

LOS ANGELES  
NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE  
**Eighth Annual**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**FORUM**



*Rebuilding  
Neighborhoods  
One Block At  
A Time*



# A Message from the Executive Director



May 13, 2010

Dear Participant,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to LANI's Eighth Annual Community Forum! Your participation here today signals your commitment to improving the streets and neighborhoods of Los Angeles one block at a time. We thank you for joining us.

As we begin to emerge from the Great Recession that has dominated both Wall Street and Main Street since 2007, our recovery efforts are neither without challenges nor are they fruitless. To restore the pride of our neighborhoods, workers, small business owners and cash-strapped families, we must embark on a new kind of recovery, a Great Recovery, one that encapsulates the tremendous potential our communities have to thrive. Individuals and local stakeholders like you are fundamental to revitalizing our economy and creating the positive change we need.

Our goal for today is to provide you with tools to begin improving your community or to continue the important work you have already undertaken. We hope that you enjoy the opening remarks of Art Leahy, Chief Executive Officer of Metro whose visionary leadership is guiding Los Angeles into the 21st century. We also know you will be greatly inspired by Father Greg Boyle, our Keynote Speaker and tireless community advocate who reminds us that boundless compassion is always a worthwhile cause. The program will continue with eight workshop sessions devoted to a variety of timely topics, each led by experts in their fields and designed to supply you with useful information that is relevant to your own experience.

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

Most of all, I would like to acknowledge the many community leaders and grassroots organizers throughout the neighborhoods of Los Angeles. It is only with your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment that we are able to fulfill LANI's mission to *stimulate community-driven neighborhood revitalization* and we thank you for your support. Keep up the good work!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Hahni". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Veronica Hahni  
Executive Director



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# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## COMMUNITY FORUM OVERVIEW



Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative's (LANI's) EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM promises to be another practical and exciting event. Established in 1994, LANI is a community-driven program dedicated to jump-starting neighborhood revitalization and empowering neighborhood stakeholders in urban communities with: community outreach and consensus planning; transit and pedestrian improvements; business district revitalization; urban greening; and development and support of community organizations.



The Forum gathers and trains neighborhood leaders and community stakeholders working to build a better Los Angeles, providing a critical opportunity for dialogue and information sharing. We believe that our collective efforts and resources can *"rebuild neighborhoods one block at a time."*



## LANI OVERVIEW

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



- **COMMUNITY CONSENSUS BUILDING**



- **TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS**



- **BUSINESS DISTRICT REVITALIZATION**



- **URBAN GREENING**



- **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT**



## 2010 COMMUNITY FORUM GUEST SPEAKERS



### WELCOME ADDRESS

#### **Arthur T. Leahy**

*Chief Executive Officer  
LACMTA*

Mr. Leahy, one of the nation's leading transportation executives who started out as a bus driver in Los Angeles 38 years ago, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). As the lead transportation planning and programming agency for the county, Metro funds the construction of numerous street, highway and transit improvements running the gamut from bike and pedestrian improvements to new busways and rail lines to freeway carpool lanes and sound walls.

Before joining Metro in 2009, Leahy headed the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) where he oversaw the planning, financing and coordination of Orange County's freeway, street and transit development as well as managed the 12th busiest bus system in the country.

Prior to OCTA, Leahy served as general manager of the transit agency in Minneapolis – St. Paul between 1997 and 2001. Under his leadership, both agencies, as well as Leahy, himself, garnered top national transit industry honors.



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

#### **Father Greg Boyle**

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Homeboy Industries*

Fr. Gregory Boyle – best known as Fr. Greg by all who meet him – was born in Los Angeles, one of eight children. His father, a third-generation Irish-American, worked in the family-owned dairy in Los Angeles County and his mother worked to keep track of her large family. As a youth, Fr. Greg and several of his siblings worked side by side with their father in the dairy. After graduating from Loyola High School in Los Angeles in 1972, he entered the order of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and was ordained a priest in 1984.

He received his BA in English from Gonzaga University; an MA in English from Loyola Marymount University; a Master of Divinity from the Weston School of Theology; and a Sacred Theology Masters degree from the Jesuit School of Theology.

Prior to 1986 Fr. Boyle taught at Loyola High School and worked with Christian Base Communities in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He was appointed as Pastor of Dolores Mission in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1986 where he served through 1992. During 1993, he served as Chaplain of the Islas Marias Penal Colony in Mexico and Folsom Prison, before returning to Los Angeles and Dolores Mission.

