

The Neighborhood Councils
of The City of Los Angeles Presents...

Building For The Future...

It Starts With Us

2015

**LA CONGRESS OF
NEIGHBORHOODS**

Saturday, September 26, 2015

7:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CITY HALL

200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles



The 96 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS of the CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Arleta	Harbor City	Panorama City
Arroyo Seco	Harbor Gateway North	Park Mesa Heights
Atwater Village	Harbor Gateway South	Pico Union
Bel Air-Beverly Crest	Historic Cultural	Porter Ranch
Boyle Heights	Historic Highland Park	Rampart Village
CANNDU	Hollywood Hills West	Reseda
Canoga Park	Hollywood Studio District	Sherman Oaks
Central Alameda	Hollywood United	Silver Lake
Central Hollywood	LA-32	South Central
Central San Pedro	Lake Balboa	South Robertson
Chatsworth	Lincoln Heights	Studio City
Coastal San Pedro	Los Feliz	Sun Valley Area
Del Rey	MacArthur Park	Sunland-Tujunga
Downtown Los Angeles	Mar Vista	Sylmar
Eagle Rock	Mid City	Tarzana
East Hollywood	Mid City West	United Neighborhoods
Echo Park	Mid-Town North Hollywood	Van Nuys
Elysian Valley Riverside	Mission Hills	Venice
Empowerment Congress Central	NC Valley Village	Voices of 90037
Empowerment Congress North	NC Westchester/Playa	Watts
Empowerment Congress Southeast	North Hills East	West Adams
Empowerment Congress Southwest	North Hills West	West Hills
Empowerment Congress West	North Hollywood North East	West Los Angeles - Sawtelle
Encino	North Hollywood West	Westlake North
Foothills Trails District	Northridge East	Westlake South
Glassell Park	Northridge South	Westside
Granada Hills North	Northridge West	Westwood
Granada Hills South	Northwest San Pedro	Wilmington
Greater Cypress Park	Olympic Park	Wilshire Center-Koreatown
Greater Toluca Lake	P.I.C.O.	Winnetka
Greater Valley Glen	Pacoima	Woodland Hills-Warner Center
Greater Wilshire	Palms	Zapata-King

When and where each Neighborhood Council meets for their monthly board meetings, go to EmpowerLA's Neighborhood Councils page at <http://nccongressla.com/los-angeles-neighborhood-councils/>

Welcome to the 2015 Congress of Neighborhoods

GREETINGS FROM CINDY CLEGHORN, NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS CHAIR



Welcome to the 2015 Neighborhood Council Congress at City Hall. We are happy to bring together Neighborhood Council leaders from across the City of Los Angeles representing the City's 96 Neighborhood Councils for this very important day. Today we will renew and grow great connections with our City officials, City staff, and fellow Neighborhood Council leaders.

Today's 40 workshops have been designed by and for Neighborhood Council leaders. We know you will take away value from these well-chosen topics, and our expert speakers.

We had a great team of workshop coordinators this year. We also welcomed several new volunteers to this year's planning committee, and it has been a great journey working with their new and expanding ideas and leadership. Every member of this planning committee dedicated this day to Neighborhood Councils, and to your continued and future success as a Neighborhood Council leader.

The 2015 Neighborhood Council Congress would also not be possible without the financial support we received from EmpowerLA – and from the Neighborhood Councils themselves. Thank you, to all you NC leaders who helped fund this event today. And finally, this event could not take place, without the team of volunteers and City staff and vendors who are making sure that today is a successful and memorable occasion.

Our theme this year is "**Building for the Future...It Starts with Us!**" We chose it because Neighborhood Councils are in a unique position to shape the future of our city. Los Angeles is one of the most populous, most culturally diverse cities in the world, and also one of the largest in terms of the sheer size of its physical footprint.

NCs lie at the intersection of the public and private sectors. They form an interface between local people and businesses, and city hall. The 96 Neighborhood Councils play a vital part in keeping our central city government in contact – and in tune -- with the wide variety of LA's communities and cultures, across the far-flung geography of this town.

Building for the future starts with us – and it starts with us today, right here, right now. Each and every one of you will walk out of these workshops and this event more inspired – and better equipped – to contribute to the growth and betterment of your neighborhoods and help them realize their full potential.

Today we are **Building For The Future...It Starts with Us!**

Cindy Cleghorn, Chair
Neighborhood Council Congress 2015



GREETINGS FROM GRAYCE LIU, GENERAL MANAGER, DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT



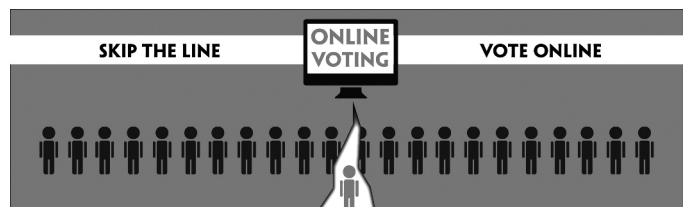
It is such a pleasure to welcome you to the 2015 Congress of Neighborhoods! Thank you so much for spending the day at City Hall to bond with your fellow Neighborhood Council leaders and to learn how to be a more effective advocate for your community. I know that you will walk away today inspired and excited to put your new skills into practice at your Neighborhood Council.

The Congress of Neighborhoods Planning Committee really outdid themselves by offering an unprecedented 40 workshops this year. HUGE thanks to them and their always amazing Chair, Cindy Cleghorn!! Cindy is also the Secretary of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, an Executive Committee member of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and one of the leaders of the PlanCheckNC alliance in addition to her busy life as a small business owner in Los Angeles. As one of the inaugural winners of EmpowerLA's new Neighborhood Council Spirit Award for her work on just the VANC Executive Committee alone, she embodies the wonderful passion, dedication and pluck that is so abundant in our Neighborhood Council volunteers. I also have to appreciate our hardworking EmpowerLA staff, particularly Tom Soong, for helping to put the Congress together along with the many volunteers, speakers, City electeds and departments and Neighborhood Councils who make this event possible every year.

With the Neighborhood Council elections coming up in 2016 and the incredible changes in digital democracy every day, the theme of this year's Congress – **Building for the Future...It Starts with Us!** – is simply perfect. I truly believe that Neighborhood Councils can and are taking the lead in innovations with civic engagement and the delivery of City services. Whether it is piloting online voting for elections and e-signatures for City documents or finding new ways to partner with the City to address homelessness, clean streets or emergency preparedness in LA, Neighborhood Councils are just breaking through the usual barriers and getting things done. None of this can happen though unless you as a Neighborhood Council member steps up to acquire the knowledge necessary to be an effective board member, an empowered advocate, a reliable partner and an enlightened leader, finding and mentoring new leaders in your community. Empower yourself first, then your community and finally LA. I challenge you to do this because I know you can do it.

I, and our EmpowerLA staff, look forward to collaborating with you to build a better future for all of us. Have an awesome day!

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment aka EmpowerLA



PURPOSE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS:

To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.

— Los Angeles City Charter, Article IX

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE...It Starts With Us!

HOSTED BY THE 96 CERTIFIED NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Saturday, September 26, 2015 • 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM • City Hall • 200 N. Spring Street • Los Angeles

In January 2015 the NC Congress Planning Committee met at the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power in Los Angeles to begin planning **Building For The Future...It Starts With Us!** The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / EmpowerLA staff also gave of their time, patience and expertise. Meetings were held throughout the City of Los Angeles in an effort to engage the diversity of our City and bring the best workshop sessions to the Congress by and for Neighborhood Council leaders and stakeholders.

2015 HOST COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

CHAIRPERSON

Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC

ASSISTANTS

Thomas Soong, EmpowerLA
Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioner
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks NC
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC

OVERALL EVENT LOGISTICS & CATERING

Heinrich Keifer, Historic Highland Park NC
Thomas Soong, EmpowerLA

WORKSHOP COORDINATORS

Ivan Spiegel, Venice
Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks NC
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
Tony Wilkinson, Panorama City NC
Chuck Loring, North Hollywood North East NC
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood North East NC
Dave Behar, Coastal San Pedro NC
Colete Amin, Greater Wilshire NC
Charletta Butler, ECCANDC
Davilee Henderson, Zapata-King NC
Russell Brown, DLANC
Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC
Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioner
Jill Banks Barad, Sherman Oaks NC
Dorsay Dujon, Make Music LA
Jay Handal, West LA NC
Terrence Gomes, South Robertson NC
Kathy Delle Donne, Tarzana
Joy Atkinson, BONC Commissioner
Patti Berman, DLANC

EXHIBITORS

Reuben Martinez, Atwater Village NC
Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC

SPONSORS/FUNDRAISING

Randy Waller, Westlake NC
Jay Handal, West LA NC
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC
Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood North East NC

REGISTRATION & NAME BADGES

Nina Royal, Sunland-Tujunga NC
Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga NC

PHOTOGRAPHERS / FILMING

Chuck Loring, North Hollywood North East NC

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

Mark Seigel, W6MES, Sunland-Tujunga NC

HOSPITALITY & DIGNITARIES

Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood North East NC
Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC
Reuben Martinez, Atwater Village NC
Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Frank Wada, Lincoln Heights NC

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL & STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

*all Congress Planning committee members
Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood North East NC
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioner

CONGRESS PROGRAM BOOK EDITING

Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Jill Barad, Sherman Oaks NC
Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga NC

ONLINE REGISTRATION / WEBSITE

Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks NC
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC

CONGRESS DAY VOLUNTEER

COORDINATION

Heinrich Keifer, Historic Highland Park NC
Reuben Martinez, Atwater Village NC
Jerry Garcia, LT, NSCC, Bryce Canyon & Betsy Ross
Division USNSCC, Commanding Officer
Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga NC

SPECIAL THANKS TO

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT EmpowerLA.org

Grayce Liu, General Manager
Thomas Soong, Leadership Development Strategist
EmpowerLA Staff

LA CITY STAFF

Pierre Riotoc, LA City General Services
Ben Flores, Fire Marshall
Hector Graciano, Watch Commander, General Svs
Russ Bellenot & Ed Santacruz, Council Audio
Los Angeles City, Information Technology Agency

WEBSITE / MARKETING / PRESS / SOCIAL MEDIA

EmpowerLA Newsletter
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Dave Behar, Coastal San Pedro NC
Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
North Valley Reporter.com
Make Music LA
ION Network
CityWatchLA.com
KABC 790
LA Times
L.A. Daily News
89.3 KPCC

CAMERA OPERATORS

Chuck Loring, North Hollywood North East NC
Naval Sea Cadets

VOLUNTEERS

Naval Sea Cadets
Ham Radio Operators
ARES Volunteer Emergency Response Team
Verdugo Hills High Youth Council, Sunland-Tujunga

HOSTING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SPECIAL THANKS for the locations and coordinators of committee meeting space.

Department of Water & Power (LADWP)
West LA Constituent Center
South Los Angeles Animal Shelter
Glassell Park NC Community Center
Hollywood Constituent Center
Junipero Serra Library
Marie Callenders Restaurant, Sherman Oaks

VENDORS

AAA Rents
Crystal Audio
Goodway Copy & Print
Lucchese Catering
Intercontinental Interpreting Translation Svcs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Attorney Mike Feuer
City Controller Ron Galperin
City Council President Herb Wesson

Los Angeles City Council
for their support of the NC Congress 2015

BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD

COMMISSIONERS

Eli Lipmen, Lydia Grant, Joy Atkinson, Karen Mack,
Olivia Rubio, Leonard Shaffer, Josh Lafarga

INFORMATION TABLES / EXHIBIT TABLES

Office of the City Attorney
Office of the City Controller
Office of the City Clerk
Bureau of Sanitation
Bureau of Engineering / Public Works
Bureau of Street Services
Department of Building & Safety
Department of City Planning
LA Department of Animal Services
Department of Transportation
Office of the City Clerk
EmpowerLA / DONE
LA Department of Building & Safety
LA Department of Water & Power
Los Angeles Recreation & Parks Aquatic Program
Los Angeles Police Department
FILM LA
South Coast Air Quality Management District
Make Music LA
MY311 Service Request Intake System
LAFD ACS Battalion 10
PlanCheckNC
Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
Community Forest Advisory Committee
People For Community Improvement
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
MOA Wellness Center
Dispute Resolution Program Outreach
Chief Health/Environmental Health
Bureau of Specialized Surveillance & Enforcement
Street Vending Compliance Program
Regional Homeless Count Coordinator/Los Angeles
Homeless Service Authority
Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District
Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park & Recreation Needs Assessment

OUTSTANDING APPRECIATION TO

Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC
Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks NC
Ann-Marie Holman, Echo Park NC
Lydia Mather, Van Nuys
Mark Seigel, Sunland-Tujunga NC

THANK YOU to all who may not be included in the program.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

The different programs offered at this Congress have been designed by neighborhood council leaders to be practical how-to types of sessions. You will receive a broad overview for each subject along with a hand-out referring to resources you can use, that will help increase your knowledge on how to take local action. Audio and video from all these sessions will be available on the NCCongressLA.com website. A link to this resource will be available on the [EmpowerLA](http://EmpowerLA.org) website at empowerla.org in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to plan the next NC Congress events please contact [Cindy Cleghorn@gmail.com](mailto:CindyCleghorn@gmail.com)

7:45 am – 8:30 am REGISTRATION, BREAKFAST, CITY DEPARTMENT EXHIBITS, NETWORKING
City Hall Rotunda

8:30 am – 9:10 am OPENING SESSION / CALL TO ORDER / COLOR GUARD / FLAG SALUTE – City Council Chambers
Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC, Chair NC Congress Planning Committee

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE 2015 NC CONGRESS

WELCOME: Grayce Liu, General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / EmpowerLA

KEYNOTE: Herb Wesson, President Los Angeles City Council, Council District 10

INTRODUCTIONS:

2015 NC Congress Planning Committee
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

INTRODUCTIONS & MEET YOUR CITY OFFICIALS:

City Attorney Mike Feuer
City Controller Ron Galperin
City Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
City Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5
City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, CD 8
City Councilmember David Ryu, CD4
Public Works Commission President & Chief Film Liaison Kevin James
LADWP Commissioner Jill Banks Barad
LADWP Commissioner Bill Funderburk

9:10 am – 9:25 am BREAK

9:25 am – 10:40 am SESSION ONE

BOARD BASICS 101 – Room 1020

Coordinator: Ivan Spiegel

Speakers: Thomas Soong, EmpowerLA Staff / Ivan Spiegel

Joining a Neighborhood Council board makes you part of a dynamic system in a dynamic City, a system that is both changing the City of Los Angeles and being changed by the People of Los Angeles.

