LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

12th Annual COMMUNITY FORUM

Celebrating
20 Years of
Rebuilding Neighborhoods
www.lani.org

2014 COMMUNITY FORUM PROGRAM
Congratulations on another year of success!

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE
12TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

BergCM

www.bergcm.com
June 5, 2014

Dear Attendees,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to LANI’s 12th Annual Community Forum! Your participation today demonstrates your commitment to improving your own neighborhood as well as the communities you touch. We thank you for being here.

This year is particularly meaningful for LANI as 2014 marks our 20th anniversary. LANI was founded in 1994 by Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan and Joyce Perkins, a South Los Angeles resident and dedicated advocate for community revitalization. They formed LANI as a partner to the City to expedite public improvement projects and serve as a liaison between neighborhoods and local governments.

In the 20 years since our founding, LANI has brought real results, revitalizing 29 communities that represent the breadth and diversity of Los Angeles County. We have transformed transit corridors, built new parks, beautified neighborhoods and inspired residents to become community leaders.

Although we have much to celebrate, we know our collective work is far from finished. Everyone gathered today is here because they want to make their neighborhood better. Whether by improving safety, cleaning up streets or revitalizing the local economy, we are all united by our common goal: to improve neighborhoods one block at a time.

We will begin this morning with opening remarks from Joyce Perkins, LANI’s co-founder and former executive director. Our keynote speaker, Rick Cole, is leading Los Angeles into the 21st century as the Deputy Mayor for budget and innovation. The program will then continue with eight workshop sessions devoted to a variety of timely topics and each designed to offer relevant information that supports your own experience.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank LANI’s supporters including Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles City Council Members, State, Federal and County elected officials, public department leaders and staff as well as our private and nonprofit friends and partners. I would also like to thank our sponsors, many of whom join us year after year, and make it possible for us to continue to provide this event free of charge for the community.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize you, the caring individuals, neighborhood organizers, small business owners and dedicated residents. It is only with the participation, support and enthusiasm of people like you that we are all able to succeed.

Thank you for joining us!

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director
Table of Contents

Forum and LANI Overview .......................................................... 3

LANI Board of Directors and Staff .............................................. 4

WELCOME ADDRESS
Joyce Perkins
LANI Co-Founder

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Rick Cole
Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Forum Speakers ........................................................................ 5

Program Schedule and Exhibitors .............................................. 6

Forum Sponsors .......................................................................... 7

Workshop Topics ....................................................................... 8-9

Workshop Panelists .................................................................. 11-15

Note Pages ................................................................................ 16
COMMUNITY FORUM  OVERVIEW

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative’s (LANI’s) 12TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM promises to be a practical and exciting event.

The Forum gathers and trains neighborhood leaders and local stakeholders working to build better communities, providing a critical opportunity for dialogue and information sharing. We believe that our collective efforts and resources can "rebuild neighborhoods one block at a time."

LANI  OVERVIEW

The mission of LANI is to stimulate community-driven neighborhood revitalization. LANI facilitates stakeholder participation and decision-making, and promotes public/private partnerships that result in catalytic community improvement projects. LANI achieves this through:

- COMMUNITY CONSENSUS BUILDING
- TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS
- BUSINESS DISTRICT REVITALIZATION
- URBAN GREENING
- ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT
LANI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

LANI BOARD
LANI is proud to introduce our dedicated board members, individuals committed to improving communities.

Karen Mack
President
LA Commons

Marian Bell
Vice-President
Bell Development

Allan D. Kotin
Treasurer
Allan D. Kotin & Associates

Emily Gabel Luddy, FASLA
Secretary
Gabel Luddy Associates

Doane Liu
Ex Officio Member
Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Deepak Bahl
University of Southern California
Center for Economic Development

Michael S. Metcalfe
Metcalf Associates

Vinit Mukhija
University of California, Los Angeles
Department of Urban Planning
School of Public Affairs

Joyce Perkins
Joyce Perkins Consulting
LANI Co-Founder

Dennis Rodriguez
Siemens Industry, Inc.