Homeboy Industries traces its roots to “*Jobs For A Future*”, a program created in 1988 by Fr. Boyle at Dolores Mission. In 1992 Fr. Boyle launched the first business, *Homeboy Bakery*, with a mission to create an environment that provided training, work experience, and the opportunity for rival gang members to work side by side. Today Homeboy Industries' nonprofit economic development enterprises include *Homeboy Bakery*, *Homeboy Silkscreen*, *Homeboy Maintenance*, *Homeboy/Homegirl Merchandise*, and *Homegirl Café*.

As Founding Chief Executive Director of Homeboy Industries and an acknowledged expert on gangs and intervention approaches, Father Boyle is a nationally renowned speaker. He has given commencement addresses at numerous universities, as well as spoken at conferences for teachers, social workers, criminal justice workers and others about the importance of adult attention, guidance and unconditional love in preventing youth from joining gangs.





# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

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Community

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# Partnerships

We salute the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative as it celebrates its 8th Community Forum.

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

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# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION AND CAL STATE L.A. JAZZ TRIO ..... Patio

### 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND BREAKFAST ..... Embassy Room



WELCOME ADDRESS ..... Embassy Room

**Arthur T. Leahy**, *Chief Executive Officer; LACMTA*



KEYNOTE SPEAKER ..... Embassy Room

**Father Greg Boyle**, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer;  
Homeboy Industries*

### 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

BREAK ..... Lobby

### 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM SESSION I WORKSHOPS

THE BEAT ON YOUR STREET ..... Board Room

POTATO CHIPS TO PRODUCE ..... Figueroa Room

PROMOTORES (*Presented in Spanish*): ..... Alumni Room

SOME LIKE IT HOT ..... Club Room

### 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

BREAK AND LIGHT BUFFET ..... Lobby/Patio

### 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM SESSION II WORKSHOPS

COMMUNITY WALKING GROUPS ..... Alumni Room

GRIDLOCKED ..... Club Room

L.A.'S UNTAPPED MARKETS ..... Figueroa Room

SOUTH L.A. UPDATE ..... Board Room

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### EXHIBITORS: NETWORKING AREA AND EXHIBIT TABLES AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
- City of Los Angeles, Department of Transportation
- City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power
- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA)
- Expo Metro Line Construction Authority
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative
- Metro
- Tree People
- What's In Your Lunch Box?, Inc.

**Special Thanks to the CAL STATE L.A. JAZZ TRIO**





# EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM 2010

## 2010 WORKSHOP TOPICS

### SESSION I (10:30 PM TO 12 NOON)

#### THE BEAT ON YOUR STREET:

##### Community Policing in Action

Hear about the successes and challenges of the community policing program in Los Angeles' West Adams district that are directly enhancing the quality of life in this historic neighborhood.

**Jan de Andrade**, Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney

**Tracy Hauter**, Los Angeles Police Department

**Raffi Sayabalian**, Chevron

**Moderator: Mark Vella**, Office of Councilmember Herb Wesson

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#### POTATO CHIPS TO PRODUCE:

##### Bringing Healthy Food to the Corner Market

Learn how convenience store conversion programs can bring positive change to the food deserts of the inner city by offering healthy and fresh produce options at corner markets.

**Jenna Gulager**, CRA/LA

**Aurora Flores**, Healthy Eating, Active Communities

**Mike Blockstein**, Public Matters

**Moderator: Marie Rumsey**, Office of Councilmember Jan Perry

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#### PROMOTORES: *This workshop will be presented in Spanish only.*

##### Vecinos Compartiendo Información y Logrando Cambio

Descubra cómo el modelo del promotor se utiliza para diseminar con eficacia la información y maneras en cual usted puede participar y trabajar colectivamente para inspirar el cambio local.

##### Neighbors Sharing Information and Creating Change

Discover how the promotora model of community outreach is used to effectively disseminate information and how you can participate and work collectively to inspire local change.

**Gloria Lalzalde**, Youth Policy Institute

**Olga Rivera-Abarca**, South Central Family Health Center

**Melinda Cordero-Bárzaga**, Vision y Compromiso

**Moderator: Irene Peña**, Proyecto Jardin

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#### SOME LIKE IT HOT:

##### Reshaping Our Highways with High-Occupancy Toll Lanes

Find out how Metro's exciting ExpressLanes demonstration project aims to reduce congestion, travel time and greenhouse gases by converting High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the I-110 and I-10 freeways.

