



A Red Carpet Affair

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS ACHIEVEMENT
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

19th Annual Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) Alumni Reunion Dinner

Sponsored by TESORO Foundation

Monday, January 9, 2017 -- 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

The Grand Long Beach, 4101 E. Willow St.

On behalf of the Long Beach Development Services Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau, I am pleased to welcome you to the 19th Annual Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP) Alumni Reunion Dinner. This year's dinner is made possible by the generous support of the Tesoro Foundation!

This is an opportunity for you to get together with other neighborhood leaders to recognize all your hard work to improve Long Beach and to offer your support for the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Class of 2017.

The Neighborhood Leadership Program thrives with the active involvement of our alumni. Your participation will help us to continue this critically acclaimed program. In order to continue the success of the program, we would like to have participants that reflect the diversity of our city for the Class of 2017. Thank you for inviting a friend or family member who is a potential candidate to our Alumni Dinner. If you are unable to do so, thanks for sharing information (full name, address, phone number) for at least two people who you believe will be great candidates for the next class. Enjoy this evening of food, friends, and fun!

Margaret Madden

Neighborhood Improvement Officer

Class of 1994

Emily Kiwa Tanaka, Class of 2011, volunteered her time and talents to produce this report.

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This issue of the Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Achievement Report highlights the work of Long Beach's neighborhood stars: our graduates! This year, we celebrate the Neighborhood Leadership Program's partnership with the Tesoro Foundation and the priceless contributions and impacts Long Beach grassroots neighborhood leaders have in roles as neighborhood association presidents, clean-up volunteers, tree planters, historic preservationists, safe passage volunteers, and many others!

CLASS OF 1992

Bryant Ben serves as the President of the Killing Fields Memorial Center (KFMC). The memorial center held a ground breaking celebration at the corner of Anaheim Street and Peterson Avenue. The memorial center there will feature Khmer-style dwellings located on a landscaped plot of land bordered by an orderly fence, patches of green grass, a koi pond and a few leafy trees.

CLASS OF 1997

Jo Murray volunteers at the Assistance League Long Beach (ALLB) Thrift and Vintage Shop on Funky 4th Street. In addition, she chairs the ALLB membership enrichment committee to help members bond. In 2016, Jo was selected as the Nominating Committee Chairman for the Long Beach Boy Scouts Board. Her work with the Long Beach Salvation Army Board is helping them reach their capital funding goals. The Aquatic Capital of America Foundation was thankful for Jo's work on their 2016 inaugural Hall of Fame dinner. She continues on-going work with Steel Magnolias benefits the Stramski Center at Miller Children's Hospital. Murray continues to write her weekly column in the Grunion Gazette.

CLASS OF 1998

Rocio Torres is the new new school counselor at Roosevelt Elementary School. Alongside other Anaheim Orange Cherry and Seventh Neighborhood Association (AOC7) board members, she was inspired and encouraged to organize the AOC7 Literacy Fair which has given away over 8,000 books in 4 years. Rocio has collaborated with the AOC7 board members in writing three Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) grants to improve the 10th Street corridor. AOC7 has been approved for all three grants along with Port grants! Rocio invites NLP alumni to participate in Roosevelt's 2nd Annual Career Day on Friday, February 24, 2017 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am. Please RSVP by Friday, January 13, 2017. Any questions, please feel free to call Rocio at 562-882-3326 or email at rotorres@lbschools.net.

Sharon McLucas and her husband David are collectors of historical items of African-Americana at their home. The McLucas curate a traveling show of Africana, called "Forgotten Images" that they continue to add to. They hosted two exhibits in Long Beach and Carson 2016 as part of Black History Month.

Val Lerch was the Honoring Those Who Serve Honoree at the U.S. Vets Long Beach 9th annual luncheon on November 18, 2016. He also serves as the Chair of the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade. This is the largest Veterans Day event in Southern California; 2016 marked the parade's 20th year. Val has been involved in the parade since its inception. He also helped organize the 13th Annual Compton Stand Down for Homeless Veterans event held September 17-19, 2016.



Val Lerch (Class of 1998) receiving award at U.S. Vets Long Beach 9th annual luncheon.



Juanita Willson (Class of 2010) pictured center, volunteers at the Michelle Obama Library Grand Opening with her sorority sisters.

CLASS OF 2002

Evangelina Ramirez is the A-Team Health Promoter at Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma.

Mary Zendejas was awarded the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award from the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) on October 20, 2016. CCEJ is a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism through education, conflict resolution and advocacy.