MEET YOUR CITY OFFICIALS – Council Chambers

Coordinator: Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood North East NC

Speakers: (partial list) Ron Galperin, City Controller; Herb Wesson, President LA City Council; David E. Ryu, Councilman District 4; Paul Koretz, Councilman District 5; Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilman District 10; Mike Bonin, Councilman District 11; Jose Huizar, Councilman District 14; Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor; Capri Maddox, Special City Attorney; Dennis Gleason, Policy Director Council District 15.

This is your chance to meet the city's elected officials and departments who make decisions for Los Angeles. After introductory remarks, you will be able to move around the room and talk to the city officials and their staff.

PLANNING & LAND USE 101 – Room 1010

Coordinator: Cindy Cleghorn

Speaker: Sharon Commins, Co-chair, Zoning Advisory Committee, reCodeLA, PlanCheckNC Steering Committee

An introduction to and history of Land Use and Planning Committees in the Neighborhood Council system. Subjects covered in this overview include: committee structure, meeting agendas, minutes, case and topic review, research, sub-committees, holding meetings, outreach, and hearings. Attendees will receive examples to take back and put to use immediately. This workshop is designed for NCs who are starting or working to improve their land use committees.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

STREETSCAPE PROJECTS FOR BEGINNERS & HOW TO DO THEM – Room 1070

Coordinator/Moderator: Davilee Henderson

Speakers: Sian Leong, Director of Development & Marketing, LANI; Melinda Bartlett, Dept. of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation Environmental Services Group; Aaron Thomas, Urban Forestry Manager, North East Trees, Inc.

Streetscape plays a vital role in the way residents and visitors experience different communities. Small projects like cutting concrete, planting trees, and adding commercial planters can definitely increase curb appeal. Larger projects involving multiple blocks can bring consistency to an entire area, thus setting a more attractive design standard that everyone can enjoy. This workshop will explain how to plan streetscape projects on a city level; teach you what resources are available; and show you all the steps to take to get these projects done - including who to contact and what permits are required.

POLITICAL ETIQUETTE: How to Build Your Credibility – Room 1060

Coordinator: Lydia Grant, Commissioner, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Speakers: Kevin James, President Public Works Commission

This workshop will help you begin the journey to increasing your level of credibility with elected officials and community members. How do you appear to others? Build your future and learn to introduce yourself to others in a way that they will connect with you, how to find and create opportunities to engage with your elected officials, and how to build relationships and networking skills.

PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS: Community & LAPD Collaboration – Room 1035

Coordinator/Moderator: Dave Behar, Past President Coastal San Pedro NC

Panelists: Debbie Rouser, President, Leland Park PAB, Former VP, Central SPNC; Ray Regalado, Sr. Relations Specialist, L.A. County Commission on Human Relations, President, Northwest San Pedro NC; Junior Nua - LAPD, Harbor Division Senior Lead Officer

Interactive workshop on how to work positively with Senior Lead Officers and other Public Safety stakeholders to continue to decrease crime and improve quality of life in your own Neighborhood Council initiatives and toolbox - from the Harbor to the Valley.

MAKING CITY ISSUES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC / COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS – 4th Floor Media Room

Coordinator: Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC

Speakers: Linda Gravani, Lake Balboa NC

Every year approximately 3,000 Council Files and sub-files are opened with City Council motions and Department reports. Many are routine items, but some could change the rules that govern your stakeholders and your Neighborhood Council. How can your Neighborhood Council most effectively sort through thousands of items; engage your stakeholders on these issues; and weigh in to make a difference? This workshop will provide tips on how to identify and understand key Council Files from the day they are introduced, and how to track them through the legislative and bureaucratic process.

One of the most powerful tools in your arsenal is a Community Impact Statement (CIS). This tool is available only to the City's 96 Neighborhood Councils, which collectively filed 282 of them last year. How can we increase that number? And now, only NCs that file a CIS will be given extra speaking time and "a seat at the table" when that issue is heard in City Council and its committees. Learn how to use Community Impact Statements as an outreach tool; how to easily write and submit them; and how to effectively stay on top of City issues throughout the year.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER SERVICES – Public Works Room

Coordinator/Speaker: Tony Wilkinson, Panorama City NC

Speakers: Terrence Gomes, Jamie Briskin, Gina Rodriguez, Elva Yañez

If you see a need for better services, you can bet that others see it too. Working with other community organizations is a great way to improve our neighborhoods. This workshop is an overview of how to partner with place-based initiatives, advisory panels, government offices, arts councils, non-profit organizations, and other Neighborhood Councils to make things happen.

CITY BUDGET: How NCs Can Weigh In – Room 1040

Coordinator/Speaker: Jay Handal, Co-Chair, Westside Regional Alliance

Speakers: Liz Amsden, Brett Shears

The City Budget is the most important item neighborhood councils should be focused on. Everything the city does and every service provided, or not, is due to the budget and how it is prioritized. The City Charter gives Neighborhood Councils the Charter right to weigh in on budget issues. Come and learn how to have your voice be heard.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

LOBBY LIKE A PRO: “Insider’s Tips” – Room 1050

Presenters: Jill Banks Barad, Commissioner LADWP, VANC Founder & Chair; Matt Hale, Policy Director for Councilmember Paul Krekorian; and Jay Beeber, Sherman Oaks NC

This workshop will teach you how to lobby City Hall like the professionals, and how to effectively present your case. Everyone complains about the power and influence that lobbyists and special interests have at City Hall. Often, we hear the charge, “But the people don’t have a lobbyist.” However, Neighborhood Council board members can be as effective as the most seasoned lobbyist, but you have to know the “insider” tips! Learn the do’s and don’ts of making your case from the elected official’s point of view, as well from a veteran PR professional, and a successful citizen lobbyist.

10:40 am – 10:50 am BREAK

10:50 am – 12:05 pm SESSION TWO

HOT LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING NCS – Room 1060

Coordinator: Thomas Soong, EmpowerLA
Speakers: Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney

This workshop presents an overview of state and city laws pertaining to neighborhood councils, and tells you how to successfully navigate legal matters commonly arising in NCs, and where to seek appropriate advice.

PLANNING AND EXECUTING SUCCESSFUL EVENTS – Room 1070

Coordinator/Speaker: Dorsay Dujon, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Make Music Los Angeles
Speakers: Genelle LeVin, President, Silver Lake Improvement Association; Rebecca Hogan, Director of Marketing, Make Music Los Angeles

Most events require special attention to be a success, whether your NC is hosting a candidate forum, a children’s festival, a CERT workshop, health fair, cultural event or green event. This workshop is intended to assist in planning meetings and events. You will receive a Special Event Toolkit that provides recommendations and checklist for all phases of a meeting or event from choosing the venue to promotion, registration, presentations, materials, social events, collaborations, and staff/volunteer training. This Special Event Toolkit should be viewed as a living document that is meant to evolve over time.

MOBILITY PLAN 2035 & L.A.’S GREAT STREETS – 4th Floor Media Room

Coordinator/Moderator: Glenn Bailey, Vice-Chair of the City Bicycle Advisory Committee
Presenters: David Somers, Mobility Planner with LA Department of City Planning; Helen Leung, Co-Executive Director of LA-Más; Don Larson, Co-Chair of Northridge Sparkle; Chris Sales, President of Northridge South NC and Chair of Northridge Vision; Nicole Bernson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Council President Pro Tempore Mitchell Englander

The new Mobility Plan 2035, part of the City’s General Plan, was adopted by the City Council on August 11, 2015 (Council File 15-0719). The Plan contains goals, policies, and programs that establish a vision for a balanced transportation system, accommodating all users and modes of travel. Learn how the Plan will be implemented and what role your Neighborhood Council will have. In June 2014, Mayor Garcetti announced the first 15 Great Streets, with the goal of generating economic activity by making them into lively and walkable corridors which attract businesses and serve as neighborhood gathering places. Learn from the experience of stakeholders and officials who have participated in the creation of the first of these Great Streets -- Reseda Boulevard in Northridge. Four panelists will share their first-hand knowledge of how to launch a successful program, attract stakeholder and business participation, and how to grow and adapt that program to new challenges and opportunities.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Solving Ongoing Code Violation Problems – Room 1010

Coordinators: Charletta Butler / Marlene Savage
Speakers: Frank Bush, LA Dept. of Building & Safety

Learn how you can resolve code violation problems in your neighborhood, such as building and safety violations, illegal structures & additions, dumping and unlicensed street vendors. Experts from Building and Safety, Street Services, Housing and Community Investment and LA County Public Health will talk about common violations, who to contact, how to coordinate solutions, consequences for violators and preventative steps to keep problems from developing.

BEING AN EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBER: Actions / Projects Start to Finish – Room 1035

Coordinator/Speaker: Cindy Cleghorn, Sunland-Tujunga NC
Speakers: Judith Daniels, Executive Board, VANC

Share experiences including successes and obstacles in reaching the common goal for your community and your Neighborhood Council. Establish your NC’s role, focus and expectations in and with the community.

All workshops will be video taped. Please complete evaluation forms for each workshop you attend.

PLEASE, name badge needed for all events.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS – Room 1050

Coordinator/Moderator: Dave Behar, Immediate Past President, Coastal San Pedro NC and Founder / CEO of ION Network
Panelists: Dan Brin, President of West Hills NC; Keith McCowan, ECCANDC Co-Chair; Mariana Aguilar, Communications Officer, Del Rey NC

Social media is a vital tool for staying connected with stakeholders and building your reach and reputation as a Neighborhood Council. This workshop will teach you the parameters and correct approach to use for a variety of popular social media outlets including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Also covered are which outlet to use for which purpose; how and when to respond – or not respond – to questions and comments; and how to instruct your fellow NC members on using their personal social media presences to share NC-related material in a manner that is both professional and positive.

PUBLIC WORKS ROUNDTABLE – Public Works Room

Coordinator: Lydia Grant

Speakers: Public Works Commission President: Kevin James; Public Works Commissioners: Joel Jacinto, Mike Davis; Heather Repenning, and Monica Rodriguez; Ron Lorenzen, Assistant Director Bureau of Street Services; Enrique Zaldivar; Kenneth Red; Executive Officer; Fernando Campos

Join us for the Kick-off of the New Clean Streets Initiative and a lively conversation on Public Works issues and learn about other programs that are available to the NCs This workshop will be especially beneficial to anyone interested in being a liaison to the Public Works for their Neighborhood Council. Partnering will help to increase the amount of information, and potentially services that will help improve your communities.

OUTREACH 101: How Do We Do It; Elections 2016 – Council Chambers

Coordinator/Presenter: Lisa Cahan Davis, Studio City NC

Speakers: Jay Handal, Co-Chair, Westside Regional Alliance

This workshop is targeted toward Outreach chairs and committee members, but is helpful for anyone who wants to help their NC better engage their stakeholders, and promote their meetings and projects. The class will cover the basics of outreach for neighborhood councils, and teach you how to get the most for your time and money. In addition, since the 2016 NC elections are on the horizon, special attention will be given to techniques to help you reach voters and prospective candidates, and get a great election day turnout.

NC FUNDING: NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS (NPGS) & MERS – Room 1040

Coordinator/Speakers: Terrence Gomes, South Robertson NC/LANCC President; Kathleen Quinn, Project Assistant, EmpowerLA

What is a MER, CRC, FRF, SWAG? What is NPG? When and why are NPGs needed? What are the steps to get NPGs approved? This workshop will be interactive and give examples, including “Tips & Tricks”, obstacles and outcomes in the use of Funding and NPGs for your Neighborhood Council. Don't wait until the end of the year to allocate your funds. Plan ahead, set goals and make more long-lasting changes in your community.

HOW TO RUN A MEETING – Room 1020

Coordinator: Ivan Spiegel

Presenter: Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian, Venice NC

Running an effective meeting is an art, not a science. The group must accomplish real work, participants must have an opportunity to be heard, and they should believe that the process is fair. That's a tall order for a meeting chair, especially if you have never managed a large public meeting. Nevertheless, these are essential skills for board presidents as well as committee chairs. Learn how to create a clear, descriptive agenda with time targets and ways of keeping your stakeholders aware of the procedures. Where does the Brown Act come into play and how does it help to ensure the integrity of your meetings? Robert's Rules of Order is only one framework for fair meeting control; there are other options that can sometimes be more effective. Learn what role a parliamentarian can play to help plan a meeting. Tips and best practices on how to run a more effective meeting, most of which you can't learn in a textbook.

