Father John Bakas
Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Fr. Bakas has been the Dean of Saint Sophia Cathedral and Greek Orthodox Community of Los Angeles since 1995. Along with the talented leadership of the Cathedral, he spearheaded the drive for the major renovation of the Cathedral grounds and adjacent buildings. This renovation and renewal spawned “Kids ’n Cancer” program for needy children suffering with cancer. Camp Byzantine-Latino Quarter. He is Founder of the Diocesan Camp AGAPE, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. He has worked as an administrator at AGAPE offers summer camping programs in Fresno, California; Portland, Stanislaus. He currently also teaches Greek Orthodox Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Sandy Banks
Los Angeles Times
In 1979, Sandy Banks moved to California to begin more than 30 years at the Los Angeles Times, where she has been a reporter, writer, editor, columnist and editorial writer. Her work has won national recognition from journalism groups and organizations as varied as the National Council of Jewish Women and the Muslim Women’s League; the Watts Community Health Foundation and the Beverly Hills Rotary Club, the California Teachers’ Association and the Union of Medical Marijuana Patients. She was on the team awarded a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Los Angeles riots in 1992. She has also written for several magazines, served as a commentator on CNN and NPR, and is at work on a collection of essays and columns. Widowed in 1993, she raised her three daughters in Northridge. The two youngest are attending the team awarded a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Los Angeles riots in 1992. She has also written for several magazines, served as a commentator on CNN and NPR, and is at work on a collection of essays and columns. Widowed in 1993, she raised her three daughters in Northridge. The two youngest are attending

Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
Eleventh Annual Community Forum
Don’t miss this opportunity to see Father John Bakas and Sandy Banks speak in person! This is sure to be an inspirational and insightful program.

Eleventh Annual Community Forum
Thursday, June 20, 2013
8 am to 2:30 pm
Register today!
2013 COMMUNITY FORUM WORKSHOPS

Session I • 10:30 am to 12 noon

BUILDING BLOCKS: The Design Manual for Living Streets
Get an update on the movement to create complete neighborhood environments and the guidelines that encourage safe and comfortable access for all users on the streets and sidewalks of Los Angeles and beyond. Ryan Snyder, Ryan Snyder Associates
Marcel Porras, City of Los Angeles, Office of Eric Garcetti
Madeline Broom, Complete Streets Initiative, UCLA
Moderator: Simon Pastucha, City of Los Angeles, Dept. of Planning

WHAT’S OLD IS NEW AGAIN: The Revitalization of L.A.’s Historic Core
Hear from the organizations at the forefront of ushering in an economic and physical renaissance of Los Angeles’ historic downtown core. José Huizar, Los Angeles City Councilmember
Jessica Wellington Mclean, Bringing Back Broadway, Office of Councilmember José Huizar
Blair Besten, Historic Downtown Business Improvement District
Simon Ha, Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Moderator: Shinsa Tangri, Los Angeles Streetsblog, Inc.

THE POWER OF ART: Innovative Community Installations
This exciting workshop reveals how art and culture are working to create community identity, beautify neighborhoods and prevent vandalism throughout the Los Angeles region.
Carlos Callejo, Central City Action Committee
Susan Gray, Metro
Peter Shulberg, Ecological Art
Moderator: Karen Mack, LA Commons

GREENING THE CITY 50 PARKS AT A TIME: L.A.’s 50 Parks Initiative
The City of Los Angeles has embarked on an ambitious new park program that takes advantage of underutilized properties, many left blighted by the housing crisis, and creates recreation spaces in park-poor neighborhoods. Get the details in this workshop.
Tori Kjer, Trust for Public Land
Mike Shull, City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks
Bruce Saito, LACC
Moderator: Jennie Carson DeLacy, LA Commons

Session II • 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS: Organizational Options to Create Thriving Commercial Corridors
Small businesses across the nation face great challenges. This workshop is designed to provide an overview of a variety of business associations, how they form and the programs they use to revitalize commercial corridors.
Misty Iwatsu, North Figueroa Association and Lincoln Heights Business Improvement District
John Ruhlen, Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association
Chang Lee, Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles
Moderator: Donald Duckworth, Duckworth Consulting

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR STREETS: An Interactive Design Workshop
What are the opportunities and limits of our streets in the multimodal era? Explore this question by observing conditions on the streets just outside USC with designers who are grappling with these issues on the ground today.

CONNECTING THE DOT’S: A Look at L.A.’s Transportation Programs
The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation’s many programs and services reach far and wide. Find out about the core initiatives that can help make daily maneuvering safer and more enjoyable.
Pauline Chan, City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
Luz Echavarria, LADOT – Watch the Road
Dan Mitchell, LADOT – Express Park
Moderator: Ken Hustig, City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation

PROMOTING HOPE AND ENHANCING LIFE: Gang Prevention Strategies That Work
Address violence in the most gang-plagued communities, prevention strategies target youth at the highest risk of joining gangs. Learn how specialists are effectively approaching the issue and providing children with the tools they need to make good decisions.
Guillermo Cespedes, City of Los Angeles, Gang Reduction Youth Development
Ulfes Gutierrres, YMCA
David Plaza, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Moderator: Doug Semark, Gang Alternatives Program

CHOOSE HEALTH LA:

EXHIBITORS WILL BE SHARING RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY