTT, CD10

COUNCILMEMBER TRACI PARK, CD11

COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE, D12

COUNCILMEMBER HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ, CD13

COUNCILMEMBER KEVIN DE LEÓN, CD14

COUNCILMEMBER TIM MCOSKER, CD15



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2024 HONOREES



COMMISSIONER
SUSANA REYES

Susana Reyes was appointed as Commissioner of the City of Los Angeles' Board of Public Works on April 27, 2022. Reyes was previously on the Board of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) where she was first appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti in June 2019. She was elected as Board Vice President on July 28, 2020, and was part of the all-female-led Board in the 120-year history of the LADWP. At LADWP, her priorities and initiatives were focused on equity strategies, renewable energy, energy efficiency, customer service, diversity and inclusion, and change management. The first Filipino American to be appointed to the LADWP Board, Reyes is also the first LADWP retiree to hold a seat on the Commission.

Reyes previously served as Director of LADWP's Low-Income Customer Access, helping to ensure low-income ratepayers could access financial assistance, discounts, and rebates offered by the utility. A public servant for over 32 years, she is the founder and CEO of AgilEngines LLC, an advocacy and consulting firm focused on community outreach and civic engagement strategies. Previous leadership positions included a pivotal role as a Human Resources Director at LADWP, where she oversaw health and wellness programs, training and leadership development, and the Worker's Compensation Program.

Reyes' experience also includes working on Mayor Eric Garcetti's Sustainability team as a Senior Sustainability Analyst, where she helped oversee the implementation of Los Angeles' first Sustainable City plans and secured a \$1.7 million grant for the City from the California Air and Resources Board to help launch Blue LA — an EV car sharing pilot program in low-income communities which has now expanded to many underserved communities.

Reyes is an active member of the Sierra Club and was elected to the organization's first-ever all-female Executive Committee in 2017. Reyes also serves on the Governing Board of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Reyes graduated magna cum laude from Saint Paul College with a Communications degree. She pursued a Civic Engagement Leadership and Management certification from the UCLA Anderson School of Management, a Government Purchasing and Contract Administration credential from the George Washington University, and was a Certified Professional in Learning and Performance (CPLP).



NORAMAY
CADENA

Noramay Cadena is the Managing Partner of Supply Change Capital, a venture capital firm investing in healthier and regenerative food & agricultural systems for people and the planet. Over the last 9 years, Noramay has invested in over 80 companies across industries and stages. Prior to her career as an investor, Noramay spent over a decade in the aerospace industry as an engineer and operations leader. In 2022, she was recognized as one of 10 women of influence in private markets by PEI. She's also been named one of 55 rising-star VCs who shook up the industry (2021) and one of 50 renowned women in robotics (2020), and was named one of the top 100 influential Latinas in the United States by Latino Leaders Magazine from 2020-2022. She is an original cofounder of Latinas in STEM (2013) and SomosVC (2019), a Kauffman Fellow, and holds 3 degrees from MIT.



2024 HONOREES

MAME TOUCOLEUR MBAYE



CONSUL GENERAL OF
SENEGAL

Mame Toucouleur Mbaye is a remarkable woman who holds the esteemed position of Honorary Consul General of Senegal in Los Angeles. She is also a distinguished Peace Ambassador appointed by the Global Prosperity and Peace Initiative. Mame's educational background is impressive, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Civilization and Literature from Cheikh Anta Diop University. Her studies have provided her with a broad understanding of sociology, psychology, philosophy, and linguistics, enhancing her proficiency in multiple foreign languages such as English, French, Spanish, and Wolof. In addition to her diplomatic role, Mame serves as the Secretary of the Los Angeles Consular Corps Board and holds the prestigious position of President of the Los Angeles Consular Corps Spouses Association. Furthermore, she proudly leads the Association of Honorary Consuls of Senegal in the United States, bringing attention to Senegal's significant presence in Africa and its global impact.

Through her Tekki Foundation, she has collaborated with numerous organizations focused on humanitarian work in both the United States and Senegal. As one of the founding members of the Female Genital Mutilation Task Force in Greater Los Angeles, Mame joins a group of dedicated women founders of organizations striving to eliminate violence against women and young girls through prevention and empowerment initiatives. She has also contributed to African Focus Inc. as Vice President and served as a guest lecturer on West African culture and schools at UCLA's African Studies Department.

