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THE STRONG FUTURE OF THE PAST

CITY PLANNING: Historic Resources protects the best of the past to enhance a strong urban future.

— PAGE 10

Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner and Manager of Historic Resources, on Carroll Avenue in Angelino Heights, one of the City's protected historic neighborhoods.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

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ROBERT'S BLOG by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club

About the Past, and From It

It is not common that a story we produce is about one thing, but also about that same thing in a completely different way.

Such is the case with this month's feature story about the Office of Historic Resources. They research and designate certain areas of the City as historically important, and then work to make sure they are preserved. The history of a city is a big part of its culture; we were happy to explore this important City office with **Ken Bernstein**, Principal City Planner.

But there is an additional historic twist to this story. You see, the interview and photos (excellent ones by our **Summy Lam**) are not from the present. They are actually from the past – 20 months ago, to be more specific. Does that sound familiar?

This story about the past was supposed to run in April 2020, meaning we produced it in February and March 2020. Everything closed just days after we completed photography because the pandemic started. We switched gears on a dime to bring you the breaking COVID story, and we parked this story until such a time we could bring it back. Here it is, and we are happy to bring it to you. (We updated it with Ken, of course, for this issue.) We hope you enjoy

the time machine of our cover story, twice over!

CLUB STORE COMES TO YOU:

The Club Store has what you need for your holiday shopping. And further, the Mobile Team is setting up visits at various locations throughout LA to bring your holiday shopping closer to you. The details are in the Mobile Team ad below. But, also follow us on social media for more current information. (We give a shout out to **Lupe Lira**, Club Store Manager, for her hard work bringing the Club to you.)

CENTURY OF SERVICE:

I enjoy perusing the retirement list in each issue for unusual careers. This month we have two: **Norman Arikawa**, Harbor, retires with an incredible 54 years of City service; and **John Blair**, City Attorney, retires with 51. They total more than 100 years – surpassing the Club's very existence (93 years). Congratulations to Norman and John!

Finally, I wish a sincere and simple Happy



From left: Club CEO Robert Larios and Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, Office of Historic Resources and Urban Design Studio, on historic Carroll Avenue in Angelino Heights.

Thanksgiving to our Club Members and their families. After the last 18 months we have all experienced, it is important to tell you that the Club is very thankful for you. I recommend we all stop and count our blessings. Enjoy!

Robert Larios

CLUB MOBILE TEAM Site Visits Are Back!



Club Mobile Team is ready to visit City worksites safely with gear, tickets, insurance, more.

Say hi to the Club ... in person again!

The Club never stopped working for its Members during the pandemic. But now that the coast is clearing, so to speak, it's time to revisit our Members and Members-to-Be at sites and yards.

The Mobile Team is ready to visit your worksite Tuesdays through Thursdays. We can't wait to see everybody again!

For your continued safety:

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

See you soon!

Mobile Team Schedule

For the first time, the Mobile Team is setting up a location in the Harbor area. The Mobile Team will have a great selection of holiday gift ideas and regular awesome Club apparel and gear.

Location:

100 W. Fifth St. in San Pedro (Boys and Girls Club)

Times:

- Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

At a previous Mobile Team site visit in 2019.

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

CITY PLANNING



NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

John's Picture Perfect

Enjoy all the winners from this month's contest on the theme "I Love LA."



Cooking With the Club

Chef Larios explores seasonal deliciousness with a recipe for a holiday pumpkin bowl with rice.



COVER STORY:

From the Past to the Future 10-13

City Planning's Office of Historic Resources is rebuilding the best of the past for a future of great neighborhoods.

City of LA Coverage

The Club

- Club Mobile Team is making site visits again. Reach out today to schedule.....2
- An Alive! tradition continues - send in photos of your online holiday party.....9
- Club Member Veterans: We salute you!.....14

Citywide

- Depts. organize, sponsor Tom LaBonge Day of Service to honor his legacy of service.....5
- The City continues its work on the streets during the COVID-19 emergency.....9
- City-sponsored events are returning for the holidays.....19

LACERS

- Open enrollment workshops continue, virtually.....8
- Programs to help with retirement planning8
- Holiday Wellness Workshop8

LAFD

- Capt. II Larry Kitahata, Club Member, is Firefighter of the Year for 2020.8

LAPD

- Officer Frank Partida succumbs to the coronavirus.....15
- Police Dept. honors its bravest.20

Public Works

- Steve Chen, Principal Engineer, retires after 32 years of City service.9

Sections & Columns

- Deaths: In Memoriam6
- Insurance from the Club: Life20
- Larios in the City18
- Lifes Moments6-7
- Picture Perfect Theme for the Month.....15
- Retirees Bulletin Board.....7
- Retirements.....6
- Robert's Blog: From the CEO.....2



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- Claims Monthly Web
- Classified Ads..... Web
- Club Team and Counselors..... Web
- Coloring Contest for Kids Web
- Cooking With the Club..... Web
- Library Top Ten..... Web
- Picture Perfect Contest Winners Web

Advertiser's Index

- Rosebud Marketing15
- United Agencies18

Library Top 10

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



Thanksgiving reminds us of the importance of family.
 ...reminds us of the value of friends.
 ...reminds us that working hands have dignity.
 ...reminds us to be grateful for our blessings.
 ...reminds us we are all part of the human family.
 ...reminds us how grateful we are for you.



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

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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SHOP THE CLUB...Online!



The Club Store is open online 24/7, with shipments processed and mailed every workday. Orders are accepted online and by phone (phone is during normal work hours).

Shop safely while staying at home, with a new selection of Club apparel and gifts.

SHOP NOW!
employeesclub.com

Budget
CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE

MEMBERS SAVE UP TO 50% OFF BASE RATES

Rental prices can significantly fluctuate depending on demand, availability, and timing of reservation.

EmployeesClub.com



The Holidays Come to You!

Take full advantage of the Club Store this holiday season.

This holiday season, there are *three* ways to buy great Club gifts for all your holiday shopping needs.

1 Mobile Team

For the first time, the Mobile Team is setting up a location in the Harbor area. The Mobile Team will have a great selection of holiday gift ideas and regular awesome Club apparel and gear.

LOCATION:
100 W. Fifth St. in San Pedro
(Boys and Girls Club)

TIMES:
Nov. 3, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dec. 1, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Jan. 5, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Club
Mobile
Team**



2 Online Club Webstore Hours

The online Club Webstore is open 24/7, but orders are not processed on holidays.

Order at:
employeesclub.com



3 Physical Club Store Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Nov. 11 (Thursday), closed for Veterans Day
Nov. 25-26 (Thursday/Friday), closed for Thanksgiving
Dec. 24 (Friday), closed for Christmas
Dec. 31 (Friday), closed for the New Year holiday

The Club Store is also closed for curbside pickup on the above days.

For Your Shopping Convenience:

Curbside Pickup

Club Webstore orders will be processed and available for curbside pickup (by request) instead of shipping Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except those days listed above.

Shipping

If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Dec. 15 (standard shipping) and Dec. 17 (priority shipping). Don't wait!

Happy Holidays from the Club Store!

120 West 2nd Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012



COME JOIN IN A CITY-WIDE VOLUNTEER CLEANUP AT THE TOM LABONGE DAY OF SERVICE
"Enjoy and Love Los Angeles!"

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021
8:30 AM - 12 NOON**

SPONSORED BY:
LA Civil Rights and Equity Department, MARQUEE, JOHN LEE, NITHYA RAMAN, LADWP, VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH, MONICA RODRIGUEZ, MITCH O'FARRELL, NoHo, LA RESTORATION, PULA CHIRIBARAN

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AT ONE OF THESE 5 LOCATIONS:

- SILVER LAKE MEADOW**
Meet at: 2300 Silver Lake Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90039
- GRIFFITH PARK FERN DELL TRAIL**
Meet at: 2333 Fern Dell Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90068
- VICTORY OUTREACH CHURCH**
Meet at: 6215 Laurel Canyon Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91606
- WATTS TOWERS**
Meet at: 1765 E 107th St, Los Angeles, CA 90002
- ALGIN SUTTON PARK**
Meet at: 8800 S Hoover St, Los Angeles, CA 90044

TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE INFORMATION:
bit.ly/LaBonge

Cleaning tools & water will be provided. Masks are required.

Continuing Tom's Legacy

Agencies sponsor first-ever Day of Service in honor of late Mr. LA, Tom LaBonge.

CITYWIDE: On Oct. 9, more than 250 City staffers and volunteers contributed their efforts and muscles to the first Tom LaBonge Day of Service. The cleanup event, held a few days after what would have been LaBonge's 68th birthday and dedicated to continuing his legacy of service, was managed by LA Civil Rights and Public Works, and sponsored by several Councilmembers, LADWP, the Mayor's Office, Community Beautification, StreetsLA, Sanitation and Environment, and other entities.

Tom LaBonge, a longtime City employee of the

LADWP and LAPD, was also a two-term Councilman and a passionate Club Member. After leaving public office, he died in early January.

The cleanup day took place in five locations – Silver Lake, his beloved Griffith Park, North Hollywood, Watts Towers and Algin Sutton Park in Mid-Wilshire.

We've compiled social posts and photos from different departments showing staffers and volunteers hard at work to make LA cleaner, in Tom's memory. Well done, all! ■

"Thank you @lacivilrights for spearheading this morning's event and all the volunteers who made a difference. Let's make Los Angeles beautiful, not just today, but every day."

— Councilman Mitch O'Farrell

LAPD Headquarters

"The LAPD was honored to join hundreds of volunteers for the Tom LaBonge Day of Service. It was an opportunity for Angelenos to come together & celebrate the life & legacy of a man known as 'Mr. LA' by hosting several community cleanups throughout the city. Great job by all."

Office of Community Beautification/Keep LA Beautiful

"Good morning, celebrating the legacy of former Councilmember #TomLaBonge, with city-wide cleanup events. Here are volunteers in Griffith Park."

Mayor's Office

"Today on #TomLaBonge Day of Service, we're celebrating and honoring Tom's legacy. Thank you to @LACivilRights and LACityDPW for hosting community beautification events across our city and to all the volunteers who showed up for #MrLA."

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Brigid LaBonge, widow of Tom LaBonge, participate in the Tom LaBonge Day of Service.

LA Civil Rights

"Today, over 250 Angelenos showed up to show their love for #TomLaBonge and love for LA. From South LA to the Valley, we cleaned parks & neighborhoods, celebrated our communities, and brought people together – which is what Tom did best. Thank you, Los Angeles."

Public Works

"Today, hundreds of Angelenos joined our #TomLaBonge Day of Service with @lacivilrights and various partners to beautify Griffith Park, Silver Lake, Watts, South LA & North Hollywood. Thank you all for rolling up your sleeves to improve @LACity in honor of #MrLA. #DayofService"

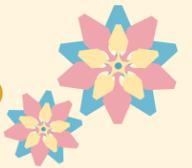
Councilman Mitch O'Farrell

"Tom LaBonge – #MrLA to many – was smiling down on us this morning as we kicked off the inaugural #TomLaBonge #DayofService. Angelenos, volunteers and City Departments came together to do what Tom would do on any given morning – roll up his sleeves to make Los Angeles shine a little brighter."





