



Alive!

- PAGE 10

YOUTH STEPS UP

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

New department creates LA's first-ever Youth Council to empower young adults.



Alive! photo by Summy Lam

ABOVE: Lisa Salazar, General Manager and Executive Director, Youth Development (bottom row, center), surrounded by the Olivia E. Mitchell LA Youth Council on the City Hall steps after the group was presented to the City Council.

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Stepping Up to Have a Say

Attentive readers of *Alive!* in print and online might notice that we photographed the new Olivia E. Mitchell Youth Council in a handsome but common place – the steps of City Hall. Anyone associated with the City of Los Angeles knows those steps.

But I feel the purpose is deeper. I imagined the youth council photographed there because the meaning becomes richer: It tells the story of the powers of youth meeting the powers of City government for mostly the first time. These young adults representing 800,000 other youths in LA belong on those steps, and they deserve to have a voice. Because of the hard work of the City Council and the new Youth Development Dept., they can. And will. In this month's interview, please read all about the historic work done by General Manager and Executive Director **Lisa Salazar**, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Governmental Affairs **Aksel Palacios** and the entire staff. We also thank **Karen Arevalo** for reaching out to us.

Lisa, Aksel and Karen are all Club Members.

I also want to note Club VP of Marketing **Summy Lam** and *Alive!* designer and Webmaster **David Jamgotchian** for their stellar photos and designs capturing this moment. We enjoyed working around the countless and very excited families and friends who accompanied the youth council on their big day. Chaotic, but fun!

Beginnings and Endings: As I mention youths rising in LA governance, I remember the other side of the equation. At deadline, we learned about three recent and notable passings: Retiree and Club Board Member **Phil Orland**; national Hispanic engineering pioneer and former RLACEI Board Member **Americo Garza**; and the Club's own **Jim Thompson**, an important staff member who endeavored behind the scenes to make your Club experience better. I look forward to talking more about all three in a future *Alive!*

And One Who Retired: Lastly, I congratulate **Pouria**

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Abbasi, General Manager, LA Convention Center, upon his retirement after 20 years of City service. When the Convention Center was still managed by the City, we worked with Pouria to bring you stories about the Center. Congratulations, Pouria!

Worth Considering: Below this blog post, I share a personal remembrance of a former teacher of mine who passed away recently. He meant the world to me, and I want to share his life lessons for all to embrace and incorporate. It is not always easy to see the future, but it's there all along. Don't give up hope or become discouraged when you don't know what will come next—everything can work out in your favor if you keep on going!

¡Gracias por leer!

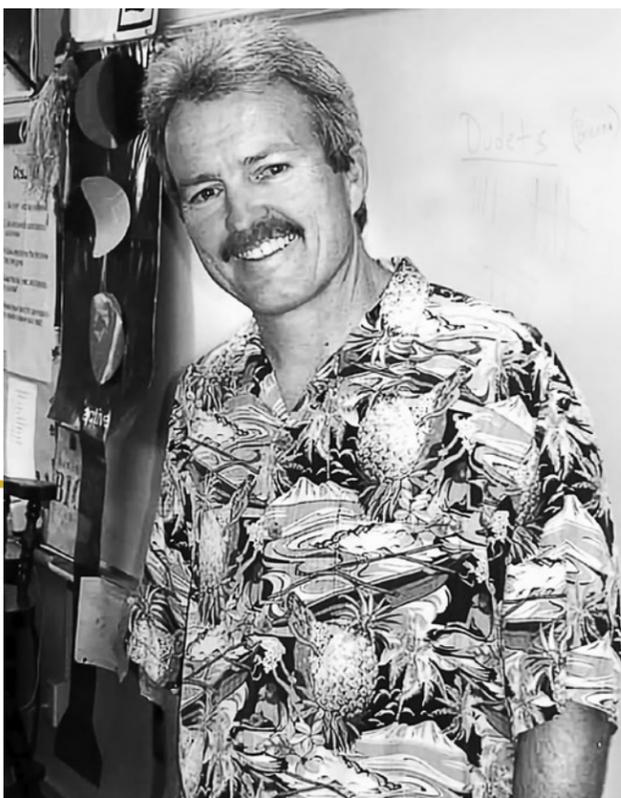


Photo courtesy Susan Park Johnson

Dear Club Members,

Recently, I attended a tribute event in San Diego County for a former 8th-grade teacher of mine, Sherman Johnson, who died June 18 after a six-year fight against cancer. Mr. Williams taught in the **Valley Center-Pauma Unified School District** for 38 dedicated years.

I posted these words to my personal social medial channels, and I hope you find meaning in them, too.

Thank you for reading.

– Robert

IN REMEMBRANCE: SHERMAN W. JOHNSON

... teacher, coach, father, husband, grandfather and friend.

If you grew up in Pauma Valley, Calif. and went to Pauma Elementary School in the 1980s and '90s, blessed were you to have had Mr. Johnson as your eighth grade teacher. He taught more than just subjects in math, English, history, etc. He also trained these students with the skills required to become productive members of society as law-abiding citizens.

To him, each student was talented and gifted. He saw their potential as successful people in life, and in that way he was different than most teachers. For starters, he could remember the most-minute detail about each student. Additional examples: He could remember each of their names, key conversations – word for word – and he could tell you what grades and what years they graduated, he kept every grade book (to be sure he was always right about those grades), he kept class photos like historical documents, photos of field trips, photos of them participating in sports, photos of the talent show, the eighth grade plays, and championship softballs signed by his students. He was distinct in that way,

different than most other teachers. That's why you remember him most, right?

But why did it all matter to him? Why did he exert that effort?

Because he loved his students.

Mr. Johnson will be missed by so many people, especially by those to whose lives he made positive impacts. From the hundreds (if not thousands) of students he taught. From the academic community that he challenged and fought in a tug of war so that those administrations would become a better version of themselves - demanding that they become a reflection of the students he taught. From his friends, whose relationships were strengthened and forged with loyalty over the years. And then of course I cannot begin to calculate the positive impact he made on his wife, Susan Park Johnson; Michael Johnson; Matt; and Jamie; along with his entire family.

As we celebrate and remember Mr. Johnson, a teacher, coach, father, husband, grandfather and friend, let us pray for his eternal peace ... that his light shines on us every day. In Jesus's name, Amen. ●



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THIS MONTH ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – all the winners from this month's contest on the theme "fall colors."



Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



Rest Insured

See the Club's claims paid this month and feel confident in your Club insurance purchase.



Cooking with the Club

Chef Larios prepares spicy-sweet chicken with harissa apricot sauce, served with toasted pearl couscous, dried apricots and sautéed broccoli.

— with Chef Larios



On Web Alive!

aliveemployeesclub.com/cooking-spicy-sweet-chicken





The Club Is Here to Help

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

Contact the Club

if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

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Physical Club Store Hours:

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NOTE: The Club Store (and offices) will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day. (The online Club Store is open 24/7).

NOTE: The walk-in Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.

Alive!

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LADWP/PUBLIC WORKS

Photos courtesy LADWP and StreetsLA staff photographers

Taking Charge

CITY'S PLAN TO ELECTRIFY ITS VEHICLES CONTINUES WITH NEW EVS.



Both the LADWP and Public Works/StreetsLA are welcoming new electric vehicles to their fleets. Many departments are replacing their gasoline vehicles with electric alternatives.

On Aug. 2, Public Works/Street Services placed into service the City's first electric Ford Pro F-150 Lightning pickup truck, to be charged with solar power. StreetsLA has been adding electric vehicles into its fleet over the last few months, including trucks, an excavator and a street sweeper.

On Aug. 11, LADWP took possession of a new Ford F-150 Lightning and a Ford Mustang Mach-E. Today, 75 percent of LADWP's automobile fleet is all electric or hybrid-electric.

Additionally, the LAFD introduced the first electric fire engine in North America to its fleet in May.

In April, the City adopted a strategic long-term Electric Vehicle Master Plan, a comprehensive roadmap to establishing an all-electric fleet of City vehicles.

The future of fleet transportation is arriving to the City! ●

LADWP



The LADWP staff managing the department's electric vehicle fleet.



LADWP Board President Cynthia McClain-Hill test-drives the new Ford F-150 Lightning.



Board of Water and Power Commissioners Vice President Cynthia Ruiz stands with the LADWP's new Ford Mustang Mach-E.

Public Works/StreetsLA



Mayor Eric Garcetti (right) chats about the F-150's "frunk" (front trunk) with (from left) StreetsLA Executive Director Keith Mozee and then-Chief Sustainability Officer Greg Spotts.



Mayor Eric Garcetti uses solar power to charge StreetsLA's first electric F-150 Lightning.



Public Works/StreetsLA's new Ford Pro F-150 Lightning.



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Set Up a Mobile Team Visit

Supervisors: Bring the Club to your worksite! The Club Store Mobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). Your employees will be grateful!



For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team brings and wears safety gear.
- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

Follow Club social media for Mobile Team site visit dates as they are scheduled.

Mobile Team Schedule*

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month.

Harbor Boys and Girls Club

100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Wednesday, Oct. 5

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled.

Schedule A Site Visit

To schedule a site visit, contact **Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:** (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com

*Mobile Team site visit dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. Make sure to check with your supervisor to confirm dates and times, up to and including on the scheduled day itself.

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



LONG-TERM CARE MAKES SO MUCH SENSE



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales
CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

This month, we continue our discussion of the importance of having **long-term care insurance**.

2020 states that the median costs for these services range from \$53,768 to \$105,850 per year.

Long-term care insurance is designed to protect your retirement savings and assets by paying a monthly benefit for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring – situations that can follow an accident or illness such as a stroke, because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

Make an appointment with our Retirement Specialists. Lock in your rate today!

JOIN THE CLUB

Club Membership for Retirees costs only \$4 a month and can be deducted from your pension. As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits including life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, pre-funeral planning, long-term care, and our popular legal plan by MetLife

Congratulations on your Retirement and be well!

LET'S TALK ABOUT LONG TERM CARE (LTC) INSURANCE

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 70 percent of Retirees will need some type of long-term care. A survey conducted by Genworth in

HERE'S WHY YOU NEED THE CLUB'S LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring.

You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
- Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents, and grandparents
- Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month
- Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Choose from four plans: 1) Long-Term Care facility; 2) professional home care; 3) total home care; and 4) simple inflation protection
- Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also 10-year nursing facility/20 year in home* (Home care benefit pays out at 50 percent)

***TIP!**
Apply before the end of the year to lock in your premium at your current age. ★

Schedule an appointment today with a Club Retirement Counselor, and be ready for your best retirement.

IMPORTANT: The best time to buy long term care insurance is **before you need it.**

Retired or retiring Soon?

Call for a **FREE** insurance benefits consultation with a Member Services Counselor:



Cheryl Martin

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EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

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CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Tiffany Sy

(800) 464-0452,
EXT. 202

Work cell: (213) 440-8270

20 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0D75348

2022 Events

- Sept. 7 **General Membership Meeting** (LARFPA)
San Antonio Winery
737 Lamar St. (near downtown)
- Oct. 1 **Annual Fall Meeting** (LADWP Association)
Canceled/pandemic
- Dec. 17 **Annual Holiday Celebration** (LARFPA)
11 a.m.
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Universal City

RESERVATION INFORMATION:

LADWP Retiree Association:
vinedolores@gmail.com

LARFPA: events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association

Dolores Foley, *President*
(949) 388-1206
vinedolores@gmail.com

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 16

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

ARE YOU READY FOR RETIREMENT?

HERE ARE SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING:

WEBINARS

Learn about your retirement options and benefits at an upcoming Planning for Retirement webinar, hosted by the LACERS Member Engagement team. Register via your MyLACERS account. Upcoming dates include:

Thurs., Sept. 15 **Tues., Oct. 11** (4:30 p.m.)
Tues., Sept. 20 **Thurs., Oct. 13** (Tier 3)
Sat., Oct. 1 **Thurs., Oct. 29**

All webinars begin at 9 a.m.

MOVING OUT OF SOCAL?