CLASS OF 2003

Gabrielle Weeks is the main organizer for Long Beach Drive Electric Celebration. A coalition of environmental groups and advocates of zero emission electric transportation coordinate this celebration in Long Beach, in conjunction with events across the country. The 2016 event featured high-profile elected officials speaking about the importance of electric vehicles from the Federal, State and local level as well as all-electric buses, cars, 18 wheelers, bicycles and motorcycles. Information about all the benefits of electric propulsion was also highlighted.

CLASS OF 2004

Gavin McKiernan helped host the Wrigley River Run 5K/10K/15K races on June 11-12, 2016.

CLASS OF 2005

Colleen McDonald helped host the Wrigley Pizza Pig Out community event on June 10, 2016. She also volunteers for the Friends of Alice Robinson.



Jim Danno (Class of 2009) pictured left, volunteers as the Jolly Elf at Winter in Willmore.

CLASS OF 2007

Dave Clement serves on the board of the North Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association (NABA) and is serving his 2nd term as representative of the 3rd district on the Citizens' Police Complaint Commission (CPCC). He also served as a Board Member of Friends of Bixby Park and Rose Park Neighborhood Association. He continues to serve as an Advisor to the Long Beach Heritage Museum, which hosted events all over Long Beach in 2016. David also regularly participates in the Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association, Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association and Belmont Heights Community Association.

CLASS OF 2008

Dan Pressburg organized the Uptown North Long Beach Community Christmas Party in December 2016. This annual event is held at the Historic Long Beach Dairy/Creamery on 167 E. South Street. Guests were encouraged to bring their favorite dish and an unwrapped holiday ornament.

Caprice Spencer Rothe directed *OPALINE, A Delirium for a Parched Planet* from March 4-26, 2016 at The Garage Theatre.

CLASS OF 2009

Jesus Esparza hosted a Washington Neighborhood Ice Cream Social and Clean Up on June 18, 2016. This was his first time hosting a neighborhood clean-up event.

Jim Danno led the Willmore City Heritage Association's (WCHA) holiday lighting installation throughout Drake Park in the Willmore City Historic District during December 2016. He also helped organize the annual Winter in Willmore event on December 17, 2016.

CLASS OF 2010

Alice Robinson won a Presidential Award Gold Pin and Medallion Award from the Points of Light Foundation for serving over 4,000 hours in the community over her lifetime. She is also a volunteer with Friends of Daryle Black Park and volunteered at their Photos with Santa event. She also serves as the Secretary of Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee (CNAC). Alice is a founder of *Friends of Alice Robinson* serving a hot lunch to the community each month at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Alice has a plot at the Peace Garden and grows her own vegetables for the feeding each month. The all-volunteer group changed the name of the feeding program after her Neighborhood Leadership Program class project team (that installed a bench in her honor outside the Burnett Branch Library) because they liked the name so much. Alice and the lunch program were featured in a CBS 2 News video feature "People Making a Difference." Alice was an organizer of the Cultural Awareness event held on December 15, 2016 at the Burnett Library Auditorium. The event was co-sponsored by CNAC, the 6th District Council office and the Burnett Library. The event included a storyteller, singing songs, cultural costumes, and too many tamales! Santa Claus texted that he was not able to make the event (he was stuck in traffic!) so the Grinch made an appearance.

Juanita Wilson hosted a Roosevelt Neighborhood Cleanup on September 17, 2016. The clean-up was a success thanks to all the neighborhood. Juanita also volunteered at the Michelle Obama Library Grand Opening on September 10, 2016. She spearheaded her sorority to be greeters and distribute flyers. For serving over 100 hours in the community over her lifetime, Juanita won a Presidential Award Bronze Pin from the Points of Light Foundation.

Tom Flores helped the *Friends of Daryle Black Park* host a free Photos with Santa event on December 17, 2016. He also won Presidential Award Gold Pin and Medallion Award from the Points of Light Foundation for serving over 4,000 hours in the community over his lifetime.

Cindy Goss former Director of SoCal Harvest, worked with Feeding Long Beach to move harvesting activities under City HeART. She also served as a Polling Inspector for the LA County Registrar on Election Day held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

CLASS OF 2011

Jorge Rivera of LiBRE (Long Beach Residents Empowered) led a tour of about 30 residents and activists, mainly through the downtown and midtown areas, on the National Renters' Day of Action, a campaign across dozens of America cities led by the Brooklyn-based Right to the City Alliance.

Otis Hogan was elected to The LGBTQ Center's Board of Directors.

