Celebrating 10 Years
of Inspiring Speakers,
Exceptional Training, and
Bringing People Together!

Rebuilding Neighborhoods
One Block at a Time

USC DAVIDSON CONFERENCE CENTER • THURSDAY • MAY 17, 2012
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CONGRATULATES

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

At the 10th Annual Community Forum

www.bergcm.com

We love LANI!
May 17, 2012
Dear Attendees,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to LANI’s Tenth Annual Community Forum! Your attendance here today demonstrates your deep commitment to improving your own neighborhood as well as the communities you touch. We thank you for joining us.

This year’s event marks a decade of the Forum. Over the past ten years, we have sought to educate, inform and most of all inspire community members to take an active role in re-envisioning their neighborhood. Although it may seem that our work is about changing the physical environment, at its core it is much more than that. LANI exists where public health, urban greening, economic vitality, safety, community empowerment and local pride intersect.

Along those lines, we look forward to the opening remarks of Romel Pascual, Deputy Mayor of Environment for the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Pascual’s leadership is helping to chart the future of Los Angeles, making it a twenty-first century green city. We also know you will be inspired by our keynote speaker, Debbie Allen. Ms. Allen’s dedication to young people is an example for us all. She is an ambassador for the arts and art education and shows us that great passion and talent can be found in people from all backgrounds and in all corners of the City. Our program continues with eight workshop sessions devoted to a variety of timely topics, each led by experts in their fields and designed to supply you with useful information that is meaningful for your own experience.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported LANI this year including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, whose office provides unwavering support of LANI, in addition to Los Angeles City Council Members, State, Federal and County elected officials, City Department managers and staff, as well as our many private and nonprofit partners. I would also like to thank our sponsors, many of whom join us year after year, and who make it possible for us to continue to offer this informative day free of charge.

Most of all, I would like to recognize you, the committed leaders, neighborhood organizers and dedicated residents who join us today. It is only with your enthusiasm and dedication that we are able to fulfill our mission to stimulate community-driven neighborhood revitalization and we thank you for your support.

Let’s keep working together!

Sincerely,

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director
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COMMUNITY FORUM OVERVIEW

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

The Forum gathers and trains neighborhood leaders and community stakeholders working to build a better Los Angeles, 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

Established in 1994, LANI is a catalytic program dedicated to jump-starting community-driven neighborhood revitalization and improving transit access in challenged Los Angeles communities. Utilizing its nationally recognized community engagement process, LANI achieves this with:

COMMUNITY CONSENSUS BUILDING
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS
BUSINESS DISTRICT REVITALIZATION
URBAN GREENING
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT
WELCOME ADDRESS

Romel Pascual  
*Deputy Mayor of Environment, City of Los Angeles*

Romel Pascual serves as the Deputy Mayor of Environment. He is responsible for developing and implementing the Mayor’s environmental and energy agenda. He is a senior advisor on all environmental priorities for the Mayor, including climate change, environmental justice, green economy, open space, brownfields redevelopment, and sustainability. Mr. Pascual was one of the principal authors of the Mayor’s GreenLA Climate Change Action Plan released in 2006 to achieve a 35% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. He represents the City of Los Angeles on the steering committee for the C40 Large Cities Climate Group.

Prior to coming to the Mayor’s office, Mr. Pascual served as California’s first Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice from 2000-2004, where he led efforts in developing the state’s inaugural environmental justice program – spearheading the State Advisory Committee on EJ; establishing the EJ Community Grant Program; and assisted in the passing of several key environmental justice legislation. Mr. Pascual was also the Regional Coordinator of EPA Region 9’s Environmental Justice Program where he led the regional efforts to advance the agency’s environmental justice agenda.

His involvement with environmental issues began in community organizations and grassroots leadership. Mr. Pascual worked with the Urban Habitat Program, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco whose focus is to build multicultural urban environmental leadership. He was the Program Coordinator of the Brownfields Leadership and Community Revitalization Project. He also worked with the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) where he conducted research on the impacts of environmental pollution on communities.

He has a B.A. in Political Science from UCLA, and Masters in City and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley. He has served on several environmental organization boards, and currently serves as vice-chair of the board of directors for Urban Habitat, a non-profit environmental organization based in Oakland, California.
Debbie Allen, a BFA graduate of Howard University with a Minor in Classics, and a holder of three Honorary Doctorates in Fine Arts from the North Carolina School of the Arts, Spelman College and Howard University, is regarded as one of the most relevant and sought after directors in Hollywood and Theater.