Are you planning to move outside of Southern California in retirement? If so, consider attending the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) one-hour informational session to learn more about your Medicare plan options. It's scheduled for 10 a.m. Thurs., Sept. 22.

MEDICAL INFORMATION SESSION

Want to learn more about your health and dental plan options

in retirement? If so, consider attending the LACERS Medical, Dental, and Vision one-hour informational session. It's scheduled for 10 a.m. Thurs., Sept. 29.

APPLYING FOR RETIREMENT ONLINE

Members are encouraged to submit their retirement application 60 days before their retirement date when using LACERS' new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). The RAP is a great asset to LACERS Members that helps to streamline the retirement process. While the filing period is within 30 to 60 days of your retirement date, starting your application early and submitting it on the first day you can at the 60-day-prior mark, will allow for a couple of benefits. These include having ample time to discover any complications and address them without having to move your retirement date, as well as ensuring LACERS staff has time to meet your retirement date request.

For example, if your desired retirement date is Oct. 22, 2022, you would aim to submit your retirement application in the portal on Aug. 23, 2022. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.



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PUBLIC WORKS



Retiring City Engineer Gary Lee Moore atop the Sixth Street Viaduct, his crowning achievement. (photo courtesy @6thStViaduct)

Photos by the Club and courtesy Public Works/Engineering

From Gary to Ted

LONGTIME CITY ENGINEER GARY LEE MOORE RETIRES, IS REPLACED BY TED ALLEN.

On July 29, the City Council held a special farewell to City Engineer Gary Lee Moore on his retirement as the second longest serving City Engineer. Ted Allen, Deputy City Engineer, was approved by the City Council as the new City Engineer on Aug. 9.

Congratulations to both Gary Lee Moore on an incredible career, and to Ted Allen for his promotion.

Most recently, Retired City Engineer Gary Lee Moore led the Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project for the City. As City Engineer, Moore led a world-class organization of 955 engineers, architects, surveyors and support staff.

Since being named City Engineer in 2003, Moore oversaw the completion of 1,697 projects totaling more than \$5.8 billion. As the General Manager of Public Works/Engineering, Moore oversaw the City's planning, design and construction of public facilities, the City's GIS mapping and programs that regulate private construction and development affecting the public right-of-way. Moore oversaw a current annual operating budget of \$196 million.

Moore, an accomplished executive and professional engineer, was a recognized leader in bringing sustainability practices into the design and construction of City projects. According to a City Council resolution on his retirement:

"City Engineer Gary Lee Moore has overseen the completion of 2,600 projects totaling \$7 billion, including the \$588 million Sixth Street Viaduct, the largest bridge project in the history of Los Angeles. City Engineer Gary Lee Moore led the 2007 Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and has overseen other notable projects including: the Police Administration Building; the Griffith Observatory Renovation and Expansion Project; 2,845 beds of interim housing for those experiencing homelessness; 30 bridge projects; 22 new Fire Stations and facilities; 18 new libraries; 15 new Police Stations and facilities; 15 new swimming pools; 200 park projects; 46 Proposition 0 projects; seven new animal services centers; seven new Los Angeles Zoo exhibits; renovation of the Unesco World Heritage historic Hollyhock House; 492 projects improving the processes of the four water reclamation plants within the City; 814 miles of sewer repairs; 125 miles of sidewalk repairs under the Sidewalk Repair Program; Transportation's Bus Maintenance Facility; the Wilshire Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit; and the Santa Monica Boulevard Transit Parkway," among many other initiatives. Moore also served as interim Executive Director of the Harbor in 2013 and 2014.

Ted Allen has served the City for nearly 29 years. He started his career with the Public Works/Engineering in 1993 as a Civil Engineering Assistant, shortly after graduating from UCLA with a degree in civil engineering. He has served the last eight years as Deputy City Engineer, when he oversaw key projects including BuildLA, the Racial Equity Action Plan, and led BOE's technology strategy department wide.

As City Engineer and Executive Director of the Bureau of Engineering, Allen will lead the Bureau's delivery of an estimated 400 projects totaling \$3.8 billion and 20,000 permits annually.

Congratulations to Gary Lee Moore on his retirement from the City of Los Angeles! Moore served as interim executive director of the Port of Los Angeles from 2013 to 2014. ●

PROJECTS

Here are a few of the notable projects led by now-Retired Gary Lee Moore:



The Sixth Street Viaduct



Griffith Observatory: City Engineer Gary Lee Moore (far left) at the rededication ceremony after the Observatory's restoration in 2006. With then-Councilman (the late) Tom LaBonge, Club Member; Dr. Ed Krupp, Observatory Director, Club Member; and Jon Kirk Mukri, Retired General Manager, Rec and Parks, Club Member.

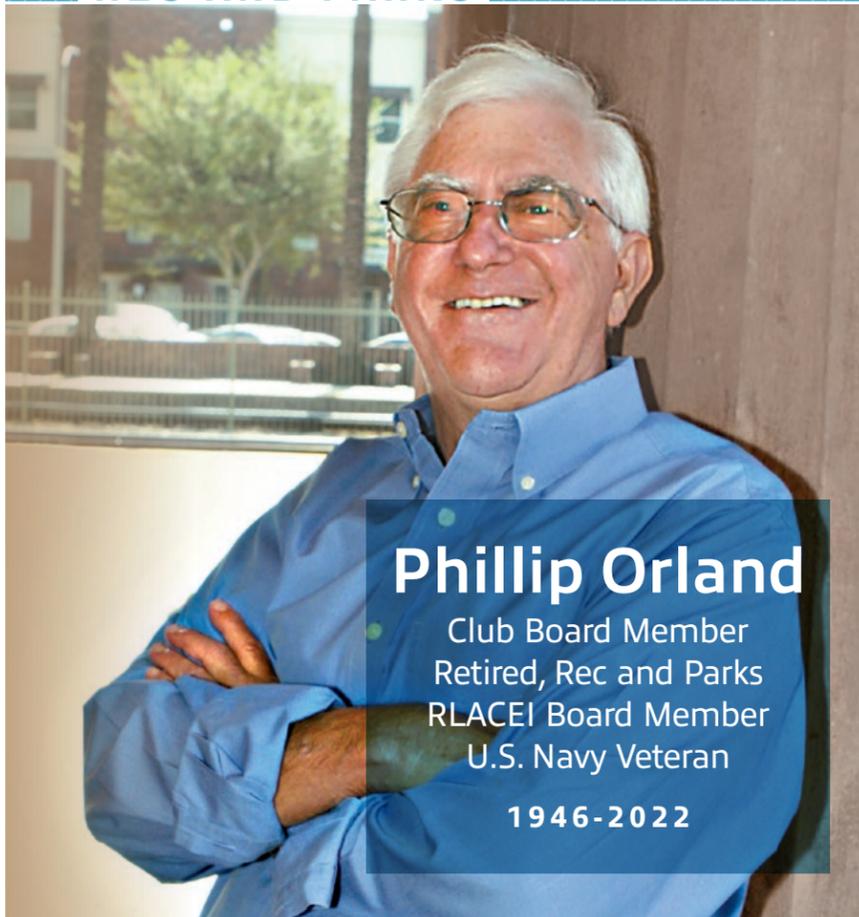


LAPD Headquarters, across the street from the Club Store.



The Hollyhock House

REC AND PARKS



Phillip Orland

Club Board Member
Retired, Rec and Parks
RLACEI Board Member
U.S. Navy Veteran

1946-2022

Goodbye, Board Member Phil

PHIL ORLAND, RETIREE WHO SERVED ON SEVERAL BOARDS, PASSES AWAY.

The Club is saddened to report the death of Phil Orland, active Club Board Member; Retired, Rec and Parks; US Navy veteran; and former RLACEI Board Member. He was 75.

Phil served the City of LA for 35 years.

The Club was told of his death Aug. 17 by his wife, Penny.

Phil managed recreation programs for all ages as Principal Recreation Supervisor for Rec and Parks. He worked for the City from 1975 to 2010.

In retirement, he joined the Club Board in 2018 and was an active Board Member at the time of his death.

Phil stayed active in retirement. He was a member of the board of directors for the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), coordinating educational seminars for Retirees on the Affordable Care Act and financial planning. He also played an important role in promoting LACERS' wellness program, designed to help retired members enjoy a healthy and active retirement.

He was a board member for the professional organization Men in Leisure Services, raising money to provide training and networking opportunities for those in recreation. The Brea resident was also a board member for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Orange County and was an ambassador to the Korean Bell of Friendship Committee.

He volunteered on wellness issues for the College of Health and Human Services at Cal State, Long Beach, and he received the 2015 Alumni Community Service Award from the school.

Phil served the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Henderson during the Vietnam conflict.

The Club is saddened by the loss of Phil Orland. We received this sad news near deadline and plan to have more about Phil in our October issue.

We offer condolences to his wife, extended family, friends and former coworkers. ●

Alive!

Look for more about Phil to come in October *Alive!*



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PART 30

Scenes From a Pandemic

Alive! continues its documentation of City employees as they take a multitude of measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are entries from the Club and the City Twitter feeds about City Employees and Club Members at work during this trying time.

Public Works/Streets LA



"We lost an icon-Vin Scully. Thank you so much for your stories, teaching us not just about baseball and the players but life as well and uniting all @Dodgers fans. Vin was really the best human ever. You will be missed and remembered forever. #itfdb"

Aug. 3

Public Works/StreetsLA



"Today our Urban Forestry crews 076/081 are grid trimming trees on the 3700 block of Grayburn Ave from Coliseum Ave to W 39th St in #cd10 StreetsLA improving the lives of all Angelenos. L.A. City Department of Public Works"

Aug. 11

Mayor's Office



"L.A. shines with optimism and hope as we celebrate the more than \$53M in state funding for youth workforce development programs in our city. This investment through the CA For All Youth Jobs Corps program means a commitment to setting our youth on a path to equity & prosperity."

Aug. 15

LIFE HAPPENS

And it can change in an instant.

A change in your life could mean it's time to update your policy. Have you had a life changing event recently?

- ❑ Welcomed a new member to the family
- ❑ Purchased a home/ sold a home
- ❑ Got married/ or divorced
- ❑ Retired/ or considered retiring
- ❑ Changed jobs/ or lost your job
- ❑ Became a grandparent/ or an empty-nester
- ❑ Been in an accident or became disabled



It's important you review your policy to ensure your family has the financial protection they need right now.



Schedule a FREE Life Check-Up

It's a FREE routine benefit to all Club Members to ensure you and your family are financially protected right now.

Even if you haven't experienced any major changes in your life, it's a good idea to schedule regular policy reviews to make sure your coverage still meets your needs and your beneficiaries are current.

- ❑ Is your beneficiary's information accurate?
- ❑ Do you have enough coverage?
- ❑ Would you like to update your beneficiary?
- ❑ Do you have Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) coverage?



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celebrates the great things you're doing at work and at home.

LADWP

Information courtesy LADWP

A Pioneer Retires

REIKO KERR, FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD LADWP'S POWER SYSTEM, RETIRES.

Reiko Kerr, then first woman to lead LADWP's Power System, retired June 29 and leaves an indelible mark as an advocate for women at the department and for leading the Power System through a transformative period. She leaves with five years of City service.

She came to the LADWP from the City of Riverside, where she worked for 16 years.

Reiko Kerr, Sr. Assistant General Manager of Power System Engineering, Planning and Technical Services, co-led the Power System with Andrew C. Kendall, Sr. Assistant General Manager of Power System Construction, Maintenance and Operations. Kerr managed all aspects of the Power System's critical engineering and planning functions including: generation, transmission, and distribution engineering, business development, renewable energy programs, and contract administration. In addition, Kerr was responsible for developing strategies to transition toward a sustainable energy future, improving public accountability, and developing the next generation workforce.

She graduated from Cal State University, San Bernardino with a bachelor's degree in administration with a concentration in accounting and earned her CPA license in 1997.

She has now joined MEAG Power in Atlanta as Sr. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Congratulations on your retirement, Reiko. ●



Reiko Kerr



The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO, John Hawkins

John's Picture Perfect Contest

Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For October, we're looking for images that contain family. Send us something awesome!

