Frank Colonna started his real estate business in 1982 and grew the business over the past thirty-four years. Today, the Frank Colonna & Company Realty is one of the most successful and well-recognized family businesses in Long Beach.

Mr. Colonna, an active member of the LB Branch NAACP knew and worked with Ernest McBride, Sr. and the current president for more than three decades. For the past decade, Frank has donated the space for the LB Branch NAACP office. In addition, he supports the Scholarship Fund and Branch housing program for first-time home buyers.

Highlights of his career during this same period include serving as councilman for the Third District of Long Beach for eight years and the Governor’s appointee as Chair of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Mr. Colonna also served as president of Gateway Cities Council of Governments. Further, he served as president of the Belmont Shore Business Association where he created the Shore Corps, a group of twenty young adults providing volunteer services in the community and business district.

Prior to starting his real estate business, Mr. Colonna served in the California Army National Guard and earned a master’s degree in the sciences at California State University, Northridge, after first earning a bachelor’s degree at California State University, Long Beach. He holds a community college teaching credential.
Alison King currently serves as the Bureau Manager for the Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach, where she oversees a budget of $80 million and more than sixty staff members in the administration of six subsidized rental programs. Alison has more than sixteen years of dedicated service working for housing authorities in Long Beach and Kansas City. Her effectiveness and expertise in housing issues and leadership make her a great asset to the City’s management team.

Ms. King has dedicated her life to community service. She is often found donating her time and energy to the development of others. She generously volunteers her talents in a multitude of organizations whose missions involve the betterment of society in one form or another. Currently, Alison serves and is a member of Leadership Long Beach, class of 2011, former board member and retreat leader; Jack and Jill of America, Inc. – Inglewood Chapter; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Friendly Friendship Baptist Church, Los Angeles; Friendly Friendship Women’s Ministry; Long Beach Community Action Partnership, Board Member; My Brother’s Keeper Mentor; Continuum of Care Board Member; and the Long Beach Chapter of the NAACP. Previous board member positions include Y.W.C.A. and the Maternal Child Health Coalition.

Ms. King is a member of the Rancho Cienega Tennis Club and, in her spare time, can be found on the court serving aces to her opponents. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and economics from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. Alison has been married to her husband LaMont for twenty years and has four beautiful daughters.
In 1999 Wilma Powell was named the director of trade and maritime services at the Port of Long Beach. As director, she was responsible for sales and marketing, port operations, managing the Port’s six overseas offices and customer service. She and her staff served as liaisons to Port customers.

Previously, Ms. Powell was the Port’s chief wharfinger for eleven years, responsible for enforcing port rules, regulations, tariffs and leases. For more than thirty-five years, Wilma worked in seven of the Port’s divisions, including operations, maintenance, engineering, public relations, properties, and trade and maritime services.

Ms. Powell has served on various maritime-related and civic boards of directors, including the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce; Marine Exchange; Propeller Club, Long Beach Community Partnership; Leadership Long Beach; Long Beach YMCA; American Heart Association; and the Conservation Corps. She was also chair of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services in Washington, DC., where she received the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service. Ms. Powell has also received numerous other honors, such as the 1995 U.S. Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal; the 1994 California Legislature Assembly Woman of the Year; the 1996 Black Business and Professional Association Business Recognition Award; the 2002 Camp Fire USA Award; and the CSULB Women’s Resource Center Recognition for Service and Dedication to Women Award.

Ms. Powell is a lifetime member of the NAACP and continues to support the vision and mission of the organization. As a leader and officer of other community organizations, she always incorporates the vision and mission of the NAACP into those organizations. Wilma received a bachelor’s degree in management from the University of Redlands. She is married to Long Beach firefighter LeVon Powell and has two sons, Kevin and Dante.
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John Hamilton, Ed.D. tenure in Education and Organizational Development is a combined total of over 20 years. In the effort to compliment his practice with theory, Dr. Hamilton earned his Doctoral degree in Education (Organizational Leadership) from the University of La Verne, Masters of Education from Loyola Marymount University, and his Bachelors in Sociology from San Diego State University.

He serves as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program and Guardian Scholars at CSU, Long Beach while teaching part-time in the Sociology Department. In this position, he provides leadership to assist historically underrepresented students with academic resources to be retained and graduate. In addition, he provides support for current/former foster youth. He has served as the Director of New Student Programs for the Academic Advancement Program at UCLA. He has taught Cultural Diversity, Multicultural Counseling and Socio-cultural Foundations courses at Pepperdine University, National University, and Occidental College. In addition, Dr. Hamilton has served as the Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Services and Vice Provost of Academic Affairs at California State University, Long Beach where he made recommendations concerning retention issues for students of color.