Life's Important Moments



Retirements

View Oct. 2021 retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202111

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City in Oct. 2021. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Abeyta, Christoph	Refuse Collection Truck Op	Public Works	31	Ewing, Vincent J.	Truck Operator	Public Works	25	Mendez, Marcos Frank	Build. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	20
Aboulhosn, Chaouki M.	Building Elec. Engr.	Harbor	34	Faunce, Michael E.	Sr. Build. Mech. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	35	Minjares, Manuel	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D
Akahoshi, Francis N.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Ferrell, Kevin Wayne	Roofer	Harbor	13	Minor, Lawren H.	Bulk Power Business	LADWP	N/D
Allevato, Judy S.	Pr. Public Rel. Rep.	Zoo	5	Flores, Uthai Tina	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	26	Morones, Lynn T.	Power Exec. Office	LADWP	N/D
Alloway, Kenneth L.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Foley, C. John	Environ. Affairs Ofc.	Harbor	36	Munoz, Luis	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	23
Anguiano, Zenaida	Rec Asst.	Rec and Parks	6	Folsom, Brian J.	Energy Support	LADWP	N/D	Nelons, Bo	Power CM	LADWP	N/D
Ankawa, Norman	Dept. Chief Acct.	Harbor	54	Fricke, Stuart Lee	Harbor Engineer	Harbor	37	Ochoa, Orlando Ovidio	Sr. Detention Officer	LAPD	31
Arredondo, Paul	Equipment Mechanic	LAPD	33	Gabriel, Verdy M.	Elec. Engr. Associate	Harbor	32	Ortiz, Kenneth C.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Aubert, Brenda Renee	Accounting Rec Supv.	Harbor	34	Galassi, Romano V.	Civil Engr. Associate	Public Works	30	Pate, Philip	Systems Programmer	Harbor	33
Azucena, Mario	Systems Analyst	ITA	5	Garcia, Joseph Lopez	Ref. Collection Truck Op.	Public Works	31	Peng, Ching W.	Sr. Env. Compliance Insp.	Public Works	28
Bailey, Lawrence Douglas	Heavy Duty Truck Op	Public Works	5	Gastelum, Lori H.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Harbor	30	Perez, Antonio	Council Aide	City Council	20
Barfield, Jeff Lavell	Parking Mtr. Tech. Supv.	Transportation	23	Gordon, Derrick Peter	Plumber	Public Works	20	Pierce, Daniel L.	Wastewater Mgr.	Public Works	39
Barrera, Dante D.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Graham, James David	Ref. Collection Truck Op.	Public Works	32	Poosti, Ali	Pr. Civil Engineer	Public Works	31
Barrios, Eric	Asst.Park Svcs. Attendant	Rec and Parks	8	Guaderrama, Richard Enrique	Automotive Supv.	Gen. Services	37	Poozhikala, Pious Joseph	Sr. Accountant	Harbor	28
Benjamin, Aprile E.	Harbor	Harbor	39	Gyirasi, Sarah C.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	LACERS	19	Provinchain, Cheryl M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Harbor	32
Bernard, Erl	Heavy Duty Equip. Mech.	LAFD	30	Hadnot, Robert George	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	38	Quiocho, Josefina Torres	Sr. Accountant	Controller	22
Biazevich, Danette M.	Pr. Clerk	Harbor	32	Hall, Gilbert Dennis	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	24	Ramirez, Francisco D.	Shift Supt. Wastewater Trmt.	Public Works	37
Bickel, David Arthur	Pr. Construction Inspector	Harbor	33	Han, Josephine	Civil Engineer	Public Works	16	Reed, Michael D.	Custodian	Airports	16
Blair, John C.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	51	Harris, Carl R.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	Reyes, Gilbert J.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Bond, Julie Jan	Wharfinger	Harbor	34	Harris, Russell T.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	33	Reyes, Robert	Light Equip. Operator	Rec and Parks	20
Brackett, Isabel Abata Revi	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	23	Haywood, Terrell M.	Security Officer	Airports	21	Riggs, Casey Ryan	Info. Systems Oper. Mgr.	ITA	30
Brown, Joyce B.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Helganz, Charles H.	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D	Riley, Patrick O.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Brown, Reyindahl G.	Payroll Supervisor	Harbor	32	Herrera, Armida C.	Youth Emp. Spec.	Econ./Wrkfr. Dev.	4	Roberts, Lisa Michelle	Civil Engr. Associate	Harbor	30
Brown, Yolanda M.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Harbor	33	Hess, James R.	Energy Dist.	LADWP	N/D	Robles, David	Sr. Systems Analyst	Harbor	39
Burton, Anna M.	Emergency Mgt. Coord.	Harbor	30	Hightower, Wilbur B.	Security Officer	Harbor	15	Rosales, Sergio	Port Maintenance Supv.	Harbor	30
Cabrera, Ronald	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D	Hines, Michlyn M.	Pr. Animal Keeper	Zoo	15	Ruiz, Rafael	St. Services Worker	Public Works	21
Carrasco, Victor	Officer	LAPD	33	Holmes, Roger M.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Santos, Carlos Alberto	Sr. Evn. Compliance Insp.	Public Works	32
Choi, Kuokfai	Lab Tech	Public Works	29	Honesto, Daniel R.	Custodian	Gen. Services	30	Seal, Donette F.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Cipolla, Annie C.	Sr. Librarian	Library	13	Huang, Yolanda Deguzman	Dept. Chief Acct.	Fire/Police Pens.	30	Segura Jr., Rogelio	Power CM	LADWP	N/D
Cole, Winston Fredson	Struct. Engr. Associate	Bldg. & Safety	3	Jefferson, Ronald C.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Shaw, Gary R.	Custodian	Airports	19
Cook, Melissa A.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	10	Jenkins, Bradley Steven	Pr. Const. Inspector	Harbor	31	Sims, Shon R.	Facilities Mgmt.	LADWP	N/D
Cordero-Gonzales, Adeline M.	Gen. Services	LADWP	N/D	Lau, Benjamin W.	Field Engineer Aide	Public Works	36	Smith, Charles W.	Mech. Repair Gen. Supv.	Harbor	43
Cortes, Jeremiah	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Laurin, Maurice C.	Env. Chem Lab	LADWP	N/D	Smith, Deanna N.	Workers Comp Claims Asst.	Airports	30
Cruz, Myrna M.	Accounting/Finance	LADWP	N/D	Lepone, Raymond M.	Real Estate Officer	Harbor	6	Soochoo, Lorean	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	25
Cumbess, Mark F.	Plumber	Harbor	14	Lymore, Joseph Anthony	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	34	Strouse, Michael P.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	35
David, Arlene Yvette	Admin. Clerk	Zoo	7	Lim, Angel P.	Sr. Structural Engineer	Harbor	31	Sugahara, Susan H.	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	23
Delatorre, Denise	Secretary	Harbor	29	Lopez, Jesus A.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4	Torres, Henry	Maintenance Laborer	Harbor	18
Diaz, Enrique	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Luck, Rodney A.	Ext. Energy Resources	LADWP	N/D	Truong, Richard Hien	Info System Mgr.	City Clerk	31
Dixon, Hewitt W.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Martin, Daryl R.	Electrician Supv.	Harbor	7	Villanueva Jr., Ernesto	Facilities Mgmt.	LADWP	N/D
Dukes, Chris Derrick	Warehouse Worker	Gen. Services	18	Martinez, Guillermo A.	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	19	Villasenor, Elvia	Gardener Caretaker	Harbor	15
Durden, Seanean Maria	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	32	Mayorga, Felipe	Power Safety	LADWP	N/D	Walls, Gerald J.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	9
Easter, Shenita Lyn	Police Service Rep	LAPD	10	McCann, David J.	Power CM	LADWP	N/D	White, John Andrew	Legislative Asst.	City Clerk	32
Eckstein, Marc	Chief Physician	LAFD	20	McCaskey, Patrick L.	Water Quality	LADWP	N/D	Wong, Haul	Environmental Engr.	Public Works	31
Enfajian, Donna	Civil Engr. Associate	Harbor	36	Meksavanh, Somvang	Environmental Spec.	Airports	30	Worley, Robert E.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Esparza, Joann	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Harbor	37	Mena, Maria T.	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	6	Yin, Eddy Li Li	Pr. Prop. Officer	LAPD	27

N/D = not disclosed

Share Your Life's Moments



Submit digital photos and text online: alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.



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					
Amador, Joel	LADWP	16	Carew, Will A.	Public Works	41
Apan, Rolando A.	LADWP	15	Carranza, Rita	LADWP	37
Buffington, Cameron	Public Works	17	Carter, Mary Ester	Public Works	38
Gage, Joann	General Services	19	Castillo, Mary	Rec and Parks	32
Guajardo, Jose	LADWP	19	Chung, Juliana	City Clerk	30
Hawkins, Gregory K.	Rec and Parks	5	Clements, Wendell W.	N/D	N/D
Heinlein, Hope	LADWP	14	Collins, Eugene J.	N/D	N/D
Jackson, Charles V.	LADWP	18	Corrales, Rosa Maria	Council	16
Kramer, Albert G.	Airports	49	Cunningham, Kathleen D.	LADWP	28
Lam, Kit Lung	Transportation	21	Davila, Robert J.	Rec and Parks	27
Lam, Michael	LADWP	21	Denman, James E.	LADWP	29
Lewis, Kenneth	Rec and Parks	13	Devine, Arthur C.	N/D	N/D
Martin, Steven	Rec and Parks	<1	Diaz, Regina Bernales	Cultural Affairs	26
Rasmussen, Michael A.	Airports	30	Duran, Ray A.	N/D	N/D
Reyes, Leticia	LAPD 25		Enriquez, Francisco H.	N/D	N/D
Shepphird, David B.	LADWP	19	Escamilla, Richard F.	LADWP	30
Stachura, Raymond J.	Public Works	17	Ford, Ronald E.	LADWP	29
Torres, Arturo	Airports	3	Gaines, Geraldine, N.	N/D	N/D
RETIRED					
Aiken, George E.	Airports	18	Garcia, Christina H.	LADWP	25
Anderson, Clayton H.	LADWP	6	Gratton, Ponsella A.	N/D	N/D
Ara, John	N/D	N/D	Greenberger, Christine J.	Library	4
Atallah, Anton S.	Public Works	31	Hanson, Christina Ruth	Library	36
Bell, Emmett D.	LADWP	19	Hardin, Glenn H.	Public Works	37
Bluhm, Robert A.	N/D	N/D	Howard, Mark D.	LADWP	32
Body, Donnie M.	LADWP	45	Huang, Lee	Public Works	32
Bonner, Michael J.	LADWP	27	Ito, Harley Y.	LADWP	34
Brancato, John	Rec and Parks	30	Jones, Byron E.	LADWP	34
Brixon, William W.	General Services	27	Jones, Jerry D.	Transportation	8
Burch, Robert A.	N/D	N/D	Kennedy, Jon K.	Building and Safety	28
Caballero, Amilcar P.	LADWP	19	Knox Jr., Emmett M.	LADWP	30
			Kotzman, Dennis L.	N/D	N/D
			Lee, Elza A.	N/D	N/D
			Legaspi, Noli A.	LADWP	39
			Lind, Harold	LADWP	29
			Lopez, Roxanne	Personnel	12
			Lundy, Kenneth	Public Works	30
			Maloney, Frank R.	N/D	N/D
			Martinez, John	Public Works	30
			Matterer, Matthew D.	Rec and Parks	20
			McCarthy, Thomas J.	LADWP	36
			McConnell, Larry D.	LADWP	30
			Minemoto, Katsumi	N/D	N/D
			Montiel, Tommy H.	N/D	N/D
			Moore, Larry A.	LADWP	32
			Nakasako, Tsutomu	N/D	N/D
			Narvaez, Alfred	Rec and Parks	47
			Navarro, Irene	LADWP	37
			Pregler, Alvin H.	N/D	N/D
			Ramirez, Paulo	General Services	16
			Riddle, Raymond W.	LADWP	27
			Rock, Eileen M.	N/D	N/D
			Sanchez, Rustico T.	Finance	33
			Shaw, Ronald W.	LADWP	25
			Solis, Mario	LAPD	15
			Spiker, Dennis M.	Public Works	30
			Stafford, John P.	LADWP	37
			Tanaka Castro, Joy K.	Housing	32
			Taylor, David C.	LADWP	25
			Tramel, Horace E.	Planning	38
			Vallejo, Victor A.	Planning	34
			Vanderwal, John D.	LADWP	27
			Weatherly, Ira C.	LADWP	28
			Weisberg, Sheila J.	Library	26
			Whitcomb, Jean R.	N/D	N/D
			Williams, Erwin C.	N/D	N/D
			Willis, Michelle	LAPD	30
			Wilson, Elizabeth H.	N/D	N/D
			Wooten, Horace E.	N/D	N/D

N/D = not disclosed



Help Us Tell Their Story

Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died. But who were they?

Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know. Tell their story!

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: talkback@employeesclub.com
Subject line: *Tell Their Story*

Members Bulletin Board

New to Alive!

New to Alive! – connect with your co-workers – active and Retired!

Welcome to the Members Bulletin Board. It's open to all Club Members! Want to post your contact information? Invite others to contact you, attend a meet-up or a reunion, go to lunch or hang out in the park? Here's where you do that.

It's not a forum or classifieds, so no politicking or commercial messages. It's just a way to connect. Simple as that!

We'll publish this every month in print only. What you choose to make public is entirely up to you.

Submit any of the following, *only what you choose*. Submit on the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

- Name
- Dept. (current or at retirement)
- Year of retirement (if applicable)
- Email address (optional)
- Phone number (optional)
- What's your message?

Submit to:
bulletinboard@employeesclub.com

From Abe Rasheed
Retired, Public Works/
Accounting, 2010:

"Hope you are staying healthy.
I'd love to hear from you.
Passed on my card upon leaving."

Contact Abe at:
narasheed122@gmail.com

Hi everyone,
it's Tony Alvarez from
Rec and Parks (and
Salvage), 1951-90. Would
love to hear from you.
Call me at (626) 284-8497.