This month's contest theme: **Family**

DEADLINE: Sept. 15

Submit your photos online here:
alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect

Club Members only. Good luck!



LADWP

Perez Is First Inspector General

SERGIO PEREZ BECOMES FIRST INSPECTOR GENERAL IN DEPT. HISTORY.

On April 11, LADWP hired Sergio Perez, its first Inspector General, an oversight position created by Mayor Eric Garcetti in 2019.

“Transparency and accountability are instrumental to running a utility that Angelenos can rely on and trust,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Sergio has the breadth and depth of experience to make certain that the department is always working to uphold the highest standards of integrity and improve customer confidence.”

Perez joins the LADWP’s senior leadership team, providing continuous review and oversight of contracting matters, whistleblower complaints, ethics and other internal policies. Perez and his team are empowered to initiate investigations and oversee the Department’s Internal Audit Division, Special Investigations Unit and ethics compliance staff.

Perez comes to LADWP from Orange County’s Office of Independent Review, where he served as Executive Director. Prior to working for Orange County, Perez served as Director of Enforcement for the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, where he managed a team of attorneys and investigators who assessed allegations of misconduct relating to city employees, political appointees, and elected officials. Perez has also worked as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice.

He began in the new position May 9.

“I look forward to working with LADWP’s current leadership in its efforts to improve the agency’s practices and increase public trust and appreciation for the Department’s work. For that reason, I am excited to serve as LADWP’s first Inspector General.”

Welcome back to the City of LA, Sergio. ●



Sergio Perez



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Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From Lahaina

Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor, reports from Hawaii.

A Quick Trip to Maui, After Nine

Contrary to popular opinion that the Hawaiian Islands are only for the newlyweds or the nearly-deads, and that trying to get an icy cold adult beverage after nine o'clock at night (if you can stay awake that long) outside one of the mega tourist hotels is just about impossible, is not true.

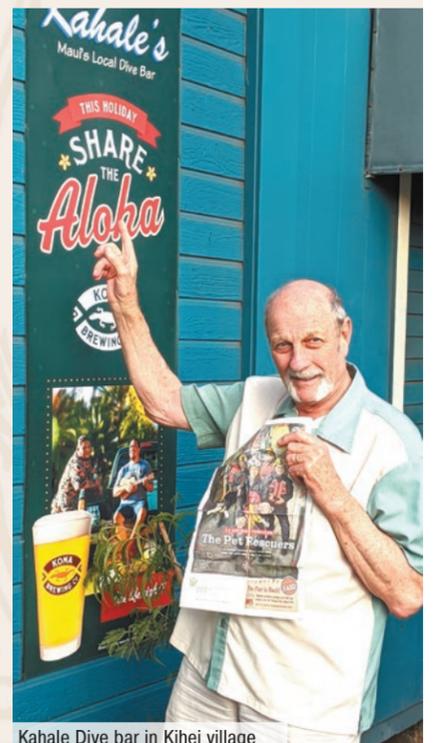
Sure, you can visit the Old Lahaina Luau, receive a lei and watch the dancing show while being served by very large tattooed gentlemen, and still be in bed by nine. Or the more frugal traveler can visit Captain Jack's and over-indulge in some good old-fashioned comfort food, washed down with insipidly sweet daiquiris. It has even been rumored you might catch a glimpse of somebody famous at Fleetwood's, a very posh second-story wood-paneled bar that will quite happily take your family inheritance in exchange for food and ice-cold beverages, and still be in bed by nine. Even those of you who are electronic wizards and like to sing could visit Down the Hatch, also on Main Street, where you need your cell phone for the words to sing karaoke, making it very COVID safe and easy to be in bed by nine.

Our favorite after-nine dive bar is called the Lahaina Sports Bar and is hidden far away from all the newlyweds; aging sexagenarians, septuagenarians and occasional octogenarians; trinket shops; and themed bars and restaurants that line Lahaina's main street. It's a reasonably priced late-hour dive bar, filled with younger locals and friendly bar staff who pour strong drinks. Depending on the night of the week they also have live music or real karaoke, but most importantly they stay open late. The Sly Mongoose is a close second – this cool low-key bar is located behind an industrial strip mall, and the outside of the bar looks nothing like the inside, which is small. But drinks are reasonable, especially for Maui, and the bar staff is nice. At the south end of town is a beach house kind of place called Sparky's Riptide, with a large beer list, pub food; it's perfect for the TV sports fan.

For those of you who rented a car and have a DD (dedicated driver), continue south to the rustic paradise



Outside Spanky's Riptide in daylight in Lahaina



Kahale Dive bar in Kihei village

of Kihei village (it's \$40 with Uber each way from Lahaina), where you will find Kahale's, the oldest dive bar on the island. It features live bands and boasts the longest happy hour on the island. We had quite a few ice-cold adult beverages here while surrounded by some heavily tattooed young and not-so-young ladies and their motorcycle-riding escorts. There is also an Irish bar close by called the Dog and Duck that was a bit touristy. We checked it out and left as they played nonstop European soccer, and the clientele was boring.

Last but not least is Dollies Pub and Café. This little gem is tucked away on

– CONTINUES PAGE 22

Send in a travel picture holding the Alive!



- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding Alive!
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.

ALIVE! FEATURE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

YOUTH STEPS UP

Photos by Summy Lam, Club staff, Youth Empowerment Dep., and Betsy Best, courtesy Council District 7

NEW DEPT. RECRUITS, MANAGES LA'S FIRST-EVER YOUTH COUNCIL TO EMPOWER YOUNG ADULTS.

Since June 2021, City Hall has been getting a lot younger, by design. That's when the City Council, led by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, voted unanimously to create the Youth Development Dept., one of the City's newest units. A major, although not only, purpose of the department is to create, manage and develop the City's first Youth Council. One year later, the Olivia E. Mitchell Youth Council was presented to the LA City Council.

This Youth Council is getting to work learning how LA City government works, how to be heard, and how to make a difference.

The mission of the Youth Development Dept. is to foster an equitable and sustainable ecosystem of positive youth development in the City through inclusive, youth-centered, and evidence-based policies and programs to ensure the wellbeing, safety and achievement of the young people of Los Angeles.

The department strives to elevate the unique experiences, abilities and voices of young Angelenos to develop and implement lasting solutions to the most pressing issues affecting their families, their communities and their futures.

Beyond the Youth Council, the department is pulling up its sleeves to centralize the City's response to the urgent needs of young people. Currently, City services for youths are spread among 26 departments. The Youth Development Dept. is set on centralizing services for efficiency and efficacy.

LA has an estimated 800,000 citizens under the age of 20, with one-quarter estimated to be homeless or living in poverty. Additionally, many youths struggle with mental health



issues, exacerbated by the pandemic. The Youth Council is focused on researching, writing and proposing programs to the Council that can help these youths in particular, and all LA youths generally.

The Council motion to create the department last year was introduced by Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez, Kevin De Leon and Nithya Raman. They wanted to create one department to focus all of its resources on young Angelenos, saying they "deserve a government structured and designed to meet their needs informed by their voice, not outdated preservation of unmeasured programs."

This past January, the Council confirmed Lisa Salazar as the department's first General Manager and Executive Director. Previously, Lisa was Director of Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity out of the Mayor's Office.

The Olivia E. Mitchell Youth Council is expected to be similar to the Youth Advisory Council established by former Mayor Tom Bradley in 1974. It's named for Olivia E. Mitchell, who oversaw Bradley's Youth Advisory Council.

Further, the new department has the responsibility to create a road map – the Youth Development Strategic Plan – to create vision and a forward drive over the next three years.

Department staff includes Lisa Salazar; Bindu Kannan, Director of Administration and Operations; Tamar Fowler, Community Engagement Specialist and Management Analyst; Erica Harris, Contract Administrator and Management Analyst; Aksel Palacios, Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs; Ramon Covarrubias, Acting Executive Officer; Karen Arevalo, Community Engagement Specialist and Management Analyst; and Justine Duarte, Administrative and Training Coordinator. The department expects to grow significantly in the next few years.

Read all about this new and much-needed department in this month's *Alive!* interview. Thanks to Aksel Palacios and Karen Arevalo for their assistance. ●

The First Meetings

FIRST MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE

On June 21, the Youth Council held its first official meeting to create and enact bylaws, report on early research, and generally get organized.



The Council at work.



Presentation Ceremony

FIRST MAJOR PRESENTATION

The Olivia E. Mitchell LA Youth Council was presented to the City Council in Council Chambers.



Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez (standing, left) introduces Olivia E. Mitchell, for whom the youth council is named.



At the presentation ceremony at City Hall was the Youth Development staff who made it happen, bottom row (from left): Karen Arevalo; Justine Duarte; Sheldon Cruz, LA Civil + Human Rights Dept.; Tamar Fowler; Bindu Kanan; Tamar Fowler; and Erika Harris.



At the Youth Council presentation ceremony, from left: Lou Calanche, part of the original Youth Development Taskforce; Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez; Olivia E. Mitchell; and Youth Development Dept. General Manager Lisa Salazar.



The Olivia E. Mitchell LA Youth Council holds their certificates on the steps of City Hall after their presentation ceremony. With them in the first row are (from left) GM Lisa Salazar; Olivia E. Mitchell; and Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez.

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

Building Today for Tomorrow

BELOW: At the meeting June 21 were Youth Development Dept. staffers (from left) Tamar Fowler; Aksel Palacios; Sheldon Cruz, LA Civil + Human Rights Dept.; Karen Arevalo; and Club CEO Robert Larios.

On June 13, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Lisa Salazar, Executive Director and General Manager, 21 years of City service, and Aksel Palacios, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, both of the City's new Youth Development Dept. The department has developed and implemented the first youth council in the City's history. Lisa and Aksel talked about this historic moment via Zoom. Both are Club Members.



Lisa Salazar



Aksel Palacios

Lisa Salazar: Hello, Robert! You're a famous person to me. I've been receiving *Alive!* for many, many years.

Q: That's wonderful! Thank you. Lisa, tell us your career path.

Lisa: My first real job was from 1985 to 1989, when I was a summer worker under the City's Community Development Dept., and then I left for 10 years to work in the nonprofit sector. I came back to the City in 2000 under a grant through the U.S. Department of Labor for the Youth Opportunity Movement. I came back to CDD and continued to work in the Youth Employment Section. Youth employment has really been the focus of my career.

The department transitioned to the Economic and Workforce Development Dept. in 2013 where I was Acting Chief running the City's Youth Source System that continues to operate. It's responsible for Hire L.A.'s youths, summer jobs, and the Youth Source Centers year-round.

Then I came over to serve Mayor Eric Garcetti in 2016 as his Workforce Policy Director for five years, until he asked me to take on this role and lead this new Department of Youth Development. Throughout, my path is a story of how the City can provide a real career pathway for a young person who's passionate about public service and gets to do something that they really love every day and get paid for it.

and implemented programs without a lot of youth input, typically because the programs and services are dictated by the grantor or the funder, whether it be the federal government or the state or even of our own creation. That's one. Two, on the heels of the Controller's report "Room to Grow," where he outlined the issue of having 26 different City departments providing services to young people utilizing upwards of \$200 million a year – without any central coordination, a common vision, a strategic plan or common metrics to measure true impact on whether all of these services are really assisting young people and their families to be successful in education and employment. The Youth Development Dept. serves as that central point, that central coordination center, that one place where young people and their parents can come to find information about what the City has to offer, whether it be a summer job or after-school job, educational assistance, or recreation. When you look at the list of 26 departments, you understand the breadth of everything that the City has to offer.

A lot of folks don't know about the great services that our City departments provide to young people. We don't make it all that easy to navigate. We're that central place where young people can come and find out. On our new Earn, Learn, Play website, young people can put in their address and find opportunities in their neighborhood that are offered by the City of Los Angeles through those different departments to either earn, learn, or play.



I mentioned the youth voice – by ordinance we will have a youth council. Aksel is lead on the Youth Council, which we recently selected and brought on board. The Olivia E. Mitchell L.A. City Youth Council is comprised of 30 young people, two representatives from each of the 15 Council districts. For 12 months, the department will work side by side with these young people to look at the various City services that we offer and provide feedback and policy recommendations to both the City Council and the mayor. Right now, the Youth Council is going through a lot of training to understand how the City functions and understand what the various departments do.