12:05 pm – 1:20 pm LUNCH – City Hall Forecourt

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

1:20 pm – 2:35 pm **SESSION THREE**

LEADERSHIP SKILLS – Room 1050

Coordinator/Presenter: Jill Banks Barad, Founder and Chair Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils; President Sherman Oaks NC (SONC); Commissioner LADWP

What are the traits that make a successful leader? This workshop is a MUST for Neighborhood Council presidents, board members and committee chairs to develop the know-how and confidence to effectively lead their councils, conduct successful meetings, and motivate their boards and committees to be functioning and effective. Also included, how to create and work with an Executive Committee and how to organize a meaningful Board Retreat to build rapport and work as a team. The topics will also include: Developing the social skills necessary to be a leader; how to put together a meeting that will ensure action, attract the public and keep within time constraints; how to maintain control at meetings and still be fair; how to create leadership in others; and how to deal with public comment and controversial issues.

COMMITTEES MAKE GREAT COUNCILS – How to Make Them Work – Room 1040

Coordinator/Speaker: Tony Wilkinson, Panorama City NC

Speaker: Mike Newhouse, Esq.

Good projects and good advice come from conversations that include many viewpoints. Neighborhood Councils simply don't have enough time for those dialogs in monthly Board meetings. That's why a healthy committee system is a key to engaging the public and to well-crafted proposals for action. This workshop covers tips for successful committees from many Neighborhood Councils. It includes committee types, names and subjects that work, and how to organize and promote your committee.

HOW TO WORK WITH CITY DEPARTMENTS AND COUNCIL OFFICES – Council Chambers

Coordinator: Marlene Savage, Del Rey NC

Speakers: Lisa Webber, Deputy Director of Planning, LA City Planning Department; Enrique Zaldivar, Director, LA Sanitation (LASAN); Frank Bush, Executive Officer - Deputy Superintendent of Building II, Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

City services are delivered by City departments. Knowing which department does what is a critical first step to having an impact on service delivery to your neighborhood. This workshop will bring managers from some of the most important city departments to share their inside view of how to get results. Typical issues and online reporting systems for the most-contacted departments will be covered. Key contacts at departments will be revealed, especially where departments maintain a special liaison for Neighborhood Councils. In this workshop, the people who run the system will show you how to make the system work for you.

DON'T JUST SAY NO!: Negotiating with Developers to Achieve A Successful Outcome – Room 1010

Coordinator/Speaker: Kathy Delle Donne, Executive Board, VANC

Opportunity to discuss with actual developers and NC land use committees to achieve better development and improvement projects in our communities.

EMPOWERLA AWARD WINNERS BEST PRACTICES – 4th Floor Media Room

Coordinator: Joy Atkinson

Moderator: Joy Atkinson, BONC Commissioner; Leonard Shaffer, BONC Commissioner & Board Member Tarzana NC

Panel: Winners of the 2015 BONC EmpowerLA Awards

Come hear from this year's award winners about their successful efforts to reach out and involve community members and to partner with City Departments to get things done in their neighborhoods.

ATTRACTING GOOD BUSINESSES FOR COMMUNITY SUCCESS – Room 1035

Coordinator/Moderator: Dave Behar, Immediate Past President, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Panelists: Octaviano Rios, MPA, Project Coordinator, EmpowerLA/DONE; Mitchell Harmatz, Business Owner and LA Harbor Region Planning Commissioner; David Roberts, Economic Development, City of LAI Elvina Beck - PodShare + Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council

Let's put on our Economic and Business Development hats with a heady marketing campaign to deliver new businesses – whether mom & pops, tech or franchisees into our neighborhoods. Location? Attraction? The feet should be on the street, not in our mouths. In this workshop, collaboration is ahead in helping you find the right match of businesses you seek along with the ingredients and champions to help it be achieved.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

HOW TO WORK WITH THE MEDIA – Room 1070

Coordinator: Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioner

Speakers: Dakota Smith, L.A. Daily News; Gary Walker, The Argonaut; Doug McIntyre, 790 KABC

Many Neighborhood Councils are doing amazing things in their communities. Now it is time for us to share those experiences city wide. This workshop will introduce you to ways that you can use to get your stories out. We will have experienced reporters from many types of media.

CREATING A BOARD CULTURE; HOLDING GREAT DISCUSSIONS; BOARD ETIQUETTE – Room 1020

Coordinator: Sarah Ramsawack

Speakers: Jay Handal, Co-Chair, Westside Regional Alliance; Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian; Leyla Campos, EmpowerLA

A strong board culture is a prerequisite for a smoothly functioning neighborhood council, because it fosters positive, supportive and respectful exchanges amongst board members, and between board members and stakeholders. Get tips on what to do both inside - and outside - a meeting to generate more fruitful discussions; build better relationships between NC members; and create traditions that can be passed down to incoming members in order to ensure the continual growth of your NC.

GRANTS & OTHER FUNDING SOURCES AVAILABLE TO NCS – Public Works Room

Coordinator: Patti Berman, DLANC

Speakers: Erin Barnes, Co-Founder and Executive Director, ioby; Scott Epstein, Chair, Mid City West Community Council

From crowdfunding to fiscal sponsorship, this workshop is about how to get resources for your neighborhood.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Room 1060

Coordinator/Moderator: Colette Amin, Board Member, Greater Wilshire NC

Panel / Speakers: Manuel Bernal, Director of Finance and Development, LA City Housing Community Investment Department Housing Development Bureau; Larry Gross, Executive Director, Coalition for Economic Survival; Matthew Glesne, City Planning Associate, LA Department of City Planning; Richard (Dick) Platkin, AICP, USC, CSUN, Retired LA City Planning Department, CityWatchLA

The City of Los Angeles faces numerous complex issues related to affordable housing. This workshop is designed to provide a broad understanding of what affordable housing is - and is not - as well as to provide some guidance regarding significant affordable housing issues from those with expertise in this field.

This workshop shows you how to create public and private partnerships committed to producing and preserving affordable housing in our neighborhoods by advancing effective public policies; finding sustainable financial resources; and creating strong community organizations and beneficial partnerships. You'll also learn about programs; policies; and legislation that shape affordable housing at the city, state and federal level such as the Ellis Act; Section 8; SB1818 (density bonus) and more.

We as Neighborhood Councils are a driving force in our communities...What is our role here? How can we become more knowledgeable?

2:35 pm – 2:45 pm BREAK

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm SESSION FOUR

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE – Room 1035

Coordinator: Ivan Spiegel

Presenter: Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian, Venice NC

Parliamentarians are an essential component of Neighborhood Council meetings, but what exactly do they do? Actually, most of a Parliamentarian's duties happen outside of meetings. Why does a Neighborhood Council Parliamentarian need a different skill set from those who work with other kinds of organizations? Why doesn't Robert's (and Rosenberg's) Rules apply in many situations? This is a workshop for "would-be" Parliamentarians, meeting chairpersons, board members who have been asked to assume this role but really have no clue, and all those who would like more information about this exciting and necessary position. NOTE: Although we will cover some aspects, this is not a class on basic parliamentary procedure.

All workshops will be video taped. Please complete evaluation forms for each workshop you attend.

PLEASE, name badge needed for all events.

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

REACHING & ENGAGING YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILIES IN NCs – Room 1010

Coordinator/Moderator: Dave Behar, Immediate Past President, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council and Founder / CEO of ION Network - and Youth Entrepreneur Leader

Panelists: Brenda Fortune - VP Outreach, Sunland Tujunga NC; Janet Paz - Sunland Tujunga NC, Youth Rep and High School Student; Claire Harmatz, High School Student and SPPY Youth & Government Delegate; Sarah El Massry, Community Outreach, SPPY Youth & Government

Youth = LA's future. The energy is there, the social connectivity is there, now it's just a matter of activating it effectively and efficiently so our families, offspring and youth leaders are engaged in helping our Neighborhood Councils succeed. An insightful panel takes you through the opportunities, pitfalls and challenges associated and how to arrive with positively inspired results to attracting and engaging youth and families and a whole lot of new Board Meeting and Committee participants.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BASICS: Creating Press Kits, Writing Press Releases & More – 4th Floor Media Room

Coordinator: Ann-Marie Holman

Speakers: Ann-Marie Holman, Martha Benedict

Learn how to establish a professional public image for your council by creating the PR materials you need to forge stronger relationships with your stakeholders and with the media.

This class reveals the best practices for writing and sharing key elements of successful PR, such as:

- Press kits
- Press releases
- Boilerplates (2-3 sentence "About Us" profiles of your NC)
- Flyers for meetings & special events
- Taking & choosing the right photos
- Content for website & email blasts

Handouts with helpful templates and checklists will be provided. The emphasis will be on using free/low-cost methodologies and tools you already have on hand.

CREATING A SHARED VISION FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL – Room 1020

Coordinator: Patti Berman

Speakers: Patti Berman, DLANC; Scott Epstein, Chair, Mid City West Community Council

In order to best serve the stakeholders of a neighborhood, it can be desirable to have a shared vision of that neighborhood, its needs, and desires. We will discuss:

- Why a shared vision
- How to research and develop that vision
- Setting big goals for the NC and the stakeholders
- Importance of being pro-active
- The benefits of the shared vision
- Examples of the results of shared visions in several neighborhoods

RENTER'S RIGHTS; MOBILE HOME STAKEHOLDERS – Room 1040

Coordinator: Chuck Loring

Speakers: Dee Wallace; Susan Gosden, Senior Management Analyst II - Los Angeles Housing & Community Investment Department, Rent Stabilization Division

In an effort to include every stakeholder in every part of our communities, this workshop is intended to bring awareness of a significant group of stakeholders in areas of LA where there are mobile home parks. Mobile and manufactured home owners must be part of the development and planning for any community. Most of these homeowners are not aware of neighborhood councils and how they work for the stakeholder. In the mayor's efforts to increase the availability of affordable housing, mobile homes fit perfectly into that plan. This workshop hopes to bring these communities together and share some of the differences in this segment of our city.

HOW TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN NEW LEADERS – Room 1070

Coordinator: Grayce Liu, General Manager, EmpowerLA

Speakers: Joy Atkinson - Vice President, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Rafael Gonzalez – Director of Best Start Communities for First 5 LA

Dennis Gleason – Policy Director, Councilman Joe Buscaino

Mike Fong - EmpowerLA Director of Policy and Government Affairs and LA Community College District Board Trustee

Michael Romero – Mayor's Youth Council – South LA Member

2015 Congress of Neighborhoods Program

HOW A LAND USE & PLANNING COMMITTEE OPERATES – Room 1060

Coordinator: Russell Brown, PlanCheckNC Steering Committee

Speakers: Simon Ha, DLANC

Workshop will include actual examples of the operation of a Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee which is one of the oldest committees NCs. From receipt of Early Notification Applications, Outreach examples, holding committee and stakeholder meetings to weigh options, concerns and opportunities for the best projects from design to conditions of approval. Examples of comment letters and participating in the Public Hearing process will be given.

EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2016 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Public Works Room

Coordinator: Stephen Box

Speakers: Stephen Box, Jay Handal, Lisa Cahan-Davis, staff from the City Clerk and EmpowerLA

Election Budgets, Election and Outreach Committees, Online Elections, Traditional Elections, Regional Outreach and Marketing Campaigns, Election Advertising and Events and Social Media, Candidate Registration, Voter Registration, Activating Volunteers, Engaging Community Partners, and more!

INCLUDING EVERYBODY: Reaching the Underrepresented – Room 1050

Coordinator/Speaker: Tony Wilkinson

Speakers: Jamie Briskin, Michael Browning, Joaquin Macias,

People engage best when they see that a group includes someone like them. Neighborhood Councils CAN look like the community if we make an effort to include those who we may not see often. Youth, students, young families, seniors, people with disabilities, people who speak another language, LGBTQ folks, and the whole rainbow of cultures and ethnicities that exist in our neighborhoods. How to make your NC a friendly place.

LA'S SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN: What It Means For Your Community; What You Can Do To Bring Clean Air To Your Community – Council Chambers

Coordinator/Moderator: Lucia Marano, NCSA Board Member

Speakers: Andy Shrader, Director of Environmental Affairs, CD5; Clare Fox, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council; Jeanalee Obergfell, Analyst, Sustainability - Budget & Innovation Team; Derrick Alatorre, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor, SCAQMD

Mayor Garcetti introduced the LA Sustainable City pLAN in April. In it lies huge goals for improving Los Angeles across a number of different issue areas - transportation, housing, energy, water, air quality, etc. The mayor and the city agencies that are responsible for environmental services are looking to neighborhood councils for support and guidance on how to make our city more healthy and sustainable. This session will bring together experts on some of the areas of focus of the pLAN and allow neighborhood leaders to develop strategies for inspiring their communities to lead the charge.

4:05 pm – 4:30 pm CLOSING SESSION – ALLIANCE PRESENTATIONS

Closing Speaker: Grayce Liu, DONE General Manager

4:30 pm CONGRESS CONCLUDES

This schedule is subject to change due to meeting room capacity limits. Please plan to get to your session early to be sure you have a seat. Check signs for latest updates. PLEASE, name badge needed for all events.

THANK YOU to all who participated in the 2015 Congress.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Congress.