Your message here:
**Announce
an event!**

Your message here:
**Connect with
former
colleagues!**



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▶ EmployeesClub.com



Information courtesy LAFD and the LA Firefighters Association

Capt. II Tommy Kitahata: Firefighter of the Year

Fire Capt. named top Firefighter for 2020.



Capt. II Tommy Kitahata

LAFD: With 33 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Los Angeles, Capt. II Tommy Kitahata, Club Member, has been named Los Angeles Firefighters Association's Firefighter of the Year for 2020.

Capt. Kitahata is a true public servant both on duty and off, the Department said in his honor. His selection as the 2020 Firefighter of the Year is well earned and well deserved.

Joining the LAFD in 1988, Capt. Kitahata quickly proved himself to be a reliable and hard-working Firefighter. He pursued the technical skills required to gain certification for the Urban Search and Rescue, California Task Force One and deployed to numerous disasters across the country during his career. He is one of the few remaining active LAFD members who went to 9/11 as part of the massive FEMA response.

His technical expertise and natural ease as a teacher shined in his time spent with the In-Service Training section and as a Drill Master in Recruit Training. He continues to serve as an instructor and subject matter expert across both search and rescue and Firefighter skills. Most importantly, he never asks of others what he is not willing to do himself and is always the first to jump on a task.

This selflessness extends beyond the Department into his community. He is the first to join work parties organized to help fellow Firefighters and assist in funerals honoring our fallen members. His leadership is valued by his community through his roles as an Assistant Scout Master (Boy Scouts of America), feeding homeless through his church and helping his neighbors during the 2018 wildfires. His passion for serving his community was instrumental in the successful opening of the Meadow



Capt. Tommy Kitahata and his wife, Cheryl, at the Ground Zero Memorial and Museum in New York City. Capt. Kitahata was part of the California USAR team that searched the wreckage for survivors in the days following 9/11.

Arts and Technology Elementary school with those efforts being recognized and honored with the California Charter School Volunteer of the Year award, shared with his wife Cheryl.

Capt. Kitahata's current assignment is Fire Station 69 in Pacific Palisades. Due to the pandemic, he is detailed to help lead the Department's battle against COVID-19 in the Logistics Unit.

The LAFD couldn't be more proud to announce the Los Angeles Firefighters Association's 2020 Firefighter of the Year is Capt. II Tommy Kitahata.

Congratulations, Capt. Kitahata, on

this great honor!

In a July ceremony delayed because of the pandemic, Capt. II Rick Godizez (Retired), Club Member, was named Firefighter of the Year for 2019. ■



LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

Holiday Wellness Is Topic Of Workshop in November

Holidays can be a challenging time for many. This seasonal presentation discusses strategies to combat feelings of sadness or "the blues" during the winter holidays. This Zoom meeting will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, and features Dr. Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Psy.D., CPII Clinical Psychologist with the Los Angeles County Dept. of Mental Health. Zoom information will be provided to all registered individuals one day prior to the event. Reserve your spot now via your MyLACERS account or by calling the Member Service Center.

Missed past LACERS Well events? There are several event recordings on various topics – finances, emotional wellness, fitness, and more! Visit the LACERS YouTube channel and be sure to hit the subscribe button to receive alerts of newly posted videos. Also, enjoy exclusive content and get connected with LACERS Members on the LACERS Well Facebook Group page.

View the LACERS Events Calendar at lacers.org/calendar to learn about how to get involved in these activities led by our LACERS Well Champions as well as other LACERS Well events. If you require assistance, send an email to lacerswell@lacers.org.

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

There's Still Time: Virtual Open Enrollment Is Now Thru Nov. 15

LACERS Open Enrollment for health plan changes is going on virtually – online – now through Nov. 15. This is the time to enroll in a plan, change your plan, or add dependents, with changes taking effect Jan. 1, 2022.

For those who made enrollment changes effective on or after Feb. 1, 2021, unless you have a qualifying event, your next opportunity to request a change will be Oct. 21, 2022 during the 2023 Open Enrollment period.

LACERS has planned several virtual meetings to share updates regarding your health plans and health benefits for 2022, and to answer your questions so you can make the best healthcare decisions for you and your family.

On Jan. 1, 2022, the Anthem Blue Cross (Anthem) Life and Health Plan (Medicare Supplement) will be replaced by the Anthem Medicare Preferred PPO Plan (for Members with Medicare Parts A and B). LACERS has scheduled several virtual meetings regarding this plan to make sure you have an opportunity to get all your questions answered. Retired Members can also contact Anthem's First Impressions call center at (833) 848-8729 with questions.

Find out more information regarding Open Enrollment on the LACERS Website at lacers.org/open-enrollment. Retired Members may also reserve a spot to attend virtual meeting(s) via the MyLACERS account or by calling (800) 779-8328.

The remaining virtual sessions are (all virtual meetings begin at 10 a.m.):

- Nov. 2** SCAN
- Nov. 4** Delta Dental/
Blue View Vision
- Nov. 5, 12** Anthem Medicare Preferred PPO

Packet Is Different for Those Under 65:

After Oct. 12, you will receive your Open Enrollment packet from LACERS. For Retired Members under age 65, you will receive an Open Enrollment statement, the Open Enrollment Overview and instructions on how to access the 2022 Health Benefits Guide online. If you need a hard copy after you receive your packet, you can contact LACERS to have one mailed to you. Retired Members age 65 and older will receive a printed copy of the 2022 Health Benefits Guide in their packet.

Changes After Feb. 2021:

As a reminder, due to unusual circumstances, last year's Open Enrollment period was extended to March 31, 2021, and had some stipulations. For those who made enrollment changes effective on or after Feb. 1, 2021, unless you have a qualifying event, your next opportunity to request a change will be October 2022 during the 2023 Open Enrollment period.

FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES:

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., Nov. 4 (9 a.m.)**
- Tues., Nov. 16 (4:30 p.m.) (Tier 3)**
- Wed., Dec. 1 (9 a.m.)**
- Sat., Dec. 11 (9 a.m.)**

Application Portal Demonstration: Take time to learn about LACERS' exciting new Retirement Application Portal (RAP)! Visit lacers.org/applying-retirement for more details and sign up for an upcoming RAP Demonstration webinar on Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. via your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org>.

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 Dec. 30, 2021, you would aim to submit your retirement application in the portal on Oct. 31, 2021. For more information please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.

PART 20

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.

Transportation



"Today we joined @BikeMetro to launch the expansion of 12 new metro bikeshare stations in Hollywood! Now you can enjoy a bike ride through one of L.A.'s most iconic neighborhoods. @MitchOFarrell"

Oct. 15

LAPD/Violent Crime Task Force



"The Violent Crime Task Force has been deployed throughout LA to increase community engagement & lower crime. In LAPD Hollenbeck Division their effectiveness was immediately seen...a 56% reduction in Part 1 crimes within one area of Boyle Heights."

"LAPD Officers at work for you."

Sept. 29

LAPD/Rampart



"Thank you to all the customers who donated at our Tip a Cop event today. All the proceeds go to help our @SpecialOlympics athletes @NortheastArea @LAPDCentralArea @LAPDHollenbeck @LAPDNewton @LAPDALopez @LabradaAI @LAPDHQ"

Oct. 9

City Council/Mitch O'Farrell



"In celebration of what would have been former Councilmember Tom LaBonge's 68th birthday, we tossed his beloved John Marshall High School football around the City Council horseshoe, shared our favorite Tom stories, and honored his legacy of service to the people and LA."

Oct. 6

LA Civil Rights



"Last night, @LACivilRights hosted its first Faith Leaders Dinner with leaders from many of LA's different faiths. Together, we broke bread, strengthened our bonds, and worked toward a more peaceful & inclusive LA. When we work together, there is nothing we cannot achieve."

Oct. 6

Celebrate With Cheryl!

Popular Club Counselor Cheryl Martin is turning 63 next year and celebrating in Greece. Sign up now to join the fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Travel dates: Oct. 13-21, 2022 (nine days)
- Starting price: \$4,069, double occupancy, including air and hotel
- Deposit: \$99 down with monthly payment arrangement, or \$500 down per person at the time of reservation.
- Final payment date: Aug. 4, 2022
- Important notes: Travelers must have their passport information at time of booking. First-come, first-served basis. Seats are limited.

Mykonos ... Santorini ... and mainland Greece! Head with Cheryl Martin for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Aegean in October 2022.

"Celebrate my 63rd with me in Greece!"

EMAIL: cmartin@employeesclub.com
PHONE: (213) 819-0794



To register and for more information, go to:
www.grouptoursite.com/cherylmartin
Reservation tour number 70295428



Information and photo courtesy Councilman Mitch O'Farrell

Steve Engineers a Retirement



Steve Chen retires from Public Works after 32 years of City service.

PUBLIC WORKS: Steve Chen, Principal Engineer, Public Works/Engineering, retired in late September after 32 years of City service.

"Even if you've never met Steve, you have definitely encountered his work across the 13th District, where he led many capital improvement projects that have greatly improved the quality of life of its residents and made Los Angeles a more livable City," Councilman Mitch O'Farrell wrote.

"These include: the complete reconstruction of Descanco Drive in Silver Lake; the closure of outdated tunnels in East Hollywood, Silver Lake and Glassell Park; and the repair of sidewalks surrounding the Bellevue Recreation Center.

"Steve, we celebrate and thank you for your tireless work to make a difference in the lives of Angelenos. Though we're sad to see you go, we wish you a happy retirement. You've earned it."

The Club congratulates Steve Chen on a great City career. ■

Steve Chen is presented a City proclamation by Marisol Rodriguez, District Director, Council District 13.

Photos by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing, and courtesy City Planning

THE STRONG FUTURE OF THE PAST

ALIVE! FEATURE: CITY PLANNING

The Office of Historic Resources protects the best of the past to enhance a strong urban future.

Notions that LA has no real architectural and cultural history couldn't be more wrong. Proving that is the job of Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner and Manager of Los Angeles City Planning's Office of Historic Resources.

But he's after much more than just proving an old stereotype wrong – he's using neighborhoods of bygone eras to build a better future for the City. He's leading the City's efforts to preserve the historic cores, update them judiciously, make them more equitable, build resources to support them, and put them to use to make a stronger Los Angeles for today and tomorrow.

About the Office of Historic Resources

Los Angeles's remarkable architectural and cultural heritage boasts examples of styles from the Arts and Crafts movement to mid-century modern. Historic places throughout the region contribute to the City's rich social and cultural life.

Los Angeles City Planning's Office of Historic Resources (OHR) works to protect, enhance, and revitalize the City's historic places through its comprehensive, state-of-the-art, and balanced historic preservation program.

The Office:

- Serves as the professional staff for the City's historic preservation commission, the Cultural Heritage Commission,
- Oversees the City's 35 historic districts (Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, or HPOZs), encompassing more than 21,000 properties,
- Manages the City's major financial incentive for owners of historic properties, the Mills Act Historical Property Contract program,
- Integrates historic preservation into Los Angeles's long-range planning and development project reviews,
- Manages the City's historic resource inventory, HistoricPlacesLA, which includes the findings from SurveyLA, Los Angeles's first-ever Citywide survey of its historic resources,
- Serves as an expert resource on preservation within City Planning and for other City departments, and
- Provides responsive customer service in conducting historic preservation reviews.

Let LA's beautiful past be your guide as we talk about preserving our heritage and restoring it for a more robust, equitable future. ■



From left: Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner, and Club Robert Larios on historic Carroll Avenue.

INVEST

On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner and Manager of L.A. City Planning's Office of Historic Resources (OHR). Ken also oversees the department's Urban Design Studio, a function separate from the OHR. Ken has worked for the City during two stints for 20 years.

The initial interview took place in the OHR's downtown headquarters.

This interview process was halted March 15, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and resumed Aug. 2, 2021. An update of OHR's COVID-related activities is attached at the end.

Ken Bernstein



***Alive!*: Ken, thank you for talking to us today. You've worked for the City two separate times.**

Ken Bernstein: Yes. I've been in my current position as Principal City Planner since 2006. I previously spent five years as a City Council planning deputy for then-Councilmember Laura Chick, who represented the West San Fernando Valley and later became City Controller.

She was the first woman elected to Citywide office in L.A. I left City employment to become Director of Preservation Issues for the Los Angeles Conservancy, which is the citywide/countywide nonprofit historic preservation organization for the region. I was doing nonprofit advocacy work in the historic preservation field.

When the opportunity came with the creation of the Office of Historic Resources, I applied because it seemed to combine my recent work in historic preservation and preservation advocacy with my previous experience in urban planning and understanding the workings of the City.