The last thing I'll mention is the big one. Before our department, there was no strategic plan or vision. Creating that is our first order of business. We launched a strategic planning process this summer, a very public-facing, high visibility series of conversations with young people – youth-serving organizations, depart-

ments, our external partners like the school district and community college district, businesses and philanthropies to set or create a three-year roadmap for what youth development looks like in the City of Los Angeles. We'll look at how we measure success with common metrics, and how we prioritize resources to meet young people where they're at and help them both graduate from high school and college and be career ready.

Q: That's quite an agenda! The new department was created in 2021?

Lisa: We are coming up on our one-year anniversary July 1.

Q: How big is the department in terms of staffing? Is it growing? And what are your plans for that?

Lisa: We're a lean and mean team of eight, including myself. I have a team of dedicated civil servants who come from a bunch of different departments like Transportation and Planning; Aksel comes from Council District 15; our other team members come from Finance. With funding from a combination of sources, including a federal grant, philanthropy and year's budget process, by this time next year we will be a team of 23. We've already nearly tripled our budget in the first year. There's a lot

One-Stop Resource

Q: In general terms, Lisa, describe what the Youth Development Dept. is all about. What are the elements?

Lisa: First and foremost it's about bringing the youth voice to City services. For far too long – and I'm guilty of it as well—we've designed

We can be the national [model] that other cities across the country look to and learn from.

— Lisa Salazar

— CONTINUES PAGE 21

Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



Congratulations!

Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.

Leticia Reed,
Retired from Public Works/Street Services, with 33 years of City service.



Ann Seales,
LACERS, Retired after 27 years of City service.

REC AND PARKS

From Mike to Jimmy

GM MIKE SHULL RETIRES; JIMMY KIM, CLUB MEMBER, IS NEW LEADER.



Mike Shull

On June 15, the City Council honored the career of longtime City employee Mike Shull, who retired as the General Manager of Rec and Parks. He had 32 years of City service.

He was responsible for more than 450 parks in LA, adding 74 parks during his tenure. He worked to increase park access, advance gender equity, decrease water use and grow recreational programs. The origin of the game-changing PlayLA, one of the biggest increases in youth sports, including adaptive, and funded by the LA28 Olympics, was under his management.

A licensed professional engineer, he began his career with Public Works/Engineering after his college graduation. At Public Works, he served as one of the City's engineers, immersing himself in the planning, development, and implementation of many City projects. Various projects centered on Rec and Parks, where his knowledge and interest expanded with the challenges the City's park system faced.

In 2005, he joined Rec and Parks team as the head of the Planning Division and worked on innovative design approaches to improve existing parks and increase access to open space. Since 2005, the Department has added 74 new parks on more than 800 acres of land while reducing potable water usage by approximately 50 percent. He was promoted to Assistant General Manager overseeing Advance Planning, Construction and Maintenance Divisions.



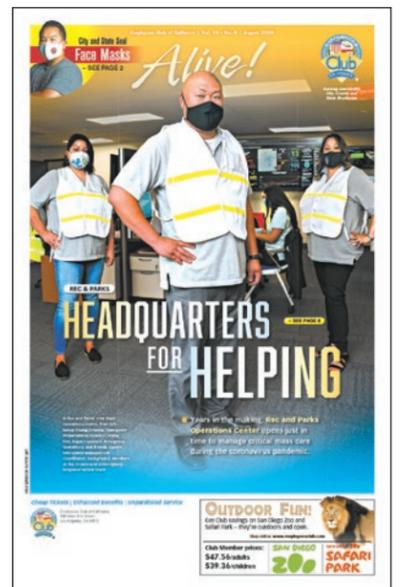
New General Manager Jimmy Kim, Club Member.

In 2013, he was appointed General Manager of Rec and Parks by Mayor Eric Garcetti. Mike implemented equity-based strategies and goals in both achieving gender parity while doubling youth participation in many recreation programs. Program data and technology play a significant role in support of those strategies for funding and resource request, which culminated into \$160 million funding agreement with 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games to create PlayLA, which subsidizes youth sports and fitness programs, removing cost barriers for participation in the City of Los Angeles lower-income areas.

Newly appointed General Manager Jimmy Kim has served the City and Rec and Parks for more than 26 years through various leadership positions. He began his career with the department as a junior lifeguard through the Summer Youth Employment program in 1995. He then went on to hold several other part-time positions before initiating full-time employment. He has held various roles within the department in the Aquatic Division, Lifeguard Academies, and served as the department's Homeless Strategy Coordinator and Resilience Officer, among other roles. Over the last year, he served as the Assistant General Manager of Recreation Services, overseeing 184 recreation centers, 51 aquatic centers and 30 senior centers.

"For the last 26 years, I have grown as part of this hard-working community of Recreation and Parks employees," Kim says. "I am both humbled and honored to be appointed by Mayor Garcetti to lead this department toward realizing our vision of a sustainable park system, equitable access, and quality programming for all Angelenos and visitors to enjoy."

Congratulations to Mike Shull for a long and productive City career, and to Club Member Jimmy Kim for his appointment to General Manager.



New General Manager Jimmy Kim, as depicted in *Alive!*'s August 2020 cover story about Rec and Parks' then-new Dept. Operations Center, which Kim oversaw.

Happy Birthday, LA!

On Sept. 4, Los Angeles turns 241 years old (we were founded Sept. 4, 1781). It's looking good for 241, thanks to all City employees who work hard every day making LA the best it can be. ■



From *Alive!*'s November 2014 issue: Rec and Parks' Payroll staff congratulates their new General Manager, Mike Shull. From left: Martina Ruiz, Marianne Vila, Lisa Banuelos, Socorro Gonzalez and Mike Shull.



At the press conference that welcomed the first people mover car to LAX.

Information and photos courtesy Airports

A Moving Moment

LAX CELEBRATES DELIVERY OF FIRST TRAIN CAR FOR THE UPCOMING PEOPLE MOVER SYSTEM.

The first of 44 train cars has arrived at LAX.

On Aug. 2, the City debuted a critical component of the future of LAX with the unveiling of the first Automated People Mover (APM) train car. LAX will be the first U.S. airport to feature the INNOVIA 300 APM vehicles, which showcase the latest technology to help revolutionize how travelers get to and from the fifth-busiest airport in the world.



Attendees at the ceremony included Mayor Eric Garcetti, Rep. Maxine Waters, Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) President Beatrice Hsu, Airports Chief Executive Officer Justin Erbacci, and Roya Noorbakhsh, Chief Technical Officer of LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS), developer of the APM system.

The APM system will reduce vehicle congestion and traffic in and around LAX when it opens, while providing the long-awaited connection to regional transportation, including Metro light rail.

The centerpiece of LAX's Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP), the APM is a 2.25-mile electric train system that will transport travelers in and out of the CTA. The APM will feature six stations: three inside the CTA, which connect to the terminals via elevated pedestrian walkways, and three stations outside the CTA, which will connect to new off-site parking facilities, including LAX Economy Parking, regional light rail transportation and a Consolidated Rent-A-Car (ConRAC) facility. The APM project is a critical investment into the infrastructure of Los Angeles as the city prepares to welcome the world to the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The driverless train system that will be utilized at LAX was specifically designed for flexible operation in both urban and airport transportation. During peak hours (9 a.m. to 11 p.m.), the trains will arrive at stations every two minutes, with an end-to-end run time of 10 minutes. The trains feature wide doors for easy access with luggage, large windows for viewing, plenty of handholds and 12 seats.

The debut of the train car took place at what will serve as the operational hub for the APM system – the Maintenance and Storage Facility – and was emceed by Mayor Eric Garcetti. Also joining in the celebration were Rep. Maxine Waters, whose 43rd Congressional District includes LAX; Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) President Beatrice Hsu; Airports Chief Executive Officer Justin Erbacci; and Roya Noorbakhsh, the Chief Technical Officer of LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS), developer of the APM system.

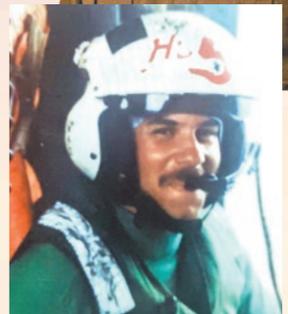
The Club can't wait to get our first ride on the LAX automated people mover in the next few years! ●

Salute to Veterans

Honor the Veteran in your life – family, friend or yourself – for Veterans Day!

In our November issue, we plan to post your photos and messages of the person in your life who has served our country (in uniform, if possible), to honor them for their service.

We'll publish in print and online for Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.



DEADLINES:

In print: Monday, Oct. 17

Online: Friday, Nov. 4

Send in your images and messages at:
aliveemployeesclub.com/veterans/

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- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

Retirements

View retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202209

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City in June 2022. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abad, Dante B.	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	LADWP	N/D	Gomez, Georgina G.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Public Works	32	Ota, Donna Lynn	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	21
Acosta, Carole M.	Criminalist	LAPD	16	Guardado, Maria D.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Owairu, Sunday O.	Chief Env. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	37
Adeoye, Darla E.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Guillen, John M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Palma, Reynaldo V.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Alvarenga, Luis A.	Env. Chem. Lab	LADWP	N/D	Hamilton, Diane C.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Planning	23	Patel, Jashbhai S.	Sr. Env. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	34
Anderson, Brian K.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	13	Hamilton, John C.	Environmental Eng.	Public Works	32	Penado, Oscar D.	Survey Party Chief	Public Works	19
Aponte, Karen J.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	40	Hansen, Timothy J.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Perez, Cecilio	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Bassett, Steven L.	Supply Chain Services	LADWP	N/D	Hardy Sr., Gary E.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Poole, Barry J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Belis, Arthur D.	Carpenter	Gen. Services	16	Haynes, Bradley E.	Con/Maint Supervisor	Public Works	32	Price, Tanya K.	Sr. Project Coordinator	Econ./Wrkfrc Dev.	1
Binder, Crista E.	Chief Dep. Controller	Controller	32	Heredia, Maria L.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Ramey, Paul A.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Braxton, Denise	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Herrera, Delia C.	Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Ramirez, Gerardo S.	Refuse Collection Super.	Public Works	34
Bullum, Steven L.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D	Himes, Carma R.	Sr. Security Officer	Airports	25	Richards, Randall J.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Caldwell, Rodney D.	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D	Huerta, Juan J.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Janeiro F.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Campbell, Yvette Anne M.	Police Psychologist	LAPD	20	Imperial, Sandra D.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Rodriguez, Tina Lee	Chief Pers. Analyst	Personnel	31
Chang, Heberto L.	Officer	Harbor	5	Jackson, Rickie G.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Public Works	14	Rowe, Irene	Adv. Practice Provider	Personnel	20
Char, Steven W.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Johnson, Clyde Matthew	Air Conditioning Mech.	Gen. Services	15	Rucker, Tracy M.	Human Resources	LADWP	N/D
Conner, Shane Y.	Financial Services	LADWP	N/D	Johnson, Kathleen S.	Administrative Clerk	Library	14	Shillings, Rena	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Corpuz, Jeffrey S.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	24	Jonny, Hadi S.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D	Shoji, Brian K.	Parking Meter Tech.	Transportation	14
Correales, Judith	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Kaiserski, Michael P.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Smith, Rickey Carl	Gardener/Caretaker	Rec and Parks	22
Crooks, Richard	Motor Sweeper Op.	Public Works	30	Kennedy, Gabriela	Labor Relations	LADWP	N/D	Solomon-Garbutt, Geraldine	Water Executive	LADWP	N/D
Dam, Gai C.	Pr. Construction Insp.	Public Works	31	Kerr, Reiko A.	Power Exec. Office	LADWP	N/D	Starks, Steven T.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Davis, Donna D.	Info Tech	LADWP	N/D	Kiatkulpiboone, Montri	Housing Inspector	Housing	17	Stephens, Robert W.	Energy Control	LADWP	N/D
De La Cruz, Sonia	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Kusik, Suzanne A.	Structural Eng. Ass.	Bldg. & Safety	10	Sullano, Magno Marco	Sr. Env. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	30
Demarse, Donald J.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Lampton, Kenneth J.	Refuse Collection Super.	Public Works	39	Terry, Felicia Y.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Dixon, Carmen	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4	Legarda, Susan M.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	35	Usher, Jane E.	City Attorney	City Atty/LACERS	7
Dolan, Brian E.	Tax Auditor	Finance	17	Leigh, Marie E.	Generation Office	LADWP	N/D	Van Vuren, Scott A.	Bulk Power	LADWP	N/D
Dorsey, Vernon A.	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	26	Liambi, Jean Willy M.	Security Officer	Airports	25	Vargas, David D.	Street Services Super.	Public Works	20
Du Boise, La Wanda A.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Airports	12	Lowery Jr., Richard E.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Villa, Norberto	Custodian	Airports	17
Duran, Michael F.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	32	Lucas, Miranda S.	Comm. Info. Rep.	Airports	33	Villasenor, Rodolfo	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D
Edwards, Evelyn Arellano	Secretary	LAPD	19	Luong, Bieu T.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Vujcich, Danilo	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Escamilla, Frances E.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Luskleet, Bette Marie	Administrative Clerk	LAPD	11	Watanabe, Kiyoshi	Accounting Clerk	Airports	37
Estevez, Manuel	Irrigation Specialist	Rec and Parks	16	Manuel, Roland R.	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D	Williams, Deron E.	Council Aide	Council	30
Evangelista, Marcial G.	Vet Tech	Animal Services	33	Mattillo, Jack A.	Building Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	20	Williams, Rhonda Y.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	33
Fernandez, Victor V.	Internal Audit	LADWP	N/D	McCullough, Gordon	Sr. Traffic Supervisor	Transportation	16	Wong, Chuck W.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Flores, Marco	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Miller, Randi Faye	Sr. Police Service Rep.	LAPD	31	Wong, Jimmy	Forensic Print Specialist	LAPD	36
Flores, Vivian M.	Water Executive	LADWP	N/D	Morrison, Michael A.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Yousef, Victor A.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D
Foreman, Joseph W.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Munoz III, Miguel	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	33	Zaragoza, Theresa Gloria	Detention Officer	LAPD	20
Franklin, Jacqueline	Police Service Rep	LAPD	32	Newton, Gary S.	Municipal Police Capt.	LAPD	28	Zepeda Jr., Daniel	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Garcia, Enrique	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Nikaido, Steven H.	Sr. Environmental Eng.	Public Works	36				
Gobuty, Bob	Building Mech Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	21	Orozco, Jose L.	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	33				