For many years, Mame has worked tirelessly with the Superior Courts in Los Angeles, San Diego, and the Bay Area, providing interpretation and advocacy for marginalized women within the diaspora and immigrant communities. Additionally, she plays an executive role in the Senegalese Association of Los Angeles, fostering connections between Senegal and UN Women's Chapters of Los Angeles.

With Mame's unwavering dedication and commitment for underprivileged children and women, she is a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change.



Aurea Montes-Rodriguez has more than 30 years of experience in coalition development, policy and advocacy and capacity building. Aurea's work with communities historically impacted by systemic inequities is deeply tied to amplifying their collective voice.

Aurea most recently served as the Executive Vice President of the Community Coalition, where she co-founded numerous sustainable community-led coalitions focused on improving the well-being of children, led advocacy efforts at the local and state levels, and provided strategic leadership to multiple community action campaigns and initiatives.

Among Aurea's major accomplishments include co-founding the Make LA Whole Coalition to bring attention to the needs of children, women and overpoliced communities adversely affected by COVID-19; leading Kinship in Action, a landmark organizing project that mobilized relative caregivers and helped secure tens of millions of dollars to keep children in family care and out of the foster care system. Additionally, she spearheaded two important capital campaigns that enabled Community Coalition to transform its headquarters into a state-of-the-art hub for community organizing and to establish a national Center for Community Organizing to train the next generation of organizers and build civic power. Her work has been recognized by UCLA, the ACLU of Southern California, and the Tides Foundation, among others.

Aurea will step into her new role of Vice President of Community Engagement & Policy at First 5 LA on September 30, where she will lead First 5 LA's work in community engagement, partnership development, data and policy and advocacy.

Born in Mexico and raised in South LA, Aurea earned her bachelor's degrees in political science and Spanish literature from UCLA and a master's in social welfare from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband and three children.

AUREA MONTES-RODRIGUEZ



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL 2024 HONOREES

CARMEN LUNA



COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 HONOREE

Carmen Luna is a seasoned senior manager with over thirty years of experience dedicated to enhancing the economic mobility of low wealth families and undeserved minority communities. As the Director of the Entrepreneurship Hub and Homeownership Department at New Economics for Women (NEW), Luna spearheads initiatives to foster economic growth and stability for women and their families, contributing to the development of healthy, vibrant communities. Under Luna's leadership, the NEW Entrepreneurship Hub supports small businesses through comprehensive training, coaching, mentorship, and access to capital. Simultaneously, the Homeownership Department, a HUD-certified counseling agency, provides critical services including homebuyer workshops, credit counseling, and foreclosure prevention.

Luna oversees operations at three business centers and one homeownership center across Los Angeles County. She is accountable for meeting strategic, contractual, and fiscal objectives, managing a team of Program Directors, Managers, and Housing Counselors. Her role involves increasing organizational visibility through strategic partnerships, engaging key business and lending partners, and securing new funding sources.

Fluent in Spanish and skilled in relationship building, Luna has earned recognition for her impactful work. She was honored with the National Eagle Leadership Institute Award from Career Focus Magazine and, in 2022, was inducted into the Hall of Fame Society by the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals for her dedication to supporting veteran homeownership. Her exceptional contributions have also earned her a place in the President's Club at her previous employers.

Luna holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. Raised in East Los Angeles, she transitioned to NEW from a successful career in banking and the mortgage industry, where she focused on increasing lending to underserved communities.



Ms. Simril is an accomplished civic and private sector trailblazer with more than 20 years of diversified experience with a commitment to leadership and service. She most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff to the Publisher of the Los Angeles Times, where she oversaw staff operations and special projects. Her earlier career included three seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, where she served as Senior Vice President of External Affairs overseeing the restoration of the Dodgers brand and the Dodgers Foundation; and over a decade in real estate development with Jones Lang LaSalle, Forest City Development and LCOR, Inc. Her public service included stints as Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Housing in the Hahn Administration, where she worked to expand rental and affordable housing in Los Angeles, and as a Development Deputy to Los Angeles City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, where she worked to help rebuild communities in South Los Angeles after the 1992 civil unrest. Ms. Simril began her career in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer in the U.S. and Germany.

Ms. Simril is active in the community outside of LA84 Foundation, currently serving on the Boards of United Way of Greater Los Angeles; Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission and the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation. She formerly served as a Governor's Appointee on the California Science Center Board, where she led successful negotiations of long-term lease agreements for USC to manage and operate the Coliseum and Sports Arena properties; as Chair of the Board of Regents for LMU; LA 2028 Olympic Bid Committee Board Member and as a member of the Lusk Center for Real Estate at USC.

She was named to the Orange County Register's 50 Most Powerful in Southern California Sports list in 2017 and to the Los Angeles Business Journal's list of The Los Angeles 500 Most Influential People in 2016, 2017 and 2018. CSQ magazine named her a Visionary in Sports and Entertainment, 2017, and Simril received the WISE LA (Women in Sports and Entertainment) Women of Inspiration award in 2016.

Ms. Simril is a third generation Angeleno. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Loyola Marymount University and a Master's Degree in Real Estate Development from USC. Ms. Simril resides in Studio City with her husband and two sons.

RENATA SIMRIL



COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 HONOREE

TERRY SAUCIER

COUNCIL DISTRICT 3
HONOREE

Terry has always been a passionate community and environmental advocate. In 2015, in an effort to have a greater impact she joined the Tarzana Neighborhood Council where she chairs its Outreach Committee and co-chairs the annual Earth Day Festival. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. In 2020, she joined the Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley Chapter, and is currently serving as Chair of the Program and Sustainability Committee. She recently became a member of the Climate Reality Los Angeles Chapter's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Committee. Terry's community outreach and concerns over the damaging impact of artificial turf inspired her in 2023 to create a coalition whose aim is a ban on all new installations of artificial turf in Los Angeles and surrounding communities. Since 2016, she has volunteered with the Los Angeles County Animal Control Equine Response Team, caring for horses and large animals that have been displaced during emergencies.

Terry Saucier is co-owner of MPower Engineering, Inc., a family-owned company that manufactures wheelchair accessibility products for the transportation industry. Previously, she worked at Chaparral Elementary school for the Las Virgenes Unified School District following a successful more than 10-year career at international public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, where she focused on consumer brand campaigns. Originally from Windsor, CT, she and her husband,

Stanton, raised their family in Tarzana, and today their home menagerie includes a cat, two dogs and chickens. When she's not advocating for a stronger and healthier community, she's hiking, gardening, and enjoying the company of her family and friends.



Indu Subaiya is Interim CEO at Healthcare in Action, where she leads multidisciplinary teams to provide street medicine and housing navigation services to people experiencing homelessness across the state of California. She also serves as a Governing Board member on the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council where she proudly represents District E and serves as Co-Chair of the Homelessness Committee.

Prior to joining Healthcare in Action, Indu co-founded and served as CEO of Health 2.0, a global platform and community for the showcase and advancement of new technologies in healthcare. At Health 2.0, Indu worked with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, World Bank/International Finance Corporation, the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the California Health Care Foundation to help organizations and municipalities build partnerships with the digital health ecosystem. Health 2.0's conference business was acquired by HIMSS in 2017 after which Indu headed the organization as Executive Vice President and later as Senior Advisor to HIMSS, providing thought leadership and content advisory services under the office of the Chief Technology and Innovation Officer.

Fierce Health IT has named Indu one of Health Information Technology's Most Influential Women. In 2018, Indu was selected as a fellow of the Aspen Institute fourth class of Health Innovators Fellows.

Indu received her BS from Cornell University in Science and Technology Studies and her MD from Stony Brook University School of Medicine. She received her MBA from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley.

INDU SUBAIYA

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
HONOREE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

2024 HONOREES

ARNALI RAY



COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 HONOREE

Arnali Ray brings over 14 years of experience in non-profit social services and healthcare, and a passion for helping marginalized communities. Her career and volunteer service have focused on helping the most vulnerable populations access basic needs and vital services.