**Stephanie Wiggins**, Metro

**Conan Cheung**, Metro

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### SESSION II (1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM)

#### COMMUNITY WALKING GROUPS:

##### Walking Your Way to Better Health

Join the founder of the Sun Valley program, "Walking in Community-Caminando en Comunidad"; as he explains how to start a walking group in your own neighborhood to improve physical health and build a stronger community!

**Dr. Glenn Lopez**, UCLA

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#### GRIDLOCKED:

##### Mitigating L.A.'s Notorious Traffic Congestion

What is being done to relieve some of the nation's worst traffic problems? Plenty! Hear about short term mitigation measures and the 30/10 Plan, designed to dramatically accelerate L.A.'s public transit infrastructure.

**Hilary Norton**, FAST

**Marlene Grossman**, Move LA

**Moderator: Bronwen Trice**, Metro

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#### L.A.'S UNTAPPED MARKETS:

##### Catalyzing Investment in Inner-City Neighborhoods

Come hear market research experts from Social Compact, a Washington D.C. based non-profit, share the results of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Market DrillDown report, an in-depth examination of the unrealized buying power of Central, South and Southeast Los Angeles.

**Carolina Valencia**, Social Compact

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#### SOUTH L.A. UPDATE:

##### Planning for the Renaissance

Long awaited light rail, housing and commercial investment are combining to breathe new life into South Los Angeles' historically and culturally rich neighborhoods. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the many different efforts currently underway in South L.A.

**Commissioner Valerie Shaw**,

Los Angeles Board of Public Works

**Carolyn Hull**, CRA/LA

**Moderator: Dan Rosenfeld**,

Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

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# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

### **Jan de Andrade**

Deputy City Attorney  
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney

Deputy City Attorney Jan De Andrade began her law career in the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney in 1998. She has worked in various branches such as Central Trials, where she prosecuted a wide range of misdemeanor crimes; San Fernando where she continued to hone her prosecutorial skills by prosecuting DUI's and high profile cases; and the Reyes Branch where she filed hundreds of misdemeanor cases. In December of 2003, Ms. De Andrade became the Neighborhood Prosecutor (NP) in the Southwest Area where she works closely with Senior Lead Officers, governmental officials/agencies, and community members/partners to abate quality of life crimes.

NP De Andrade has received numerous awards and commendations including a commendation from former Chief of Police, William Bratton, for her work on one of the largest Safer Cities Initiatives in Baldwin Village. She continues to work with community members, governmental agencies, and stakeholders to help make the Southwest Area a safe place for all to work, live, and play.

Ms. De Andrade received her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from Loma Linda University in 1984 and her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School in 1996.

### **Mike Blockstein**

Principal  
Public Matters LLC

Mike Blockstein, the principal of Public Matters LLC, is a visual artist and educator whose work explores the intersection of cultural narratives, artistic process, and civic engagement. He has created and led projects in San Francisco, Boston, and Los Angeles, working with youth, community leaders, and organizations to reflect on, understand, and shape their physical, social, and political geographies. Mr. Blockstein has worked on market makeover projects, engaging youth and community members in the process, for the past three years - first in South L.A. and currently in East L.A.

### **Conan Cheung**

Deputy Executive Officer of  
Service Planning and Development  
Metro

Conan Cheung serves as Metro's Deputy Executive Officer of Service Planning and Development. In this capacity, he is responsible for establishing system wide transit service policies and standards, data collection, reporting and analysis, operations planning and scheduling, and bus stop facility planning and maintenance. Prior to Metro, Mr. Cheung was Director of Planning and Scheduling with the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. He received his B.S. in Urban Planning and Public Administration from USC, and a M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA.

### **Melinda Cordero-Bárzaga**

Associate Director  
Visión y Compromiso

Melinda Cordero- Bárzaga joined Visión y Compromiso in 2004 as the Director of its California Network of Promotoras and Community Health Workers (CHW's). Currently she serves as the Associate Director of the organization, working with local committees comprised of program directors, Promotoras and CHW's to facilitate networking among groups, capacity building, leadership development, and advocacy efforts. Ms. Cordero-Bárzaga is also responsible for all statewide programs and initiatives including a statewide annual conference, annual legislative day in Sacramento, and the development of the Promotores Institute.