Emily Kiwa Tananka is part of the Long Beach Zine Fest organizing team. In 2016, +5,000 people attended the one day event at MOLAA. Zines (pronounced zeens) which are self-published magazines were celebrated along with local music, free artist workshops and presentations.



Alice Robinson (Class of 2010) is honored for her *Friends of Alice Robinson* hot lunch program which is in its 13th year.



AOC7 shares photos highlighting their neighborhoods successful 2016 projects.

CLASS OF 2012

Lewis Brownson volunteered the entire day to help support the West East Side Community Association's (WESCA) annual Halloween Carnival at Orizaba Park!

Mary Simmons served on the Transitioning Team for the Second District Council District. She also serves on the Steering Committee for Building Healthy Communities.

Anthony Formoso has been active this year, showing support in the many neighborhood cleanups and tree plantings, most of which were hosted by AOC7. Every year, Anthony volunteers with logistics and stage management at The Festival of Filipino Arts and Culture (FPAC), and also Carson's Filipino Independence Day Festival. On December 11, 2016 Anthony had his 5th professional MMA fight, wherein he won by a choke in 50 seconds of the 1st round.

Cassandra Ramon Davis is serving on the Board of AOC7 neighborhood association and is the Education Volunteer Coordinator at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Kirk Davis helped host the Downtown Lions Club's "First Sight Health Fair" on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Silverado Park. The event provided free eye screenings and recycled glasses for the first 400 people. The fair also offered free hearing, glucose, dental, HIV, blood pressure, mental health and body mass index screenings, free flu shots and educational resources and entertainment.

Marina Escobedo started a new job working for California

State Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas (AD 54). She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration at CSULB.

CLASS OF 2013

Dale Neal participated in a panel discussion hosted by the League of Women Voters on Homelessness at Long Beach Public Library. Dale works at the Long Beach Rescue Mission. The mission is a place of healing and hope serving the emergency needs of the hungry and homeless of the greater Long Beach area through shelter and food services, rehabilitation programs, spiritually-based counseling, education and job skills classes, and transitional housing.

Heather Kern serves as a Beach Streets Public Outreach Team Member. She spoke at a Zaferia Neighborhood meeting about how to prepare for the upcoming Beach Streets Midtown event. This event opens streets up for walking, bicycling, and socializing by temporarily closing thoroughfares to automobile traffic. Known more generally as Open Streets events, similar events are now occurring across the world, and are a common way of pursuing innovative strategies to achieve environmental, social, economic, and public health goals. The City of Long Beach, with funding from Metro, uses Beach Streets to showcase local neighborhoods, businesses, and parks, as well as local transit, health, and recreation options.

Sherry Martinez serves as District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America Long Beach Area Council. She

helped bring scouts to nearly a dozen *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting events in 2016.

John Kindred organized a Alamitos Beach Cleanup & Surfrider Long Beach Chapter-Hold On To Your Butt Beach Cleanup. They helped protect our Beaches and Oceans from pollution by keeping our Beaches and Oceans Clean while having a great time and making new friends or just hanging out with old friends.

CLASS OF 2014

Kelly Nhim completed the Long Beach Police Department Community Police Academy training program on December 10, 2016. The goal of the program is to provide participants with an opportunity to develop a stronger understanding of police training, policies and procedures, and current social issues facing law enforcement officers today. She also worked for the City of Long Beach Building & Safety Bureau.

Lucero Márquez is the new City of Long Beach Tobacco Education Program Assistant. Her role is to educate residents on the dangers of smoking, focusing on youth tobacco use prevention and education.

Paulette Sanders is part of the Safe Communities Workgroup which is part of the Safe Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan. She actively uses and promotes benefits of the Go Long Beach App. Additionally, she has taken steps in forming her foundation Stopping Pressure on Teens (SPOT) to assist teens from the ages of 13-19 years old to keep those who have not fallen into law-breaking activities focused as well as steering those who've fallen into the cracks of self-destruction and unbalanced living habits into high-esteemed law abiding citizens. S.P.O.T. is currently building its structure and is seeking neighborhood leaders with the same interests to join the team. Please inquire at Paulette@spoteens.org if interested.

Carlos Valdez helped host the Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association's Community Yard Sale in North Long Beach during May 20-22, 2016.

Azul Sanchez was instrumental in getting the Orange County Credit Union engaged in "I Dig Long Beach" tree planting events. For the past three years, she has volunteered at over two dozen tree planting events along with a crew of credit union employees. The Orange County Credit Union also supports the tree planting events by providing cases of drinking water for the volunteers at each of the monthly community tree planting events.