Ms. Allen played Beneatha in the Tony Award winning production A Raisin in the Sun, and her fiery portrayal of Anita in the Tony Award winning revival of West Side Story won her the coveted Drama Desk award as best Actress in a Musical. She is world-recognized as a dance Icon in her portrayal of Lydia Grant on the television series Fame. Ms. Allen was honored as the first recipient of the Astaire Award as Best Dancer for her work in the title role of Sweet Charity, which also won the Tony Award for Best Revival. She worked with Joe Papp’s Public Theater and Woody King’s New Federal Theater, developing her skills early on as a director and choreographer. Her influences are the legendary artists who directed and trained her: Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Bob Fosse, Jerome Robbins, Donald McKayle, Alan Johnson, Derek Walcott, Twyla Tharp, Tatiana Semenova, Louis Johnson, Jo Jo Smith, Mike Malone, Henry LeTang and Willie Covin.

Ms. Allen has a long list of directing and producing credits for television, including Fame, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, Quantum Leap, That’s So Raven, All of Us, Girlfriends, Everybody Hates Chris, Disney’s Polly, Twilight Zone, CBS’s Stompin’ At The Savoy, Lifetime’s The Fantasia Barrino Story, PBS ’s Old Settler, Hellcats and Grey’s Anatomy. Ms Allen has worked with Lena Horne, Sammy Davis Jr., James Earl Jones, Don Cheadle, Terrance Howard, Will Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith, Phylicia Rashad, Mariah Carey and Michael Jackson. She produced the Oscar-nominated Steven Spielberg epic film Amistad in 1997.

Ms. Allen’s critically acclaimed Broadway directorial debut, an all African American production of Tennessee William’s classic, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, went on to win the Olivier Award in the London.

She has been Artist in Residence at the Kennedy Center for over 15 years developing major works. Representing America as Cultural Ambassador for Dance, Debbie has fulfilled missions in China, India, and the Middle East. She has choreographed the Academy Awards a record 10 times.

As a true devotee of Arts Education for young people, she has worked tirelessly to engage, enlighten, inspire and touch young people around the world through the Art of Dance and Theater Arts. She has used her talents to narrow the gulf between cultures. Recently and most outstanding is Ms. Allen’s original production of Oman...O Man!, a Kennedy Center commission which used the Art of Music and Dance to bridge the gap between Muslim and Christian cultures. After seeing the inaugural performance of this production that dispelled the myths of Middle Eastern culture, First Lady Michelle Obama declared, "Every child in America needs to see this production."

Ms. Allen is the founder of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles. She is the daughter of Vivian Ayers and Dr. Andrew A. Allen, wife of NBA All Star Norman Nixon, mother of Vivian Nichole and Thump, and sister of Tex, Phylicia, and Hugh. She devotes most of her life’s work to the development and inspiration of young people in the Arts.
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
REGISTRATION & JAZZ TRIO ................................................................. Patio

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

WELCOME ADDRESS ................................................................. Embassy Room
Romel Pascual
Deputy Mayor of Environment, City of Los Angeles

KEYNOTE SPEAKER ................................................................. Embassy Room
Debbie Allen
Actor, Director, Producer and Choreographer

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS
AS IT FLOWS ................................................................. Club Room
GETTING TO GREEN ............................................................. Alumni Room
OPENING THE TOOLBOX ........................................................ Figueroa Room
JUMPING OUT ................................................................. Board Room

11:30 PM – 12:30 PM
LUNCH ................................................................. Lobby/Patio

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS
FOOD FOR THOUGHT ........................................................ Alumni Room
COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING! ................................................ Board Room
BUILDING THE FUTURE ........................................................ Figueroa Room
THE POSSIBILITIES OF PARKLETS! ......................................... Club Room

Traducciones en español estarán disponible durante el día.

EXHIBITORS: NETWORKING AREA AND EXHIBIT TABLES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

• California High Speed Rail
• Chrysalis
• City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
• City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power
• Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
• Metro
• USC Lusk Center for Real Estate
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Community Partnerships

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power salutes the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) as they host their 10th annual Community Forum.

We also join in recognizing all of the programs and efforts championed by LANI in helping to make Los Angeles a more prosperous and sustainable city for all residents. LANI strives for stronger neighborhoods and a better future for our children.