Ms. Cordero-Bárzaga remains very active in her community. She is a national certified trainer for Girl's Incorporated's Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy Program, served on Senator Charles Calderon's Women's Advisory Committee, and has won many awards for her work with Latinas and health. She has also been a fellow of the California Women's Foundation Policy Institute and CORO, Southern California's Health Leadership Program. In addition, she has served as a member of Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn's Office of Immigrant Affairs Advisory Board, the American Public Health Association Community Health Worker



## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Special Interest Group Policy Committee, the Advisory Committee for the National Community Health Worker Educational Collaborative, the March of Dimes California's Latino Advisory Board, as a board member for California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, and an advisory board member for Walking in Community, a project of Community Partners.

**Aurora E. Flores**  
**Program Manager**  
**Healthy Eating Active Communities**

Aurora Flores is the Program Manager for South L.A.'s Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC) neighborhood sector. HEAC is a policy based, community driven initiative to reduce childhood obesity among Latino and African American families through environmental policy change. For the past five years, Ms. Flores has worked closely with youth, parents, and community leaders to strengthen their skills as advocates of nutritious food and physical activity opportunities. Under her leadership, three corner stores in South L.A. agreed to participate in "market makeover" transformations to increase healthier food choices. This collaborative effort resulted in interest by the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) to replicate HEAC's store conversion model citywide.

Ms. Flores sits on various committees dedicated to improving student health including the Joint Use Statewide Taskforce, committed to increasing access to safe playgrounds for physical activity, and the Beverage Campaign Local Advisory Committee, an group that pursues policy reform on sugar sweetened beverages. Ms. Flores is a media spokesperson for the California Center for Public Health Advocacy and has served on the Robert Wood Johnson National Advisory Board to Reduce Childhood Obesity.

**Marlene Grossman**  
**Director of Administration**  
**Move LA**

Marlene Grossman is the Director of Administration of Move LA, an organization formed to serve as the convener of core constituencies for dialogue on key transportation issues in Los Angeles County. Ms. Grossman also currently

serves on the San Vicente Design Review Board, the Project GRAD Board of Directors, the California Environmental Rights Alliance Advisory Board, and is an alternate member on the AB32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.

Ms. Grossman is the Co-Founder and former Executive Director of Pacoima Beautiful, a non-profit organization focusing on Environmental Justice and Health in the northeast San Fernando Valley community of Pacoima. She has co-authored amendments and design guidelines for the San Vicente Scenic Corridor Specific Plan, which has served as a model for commercial corridors throughout Los Angeles. Ms. Grossman also co-authored design guidelines for Van Nuys Boulevard. She is a former Board Member of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), where she helped enhance nine transit dependent communities with streetscape improvements.

Ms. Grossman has degrees in education, landscape architecture and urban planning from UCLA.

**Jenna Gulager**  
**Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Operations**  
**CRA/LA**

Jenna Gulager is the Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Operations for Real Estate and Economic Development at the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). Ms. Gulager develops and implements programs for CRA/LA's seven regions and 32 Redevelopment Project Areas to achieve the agency's economic development and job creation goals. For example, Ms. Gulager is working to develop programs that support the expansion and greening of the City of Los Angeles' industrial sector and also on programs and partnerships to expand access to healthy foods.

Ms. Gulager joined CRA/LA in 2005 working in the CD9 Project Area on affordable housing, industrial development, brownfields remediation, recreational facilities, and public improvement projects. Prior to CRA/LA, Ms. Gulager was Director of Real Estate Development for LA Family Housing, a nonprofit that provided emergency and transitional housing and developed affordable housing. She also worked for Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn in the Office of Economic Development.





# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Ms. Gulager has a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor's Degree in Rhetoric from UC Berkeley. She lives in Silverlake with her husband and son and practices yoga whenever time permits.

### **Tracy Hauter**

Senior Lead Officer

Los Angeles Police Department

Officer Tracy Hauter joined the Los Angeles Police Department in December 2000. Since that time she has worked for Newton Division, Department Command Post, Harbor Division, and is currently assigned to Southwest Division. Officer Hauter has worked a variety of assignments during her career: Bicycle Unit, Special Problems Unit, Gangs, and Narcotics. She currently holds the rank of Police Officer 3+1 Senior Lead Officer at Southwest Division, responsible for the West Adams community. The boundaries for the West Adams Area are the 10 Freeway to the North, Vermont Avenue/Budlong Avenue to the East, Jefferson Boulevard/Mont Clair Street to the South, and Crenshaw Boulevard to the West. Officer Hauter works with over 10 community block clubs and 2 business watches in the area. She has formed a strong partnership with the community and together they combat quality of life issues and reduce crime in West Adams.