CLASS OF 2015

Amanda Randel in partnership with Garden Church helped launch a serve group called Laundry Love,

with the purpose of providing free laundry to the local community. What simply began as an effort to love and connect with neighbors, quickly exposed some of the needs of this community. With recent studies revealing a correlation between poor school attendance and lack of clean clothes, Laundry Love partnered with Franklin Classical Middle School to promote the program through school newsletters. Additionally, the group learned of the increased demand for laundry resources among the homeless community and began welcoming the overflow of a locally established laundry service. With many young children accompanying their parents each week, the group offers fun activities and encourages the youth to come alongside group members in distributing quarters and helping to serve the growing number of participants. Laundry Love had a great start in 2016 and will continue to grow and adjust to better serve the community onwards into 2017.



Azul Sanchez (Class of 2012) with her Orange County Credit Union team volunteering at an *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting event.



Anthony Formoso (Class of 2012) shares his muscle at an *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting event.

Kelly Carroll is the Senior Market Manager, Community Engagement for the California Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS), Inc.. They donated FREE used office furniture to the community because they are moving to a new location in Long Beach. For over 100 years, the ACS has worked relentlessly to save lives and create a world with less cancer. Together with millions of our supporters worldwide, they help people stay well and get well, find cures, and fight back against cancer.

Stacey Morrison and **Tom Underhill** helped host a Navy Watering Day Fleet Week volunteer event on September 1, 2016 to water “I Dig Long Beach” trees planted with the California Heights Neighborhood Association. They presented a workshop at Neighborhoods, USA’s annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns in May 2016 in Omaha, Nebraska. They presented information to neighborhood leaders across the country about the power of communication and how to use social media (and when not to use social media) with points of view from government, businesses and residents. Their California Heights Neighborhood Association won several awards from Neighborhoods, USA in recent years for their outstanding neighborhood newsletter. Like and follow their California Heights Neighborhood Association page on Facebook!

Jessica Alvarez led Parents on a Mission’s Safe Passages Program through the entire 2015-2016 school year. Volunteers monitoring streets along Santa Fe Avenue in West Long Beach to ensure that children arrive safely to school and home each day. She was also featured on a EstrellaTV - Noticias 62 news segment

CLASS OF 2016

Danita Strauss and her nonprofit Youthscore, Inc. held the 17th Annual Feed the Community Event. Danita coordinated the feeding of several families and gave away Shirley Berry-Willis Dinner Baskets in honor of the holiday feedings her late mother *Shirley Willis* (Class of 2009) organized. This year’s event was also in honor of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. Supervisor Knabe has helped to make the event possible and through the partnership with Youthscore, Inc., 6,464 individuals have been feed over the past seventeen years.

Josephine Villasenor is the Fundraising Chair of the Veterans Independence Day Celebration (VIDC). This volunteer event to raises awareness and community involvement in assisting and caring for military veterans.

Pedro Jimenez is serving as a MALE Academy leader for Long Beach Unified School District.

Nicolai de L’Archeveque served as Co-Chair of the First Council District’s Participatory Budgeting Committee. He

also participated in the 4th Conference on Participatory Budgeting in North America in Boston, MA from May 20-22, 2016.

Jan Ward (Class of 2016 Honorary) served as the President of the West East Side Community Association. She helped organize their annual Halloween carnival in 2016 at Orizaba Park. The event was free to all of the area children and included several games, arts and crafts booths and a safe, spooky and fun time for families and children of all ages.



Stacey Morrison (Class of 2015), **Tom Underhill** (Class of 2016) and members of the US Navy water I Dig Long Beach trees in CA Heights.



Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni march in the annual Martin Luther King Day Parade on January 16, 2016.

Alumni Service on City of Long Beach Boards and Commissions

The following Neighborhood Leaders are making a difference in Long Beach by serving as City Commissioners:

Citizens Police Complaint Commission: **Terry Beebe** (Class of 2013) and **David Clement** (Class of 2007)

Sustainable City Commission: **Coby Skye** (Class of 2003) and **Elliot Gonzales** (Class of 2010)

City of Long Beach Human Relations Commission: **Otis Hogan** (Class of 2011)

Homeless Services Advisory Committee: **Dale Neal** (Class of 2013)

Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board: **Jorge Rivera** (Class of 2011)

Long Beach Community Investment Company: **Jan Ward** (Class of 2016 Honorary)

Alumni In Action

Graduates hosted over two dozen neighborhood clean-up events in the AOC7, Central, Hamilton, Roosevelt, Washington School, West East Side and Willmore City and West Long Beach neighborhoods utilizing the Neighborhood Cleanup Assistance Program. During 2016, Neighborhood Leadership Program alumni coordinated community events and projects in neighborhoods. Some of these events are highlighted here.