I was always interested in how cities worked. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley and made my parents take me to downtown L.A. and see what was being developed and how the City was changing. I discovered urban planning late in my education, and I wanted to come home to work in the City where I grew up.

I've had a nontraditional career path. I had always been interested in historic preservation, but it wasn't core professional experience. I was offered a position out of the blue by Linda Dishman, who's the CEO at the Los Angeles Conservancy. She was looking for someone who understood how city government worked to join their team and work in advocacy, and that was a great experience. The L.A. Conservancy is actually the largest local nonprofit historic preservation organization in the country. We had many successes during that time, including the preservation of St. Vibiana Cathedral, our 1876 historic cathedral downtown.

A note about this month's feature: *Alive!* began producing this look at City Planning's Office of Historic Resources in February 2020, a few weeks before the pandemic hit. We shelved this story until it was safe to bring it back, which we're doing now. We've updated the contents to include issues related to COVID-19. All photos were taken prior to the pandemic taking hold. – Ed.



He Wrote the Book



Ken Bernstein

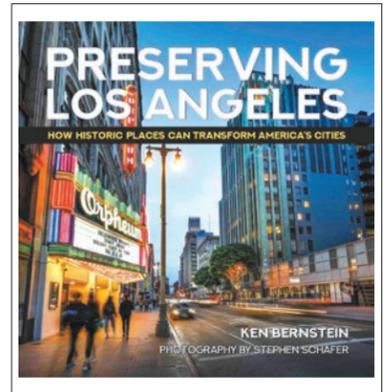
The City's Principal Planner, Ken Bernstein, published a book during the pandemic on historic preservation.

In addition to adjusting to the new ways of working during the pandemic, Ken Bernstein also completed a new book, **Preserving Los Angeles: How Historic Places Can Transform**

America's Cities, released by Angel City Press in April. The book landed on the *Los Angeles Times* nonfiction bestsellers list in May.

Preserving Los Angeles expands upon the topics and themes discussed in this interview, describing and illustrating the comprehensive story of how historic preservation has revived Los Angeles neighborhoods, created a Downtown renaissance, and guided the future of the City. Bernstein showcases Los Angeles as a model for other cities, demonstrating how preservation can extend beyond the preservation of significant architecture, to identifying and protecting the places of social and cultural meaning to Los Angeles's communities and helping to build community.

Preserving Los Angeles is an authoritative chronicle of urban transformation, a guide for citizens and urban practitioners alike who hope to preserve the unique culture of their own cities. Bernstein's informative text is richly illustrated with more than 300 full-color images by prominent architectural photographer Stephen Schaffer.



A centerpiece of the book is a photography-heavy section featuring "discoveries" from SurveyLA, the first-ever citywide survey of Los Angeles's historic resources – hidden gems with architectural significance or compelling social and cultural meaning to local communities. *Preserving Los Angeles* illuminates a Los Angeles that will surprise even longtime Angelenos—highlighting dozens of lesser-known buildings, neighborhoods, and places in every corner of the city.

Bernstein is donating his proceeds from the book to three national organizations working to promote representation and inclusion in the historic preservation field: the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHIP).

Preserving Los Angeles is available directly from Angel City Press, as well as local independent booksellers, such as Chevalier's Books in Larchmont Village, Hennessey + Ingalls in the Arts District, and Skylight Books in Los Feliz. The book is also available through the Los Angeles Public Library. ■

The *Alive!* Interview

WALKING IN THE PAST

That's a block away from the Club Store.

Ken: Yes, and that period in the late 1990s also saw the launch of the adaptive reuse program downtown, which really created the renaissance in downtown Los Angeles. So that was a great period.

The Origins of the Office of Historic Resources

And then the opportunity came up to rejoin the City.

Ken: Yes. The opportunity came up to apply for a position in a new Office of Historic Resources. The Office grew out of a grant agreement between the J. Paul Getty Trust and the City of Los Angeles to pursue the first-ever Citywide survey of historic resources in Los Angeles, to take stock comprehensively of what we have. That grew into SurveyLA, a multi-year historic resources survey. That project really led to an agreement by the City to create its first-ever fully staffed historic preservation office, and the decision was made to put that in the Planning Dept. I applied and came on in 2006, and soon thereafter I hired Janet Hansen as the day-to-day manager of the citywide survey project.

Until 2006, the City did not have a full-service historic preservation program, and we were the only large city in California that was not a Certified Local Government, or CLG, for historic preservation. Los Angeles was falling short in not having taken comprehensive stock of its resources and not having a city staff infrastructure for historic preservation. There were a couple of staff members in Cultural Affairs, and the City Planning Dept. at that time was staffing a handful of Historic Preservation Overlay Zones or HPOZs, which we can talk more about. But it was a bifurcated kind of program.

The creation of this Office really brought everything together and created a concerted program for historic preservation. We became a Certified Local Government within the first year we had the office up and running.

The Meaning of History

What does history mean to the City of L.A.? Why is it important that the City invest in its history?

Ken: It's our history that anchors us in who we are and what

is meaningful. It is what makes Los Angeles Los Angeles and is what gives us character, authenticity and distinctiveness from not being Anywhere, U.S.A. We've found as we've grown our historic preservation program that every community in Los Angeles has unique architecture, a unique cultural history and a unique character and distinctiveness that are worth identifying, preserving and celebrating. Los Angeles has an undeserved reputation as a city that doesn't have a history or doesn't care about its history, and that's really a myth that we've worked hard to explode over the years; Los Angeles has a tremendously rich architectural and cultural heritage. In architecture, we have always been at the cutting edge of new architectural styles that's set the trend for the entire nation in style after style, whether the Arts and Crafts/Craftsman architecture of the turn of the 20th century to the Art Deco style. We have one of the finest collections of Art Deco architecture from the 1920s.

The Central Library.

Ken: The library has Art Deco features, though it also has a mix of architectural styles, but there are many other Art Deco buildings. The Eastern Columbia Building on Broadway, the Miracle Mile, all the 1930s architecture on Wilshire.

Spanish Colonial Revival is a quintessentially Southern Californian architectural style. We were pioneering in Mid-Century Modernism and led that trend nationally, and both in terms of commercial architecture and especially residential architecture where the Mid-Century Modern homes of Los Angeles. The case study movement and architecture, the experimental homes built in the immediate post-World War II era ... they became the prototypes for new single-family development around the country. And we pioneered even more recent architectural styles.

But beyond that, our history is about the people and the social and cultural significance of our communities. Los Angeles has always been a city of tremendous diversity from our very founding in 1781. Even prior to the founding, the native peoples of Los Angeles were here. That has always marked the culture and the very DNA of our city. It's always been very important to us that the historic preservation program be as encompassing of all of the stories of all of the



An 1895 Queen Anne residence on Carroll Avenue in the Angelino Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ).

The *Alive!* Interview

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

INVESTING IN THE PAST

diverse peoples of Los Angeles as it can be. We recognize those places that shaped our distinctive communities and that tell the story of the contribution that generations of diverse Angelenos have made to our city.

Preserving Our History

Can you give us a broad overview of historic preservation?

Ken: Sure. We are the full-service historic preservation office for the City. A big part of what we do is administering the City's historic designation programs. There are two major programs: One is the designation of individual landmarks, places and sights as historic landmarks. We call those Historic-Cultural Monuments, or HCMs. We have now just more than 1,200 Historic-Cultural Monuments in the City. That program actually goes back to 1962, and while we were slow in becoming a Certified Local Government, we were actually a pioneering City in having a historic landmark program. We predated New York, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and almost every other major city in the country in having a program to allow for the designation of local landmarks. It was staffed very lightly in what became the Cultural Affairs Department, the arts department of the City. It didn't have a concerted staff infrastructure around it. We do now. We make professional staff recommendations to the commission on nominations of sites to become Historic-Cultural Monuments. Nominations can be initiated by the City Council, by the property owner or by anybody who wishes to send in an application to nominate a site. Our responsibility is to take that in, review it and determine whether that site or place or building meets the criteria for Historic-Cultural Monument status. Those criteria relate not only to architecture but, again, to the social, cultural or economic history of the community, or association with historic events or historic people. We review those nominations. We make a recommendation to the Cultural Heritage Commission, which takes a final vote on the nominations. If it's approved it goes on to the City Council for final approval. We also oversee the review of proposed projects affecting the existing 1,200 Historic-Cultural Monuments, and those are reviewed by our office in accordance with national historic preservation standards. That's not meant to freeze historic buildings in place. They can continue to grow and evolve, but we are the ones responsible for ensuring that those places evolve in a way that is sensitive to the historic nature of those places.

The second designation program is our HPOZs, as we call them, the Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, sometimes called historic districts. Those are neighborhoods where the individual buildings or sites may not rise to the level of being eligible for Historic-Cultural Monument status, but taken as a whole, the buildings in the neighborhood have tremendous historic significance. We now have 35 historic districts or HPOZs across the City.

That's a lot.

Ken: More than 21,000 structures are included; it's a huge program. When I joined the L.A. Conservancy a little more than 20 years ago and got involved in historic preservation in Los Angeles, there were only eight HPOZs.

That's a lot of growth.

Ken: Right. We've seen 27 more, more than a quadrupling of that program over the last couple of decades. We now have 10 staff in the Office of Historic Resources, one supervisor and nine additional staff, helping to oversee those. It's a very active, busy function. We've had a more decentralized approach to historic districts than other cities. We have a system of HPOZ boards, which are essentially design review boards for each of our 35 historic districts, made up of volunteers from the community that includes a licensed, qualified historic preservation architect on each of those commissions, as well as a real estate or construction professional on each board. Our staff is responsible for working with 21 boards overseeing our 35 HPOZs, and those meet in the evenings. Our staff is out in the field and the communities every night of the week.

I'm sure.

Ken: Each of our HPOZs has a preservation plan, with design guidelines tailored to the architectural styles or conditions in each district that provide up-front guidance.

We also think it's very important to offer incentives for historic preservation. We administer the major financial incentive program for historic preservation in Los Angeles, which is called the Mills Act Historical Property Contract Program. It's a state law that allows cities to offer a property tax incentive for owners of historic properties. It's a partnership between our office and the County Assessor's office, which handles property taxes. Owners of Historic-Cultural Monument properties, or properties in our HPOZs, are eligible to participate in the Mills Act program. Owners agree to adhere to historic preservation standards and do substantial rehabilitation work on their property in exchange for an alternative assessment on their property taxes that can result in as high as a 80 percent savings on property taxes.

They're contributing in a different way.

Ken: Exactly.

Do you approve the contractors to do that specific work?

Ken: We don't approve the contractors. As a resource, we make available a list of qualified contractors who specialize in historic preservation. But we don't veto someone's proposal. Anyone is free to choose whatever professional they like.

How many Mills Act applications do you process or receive?

Ken: We've had 57 new applications to consider for the Mills Act [so far in March 2020]. That's a very important role of our office, to be able to offer that incentive.

SurveyLA

What is SurveyLA?

Ken: SurveyLA is the first-ever comprehensive survey to identify significant historic resources – places with architectural, social, or cultural significance – in every community of Los Angeles. It started in 2006 and was a major reason this historic preservation office was created.

Before SurveyLA, only about 15 percent of Los Angeles had ever been surveyed previously, largely to help lay the groundwork for HPOZs or for other specific purposes. But about 85 percent of the City was a mystery, a blank slate for historic preservation. That was why the Getty made it a priority. The Getty Conservation Institute had done several years of research from 2000 to 2005, making the case for why a citywide survey in Los Angeles was needed and why it would be so important. The Getty Foundation, part of the J. Paul Getty Trust, entered into a grant agreement with the City, giving the City \$2.5 million to do the survey. We had to match that, with the stipulation that we'd create an Office of Historic Resources to administer the project. It was a daunting challenge, because we're a city of about 470 square miles. The universe that we had to consider, to look at, was 880,000 separate legal parcels.

That's a ton.

Ken: Right. Surveys used to be done with pencil and paper and clipboard, just walking down the street and making assessments as to whether it was or it wasn't eligible for historic resources. We had to create a whole new system to tackle a challenge such as Los Angeles, so we created new technology to make possible a survey at the scale of the city of Los Angeles. We created the Field Guide Survey System, which allowed the use of laptops or tablets in the field with a series of drop-down menus, kind of like a TurboTax-type wizard where you go from screen to screen and record information on each property. Surveyors could pull up a lot of pre-survey research that had been done as well as information from community engagement that we did in advance. We were out in every community of Los Angeles, about six to nine

months ahead of sending field teams out, to have conversations with knowledgeable community leaders and anyone who wanted to talk to us about what were the places that mattered to that community, the places that wouldn't be so obvious even to the trained eye of an architectural historian, the places that might have deeper social and cultural meaning: a community hangout, a place associated with social movements that helped shape the community, and so forth. We got a great deal of input from communities around all of that. The teams were able to make assessments quickly in the field.