LANI STAFF

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director
Extension 11

Rebecca Draper
Director of Neighborhood Improvement Projects
Extension 16

Sian Leong
Director of Development & Marketing
Extension 12

Anna Apostolos
Senior Program Manager Neighborhood Improvement Projects
Extension 14

Monica Carlos Tellalian
Program Manager
Extension 15

Kate Mayerson
Program Manager
Extension 18

Janell Mullen
Program Manager
Extension 17

Maggie Liu
Office Assistant
Extension 13

Daisy Miguel
Intern
Extension 13

Contact LANI:
800 S. Figueroa Street,
Suite 970
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tel: (213) 627-1822
Fax: (213) 627-1821
www.lani.org
Joyce Perkins has dedicated her adult life to improving the communities of Los Angeles. As a civic leader, volunteer and advocate, she has empowered ordinary residents to become actively engaged in the process of revitalizing neighborhoods, bringing substantive change to underserved communities and encouraging others to participate in creating livable communities. In 1994, Joyce co-founded the nonprofit organization Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) with Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan. Developing a unique model for neighborhood-driven planning, the LANI program gave individuals the tools necessary to successfully enact local change. Under her leadership, LANI grew to serve 23 diverse communities providing a variety of services including community consensus building, transit corridor improvements, business district revitalization, urban greening and the support of community-based organizations.

Joyce has participated in workshops and forums throughout the United States and abroad discussing the LANI model for community-driven revitalization. She is the recipient of several community awards and commendations, and in April 2009 the City of Los Angeles dedicated the “Joyce Perkins Parkway” at the intersection of Martin Luther King and Leimert Boulevards in recognition of her years of service to the Crenshaw community.

Rick Cole oversees 10 departments and responsible for city budgets of more than $7 billion as Deputy Mayor for Budget and Innovations for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. For fifteen years, he was a city manager in two Southern California cities, Ventura and Azusa, recognized as one of America’s Public Officials of the Year by Governing Magazine and winning awards for municipal management excellence from the American Society of Public Administrators and the Municipal Management Association of Southern California. He served 12 years on the Pasadena City Council and was Mayor when Pasadena adopted their landmark General Plan, an early model for smart growth. Called “one of Southern California’s most visionary planning thinkers” by the Los Angeles Times, he has been an active leader in the International City Managers Association and the City Managers Department of the League of California Cities.
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
REGISTRATION ................................................................. Patio

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
WELCOME AND KEYNOTE BREAKFAST ................................. Embassy Room

WELCOME ADDRESS .................................................... Embassy Room
Joyce Perkins
LANI Co-Founder

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ...................................................... Embassy Room
Rick Cole
Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS
A MORE PERFECT UNION .............................................. Figueroa Room
PEOPLE POWER .......................................................... Club Room
PLANNING FOR GREATNESS ......................................... Board Room
WORTH MORE THAN GOLD .......................................... Alumni Room

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
LUNCH ........................................................................ Lobby/Patio

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM  SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS
BEYOND FENCES ....................................................... Alumni Room
PAINT IT LEGAL ........................................................ Club Room
SUCCESS STARTS SMALL ............................................. Figueroa Room
WEEDS, TRASH AND GREEN GRASS? ........................... Board Room

Traducciones en español estarán disponible durante el día.

EXHIBITORS: NETWORKING AREA AND EXHIBIT TABLES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

• City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
• City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power
• City of Los Angeles, Stormwater Management Program
• Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
• Metro
• Metropolitan Water District
12TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM 2014

FORUM MAJOR SPONSORS

Berg & Associates Inc.
Your Bridge to a Better Project

FORUM CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

The California Endowment

MICHAEL D. STROWBRIDGE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

SIEMENS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HILL, MORGAN AND ASSOCIATES, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

FORUM INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

ADK & A
Allan D. Ketin & Associates
Real Estate Consulting for Public Private Joint Ventures

ALSTON+BIRD LLP

Joyce Perkins
CONSULTING

studio eleven
A MORE PERFECT UNION:
An Overview of the Union Station Master Plan
Los Angeles’ iconic Union Station is the subject of a master planning process designed to celebrate its history, improve the passenger experience and prepare for the future. Metro has also partnered with the City of Los Angeles and SCAG to develop a public improvement plan for bicycle and pedestrian linkages to the station. Attend this workshop and get an overview of these exciting projects.

Jenna Hornstock, Metro
Lisa Padilla, Cityworks Design

PEOPLE POWER:
Catalyzing Great Places with Los Angeles’ People St Program
The People St program is a one-stop shop for information, resources and materials to help communities create neighborhood public spaces. Come learn how People St is bringing communities and the City of Los Angeles together to implement projects that enhance, distinguish and beautify.