AOC7
Anaheim Street, Orange Avenue, Cherry Avenue and 7th Street (AOC7) Neighborhood Association members had another busy year! Leaders **Rocio Torres** (Class of 1998), **Mary Simmons**, **Tommie Simmons**, **Andre Beasley** and **Cassandra Davis** all from the Class of 2012, and **Jesus Lopez** (Class of 2014) celebrated their group’s 5th Anniversary! Some of their highlights from 2016 include their monthly neighborhood clean ups. Thanks to a partnership with the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau and Litter-Free Long Beach, they removed 70 tons of trash from the neighborhood in 2016 alone! They continue to build community and empower residents by hosting monthly community meetings. They had so much fun at the 4th Annual AOC7 Literacy Fair on May 21st. They gave away books to over 500 children at MacArthur Park. In the past four years they have given away a grand total of 20,000 books! They’re

looking forward to the 5th Annual Literacy Fair in 2017. On September 24, 2016, they hosted an *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting with Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau and honored Heam Sum, the mother of Chan Hopkins from Khmer Parents Association. The 10th Street corridor looks complete with all the lovely trees. AOC7 was awarded with a 2016 Neighborhood Partners Program grant matching grant of \$10,000. This grant will help fund new traffic signal box vinyl wraps with beautiful artwork, neighborhood ID signs and planting creeping rosemary plants around the new trees on 10th Street. AOC7 was also approved for the Molina Foundation Book Grant for over 1,000 new books and won Port of Long Beach Sponsorship for their 2017 AOC7 Literacy Fair. The group was also awarded a Rotary Read by Nine Grant to purchase \$1,000 worth of Scholastic books. AOC7 also installed several No Dumping Signs throughout the neighborhood.

LLB
Martha Cota (Class of 2001) and **Marcos Lopez** (Class of 1999) graduated from Leadership Long Beach (LLB) Class of 2016. Martha participated in a project that focused on community engagement to increase civic involvement. The group hosted three community events across Long Beach and developed a brochure in three languages to provide additional information for residents. Marcos participated in the “Home Away from Home” project centered around Washington Middle School. The project was a community improvement day that included a tree planting, neighborhood clean up and resource fair with more than 300 attendees. Congratulations to Marcos and Martha who are amongst a handful of neighborhood leaders to complete both leadership programs!

LBZF
Emily Kiwa Tanaka (Class of 2011) and **Ziba Zehdar** (Class of 2016) are part of the Long Beach Zine Fest (LBZF) organizing team. In 2016, +5,000 people attended the one day event at MOLAA. Zines (pronounced zeens) which are self-published magazines were celebrated along with local music, free artist workshops and talks.



Rebecca Quinn (Class of 2015) and the East Village Association (EVA) host a successful neighborhood clean-up.

Alumni In Leadership

Graduates served in a leadership role of the following neighborhood and community groups in 2016:

AOC7 Neighborhood Association -- **Rocio Torres** (Class of 1998), **Mary Simmons** (Class of 2012), **Tommie Simmons** (Class of 2012), **Andre Beasley** (Class of 2012), **Jesus Lopez** (Class of 2014), **Cassandra Ramon Davis** (Class of 2012)

Better Balance for Long Beach – **Dan Pressburg** (Class of 2008), **Annie Greenfeld** (Class of 2003), **Jack Smith** (Class of 2006), **Linda Palacios** (Class of 1994)

Cabrillo High School PTA – **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015)

Central Neighborhood Advisory Committee – **Alice Robinson** (Class of 2010)

Coolidge Triangle Neighborhood Association – **Carlos Valdez** (Class of 2014)

Deforest Park Neighborhood Association – **Dan Pressburg** (Class of 2008)

East Village Association – **Rebecca Quinn** (Class of 2015)

Friends of Daryle Black Park – **Tom Flores** (Class of 2010)

Forgotten Images – **Sharon Scott McClucas** (Class of 1997)

Friends of Alice Robinson – **Alice Robinson** (Class of 2010), **Juanita Wilson** (Class of 2010), **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005), **Tom Flores** (Class of 2010)

The Garage Theater -- **Caprice Rothe** (Class of 2008)

Garfield Elementary School PTA – **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015)

Good Neighbors of North Long Beach – **Val Lerch** (Class of 1998)

Hamilton Neighborhood Association – **Kirk Davis** (Class of 2012)