The main purpose of the survey always has been to inform the update our 35 community plans – to help determine what areas of our communities should be conserved, vs. other areas where greater change or evolution should be encouraged. The survey also helps guide our planners and help developers know before a project is proposed that there may be a significant historic resource affected. Before SurveyLA started, we were flying blind. It really provides key information.

Working With Other Departments

Which City departments do you work with? I would think many, or most.

Ken: Yes, many. We deal with historic places, but we are also a resource for the larger City family on anything having to do with historic preservation policy or historic sites in the City. We work very closely with Building and Safety, our code enforcement arm. Also HCID, the Housing and Community Investment Dept.

Of course.

Ken: Many of the issues are housing related. Housing does code enforcement for multi-family properties in the City. The City Attorney's Office, of course, with their legal advice. Recreation and Parks, which manages many historic park sites. Griffith Park was designated in 2008 as a Historic-Cultural Monument, and it's now the largest municipal designated historic landmark in the country just in terms of acreage. And Griffith Park has many historic buildings and places within it, including Griffith Observatory, the Hollywood Sign within the park land, the Greek Theatre, and many others. Echo Park, MacArthur Park, Leimert Park Plaza and many others are designated historic cultural monuments. Public Works' Bureau of Engineering is a close partner on many projects. They often serve as essentially the City's contractor, managing construction oversight and architectural design for City-owned facilities. Engineering also has an important role with our historic bridges, and Los Angeles has one of the finest ensembles of historic river bridges in the country. Our L.A. River bridges are remarkable, and we designated 11 of those in one fell swoop as City Historic-Cultural Monuments about a decade ago. We worked very closely with Engineering on the review of projects affecting those historic bridges.

Is your funding totally from the City of L.A.?

Ken: We are funded mostly by the City of L.A. The Getty grant has ended now because we've completed SurveyLA as of 2017, but we do seek small outside grants at times.

You are doing a ton. Do you manage to get out of here on time every night?

Ken: Most of the time. The work involves a lot of community engagement for all of us, a lot of evening and weekend meetings. That's a big part of what we do.

Signs of Success

How many people work in Historic Resources?

Ken: We now have 15 in our office, 16 counting myself. When we started in 2006 there were four of us for the first year or two, and we had just moved into a new office space in City Hall. For

— Continued, page 13



A STROLL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

On March 11, 2020, Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner and Manager of LA City Planning's Office of Historic Resources, led Club CEO Robert Larios on a tour down Carroll Avenue in one of LA's most historic neighborhoods, Angelino Heights. The neighborhood, just west of downtown, is LA's original suburb, according to Ken, and it features a concentration of architectural styles from three broad eras – the Victorian, Turn of the Century, and Period Revival.

Houses on the street might look familiar, as many have been seen in films and TV shows, including *Mad Men*, *Charmed* and "Thriller."

Angelino Heights was the City's first designated Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), established in 1983.

NOTE: The walking tour took place before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.



Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner (center), is interviewed by (from left) Club CEO Robert Larios and *Alive!* editor John Burnes.

—Interview, Continued from page 12

the longest time I would do staff meetings with four of us sitting around a tiny, square table, not even a real conference table. It was a makeshift operation at first. We are very proud that we've been able to grow the program into really a substantial municipal office for historic preservation.

Is this office successful?

Ken: I think it is. Los Angeles has been able to shed the image as a City that supposedly didn't care about its history or its architecture, and now we're increasingly seen as a model to other cities for a municipal preservation program. SurveyLA has won numerous national awards including the American Planning Association national award for public engagement and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's top preservation award for the totality of the project, and we get regular interest from other major cities that are looking to emulate what we've done with SurveyLA. We've worked very closely with other cities including Denver, which has launched a citywide survey program. Philadelphia has had some starts and stops, but they're re-launching a citywide survey that's very much modeled after what we've done with SurveyLA. We've won a lot of international interest as well. We had visitors from Singapore join us a couple years ago to learn about SurveyLA.

Part of the success of this office and this program is how historic preservation is transforming communities. There's a growing recognition around Los Angeles that historic preservation contributes to the economic vitality of our City. The adaptive reuse of historic buildings downtown is really what created a new residential base that has sparked the growth of restaurants, clubs, new entertainment uses, and much more of a 24-hour downtown than we had before the Adaptive Reuse Program began about two decades ago. We're also very proud of the success of Los Angeles in ensuring that historic preservation is no longer seen as an elitist endeavor. Twenty of those 35 HPOZ

areas have a median income that is below the City's median income – the majority of those are either low or moderate-income communities. They're also ethnically and demographically very diverse. Twenty-one of the 35 HPOZs have a percentage of the non-white population that is greater than the Citywide average on that. Some of our HPOZs include communities like Pico-Union and Lincoln Heights and neighborhoods in South Los Angeles that are tremendously diverse, ethnically, economically, in every way. Historic preservation is now seen as being for everyone and is also being seen as a tool to help celebrate what's important about those communities and help revitalize and create positive change.

Sometimes there might be disagreements in preservation. What's your working method to make sure that everything ends in the best way possible? How do you approach partnership?

Ken: Everything we do is a partnership. We talk about that frequently with our partners, whether they are HPOZ boards, property owners and applicants, and so forth. When we do an annual informational meeting on the Mills Act program, I lead with the fact that they're really entering into a long-term partnership with the City. They're getting a financial incentive, which is very attractive to them, but they are contributing to the City's overall preservation goals and the decisions that they make day to

— Continued pages 21 and 22 and on *Web Alive!*
alive.employeesclub.com

Local Historic Districts

The City's local historic districts program aims to identify and protect the distinctive architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles's historic neighborhoods. Designating a neighborhood as a local historic district—also called a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)—means that any new projects in that neighborhood must complement its historic character.

Like other zoning overlays, HPOZs provide an additional layer of planning control during the project review process. All exterior work proposed in an HPOZ, including landscaping, alterations, additions, and new construction, is subject to additional review. Each district has a Preservation Plan with design guidelines and an HPOZ Board that reviews proposed work. Some projects are reviewed at a staff level, while others also go to the district's HPOZ Board for consultation and review.

The City's designated historic districts are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 52nd Place | Highland Park – Garvanza | Stonehurst |
| Adams-Normandie | Hollywood Grove | Sunset Square |
| Angelino Heights | Jefferson Park | University Park |
| Balboa Highlands | La Fayette Square | Van Nuys |
| Banning Park | Lincoln Heights | Vinegar Hill |
| Carthay Circle | Melrose Hill | West Adams Terrace |
| Carthay Square | Miracle Mile | Western Heights |
| Country Club Park | Miracle Mile North | Whitley Heights |
| El Sereno – Berkshire | Oxford Square | Wilshire Park |
| Gregory Ain Mar Vista Tract | Pico-Union | Windsor Square |
| Hancock Park | South Carthay | Windsor Village |
| Harvard Heights | Spaulding Square | |

For more information on Local Historic Districts, scan:



Homes on Carroll Avenue being restored.



Murray Burns (second from left), longtime resident of Carroll Avenue, helped explain to the *Alive!* staff the history and legacy of the street. He's with Ken Bernstein of City Planning, and John Burnes and Robert Larios from the Club.



With Ken Bernstein, Principal City Planner and Manager, Office of Historic Resources (left), is the staff of City Planning's Office of Historic Resources, front row, from left: Sara Delgado, Planning Assistant and manager of HistoricPlacesLA, the citywide historic resources inventory; Jessa Ross, Student Professional Worker; Katie Knudson, Planning Assistant, Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) Unit; Melissa Jones, City Planning Associate, Historic-Cultural Monument and Mills Act Historical Property Contract programs; and Suki Gershenhorn, Planning Assistant, HPOZ Unit. Back: Deepeeka Dhaliwal, Planning Assistant, HPOZ Unit; Max Loder, Planning Assistant, HPOZ Unit; Jonathan Kaplan, Planning Assistant, HPOZ Unit; Daniel Mata, Planning Assistant, HPOZ Unit; and Lambert Giessinger, Historic Preservation Architect. (This photo is from March 2020; Jessa Ross has left her employment with the unit.)



Under renovation.



A bronze plaque highlights some of the City Historic-Cultural Monuments on the 1300 block of Carroll Avenue.



The house at 801 E. Edgeware in a photo from 1887 held by Ken Bernstein. The house no longer exists.

Salute to Veterans

The Club honors our Veterans.

We are honored to salute, for the first time, our Club Member Veterans in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

To all Club Veterans, thank you for your service!



For Ercell Murray, USAR Medical Specialist
— From Sarah Richardson, LAPD



Derek Deach, LADWP, and Search and Rescue Swimmer, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, U.S. Navy.



“All gave some and some gave all. I’m very proud of the military heritage in my family. I thank every Veteran for their service, past, present and future!”

“Here is a collage with my family of veterans. Me, Army Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom; My brother, Geoffrey Galetti, Army Vietnam; my brother-in-law, Joseph Harpel, Army 82nd Airborne; My sister, CPO Tracy Galetti Harpel, Navy; my cousin, CWO Clark R. Pedersen, Army Vietnam; and my father, Joseph Galetti, Army-Air Corps WWII.”

— Kimberly Ganier, LAPD/Communications



“My brother, Larry, was drafted for the Vietnam war. My deaf ear kept me out of the draft, although I tried three times. Larry went to Fort Ord and was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco and Fort Hood, Tex. He was fortunate to not have gone into combat. He died young at age 59 from cancer. I still miss him every day.

“In memory of a great brother and best friend, I miss you, brother. He’s on the left.”

— From Gary Dilley, Public Works/Sanitation



“Sgt. First Class Marvin C. Alexander served our country as a Korean War Vet and 20 years of service. He is a loving husband, father and grandfather. Thank you for your years of service, we salute you!”

For Army Sgt. First Class Infantryman Marvin Alexander, 1952-54

— From Doris Alexander, Los Angeles County



Sgt. Demetrio Mendoza, US Army, 1990-98, LAPD

“I served in the US Army from 1986 to 1997. I was Military Police. I spent seven years overseas in the German cities of Munster, Bad Hersfeld/Fulda and Hanau. I spent 90 days deployed to Hungary as part of Operation Joint Guard from July to October 1997. When I left the service I was a Staff Sergeant/E-6.



“This is a picture of me in my dress Blues, right before I separated.”

— Stephanie Burkhart, PSR, LAPD

“Happy Veterans Day, Dad! We love you and are so proud of you. Thank you for your service.”

— For Edward Salas, Retired, LAFD, and former Sgt., US Army, 1973-77



“Sgt., Air Force Munitions Specialist, 1971, Utopia, Thailand, Vietnam War. I’m proud to have served!”

— Mike Peralta, Retired, Transportation



“Thank you for your service. I love you, Daddy.”

For Javier Aldaco, US Marine Corps, 1997-2001; US Army National Guard, 2015-2018; Public Works/Sanitation and Environment

— From John Aldaco, 10, son



“Thank you for your service in the Army, my dear husband, Paris R. Winkelman. We salute our Veterans!”