N/D = not disclosed

In Memoriam

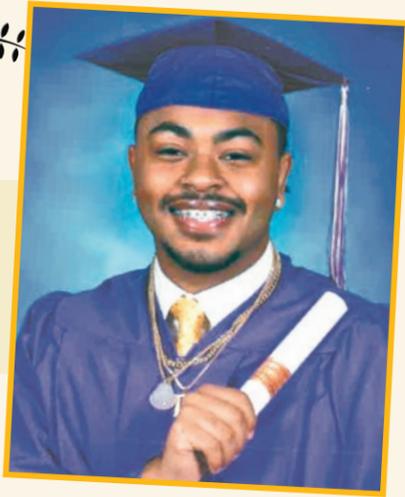
Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ACTIVE					
Ferido, Neil	Airports	2	DeLeon, Mary C.	Transportation	12
Gallagher, Donald P.	Bldg. & Safety	9	Downs, Joyce J.	LADWP	15
Matias II, Amor F.	Livability Services	1	Elam, Christopher G.	LADWP	5
White, Theodore R.	Rec and Parks	2	Frausto, Manuel A.	Rec and Parks	18
RETIRED					
Aarabifard, Mohammad N.	Public Works	28	Fryer, Dennis L.	LADWP	31
Allen, Annie R.	LADWP	15	Garza, Americo	N/D	N/D
Anderson, Arthur J.	N/D	N/D	Gladbach, Edward G.	LADWP	34
Anderson, Bernard	Bldg. & Safety	33	Godoy, Mary	N/D	N/D
Andujo, Victor M.	LADWP	35	Golemb, Sherrill	N/D	N/D
Audesse, Raymond M.	LADWP	13	Hidalgo, Raul M.	N/D	N/D
Bales, Steven E.	LADWP	28	Hollenbeck, Howard	LADWP	40
Bautista, Ramon G.	N/D	N/D	Hotchkin, Evangeline P.	LADWP	33
Bonner, Maxine L.	LADWP	37	Jenkins, Henry L.	N/D	N/D
Bowen, Jean	Controller's Office	14	Judd, Terry D.	LADWP	27
Boykin, Frank L.	LADWP	20	Kilbane, Brian J.	Airports	33
Breuer, Norman G.	LADWP	35	Kingwill, James A.	LADWP	31
Briggs, Lynn R.	N/D	N/D	La Hive, Mardi R.	Housing	24
Bukowski, Joseph R.	LADWP	32	Mason, Richard L.	City Attorney	11
Coudriet Portnof, Carol A.	LAPD	10	McLawyer, Samuel	N/D	N/D
Delarmente, Adelaida A.	Gen. Services	15	Meyer, William E.	LADWP	24
			Miller, Roosevelt	N/D	N/D
			Munoz, Manuel J.	Public Works	20
			Munoz, Steven C.	Public Works	36
			Nabong, Emeline C.	Fire/Police Pens.	13
			Nguyen, Can N.	LADWP	23
			Oda, Jeun	LADWP	28
			Paez, Alfred H.	LADWP	36
			Pena, Roberto	LADWP	38
			Pulido, Steve G.	Rec and Parks	35
			Purdy, Florence E.	N/D	N/D
			Salo, Richard O.	N/D	N/D
			Sandt, Steven A.	LADWP	25
			Shukla, Mahesh	N/D	N/D
			Simmons, Robert E.	N/D	N/D
			Smith, Frederick L.	LADWP	20
			Sparks, Jack H.	LADWP	35
			Stiles, Dan C.	Bldg. & Safety	28
			Stinson, Dwayne A.	N/D	N/D
			Tyler, Winston F.	N/D	N/D
			Van Rossen, Francis T.	LADWP	19
			Vernon, William	N/D	N/D
			Wallace, Andrew M.	Public Works	19
			Warsaw, Sylvester	N/D	N/D
			Weaver, Aida D.	LADWP	18
			Weaver, Ervin	Airports	16

N/D = not disclosed

Class of 2022 Graduations

Lawrence Drake graduated from Animo City of Champions Charter High School in Inglewood. He plans to pursue a degree in communications and film. He is the son of **Andrea Netterville, LAPD.**



Weddings



Congratulations Olivia and Fady!

On May 6, 2022, Olivia Jamgotchian and Fady Jeanbart were married in beautiful Sayulita, Mexico.

Olivia is the daughter of **David and Marie Jamgotchian**, the designers of *Alive!*.

HELP OTHERS IN 2022

CLUB ANGELS CORNER

You can help your fellow municipal employees through Club-related charity.



The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to contribute to the Club Angels fund. Donate to Club Angels to give to a variety of Club-related causes. Mail your check, made payable to **Club Angels**, to:

Club Angels
311 S Spring St, Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Please be generous.

For more on Club Angels: <https://clubangels.org/>

Donations go to municipal employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional. Club Angels is a separate charity begun by Club staff.



Northeast Area: "National Night Out was great! Northeast Area had a blast engaging with community members. They shared laughs, had raspados, played games and much more. Thank you @losangelespoliceclub for hosting NNO. Thank you everyone that made it out."

Photos courtesy LAPD

A Night Out to Build Community

POLICE DEPT. CITYWIDE TOOK PART IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.

On Aug. 2, several divisions of the LAPD took part in National Night Out, a nationwide event that brings community and law enforcement together for building the neighborhood, sharing crime prevention tips, and having some family fun.

Many LAPD areas and divisions took part. Here are some images from the evening. ●



LAPD 911 Communications:

"Great turnout for National Night Out at VDCD. Thank you to Topanga Division, Recruitment and Employment Division, and Councilman John Lee for the amazing teamwork. We had 35 people take the LAPD entrance exam, and 30 people signed up for information for police dispatcher."

West Valley Area:

"Some pics from our this year's National Night Out. Thank you to everyone that was able to come out and enjoy some fun activities with the family. Until next year!"



South Traffic:

"This past week LAPD had their yearly National Night Out. It was great seeing all the community members."



Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez/LAPD Mounted Unit:

"I was proud to support this year's National Night Out in my district. Last night, we participated in events at San Fernando Gardens in partnership with the San Fernando Gardens Resident Advisory Council and HACLA, and at our annual Brand Park event in partnership with Mission Division. This was a great opportunity to meet the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department who work in our communities."



Central/CTD Cadets:

"National Night Out 2022! Great turnout. Great time! Thanks to all who came out to join us tonight."



Olympic Area:

"LAPD Olympic joined the National Night Out fun too with a big community block party. Left to right: Neighborhood Prosecutor Daniel, Officer Hout of the Community Outreach and Development division and the always awesome LAPD Cadets."



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

Ruth B. Perry, President
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

2022 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Beverly Anderson, Director	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, Treasurer	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, Audit Chair	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director	Ext. 716
Dennis Harding, Entertainment Director	Ext. 706
Nancy Hammoudian, RLACEI Director	Ext. 705
Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, Secretary	Ext. 719
Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director	Ext. 710
Ruth B. Perry, Membership Director	Ext. 717
Elizabeth Torres, Director	Ext. 703

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director
Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org or
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

RETIREE EVENTS

Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Friendship Auditorium*
3201 Riverside Dr.

Reservation Line:
RLACEI events (800) 678-4145, ext. 701

Letter Supporting Full Reimbursement

RLACEI Members: Please review the following correspondence from the President of the RLACEI Board and its Directors to the LACERS Benefits Administration Committee supporting full reimbursements of Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA). This action is your RLACEI Board protecting your benefits!

August 6, 2022

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Benefits Administration Committee

ATTN: Michael R. Wilkinson, Chair
202 West First Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4401

RE: The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) Support of Full Reimbursements of Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA)

Dear Commissioner Wilkinson:

On behalf of our nearly 6,000 members, the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) strongly supports the staff recommendation to authorize a budgetary expenditure and direct the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System's (LACERS) plan actuary, the Segal Company, to conduct an actuarial cost study to explore the Medicare Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) and the Medicare Part B (Medical) reimbursements. The bases of our support are as follows:

Medicare Plans Save LACERS Money and the Savings Are Growing: In 2021, the average monthly health subsidy for an under 65-year-old LACERS retiree was \$1,313, while the average health subsidy for a 65+ year-old LACERS retiree was \$502 (source: LACERS data). This difference in subsidy of \$811 per month is much greater than it was in 2006 (the first date of the LACERS data). In 2006, the difference in the subsidy was just \$322 per month.

The Subsidy Money LACERS Saves Frequently Is at the Expense of Its Retirees:

- **Example #1:** For an under-65 retiree (who is not in Medicare), the monthly medical premium for Kaiser is \$900.24. If the retiree had worked for 12 or more years for the City of Los Angeles (City), they would not have to pay any monthly amount toward the premium. The retiree also would not have to pay any IRMAAs, as those do not kick in until age 65. The total monthly value of this retiree's benefit paid by LACERS is \$900.24.
- **Example #2:** For a retiree who is 65+ and has full Medicare coverage, the monthly medical premium is just \$262.47. Despite this lower monthly amount, this retiree's monthly premium is not fully covered unless they worked for at least 15 years for the City. This retiree may receive an IRMAA reimbursement of up to \$170.10 per month, for a total monthly benefit of \$432.57, compared with the \$900.24 monthly benefit in the prior example. However, the retiree in this situation may have an additional IRMAA payment of up to \$486.10 per month out-of-pocket!