Kiwanis Club of Bixby Knolls – **Jerry Caliguiri** (Class of 1997)

Long Beach Grows – **Donna Marykwas** (Class of 2011)

Long Beach Heritage Museum – **David Clement** (Class of 2007)

Long Beach Neighborhood Foundation – **Gavin McKiernan** (Class of 2004)

Longwood Association – **Renee Rios** (Class of 2013)

North Alamitos Beach Neighborhood Association - **Amanda Randel** (Class of 2015), **David Clement** (Class of 2007), **Henry Salzer** (Class of 2004)

North Pine Neighborhood Association – **Kelly Carroll** (Class of 2015)

On Broadway Merchants Association – **Sidney Cramer** (Class of 2011)

Parents on a Mission – **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015)

Rotoract Long Beach – **Angel Cutno** (Class of 2012)

Rose Park Neighborhood Association – **David Clement** (Class of 2007)

Safe Long Beach Safe Neighborhoods Neighborhood Leadership Subcommittee – **Margaret Madden** (Class of 1994), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Marcos Lopez** (Class of 1999), **Paulette Sanders** (Class of 2014), **Jessica Alvarez** (Class of 2015)

Sierra Club - Long Beach Area Group – **Gabrielle Weeks** (Class of 2003)

VIVA Madres School – **Shirley Huling** (Class of 2013)

Washington Middle School Neighborhood Association – **Linda Palacios** (Class of 1994)

West East Side Community Association – **Jan Ward** (Class of 2016 Honorary)

West Long Beach Association – **Bilal Chaka** (Class of 2013)

Willmore City Heritage Association – **Jim Danno** (Class of 2009), **Terry Beebe** (Class of 2013)

Wrigley Association – **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005)

Wrigley is Going Green – **Colleen McDonald** (Class of 2005)



Azul Sanchez (Class of 2012) and **Anthony Formoso** (Class of 2012) volunteering at an *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting event.



I Dig Long Beach

Graduates partnered with the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau to co-host the following *I Dig Long Beach* tree planting events and to maintain, water and care for their new trees:

Colleen McDonald (Class of 2005) -- "A Tribute to Amelia Earhart" Pacific Avenue Tree Planting in the Wrigley Village Business District on February 20, 2016

Will Cullen (Class of 2006) -- "Ed and Mary Lou Sheridan Memorial Tree Planting" in Belmont Heights on March 12, 2016

Mary Simmons (Class of 2012) -- "Heam Sum Memorial Neighborhood Tree Planting" in the Craftsman Village / AOC7 neighborhoods on September 24, 2016.

Dozens of graduates volunteered at *I Dig Long Beach* street tree planting events and tree watering projects outside their own neighborhoods.



Sister Cities

The City of Yokkaichi, Japan's Mayor Toshiyuki Tanaka invited Margaret Madden (Class of 1994) to Japan during November 2016 to provide additional training about the Neighborhood Leadership Program with Long Beach's sister city. The nine graduates from the Neighborhood Leadership Program's first "International Class of 2014" have helped their city to implement a Yokkaichi-style Neighborhood Leadership Program to help develop neighborhood leaders in their city and helped provide neighborhood leadership training dozens of Yokkaichi residents! During this trip, Margaret provided additional training to the graduates and City of Yokkaichi staff. Graduates shared that they are helping to recruit more residents, especially women, to get more involved in leadership roles in their Yokkaichi neighborhoods. During the trip, Margaret also presented a workshop to over 200 Yokkaichi residents with information about Long Beach, the Neighborhood Leadership Program and the many resources and programs available in Long Beach to improve neighborhoods.



Jesus Esparza (Class of 2009) hosted a Washington Neighborhood Ice Cream Social & Clean Up.