LADWP encourages all of our partners and LA residents to join us in conserving water and energy for a more sustainable LA.

Visit our website at www.ladwp.com or call (800) DIAL DWP (800-342-5397) for information on our many water and energy conservation programs, as well as our renewable energy efforts.

We’re Working for LA!
Water for Life, and Power to LA
2012 WORKSHOP TOPICS

SESSION 1 • 10 am to 11:30 am

AS IT FLOWS: THE FUTURE OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER
The historic lifeblood of the City of Los Angeles, come hear about recent efforts to return the Los Angeles River to its former glory as the center of the City.
Panelists: Omar Brownson, Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation  
Bruce Saito, Los Angeles Conservation Corps  
Josephine Axt, Army Corps of Engineers  
Moderator: Lupe Vela, City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilman Ed P. Reyes

GETTING TO GREEN: IMPLEMENTING GREEN STREETS
Green Streets are streets that serve beautification, environmental as well as transportation purposes. Join the experts to learn more about these environmentally-innovative roadways.
Panelists: Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation  
Eileen Alduenda, Council for Watershed Health  
Christopher McKinnon, Mar Vista Community Council  
Moderator: Melani Smith, Melendrez

OPENING THE TOOLBOX: THE NEXT CHAPTER OF REDEVELOPMENT
2011 was a year of sweeping change for redevelopment across the State of California. Hear experts explore new tools and opportunities for fostering economic development.
Panelists: Henry Madrid, Madrid Consulting Group  
Stan Hoffman, Stanley R. Hoffman Associates  
Moderator: Don Spivack, Formerly Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles

JUMPING OUT: BREAKING THE CYCLE OF GANG ACTIVITY
Discover what programs are available and working towards the goals of reducing gang involvement and creating alternatives for youth and workforce development.
Panelists: Doug Semark, Gang Alternatives Program  
Gloria Lockhart, City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilman Joe Buscaino  
Moderator: Tony Ostos, Gang Resistance is Paramount, City of Paramount

SESSION 2 • 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: EATING FRESH IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Encouraging healthy eating provides the perfect backdrop for illustrating the connection between improving public health and neighborhood livability. Learn about the many ways that Los Angeles is at the forefront of the movement to increase access to fresh foods in some of our most challenged neighborhoods.
Panelists: Teresa Dahl, Los Angeles Unified School District  
Michael Prelip, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health  
Moderator: Suzanne Bogart, Formerly RENEW Program

COMMUNITIES ORGANIZING!
Hear how local community members are mobilizing, advocating and succeeding in bringing real change to their neighborhoods.
Panelists: Armen Makasjian, East Hollywood Neighborhood Council  
Oscar Dominguez, El Salvador Community Corridor  
Bob Gotham, Take Back the Boulevard  
Moderator: Rick Stoff, Chrysalis

BUILDING THE FUTURE: HOW MEASURE R IS CREATING A REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM
In 2008 Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly passed Measure R. Now what? Learn about the future of transportation in the City made possible by this unprecedented voter-backed legislation.
Panelists: Ken Husting, City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation  
Denny Zane, Move LA  
Diego Cardoso, Metro  
Moderator: Pat McLaughlin, MIG

THE POSSIBILITY OF PARKLETS!
Have you ever wanted to create more pedestrian space, increase the visibility of your local businesses and help slow traffic all at the same time? Participate in this workshop to learn more about Parklets: what they are, how they function and how they can help energize your neighborhood.
Facilitator: Alan Pullman, Studio 111
Eileen Alduenda  
*Project Manager, Council for Watershed Health*

Eileen Alduenda is project manager for the Elmer Avenue Paseo Project, the second phase of the Elmer Avenue Neighborhood Retrofit—a green street demonstration and research project of the Council for Watershed Health. She also develops professional seminars on sustainable landscape topics for the Council. Ms. Alduenda has worked on projects related to community watersheds in the southwest, northwest and now in the Los Angeles region over the past 12 years and worked in the east coast for five years on energy and water demand-side management utility programs. She holds an MLA from the University of Washington where she focused on urban ecological systems and completed research for Seattle Public Utilities on Natural Drainage Systems as an approach to Low Impact Development. Ms. Alduenda has an MA in Energy and Environmental Studies from Boston University, and a BA from CSU Fullerton. She was born and raised in Southern California.