Rob Berry, Berry and Linne Architects
Cathi Milligan, Glass Studio
Valerie Watson, City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
Moderator: Councilmember Jose Huizar, City of Los Angeles, Council District 14

PLANNING FOR GREATNESS:
How Los Angeles is Re-envisioning the Right-of-Way
Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Great Streets Initiative aims to increase economic activity, improve access and mobility, build safer communities and enhance neighborhood character as well as environmental sustainability. Hear how the program is being rolled out and the outcomes that are anticipated.

Gail Goldberg, Urban Land Institute Los Angeles,
Tony Keith, RRM Design Group
Doane Liu, City of Los Angeles, Deputy Mayor
Moderator: Shiraz Tangri, Meyers Nave

WORTH MORE THAN GOLD:
An Exploration of California’s Water Crisis
California is facing the worst drought in over 100 years. Hear from the experts about the crisis and what steps can be taken to reduce and conserve in this time of severe shortage.

Penny Falcon, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Gilbert Ivey, Metropolitan Water District
Barry Lehrman, Cal Poly Pomona
Moderator: Gale Harris, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
BEYOND FENCES:
Design Strategies for Improved Safety
Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is based on the principle that proper design can lead to greater safety and improved quality of life. Learn how to assess conditions in your neighborhood and develop design solutions that enhance your community.
Meghna Khanna, Gruen Associates
Darin Morris, Gruen Associates

PAINT IT LEGAL:
Everything You Need to Know about the Revised Mural Ordinance
Murals have the potential to provide a surprising array of benefits including artistic expression, community identification and graffiti abatement. Hear how the recently passed City ordinance governing murals reduces restrictions and how communities are using and conserving these public works of art.
Felicia Filer, City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs
Isabel Rojas-Williams, The Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles
Kristy Sandoval, Community Artist
Moderator: Karen Mack, LA Commons

SUCCESS STARTS SMALL:
Resources for Emerging Entrepreneurs
Small and micro-businesses are the foundation of the local economy. Attend to receive an overview of programs, available resources and cost effective tools aimed at creating, building and maintaining success.
Rudy Espinoza, LURN
Denise Hunter, FAME Corporations
Glyn Milburn, City of Los Angeles, Office of Economic Development
Moderator: Brian Watt, KPCC

WEEDS, TRASH AND GREEN GRASS?:
Finding Ways to Keep Public Spaces Beautiful
The ongoing maintenance of projects new and old is an increasingly difficult issue. Learn potential strategies aimed at keeping things beautiful whether at the beginning, middle or end of a project’s timeline.
Arturo Chavez, City of Los Angeles, Council District 1
Dan Knapp, Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Paul Racs, City of Los Angeles, Office of Community Beautification
Moderator: Rebecca Draper, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
“I call on every city, every community, every Californian to conserve water in every way possible.”


IT’S PRETTY BLACK AND WHITE.

California is in a serious drought.
Water conservation is critical
to save our reserves.
Don’t waste another minute wasting water.

For water-saving tips and significant rebates on water efficient equipment and programs for residents and businesses visit bewaterwise.com.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Rob Berry
Principal
Berry and Linne Architects
Rob Berry, AIA, is a principal of Berry and Linne, an architecture practice based in Los Angeles. His recent work has focused on temporary public spaces and small-scale urban interventions. Mr. Berry has worked with the Complete Streets Working Group of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council to design and implement the trailblazing Spring Street Parklets. As a member of the project team for People St. he has developed kit-of-parts design standards for parklets, plazas, and bicycle corrals. Current projects include a streetscape project in Boyle Heights and a public art bicycle rack in Modesto, California. Mr. Berry received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Virginia and his Master of Architecture from Yale University. He is a Lecturer in the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California. He currently serves as a Board member for the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design.

Rebecca Draper
Director of Neighborhood Improvement Projects
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
Rebecca Draper is the Director of Neighborhood Improvement Projects for Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI). She has worked in the community development field for the past 16 years and has spent 10 of those years with LANI. She served as a Program Manager in her first 5 years with the agency managing a variety of projects including streetscape, park and business corridor improvements. Her current work involves oversight of LANI’s Program Managers who work on numerous improvement projects throughout the City of Los Angeles. This work includes meaningful community engagement, conceptual planning, design development oversight, and implementation. She has a BA from Syracuse University and a Masters of Public Policy from Rockefeller College. Ms. Draper especially enjoys spending time with her two boys, Jake and Owen, and introducing them to many of the City of Los Angeles’ beautiful parks.