QUICK FACTS

96 Neighborhood Councils
1,632 Neighborhood Council Board Members
3,490 Neighborhood Council Agendas
282 Community Impact Statements

****FY 2014-15**

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Derrick Alatorre, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor, South Coast Air Quality Management District

Derrick Alatorre is Assistant Deputy Executive Officer/Public Advisor in the Legislative and Public Affairs Division of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). He is responsible for keeping open lines of communication and coordination with the public, elected officials at all levels, the business community, and local

residents. His office is responsible for environmental justice, outreach and education, legislation, small business assistance, and other programs. The Public Advisor's office provides administrative assistance, technical services, and information to both small businesses and the public. He and his staff also facilitate the business community's and public's participation in AQMD programs and regulatory activities.

Web: www.aqmd.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southcoastaqmd

Twitter: @SouthCoastAQMD

#ILoveCleanAir

Mariana Aguillar, Communications Officer, Del Rey NC



Colette Amin, Board Member Greater Wilshire NC

Colette Amin serves on the Greater Wilshire NC board as the renter alternate representative and as a member of the GWNC Outreach Committee. She is also Executive Director of Jemba Against Domestic Violence (www.jemba.org) - a grassroots organization founded 8 years ago by Colette's teenage son, that collects toys and gifts at Christmastime from various locations

across the city and delivers them to domestic violence shelters such as Project Peacemakers and South LA's Jenesse Center. Colette tirelessly volunteers in several other organizations, and is currently 2nd Vice President of the Windsor Square Hancock Park Historical Society, as well as a Windsor Square Association Block Captain since 2011. Given her involvement with JADV and other community service groups, it was a natural progression for Colette to serve on the GWNC Board, as she has since 2013. Colette holds a degree in Cinema Production, and has lived in her community for 18 years. This is her first time serving on the Neighborhood Council Congress Planning Committee.



Liz Amsden, Budget Advocate Region 8, Member-at-Large, Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Dedicated to working as a Budget Advocate to help the City develop sustainable policies for the long term and make smarter decisions in the short term, Liz is working to encourage decision-makers to temper fiscal responsibility with common sense, and focus on the needs and desires of the people and stakeholders of Los Angeles,

instead of developers and short term profiteers.



Joy Atkinson, Commissioner, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Joy Atkinson is a private consultant specializing in developing and implementing community outreach programs, with a client list that includes former members of the California State Assembly and Fortune 500 companies. A delegate to the California Democratic Party, she chairs a committee of the LA African American Women's PAC, and is Executive Director of the LA African

American Women's Public Policy Institute.

Prior to her current position on the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, to which she was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti, Joy served the City as a commissioner in several other capacities, including the South LA Area Planning Commission; the City Planning Commission; and LAPD's Permit Review Panel. She also served for 16 years as Chief of Staff to former Assemblywoman Gwen Moore.

Joy's political passion comes from her family. Her father, Eddie Atkinson, was the first African American to run for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council and reach the general election. At the age of 12, Joy learned the sorrow of losing an election, but the thrill of just participating in the political process - an enthusiasm she still brings with her today to her role as a Neighborhood Commissioner.



Glenn Bailey, President, Northridge East NC

Glenn Bailey was a founder and immediate past president of the Encino NC. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), an officer of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC), and is currently serving his fourth term as a NC Budget Advocate. Glenn is Vice Chair of L.A. City's Bicycle Advisory Committee, a representative on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife

Areas Steering Committee, which is advisory to the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, and also serves on the boards of other community, civic, and non-profit organizations.



Jill Banks Barad, Founder and Chair Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, President SONC, LADWP Commissioner, Founder and Chair, Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), and President of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

Jill has been a civic leader in Los Angeles for over 35 years. She founded the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and is in her tenth year as President. She is also Founder and Chair of the

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), now in its twelfth year. The Alliance, the oldest and largest alliance in the City, has been called a "model of regional governance" and is a model for other alliances throughout the City.

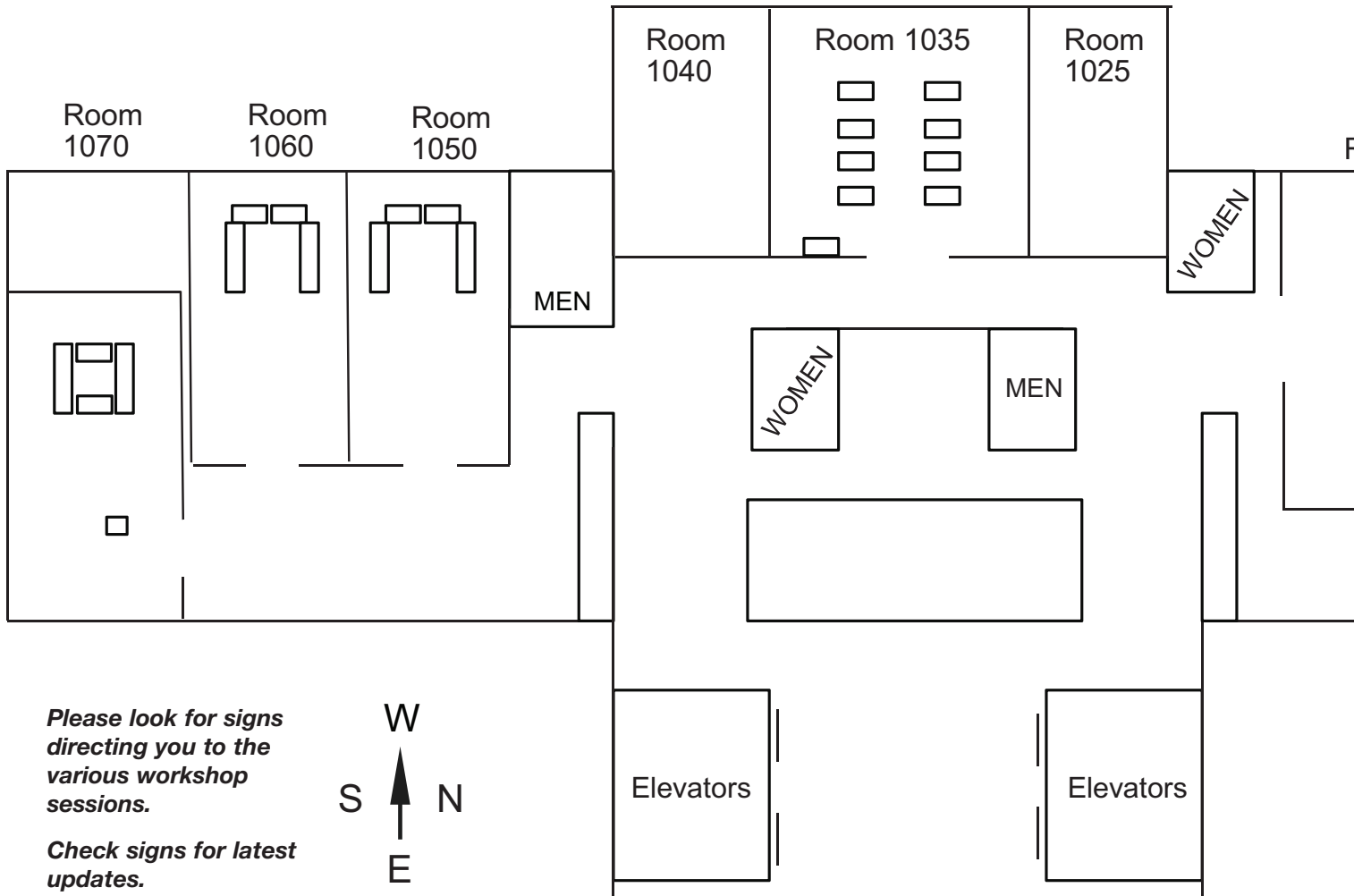
Jill serves on the Board of Commissioners for LADWP, appointed by Mayor Garcetti. She has a long list of civic recognitions for her many accomplishments. Among her awards are: "Most Inspirational Woman in Business" by the State Senate and Assembly; "Valley Leader of the Year" by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal; Harmon Ballin Award from VICA for community service, and the CD5 Pioneer Woman Award. She served on City Attorney Mike Feuer's and Councilmember David Ryu's Transition Teams.

Jill owns her own public relations, political consulting and government affairs firm, Jill Barad & Associates. She has provided consulting and management for federal, state, local and judicial campaigns, as well as statewide and local ballot measures. She has also taught political public relations, media, and fundraising at UCLA Extension

— Moderators, Speakers, Panelists continued on page 12

Map to Workshop Sessions

10th FLOOR ROOMS



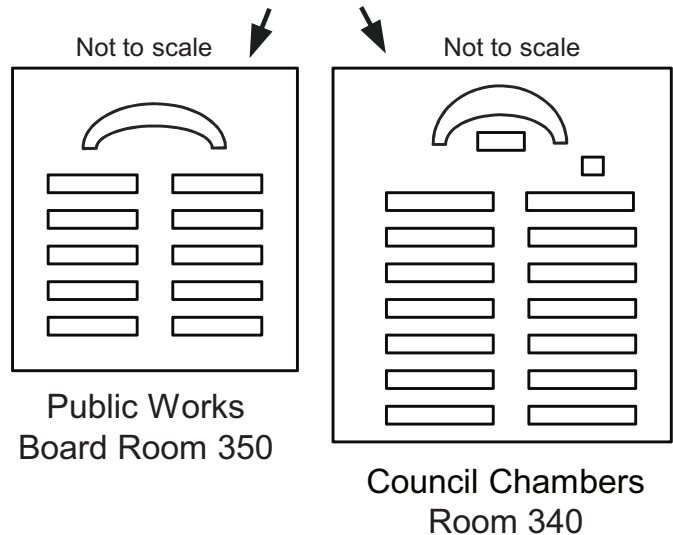
Please look for signs directing you to the various workshop sessions.

Check signs for latest updates.

Name badges needed for all events and lunch.

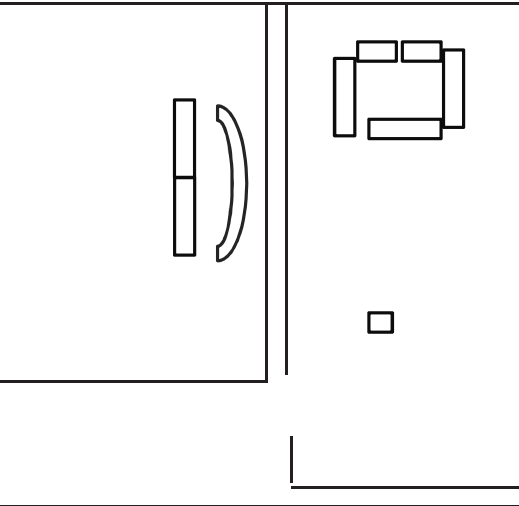
Volunteers will be available to direct you to meeting rooms on the 3rd, 4th and 10th floors.

3rd FLOOR ROOMS



Room 1010

Room 1020



EMPOWER LA™

Department of
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

PURPOSE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS:

To promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs.

— Los Angeles City Charter, Article IX

*This schedule is subject to change due to meeting room capacity limits.
Please plan to get to your session early to be sure you have a seat.
Check signs for latest updates.
PLEASE, name badge needed for all events.
All workshops will be videotaped.*

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST • 7:45 am - 8:30 am	
OPENING SESSION: Mayor Keynote, Meet Your City Officials • 8:30 am - 9:10 am	City Hall Rotunda
BREAK • 9:10 am - 9:25 am	
SESSION 1 • 9:25 am - 10:40 am	
Board Basics 101	1020
Meet Your City Officials	Council Chambers
Planning & Land Use 101	1010
Streetscape Projects For Beginners & How to Do Them	1070
Political Etiquette: How to Build Your Credibility	1060
Public Safety Solutions: Community & LAPD Collaboration	1035
Making City Issues More Accessible to the Public / Community Impact Stmtms	4th Floor Media Room
Community Partnerships for Better Services	Public Works Room
City Budget: How NCs Can Weigh In	1040
Lobby Like a Pro: "Insider's Tips"	1050
BREAK • 10:40 am - 10:50 am	
SESSION 2 • 10:50 am - 12:05 pm	
Hot Legal Issues Affecting NCs	1060
Planning and Executing Successful Events	1070
Mobility Plan 2035 & L.A.'s Great Streets	4th Floor Media Room
Code Enforcement: Solving Ongoing Code Violation Problems	1010
Being An Effective Board Member: Actions/Projects Start to Finish	1035
Social Media for Neighborhood Councils	1050
Public Works Roundtable	Public Works Room
Outreach 101: How Do We Do It; Elections 2016	Council Chambers
NC Funding: Neighborhood Purposes Grants (NPGs) & MERS	1040
How to Run a Meeting	1020
LUNCH • 12:10 pm - 1:10 pm	
SESSION 3 • 1:20 pm - 2:35 pm	
Leadership Skills	1050
Committees Make Great Councils – How to Make Them Work	1040
How to Work With City Departments and Council Offices	Council Chambers
Don't Just Say No!: Negotiating with Developers to Achieve A Successful Outcome	1010
EmpowerLA Award Winners Best Practices	4th Floor Media Room
Attracting Good Businesses for Community Success	1035
How to Work With The Media	1070
Creating a Board Culture; Holding Great Discussions; Board Etiquette	1020
Grants & Other Funding Sources Available to NCs	Public Works Room
Affordable Housing	1060
BREAK • 2:35 pm - 2:45 pm	
SESSION 4 • 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm	
Parliamentary Procedure	1035
Reaching & Engaging Youth & Young Families in NCs	1010
Public Relations Basics: Creating Press Kits, Writing Press Releases & More	4th Floor Media Room
Creating a Shared Vision for Your Neighborhood Council	1020
Renter's Rights; Mobile Home Stakeholders	1040
How to Recruit and Train New Leaders	1070
How a Land Use & Planning Committee Operates	1060
Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About 2016 Neighborhood Council Elections	Public Works Room
Including Everybody: Reaching the Underrepresented	1050
LA's Sustainable City Plan	Council Chambers
ALLIANCE PRESENTATIONS • 4:05 pm - 4:30 pm	
CONGRESS CONCLUDES	

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Erin Barnes, CoFounder and Executive Director, ioby

ioby (ioby.org) mobilizes neighbors who have good ideas to become powerful citizen leaders who plan, fund and make positive change in their own neighborhoods. We are creating a future in which our neighborhoods are shaped by the powerful good ideas of our own neighbors. The Rockefeller Foundation awarded Erin Barnes and her co-founders at ioby the 2012 Jane Jacobs Medal for New Technology and Innovation. Erin met her co-founders while in graduate school at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Before ioby, Erin Barnes was an editor at Men's Journal magazine, freelance writer, and contributor to Al Gore's book Our Choice. She conducted field research on water and fisheries markets in Nicaragua and the Amazon, and worked as a community organizer at the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition. She has a B.A. in English and American Studies from the University of Virginia and an M.E.M from Yale University. Erin lives in Brooklyn and serves on the Board of EcoDistricts, Resource Media, and as an advisor to ArtBridge.