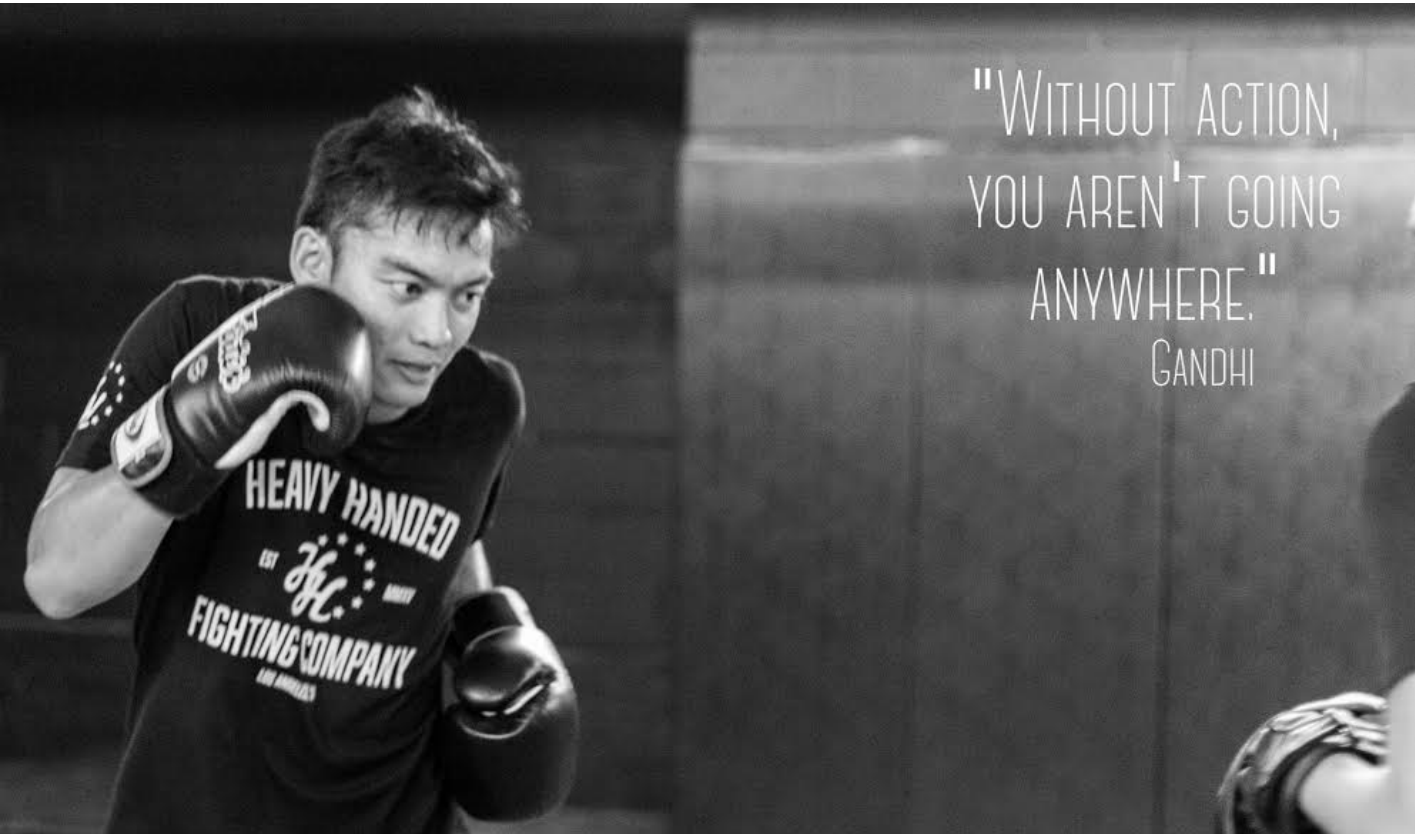
Bryant Ben (Class of 1992) shares the Killing Fields Memorial Center (KFMC) design.



Marta Cota (Class of 1999) at the Long Beach Latinos in Action event.



Amanda Randel (Class of 2014) during a Laundry Love program in her North Alamitos Beach neighborhood.



Anthony Formoso (Class of 2012) training for a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) match.



Emily Kiwa Tanaka (Class of 2011), **Ziba Zehdar** (Class of 2015) and the Long Beach Zine Fest organizing team.



Lewis Brownson (Class of 2012) volunteered the entire day to help support the West East Side Community Association's (WESCA) annual Halloween Carnival at Orizaba Park!



Say 'hello' to our newest Alumni,
Class of 2016!!!

Alumni Support Team for 2016

The Alumni Support Team 2016 is a group of graduates who volunteer their time to assist the facilitation team. Thank you **Kelly Carroll** (Class of 2015), **Jacquelynn Chagolla** (Class of 2014), **Pedro Jimenez** (Class of 2015), **Lucero Marquez** (Class of 2014), **Magaly Molina** (Class of 2014), **Dale Neal** (Class of 2012), **Reyna Ochoa** (Class of 2009), **Francisco Rodriguez** (Class of 2004), **Emily Kiwa Tanaka** (Class of 2011), **Amy Topete** (Class of 2015) and **Isela Zárate** (Class of 2012) for helping to develop grassroots neighborhood leaders in Long Beach!



Some members of the
Alumni Support Team 2016.

The Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Creed

As graduating Alumni of the Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP), we carry the responsibility of representing the core values of the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Program.

At all times, in all places, we will respect others while trusting the process of creating a safe environment and being committed to improving our community. Because the Neighborhood Leadership Program emphasizes team work, we agree to support our elected, appointed and volunteer leaders, and to create change through consensus, inclusion, and community building.

As NLP graduates, we are motivated by previous alumni and we will make continuous efforts to inspire new generations of neighborhood leaders. We will be mindful of taking advantage of opportunities to give back to NLP. This is our own little way of sharing our pride for Long Beach!

Creed written by members of the **Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Support Team** on June 28, 2014.



Remembering Jack Smith

Jack Smith was a Neighborhood Leadership Program graduate of the Class of 2006. Jack is the only Neighborhood Leadership Program graduate to win an Oscar. He won an Academy Award in 1995 for Technical Achievement for pioneering computerized motion picture budgeting and scheduling. Jack was one of the organizers of the community group Better Balance Long Beach (BBLB) and was instrumental in re-energizing 14th Street Park and making it safer for children and families. Jack and Better Balance for Long Beach held weekly gatherings at the park to provide a safe, family friendly environment for children to play and to discourage the criminal activity.

The group won a Neighborhood Partners Program matching grant and built a KaBoom! playground in the park in 2006. Each year, Jack served as a tour guide for the Neighborhood Leadership Program's Day of Discovery tour of Long Beach to share how neighbors took back their park and to encourage neighborhood leaders across the city to create safe places for children to play.

Jack helped create Better Balance for Long Beach's annual event Annual One Day Christmas Store, Shopping with Dignity. The event provides a free "shopping experience" for families that cannot afford Christmas presents. Hundreds of families each year are treated to shop for family members. At the store, parents shop for their kids and kids shop for their parents in a separate store. The event received national recognition in 2011 winning Neighborhoods, USA's Neighborhood of the Year Award Grand Prize at their annual conference held in Anchorage, Alaska.

Jack's best friend, Scott Olson has started a GoFundMe campaign to fund Jack's memorial. This campaign will pay for a Memorial to Jack (which is anticipated to be held in Long Beach on Saturday, January 14, 2017.) After paying for the memorial, the balance will be given to BBLB to help fund the Christmas Store 2017, which will be held in Jack's honor. The campaign can be found at the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/jack-smith-memorial-and-xmas-store>.

Remembering Thomas Hummel

Thomas Hummel was a Neighborhood Leadership Program graduate of the Class of 2014. At the age of 20, Tom moved to San Francisco living in the Haight-Ashbury district. Over the next 20 years he spent his time living in either in Cincinnati, Ohio or Southern California, eventually relocating permanently to Long Beach, California. It is in Long Beach that he was introduced to Buddhism and joined the Soka Gakkai International USA, Buddhism community where he consistently practiced Buddhism until the end of his life. Thomas worked as bartender, car salesman, security personnel, Red Cross instructor (CPR/First-Aid) and EMT. Because of his practice of Buddhism, his humanitarianism shone through his life. He was a Red Cross volunteer traveling to many disaster stricken areas to help including New Orleans (Hurricane Katrina), Miami Hurricane (Frances), Pennsylvania (Floods), New York & New Jersey (Hurricane Sandy) and many others. In 2014, he graduated from the Long Beach Neighborhood Leadership Program, which provided more opportunities to volunteer in his local community. He completed the Long Beach Fire Department program to get his Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Certification. He also completed

many online courses through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The staff of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau, made up of several of Tom's fellow NLP graduates, extend Tom's friends and family our deepest condolences. Please contact **Sandra Johnson** (Class of 2008) at 562-326-3366 with any questions regarding his service.



The Neighborhood Leadership Program

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Programa de
Liderazgo
de Vecindarios



The Neighborhood Leadership Program is offered by the City of Long Beach Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau. This five (5) month multilingual program assists grassroots residents and provides you with the skills, knowledge and resources you need to make a difference in the quality of life in our community. This program is free to participants and is partially funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

This program will help you:

- Improve your communication skills
- Recognize the benefits of diversity
- Create innovative solutions for improving your neighborhood
- Identify resources and partnerships
- Apply for grants
- Plan and complete a community project
- Gain confidence as a public speaker
- Meet Long Beach decision-makers:
Mayor and City Council
- Community, Government and Non-Profit Leaders
- Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni

For more information, please contact the Housing and Neighborhood Services Bureau at (562) 570-1010 or via e-mail to Francisco.Rodriguez@longbeach.gov.