### **Carolyn Hull**

Regional Administrator

CRA/LA

Carolyn Hull is the South Los Angeles Regional Administrator for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). She oversees all redevelopment programs, activities and staff for the nine redevelopment project areas of the region, as well as works closely with elected officials and community stakeholders throughout South Los Angeles.

Ms. Hull holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Master of Science degree in Economics and Urban Planning from the London School of Economics, in addition to a Certificate in Real Estate Finance from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is married and the mother of two small children.

### **Gloria Lazalde**

Director of Adult Education Services

Youth Policy Institute

Gloria Lazalde has two decades of experience in the management of workforce development pipelines. In 2004 she joined Youth Policy Institute (YPI) as Director of Adult Education Services where she oversees start up and implementation of programs in education, workforce, and technology as well as the Day Labor program, Valley Family Technology Project, Adult Education, Pre-K Family Literacy program, and Compassion Capital Fund Communities Empowering Youth Program. She also sits on the Community Advisory Council of Mission Community Hospital, as well as the Board of Pacoima Credit Union. Ms. Lazalde is a life-long resident of the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

### **Dr. Glenn Lopez**

Assistant Professor,

UCLA Department of Family Medicine

Dr. Glenn A. Lopez is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the UCLA Department of Medicine. He is also President of the On Site Health Solutions Medical Corporation, specializing in mobile primary health services and the lead physician of the VallyCare LAC-DHS Group Diabetes/Primary Care Clinic. Dr. Lopez's work has focused mainly in finding low cost approaches to improving health in diverse low-income communities. He is Program Director of the San Fernando Valley Chronic Disease Prevention and Early Intervention Program that seeks to lower the high rates of uncompensated emergency and hospitalization expenses due in large part to the high prevalence of untreated diabetes and hypertension throughout Los Angeles, particularly among uninsured Latinos. He is founder of the "Walking in Community-Caminando en Comunidad" where 14 walking groups with over 3,000 participants were established. The success of this program showed that walking groups are a culturally and socially acceptable means of promoting exercise and community integration in low-income Latino populations.



## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

**Hilary Norton**  
Executive Director  
FAST

Hilary Norton serves as the Executive Director of FAST, a public-private partnership with a mission to relieve traffic congestion in Los Angeles that was founded in 2007 by Thomas Properties Group Chairman, Jim Thomas. In order to execute their mission, Fast, along with Metro and the Music Center, collectively sponsored a study by the RAND Corporation seeking to identify internationally recognized 'best practice' solutions for the short-term relief of traffic congestion. The RAND study proposed 13 separate-but-integrated recommendations that could apply to traffic issues in the city of Los Angeles.

Utilizing one-to-one, interactive communications tools, Ms. Norton and FAST aim to create an inclusive coalition of business associations, labor unions, civic groups, neighborhood councils, educational institutions, elected officials, transit organizations, and residents of Los Angeles County for the purpose of implementing the findings of the RAND study, and moving the City's long term transit initiatives forward.

Ms. Norton received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

**Irene Peña**  
Project Director  
Proyecto Jardin

Irene Peña has worked in program planning and research for five years, primarily in public health and community development, and is experienced in community organizing for immigrant rights, education, youth violence prevention, and US foreign policy in Central America. Most recently, she convened and facilitated a community-based effort to maintain the only community garden in Boyle Heights, Proyecto Jardin, which was at risk of elimination in 2009. She initiated and mobilized community support to secure land tenure and effectively restored and strengthened collaborative relations with the land owner and local community-based organizations to ensure preservation of Proyecto Jardin. Ms. Peña has worked with local residents, diverse stakeholders, and funders to plan and implement

revitalization and restoration of the garden's physical infrastructure and human/social capacity to function as a vital food production/distribution zone and a venue for community organizing and mobilization.

Ms. Peña, holds a Masters degree from UCLA in Urban Planning, with an emphasis in Community Economic Development and the Built Environment.