Melinda Bartlett, Environmental Affairs Officer, Department of Public Works, LASAN

Melinda works in the Regulatory Affairs Division and has over 30 years of experience in City Service.



Jay Beeber, Board member Sherman Oaks NC, Citizen Activist

Jay Beeber, a writer and filmmaker, is 2nd Vice President of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and serves on the City's Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He is also the Executive Director of Safer Streets L.A., the advocacy group credited with convincing the Board of Police Commissioners and the City Council to end the city's Photo Red Light Camera Program. He is currently co-chair of the effort to restructure the Parking Meter enforcement in LA. Jay believes that with the right tools, proper strategy and unwavering determination, average citizens can accomplish positive changes from our government officials.



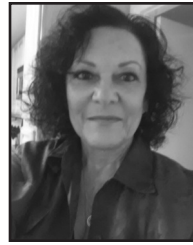
Dave Behar, Immediate Past President, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council and Founder / CEO of ION Network



Martha Benedict, Board member, Arroyo Seco NC

Martha Benedict organized the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council's first election in 2003 and has stayed connected ever since. Currently a member of the ASNC Board serving as Vice President, she taps into her photographic skills to document events and milestones for the Council and for the community. She is a regular contributor to TheEastsiderLA.com and services

an array of clients including the Huntington Library, Descanso Gardens and local real estate agents.



Patti Berman, Board Member, DLANC

Patti Berman has lived in Downtown Los Angeles for 15 years. For ten of those, she has been associated with the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council (DLANC). She has served two terms as Vice President of Outreach, and three plus terms as President.

During the years she has worked with DLANC, Parklets have become a reality in Downtown as has Spring Street Park. A \$121,000 SCAG grant has produced a shared vision of Downtown's livability, mobility and sustainability.



Manuel H. Bernal, Director of Multi-family Housing, City of Los Angeles

Mr. Bernal returned the City of Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) in March 2011, as the Director of Finance and Development for the City of Los Angeles. As such, he is responsible for administering the lending, construction and regulatory compliance of a \$45 million-per-year multi-family and single-family affordable housing loan and production program.



Nicole Bernson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Council President Pro Tempore, Mitchell Englander

Nicole Bernson staffs the Budget and Finance Committee and the Executive Employee Relations Committee, as well as being the 12th Council District's senior policy advisor. She is CD 12's lead staff on the Reseda Blvd Great Street and [RE]visit [RE]seda Blvd project. Previously, she served as Senior Policy Advisor to Councilmember Greig Smith, and was a small business owner for 14 years. Nicole was a founding board member for the MidCity WEST Neighborhood Council.

Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Councilman District 11



Stephen Box, Director of Outreach and Communications, EmpowerLA

Besides being EmpowerLA's Director of Outreach and Communication, Stephen Box also serves as the President of Sustainable Streets - a non-profit focused on education and encouragement programs promoting sustainable active transportation. He is also Director of Government & Community Affairs for The Transit Coalition, a nonprofit that focuses on policy and advocacy programs that improve public transit in Southern California. Building on the tremendous success of the 2012 and 2014 Neighborhood Council Elections, Stephen is looking forward to partnering with the City Clerk in embracing technology and outreach innovations that will contribute to making the 2016 Elections the best yet.

Dan Brin, President of West Hills NC

Jamie Briskin, Project Coordinator, Friends of the Family

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



J. Russell Brown, Board Member, DLANC

The Historic Downtown LA Business Improvement District (HDB) provides clean & safe services to 30 blocks of Historic Downtown LA, including over 1600 property owners. Russell has been responsible for economic development, urban policy, Art Walk, coordination with City of L.A. departments since 2008. He also served as president of the Downtown LA Neighborhood Council from 2005-2010. DLANC represents a community of 500,000 daily workers and visitors. Other positions included president Pershing Square Park Advisory Board, Film LA Community Relations Board member, Founding Director of The Exchange, a community event center which facilitates community engagement, education and creative events. He has also held multiple positions on the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council and served on the BID Consortium, a coalition of 38 Business Improvement Districts.

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Michael Browning, Center for Community Action and Training, Senior Director of Regional and Governmental Affairs

Frank Bush, Executive Officer - Deputy Superintendent of Building II, Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

As the Executive Officer for the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), Mr. Bush is responsible for managing the operations of the department, which has approximately 1000 employees. He ensures that the LADBS mission is accomplished, which is "to protect lives and safety of the residents and visitors of the City of Los Angeles and enhance the quality of life, housing, economic prosperity, and job creation citywide and to advise, guide, assist customers to achieve compliance with the building, zoning, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, disabled access, energy and green codes local and state laws to build safe, well and fast."

Charletta Butler, Board Member, Empowerment Congress Central Area Neighborhood Development Council

Fernando Campos, Inspector General, City of Los Angeles



Leyla A. Campos, Director of Field Operations
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Leyla Campos is currently a Senior Project Coordinator heading the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's field division. Leyla has been with the Department since 2002, and has worked in different capacities to support the neighborhood council system and their important work. She has also worked in various geographic areas within the City.

Leyla has a bachelor's degree in political science and studied public administration at Cal State University, Northridge. She is also a graduate of the Los Angeles Fire Department Leadership Academy, class of 13-02.

Prior to working for the City of Los Angeles, Leyla was very involved with disability rights and advocacy for people with disabilities. Her passions include martial arts, karaoke and the outdoors. She currently resides in the San Fernando Valley with her family.



Lisa Cahan Davis, Board Member, Studio City Neighborhood Council, Chair of Sustainability Committee

Lisa Cahan Davis has over 20 years of professional experience in business and customer development, strategic marketing and multi-channel communications for Fortune 500, nonprofit, NGOs and emerging businesses such as GE Capital, KLCS-TV, PBS, E*Trade and Air France. Her mission has always been to create the new and

different, focus on actions and outcomes and inspire others.

Since 2009, Lisa has been grateful to serve with the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) as Outreach Chair (2010-2014/Co-Chair 2015), Sustainability Chair (2015), a Cultural Affairs Committee Member (2009-2015) and a twice-elected At Large Board Member (2012 and 2014). Some core accomplishments achieved have been instituting an annual plan with budget, key partnerships, brand guidelines and unique public programs. This is best exemplified with the launch of wildly successful events such as Free Summer Movies in the Park, Green Living Fair, Small Business Seminar and Sustainability Seminar. Over 4,000 stakeholders attend SCNC events, programs and meetings per year!

Among her SCNC volunteer work, Lisa is FilmL.A.'s Community Relations/Communications Committee Chair, a Los Angeles Valley College Citizen's Building Oversight Committee Member and a Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee Member.



Carolyn Casavan, Sherman Oaks NC

Carolyn has been developing and implementing sustainability programs for business throughout her career. She is experienced in energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, greenhouse gas emissions, waste minimization and emerging green technologies. She has conducted green building education conferences and energy efficiency/water conservation workshops for businesses and Neighborhood Councils under funding received from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Casavan ran her own environmental consulting and engineering firm for twenty years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of California and is an Accredited Greenhouse Gas Emissions Verifier. She believes that the environmental challenges we face today can and will be solved while maintaining a vibrant economy and improving our quality of life.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Casavan ran her own environmental consulting and engineering firm for twenty years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of California and is an Accredited Greenhouse Gas Emissions Verifier. She believes that the environmental challenges we face today can and will be solved while maintaining a vibrant economy and improving our quality of life.



Cindy Cleghorn, Chair, NC Congress / Sunland-Tujunga NC

Cindy became involved with the STNC upon relocating her business to the Sunland-Tujunga community. She worked with community leaders to certify the STNC, and has served two terms as President and is a current board member. Her involvement with the community helped to spearhead the restoration of the community's business section along Commerce Avenue that

is known as Historic Olde Towne Tujunga.

Cindy serves on the STNC Land Use Committee, Executive Board for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and Chair of PlanCheckNC -- an alliance of Neighborhood Councils dedicated to education in planning and land use. She served on the Neighborhood Council Review Commission representing the North Valley and is currently on the boards of the Sunland-Tujunga and United Chambers of Commerce and the California Small Business Association (CSBA).

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Sharon Commins, reCode Advisory Committee / Mar Vista Community Council

Learned basic land use and planning ropes first job out of UCLA with a BA in Anthropology. Did three years worth of ZVs, CUs, NDs. Definitely an artist [Art Center College of Design training]. Discovered fiberart; had works in multiple prestigious shows; works in permanent collection of UNICEF and Bernina of Switzerland. Back to planning as a volunteer MVCC PLUM Committee

member. Co-Chair Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Land Use and Planning Committee. Member, PlanCheckNC Steering Committee. AYSO Section 1 volunteer: advocates more playable field space for youth sports as an important potential community benefit in land use planning. And, Co-chair, Zoning Advisory Committee, ReCodeLA.

The best urban planning solutions are not imposed from the top, but generated through civic engagement from the grassroots up.

Judith Daniels, Chatsworth NC

Mike Davis, Public Works Commissioner



Dorsay Dujon, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Make Music Los Angeles, a nonprofit (501) c 3 organization dedicated to creating educational, cultural, and family-inclusive events for all of Los Angeles County annually on June 21st and throughout the year.

Dorsay is an arts advocate dedicated to engaging and transforming the communities of Los Angeles through shared cultural experiences, via the visual and performing arts. Her goal is to ensure that all children and their families have an opportunity to participate in ongoing music and art programs, to stimulate lifelong learning and creative invention.

As a volunteer for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, Dorsay created a kite festival -- Kids Fly LA - where professional kite fliers demonstrated and taught the art of kite flying. In addition she presented concerts in the park with music ranging from jazz, classical, folkloric, zydeco and hip-hop.

Throughout her career as a tradeshow producer and exposition manager, Dorsay was active on several advisory boards, including St. Basil's in Chicago, Hands Across Watts, and the International Association for Exhibition Management (for which Dorsay became a Certified Exposition Manager). She also founded a consulting firm -- Dorsay Dujon & Associates -- with clients such as the American Dental Association, National Exhibition Center, Birmingham, England, and the British Tourist Authority.

Dorsay is currently Vice President of the Silver Lake Improvement Association and on the board of Children Uniting Nations. Dorsay produced articles for Gentlemen's Quarterly Magazine and was a featured presenter/author of education modules Communicating with Exhibitors, Project Management for the Exhibition Industry, and Cultural Diversity - Organizational Learning for the tradeshow industry.

Sarah El Massry, Community Outreach, SPPY Youth & Government



Scott Epstein, Chair, Mid City West Community Council

Scott Epstein has been Chair of Mid City West since July 2014 and an elected board member since November 2012. He has also previously served as the council's First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Transportation, Parking, and Streetscape Committee Chair.

In collaboration with board members and community members, Scott developed the Mid City West Bicycle Friendly Street plan, which has been recommended by Metro Los Angeles staff for a \$1.8 million grant. Scott is also passionate about ending homelessness in LA, and leads the Midtown Los Angeles Homeless Coalition, which is working to support the implementation of the countywide Coordinated Entry System in the Midtown LA region.

Scott holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University, and is a researcher at UCLA's National Center for Research on Evaluations, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST).



Mike Fong, EmpowerLA Director of Policy and Government Affairs and LA Community College District Board Trustee

As a lifelong Angeleno, Mike Fong serves as Director of Policy and Government Relations for the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. In this role, Mike leads a team of experienced professionals on policy development and government relations for the Department and Neighborhood Councils in

empowering and collaborating with Neighborhood Council Board Members, leaders, and stakeholders in improving the lives of residents throughout the City.

Clare Fox, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council

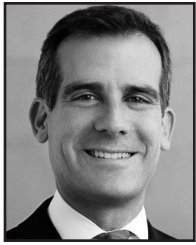


Ron Galperin, Los Angeles City Controller

Ron Galperin became the 20th Controller of the City of Los Angeles on July 1, 2013. For many years, Ron has been a leading voice on reforming government, cutting waste and helping businesses create jobs. As Chair of the Los Angeles City Commission on Revenue Efficiency (CORE), Ron found new revenue sources and budget savings to deliver more city services to residents.