Dr. Hamilton has presented at numerous conferences and workshops on the plight of males of color across the country. He is the author of Cinque: Rites Of Passage, The Elevator is Broken and Vainglorious: How Today’s Black Men Graduate from College. As a board member of the NAACP, Dr. Hamilton prides himself in knowing that everyone has the propensity for change with guidance and nurturing.
Long Beach Branch NAACP 37th Founders Dinner Celebration and Awards Presentation

HUMANITARIAN SERVICES AWARD

TIM McBRIDE

Tim McBride is co-founder of Zoic Studios, an Emmy award winning visual effects company, with offices in Los Angeles, New York and Vancouver, Canada. Zoic performs visual effects in film and television for such clients as ABC, Fox, Marvel, Amazon, Netflix, Paramount, NBC Universal, DreamWorks, and Disney; directors such as Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard, and Joss Whedon; advertising agencies on Madison Avenue and around the world; and video games companies, including Sony, Microsoft, EA, and Activision. Tim is also president of Zoic’s subsidiary -- Zoic Labs -- a technology company developing software in the Big Data industry for U.S. defense and intelligence agencies as well as the private sector.

Mr. McBride is co-founder and past president of Team 100, a Long Beach-based group of 100 men committed to fighting hunger among elementary school children. Through fundraising, Team 100 provides meals to those less fortunate supporting its Food for Long Beach Kids program at Title I schools in Long Beach/Lakewood/Signal Hill. Team 100 began at one school with 10 bags of food each Friday in the 2011-12 school year; five years later Food for Long Beach Kids will deliver more than 300,000 meals. As a member of Team 100, Tim supports the mission and goals of the NAACP. Team 100 collaborates with the LB Branch NAACP in our community programs.

Mr. McBride was instrumental in saving his alma mater, St. Anthony High School, from closing its doors due to financial hardship in 2000. Sixteen years later, SAHS is the fastest growing and highly acclaimed high school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Tim has remained close to the school ever since serving in various capacities on the SAHS Consultative Board, Finance Council, Executive Council and Foundation Board.

Other volunteerism Mr. McBride has performed in recent years in service to his community include the School Advisory Board for St. Joseph Church, the Wilson High School Boys Soccer Booster Club, the Long Beach Basket Brigade which feeds those less fortunate at Thanksgiving, the Innovative Solutions Consortium, and youth soccer and softball coach.
Ken Miller was influenced early in life by a quote from John F. Kennedy that was taken from the Bible: “To those whom much is given, much is expected.” Blessed with a loving family, the opportunity for a good education at St. Anthony High School and the first in his family to attend college, Ken has focused his retirement in using his skills to give others similar opportunities.

Mr. Miller currently serves on several non-profit boards with focus on education and opportunities for our most needy children, including the CSULB Board of Governors, St. Anthony High School Advisory Council, Our Lady of Refuge Elementary School Advisory Council, Steel Magnolias Men’s Auxiliary Board and the Long Beach Century Club. Ken has supported the LB Branch NAACP as a member of Team 100, a Long Beach-based group of 100 men committed to fighting hunger and providing 300,000 meals to elementary school children at Title I schools in Long Beach, Lakewood, and Signal Hill.

Mr. Miller received his bachelor’s and MBA degrees from CSULB where he served as the student body president. He is a former associate professor at the University of Southern California.

Mr. Miller is the founder and president of Impact Associates, a professional management consulting and training organization. He has been awarded two client awards for the effect his work has had on their organizations’ success. Ken was also chosen as “Strategic Vendor of the Year” by IKON Office Solutions and was awarded the Eagle Spirit Award by First American Corporation, the first external supplier to ever receive such an honor. Prior to forming his company, he was with Xerox Corporation for more than twenty years in management and executive positions.

Mr. Miller is most proud of his two sons, Sean and Ryan, who are establishing their own path in giving back to the communities in which they live.
Jennifer Dixon currently serves as Webmaster of the Long Beach Branch NAACP. In addition to providing regular site maintenance, she works to organize and modernize the webpage. Jennifer also assists the Long Beach Branch with marketing, graphics, and general administrative tasks.

A fourth-year student at California State University, Long Beach, Ms. Dixon is majoring in Studio Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design and minoring in Web Technologies and Applications. Jennifer has earned a spot on the President’s Honor List five times and has maintained a 3.9 GPA. She is also an active member of the University Honors Program. Her honors thesis focuses on making healthcare institution’s online patient portals more accessible to older adults. Through this project, Jennifer aims to apply her knowledge of graphic and web design to enhance the well-being of an underserved population.