— From Katrina Winkelman, Retired, General Services



SEND IN YOUR TRIBUTES:

We're still accepting submissions for publishing on the online *Alive!*. Submit to: aliveemployeesclub.com/veterans

DEADLINE: Monday, Nov. 8
PUBLISHED: Thursday, Nov. 11

Five Veterans from the pages of *Alive!*

FROM JULY 2016

Joe Govea, First Infantry Division, US Army; Retired, Building and Safety



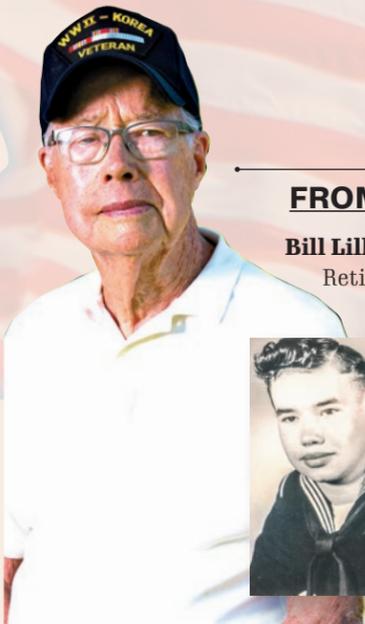
FROM JULY 2019

Herbert Moore, Accountant, US Army; Retired, Controller's Office



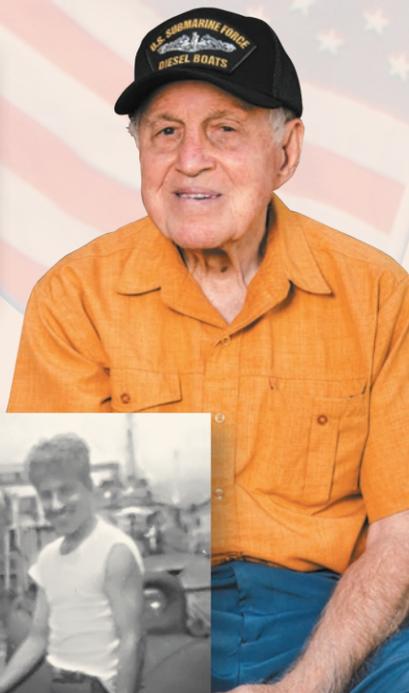
FROM JULY 2017

Art Spaulding, 91st Chemical Mortar Battalion, US Army; Retired, CAO's Office



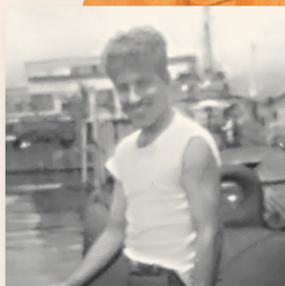
FROM JULY 2020

Bill Lillenberg, US Navy; Retired, City Planning



FROM JULY 2021

Michael Bevelaqua, US Navy; Retired, Transportation



Officer Frank Partida with sons, Logan and Gavin

Officer Partida, End of Watch

Officer Frank Partida succumbs to the coronavirus.

LAPD: Officer Frank Partida, a 16-year veteran of the LAPD, died Sept. 26 of the coronavirus. He was 39.

He's the 11th member of the LAPD to succumb to COVID-19.

Officer Partida leaves behind his wife, Kristin, and young sons, Logan and Gavin

Officer Partida's death increases the reported LAPD/LAFD victims of COVID total to 13 during the pandemic. May they rest in peace.

The others (previously reported in *Alive!*) who have passed away previously from coronavirus complications are:

- Officer Becky Strong, South Traffic Division, died Aug. 2, 2021 after 16 years of City service.
- Sgt. Patricia Guillen, 77th Division, died Jan. 28, 2021 after 22 years of City service.
- Security Officer Dexter De Los Santos died Jan. 29, 2021 after 8 years of City service.
- Sgt. Fred Cueto, LAPD, died in December 2020 after 22 years of City service.
- Detention Officer Erica McAdoo, 39, died in July 2020.
- Officer Valentin Martinez, 45, LAPD, died in July 2020.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Perez, LAFD, passed away in July 2020.
- PSR III Raymond Guerrero, a 911 Operator, died in January 2021 after 24 years of City service.
- Capt. 1 George Roque, LAFD, died in January 2021 after 22 years of City service.
- Sgt. Amelia "Terry" Martinez died in January 2021 after 27 years of City service.
- Officer II Philip Sudario died in January 2021 after 25 years of City service.
- Sgt. Anthony White, Transit Services Division, died April 15, 2021.



John's Picture Perfect Contest

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

This month's contest theme:

Red, Green or Blue

With Christmas and Hanukkah coming up, we'd love to see your favorite shots of the holidays – or really any moment you've captured that depicts these colors in a beautiful way.

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

DEADLINE: NOV. 12

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

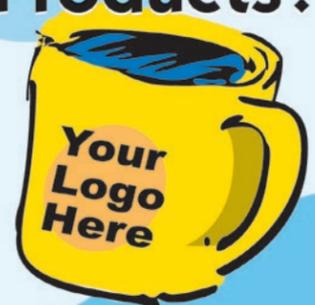
Club Members only.
Good luck!



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Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

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ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

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- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
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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.



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. 2021 Annual Holiday Party
CANCELED

June 2, 2022 Tom Stennock Annual Golf Tournament
*Alhambra Golf Course
630 S. Almansor St.
Alhambra*

Look for future event dates to be announced soon!

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Sets Plan for Pacing Private Investment

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



Michael R. Wilkinson

Last May, the LACERS Board increased its allocation to private equity from 14 percent to 16 percent of the total fund.

LACERS depends on good performance from private equity, which traditionally has high returns, but fees are higher and investment returns are more volatile, meaning investors must expect markets to go up and down more than in traditional investments. As they say, there are no “free lunches” in investing; to get higher returns you must accept some greater risk.

In the most recent fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021) private equity returned a stunning 55 percent for the year, 19 percent for three years, 17 percent for five years and 14 percent for 10 years. The investment returns will not be like this every year!

However, like all investments, it pays to diversify. One of the key strategies to diversify private equity is when you invest. Like fine wines, private equity investments are spread out by vintage years. Some years are very profitable, and some are not. When you make an investment, it is not clear if a year will be great or a dud, so you spread the investments over the years.

LACERS has chosen to make the increase from 14 percent to 16 percent over five years on an almost equally weighted basis. In 2021, the investment pace will be \$1.1 billion, then followed by \$1.375 billion in the next three years and finally \$1.0 billion in 2025.

Sometimes it is hard to deal with the big numbers for the size of our investments. I am reminded of the great comment attributed to the late Sen. Everett Dirksen, “A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon you are talking real money.”

While vintage year investing for private equity does not guarantee high returns, it does reduce the probability that you will be putting “all your eggs in one basket” by investing heavily on a vintage year that turns sour. ■

A Shout Out to LACERS Well!

By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director



Beverly J. Clark

If you ever have the opportunity to attend either by Zoom or in person one of the LACERS Well seminars, please be sure to do so as you will certainly learn something. I retired in 2009 and consider myself an “experienced” Retiree – that means I no longer feel the need to get up early, go to bed early, rush from place to place or stand in long lines. I now plan my shopping Tuesday through Thursday when most people are at work or in school. Why? Because I’m retired!



One of the hidden gems I just recently discovered is the seminars and classes offered by the Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System (LACERS). Last month, I had the pleasure of attending two classes offered by LACERS Well on Zoom. The first class was a six-week fitness class conducted by Sean Foy entitled “Fitness That Matters.” Sean got the class involved and made exercise relevant. He provided practical exercises with videos that most of us were actually able to do. Sean encouraged us as seniors to get active and set goals to stay active. I’ve found that moving about has improved my sense of well being.

The second seminar, “Aging Mastery Program,” was conducted by several delightful LACERS Well employees; Stephanie Smith, Wellness Program Manager; Kristal Baldwin, Benefits Analyst; Keeva Hudson, Administrative Intern; and Darnell Weatherspoon, Sr. Administrative Clerk. This program was outstanding! It was held twice a week for five weeks. The information provided was invaluable for any age but especially for seniors. The topics covered included exercise, sleeping habits, healthy eating, financial fitness, advance planning, healthy relationships, medication management, fall prevention and community engagement. The interactive class featured several guest speakers.

I was amazed to discover that even as a “seasoned” senior there are still new and exciting things to learn. I encourage everyone to register for this class the next time it is offered. A wealth of information was provided addressing all aspects of living, sustaining and improving our retirement adventure. Also, check the LACERS Well calendar for other courses that may be of interest. Find the calendar in your MyLACERS account under the “Events” tab. Be sure to watch for LACERS communications via email or direct mail for information about upcoming events.

On behalf of the RLACEI Board and its members, we would like to thank the LACERS staff and the LACERS Well team for offering these phenomenal courses that help enrich the lives of City Retirees! And best of all, they’re free of charge! ■

RETIRES UPDATE

The COLA and The ‘Uncola’

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



Tom Moutes

If you are old enough to remember the “Uncola” 7 UP advertisements of the 1970s, then you are old enough to remember the persistently high inflation and resulting COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustments) during that decade.

Recently, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced the COLA for its benefits will be 5.9 percent

for the coming year. This will be the largest COLA increase since 1982! There were several years during the 1970s “Uncola” era when the SSA increases were larger, a couple of which were even in double digits.

So, what does this mean for us LACERS Retirees? It means something and not much at all at the same time. The “something” is that clearly costs of goods have gone up. We are all probably feeling that.

The “not much” is due to the way the SSA calculates its annual COLA versus the way LACERS does. According to the SSA website, its “COLAs are based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). CPI-Ws are calculated on a monthly basis by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A COLA effective for December of the current year is equal to the percentage increase (if any) in the CPI-W from the average for the third quarter of the current year to the average for the third quarter of the last year in which a COLA became effective.”

The LACERS COLA is provided on a fiscal year basis and is based on the average annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area for the previous calendar year.

So, while the SSA’s COLA is based on national statistics and measured at the third quarter each year, the LACERS COLA is based on the local level and is measured at the end of the calendar year. These differences in measurement sometimes produce similar results, but sometimes the results are quite different. Of course, the LACERS Tier 1 COLA is capped at 3 percent per year, but any excess is banked for future years.

Even if there are differences in the amounts of the SSA COLA, which is effective soon and the LACERS COLA at the end of the fiscal year, it looks like we can all raise our glasses of the “Uncola” to be thankful for increased retirement checks in the future! ■

Correction from October:

A paragraph in Tom’s column last month praising LACERS leader Lita Payne, Club Member, on her retirement was omitted by accident. The paragraph noted Lita’s contributions and accomplishments to LACERS before she retired. Here is the missing paragraph, and congratulations again to Lita on her strong career at LACERS:

Lita recently retired as LACERS Assistant General Manager after many years working to oversee the provision of retirement benefits and has expansive knowledge of Retiree health benefits.

Alive! regrets the error and apologizes to Lita and Tom for this omission.

**Become an
RLACEI Member**

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,000 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 ON THE MOVE

He's a Retiree on the Move.

Meet Earnest Kelley Jr.

By Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Earnest Kelley Jr. retired on Oct. 26, 2009, as a Roofing Supervisor with Recreation and Parks. Earnest is very proud of his accomplishment of having been employed with the City for 36 years. He started his City career in 1973 with Public Works/Public Sewer Maintenance. He briefly was employed with LAPD for five months and then became a Maintenance and Construction Helper with Street Maintenance. In 1977, he transferred to Recreation and Parks and advanced to Sr. Roofer.



Earnest Kelley Jr.

Earnest loves retirement, and his hobbies are vast. He is an avid fisherman and hunter. He hunts for wild hogs on leased land about twice a year. He has a lake on his property and can fish anytime he wants, which is about two to three times a week catching crappie bass, catfish and bluegills. He's also spotted an alligator in the lake.

Earnest says other hobbies and chores are painting and carpentry. He does most of the handiwork on his property in Texas. These activities also keep him busy and content.

Earnest collects art and loves to visit antique stores. His other talents include baking, and he loves to barbecue for family gatherings. He's the designated "go-to" person for help in organizing family reunions.

He has two sons, four daughters and two grandsons.

Earnest has found his niche in retirement where he lives some of the year in California and the rest of the year in Texas on his serene lakeside property.

He says he's not very involved with any specific organizations because his hobbies keep him busy. However, his involvement is to help people when he sees them in need. He believes in "paying it forward" and has been known to pay for someone's food in line at the market or give someone his hat or shoes on a raining day.

Any words of wisdom for Retirees or those about to retire?

"Have a plan and stick to it. I was being groomed for my Supervisor's position and had planned to work 40 years, but when my Supervisor retired a month before, I decided it was time for me to go. I had already purchased a place in Texas and purchased my home in 2006."



Earnest Fishing.

What was the smartest thing you did to prepare for retirement, or did you plan on retiring when you did?

"I knew exactly what I wanted to do in retirement, so I bought my home in Texas before I retired."

What do you miss or don't miss about your years of service to the City of Los Angeles?

"I miss the morning meetings we would have before being dispatched to do our daily routines. That was a time to catch up with what was going at work but also with coworkers.

"I had a very good supervisor – everybody knew what to do and did it. I miss the guys I would hang out with in the morning before work begin and talk about the game the night before. We had time to talk about sports and just build a camaraderie with fellow employees."

As an avid golfer, Earnest reminisces about meeting with the guys to play a round of golf. He says he was also a talented baseball player.

As you reflect on your City career, would you have done anything differently?

"No. I enjoyed my City career. I probably would have started taking City exams sooner, however, I love the way things turned out. I have no complaints."

How do you fill your days in retirement?

"I love antiquing. I look for stuff at marketplaces."

If you could change one thing about retired life, what would that be?

"Seniors over 65 should not have to pay school taxes!"

Since the Shelter-in-Place mandate, how has life changed for you?