Ron is proud to be the first Neighborhood Council member elected to Citywide office in Los Angeles. As an officer of his Council, he advocated for quality of life improvements and better planning. He also developed and taught an L.A. City Government 101 program to new Neighborhood Council members throughout the City, and has served as a budget advocate on behalf of the Councils.

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Eric Garcetti is the 42nd Mayor of Los Angeles. His "back to basics" agenda is focused on job creation and solving everyday problems for L.A. residents.

Garcetti was elected four times by his peers to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council from 2006 to 2012. From 2001 until taking office as Mayor, he served as the Councilmember representing the 13th District which includes

Hollywood, Echo Park, Silver Lake, and Atwater Village – all of which were dramatically revitalized under Garcetti's leadership.

Garcetti was raised in the San Fernando Valley and earned his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and the London School of Economics and taught at Occidental College and USC. A fourth generation Angeleno, he and his wife, Amy Elaine Wakeland, have a young daughter. He is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy reserve and is an avid jazz pianist and photographer.



Dennis Gleason, Policy Director, Councilmember Joe Buscaino

Dennis Gleason develops policy proposals and advises LA City Councilmember Joe Buscaino on all matters before the City Council and its Public Works; Public Safety; Trade, Commerce & Technology; Entertainment & Facilities; and Health, Mental Health & Education committees. He has worked in City Hall since 2009, when he joined the staff of Councilmember (and former LAPD

Chief) Bernard C. Parks, as press secretary.

Dennis was born in Riverside, CA and raised in Burke, VA - a suburb of Washington, D.C. Government service is in his blood, as he comes from a family of lifelong public servants, going back to his great-grandfather - a Buffalo, NY police officer who was on-duty the day President McKinley was assassinated in 1901. His passion and interest in the legislative process was ignited during an internship with Congressman Tom Davis III, VA-11th, which coincided with the impeachment hearings of then-President Bill Clinton. He earned his B.A. from Virginia Tech, studying Communication and Political Science.



Matthew Glesne, Housing Planner, LA Department of City Planning

Citywide section of the Policy Planning and Historic Resources Division

Matthew Glesne is responsible for updating the City's Housing Element of the General Plan; tracking housing production; and representing the Department on various housing issues. He is also the Department's liaison to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

In his previous work for the City of Los Angeles, he oversaw a number of the City's Historic Preservation Overlay Zones and Specific Plan areas. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, he was a Housing Researcher for New Jersey's Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement, where he worked with community and business organizations on issues of affordable housing and community development.

Matthew has a Master's Degree in Urban and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a M.F.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Terrence Gomes, MBA, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO), Chair of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition



Rafael González, Director of Best Start Communities for First 5 LA

Rafael González is responsible for implementing Best Start's "Building Stronger Families" framework, which operates on the principle that with the proper alignment of services and collaborative systems in place, families can have a collective impact on the change we all seek. If we invest in the capacity of our families and in the social infrastructure to support them, parents

and other critical stakeholders will in turn improve the overall conditions in their neighborhoods.

Prior to First 5 LA, Rafael was with the Los Angeles Dodgers where he served as Director of Community Relations and responsible for building a strong and proactive partnership with the community. Previously, he served as Chief Service Officer and Director of Neighborhood & Community Services for City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, where he developed and led "We Serve LA", the civic engagement initiative of the City of Los Angeles, and directed the Mayor's city-wide field operation and community relations team.

Susan Gosden, Senior Management Analyst II - Los Angeles Housing & Community Investment Department, Rent Stabilization Division



Lydia Grant, North Valley – Commissioner, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Lydia Grant is a former board member on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council. She has been active on land use and educational issues citywide, countywide, and even statewide, as a board member for Parent Revolution - an organization which advocates for expansion of the Parent Trigger laws across the country. Lydia has fought for safety issues at local schools, and

has worked to organize communities and to empower them with information and training on how to advocate on behalf of their children and their schools. Lydia is a mother of three and a grandmother. She loves cooking, rock collecting and scrapbooking. lydiajeangrant@gmail.com

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Linda Gravani, President, Lake Balboa NC

Linda is the current President of Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council and is a member of the Executive board for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC). As LBNC 2014 Election chair, voter participation increased 246%. When her mother became a resident of a convalescent facility she discovered the level of care was not as it should be. She took a leadership role on the Family Council and became an advocate for the seniors and their families. As a small business owner, Linda protects the rights of families and small businesses and serves the community as a Business Representative. She has three daughters and one granddaughter.



Larry Gross, Executive Director, Coalition for Economic Survival

Larry has been with the Coalition for Economic Survival for 42 years, since its inception in 1973. CES is a grassroots, multi-racial, multi-ethnic tenants' rights organization serving low and moderate-income renters throughout the greater Los Angeles area. CES is committed to organizing tenants to fight to ensure tenants' rights, and preserve affordable housing.

Simon Ha, Board & Land Use, Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Matt Hale, Policy Director, City Councilmember Paul Krekorian

Matt Hale currently serves as Policy Director for City Councilmember Paul Krekorian. He also served in the past as a legislative staffer for the former Assemblymember, during which time he staffed a variety of legislation, tackling intellectual property theft, campaign finance, free speech online, sustainability, water conservation and renewable energy. When Assemblymember Krekorian won a seat on the LA City Council, Matt relocated to Los Angeles to work with him in the District 2 office, where he covers matters related to the Budget and Finance Committee, and Energy and Environment.



Jay Handal, Citywide Elections Manager

Jay Handal is the current Citywide Elections Manager for Los Angeles' Neighborhood Councils. He currently chairs the West LA Neighborhood Council; and co-chairs both the City Budget Advocates and the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils. Jay is also a hearing examiner for the Los Angeles Police Commission.

Marquee Harris-Dawson, Los Angeles City Councilman District 8



Carmen Hawkins, Deputy City Attorney, Neighborhood Council Legal Advise Division.

Ms. Hawkins serves as the legal advisor for the City, including each of the City's 96 Neighborhood Councils.

Advises the South, Central, Harbor and West areas.

Claire Harmatz, High School Student and SPPY Youth & Government Delegate

Mitchell Harmatz, Business Owner and LA Harbor Region Planning Commissioner



Davilee Henderson, Vice President, Zapata-King NC

Davilee Henderson has a strong passion to pursue community improvement projects. She is a licensed foster parent who provides a safe living environment for children in the foster care system. As a housing relocation specialist for PATH, she works closely with homeless families.



Rebecca Hogan, Director of Marketing, Make Music Los Angeles Marketing and Training

Rebecca's distinguished background has arisen from a wide variety of experiences in fields ranging from the aerospace industry and public relations to classical, jazz, and hip-hop music, and youth pastoring and adult education.

She began her marketing career designing collateral material such as CD covers, press releases and promotion packets for several record labels and college commercial music departments, as well as for independent artists. Rebecca's skills at developing talent led to creating a company of her own -- an artist management, public relations and booking agency called Proclaim International, whose clients included Big Cheese Productions, Frontline Records and God's Dome Recordings.

As a youth pastor, Rebecca specialized in inner-city outreach through music, and she developed a music mentoring program while counseling high-risk teens. And as the Director of Adult Education at Brentwood Church, she developed and coordinated family, marriage and parenting classes, in addition to designing retreats, expositions, seminars and booking speakers.



Ann-Marie Holman, Land Use Chair, Echo Park NC

Ann-Marie Holman is a board member of the Echo Park Neighborhood Council, and chairs the Land Use Committee there. A brand management and publicity consultant, she got her start representing one of the world's first e-commerce enterprises in writing and in person on media outlets like the History Channel, Los Angeles magazine, and TMZ.

Jose Huizar, Los Angeles City Councilman District 14

Joel Jacinto, Public Works Commissioner

Marsha Jackson, Senior Street Services Investigator, Bureau of Street Services

Marsha has 27 years with the City in both the Department of Transportation and Bureau of Public Works with direct experience in enforcement of the public right-of-way activities of Street Services Investigators including illegal dumping and laws and ordinances related to illegal vending on public property, with "crossover" authority to enforce provisions of law related to illegal vending.

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Kevin James, President, Board of Public Works, Director/Chief Liaison, Mayor's Office of Film and Television Production

A former Federal Prosecutor and past Co-Chair of AIDS Project Los Angeles' Board of Directors, Kevin James is currently the President of the Board of Public Works, where he - along with his four colleagues on the Commission - are the chief administrators of the Department of Public Works. This department consists of more than

4,800 employees who are responsible for design, construction, renovation and operation of public projects ranging from bridges to wastewater treatment plants and libraries; curbside collection and graffiti removal; and maintenance of streets, sidewalks, sewers, streetlights and trees.

Kevin additionally serves as the Director and Chief Liaison of the Mayor's Office of Film and Television Production, where he oversees the relationship between numerous City departments and the entertainment industry to make sure that film, television, commercial, and music video production feels at home in the City of Los Angeles.

Paul Koretz, Los Angeles City Councilman District 5



My La, Project Manager, Mobility Plan 2035, Department of City Planning

My La is a planner for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning. She has been project manager of the Mobility Plan since 2013. Her work involves long-range policy, research, and coordination in the design and development of streets. Her professional experience revolves around environmental consulting, GIS, and transportation planning. She obtained her BA

from UCLA in Geography/Environmental Studies and her Master's from Cal Poly Pomona in Urban & Regional Planning. A native Angeleno, My grew up in East LA, and hopes to find innovative solutions for this City through collaboration.



Don Larson, Co-Chair Northridge Sparkle

Don Larson is a lifelong resident of Northridge and descended from one of the original group of Lutheran farmers who settled what was then Zelzah in the early 1900s. Don was instrumental in the development of Northridge Sparkle, the stakeholder beautification group which created the energy and activity that led to Reseda Boulevard's nomination to be the first of the original 15 Great Streets. Don and his group of volunteers

and community activists were responsible for much of the work that went into preparing Reseda Blvd for the street improvements of the Great Street project, including deep cleaning of sidewalks, preparation and stenciling of sidewalks, painting of overhangs, curbs and hydrants, and ongoing cleaning and maintenance.

Sian Leong, Director of Development & Marketing, LANI



Helen Leung, Co-Executive Director of LA-Más

With a passion towards redefining the intersection of community development and social equity, Helen Leung ensures that all LA-Más projects are grounded in community need and policy potential. To date, Helen led the Futuro de Frogtown and Elysian Valley Knowledge Hub efforts.

A native Angelino and urban planner, Helen has extensive community-based experience working for former Los Angeles Council President Eric Garcetti. Recently, she managed transit-oriented development and asset build portfolios at Living Cities, national funders collaborative.

Helen serves on the Police Commission's Permit Review Permit Panel, the Community Advisory Board of Genesis LA, and the board of the Elysian Valley Arts Collective. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters in Public Policy and Urban Planning from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



Genelle LeVin, President, Silver Lake Improvement Association

Genelle LeVin is a 30-plus year resident of Silver Lake and has been a community activist from day one. Genelle is a champion of neighborhoods thriving with healthy activity for children, green trees and flowers for community gardens, sidewalks and major roadways.

Along with her high visibility position as the President of the Silver Lake Improvement Association (a 501(c)(3) non-profit in its 26th year), Genelle takes pride in helping keep alive the comedy duo of Laurel and Hardy as the co-producer of "Music Box Steps Day", a Silver Lake jewel that introduces children to the two rollicking comedy geniuses. Each October at Laurel and Hardy Park, at the bottom of the Silver Lake steps made famous in the duo's short film *The Music Box*, a celebration of fun, food and screenings of the film takes place. This year will be the 21st annual event.

Genelle has also served on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, and participated in its formation, and worked in the past for the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council. Genelle was recently given a special award by the History Collective of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. She presently serves on the Executive Committee of Make Music LA as its Vice President.



Grayce Liu, City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

Grayce is the General Manager for the City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, which supports Los Angeles' 96 Neighborhood Councils in meeting their mission to increase civic participation and make government more responsive to local needs via the EmpowerLA movement. She is responsible for the overall management of the department, including

development of the budget, strategic planning, programs and services, policies, personnel and constituent and City government relations. Prior to working with the City, she was the Community Program Director for the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF) and the co-chair of the Asian and Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Task Force in the San Gabriel Valley. She continues to teach classes on domestic violence, sexual assault, compassionate communicate and self-defense in her free time.

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists

Ron Lorenzen, Assistant Director Bureau of Street Services

Street Tree Superintendent, Department of Street Services - 1971-1980 Foreman, Sully's So Cal Tree Surgery, 1980-1992 Owner, Sully's So Cal Tree Surgery, 1992-1996 Tree Surgeon, City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division, 1996-1999 Tree Surgeon Supervisor, City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division, 1999-2006 Street Tree Superintendent, City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division, 2006-2013 Assistant Chief Forester, City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division, 2013-Present Acting Street Services Superintendent II, City of Los Angeles, Street Maintenance Division.



Chuck Loring

Chuck is a five year board and land use committee member instrumental in getting the Department of Transportation to put no left turn signs in a more visible spot at the intersection of Webb, Strathern and Lankershim. He is also a member of the LA Housing Department's Mobile Home Task Force, an associate manager for the Golden State Mobile Home Owners League, President of the GSMOL chapter 1486 and President

pro-tem for the Homeowners Association 13837. A graduate of the LAPD community police academy, Chuck has also hosted a fire safety video for kids. He is a softball coach for LA Recreation and Parks; a SAG award winner; and a U.S. Army Veteran.