Rudy Espinoza
Executive Director
Leadership for Urban Renewal Network
Rudy Espinoza is the Executive Director of Leadership for Urban Renewal Network (LURN), a community development laboratory committed to building sustainable communities in urban areas. Mr. Espinoza specializes in identifying profitable investment opportunities in low-income communities, researching the informal economy, building private/nonprofit partnerships, and training the working poor to revitalize their neighborhoods. He has worked at Emerging Markets Inc. and the AARP Foundation. Most recently he was a Senior Program Officer at Community Financial Resource Center (CFRC), a Community Development Financial Institution in South Los Angeles where he provided loans and business assistance to informal entrepreneurs. He serves on the Board of Transportation Commissioners for the City of Los Angeles, the Advisory Board for the Los Angeles Development Fund, the Board of Directors for Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, and on the Leadership Board of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council. Mr. Espinoza holds degrees in Business Administration and Urban Planning.

Penny Falcon
Manager of Water Conservation Policy, Legislation, and Grants
City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power
Penny Falcon is the Manager of Water Conservation Policy, Legislation, and Grants at the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). She is responsible for establishing water conservation policy, including the development of new local regulations and conservation programs. Ms. Falcon also provides public policy analysis on water-related issues, recommends legislative policy positions to the City Council, and pursues external funding opportunities for water projects. She serves as a Board member of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and oversees LADWP compliance with the Best Management Practices requirements developed by the CUWCC. Ms. Falcon has 26 years of experience at the City of Los Angeles, which included extensive work on watershed management issues, specifically in the development and implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and special storm water studies. Ms. Falcon is a graduate of Purdue University and a registered Civil Engineer in California.

Felicia Filer
Public Art Director
City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs
Felicia Filer is the Public Art Director for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. The Public Art Division is comprised of multiple programs, including the Public Percent for Art, Private Percent for Art, City Art Collection, Murals, and the Music L.A. Program. Felicia was part of the City team that authored the new mural ordinance, which won an award for Outstanding Planning and Environmental Achievements by Individuals, Cities and Businesses from the American Planning
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Association, Los Angeles Chapter. Previously, Ms. Filer worked for ARTS, Inc. a Los Angeles-based arts non-profit management consulting organization. As a Senior Management Consultant and Loan Fund Manager, she provided consulting in financial management, board governance, marketing, survey design, and long-range planning. Felicia is a native of Los Angeles. She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a BA in Economics, and Claremont Graduate University, Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of Management with an MBA in Finance and Marketing.

Gail Goldberg
Executive Director
Urban Land Institute, Los Angeles
S. Gail Goldberg, FAICP, was named Executive Director of the Urban Land Institute - Los Angeles in June of 2011. She brings to the table not only her many years of experience leading the planning department of two of the world’s most significant cities, but also many years of service to ULI. She was the Director of Los Angeles City Planning Department from February 2006 through August 2010. She was responsible for organizing and directing the policies and activities of the Department, including the development, maintenance and implementation of all elements of the City’s General Plan and other special zoning plans. Prior to joining the Los Angeles Planning Department, she had worked for 17 years in the City of San Diego’s Planning Department. She is a native Californian and holds a degree in Urban Studies and Planning from the University of California San Diego. She currently serves on the boards of numerous local and regional agencies.

José Huizar
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles, 14th Council District
José Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council’s 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and 2011. Through his years of public service, Councilmember Huizar has proven himself a staunch advocate for educational reform, public safety, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. Councilmember Huizar has helped to increase much needed open space, new parks and park upgrades and is one of the City’s leading “Complete Streets” proponents. Councilmember Huizar received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master’s degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law. Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and the Hispanic Business Magazine. He resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their son Simón and three daughters, Emilia, Isabella and Aviana.