Josephine R. Axt, Ph.D.  
*Chief of Planning; Los Angeles District; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Josephine R. Axt has been the Chief of Planning Division at the Los Angeles District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 2008. She leads the 70 person Planning Division in the formulation and evaluation of solutions to water resource issues like flooding, ecosystem degradation, and navigation improvements. Before returning to the Corps of Engineers, she headed up Northern Ecological Associates’ (NEA) Santa Fe, New Mexico office and managed a diverse array of wetland restoration projects. Her responsibilities included leading interdisciplinary technical teams, managing pre-restoration data collection and analysis, directing the restoration design process, and coordinating public outreach. Before starting with NEA, Dr. Axt worked with the New York District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she was a section chief in the Environmental Analysis Branch. Dr. Axt received her Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Her research focused on the biogeochemical cycling of phosphorus in non-tidal palustrine forested wetlands and its relationship to non-point source pollution and eutrophication. She received a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to continue her research at the National Environmental Research Institute in Denmark.

Suzanne Bogart  
*Los Angeles County Public Health Department*

Suzanne Bogart, MS, RD, is a high-energy registered dietitian with years of experience as a public health grant manager, college professor and wellness consultant. Ms. Bogart is certified by the American Dietetics Association in teen and pediatric weight management.

Ms. Bogart is passionate about her position as a positive change agent. Currently she leads a team working together on a four-year, 35 million dollar childhood obesity-prevention project at the Los Angeles County Public Health Department. The grant focuses on “making the healthy choice the easy choice” by supporting individual, environmental and social normative change. She teaches a nutrition course at UCLA Extension as part of the Certificate Program in Fitness Instruction. In May of 2012 she will receive her health coaching certificate from the State University of New York and the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. Ms. Bogart also has experience with providing individual consultations, conducting cooking classes and leading corporate workshops.

In her free time, Ms. Bogart enjoys walking on the local Santa Monica beaches, shopping at farmers’ markets and cooking for her family and friends.

Omar Brownson  
*Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation*

In January 2011 Omar Brownson joined the LA River Revitalization Corporation as its first executive director. He is responsible for marshalling the capital and natural resources necessary to create and sustain responsible investments along the Los Angeles River Corridor, which runs 51 miles through greater Los Angeles. His career has been dedicated to improving urban communities, spanning institutional real estate investment, community development and public policy. As chairman of the Liberty Hill Foundation board of directors and a member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council, he is committed to the betterment of Los Angeles for all. He was also recently named to the Advisory Board of REDF, a venture philanthropy organization focused on investing in social enterprises.
Diego Cardoso
*Executive Officer, Transportation Planning and Development Department, Metro*

Diego Cardoso has 20 years of experience in land use planning, housing/redevelopment and transportation planning. He currently serves as Executive Officer of MTA’s Transportation Planning and Development Department where he leads a team of 20 transportation planning professionals. Examples of Mr. Cardoso’s responsibilities include overseeing the planning and design of the Regional Connector (rail segment linking four Metro Rail Lines through Downtown Los Angeles), the Eastside Phase 1 and Phase 2 Light Rail Transit Extensions, MTA’s Transportation Sustainability Program, and developing the Pedestrian Program for MTA’s 2009 Long Range Transportation Plan. He also serves as a Commissioner on the Planning Commission of the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Cardoso is an experienced urban photographer with several publications. One of his photographs was selected for a permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of National History in Washington D.C. He is also a painter and has a Gallery/Studio in Downtown Los Angeles. A significant portion of his art illustrates the urban environment in Los Angeles and can be viewed at: www.cardosoart.com.

Mr. Cardoso attended graduate school at the University of Stockholm in Sweden and the Institute of Political Science in Paris, France. He earned his Master Degree in Architecture & Urban Planning from UCLA.

Teresa Dahl
*Sustainable Schoolyard Ombudsman, Los Angeles Unified School District*

Teresa Dahl is one of two Sustainable Schoolyard Ombudsman with the Los Angeles Unified School District. Together, Teresa Dahl and Tracy Bartley work to engage school communities in greening their campuses through service and partnerships. They are currently working on garden and greening projects at approximately 100 schools ranging from small tree plantings to entire campus re-visioning. Prior to this work Ms. Dahl was active in her own and other school communities building gardens. She also teaches at the garden she helped create at her neighborhood elementary school where she is involved in the development of a successful science program that links California Science Standards to hands-on garden activities. She is a passionate believer in public education and in communities owning their schools.