Previously as the Chief of Strategy and Programs Officer at Saban Community Clinic (SCC), Arnali led the organization's cross-cutting initiatives, strategic plan implementation, and advocacy efforts. During her tenure at SCC, Arnali was committed to finding solutions to help individuals experiencing homelessness and she was able to dramatically expand services in collaboration with key partners. These services include the addition of field-based street medicine providers, opening a satellite clinic at the Center in Hollywood, and launching a mobile van clinic that provides medical and dental services to temporary and long term housing sites in L.A. County. Arnali believes that building relationships and collaboration are critical to the work and lead to impactful programs.

As an advocate and leader in the community, Arnali served as a board member on the Mid-City West Neighborhood Council and the chair of the Homelessness, Refugees, and Renters' Rights Committee. She was actively involved in the

Los Angeles Homeless Coalition and helped organize volunteers to conduct the count when L.A. County canceled the 2021 annual homeless count due to the pandemic. Arnali is a founding board member of Hollywood 4WRD, a coalition driven to create systemic change to effectively address homelessness in Hollywood through advocacy, education, service coordination, and innovation.

Arnali is a licensed marriage and family therapist and holds a Master of Arts from Phillips Graduate Institute, and Master of Sciences in Holistic Health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Corinne Sánchez has worked since 1982 for El Proyecto del Barrio, Inc., a non-profit organization focusing on recovered drug addicted persons. As the President/CEO, Corinne saw the need in the community to expand services in comprehensive primary healthcare, employment, childcare and peri-natal social services. This organization is currently recognized as a leading Latino organization in the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley, with close to a \$100 million budget and serving over 200,000 people in the community.

CORINNE SÁNCHEZ, ESQ.



COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 HONOREE

In 1999, seeing the need to help women who wanted to become lawyers, she, with eight other women, founded and served as President of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association (LLBA). The purpose of LLBA is to advocate and educate for the advancement of Latinas in the law. It has grown to include over 500 Latina members. Corinne currently practices Family and Probate Law. Corinne volunteered her time with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Domestic Violence program, where she assisted battered women with filing temporary restraining orders and pursuing their legal rights. Corinne is presently a member of the State of California Bar Association LLBA (Latina Lawyers Bar Association) and LACBA (Los Angeles County Bar Association).

Ms. Sánchez is the founder of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and served as its Secretary for two years and in its board of directors for over 12 years. She also served as President and Treasurer of the CCALAC (Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County) Executive Program.

Presently, Ms. Sánchez serves as Co-Chairperson of the SCWP (Southern California Workforce Partnership), is appointed to the Board of Directors of the Music Center by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis for the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Sánchez continues to be a member of the Board of Directors of the California Primary Care Association (CPCA).

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL 2024 HONOREES

EVELYN SERRANO



COUNCIL DISTRICT 7
HONOREE

Evelyn Serrano is a Cuban immigrant artist, educator and community volunteer working at the intersection of creative placemaking, memory, community engagement, activism, and land stewardship.

In her home community of Sunland-Tujunga, Evelyn co-founded Sunland Tujunga Forward, a non profit organization that centers equity, land tending, intersectional feminism, anti-racism, and transformative relationships through collaborative action. Since 2021, ST Forward has organized annual Pride festivals, Indigenous Peoples Day in collaboration with local Indigenous culture bearers, California native plantings and curriculum at local schools, monthly land restoration events at Big Tujunga Canyon, and various mural projects and cultural festivals, to name a few of their initiatives.

Her artistic work has been exhibited and performed nationally and internationally at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, Riverside Museum of Art, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Centro Cultural Español Miami, the Ludwig Foundation in La Habana, CUNY Center Arts Gallery, San Jose Biennial, Fábrica de Arte Cubano, and Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) in addition to non-conventional art spaces. She founded Nomad Lab, an award-winning non-profit arts organization that worked with Newhall and Canyon Country residents and city policymakers to develop art-centered initiatives and inclusive spaces for community organizing, learning, and grassroots change through the arts. She has taught courses on arts, activism, and community engagement at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) since 2007, and has lectured and led workshops at the New World School of the Arts in Miami, the CEART in Mexicali, the Center for the Arts in Eagle Rock, and the University of Texas in Dallas. She is the Director of Arts Integration and Visual Arts Specialist at California Creative Learning Academy. Her curatorial projects have been featured in Miami, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Tel Aviv, Tijuana, and La Habana. Her work has been recognized and supported by Art Place America, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Surdna Foundation, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, among others.

In 2023 Serrano was honored with a Woman of the Year recognition for California's 30th Congressional District by Congressman Adam Schiff along with 15 honorees. The award recognizes community leadership and service.



THE HONORABLE DIANE E. WATSON

Born in Los Angeles, California, Diane attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where she earned her BA in Education (1956) and became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She earned an MS from California State University, Los Angeles in the school psychology (1967) and a PhD in Educational Administration from Claremont Graduate University in 1987. She also attended Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University. Watson taught elementary school and was a school psychologist in the Los Angeles public schools. She has lectured at California State University, Long Beach and California State University, Los Angeles. She was a health occupation specialist with the California State Department of Education's Bureau of Industrial Education elected and served on the Los Angeles Unified School Board (1973-1978).

Watson was elected to the California State Senate from 1978 to 1998. The longtime chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, she gained a reputation as an advocate for healthcare for the poor and children. She was the first African American woman in the California State Senate.

Watson prompted the US Census to add the designation African American. While the US government proposed the addition of the category of "bi-racial" or "multiracial" to official documents and statistics, some African American organizations and African American leaders such as Watson and Representative Augustus Hawkins were particularly vocal in their rejection of and opposition to the category. They feared massive defection from the African American self-designation.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed her United States Ambassador to Micronesia and she served in the post for two years. She stepped down to run in the April 2001 Democratic primary election, which was called by her community and she agreed to take the nomination as a candidate to replace Congressman Julian Dixon, who had died in office five months earlier. She carried the district with 75 percent of the vote in the June 2001 special election.

Diane became a vocal leader on issues related to racism and xenophobia, supporting reparations for descendants of American slaves, reform of the educational system, subsidies for families lacking health care, and a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's criminal justice system. She also decried incidents of violence and racism against Arab Americans that she believed were a result of retribution for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

In 2006, the National Journal ranked Watson as the most liberal member of Congress. Throughout her career in Congress, she advocated for increased funding and research directed at the HIV/AIDS pandemic. She argued in favor of humanitarian assistance for African Nations that had been decimated by the disease.



COUNCIL DISTRICT 8
HONOREE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL 2024 HONOREES

DR. SHALONDA CRAWFORD



COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 HONOREE

Like a vibrant beam of light, Shalonda K. Crawford, who is aptly known as “Dr. Sunshine,” approaches the issues we face today with an open mind and a compassionate heart. Her genuine concern and positive energy allow her to permeate the hearts and minds of clients and captive audiences that she encounters.

With six professional degrees in tow, Dr. Crawford is a licensed psychologist in the state of California. As the radio host of “The Dr. Sunshine Show” on Tavis Smiley’s KBLA Talk 1580 AM in Los Angeles, CA, she tackles the task of eliminating mental health stereotypes, negative impacts, and stigma within the Black community. Dr. Sunshine speaks at various national events, conferences, workshops and on expert panels as well as appearing on several television shows including, WE tv’s Hip Hop Homicides, REELZ America’s Most Evil, VH1’s Love & Listings, All Black’s Notorious Queens, Fox Soul’s Chatter & The Tammi Mac Show, Montell Jordan’s Master Peace podcast, ABC7 Morning News, KTLA Morning Show, Steve Harvey’s ‘Steve on Watch,’ and many other media platforms and outlets such as the TedxCrenshaw Salon. Dr. Sunshine is resolute in her efforts regarding the state of our nation and the unrest that Black and other minority communities feel. She is equally active in the pursuit to break down the stereotypical and stigmatic walls that prevent us from living our absolute best lives.

In addition to her own private practice, Dr. Sunshine is also a Co-Pastor and spiritual advisor who works to integrate spirituality and psychotherapy to eradicate the stigma associated with Black Communities and Christians seeking counseling for various mental health conditions including grief and loss, chronic depression, anxiety, abuse, and trauma. Dr. Crawford’s vast and broad experience in providing psychotherapy and guidance for a widely diverse clientele has made her one of the most highly sought after psychologist of our time.