She has shown tremendous leadership qualities and currently serves as President of the Water and Power Employees’ Association. Ms. Harris is a graduate of Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

Jenna Hornstock
Deputy Executive Officer, Countywide Planning Department
Metro
Jenna Hornstock is a Deputy Executive Officer in Metro’s Countywide Planning Department. She is the project manager for the Union Station Master Plan, where she is managing staff in the implementation of several projects, including the TOD Planning Grant program, Economic Impact Analyses, a new Interactive kiosk program as well as other strategic initiatives that promote TOD and transit use. Previously, Ms. Hornstock spent nearly 7 years at the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA), most recently as Chief of Strategic Planning and Economic Development. She has worked directly on the financing and implementation of affordable housing, infrastructure, industrial and retail development projects, and secured grants for open space, healthy food access and land use planning. She holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and a BA in Rhetoric from UC Berkeley.

José Huizar
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles, 14th Council District
José Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council’s 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and 2011. Through his years of public service, Councilmember Huizar has proven himself a staunch advocate for educational reform, public safety, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. Councilmember Huizar has helped to increase much needed open space, new parks and park upgrades and is one of the City’s leading “Complete Streets” proponents. Councilmember Huizar received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master’s degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law. Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and the Hispanic Business Magazine. He resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their son Simón and three daughters, Emilia, Isabella and Aviana.

José Huizar
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles, 14th Council District
José Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council’s 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and 2011. Through his years of public service, Councilmember Huizar has proven himself a staunch advocate for educational reform, public safety, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. Councilmember Huizar has helped to increase much needed open space, new parks and park upgrades and is one of the City’s leading “Complete Streets” proponents. Councilmember Huizar received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master’s degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law. Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and the Hispanic Business Magazine. He resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their son Simón and three daughters, Emilia, Isabella and Aviana.

José Huizar
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles, 14th Council District
José Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council’s 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and 2011. Through his years of public service, Councilmember Huizar has proven himself a staunch advocate for educational reform, public safety, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. Councilmember Huizar has helped to increase much needed open space, new parks and park upgrades and is one of the City’s leading “Complete Streets” proponents. Councilmember Huizar received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master’s degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law. Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and the Hispanic Business Magazine. He resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their son Simón and three daughters, Emilia, Isabella and Aviana.

José Huizar
Councilmember
City of Los Angeles, 14th Council District
José Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council’s 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007 and 2011. Through his years of public service, Councilmember Huizar has proven himself a staunch advocate for educational reform, public safety, environmental protection and sustainable economic development. Councilmember Huizar has helped to increase much needed open space, new parks and park upgrades and is one of the City’s leading “Complete Streets” proponents. Councilmember Huizar received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master’s degree in Public Affairs and Urban Planning from Princeton University and a Juris Doctorate from UCLA School of Law. Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and the Hispanic Business Magazine. He resides in Boyle Heights with his wife Richelle Rios, their son Simón and three daughters, Emilia, Isabella and Aviana.
WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Denise Hunter
President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
FAME Corporations
Denise Hunter is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FAME Corporations. Through the leadership of Mrs. Hunter and its various programs and partnerships, FAME is able to provide services to more than one million residents annually. From transportation programs, health and nutrition services, environmental affairs, and housing developments, FAME is meeting the needs of the residents of California. A former Chief Operating Officer for the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, and Commissioner of Purchasing for Kansas City, Missouri, Mrs. Hunter is a dynamic leader and relentless advocate for communities in need. In November 2010, she was invited to the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama to participate in the national launch of Let’s Move: Faith and Communities. She has received honors and commendations from Senator Diane Feinstein, Congresswomen Karen Bass, Maxine Waters, Senator Barbara Boxer, Diane Watson and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

Gilbert F. Ivey
Assistant General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Gilbert F. Ivey is the Assistant General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He is responsible for managing the administrative functions of the district, human resources, management of Metropolitan’s real property portfolio, information technology, an award-winning business outreach program and Metropolitan’s headquarters at Union Station. Mr. Ivey joined Metropolitan more than 40 years ago as a summer trainee in the District’s Engineering Division. He has held various positions in Finance, Right-of-Way and Land, Operations, Human Resources and Executive Offices. Born in Oceanside and raised in Compton, California, he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He also has earned several professional designations and certifications in management from Pepperdine University, the University of Southern California, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is also dedicated to the community and serves in leadership positions on numerous boards and commissions.