Oscar Dominguez
*President and Founder, Salvadoran Community Corridor*

Oscar Dominguez is president and founder of the Salvadoran Community Corridor, vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce El Salvador in California, the president of the Multicultural Educational National Leadership Association and a board member of Hispanic United Brotherhood USA. He is also the CEO and president of GSG Global Solutions Group, vice-president of Dia a Dia Newspaper and president of ESCC Development Corporation. The Salvadoran Community Corridor is located on Vermont Boulevard between 11th Street and Adams Boulevard in Los Angeles. Its main objective is to provide the existing and future businesses and property owners with a variety of community services and neighborhood improvements to help boost the livelihood, improve the social and cultural well-being of the area and encourage community pride.

Bob Gotham
*President, The Eagle Rock Association (TERA), Chair, Take Back the Boulevard*

Bob Gotham has been a resident of Eagle Rock for over 20 years. He is a retired banker. His first involvement with community activism was when he joined the board of The Eagle Rock Association ten years ago. Since 2009, Bob has been the president of TERA, an organization that has championed quality of life issues in Eagle Rock for 25 years. For the last year he has chaired the Take Back the Boulevard Steering Committee with a goal to serve as a catalyst for a community-driven revitalization of Colorado Boulevard in Eagle Rock.

Stanley R. Hoffman
*President; Stanley R. Hoffman Associates, Inc.*

Stan Hoffman established his firm in 1981 and focuses on economic development, fiscal and financial analysis, and real estate market research. He has also developed computer-based financial modeling techniques for many of his studies. He has worked for a number of cities and
counties and developers throughout California on General and Specific plans, as well site specific projects.

Mr. Hoffman, teaches a class on Urban Public Finance as an adjunct lecturer in the UCLA Department of Urban Planning. He received his Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA in 1972. He also received a Masters Degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1969. His undergraduate degree from UCLA was also in Engineering in 1966.

He is currently a member of California Planning Roundtable (CPR), a group of 32 planners statewide who focus on addressing important planning and environmental issues facing California. In 2005, Stan received the Professional Planner Award for Distinguished Leadership from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. He is also a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners (FAICP).

Ken Husting
Senior Transportation Engineer
Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Ken Husting is the Highway Program Manager at the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. He brings over 17 years of government experience with the County and City of Los Angeles to help find solutions to the traffic challenges that face the nation's second-largest city.

Ken is responsible for approximately $200 million worth of City capital projects, coordinates with Caltrans and Metro on billion dollar freeway and transit projects, and manages an annual budget of $35 million in Measure R Local Return funds. He directs a staff of engineers, planners, analysts and draftsmen responsible for the street widening, intersection improvements, streetscape projects, and grant coordination. Ken serves as LADOT’s representative to Metro’s Technical Advisory Committee, and Streets and Freeways Subcommittee.

He is a licensed civil engineer, holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University, Long Beach, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is also an Eno Transportation Foundation Fellow, USC Town and Gown Scholar and Emmy Award winning producer. Ken is a native Southern Californian that enjoys cycling, camping, trying to play golf and watching Trojan football. Fight on!

Gloria Lockhart
Senior Adviser (Consultant)
City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilman Joe Buscaino

Prior to joining the Council Office, Ms. Lockhart served as President and CEO of Toberman Neighborhood Center from 2005-2011 where she was instrumental in taking Toberman to new levels of operation in the newly built, state-of-the-art campus that was completed in 2006. With the Board, staff, and a host of volunteers, community residents have helped to achieve the mission of assisting Harbor Area families and individuals by delivering life-sustaining services that encourage, inform, educate, and empower them to live healthy and purposeful lives.

In 2008, Ms. Lockhart was awarded Woman of the Year by former Assemblymember Betty Karnette of the 54th Assembly District. She currently serves on the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce’s Business, Education and Arts Committee, the Board of Community Relations at Terminal Island Correctional Facility, and the Community Police Advisory Board with the Harbor Division.

Ms. Lockhart is one of the first African American women to reach the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. She has a soon to be published memoir, Unmasking: A Woman’s Journey, about her life and how she overcame barriers of adoption, abandonment, bullying, domestic violence, molestation and racism to become the inspirational leader that she is today.