Dominique DiPrima is currently the host and producer of First Things First with Dominique DiPrima on KBLA Talk 1580, where she is making radio history as the first African-American woman to host a commercial drive-time talk radio show in Los Angeles. Prior to helping to launch Tavis Smiley’s talk radio startup, Dominique was host and producer of the early morning talk show The Front Page with Dominique DiPrima on Stevie Wonder’s Los Angeles radio station KJLH 102.3-FM for 17 years. In addition, Ms. DiPrima acted as Co-Host and Senior Producer for the syndicated Michael Baisden Show and Co-host and News Director for The Steve Harvey Morning Show. On television Ms. DiPrima hosted Home Turf with Dominique DiPrima for 8 seasons on San Francisco’s NBC affiliate KRON-TV garnering 5 Emmy Awards.

Dominique DiPrima has been bridging worlds her whole life. Ms. DiPrima was born in New York City but raised in California. Her mother is Beat poet/feminist Diane DiPrima, and her father is writer Amiri Baraka, who is considered the father of the Black Arts Movement.

Dominique loves talking to people from all walks of life -- it’s a skill she has perfected throughout attending 16 different schools by the time she graduated from twelfth grade. She also loves to listen, and that ability has served her well when talking to the people of Los Angeles on the air almost every day for over two decades and keeping abreast of current events and emerging movements.

Dominique is also deeply involved in her community, emceeing, speaking and participating at countless non-profit events and fundraisers. She was the Director of the acclaimed Summer of Success violence prevention program in Baldwin Village in 2003 and 2004. DiPrima served as a Commissioner on the Status of Women under L.A. Mayor Antonio Villariagosa.

DOMINIQUE DIPRIMA



COUNCIL DISTRICT 10 HONOREE

GEORGINA HUSKEY

COUNCIL DISTRICT 11
HONOREE

Georgina was born in Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. in 1961 as a political refugee after my father survived the Bay of Pigs Invasion. Georgina arrived in Miami, with nothing but her clothes. However, her family was determined to succeed, and repaid the U.S. government for the assistance they received while on welfare. Her mother played a vital role in the “Peter Pan Program,” which helped Cuban children who arrived in the U.S. without their parents.

In the years that followed, Georgina earned a Public Administration degree and became a bilingual social worker in the State of Florida, advocating for children in various capacities, including during the Mariel immigration crisis.

She married her husband, Lyndal, in 1982, and now has two adult children, and five grandchildren. After moving to Los Angeles, she worked in the Department of Public Social Services and retired as an Administrator after more than 3 decades. During this time, Georgina earned awards for teamwork and received training in empowerment.

From 2008-2010, Georgina served as the National Association of Disability Examiners (NADE) President, working alongside the Social Security Commissioner, several members of Congress, and advocacy organizations. Georgina had the honor to testify before Congress, and travel to various NADE chapters to provide training and deliver speeches.

In retirement, Georgina actively volunteers in her community of Del Rey, serving on various boards and committees, including the Emergency Preparedness Committee which leads multiple community and public safety projects in the neighborhood. She is deeply passionate about her work at the Lion's Club which provides eye care and glasses to children and elderly individuals in need. Additionally, she supports various homeless advocacy initiatives throughout the City of Los Angeles.



Deputy Chief Ruby Flores has had a distinguished career in the Los Angeles Police Department since 1994, serving in various roles and receiving numerous accolades. In December 2020, she was appointed as the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer for the department. In this pioneering role, she took on the responsibility of not only establishing but also leading the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group, which encompasses the Ombuds Section, Community Engagement and Professional Development Section, and the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) Unit within the overarching Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Division.

In January 2024 she received a historic promotion to lead Operation-Valley Bureau, making her the first woman to receive this command and the first Latina promoted to Deputy Chief within the Los Angeles Police Department. Deputy Chief Flores is a trailblazer for women in law enforcement. She is known for her dedication to fostering positive change, providing exemplary service, and mentoring the next generation of law enforcement leaders within the department.