Tony Keith
Principal Landscape Architect
RRM Design Group
Tony Keith is Principal Landscape Architect for RRM Design Group. RRM is organized around selected areas of expertise including: Community Planning, Urban Revitalization, Civic and Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, Commercial, Office and Mixed-Use and Residential. Since 1974, RRM has been inspired by the power of Creating Environments People Enjoy®. Mr. Keith’s professional focus is Urban Revitalization through design of streetscapes, urban parks, trails, and open space. He seeks to reshape cities that create healthier environments to live, work, play and thrive in. He holds a Bachelor of Science in landscape architecture from California Polytechnic State University–San Luis Obispo, and is a licensed landscape architect. Mr. Keith is currently leading the conceptual design team for Gaffey Street in San Pedro, one of the first Great Streets announced by Mayor Garcetti.

Meghna Khanna
Urban Planner / Designer
Gruen Associates
Meghna Khanna joined Gruen Associates in 2007 as an urban planner/designer. Her fields of concentration are in pedestrian access, land-use and transit planning. She actively participates in public outreach focused on neighborhood design and transportation modes. She has served as the Director of the Young & Emerging Planning Professional for the American Planning Association, Los Angeles Chapter from 2011 to 2013. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Physical Planning from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India; and her Masters of Urban Planning from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She was the recipient of the AICP Student Project Award (2007); the Outstanding Student Planning Project from the Michigan Association of Planning (2006-2007); and received the Department Fellowship at the University of Michigan (2005-2006). Ms. Khanna was the designer for the recently constructed Metro Orange Line Extension Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and sbX E Street BRT project.

Dan Knapp
Deputy Director
LA Conservation Corps
Dan Knapp is the Deputy Director of LA Conservation Corps. He was promoted to his current position in January 2008 after 11 years of outstanding service to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. For 9 years, he served as the Corps’ Division Director of
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Barry Lehrman
Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture
Cal Poly Pomona

Barry Lehrman teaches sustainable urban design as an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona. His expertise includes integrating infrastructure into the cultural landscape and the impact of the water-energy nexus on the built environment. As the director of the Aqueduct Futures Project, he led a team of 136 students and 7 faculty in the creation of a roadmap towards peace between the Eastern Sierra and the City of Los Angeles. The project illustrated the connections between water, energy, ecology, and land-use for an exhibit at Los Angeles City Hall's Bridge Gallery (November 2013), and will be featured in a 2015 exhibit at LACE Gallery in Hollywood. Previously, Mr. Lehrman taught at the University of Minnesota, and practiced landscape architecture and urban design around the world. He earned his Master of Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA/MARCH) from the University of Pennsylvania, and holds BS Architecture from Ohio State University.

Doane Liu
Deputy Mayor
City of Los Angeles, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

Doane Liu was appointed to be one of four Deputy Mayors by Mayor Eric Garcetti in July 2013. Leading the Mayor’s Office of City Services, Mr. Liu oversees 15 City departments and bureaus that deliver basic city services to the residents of Los Angeles—including Water and Power, Public Works, Transportation, Recreation and Parks and Library. His office is focused on the Mayor’s goals of restoring the City services that make our neighborhoods livable and attractive. Previously, Mr. Liu was Chief of Staff for Councilman Joe Buscaino and for Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Deputy Mayor for Mayor James K. Hahn and District Director for Congresswoman Jane Harman. He graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and received an MBA from the University of Southern California. He and his wife live in San Pedro and have four children.

Karen Mack
Executive Director
LA Commons

Karen Mack is the Executive Director of LA Commons. She has spent close to 20 years developing and implementing successful programs aimed at addressing important issues in the City of Los Angeles. Following stints at California Council for the Humanities and United Way of Greater Los Angeles, she joined Community Partners in 1995 to support nonprofit entrepreneurs in turning their dreams of community service into reality. After serving in the role of Vice President, Program Development, Planning and Outreach for this organization, she left in 2001 to found LA Commons, which is based on her own dream of building sustainable, effective social networks in Los Angeles that cross boundaries of race, class and geography. She holds an MPA from Harvard University and an MBA from UCLA. She is President of the Board of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) and appointed member of the Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Empowerment.