Henry Madrid
President; Madrid Consulting Group, LLC

Henry Madrid is president of Madrid Consulting Group bringing over 30 years of experience and innovative approaches to governmental agencies, community colleges, non-profit organizations, transportation agencies, and private real estate developers. Major clients include the City of Los Angeles, Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Association, Los Angeles Community College District, and California Community College Economic and Workforce Department. The firm specializes in the areas of economic development, strategic planning, transportation,
marketing, data sales and databases, research and analysis, grantsmanship, and public/private real estate development.

Mr. Madrid holds a Bachelor of Arts and Masters degree from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in Public Administration with specialization in Urban and Community Development. Additional academic training was attained in urban land economics, urban planning, real estate development, financing, GIS, MS Access, project management, redevelopment, and computer software applications. Mr. Madrid has been a speaker at various conferences and universities.

As an avocation, Mr. Madrid is a supporter and extremely interested in the arts – in particular theater arts and has studied and performed in live theater productions.

Armen Makasjian
East Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Armen Makasjian was born in Los Angeles and spent most of his life in Hollywood. After graduating from the California State University, Los Angeles with a B.S. in real estate, he started work as a real estate broker in his father's real estate office which was established in 1963 and was the very first one in Hollywood. In 1995, he started his real estate appraisal business and is currently working both as a broker and a commercial property appraiser. Armen is also a part-time real estate valuation instructor for Real Estate Trainers Inc. teaching continuing education and state certification courses. He is currently the corresponding secretary for the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council and chairperson of the Route 66 revitalization project in East Hollywood.

Christopher McKinnon
Mar Vista Community Council
Christopher McKinnon has extensive experience in community affairs as a past Treasurer and board member of the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) and currently on the board of other neighborhood associations. He is a founding member of the MVCC Green Committee and serves as the liaison to the Recycled Water Advisory Group, a joint venture of the LADWP and the Bureau of Sanitation. With the North Oval Neighborhood Association, he is pursuing an effort to rebuild their deteriorated 100-year-old curbs with the creation of an Assessment District. A new standard curb and gutter is a necessary precursor to having Bureau of Street Services rebuild the failed “F” status roadway. Simultaneously, he is promoting the North Oval curb rebuild as a Green Streets project as part of the Ballona Creek watershed with preliminary designs from the Watershed Protection Division of Bureau of Sanitation. Mr. McKinnon’s work career has been at the interface of film, music, video. He has been a producer of both TV commercials for Japan and music video clips for Cable with a background in music television pilot production. He is a recent graduate of the UCLA Extension Certificate Program in Feature Film Writing. Originally from Boston, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Northeastern University.

Patricia McLaughlin
Principal,
Director Transportation and Management Planning
MIG
Ms. McLaughlin is Principal in MIG’s Pasadena/Los Angeles Area office and directs the firm’s transportation and management practice. She has over 28 years of experience in strategic planning, organizational development, partnering and policy planning for local, regional, state agencies as well as non-profit organizations. In addition, her transportation-specific work includes local, regional, state and community-oriented transportation project planning, environmental review, community project visioning and joint development. She is a past chair of the Public Transportation Section of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies (TRB) and currently sits on the Management and Leadership Section Executive Board.

Anthony R. Ostos
Gang Prevention Consultant
Gang Resistance Is Paramount (GRIP)
Mr. Ostos has more than 30 years experience in working with young people, their parents and the community to keep youth away from gang activity. Under his direction, GRIP has been a remarkable success, reaching over 70,000 kids in Paramount and steering them away from the dangers of gang membership. Mr. Ostos has guided GRIP evolve, developing a unique anti-gang curriculum that increases youth awareness of and the alternatives to gangs. GRIP has been replicated in different areas of the country and Mr. Ostos has often conducted training for agencies implementing the program.
GRIP has won numerous awards from the League of California Cities, and recently was given the Milton Thrasher Award as an Exemplary Program by the National Gang Crimes Research Center in Chicago. Mr. Ostos himself has been honored with commendations from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office and the Los Angeles City Council.

Michael Prelip  
Community Health Sciences  
UCLA School of Public Health
As a professor, Dr. Prelip supervises the field component of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. He teaches courses in community based program planning, research and evaluation; fund development; community organization; and leadership and empowerment. He is involved in a number of translational research projects, which are all community based and public health focused, using a community engagement model.