"Life has not changed much, but we do not have family functions and reunions as much. I still fish but have not been hunting since the pandemic. I keep myself busy, so I am not bored. My socializing now consists of going on Facebook more and having Zoom calls with 50 to 60 family members. I've also found new relatives from ancestry.com.

"Retirement has been great for me and I'm enjoying every day. I love that I am able to spend some time in Texas and some time in California. It is the best of both worlds!"



Earnest chilling.

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills

Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!

Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated.

If you enjoy working with and assisting City retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact:

Dennis Harding at: Tel: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706
Email: Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org or

Beverly Clark at Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

Meet the 2021 Board of Directors

Here is your RLACEI Board of Directors!



From left: Mark Blunk, Audit Chair; Mike Perez, Golf Committee Chair; Beverly Anderson, Director; Beverly Clark, Vice President and Publicity Director; Tom Moutes, Legislative Director; Ruth Perry, President and Membership Director; Dennis Harding, Entertainment and Nominating Director; Vicki Keoseian, Secretary; Lucy Artinian, Treasurer; and Liz Torres, Director.

I'm Bugged

By Dennis Harding, RLACEI Director



Dennis Harding

There is an Ogden Nash poem that goes: "God in his wisdom made the fly and then forgot to tell us why"

Well as annoying as flies can be, a case can be made for their benefit to nature. They attack insects that eat our food plants; they are a food source for other creatures like fish; and they consume rotting animals, fruits and vegetables.

But despite their value, all we think of is how annoying they are and wish they would just ... shoo! Be that as it may, my vote for the pest that defies any logical reason to have been made part of God's creation is the mosquito. How in the wide, wide world of sports does the mosquito benefit anyone or anything? To me, all they are is a stealth bomber of nature, landing on us and sucking our blood without us realizing it until it is too late, when we start to feel like something is itching us. By then they are long gone, leaving behind days of drive-you-crazy itching ... before they are on to some other poor unsuspecting soul. They seem to exist only to gorge themselves relentlessly on our blood, to spread diseases, and to torment us as if we were being punished for some unknown misdoings. Hmm ... could that be their purpose? To be God's little punisher when we've done wrong?

Well whatever, I guess it really doesn't matter what they are here for, it won't lessen the effects of their torturous mission. And it still wouldn't make any sense to anyone except to God, and He's not talking.

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September/October Winners:

New RLACEI Members – Welcome!

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Baljit Soni

Lisa Williams

Following RLACEI Facebook Page

Tom Boyd

Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com, and search for "RLACEI"

Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Mario Diaz
Retired from Public Works/Street Services after 30 years of City service.



Paulette Stanton
Retired from the LAPD after 32 years of City service.



Miguel Valerio
Retired from Public Works/Sanitation and Environment after 34 years of City service.

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SAMPLE DEAL

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<https://newsletter.cityemployeesclub.com/h/r/2E5006E9D7D7553E>

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It's Party Pix Time

This holiday season might remain restricted, but the Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department's holiday party pictured in *Alive!*

This year, some parties might be back in person. But, as happened last year, many City departments are planning to have their annual holiday party on Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeetings, or other videoconferencing apps. Either way – if your department has a holiday party scheduled in person or online, then you can be a part of our special holiday section.

We'll print screen captures of your event in an upcoming *Alive!*, online and in print.

Here's how this will work:

1. If you're having your party in person, take photos and submit to the Club.
2. If your party will be online again, have someone in your department capture screen images (screen grabs) of your holiday event in progress. (Take several, or many.) Then go to the upload page on alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty fill in the details, and upload the images. It's that simple.
3. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party online. We'll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some photos or screen grabs. We'll handle it from there. But you must register first: go to the *Alive!* Website and send us your details. We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it.

See you at the party!



To send in your digital holiday party screen grabs, or to ask that we attend, go to: alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty

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Holiday Events Are Back!

City-sponsored events are back for the holiday season 2021! Well, many of them, so far.

Notable returning events include the Hollywood Christmas Parade and LA Zoo Lights. Welcome back!

Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Many of those were delayed or postponed last year. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide for 2021; check back in next month for updated information.

A Victorian Christmas at the Banning Museum in Wilmington



Hollywood Christmas Parade

When: 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28

Where: Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Streets.

Cost: Free; grandstand reserved seating is sold out

City sponsor: City Council.

Information: (866) PARADE-1, or www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, returns this year at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in Hollywood. Grand marshal is TV host Sheryl Underwood.

The parade, an American tradition for 89 years, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. The parade was not held last year due to the pandemic.

Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

Donate to a Toy/Clothing Drive!

Many City departments host holiday toy and clothing drives. The Club encourages you to be generous by participating.

LAFD Spark of Love

The LAFD – and many other local fire departments – are collecting for their annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. Drop off unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any LAFD Fire Station, and they'll take it from there.

West Valley Sanitation

Public Works' West Valley Sanitation Yard is once again hosting its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Drop off your unwrapped toys at the yard, 8840 Vanalden Ave., Northridge, by Wednesday, Dec. 15, as West Valley donates the toys to the Guadalupe Center the next day.

Brian Sibert (front) and the toy drive gang at Sanitation's West Valley Yard are ready to accept donations.



LAPD Northeast

LAPD's Northeast Station has given away up to 1,000 toys a year to area children living in poverty or other challenging situations. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for 3-to-12-year-old children to the station by Friday, Dec. 10, 3353 N San Fernando Rd.

Jackets for the Homeless Drive



Zaki Mustafa, Retired, Transportation, and Club Member, and his team have purchased and distributed 35,000 warm winter jackets for the homeless over the past decade. The effort is ongoing; donations and/or assistance is always welcome.

Zaki Mustafa and his wife, Loretta, have led an effort to donate more than 35,000 jackets for the homeless. The Transforming a Life team is ready to start distributing jackets to the homeless for 2021.

For more information: www.transformingalife.org

LA Zoo Holiday Lights

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, Nov. 19 – Jan. 9 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).

Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.

Cost: \$16-\$24 (daytime Zoo admission extra).

City sponsor: LA Zoo.

Information: (323) 644-6042 or www.LAZoolights.org



The after-hours attraction, which requires a separate ticket from the Zoo's regular day hours, is a self-guided 90-minute walking tour of tens of thousands of LED lights, flurries of illuminated snowflakes, 3-D animated projections, a musical light-and-water show and glittering light tunnels.

Animal characters brought to "life" include mischievous animated monkeys, a gigantic glowing snake coiled on a roof, animated elephants and much more.

Victorian Christmas

When: noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 4

Where: Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.

Cost: Free admission.

City sponsor: Rec and Parks.

Information: (310) 548-2005 or www.thebanningmuseum.org

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby. Note that the event, which was canceled last year due to the pandemic, is expected to be scaled back from previous years, and details are being worked out at press time.

Harbor Afloat Parade

When: 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4

Where: LA Waterfront; Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington.

Cost: Free.

City sponsor: Harbor

Information: www.portofla.org

Join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront, sponsored by the Port. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway. Pre-parade festivities at Banning's Landing Community Center (4 p.m.).



Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. Nov. 26 – Jan. 7

Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park

Cost: \$5

City sponsor: Rec and Parks

Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

Guests can take an evening train ride around the festively decorated one mile of track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26-Jan. 7. The trains do not operate in the rain.



Las Posadas on Olvera Street

When: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16-24

Where: Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.

Cost: Free admission.

City sponsor: El Pueblo Historical Monument.

Information: www.elpueblo.lacity.org

Las Posadas, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for Jesus' birth.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshippers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.



All stories courtesy the Los Angeles Police Foundation.

Above and Beyond



This Year's Honorees

Purple Heart

Sgt. Joseph Gunn
 Policeman Keith DuPuis
 Officer Richard Harsma
 Officer Frank Pettinato
 Officer Fadi Chelico
 Officer Eduardo Guillen (also Medal of Valor)
 Officer Enrique Trujillo (also Medal of Valor)

Medal of Valor

Officer Clifford Chu
 Officer Matthew Clymer
 Officer Rene Gonzalez
 Officer Martin Niguera
 Officer Luis Urbina
 Officer Gerardo Velasco
 Officer Oscar Granillo
 Officer Eduardo Guillen (also Purple Heart)
 Officer Enrique Trujillo (also Purple Heart)

Preservation of Life

Sgt. Michael Porter

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 15 heroes with Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and Preservation of Life honors.

LAPD: On Sept. 23, the LAPD hosted its important annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony, which this year honored 15 Officers who demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown. The event was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic.

This year's event continued the awarding of Purple Heart, Medals of Valor, and the Preservation of Life. Purple Hearts have been distributed only nine times in the history of the event. This year, seven LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart, nine with the Medal of Honor, and one with the Preservation of Life. (Two Officers were awarded with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor.)

For the fifth time, the LAPD awarded the Preservation of Life medal, a recognition of efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters. The Department is one of only a handful in the country to bestow such an honor.

It is *Alive!*'s great honor to publish every year the names and stories of those honored.

The Purple Heart recognizes Officers who have sustained grievous physical injury during a tactical situation and posthumously to the next of kin of those Officers who did not survive their injuries.

The Medal of Valor is awarded to Officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Valor, an Officer shall have preformed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and the Purple Heart was first awarded in 2009. The Preservation of Life honor was first awarded in 2016.

The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The Club thanks Dana Katz, Executive Director, for her assistance.

Read the Riveting Stories of Heroism

The stories of their bravery are published on the *Alive!* Website. Read them here: alive.employeesclub.com/aboveandbeyond2021

Altercation and Pursuit

CONTINUED ONLINE



Sgt. Joseph Gunn
 Purple Heart

In the early morning hours of Aug. 17, 1966, Sgt. Joseph Gunn was on uniformed patrol in Newton Division when he observed a suspect armed with a knife and a crescent wrench chasing another male. Gunn detained both men and ordered the suspect to drop the knife and wrench, which he did. As Gunn began to search the suspect, the suspect spun around and punched Gunn in the face. A physical altercation ensued; the suspect broke free and ran. Gunn engaged in a pursuit...

Erratic Driving

CONTINUED ONLINE



Policeman Keith DuPuis
 Purple Heart

At approximately 4 a.m. Oct. 16, 1966, Wilshire Division Policeman Keith DePuis and his partner stopped a motorist for driving erratically and ordered the driver and passenger out of the vehicle. The passenger started walking back toward the Officers, who asked him to raise his hands, which he did. Suddenly, he reached toward his back, grabbed a gun that he had holstered...

MORE STORIES ONLINE



New Mercury Insurance Discounts!

Club insurance partner United Agencies is offering new discounts from Mercury Insurance.

United Agencies, a Club insurance partner, wants Club Members to know that Mercury Insurance, one of the carriers it represents, is offering new group discounts. Below is a list.

MERCURY INSURANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

California | Private Passenger Auto | September 8, 2021

Mercury Insurance New Group Discounts

Mercury Insurance offers numerous discounts to policyholders, and effective October 10, 2021, Mercury will be implementing four new group discounts to help consumers save even more!

- **AAA Members** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a member of the American Automobile Association (AAA).
- **Bank of America Employees**- A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is an employee of Bank of America.
- **Costco/Sam's Club Members** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a member of Costco or Sam's Club.
- **Pilots** - A reduction in BI, PD, UMBI, Medical, Comprehensive and Collision premiums is available if the insured is a pilot. Must have current airmen certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration. All certificate classes apply except student certificates.

Qualifying customers will receive up to an 8% discount in Mercury Insurance Company (MIC) and up to a 6% discount in California Automobile Insurance Company (CAIC).

Existing customers that renew on or after October 10, 2021 are eligible for these new discounts and will be notified of the new discount options in their renewal offer. Agents can submit a change request with the required acceptable proof to add the discount to the policy. Proof of membership or employment in one of these areas may include but is not limited to a copy or image of the named insured or listed driver's membership card, ID badge, business card, redacted pay stub or certificate. An updated copy of the underwriting manual can be found in the Agency Community [here](#).

Thank you for your business and partnership with Mercury. If you have any questions, please contact your marketing representative.

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The *Alive!* Interview

INVESTING IN THE PAST

day in the stewardship of their own personal property. They are contributing to the City's overall preservation goals, but this runs both ways. We have to emphasize to our staff the importance of responsiveness and fast customer service and sensitive community engagement because these are not just customers, as some departments might think of those who interact with them. They are our preservation partners in the decisions that they make day to day in how they approach their own property. We are partners in their properties.