Glyn Milburn
Office of Economic Development
City of Los Angeles, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

Glyn Milburn is a member of Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Business Team in the Office of Economic Development where he engages with businesses in sports, tourism, entertainment and fashion/apparel. He came to the Mayor’s Office after working as a Special Assistant for City Councilman Dennis P. Zine and City Council President Herb Wesson where he served in a variety of legislative and community support functions. In addition to his public service, he brings more than 18 years of experience as a business owner and manager in real estate, energy, and technology related ventures. He is also the founder of an accounting support company for small to medium size businesses in the United States and Canada. Previous to his business career, Mr. Milburn was an All-American student-athlete at Stanford University, a post-graduate scholarship recipient from the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, and two-time All-Pro Player in the National Football League.
WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Cathi Milligan
Proprietor
The Glass Studio
Cathi Milligan is a life-long resident of Los Angeles who wears multiple hats in her neighborhood of Highland Park, the home of the City of Los Angeles’ first parklet. She runs her retail store and art studio, The Glass Studio, as well as publishes NELAart News, a local newspaper that focuses on arts and culture in Northeast Los Angeles. Before discovering a passion for glass her main focus was on graphic design. After opening up her store on York Boulevard in Highland Park she became very involved in her community and also became engaged in the “York Vision Plan” that ultimately led to the York Boulevard Parklet. Ms. Milligan has shown off her glass talents, which include torch work, kiln forming, mosaic, and glass blowing through television appearances, public art pieces and a how-to book focusing on macramé. Her mosaic skills are featured in the York Boulevard Parklet.

Darin Morris
Landscape Designer
Gruen Associates
Darin Morris joined Gruen Associates in 2010 as a landscape designer. Mr. Morris, along with his colleagues has continued to develop Gruen’s landscape architecture practice in the revitalization of city streetscapes, the design of multi-modal transportation corridors, and in the development of municipal and institutional landscape designs. He is passionate about bringing better health and coherence to people and their communities through greening projects that connect the built and natural environment. Mr. Morris also serves as an ACE Mentor, teaching and mentoring local high school students. He received his Bachelor of Music Composition from California State University, Northridge; Professional Certification in Landscape Architecture from UCLA; and Professional Certification in Healthcare Garden Design from the Joseph Regenstein School, Chicago Botanic Gardens. His recent work includes landscape projects for METRO’s Exposition Light Rail Transit, North East Police Station and Brand Library, and Master plan landscapes for Rosemead Boulevard in the City of Temple City.

Lisa Padilla
Principal
Cityworks Design
Lisa Padilla is Principal at Cityworks Design, a Los Angeles practice she founded in 2006 devoted to “urban design, transit integration & community vision.” As an architect, she has focused on community-based projects that improve the public environment in existing neighborhoods. Her recent work in Southern California includes urban design leadership on the early phases of the Exposition Light Rail Transit Corridor, and for Metro’s Eastside Ped & Bike Access Project under construction in Boyle Heights. She is developing a TOD plan for the Tropico neighborhood in Glendale, and has worked with communities in Long Beach, Santa Monica and West Hollywood on a variety of public space master plans. She has served as a juror for the AIA National Honor Awards for Regional & Urban Design, and is a National Peer Reviewer for the Federal Design Excellence Program.

Paul Racs
Director, Office of Community Beautification
City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
Paul Racs has been working with the City of Los Angeles since 1987. He is currently the Director of the Office of Community Beautification (OCB), for the Department of Public Works, and is responsible for a budget of over $8,000,000. He oversees the citywide graffiti removal program, which contracts with local non-profit, community based organizations to provide services to the residents of Los Angeles. Additionally, OCB supports the efforts of community volunteers who partner with the City to clean and beautify their local community. Over 30,000 volunteers, over the past year, have worked with the Office of Community Beautification. Mr. Racs serves as Chair of Keep Los Angeles Beautiful, the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, a nationwide anti-litter/beautification program. Mr. Racs received a BA in Political Science from the University of California Santa Barbara, and lives in the community of Eagle Rock in Northeast Los Angeles.

Isabel Rojas-Williams
Executive Director
The Mural Conservancy Los Angeles
Isabel Rojas-Williams has served as the Mural Conservancy Los Angeles (MCLA) Executive Director since 2011. A native of Chile and resident of Los Angeles since 1973, she became an immediate and passionate fan of the mural movement here. She served as Mayor Villaraigosa’s liaison to the Latino, the Asian, and the African American Heritage Committees. Ms. Rojas-Williams earned her graduate degree in art history from Cal State Los Angeles, and joined the faculty there in 2007. Her research works include “Los Angeles Street Mural Movement, 1930-2009,” her master’s thesis, and a research video on David Alfaro Siqueiros, “Siqueiros: A Muralist in Exile,” (exhibited at MOLAA 2010-2011), which led to her participation on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for the Siqueiros Mural and Interpretative Center.
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

WORKSHOP PANELISTS

project, completed in 2012. Ms. Rojas-Williams had a major role in crafting the recent mural ordinance signed by Mayor Garcetti (9/6/13) lifting the 2002 mural moratorium in Los Angeles.