Dr. Prelip recently finished a project with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to develop a process for making the school and community more “nutrition friendly.” He has also started a new project to improve health literacy of adolescents and two new research projects examining multi-agency collaborations for disaster readiness. For the last two years he has been working on a National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute project to examine cardiovascular risk in Mexican-Americans focusing on improving the food environment in East Los Angeles.

Prior to coming to UCLA, Dr. Prelip worked for 15 years in community-based nonprofit organizations. He continues to volunteer with the Watts HealthCare Corporations and serves on the board of the nationally recognized organization ETR. He is the faculty advisor for the UCLA Mobile Clinic Project, which provides primary health care to homeless and at-risk individuals.

Alan Pullman  
Senior Principal; Studio One Eleven
As founder of Studio One Eleven, Alan Pullman, AIA, leads design teams on mixed-use, urban infill and adaptive reuse projects. With over 20 years of experience in architecture and urban design, he has led project teams on a number of award-winning developments and is committed to enhancing communities through incremental urbanism – the development of modest projects that emphasize placemaking. Mr. Pullman is a registered architect in California and an active member of the American Institute of Architects and the Urban Land Institute, where he serves on the Inner-City Council. He is also a board member for the Long Beach Conservation Corps and a partner in East Village Partners, a community focused infill developer. Pullman received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Syracuse University.

Bruce Saito  
Executive Director; Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Bruce Saito has a long history of outstanding service to Los Angeles and California. He joined the Los Angeles Conservation Corps in 1985 and has served as the organization’s Executive Director since 1999. He is the past president and current VP of Legislation of the California Association of Local Conservation Corps (CALCC), the organization that represents the 12 certified conservation corps covering most of the state’s urban areas from San Diego to Marin. He also serves on the Boards of the LA Neighborhood Land Trust and the Little Tokyo Senior Nutrition Program. In 2003, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Mr. Saito to serve on the Board of the State Board of Forestry and in 2010 he became a founding Board member of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Corporation. Mr. Saito is also a Member of the California Prison Industry Authority Board. He has been recognized for his service by the City and County of Los Angeles, the State of California and the federal government, and has been honored with a National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Professional Award. He received his bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University.

Doug Semark  
Executive Director  
Gang Alternatives Program
Doug Semark has more than thirty years experience in nonprofit organizations and education. From Cleveland to Kalamazoo to California, character education of youth and adults has been the center of his professional and personal life.

Prior to coming to GAP, he served as a college and university professor, director of a rural arts association, and director of education and executive director of a national youth
sports organization. He has served as vice-president of the board of a historical society, secretary of a board of education, cofounder of an autism support society, steering committee member for the founding of a national coach education and accreditation society, Scoutmaster, dad, and grandfather. His development of a national program for child and volunteer protection and work with the Nonprofit Risk Management Center have been models for many national and international organizations.

Dr. Semark came to GAP in 2000. Working with the board and staff, he grew the classroom program to new schools in Los Angeles and Carson, as well as pilot programs in Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, and El Monte. The addition of a middle school program, Parent Project training, new student workbooks, printed materials, new equipment for Community Clean Up crews, and improvements in staff training and professionalism are all products of his tenure. GAP serves tens of thousands of children and adults each year.

Melani Smith
Meléndrez
Melani Smith is Director of Planning and Urban Design and President/CEO of Meléndrez, a landscape architecture, urban planning and urban design firm. Sensitivity to the long term livability and sustainability of the urban environment is a cornerstone of Meléndrez’s philosophy.

Ms. Smith has 24 years of experience in the design professions. She currently serves on ULI Los Angeles’s Land Use Leadership Committee and is a member of Mayor Villaraigosa’s Design Advisory Panel. She is a member and past President of the Downtown Breakfast Club in Los Angeles. She is a 23 year resident of Long Beach, where in 2007 she was appointed to the City’s Planning Commission, and has served as its Chair.

Ms. Smith’s recent work has included leading the consulting team developing a Streetscape Master Plan for Broadway in downtown Los Angeles, as well as leading the design of the Figueroa Corridor Streetscape Project. The firm is also working with USC on documenting the streetscape improvements for the University Village Specific Plan, as well as other beautification projects.

Having developed a Public Space Plan for the District, Meléndrez is currently engaged as part of AEG’s team designing the public spaces around Farmers Field, the Convention Center redevelopment, as well as Gilbert Lindsay Plaza, which will be a significant public gathering space at the heart of this District.