**Olga Rivera-Abarca**  
Health Educator  
South Central Family Health Center

Olga Rivera-Abarca is committed to promoting good health and healthy living by implementing comprehensive health education programs in the greater Los Angeles area. Ms. Rivera-Abarca has served as a health educator at South Central Family Health Center for almost 10 years. As coordinator of the South Los Angeles Best Babies Collaborative, she works in conjunction with California Hospital Medical Center to promote healthier pregnancies, birth outcomes and interconception care. She is also responsible for conducting health education classes on issues such as cholesterol, diabetes, prenatal care, HIV and AIDS, asthma, immunizations, family planning, menopause, male and female reproduction, exercise and nutrition, and blood pressure screening.

Ms. Rivera-Abarca has a Certification in Community Planning and Social Economics from Los Angeles Trade Tech College. She was the 2001 award winner of "Healthy Babies, Healthy Mothers" recognizing her as an outstanding community health worker.

**Dan Rosenfeld**  
Senior Deputy for Economic Development,  
Sustainability and Mobility  
Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

The co-founder of Urban Partners LLC, an award-winning entrepreneurial real estate firm focusing on development and investment opportunities in the western United States, Mr. Rosenfeld helped the firm earn its reputation as a nationally recognized leader in urban infill, mixed-use and transit-oriented development, and adaptive re-use of historical structures.





# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

Mr. Rosenfeld has served as a board member of the Central City Association and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. In his previous public service roles as Deputy Director for Real Estate Development for the State of California and Assistant General Manager for Asset Management for the City of Los Angeles, Mr. Rosenfeld is credited with helping create approximately 72,000 new private sector jobs, which revitalized struggling urban areas.

A resident of Los Angeles, Mr. Rosenfeld earned a B.S. in structural engineering and a B.A. in architecture from Stanford University, a Masters in Architecture from Yale University, and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard University School of Business.

### **Marie Rumsey**

Senior Deputy of Housing/  
Planning for the South Los Angeles Area  
Office of Councilwoman Jan Perry, Council District 9

Since 2001, Marie Rumsey has worked for Los Angeles Councilwoman, Jan Perry, who represents the Ninth Council District which includes communities of South and Downtown Los Angeles. During this time, Ms. Rumsey's work has focused on policy issues related to housing, planning, and economic development. She has been able to play a key role in the redevelopment of Central Avenue and in the development of citywide ordinances like the Residential Hotel Conversion and Demolition Ordinance and the pending Public Works Infrastructure Stabilization Ordinance. Ms. Rumsey earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Loyola Marymount University in 1999 and a Master of the Arts in Humanities from Mount St. Mary's in 2006.

### **Raffi Sayabalian**

Owner  
Chevron Gas Station

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Raffi Sayabalian grew up in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles where he attended Ferrahian Middle and High School. After high school, Mr. Sayabalian continued his education at California State University Northridge, majoring in Geography.

He graduated in 1995. Having grown up exposed to the gas station business, he always enjoyed the fast paced interaction with customers it provided. In December of 1997, Mr. Sayabalian purchased the Chevron gas station on the corner of Crenshaw and Adams. He greatly enjoys his business because he gets to meet new people everyday and is able to provide a clean, pleasant, and safe place for them to interact.

Mr. Sayabalian has been married for fourteen years and has two children, a 12 year old boy and a 9 year old girl. He enjoys traveling, jogging, cooking, and going to museums.

### **Valerie Shaw**

Commissioner  
Board of Public Works

Commissioner Valerie Shaw is currently serving her 12th year on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, the City's only full-time, non-elected policy-making body. Commissioner Shaw, along with four fellow commissioners, serve jointly as general manager of the Department of Public Works and are responsible for construction, renovation, and operation of public facilities and infrastructure. Currently, Commissioner Shaw serves as the Liaison Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering, is a hearing officer for Above-Ground Facilities, project change orders, and emergency contracts, and is the Public Works liaison with the following entities: Building and Safety, the Department of Transportation, the Community Development Department, the Human Relations Commission, the Library Department, and the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA).

During her tenure, Commissioner Shaw has led several efforts to improve local neighborhoods including co-founding the Board's Community Beautification Grant program, being lead commissioner for the Targeted Neighborhood Improvement (TNI) Program, and, most proudly, successfully completing the multimillion-dollar Crenshaw Streetscape Project that improved the appearance of Crenshaw Boulevard from Wilshire Boulevard to 79th Street.

Commissioner Shaw received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University in Los Angeles



## WORKSHOP PANELISTS

and Masters of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California. Presently, she serves as a guest lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Southern California, teaching a class on City Hall politics and the structure of City government.