Summary:

Under example #1, a retiree without Medicare and with at least 12 years of

service pays zero premium cost and zero IRMAA cost. Under example #2, a retiree with full Medicare coverage and 12 years of service pays a premium of \$67.24 plus unreimbursed IRMAAs of up to \$486.10 per month, for a total out-of-pocket cost of \$553.34, while LACERS saves \$637.77 per month on their premium!

The differences in the outcomes for these retirees are not equitable!

LACERS Retirees with Medicare Have Already Paid for This Benefit:

The only way a LACERS retiree can have full Medicare coverage is to have paid Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes during their City career or during some other employment. The fact that they pay the FICA tax during their employment, but still receive a less desirable and more costly result than the retiree who does not have full Medicare coverage (as shown in the prior examples) makes the only partial reimbursement of IRMAAs even more inequitable!

In addition to having paid FICA taxes, many of the more recent retirees also paid an additional 4% of their City salaries toward their retiree healthcare benefit. Despite making this increased payment, their healthcare benefits were not improved. This was another cost shift to the retirees.

The City's Department of Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan Reimburses IRMAAs:

The City's Department of Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan, the most similar City retirement plan to LACERS, reimburses IRMAAs if there is excess subsidy. Having LACERS reimburse IRMAAs up to the subsidy amounts would cure this glaring difference in the way the two City pension systems administer their retiree medical benefits.

Older, More Vulnerable LACERS Retirees May Fare Especially Badly with IRMAAs:

Even if a retiree's allowance does not subject them to IRMAA payments, events later in their life may trigger IRMAA payments. Required mandatory distributions from the City's deferred compensation plan could push a retiree over the IRMAA limit. This is despite the fact that these are the retiree's own savings and investment returns (no City contributions), and the distributions are federally required based on age.

Another situation that can trigger unexpected IRMAAs for a retiree is the sale of a home. If a retiree decides to sell their home for any reason – including moving into a care facility – this can trigger IRMAA payments. In this situation, the older retiree may not have the financial savvy to file the proper paperwork with the federal government to reduce the IRMAA payments in the following year when their income reverts to the lower amount.

Confusion over IRMAA payments may jeopardize the medical insurance coverage for these retirees.

IRMAA Costs Are Projected to Continue to Increase:

In 2007, the maxi-

mum IRMAA payment was \$161.40. In 2022, the maximum IRMAA payment is \$586.20. By 2028, the monthly maximum IRMAA payment is expected to approach \$900.00 (source: 2022 Annual Report of the Boards of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds). Such high increases – up by more than three times between 2007 and 2022 continue to shift more of the medical expense burden to retirees.

LACERS Retiree Healthcare Plan is Very Well Funded:

As of June 30, 2021 (the most recent data available), LACERS retiree health benefits were 107% funded! This statistic is not only great in absolute terms, but it makes LACERS one of the best funded retiree healthcare plans in the country!

Summary:

Medicare plans save LACERS money, and the savings are growing. The subsidy money LACERS saves frequently is at the expense of its retirees, as fully Medicare eligible retirees unfairly incur more of the cost. LACERS retirees with Medicare have already paid for this benefit through FICA deductions from their paychecks. The City's Department of Water and Power Employees' Retirement Plan Reimburses IRMAAs.

Older, more vulnerable LACERS retirees may fare especially badly with IRMAAs as they may be forced to take mandatory distributions from their deferred compensation accounts or have to sell their homes, thus spiking their incomes on a temporary basis. Paying for IRMAAs is only going to get more difficult for retirees as IRMAA costs are projected to continue to increase, thus shifting more of the medical expense burden to retirees.

On behalf of our members, the RLACEI Board of Directors, would greatly appreciate your consideration of the information in this letter and requests that the Benefits Committee recommend that the LACERS Board of Administration direct the Segal Company to conduct an actuarial cost study to explore the potential for full Medicare Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) reimbursement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Ruth B. Perry

President
Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
(800) 678-4145 Ext. 717

2022 RLACEI Board of Directors:

Beverly Anderson, Lucy Artinian, Mark Blunk, Beverly Clark, Nancy Hammoudian, Dennis Harding, Vicki Keoseian, Tom Moutes, Elizabeth Torres

cc: Neil Guglielmo, General Manager
Annie Chao, Commissioner
RLACEI Facebook Page

Refer a Friend, Get a \$25 Target Gift Card

Let your fellow City Retiree friends know about the great benefits of being an RLACEI member. Encourage them to call (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, or visit the Website at RLACEI.org, to join today! 100 gift cards are available to be won. Once they join RLACEI and mention you, the gift card is yours!

What are you waiting for? Refer a friend today!



SEE PAGE 18

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Receives Full Payment of City Contribution



Michael R. Wilkinson

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner
 Email: MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com

The City of Los Angeles just made a payment of the full employer's contribution to the LACERS plan on time, and let me say it again, in full.

The payment of nearly \$786 million goes mostly to our investments, but also represents the employer share of the Family Death Benefit Plan, the Limited Term Retirement Plan, and the Excess Benefits Plan. Some of this money also goes towards the health, vision and dental plans.

Why is this a big deal? It is important because it is a vital part of how we keep LACERS strong. Virtually all the pension plans that are in dire straits around the country are in part because politicians choose to skip pension contri-

butions when finances were pinched and spent the money elsewhere. Year after year those plans became weaker because the money needed to fund their investments was withheld.

As we have discussed before, our pension plan is funded by only three sources: employee contributions while we are working, investment returns, and City (employer) contributions. The employee contributions are fixed and set by our Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and the investment returns are what the plan earns.

Each year the actuary determines what amount the City must pay after considering all the factors such as how long Retirees are living, when people are retiring and how well the investments are doing. If the investment returns are

stronger and total costs of running the plan are less than anticipated, the City's contribution goes down. However, if investment returns are weaker and the plan costs are greater than anticipated, the City's contribution goes up.

This constant adjustment of the required contribution from the City means that enough money will be available to fund the investment's need to run the plan.

While the math may be complicated (as a lawyer, I must confess that there were no math questions on the bar exam!), the overall concept is very simple. In the end, the City must pay the amount LACERS determines is needed to keep the pension plan strong. ■

RLACEI 2022 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
 11:30 A.M.— 2:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM
3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!

RSVP to (800) 678-4145 Ext 701
 Please RSVP no later than December 7, 2022.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.
 No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations and social distancing requirements. To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 717.

RLACEI 2022 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Number of Attendees _____ (Limit 2)

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086
 Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.

Follow RLACEI on Facebook



Connect to RLACEI on Facebook, and you'll be eligible to win a \$5 gift card for See's Candies or Starbucks or one RLACEI reusable cloth bag. Prizes will go to the first 150 to like the RLACEI Facebook page.

HOW TO ENTER

CURRENT RLACEI MEMBERS:
 Follow us on Facebook

OTHER CITY RETIREES:
 Join RLACEI and like us on Facebook



August Winners

New RLACEI Members:
 Marianne Angeles
 Michael Avila
 Daniel Braviroff
 Ralph Esparza
 Juanita Medina
 Alan Wendell

Referral Winner:
 Roberta Martinez
 Thanks for the referral!

Congratulations for joining RLACEI and our Facebook page! Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com/RLACEI, and search for "RLACEI"

Become an RLACEI Member

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,500 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 x717, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!



RETIREES UPDATE

Are LACERS Investments Bad for Its Members? PT. 1



Tom Moutes

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director
 Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org

Would you want to see a doctor who works for a firm that only cares about profits? How about being placed in a nursing home that is less concerned about your care than its costs? How would you like to be competing not only with other home buyers, but also with a big-money firm that can pay all cash for that dream house you have identified? These and other undesirable scenarios are playing out across our country as deep-pocketed private equity firms change the way we live.

LACERS invests in private equity firms to help earn the seven percent assumed investment return it needs to keep our retirement benefits well-funded. Generally, the funds private equity firms offer are divided into venture capital funds and buyout funds. Venture capital funds often invest in start-up tech companies and hope to get in on the ground floor of the next great tech innovations. Buyout funds buy

existing businesses to try to squeeze more efficiencies and profits from them, often by integrating these businesses with other ones and/or just implementing cost-cutting strategies.

LACERS, along with most other public pension systems, invests in both venture capital funds and buyout funds. Investing in these funds has become even more popular in recent years as it has become more difficult for public pension systems to consistently meet or beat their assumed investment returns.

When a public pension system, such as LACERS, invests in a private equity fund, they are basically investing in a concept put forth by a private equity firm. Most of the time, the specific investments are not known until months or years later. The investors turn over almost all of the investment control for such funds to the private equity firms.

Said differently, when LACERS invests in a buyout firm, it does not necessarily know if that firm will make life worse for the everyday lives of its members. Not only do some

private equity firms buy up healthcare systems, nursing homes, and peoples' houses, they also tend to be anti-union and have been known to raid the retirement funds of some of the companies they purchase. That's right, some of the investment returns LACERS and other public pension funds receive is based on the poor salaries and working conditions and the raided retirement funds of the private businesses LACERS invests in! Of course, private equity firms would tell you they are saving companies that might otherwise go out of business.

Almost weekly there are articles regarding how private equity firms are making the lives of LACERS members and other Americans worse. For example, recently there were articles about private equity firms buying up mobile home parks and then jacking up the rents. You might want to start keeping your eyes open for articles like that, as well as for Part 2 of this article, which will run next month. ■

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



RLACEI

For Retired Club Members



By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director
Photos by Summy Lam, Club VP of Marketing

Hot Fun in the Summer Time

RLACEI hosts its annual summer picnic.

The RLACEI Retirees Association held its annual summer picnic Aug. 11 at Grace E. Simons Lodge on Elysian Park Drive.

Once again friends gathered to have a little fun and relax with fellow Retirees and win prizes! Although the temperature at 102 degrees was warmer than usual, 132 members and friends came together. This was one of the largest turnouts in a very long time.

Attendees enjoyed a picnic meal of burgers, potato salad, a fruit salad and drinks. As at every event, prizes were raffled and awarded to RLACEI members. Gift cards and prizes were provided by RLACEI and the Club.

The Club representatives Vice President of Marketing Summy Lam, Insurance Counselor Cheryl Martin and Customer Service Representative Marcus Martin once again provided the photography, insurance information and Retiree apparel. LACERS Commissioner Michael Wilkinson provided attendees with a LACERS update. LACERS was also represented by Robert King, Investment Officer II, and LACERS Well Program Manager Stephanie Smith.

The RLACEI Board is happy to see Retirees enjoying themselves in retirement and "living their best life." The Board looks forward to getting together again for more fun and prizes at the holiday party scheduled for December 15 at Friendship Auditorium.



From left: Lorenzo Porter, Public Works/Street Maintenance, 35 years of City service, and his wife, Earlene Jones; Bonnie and Joe Zamora, Public Works, 25 years; John Vargas, Rec and Parks, 15 years; and Anthony Vann, Harbor, 18 years.



From left: Simone McDade, LAPD, 34 years of City service; Gloria Hinojosa, LAFD, 31 years; Sandra and Dan Praviroff, General Services, 30 years; and Dennis Clyde, LAFD, 23 years, with his wife, Connie.



Anthony Vann, Harbor, 18 years of City service.



From left: Tarik Shah, Library, 12 years of City service; Arlene Stephens, Cultural Affairs, 19 years; Juanita Medina, LAPD, 28 years; and Silvestre Avenido Jr., ITA, 29 years, with his wife, Connie Avenido.



Ed Pina, General Services, 35 years of City service, won an attendance prize of \$20. He's shown with Beverly Anderson, RLACEI Board Member



Myrna Tecson, Airports, 30 years of City service, won an attendance prize of \$20. He's shown with Beverly Anderson, RLACEI Board Member.



Dan Praviroff, General Services, 30 years of City service.



Michael Cooper won an attendance prize – a \$25 Shell gas gift card.



From left: Linda Brown, Airports, 32 years of City service; with Beverly Anderson, RLACEI Board Member.



From left: Ofelia Muiakami and Hank Muiakami, LAFD, 33 years of City service; Ed Pina, General Services, 35 years; Terry Pina, General Services, 16 years; Yolanda Navarro, Finance, 30 years; and Angie Navarro, General Services, 31 years.