Joaquin Macias, Program Officer, First 5 LA

Capri Maddox, Special City Attorney

Lucia Marano, NCSA Board Member



Darren R. Martinez, Managing Deputy City Attorney, Neighborhood Council Advice Division, General Counsel Division

Darren has been advising the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and Neighborhood Councils from the time they were created. Prior to working with Neighborhood Councils, Mr. Martinez worked in the City Attorney's Land Use Division. He joined the City Attorney Office's in 2001 after serving as President of the South

Valley Area Planning Commission. Mr. Martinez joined the City Attorney's Office after 10 years of practice in the private sector. He graduated from **Keith McCowan**, CCANDC Co-Chair



Doug McIntyre

Doug McIntyre spent twenty years as a television and screenwriter and producer, writing for the hit series Married... with Children, WKRP in Cincinnati, Mike Hammer-- Private Eye, and the critically acclaimed PBS series, Liberty's Kids, which earned McIntyre a Humanitas Prize nomination for excellence in television writing. Together with Penny Peyser, Doug wrote, produced, and directed the award winning film: Trying to Get

Good: the Jazz Odyssey of Jack Sheldon. He also served as Executive Producer on Stillpoint, a new feature documentary.

McIntyre created Red Eye Radio, first as a local overnight show in Los Angeles, then as a nationally syndicated program heard in over 100 cities. He currently hosts McIntyre in the Morning on Talk Radio 790 KABC in LA, as well as Right Now with Doug McIntyre for 77 WABC in New York City.

Doug has written for American History Illustrated, LA JAZZ Scene, The Connecticut Post, and The Daily Beast, The Los Angeles Times and is the page one columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News. In 2010 he was named "Best Columnist" by the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

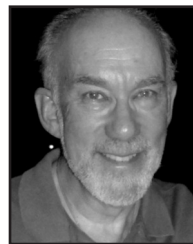


Michael R. Newhouse, Esq., President, Venice NC

Mike Newhouse is President of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) and Chair of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC); a cooperative of all 13 Neighborhood and Community Councils on the Westside of Los Angeles. Mike is a practicing attorney and lives in Venice with his wife Ruthie, their sons Holden and Dylan, and their dogs Jed and Bianca.

Junior Nua, LAPD, Harbor Division Senior Lead Officer

Jeanalee Obergfell, Analyst, Sustainability - Budget & Innovation Team



Richard (Dick) Platkin, Executive Board, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association

Dick Platkin is a retired city planner with 30-plus years of experience working in the public sector in both Seattle and Los Angeles, as well as in the private and nonprofit sectors.

Since retiring from the LA City Planning Department, he has taught planning classes at USC and CSUN, consulted to many community groups in Los Angeles, and joined the boards of

the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association and East Hollywood Neighborhood Council Planning Committee. He also writes a regular column on local planning issues for City Watch LA (www.citywatchla.com).

Some of his older articles can be found in the blog: www.plan-itlosangeles.blogspot.com. He can be reached at rhplatkin@gmail.com.



Kathleen Quinn, Project Assistant, EmpowerLA

Kathleen is a Project Assistant, responsible for supporting Neighborhood Councils with their funds, their budgets, their events, their accounts payable, and their financial reports



Sarah Ramsawack, North Hollywood Northeast NC

Sarah Ramsawack has enjoyed a multi-faceted career capped by many years of teaching, and her various roles include licensed Casualty Insurance Underwriter, vocal soloist and organizer of musical groups, and devoted parent and homeowner. An organizer and first facilitator of the Strathern Neighborhood WATCH in her community, she has been a member of the North Holly-

wood North East Neighborhood Council since March 2007. Sarah says that being a coordinator of two workshops at the CONGRESS 2015 is an honor, as it has given her the opportunity to share her enthusiasm for this great experiment in democracy.

Ray Regalado, Sr. Relations Specialist, L.A. County Commission on Human Relations

Kenneth Red, Executive Officer

Heather Repping, Public Works Commissioner

Octaviano Rios, MPA, Project Coordinator, EmpowerLA/DONE

David Roberts, Economic Development, City of LA

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists

Monica Rodriguez, Public Works Commissioner

Gina Rodriguez, Program Officer - Learning Community, First 5 LA - Best Start



Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor of City Services, Mayor Eric Garcetti

Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero was appointed to her current position in March 2015 after previously serving as a Board of Public Works Commissioner. Prior to joining the Public Works board, Romero spent a decade working for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, where she was Chief of Urban Projects and the Watershed Planning Division. As the liaison

to local, state, and federal legislators on park planning issues, Romero handled legislative policies and project funding strategies, and managed millions of dollars for urban park projects. She focused on identifying, developing and implementing multiple park development, restoration, and acquisition projects primarily in urban areas along the Upper Los Angeles River and tributaries.

A current board member for the Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Romero has previously served on the boards of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and the L.A. River Revitalization Corporation. In addition, she was a member of the Los Angeles Planning Commission and previously worked for the L.A. Conservation Corps and Building Up Los Angeles, where she led an AmeriCorps program to develop school and community gardens and mural projects with high school and college students in East L.A.

Romero grew up in the East L.A. community of Boyle Heights. She holds a B.A. from UCLA.

Michael Romero

Michael Romero is a Senior at Verbum Dei High School and part of the Mayor's Youth Council - South LA member. A former LAPD Southwest Division intern, he is a dynamic young man with a lot to contribute around youth and civic engagement conversations. He attended the University of Notre Dame in 1988 and UCLA School of Law in 1991.



Tom Rothmann has worked at the Los Angeles Department of City Planning since 1999 and is currently the Senior City Planner for the comprehensive Zoning Code rewrite project - re:code LA. In addition to re:code LA, Tom supervises the Code Studies Section and has drafted citywide zoning ordinances on a variety of topics including mixed-use zoning, affordable housing, urban farming, development reform, murals, and parking.

Prior to working in Code Studies, Tom worked in other sections of the Planning Department such as the River Unit, Environmental Review and Demographics. Before moving to Los Angeles, Tom was Director of Land Use Planning for New York City's Department of Real Estate where he managed the acquisition and disposition of City property. He was also a planning assistant at the New York City Department of City Planning.

Tom grew up in New York City and Manalapan, New Jersey and received his Bachelors in geography and physics from Rutgers College and his Masters of Public Administration from New York University.

Debbie Rouser, President, Leland Park PAB, Former VP, Central SPNC



Armando Ruiz, Neighborhood Council Funding Program Director, EmpowerLA/DONE

David E. Ryu, Los Angeles City Councilman District 4.



Chris Sales, President, Northridge South Neighborhood Council; Chair, Northridge Vision Committee

Chris Sales has been a resident of Northridge since 1961 and is currently adjunct faculty at CSUN in Computer Science. He has been president of Northridge South since its inception in 2010, and currently chairs the Northridge Vision committee, which is tasked with the development of a long-range community plan for Greater Northridge.

Chris has been active in the Great Streets Reseda movement since its beginning in 2013, working closely with Northridge Sparkle and Council District 12 on both phases of that development, as well as being on the steering committee, which was awarded additional Great Streets grant money in July 2015.



Matt Sanderson, Journalist, Photographer and Digital Media Producer

Matt Sanderson has been a journalist, photographer and digital media producer for more than nine years. A native of Rhode Island, he received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of New Hampshire and moved to Los Angeles in 2012 through a job transfer with Patch.com/AOL. He's covered various communities in L.A. County successfully as a Patch editor, as well as a freelance writer. With his strong track record of success of building online communities, and after having moved to East Hollywood in 2013, Matt found his way to the local neighborhood council meetings and became invested in his community. Matt wants to use his digital media skill set and knowledge of government to help foster a healthy voice and vision for East Hollywood.

Miguel Sangalang, Executive Officer, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation.



Marc Saltzberg, Venice NC Vice President

Marc is a longtime political activist, becoming President and Vice President of his local political club, a member of his party's county and state central committees, and campaign manager for a congressional candidate. He turned to the Venice Neighborhood Council to better understand the problems of his community and seek solutions.

Marc was elected the VNC's Outreach Officer in 2007. In 2011 Marc became Vice President of the VNC, and was reelected in 2012 and 2014. As Vice-President, he "maintains oversight of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees," and Chairs the VNC's Neighborhood Committee.

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Marlene Savage, 1st VP, Del Rey NC

Marlene Savage is 1st Vice President of Del Rey NC. She has been involved in the Neighborhood Council system for nine years, serving in the past as Vice President of Del Rey Neighborhood Council, Outreach Chairperson, Co-Chair of the Land Use and Planning Committee, and the liaison to city entities. She also previously served as 1st Vice President on the Mid City West Neighborhood Council.

Marlene is currently co-chair for the Western Region Alliance of Councils / Land Use and Planning Committee, which involves the 13 neighborhood councils and community councils on the Westside. She is also on the steering committee for PlanCheckNC. Marlene has been involved in the development of the last four Neighborhood Council Congresses.



Leonard Shaffer, President-Board of Neighborhood Commissioners

Leonard is on the board of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and a past president. In February 2005 he participated in the formation of what eventually became the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, a group that he chaired until January 2012. In 2006 he was appointed to the Neighborhood Council Review Commission where he served as a member of the Commission's Executive Director Search Committee, as chair of the Budget Committee and a member of the ad hoc committee on grievances. He is a participant in the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and has been a member of its executive committee. Leonard retired from the practice of law after 35 years as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney. He keeps active in the law field by helping fellow ham radio operators as a Volunteer Council for the American Radio Relay League. He has taught several classes concerning criminal justice at the University of Phoenix.

Leonard is on the board of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and a past president. In February 2005 he participated in the formation of what eventually became the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition, a group that he chaired until January 2012. In 2006 he was appointed to the Neighborhood Council Review Commission where he served as a member of the Commission's Executive Director Search Committee, as chair of the Budget Committee and a member of the ad hoc committee on grievances. He is a participant in the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils and has been a member of its executive committee. Leonard retired from the practice of law after 35 years as a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney. He keeps active in the law field by helping fellow ham radio operators as a Volunteer Council for the American Radio Relay League. He has taught several classes concerning criminal justice at the University of Phoenix.



Brett Shears, At-Large Representative, Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development (NANDC)

A member of Empowerment Congress North, Brett Shears holds positions as chair of the Policy Committee, delegate to the South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (SLAANC), budget representative, and Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate for Region 10. He grew up in the Los Angeles area before briefly moving to Berkeley, CA and Washington, DC for school and work. He now lives in the South Park neighborhood of Downtown LA.

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Andy Shrader, Director of Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz

Andy advises Councilmember Koretz on issues before the City Council Energy and Environment Committee and before the Metropolitan Water District board.

Formerly, Andy was elected in 2003 as a founding member of the Mar Vista Community Council, where his most notable motion instituted the popular Mar Vista Farmer's Market.

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Dakota Smith, L.A. Daily News

Dakota Smith has covered City Hall for the last three years for the Daily News. She previously worked at Curbed LA, and wrote a real estate column for the New York Post. <https://twitter.com/dakotacdsmith>



David Somers, Policy Planning and Historic Resources Division, Citywide Planning, Mobility Plan, Department of City Planning

David Somers works in the Citywide Policy Unit in the Los Angeles Department of City Planning (DCP) as a Mobility Planner, tasked with implementing the City's Mobility Plan 2035. David started his career within DCP's Environmental Unit, where he reviewed environmental compliance for some of the City's major development projects. He received his Master's in Urban Planning from University of Michigan, and lives in Mount Washington.

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Thomas Soong, Leadership Strategist, EmpowerLA

Tom Soong is a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, responsible for supporting Neighborhood Council boards with capacity building; training; and organizing skills that empower LA and engage the community.



Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian

Ivan currently serves as a bi-coastal Parliamentarian working for both the Venice and Downtown LA Neighborhood Councils and he has extensive experience on parliamentary procedure as it applies to Neighborhood Councils. His years of experience in creating organizational bylaws led him to join the BONC/DONE Bylaws Task Force. He was co-chair of the DONE Bylaws Resource Team, which worked with NCs to help revise their bylaws into the new Table Of Contents format. A designer of the Councils 4 Councils Peer Mentoring program, he trains NC participants in a wide range of topics.

Ivan became involved in the L.A. school system as a parent/volunteer with a focus on putting technology into classrooms. He chaired several school and district councils, and was chosen as a member of the Superintendent's Focus on Achievement Council, which advised the Superintendent on setting LAUSD policy.

Ivan relocated to L.A. from Brooklyn, NY, and spent 25 years as the Artistic Director of a nonprofit performing arts organization. He produced, directed, and/or designed over 300 theatrical productions. As a service to the LA Theatre community he taught grant writing and was a peer panelist for the California Arts Council. He works as a Poll Inspector for the City Clerk and the County Registrar of Voters in his spare time.

He is currently serving as the chair of the Workshop Committee of the 2015 Congress Of Neighborhoods and would like to applaud all the committee members who worked their butts off to make this event possible.

Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Aaron Thomas, Urban Forestry Manager, North East Trees, Inc, Certified Arborist WE-6531A

Aaron Thomas has been with North East Trees since 1994. As a certified arborist, he oversees large scale tree planting projects specifically along streets, in parks, and in low income housing developments. In the twenty years that he has been with the organization, he has helped with the planting of over 100,000 trees in the Los

Angeles area. In addition to serving as the urban forestry manager, Aaron also oversees the youth training and community stewardship programs. He has hired and trained hundreds of at risk youth and worked with thousands of community volunteers. Aaron was recently appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti as his commissioner for the Community Forest Advisory Committee.