Now, that said, sometimes there's controversy in what we do as well. There are times when a property owner may not initially be supportive of historic designation for their property if a nomination comes from another party or a City Councilmember. Rarely is there unanimous support for a proposed HPOZ in a neighborhood. Property owners have different points of view, so a big part of what we do is creating forums for that type of community discussion, being out there in those communities with facts and being the authoritative source of information so that we can address any misconceptions that people have. We're not out there to sell an HPOZ, if you will, to a neighborhood that really doesn't want it, but just to indicate what some of the benefits are, what the process will ultimately be like, and address any myths or misconceptions about the process of historic preservation. We must stay engaged with our partners to achieve positive outcomes.

Planning for Change

Is the past always in the past, or do you have to plan for change?

Ken: Yes. A big part of what our Planning Department does is anticipating and planning for change. In Los Angeles right now we have a significant housing crisis as you know, statewide in California, too – we need additional housing. I had already mentioned the Adaptive Reuse Program downtown as one of the ways that we are providing significant additional housing units in historic buildings. But we also need to find areas that accommodate new housing, and there's sometimes a concern that historic designation is inhibiting new density and new housing units being provided in communities. A study that came out last week has some interesting data that speaks to that point. It's something we knew in the Office of Historic Resources already – the 35 designated historic districts have a level of density that is actually about 50 percent higher than the residential densities in the rest of the average City, a sort of midlevel of natural density. They're not a high-rise development by any means, but they have a livable, walkable, historic urban form that is much denser than the later single-family development that took place in many parts of the City. Already we have kind of a natural density in those communities.

In addition, it's important to point out that our HPOZs, even though we have 21,000 structures in the HPOZs, it's a little more than two percent of the 880,000 properties that we have Citywide. Almost 98 percent of the City is not protected in an HPOZ currently, so there are many places where that new growth and density can occur. It's important to always put our preservation work into that larger context with some of the other urgent City policy goals related to housing.

Construction booms come and go. Does a construction boom make your work more challenging?

Ken: It does. There's a lot of activity. Another part of what we do is act as a resource for the rest of our planners in the department when projects come up that might affect historic resources. We advise planners who may be reviewing zone changes or other planning applications that could have an impact on either a designated historic resource or something that we've identified in SurveyLA. We're seeing a lot more of projects that require a thoughtful look at how a designated or potential historic resource might be impacted.

What's the future of the past? How can the past help decide where we're going?

Ken: There are three things that are really urgent. I'm talking

a lot about them these days trying to anticipate where historic preservation in Los Angeles is going. One is the intersection with housing. We're contending with the urgent need to provide more housing, and particularly more affordable housing. The state of California is dramatically changing our work at the local level because the state is now playing a more aggressive role in land use and trying to direct and incentivize the creation of new housing. How historic preservation responds to that in a way that is both positive and accommodating is a balance we're seeking.

The other two areas are where the field is going. One of them is the intersection of the climate crisis and historic preservation. This may not be immediately obvious, but there's a growing conversation taking place about the role of cultural heritage in climate change. This cuts two ways: What are the impacts of climate change on significant historic and cultural resources, and where are there significant resources that are being threatened? In Los Angeles we are in part a coastal city. We have coastal communities including Venice or portions of the Harbor area that have significant historic and cultural resources that are projected to be subject to inundation within not too many decades, and we've only in some cases recently identified the significance of some of these places through the work we've done on SurveyLA. How do we prepare for that? Are we prepared to lose significant resources? Do we need to think about raising or relocating significant historic places, and how do we prepare for other climate impacts such as wildfires? Someone else smarter than me said if the bulldozer was the image of the historic preservation threat during the 20th century, it's climate that is the threat of the 21st century. We're just beginning to think about what we do about all of that, but I think Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage also have a role to play in mitigating potential climate impacts. We need to think about how we make our historic buildings more energy efficient and minimize carbon emissions from our historic building stock, and then also reinforce the point that is not to demolish our older and historic structures in the first place. There's been considerable research done on this that, depending on the building type, it can take anywhere from 10 to 70 years to make up for the carbon impact of demolishing and replacing a historic structure in terms of the resources that are needed to demolish and rebuild. The existing building stock has significant what's often called embodied energy or significant embodied carbon – if that is demolished and replaced, even with the most energy-efficient new construction, it will take decades to make that up. How do we create policies that disincentivize wholesale demolition?

The last area is cultural preservation. We've already done a lot of work in this area, and through SurveyLA we created pioneering historic context statements, which are preservation frameworks for many of the significant communities of our city. We did a citywide context statement related to Latino Los Angeles; the African-American community in Los Angeles; and five of our largest Asian American communities – Japanese American, Chinese, Thai, Filipino, and Korean American communities. We did the nation's first municipal LGBT historic context, and some other cities including San Francisco and San Diego have now followed. We're proud of this work to identify the places that are associated with the communities that have really created the fabric of Los Angeles. The coming challenge for us is how do we best protect some of those places and histories beyond the building itself? We need to think about a broader set of tools beyond what we have in our toolbox at the OHR today that will involve partnerships for how we look at these broader questions of cultural preservation. It's a



very exciting time for that reason, as we address those growing challenges of climate on the one hand and the cultural fabric of our community using some nontraditional methods.

Passion for Preservation

What do you love about what you do?

Ken: I really love almost everything about what I do!

Clearly you're very passionate about this.

Ken: I hope I'm able to convey that. I'm really fortunate that I'm one of those people who's able to get up every morning and not dread going to work because I really do love working with the history and architecture and character of Los Angeles, a city I grew up in and that I love. The opportunity to serve the City and address every day the places that really have made Los Angeles unique and feel like I'm making a contribution to the preservation and revitalization of those places, it always is something I feel excited about doing.

I love the people I work with here. We have a great team, and I'm really proud that we've been able to build a team in the OHR that now is made up of qualified historic preservation professionals who have in most cases Master's degrees in this field. They've worked in private consulting or in other responsible positions and now have chosen to come to the City of Los Angeles to be part of what we're doing in historic preservation.

I really love engaging with communities, which at times can be a challenge because there's rarely unanimity or complete agreement on anything that we take on. But I do enjoy the give and take and the opportunity to be out in the unique communities of Los Angeles and working with all types of people. It's never a dull moment because it's constantly evolving, but I really love just about everything I do. Sometimes we face bureaucracy and obstacles, and that's not always so fun. But for the most part what we do is very engaging and invigorating.

Ken, thank you for your time. It's been a really informative interview

Ken: My pleasure.

The *Alive!* Interview

INVESTING IN THE PAST

Epilogue: Post-Pandemic

Just days after we spoke with you in March 2020, everything changed, with the COVID pandemic leading to stay-at-home orders and social distancing. As we resume in August 2021, how did all of this affect the work of the Office of Historic Resources?

Ken: It's good to talk to you again. When Mayor Eric Garcetti issued his "Safer at Home" directive in March 2020, all of LA City Planning's staff, including the Office of Historic Resources, shifted largely to telecommuting operations. While our staff has been mostly working remotely from home, the OHR has remained fully open for business. Planning and the OHR were considered "essential" government services during these times, since we help process permits and clearances that allow construction and economic activity to continue, so we needed to maintain continuity and efficiency while ensuring continued protection of the City's significant historic resources.

To fulfill these roles, we needed to move quickly to develop creative new ways of doing our work. Rather than continuing to schedule in-person appointments to stamp large sets of paper plans, our team implemented new systems, such as electronic plan stamping and electronic signatures for determination letters. All of the technologies and City permitting systems available on desktop computers at work were soon available at home, so staff could efficiently handle permit clearances and other City determinations while working remotely.

This new way of working also involved a rapid shift to virtual public meetings and hearings. The Cultural Heritage Commission – the City's historic preservation commission – became the first of LA City Planning's nine commissions to pioneer a new public meeting format using Zoom. Within a month of the stay-at-home orders, the CHC had resumed its regular public meeting schedule via Zoom, taking public testimony telephonically, assisted greatly by the hard work of the Department's Commission Office staff.

By May, the OHR re-launched Board meetings for the City's local historic districts, the 35 Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). With 21 separate HPOZ Boards that typically meet in local communities up to twice monthly, the HPOZ program's new virtual meeting format probably represented one of the nation's largest municipal efforts to create new online public meetings.

Good! How did your constituents react?

Ken: We've actually found that public participation increased through the virtual meeting format, at both our Cultural Heritage Commission and the HPOZ Boards, since it was more convenient for community members to be able to participate from home, rather than fighting traffic to come to a meeting location. The meetings also have run very efficiently: Project applicants and architects can maintain visual contact with the Board members and share project design plans in real time on the screen, in a way that the public participants can also easily see and comment upon in an organized fashion.

There has also been an important human side to the City's response during this emergency. Many on our LA City Planning staff, including several in the Office of Historic Resources, served the City's overall emergency efforts as Disaster Service Workers, stepping beyond their usual planning responsibilities to assist other City departments and people in severe need. Our OHR staff assisted with the temporary shelters at the City's Recreation Centers, served meals at shelters set up at hotels/motels, inspected facilities producing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and helped operate a Senior Meals Hotline on behalf of the Department of Aging.

That human connection also infused the OHR's ongoing work on historic preservation during this period. Our historic districts and historic places do more than preserve architectural character – they actually help create community, a close-knit sense of connection that is often very different from places that don't have such historic value or resonance. And there had rarely been a time when that sense of community was more needed than during the pandemic.



The OHR therefore worked with LA City Planning's External Affairs and Graphics staff to use technology and social media to stay connected to one another during these times of crisis and social distancing. Even though many were not gathering together around the City as frequently, we felt it was more important to find ways to cherish and stay connected to the places and neighborhoods we all love across Los Angeles.

So we created a new online series, #OurLA, promoted through LA City Planning's social media feeds. The OHR partnered with neighborhood leaders in diverse Los Angeles communities to create video walking tours and other engaging online content that speaks to the value of our historic places in building community. These included virtual online walking tours, hosted by local community members, in neighborhoods such as Little Tokyo, Lafayette Square and Leimert Park. The series also included blog posts that highlighted historic places that illustrated some of the key themes in our SurveyLA historic context work, which the public could delve into while staying "safe at home."

Now, as we come out of this period and reemerge into a very different Los Angeles, I truly believe that our historic preservation work is more compellingly needed than ever. As communities feel a sense of erasure, losing places or experiences we once loved, historic preservation provides the most effective way to keep us connected to the places and stories that enduringly define our City.

The past year has also been a period of national reckoning around the issues of racial justice and equity. How have these events and discussions affected the OHR's work?

Ken: The Black Lives Matter movement and the national conversation around racial justice has begun to spark a parallel conversation about the role that historic preservation has played in reinforcing racist practices and outcomes. We know that land use policies and zoning practices over many decades have institutionalized and reinforced racial segregation, wealth disparities, environmental injustice, and financial disinvestment in communities of color. Since historic preservation is an important part of these planning and land use practices, we've begun to reexamine all of our preservation policies through the lens of racial equity.

There's much work to be done to bring about the transformation we're seeking. Despite the OHR's efforts to create more diverse preservation frameworks through SurveyLA, only about three percent of the City's designated Historic-Cultural Monuments reflect the City's African American heritage; and the record is not

much better for our communities of color more generally: fewer than six percent of Los Angeles's designated Historic-Cultural Monuments reflect associations with the City's BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color) communities. In part, this may be because our historic nomination processes often end up privileging those who have the most time and resources to research and submit nominations. Preservation programs have also traditionally relied on written documentation, disadvantaging communities that have passed down their histories orally, or that have received less formal research attention.

So we've begun to re-examine traditional historic preservation standards to consider whether they are creating undue burdens on communities of color. We're creating a new pilot program – with some initial funding in this year's City budget – to provide more technical assistance to residents in our HPOZs who lack the financial means to retain historic preservation architects or consultants for rehabilitation projects. We're partnering in this effort with the USC Heritage Conservation Program, Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles, and the National Association of Minority Architects (NOMA).

We also recently announced the creation of a new Los Angeles African American Historic Places Project. This builds upon our long partnership with the Getty on SurveyLA. Over the next two to three years, the project will work with local communities and cultural institutions to more fully recognize and understand African American heritage in Los Angeles.

The project will provide dedicated resources to pursue new Historic-Cultural Monument nominations for sites identified through the 2018 African American History of Los Angeles historic context. It will also provide resources to do more extensive community engagement citywide to supplement this citywide context with potential additional themes or depth. This project will include work to rethink and potentially expand the traditional historic preservation toolkit, examining how current historic preservation and planning processes and policies may be reinforcing systemic racism. And we will also be working within three historically African American neighborhoods to develop comprehensive, neighborhood-specific cultural preservation strategies, using both traditional preservation tools and broader interpretive strategies that address "intangible" heritage such as cultural practices and traditions, in addition to buildings and places.

That's all amazing. Ken, thanks for updating our readers on your important work.

Ken: My pleasure. ■