### **Bronwen Trice**

**Metro**

**Senior Community Relations Officer**

Bronwen Trice serves as Senior Community Relations Officer for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro's) Regional Communications Department. Ms. Trice has over 10 years of experience working in community relations for the public sector. Most recently, Ms. Trice served as Program Manager at Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative where she facilitated park improvement projects in South L.A. and San Pedro. Ms. Trice has a B.A. in Political Science from Stanford University and a Master of Public Administration from San Francisco State University.

### **Carolina Valencia**

**Director of Research**

**Social Compact**

Carolina Valencia oversees Social Compact's qualitative research projects. From conceptualizing and conducting statistical analyses to authoring publications originating from the organization's research program, she has acquired significant expertise in issues such as food access, access to financial services and financial behavior, informal/cash economy, small business development and micro credit for micro Entrepreneurs.

Ms. Valencia holds a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Political Science with a specialization in poverty reduction from Florida International University. She also holds an Arts and Science B.A. from the University of Richmond. Carolina has made several professional research presentations, published many articles, and is a recipient of numerous awards including the Tinker Grant for Dissertation Research and the Florence Bayuk Fellowship in Latin American Political Economy.

### **Mark Vella**

**Economic Development Deputy**

Office of Councilmember Herb Wesson, Council District 10  
Mark Vella has served as Economic Development Deputy for Council District 10 for the past four years. Prior to joining Councilmember Wesson's staff, Mr. Vella spent 26 years as an economic development professional with the City of Los Angeles working for both the Community Development Department (CDD) and the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA/LA). As Finance Officer with CDD, Mr. Vella helped develop the City's first commercial financing programs and CDD's first Economic Development Unit. He went on to serve as Project Manager for the CRA/LA, with responsibility for development projects in four Redevelopment Project Areas - Mid-City, Wilshire Koreatown, Adams Normandie, and Normandie 5. In 2005 Mr. Vella left CRA/LA to start his own consulting firm, Vella Economic Development Consultants, providing consulting and training services to developers and municipalities.

### **Stephanie Wiggins**

**Executive Officer – Congestion Reduction Initiative**

**Metro**

Stephanie Wiggins serves as the Executive Officer and Project Director of the LA County Congestion Reduction Project for Metro. She has over 16 years experience working for transportation agencies. She recently served as the Regional Programs Director for the Riverside County Transportation Commission and oversaw transit, commuter rail, rideshare, goods movement, programming, legislation, and rail capital projects. Ms. Wiggins has a B.A. from Whittier College and MBA from the University of Southern California.





# Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

## 2010 AWARD RECIPIENT



### OUTSTANDING CITY PARTNER AWARD

**Michael Shull;**  
*Superintendent of the Planning and Construction Division  
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks*

LANI is pleased to present the 2010 OUTSTANDING PARTNER AWARD to Michael Shull.

Michael Shull began his career with the City of Los Angeles nearly 20 years ago with the City's Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering after graduating from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering. Mr. Shull worked for the Bureau of Engineering for more than 14 years before coming to work for the City's Recreation and Parks Department in July 2005.

During his 14 years with the Bureau of Engineering, Mr. Shull served as Project Manager on a variety of large municipal projects before settling into the Proposition K program where he served for 5 years developing and implementing capital improvement projects in the park system. During his time working in the Proposition K program, his knowledge and interest grew around the many challenges facing the City's park system. It was shortly following the appointment of Jon Kirk Mukri as the new General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks that Mr. Shull was asked to join the Department.

Today, as Superintendent of the Planning and Construction Division of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Mr. Shull is responsible for a team of over 300 employees that work in the Advance Planning, Real Estate, Environmental, Building Maintenance and Construction, and Forestry and Irrigation Divisions. His responsibilities include overseeing all park planning and capital improvements, property acquisitions, environmental issues including water and energy conservation programs, leasing, joint-use agreements, public/private partnerships, building maintenance and construction, and irrigation infrastructure systems at the Department's 417 parks and more than 15,700 acres of land.

Mr. Shull is a stalwart advocate and partner to LANI and has worked with the organization on greening projects throughout the City of Los Angeles. Thanks to his support and expertise, LANI has successfully completed numerous park projects, creating open space and greener neighborhoods.





# EIGHTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORUM 2010

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**Veronica Hahni**  
*Executive Director*  
Extension 11

**Norma Fernandez**  
*Program Manager*  
*Neighborhood Improvement*  
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Extension 13

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*Director of Organizational*  
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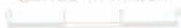
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