Gary Walker, Reporter, Argonaut News

As a reporter for more than eight years, Gary covers politics, state, local and national government, public safety, the environment, education and enterprise reporting.

Gary has actively covered neighborhood councils for over six years and written extensively about their rise in influence, their elections and the role that they play in local government. In 2009 Gary uncovered that less than 30% of the NCs on the Westside had taken their mandated Ethics training. Four months later, they were all in compliance.

Gary has moderated City Council and Board of Supervisors elections and has been invited to participate on education, environmental and transportation panels. In 2007, he won the John Swett Media Excellence Award, the highest education award that a news reporter can win in California.



Dee Wallace, Inspirational Speaker, Actress, Stakeholder

Dee is a true tour de force, working with every kind of co-star from *Cujo* to *Lassie*, as well as countless directors, producers and some of Hollywood's biggest names, who's personalities fell somewhere between the two, including Peter Jackson, Wes Craven, Joe Dante, Stephen King and Blake Edwards. Ms. Wallace became an icon in the role that would define motherhood for a

generation, as Mary in Stephen Spielberg's *ET: The Extraterrestrial*. Her 130 films range from some of the scariest to some of the funniest ever made, including *Cujo*, *The Howling*, *10*, *The Frighteners* and *Critters*.



Lisa M. Webber, AICP, Deputy Director of Planning, Department of City Planning, City of Los Angeles

Lisa Webber serves as the Deputy Director of Planning for the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning and oversees all project planning and case processing operations for the Department. This includes the functions of the Development Services Center, the Expedited Case Processing Section, Major Projects, Sub-

divisions, the Environmental Unit, the Office of Zoning Administration and the Neighborhood Projects Sections for the Valley, Metro/Central and West-South Los Angeles areas.

Prior to joining the City of Los Angeles, Ms. Webber held various planning positions with the Santa Clarita Community Development Department, serving as the planning manager from 2005-2012. In her role as planning manager, Ms. Webber directed all current and advance planning processes and projects for Santa Clarita, coordinating closely with the City Council, Planning Commission and City Manager's Office to ensure the City's planning goals were achieved.

Prior to joining the City of Santa Clarita, Ms. Webber served as a planner with Parsons HBA in Pasadena and Planning Resources in Wheaton, Illinois working on rail transportation projects and the preparation.

A Los Angeles native, Ms. Webber received her undergraduate degree from Loyola Marymount University, earned a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.



Herb Wesson, Jr., President, Los Angeles City Council

Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr. was unanimously elected President of the Los Angeles City Council on November 23, 2011 and officially took office January 2, 2012. He was elected to represent the 10th Council District of the City Los Angeles in a Special Election in November 2005. The voters of the 10th Council District recognized Wesson's long service to the community

by giving him their overwhelming support – 80 percent of their votes. He was re-elected in 2007, and 2011 by wide margins.



Tony Wilkinson, Panorama City Neighborhood Council, North Hills East Neighborhood Council

Tony Wilkinson is a founder and currently Vice Chair of the Panorama City Neighborhood Council. He retired from a career in the land title insurance business. Tony has worked as a business economist, marketing services manager, and technology manager. Tony chairs the NC-LADWP MOU Oversight Committee that coordinates information between neighborhood

councils and the Department of Water and Power. He has also served as an Independent Election Administrator for EmpowerLA, managing neighborhood council elections in the West LA region in 2012 and in the Southwest Valley region in 2014. Tony has helped coordinate the workshop sessions at each NC Congress since 2011.

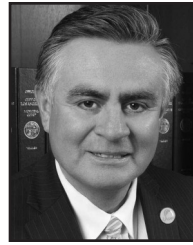
Meet Your Moderators, Speakers, Panelists



Elva Yañez, Program Director, MMLIS, Prevention Institute

Elva Yañez is a Director at the Prevention Institute, a national public health organization. Over the past 20 years, Elva has worked extensively on public policy initiatives emphasizing environmental approaches to prevention and health equity outcomes. She has applied her policy advocacy and systems change expertise to address park inequities, environmental impacts,

land use and health disparities in LA's underserved communities. Previously, her private consulting firm provided policy advocacy, strategic planning and communications services to clients in the areas of public policy, urban parks, public health, land use and the built environment. Elva currently serves as a California State Park and Recreation Commissioner, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown.



Enrique C. Zaldivar, P.E., Director, LA Sanitation (LASAN)

Enrique Zaldivar was originally appointed Director and General Manager of the Bureau of Sanitation in 2007, then was reappointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti in September 2013. Sanitation oversees the City of Los Angeles Clean Water, Solid Resources and Watershed Protection programs, which combined have a revenue value of over \$1.1 billion, with a staff of nearly 3000 employees. LASAN is also the lead environmental agency for the City.

Enrique serves on the board of several organizations such as the US Water Alliance, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Cal Poly Pomona Engineering Leadership Board, and others. Enrique is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona and a registered civil engineer. He and his wife Brenda, have three children, sons Enrique Jr. and Alonzo, and daughter Carina.

Speakers and bios received after printing deadline will be available on the NCCongressLA.com website.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ALLIANCES

ARCLA – Alliance of River Communities

HANC – Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

LANCC – Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

SLAANC – South Los Angeles Area Neighborhood Councils

VANC – Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

WRAC – Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

DWP Committee – DWP Memorandum of Understanding

PlanCheckNC – Land Use & Planning Education

NC BUDGET ADVOCATES

NCSA – Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Hollywood Coalition

THANK YOU

Youth Volunteers

Combined Color Guard Detail from Bryce Canyon Division and Betsy Ross Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets

TO VOLUNTEER. Follow the Congress on Facebook and Twitter.



NCCongressLA

See you at the 2016 Congress of Neighborhoods September 24, 2016.

THANK YOU to all speakers for your participation and presentations.

THANK YOU to the many volunteers and Empower LA for providing photos. To those whose photos and bios arrived after our deadline, we will include them on the nccongressla.com website.

Video and resources from most workshop sessions will be available on the NCCongressLA.com website.

CONGRATULATIONS

EmpowerLA Award Winners 2015

Thank you to all who attended the first Red Carpet event held on September 11, 2015 to celebrate Neighborhood Councils furthering positive perceptions of their work, providing a platform for sharing best practices and encouraging high standards as they work to engage community members and work with the City to address local needs.

North Valley – Sylmar Neighborhood Council

The Sylmar Neighborhood Council was a creative leader in the “Make Your Horses Count Event,” which showcased the equestrian community of Sylmar and helped to preserve the rural lifestyle of this unique community. As a result of demonstrating the unique lifestyle of this community, the City of Los Angeles has now designated a protected “K” overlay to protect such areas from subdivisions. This was a tremendous accomplishment and the first of its kind in the entire City of Los Angeles. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council Equestrian Committee joined forces with many other equestrian organizations and horse enthusiasts to sponsor this event and bring attention to the community and advocate for proper zoning for this area. The Sylmar Neighborhood Council truly demonstrates how civic engagement based on coalition building can truly make a difference in public policy decision making.

South Valley – North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council and North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council

North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council and North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council rallied around improving a very blighted City of Los Angeles property. The property was seriously in need of improvement with sand eroding over the sidewalk, weeds and garbage proliferating, and plumbing pipes that were exposed. A clean up had to be organized on both sides of Whittsett Avenue. Working with the office of Councilman Paul Krekorian and local Neighborhood Watch groups, the Neighborhood Councils developed an exceptional property upgrade plan. There were clean up activities, planting projects and mural painting. The unified activities of all organizations involved have transformed a long-time hazardous and blighted area into a water-saving garden and artistic landmark. The project also helped develop new friendships, and an open awareness about how much can be achieved when Neighborhood Councils cooperate with one another.

Central (2) - Westlake South Neighborhood Council

The Westlake South Neighborhood Council is a true example of a Neighborhood Council attempting to integrate itself into the community that it serves. This organization has gone to great lengths to recruit board members that represent all races, ethnicities and points of view. The board is comprised of white, African American, Latino, and Iranian-American members. WSNC has organized events and projects that provide service and empowerment to a community of over 30,000 resident from legal and health fairs to days of service and neighbor-to-neighbor events, proving how Neighborhoods Councils can effectively bring together their community.

Region 4 – Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council

The Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council is being honored for several reasons, which make it an effective Neighborhood Council. They have taken a hard look at the structure of their Council and made some important infrastructure changes that are highly commendable. They have spent much time disseminating information through their website. Unlike many Neighborhood Councils, ERNC publishes all agendas and comprehensive minutes from Board and Land Use and Planning meetings. Board resolutions and Community Impact Statements are accessible online as well. The very active ERNC Land Use Committee has submitted written recommendations on every significant Planning Department case and Conditional Use Permit in Eagle Rock, playing a major role in amending the Colorado Boulevard Specific Plan. ERNC was only one of two neighborhoods in all of L.A. to take advantage of a state grant for tree well cutting that was administered by the Council District, which meant that ERNC board members walked the streets of Eagle Rock to plot locations for over 250 new sidewalk tree wells. Amazing work!

Mid-City West Community Council

Mid-City West Community Council has responded to community constituents requests to create safe routes for bicycling and walking. MCWCC and stakeholders created a comprehensive plan to create two bike routes: one going east-west along Rosewood Ave. and one going north-south along Formosa and Alta Vista. The support for this plan led to a meeting and bike ride with City staff. Councilman Koretz nominated the project for Metro’s 2015 Call For Projects. Subsequently the MCWCC Project was recommended for funding in the amount of \$1,806,765 with a city contribution of \$483,629. The project was ranked 7th of 15 bicycle infrastructure projects. This project proves that Neighborhood Councils can respond to community needs and get big things done through strong and diligent advocacy.

West – West Los Angeles Sawtelle Neighborhood Council

In general the West Los Angeles Sawtelle Neighborhood Council strikes a balance, working effectively with both stakeholders and developers to ensure a better quality of life and better projects with the community. WLASNC spends \$30,000 annually on outreach. They work closely with their Council District office, bridging the gap with the stakeholders. They hold 8 free concerts and movie nights to bring the community together and recently partnered with NIKE to re-open the skate plaza and do a renovation at the civic center plaza. The WLASNC was an integral partner in the renaming of the Sawtelle area into the Sawtelle Japan Town area, recognizing the historic Japanese community. They do an email blast weekly to their stakeholders to keep them informed of NC business and upcoming meetings. Most impressive, the WLASNC has been and continues to be 100% in compliance with funding rules, code of conduct, ethics rules, and spends 100% of its funds, with the vast majority on outreach which helped to increase voter turn out this past year.

Harbor – Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

On November 8, 2014 the Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Harbor Gateway North NC mobilized 63 block leaders to go door to door in their neighborhoods with small bags of information on how to prepare for a major emergency as part of the NC Emergency Preparedness Neighborhood Survey. A survey was given to residents who were home identifying those who had medical skills, construction skills, and/or own generators or are Ham radio operators. All homes received the bag with information which the Council District 15 staff and the Emergency Management Department helped the HGNNC assemble. 10,000 households received information about the Nov. 8th community walk-through. The surveys given laid the groundwork for sponsoring CERT classes during May and June of this year, the first such classes in the area for ten years. In addition, a number of stakeholders began preparing to pass the Ham radio license exam, which was given on July 11th of this year. Thank you for keeping your community safe!

South – Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council

The Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council is awesome at outreach to their stakeholders to connect them to City issues. They have conducted a Sidewalks Summit to address the sidewalks issues in their community. Partnering with the South Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, they participated in the SLAANC Candidate Forum for Council District 8 seat in addition to featuring candidates at their board meetings for stakeholders to meet. In Fiscal Year 2014/15 alone, the EC Southwest has partnered throughout its boundaries with elected officials, the City Attorney’s Office Prosecutor Program, the Neighborhood Housing Services, the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, area schools, Community Coalition and block clubs to improve the quality of their stakeholders lives. EC Southwest shows the strength of Neighborhood Councils via strategic collaborations.

Special thanks to Lydia Grant, BONC Commissioner who took the lead to plan an evening at City Hall and musicians Rhea Fowler, Benjamin Bartelt and Jennifer Li Young, Musicians Foundation String Trio. Brought to you by ConnectLA. <http://www.ymf.org/>

Thank you to
the Neighborhood Councils
that have contributed to
the 2015 Congress:

ECHO PARK NC
DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NC
HARBOR CITY NC
NORTH HOLLYWOOD NORTH EAST NC
NORTH HOLLYWOOD WEST NC
TARZANA NC
VENICE NC

BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NC
BOYLE HEIGHTS NC
CANOGA PARK NC
CENTRAL HOLLYWOOD NC
EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS NORTH NC
ENCINO NC
FOOTHILL TRAILS DISTRICT NC
GREATER VALLEY GLEN NC
GREATER WILSHIRE NC
HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NC
HOLLYWOOD UNITED NC
LAKE BALBOA NC
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MID CITY NC
MID-TOWN NORTH HOLLYWOOD NC
NORTHRIDGE EAST NC
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RESEDA NC
SHERMAN OAKS NC
SILVER LAKE NC
SOUTH ROBERTSON NC
STUDIO CITY NC
SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NC
NC VALLEY VILLAGE
WEST HILLS NC
WESTCHESTER PLAYA DEL REY NC
WOODLAND HILLS-WARNER CENTER NC