DEPUTY CHIEF
RUBY FLORESCOUNCIL DISTRICT 12
HONOREE

JENNIFER QUINONES

COUNCIL DISTRICT 13
HONOREE

Ms. Quiñones has been involved in education for over 20 years. Prior to taking the position of principal at New Village Girls Academy in 2018; a unique independent charter high school for young women who have faced extraordinary challenges, she was lead teacher and de facto assistant principal of the Crenshaw site of Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA) Charter School in Los Angeles. Her school site focused on serving justice-involved youth and through her leadership, achieved the highest academic growth and parent satisfaction in the SEA network. She has also held positions in alternative education with the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked on research initiatives with the Rand Corporation.

Ms. Quiñones holds a bachelor degree in Sociology from California State University, Los Angeles and a master degree in Educational Leadership from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She also pursued graduate studies in Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles that resulted in her becoming the university's first ever J. William Fulbright Student Fellow. Ms. Quinones has dedicated her career in support of the advancement in educational research initiatives aimed at improving student and teacher outcomes for special populations and is currently working on designing non-traditional evaluative metrics for alternative educational settings in partnership with the University of Southern California. Additionally, Ms. Quinones is part of a collaborative effort at developing a trauma-informed framework that would better serve secondary education for young people released from juvenile detention facilities in the County of Los Angeles.

Fluent in both English and Spanish, Ms. Quiñones has extensive experience working with students facing similar challenges to New Village Girls Academy students. And as a first-generation native of Los Angeles, Ms. Quiñones has personally seen and lived through the struggles that come with being raised in a low-income urban neighborhood. She believes that all youth must be given the opportunity to succeed regardless of their personal challenges.



Jamie is a community leader with unique experience in science, the arts, non-profits, and higher education. She is a Scientific Researcher at Caltech, certified as a Specialist in Cytometry by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and holds a Master of Business Administration. She was raised in the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Highland Park, Garvanza, and Lincoln Heights.

She was elected to the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council in a special election in August 2016 to serve out a term ending in April 2019. She was appointed Digital Communications Liaison for HHPNC in September 2016 and also founded and chaired the Culture and Equality Committee where she actively championed issues including Immigrant Rights, Government Transparency, Environmental Justice, Legalizing Street Vending, Labor Rights, Arts engagement, and more.

Jamie was appointed to the Neighborhood Council Funding Equity Working Group to represent Region 8 Northeast Los Angeles in January 2018. The purpose of this group was to determine and present recommendations to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners for neighborhood councils to be funded in an equitable manner.

She was elected to serve as a Budget Advocate for Region 8 Northeast Los Angeles in June 2018. She relentlessly advocates for the communities of the Northeast and Eastside, with a focus on accountability for the Department of Recreation and Parks. In this role, she authored a widely-cited primary source document titled "The Legacy of Redlining in Los Angeles" in 2019, which has built awareness about redlining in the United States and its lasting effects on Los Angeles today. Neighborhood Councils in Region 8 include Historic Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, LA-32 (El Sereno), Boyle Heights, Glassell Park, Eagle Rock, Cypress Park, Hermon, and Arroyo Seco. Jamie is also an appointee to the Proposition K Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee for the Central Region.

In November 2018, she was elected to serve as President of the Highland Park Heritage Trust for a term beginning in January of 2019. In addition to leading the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, she also led the organization through the successful years-long effort of the Historic Cultural Monument Nominations of two of the buildings associated with the Chicano Arts Collectives of Highland Park: the Centro de Arte Publico and Mechicano Art Center. She is currently leading the organization through a National Register Nomination for sites associated with the Chicano Blowouts. She also serves on the board for Art in the Park Los Angeles, which provides low- and no-cost arts and music programming to our Northeast and Eastside communities.

JAMIE TIJERINA

COUNCIL DISTRICT 14
HONOREE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL 2024 HONOREES

DIANA CHAVEZ-FEIPER



COUNCIL DISTRICT 15 HONOREE

Diana Chavez-Feipel is a very proud 4th-Generation member of the ILWU. Stretching across multiple family members and generations, Diana's union blood runs deep and she was brought up with the ILWU as a daily part of her life.

Diana fondly remembers growing up and participating in events such as union marches, Labor Day parades, Bloody Thursday events, pensioner's events, Feed the Community events, and giving out toys to the less fortunate. As a kid she recalls making her parents a large felt banner with ILWU Local 13 and the longshore hook on it; she has never forgotten the pride she felt walking with her parents as they carried the banner marching in a rally representing and supporting the ILWU.