From left: Nancy Castles, Airports, 21 years of City service, with her husband, Ron; Linda Brown, Airports, 32 years; and Myrna Tecson, Airports, 30 years.

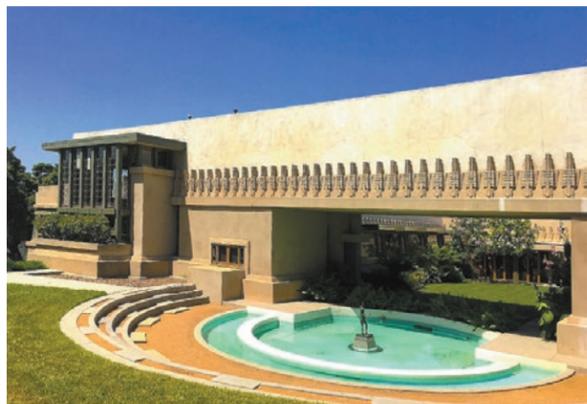


From left: Mariane Angeles, Housing, 33 years of City service; and Roberta Martinez, Public Works, 27 years.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS/CITY COUNCIL

Hello Hollyhock

FAMED WRIGHT HOUSE REOPENS AFTER FURTHER RESTORATION.



Hollyhock House

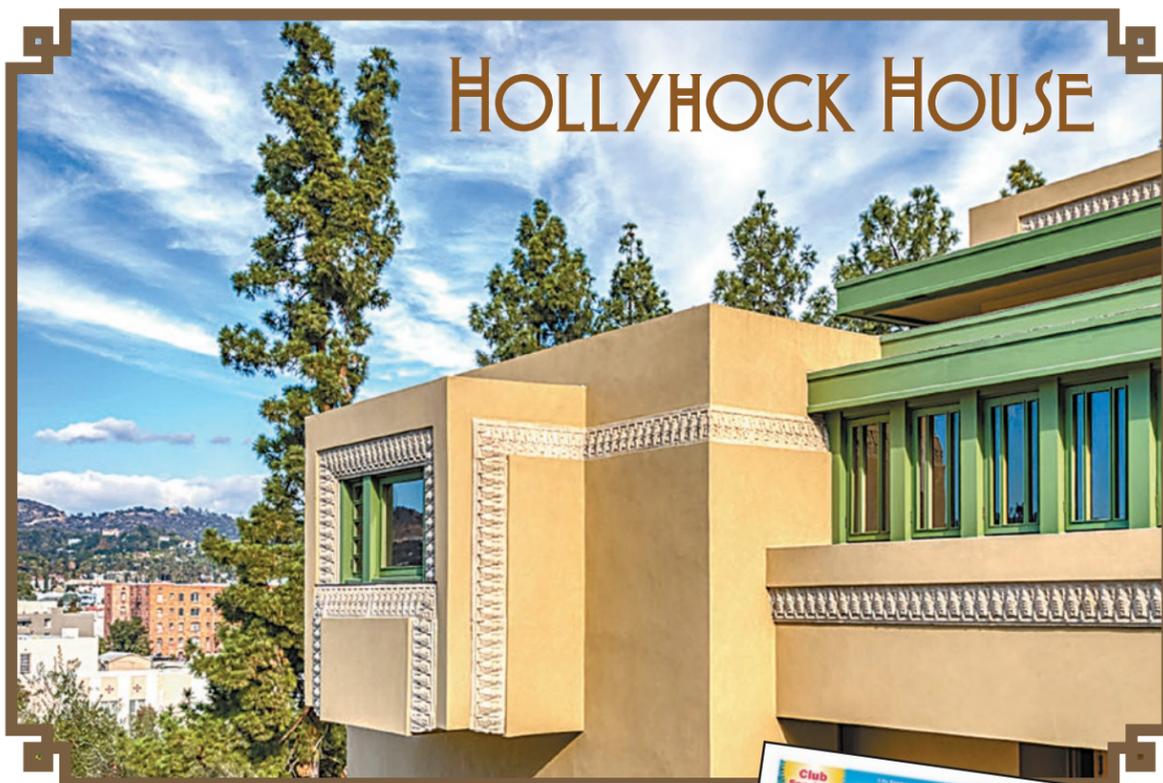
Cultural Affairs and Councilman Mitch O’Farrell teamed up to reopen the City’s famed Hollyhock House, a masterpiece designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The house reopened Aug. 18 after being closed to the public during the pandemic. Located in East Hollywood, Hollyhock House is the first and only United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage site in Los Angeles. The reopening aligns with the site’s centennial anniversary.

“After a two-year closure due to the pandemic, this morning I was proud to join the Cultural Affairs and community members to welcome Angelenos back to this architectural masterpiece – Los Angeles’ first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site,” O’Farrell Tweeted Aug. 19.

“Cultural Affairs is thrilled to reopen our City’s one and only UNESCO World Heritage site,” said DCA Interim General Manager Daniel Tarica. “Visitors will once again be able to appreciate this historic site in-person, including expanded access through our self-guided tour program. Through the pandemic closure, staff have undertaken critical restoration projects and enhanced interpretation of the site. Visitors will now see these significant transformations at Hollyhock House and Residence A.”

Throughout the pandemic closure, the City made significant restorations at Hollyhock House and Residence A, a Wright-designed guest house in Barnsdall Park. Transformative exterior and structural restoration work on Residence A was completed in December 2021, and restoration of the interior and landscape are now



underway.

“A harbinger of California modernism, Hollyhock House continues to inspire artists, architects and the public at large,” Hollyhock House curator Abbey Chamberlain Brach said. “We’re eager to welcome visitors back inside Hollyhock House to experience firsthand Wright’s dramatic expression of California, which feels as modern now as it did upon its completion 100 years ago.”

Built between 1919 and 1921, Hollyhock House was Wright’s first Los Angeles commission and an ode to California’s freedom and natural beauty. Designed for oil heiress Aline Barnsdall, she donated the house and property to the City in 1927 as the centerpiece of a 36-acre arts complex.

Hollyhock House was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2019 along with seven other Wright sites throughout the United States. ●

For self-guided tour reservations, go to: hollyhockhouse.org



Alive! covered the initial restoration of the Hollyhock House by Public Works/Project Restore in May 2012.



The Club...

is led by boards of committed current and Retired City employees.

LIBRARY



Library General Manager John Szabo, Club Member, models one of the custom-made library skateboards. No, he’s not one of the young readers who won one.

Rad to the Max

DEPT. AWARDS TOP YOUNG READERS WITH CUSTOM SKATEBOARDS.

The LA Public Library offered custom-made and library-branded skateboards as best prizes for top young readers in its annual Summer Reading Challenge. The skateboards were made available thanks to Library staff and the Library Foundation. ●

LIBRARY

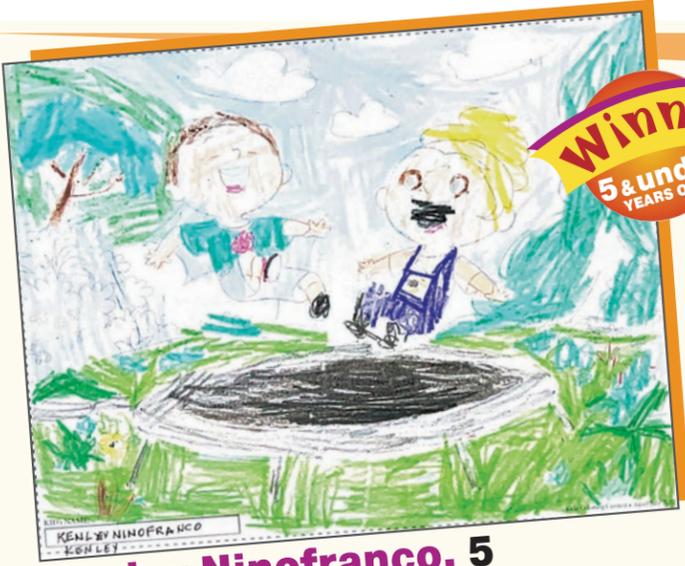


Alma Reaves Woods is surrounded by Library staff at the Watts library branch that is named for her.

Happy Birthday, Alma!

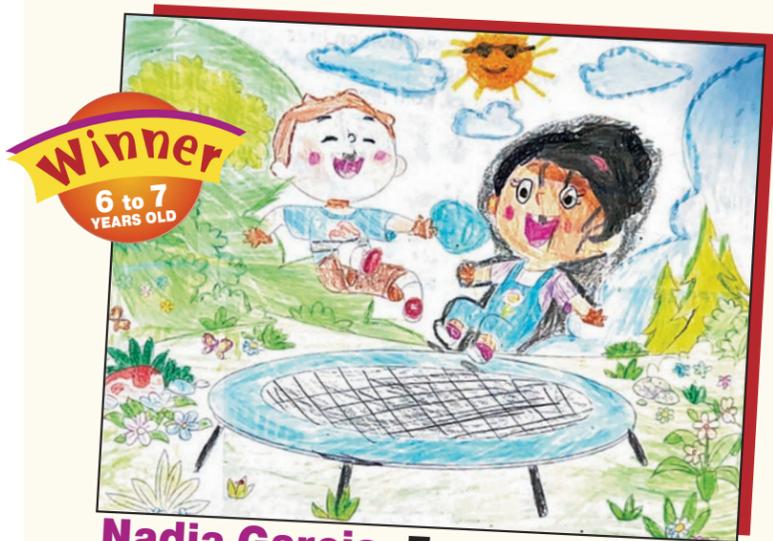
LIBRARY PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE NAMESAKE OF ITS BRANCH IN WATTS.

On Aug. 10, representatives of the Library greeted Alma Reaves Woods and wished her a happy 98th birthday – at the library branch named for her. Library General Manager John Szabo posted on the Library’s social media channels: “Seldom do we get an opportunity to celebrate with the namesakes of some of our LAPL branch locations, but this week presented a rare opportunity to do so at our Watts Branch Library in honor of the great Alma Reaves Woods for her 98th birthday.” *Happy birthday, Alma!* ●



Kenley Ninofranco, 5

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 16 • BEST FRIEND: Mason • FAVORITE SNACK: Gold Fish • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Big City Greens" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: Because it's my favorite. • PARENT: Pablo Ninofranco, Retiree



Nadia Garcia, 7

BIRTHDAY: Feb. 12 • BEST FRIEND: Camille • FAVORITE SNACK: grapes • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: I want to enjoy the trip with my family • PARENT: Jimmy Garcia, LADWP



Caleb Cobian, 10

BIRTHDAY: Dec. 23 • BEST FRIEND: Mason
FAVORITE SNACK: Hot Cheetos • FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Marvel Movies"
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: To visit the park. • PARENT: Paul Cobian, Public Works



Amberlynn Archer, 12

BIRTHDAY: July 9 • BEST FRIEND: Sonia • FAVORITE SNACKS: Chocolate Chip Cookies
FAVORITE TV SHOW: "Americas Funniest Home Videos" • WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KNOTT'S BERRY FARM: I love to ride the rides at the parks and eat yummy food. It's fun to go with my friend and family. • PARENT: Leonard Gallegos, Harbor

Coloring with The Clubs

Congratulations to the WINNERS! of our Club Coloring Contest!