Kristy Sandoval
Artist
Kristy Sandoval is a Los Angeles based artist from Pacoima, Ca. She is a muralist who has been working with different age groups for the past 6 years to create public art designed by the community and for the community. The focus of these murals has been woman empowerment, environmental and social justice and culture. Through these murals she has created a sense of community pride and youth empowerment. She also designs her own murals and canvas pieces that speak of her own personal growth and struggles as a chicana woman. She is the co-founder of HOODsisters, an all women mural crew, and is playing a vital role in the development of a cultural landmark down Van Nuys Blvd. in Pacoima. Her work has been featured in many newspapers, magazines, blogs and national television. For more information on her work please visit her website at www.kristysandovalart.com

Shiraz Tangri
Attorney
Meyers Nave
Shiraz Tangri is an attorney for Meyers Nave law firm. He is a member of their land use practice group and focuses on real estate development, infrastructure and energy projects. He fills a specialized niche advising on mixed-use and urban in-fill projects in Southern California, including housing, shopping centers and transit-oriented development. He has been named to the Super Lawyers Magazine Southern California Super Lawyers list for 2013 and 2014, and the Los Angeles Business Journal’s “Who’s Who in L.A. Real Estate Law list in 2013. In 2012, Shiraz was recognized by the Daily Journal in both their "Top 20 Under 40 in California" and "Top 30 Real Estate Lawyers in California" lists. He is a member of the Board of numerous associations including South Asian Network, Friends of Park 101 District, Central City Association of Los Angeles and Bringing Back Broadway Initiative. He earned a BA from New York University and Juris Doctor from Georgetown University.

Valerie Watson
Assistant Pedestrian Coordinator
City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
Valerie Watson works for LADOT as an urban designer and Assistant Pedestrian Coordinator. Ms. Watson, along with her colleagues in the LADOT Active Transportation Division, works to promote implementation of pedestrian-focused design, develop active transportation plans and policies, establish effective partnerships within the City and with advocacy and community organizations, and secure funding opportunities to enhance safety for people who walk, bike and take transit. She is embarking on the City’s first ever Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan, shoring up a Complete Streets Engineering Toolbox, infusing methodologies, metrics and a data-driven approach into the department’s activities, and has led the formalization of People St, a city-wide program that offers evaluation tools, and public interface that offers communities a process for installing plazas, parklets and bicycle corrals, and design treatments that repurpose road space as public open space.

Brian Watt
Business and Economics Reporter
Southern California Public Radio (KPCC)
Brian Watt is a Business and Economics Reporter for Southern California Public Radio (KPCC). He joined the KPCC news team in 2007. He has appeared in a number of television shows, including "The West Wing," "Judging Amy," and "The District." Mr. Watt has received numerous awards for his work as a journalist including: Los Angeles Press Club’s Best Breaking News or Feature Short Forum; Radio Journalist of the Year First Runner Up (2010); First Place Business and Financial Coverage, Broadcast (2008) and Radio and Television News Association of Southern California’s: Best News Reporting; Best Business Consumer Reporting (2010). Prior to that, he worked as a producer at "Marketplace," where he filed a number of his own stories and even filled in some mornings as host. Mr. Watt holds degrees in Theater from Yale University and the Sorbonne, and has worked as an actor in France, Italy, Brazil, Hungary and Hollywood.
Rebuilding Neighborhoods One Block at a Time

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
12th Annual Community Forum

2014 Sponsors

Berg & Associates Inc.
Your Bridge to a Better Project

The California Endowment

Michael D. Strowbridge
Certified Public Accountant

Metro

Siemens

The Metropolitan Water District
Of Southern California

Hill, Morgan and Associates, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

Lani • 800 S. Figueroa St., Suite 970 • Los Angeles, California 90017 • (213) 627-1822 • www.lani.org