Donald R. Spivack
Formerly Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA)
Donald R. Spivack is a professional planner with over 40 years of experience. He served as Deputy Chief of Operations for the CRA/LA for six years prior to retiring in December 2010. In that capacity, he oversaw strategic planning, policy development and professional services units, which included at various times policy planning, resource development, housing, environmental planning, engineering, cultural arts and other professional and technical units of the CRA/LA. Previously, he held positions as Deputy Administrator for Community Development for four years; Director of Operations for eight years; Senior Project Manager for the Central Business District for over four years; and Transportation Manager for eight months. In these capacities he was responsible for overseeing formation and implementation activities in several redevelopment projects in Los Angeles, including those in and around the Downtown Core, Hollywood, the East Side and portions of the San Fernando Valley.

Prior to coming to the CRA/LA, Mr. Spivack was Chief of Community Planning of the Montgomery County, Maryland Planning Department, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for close to ten years, as well as Transportation Coordinator for one year. He was Director of Physical Planning of the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority for two years and Assistant Professor, Architecture and Planning, Ohio University, for three years.

Rick Stoff
Director of Business Partnerships; Chrysalis
Rick Stoff, Director of Business Partnerships, joined Chrysalis in 2004 after fifteen years in the trade association business managing groups of small publishers and representing them at industry events. Prior to that, Mr. Stoff was the president of Progressive Resources, a marketing consulting firm for the gaming industry. In his eight years at Chrysalis, he has become the lead person for business outreach and Chrysalis’ account
manager for the BID contracts. A native of Queens, NY, Mr. Stoff received his BA from the University of North Carolina.

Wing K. Tam
Assistant Division Manager
Watershed Protection Division
Bureau of Sanitation - City of Los Angeles

Wing Tam is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of California. As the Assistant Division Manager, he is responsible for management of the storm water and watershed protection program, facilities, and advance planning to meet water quality standards. He has over 30 years of management experience in water resources, wastewater, stormwater, finance, and Information Management and Geographic Information Systems technology. Mr. Tam currently leads the City’s Green Infrastructure Program including Rainwater Harvesting Program, Green Streets, and Clean Water Bond Program developing and implementing multi-benefit and environmental sensitive solutions to enhance the natural and built environment.

Mr. Tam has published numerous technical papers and participated in various conferences and committees. He is currently the committee vice-chair with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), committee members with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and the California Water Environment Federation.

He is committed to partnerships with environmental groups, non-profits, and community groups to develop and implement green infrastructure policies and projects that will further the field of stormwater management and the betterment of our environmental and water resources.

Lupe Vela
Policy Director
City of Los Angeles, Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River

Lupe Vela is the policy director for the City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles River, under the chairmanship of Councilmember Ed P. Reyes. Lupe works closely with political offices, city departments, and advocacy groups to guide the Committee’s strategic planning and to generate support at the local, state, and national level for River revitalization. With over 20 years of city experience, Lupe has been a key player in this plan and other major environmental projects and policies for the City. Lupe has been the recipient of over 15 federal, state, and local awards, including the Friends of the Los Angeles River’s City Leadership Award. She can be reached at lupe.m.vela@lacity.org.

Denny Zane
Executive Director; Move LA

Denny Zane is Executive Director of Move LA, an organization that coalesces environmental, labor, business, and community leaders and organizations to champion the development of a clean, efficient, and robust transit system for Los Angeles County. Move LA initiated the campaign for Measure R, providing for a 1/2 cent sales tax increase and approved by nearly 68% of County voters, generating nearly $40 billion in new funding over the next 30 years.

With the victory for Measure R, Move LA and Mr. Zane turned their attention to championing the creation of a significant federal loan program in order to secure low-interest financing that could ensure the accelerated development of transit projects. This led to the 30-10 Plan and the America Fast Forward program. Simultaneously, Move LA worked to build the coalition and strategy that led to the 2012 adoption by the Southern California Association of Governments of a more transit and smart growth-oriented Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy. Move LA is also active in formulating Transit Oriented Development policies that facilitate economic development, preserve and expand affordable housing, and provide for bicycle, pedestrian and shuttle programs to improve transit access.

Mr. Zane is a former Mayor of the City of Santa Monica where he is best known for championing affordable housing and environmental initiatives as well as leading the effort to create the Third Street Promenade.
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