Everyone who turned in a design is a winner in our opinion! But our top four participants win **4 tickets to Knott's Berry Farm**

Look for our next contest in October online at: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest

Honorable Mention

CHILD	AGE	PARENT/GUARDIAN	DEPT.
Zuri Champion	1	Pamela Champion	Retiree
Muhammad Usman	2	Muhammad Imran	LADWP
Lanie Soto	3	Juan Soto Funes	LAPD
Isaac Marroquin	4	Michael McPhillips	Rec and Parks
Muhammad Umar	4	Muhammad Imran	LADWP
Aisha Imran	4	Muhammad Imran	LADWP
Imara Champion	5	Pamela Champion	Retiree
Nya Champion	5	Pamela Champion	Retiree
Olivia Ahn	5	Elizabeth Lee	Retiree
Ibrahim Faizan	6	Muhammad Faizan	LADWP
Karina Cheung	6	Ka Man Fan	Airports
Olivia Cobian	6	Paul Cobian	Public Works
Lillian Wadahara	7	Elisa Lam	Econ./Wkfc Dev.
Martin Quezada	7	Anne Berumen	Retiree
Mia Rodriguez	7	Claudia Rodriguez	County Dept. Public Social Services
Muhammad Ayaan	7	Muhammad Imran	LADWP
Bareerah Faizan	8	Muhammad Faizan	LADWP
Kelsey Cheung	8	Ka Man Fan	Airports
Lucas Sims	8	Jason Sims	Public Works
River Gray	8	Richard Gray	Public Works
Samantha Lansang	8	Leann Lansang	LAPD
Violet Alvarado	8	Antonio Alvarado	Harbor
Dylan Soto	9	Juan Soto Funes	LAPD
Jaysen Martinez	9	Billy Martinez	LADWP
Jc'ion Perkins	9	Evelyn Fitzpatrick	Retiree
Luke Diaz	9	Laura Diaz	LAPD
Milana Mahalek	9	Gary Kenton	Retiree
Paige Curtis	9	Heather Curtis	Retiree
Emme Ninofranco	10	Pablo Ninofranco	Retiree
Natalie Marroquin	10	Michael McPhillips	Rec and Parks
Angie Lindsey	12	Rita Lindsey	Retiree
Aracely Mata	12	Javier Mata	LADWP
Emma Christopher	12	James Christopher	LADWP
Emiko Kirkland	12	Mark Kirkland	LADWP
Lorenzo Alvarado	12	Carlos Chavez	LADWP
Kelsey Remolino	13	Kyle Remolino	LAPD

Print and Online Schedule

Alive! has moved half of its children's coloring contests online.

In the printed Alive!:

January (winners published in March)
July (winners published in September)

In the online edition of Alive!:

April (winners posted in June)
October (winners posted in December)



ALIVE! INTERVIEW

Building Today for Tomorrow

— overflow to *Web Alive!*

— continued from page 11

of support for this work. We are growing very fast. We already grew out of the space that we have allocated that we haven't even moved into yet, so it's exciting. We can continue to work hybrid and share space.

Q: How did it come about?

Lisa: This whole thing came about through the work of grassroots advocacy, primarily through a group called the Invested in Youth Coalition, a collaborative of 70 youth-serving organizations that represent the entire City of Los Angeles. Back as far as 2008, these groups would come to City Hall, talk with Councilmembers and let them know that the City of L.A. is one of the largest cities in the country without a dedicated department for youth development. That told us what the Controller's report later confirmed, that there were a lot of services, but they were disjointed and not coordinated, and they didn't necessarily meet the needs that they saw in their communities, and that there was a lack of a youth voice. From 2008, through maybe eight different Council motions from five different Councilmembers over the years and lots of studies and report-backs, it wasn't until Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez – and we have to give her credit – became the champion of this department. Councilwoman Rodriguez helped create a Youth Development Executive Task Force, comprised of youth-serving organizations and young people. That task force met twice a month for almost a year during COVID to dig into all of the issues around youth development in the City. It also looked at external partners in the County and crafted a report of recommendations that sent to the Council. The report recommended that the City establish either a department office or a commission on youth development, where central coordination and a youth council would be incorporated. The mayor made room in the budget to get us started, and here we are about to celebrate our first anniversary.

Aksel Palacios: As a City, we're in departments. We sometimes silo ourselves, and the arm doesn't know what the other arm is doing. So we reach out and selfishly ask other departments to be part of this process and to get involved with our department. Sometimes City employees in other departments don't know just how much of an impact and influence they can have on the next generation. If we can inspire at least one person from another department to want to join or help in any way or be part of some of our projects, then that's a win.

Lisa: We're definitely going to be coming back to other departments to create opportunities for young people to intern and learn from our current workforce about what it is they do, and what advice would they have for them. The City recently secured a grant through the state of California for \$53 million to create 4,000 internships for young people in the City. We have been meeting with the departments to let them know that they have an opportunity to host a young person in their department. It's incumbent on us to work with these young people, to help create the workforce of the future for the City of Los Angeles so that we're leaving it in good hands.

Youth Challenges and Success

Q: What kind of challenges is the department set up to solve or address?

Lisa: I like to start with our young people and their aspirations. They want to graduate from high school and college, and be career ready. They want a school that is safe. They want neighborhoods that are safe. They want streets that are clean. They want access to services when they need assistance. But there are a lot of systemic barriers to having all of those things in their neighborhoods. Our young people face challenges of homelessness and housing instability. And then employment: During COVID, young people were one of the populations that took the hardest hit on employment, and they continue to lag in recovering in that aspect. They took a huge hit around education in not going to school and being away from their peers and stuck at home all day.

The biggest challenge, in every conversation that Aksel and I have with them, is access to mental health services, not just one-on-one therapy-to-patient type of therapy, but they're also asking for alternative forms of mental health assistance. That can be served by lot of the services that the City has to offer – recreation, art, music, sports, working, and through our Youth Source, our Family Source – and so on.

Q: It seems you serve two clients. You have the youths, of course, but you have the other City departments to help them shape their services for youths, and bringing the services all together.

Lisa: We do. And all 15 Council offices and the mayor.

Q: Right. So it goes both ways. It goes down, and it goes up, depending on how you want to look at it.

Lisa: It really does. I hope if we're successful that we really change the narrative about young people who are facing those barriers. That's what we're really about. The Youth Council is comprised of 30 individuals with very high aspirations and who are very impressive young people. If we could help every young person get to that place, that would be great. That's success.

Q: Is that what will success will look like for you?

Lisa: In this first year, success will be publishing the strategic plan, establishing a vision for youth development for the entire City, getting all City departments on board and aligned with that vision and strategic plan, and then establishing milestones and metrics that we are all striving to achieve. We want all working toward the same common goal as it relates to helping young people be successful – and continuing to grow the department because there's just so much work to do.

We have just over 800,000 young people in the City, so that's almost a quarter of the population. It's a really big population. We had young people talking to the mayor just two weeks ago in the wake of the Uvalde (Texas) shooting, giving their perspective about community and school safety and gun violence prevention. What it all boils down to, really, is they're just asking for more investment in all of the youth programs that I described before that they feel would help eliminate the violence that we see in the streets.

Challenges

Q: What challenges does the department face?

Lisa: Wow. Because there's so much work to do, a challenge will be staying focused and staying the course with what we have outlined for ourselves to do in this first year. We get pulled in a lot of different directions because our young people face so many barriers. We might be talking to folks about building housing for homeless youths; we might be talking about creating access to mental health; we might be talking about a jobs program. The challenge really is staying focused and intentional with the work that we have outlined for ourselves. Our senior leadership team meets once a week to make sure to make sure everything that we're doing this week or this month is contributing to the success of the goals that we have set forward.

Aksel: Like every other department in the City and everyone in the country, staffing is part of the hardest challenge. There are eight of us, and there's enough work for 100 people, so that's going to be one of the things that we continue to go with. But we're tripling in size in a year, so we can't complain too much. Always having enough people to continue doing the work and growing the work, that's the toughest challenge we face.

Lisa: More staff!

Q: Is one of your challenges building a trust, building confidentiality with your young people?

Lisa: This exact thing came up in that discussion on gun violence. We have to earn the trust of every young person we encounter. They come with a little bit of inherent distrust of government, of their school district and school administrators. They feel that if people aren't sharing decision-making power, that there's something inherently to distrust about that exchange. The work and the success of the department will move at the speed of trust, not just with young people but with the City departments and with our external partners, too. Trust is a huge factor. You can't coordinate anything if no one trusts you.

The First Youth Council

Q: Tell us about the Youth Council. Who's on it?

Lisa: We advertised the opportunity for a month, including in *Alive!* We received more than 500 applications. We used a blind screening tool, so we redacted their names because we wanted to minimize implicit bias in every way that we could. We narrowed the field down to about 120. We interviewed all of them virtually, and we narrowed it down to 60 young people – 30 who were on the selected list and 30 who were on a wait list. We had various Council offices and community-based organizations participate in that interview process. We made sure that we had a good representation of young people, not only ethnically and in gender and age, but also a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and lived experiences. Now we have this group of 30 young people, two from each Council District. It's about a 60/40 split between

high school students and college students.

Q: Got it. How long is their term?

Lisa: They're going to serve a 12-month term. They are receiving a stipend of \$300 a month for attending at least two meetings a month. They have two regularly scheduled meetings a month, and then we have additional opportunities for them to participate in other civic events outside of those two meetings, like the roundtable with the mayor. They're going to be doing all kinds of things.

Aksel: A lot of the discussion that came up from the youth development taskforce is giving decision-making power to young people in the City. Given the structure of our municipal government, the best way to do that is to make them into a very educated, sharp and well-informed interest group/advocacy group. The best way we know to do that is taking them through a 12-month curriculum where they get to visit and learn what each department does, and to learn about the budget and legislative processes. In essence, we're training them for 12 months with all these other extracurricular activities so they can learn how the City functions. About halfway through they select a policy issue. It could be homelessness, or it could be City services like street sweeping. They're going to create a few committees and study it, go very deep into those issues and what the causes are, and make policy recommendations. Our hope is at the very end they'll get a chance to sponsor some legislation with Councilmembers on the full City Council.

Q: What are the first steps? Bylaws, that sort of thing.

Lisa: They're the first Youth Council, and that's actually what they're working on this month: Will they have officers? What would their bylaws look like? We kicked off their initial onboarding with Cal State L.A. Pat Brown Institute with some civic university training that was tailored for them.

Q: You're giving them responsibilities.

Lisa: Oh, yes. They wouldn't have it any other way. They're ready to work for the City. If they're this passionate about being involved and making the City better, what better way than to work for the City of Los Angeles and get on that career pathway?

Energy and Connection

Q: What do you love about what you do?

Lisa: I love working with young people because I get a ton of energy from them. When you work with young people it keeps you young. I'm a connector. I love meeting people. I love getting into a little bit of relationship with them, learning about what they do, what their goals are, and then connecting. I love bringing people together from various backgrounds and working toward a common goal. Being able to do that in this space with young people is really what I love about it.

Aksel: When I worked for a Council office for a few years, I got to make an effect almost immediately. Putting up a stop sign up where there are a lot of fatalities, or instrumental in fixing a pothole that's an issue. The longer I was there, I would see that eventually that pothole would come back, or somebody would hit that stop sign and it turns into the same issue all over again. But with young people, that's the place where you can leave the most lasting legacy, even if it's not a tangible one. It's an intangible legacy where it's like you spread a lot of everything that you've learned throughout the generations. The greatest public service you can give is influencing that next generation of leaders, and seeing the work that you put in live on through them. That's the most rewarding part for me.

Lisa: We have an opportunity for the Youth Development Dept. to be a national model; we are quickly becoming that in the State of California. We can be the national leader that other cities across the country look to and learn from. I'm really excited about the future and being a part of making the City even better.

Q: Big thanks to both of you for taking the time to talk to *Alive!* readers today.

Lisa: Thanks so much.

Aksel: Thank you so much.

– CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From Lahaina

Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor,
reports from Hawaii.



The Old Lahaina Luau

the west side of Lahaina amongst the vacation condos and hotels in a strip mall. There's no ocean or sunset view, but there's a great and friendly staff who serve a mean a colorful frozen cocktail called Lava Flow that emulates the look of a real-life volcano, and a selection of comfort food that won't cost an arm and a leg. Your wallet will be thankful you stopped by.

It's always nice to be on vacation, but it's also nice to meet local people without being a loud rude inconsiderate tourist.

Remember the days when certain herbal products were considered illegal and frowned upon by society? You can kind of relive that moment with a visit to a local Polynesian Kava bar called Haleakala, here they serve traditional tropical-inspired kava from all over the Pacific Islands

in half coconut shells. But beware – after one or two sips of this locally brewed indigenous drink, with its subtle dry muddy taste, you might have a different perspective on life for a while!

Travel safely and travel often.

— *Capt. Michael Barnes*

P.S.: Sorry, I forgot the cruise ship crowd. For after-nine activities, just catch an Uber and ask the driver where he or she goes when everybody else goes to bed.