Diana attended the Los Angeles City College and earned a Certificate in Occupational Therapy. For the next 21 years, she worked with patients who suffered brain injuries, strokes, and many other disabilities at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital and Daniel Freeman Hospital. While working as an Occupational Therapist Assistant, she got involved with their negotiating team with the goal of unionizing. With her input and leadership, they were successful in Unionizing and became a part of the SEIU, where she was then voted in as Shop Steward.

1998 was the year she got her ILWU casual card and began working nights and weekends when her letter, J4052, would come up. In 2003, her husband Bill got in as an ILWU mechanic and she was able to leave her full time job as a therapist and spend the next 5 years being available to work as a casual. She became registered in 2005 as an ILWU B-book for Local 13 and earned her A-book in 2008. In 2019, Diana transferred to ILWU Local 63 as a Marine Clerk where she works out of the hall and has served 2 terms (2021- 2023) as Day Business Agent. She currently serves Local 63 as a Dispatcher, and relief Business Agent.

Diana began to understand the blessing that was called unionism and more specifically being a part of the ILWU. She was able to see what the ILWU did, not only for her family, but for the local community. She started volunteering after becoming a casual and continues to volunteer to this day both in the ILWU and in her community. Diana started off by volunteering as Sergeant of Arms at casual meetings, participating in Labor Day Activities, Christmas toy giveaways, Labor Marches, Union Rallies, and ILWU Bloody Thursday events. When she became a member of Local 13, she continued to not only be involved but went on to become the organizer of many community rallies, ILWU marches, and Bloody Thursday Events. She even served as a Membership Mobilization Capitan when the ILWU was locked out in 2002. Diana has volunteered on many ILWU committees such as Membership, Memorial Hall, Community Outreach, Scholarship, Trademark, Promotions, Bloody Thursday, Education, Alex's Lemonade Stand, and served on both Local 13 and 63 Executive Boards.

In addition to volunteering for her union, Diana volunteers in and participates in many community activities and charities, having organized events, raised money, and been on the board or committees for the following: Eastview Little League, Port of Los Angeles Buccaneers Pop Warner Football, Palos Verdes Youth Football and Cheer, San Pedro High School Lady Boosters, San Pedro Pirate Boosters, Crestwood Elementary School, AYSO, San Pedro Elks Club #966, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, Port of Los Angeles High School, Port Town Throw Down & 5K Run, American Cancer Society-Relay for life, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Port of Los Angeles High School Site Council, Music by the Sea, Casino Nights, YMCA, San Pedro Bobby Sox, Family Camps, San Pedro Honorary Mayor Campaigns, Encore Theatre, San Pedro Boys and Girls Club, and many more.



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

PWVA
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CATERING:

HEIRLOOM^{LA}



Heirloom LA firmly believes everyone has the right to eat healthy, and is committed to making this a reality. They proudly support small, local organic farms and work tirelessly to educate and improve the community's welfare. Additionally, they have partnered with Would Works, a nonprofit social enterprise that trains and employs people experiencing homelessness in woodworking and services. Even during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Heirloom LA delivered hundreds of meals to families facing food insecurity, demonstrating their unwavering dedication to their mission.

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SDL PROS



SDL Pros is a professional event entertainment and production company based in Los Angeles, California. The company was founded by Joey Montano, who has over 15 years of experience in the entertainment industry.

SDL Pros specializes in providing high-quality DJ services for a wide range of events, including weddings, corporate events, private parties, and more. They offer a vast music library spanning various genres, including Top 40, Hip-Hop, R&B, EDM, and Latin music.

In addition to DJ services, SDL Pros also offers event lighting and sound system rental services. The company is known for its exceptional customer service, attention to detail, and professionalism.

SDL Pros DJ has worked with many high-profile clients and has been featured in various media outlets, including The Knot, WeddingWire, and Yelp. They have also worked with many artists in the industry, such as Ice Cube, Tyga, Tribe Called Quest, and Wiz Kalifa.

Overall, SDL Pros is a top-rated event entertainment and production company that has earned a reputation for providing exceptional service and unforgettable experiences for their clients.



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Thank You!



201 N. Los Angeles St., Suite 6
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