Ms. Dixon has been involved in many other forms of community service in college, including serving food in a soup kitchen, beautifying impoverished neighborhoods, restoring homes, and cleaning beaches. She spent a year acting as a submission reviewer and writing coach for Incarcerated Voices, an organization which promotes awareness about issues pertaining to the American criminal justice system. Jennifer has also worked as a transitional kindergarten classroom assistant, created graphic design work for members of her community, written and designed for the University Honors Program Newsletter, and contributed to a collaborative website redesign for Special Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization.
Jason McCarty is a native of Long Beach California and a proud graduate of Long Beach Polytechnic High School. He has been an active member of the Long Beach Branch NAACP since High School, serving in many capacities including Youth Council President; NAACP Scholar and Mentor; and current executive committee member. He participated in NAACP programs such as the Wet Wednesday Sailing in conjunction with the Long Beach Yacht Club and Foundation, and the U.S. Sailing Center and Foundation; and the NAACP Golf Program co-sponsored by L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe and the late Wilbur “Bud” Lorbeer.

Mr. McCarty continued his education at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor degree in finance and a minor in economics. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and received several academic achievement awards. Upon graduating college, Jason started his finance career in New York as an investment banking analyst specializing in retail and consumer products at Morgan Stanley. It was at Morgan Stanley where he was reintroduced to the passion of food service that led him to later return to California and join the finance team at CKE Restaurant’s (parent company to Carl’s Jr. and Hardee’s restaurants). He has been with the company for five years and now serves as Manager of Operations--Finance supporting all domestic restaurants.

In his spare time, Mr. McCarty loves to travel and play basketball. Some of his travels have included Dubai, India, Vietnam, Costa Rica and Mexico. His most recent travel was an impact cruise to the Dominican Republic. This provided the opportunity to build community with like-minded travelers and work to create enduring social impact. On this recent trip, Jason participated in a Creative, Arts, Music, and Sports program for students learning English in the primary schools. He also had an opportunity to impact economic development by participating in a women’s cooperative that cultivates organic chocolate (cacao) plants, which is an important source of income for that poor region of the Dominican Republic.
Award-winning actress Loretta Devine has created some of the most memorable roles in theatre, film and television. Devine first captured national attention in the role of Lorrell, one of the three original "Dreamgirls" in Michael Bennett's classic award-winning Broadway musical. Loretta was fiery in her portrayal of Lillian, in Bob Fosse's acclaimed stage production "Big Deal." Devine's status as one of the most talented and versatile stage actresses occurred after her work in in George C. Wolfe's "Colored Museum" and "Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill".

Many film roles followed including a poignant turn as a single mother opposite Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett and Gregory Hines in "Waiting to Exhale" which earned Devine her first NAACP Image Award for 'Best Supporting Actress.' Devine also won an NAACP Image Award for Best Supporting Actress for her work in Penny Marshall's "The Preacher's Wife." Devine received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Actress for her work in "Women Thou Art Loosed." Devine was featured in the Academy Award-winning film "Crash" and the hit movie of "Dreamgirls." Some of her film credits are appearances in the "Urban Legend" franchise, "I Am Sam" opposite Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Penn, "Kingdom Come," "What Women Want," "Punks," "Hoodlums," "Down in the Delta" and "Stanley and Iris."

Devine's more recent film credits include co-starring roles in "This Christmas" and "First Sunday" both of which opened Number 1 at the box office. Devine voiced the character of "Delta" in Disney's "Beverly Hills Chihuahua." She appeared with Chris Rock in Sony Screen Gems remake of "Death at a Funeral" and "Lottery Ticket" for Alcon/Warner Brothers. Devine portrayed "The Woman in Green" in Tyler Perry's adaptation of Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls." In 2011, Devine starred in two leading roles in the film "Jumping the Broom" with Paula Patton, Laz Alonso and Angela Bassett and in the Tyler Perry directed film "Madea's Big Happy Family," both films earned top spots at the box office. Along with Devine's box office hits, are also a strong lineup of independent films including Robert Townsend's "In The Hive" which earned Devine a NAACP Image Award nomination for "Best Actress in a Motion Picture", "You're Not You" alongside Hilary Swank, James Franco's "The Sound and the Fury" and the Kristen Wiig dramedy, "Welcome to Me."

On television, Devine became a critical darling in her Emmy award-winning role as "Adele" on ABC’s hit medical drama "Grey's Anatomy." Devine's credits include numerous series roles on shows such as "The Cosby Show" spin-off "A Different World," Eddie Murphy's stop-motion animated series "The PJs," David E Kelly's "Boston Public," ABC's "Eli Stone" and alongside Jennifer Love-Hewitt on Lifetime's "The Client List." Devine continues to voice "Hallie the Hippo" on Disney Channel's Peabody Award-Winning animated series, "Doc McStuffins," and currently stars on NBC's "The Carmichael Show" and co-starred in the 3rd season of BET's "Being Mary Jane" as the titular character's main antagonist, "Cece."

Devine's career spans three decades and she has earned praise and recognition for her work on the big and small screen. In her role as "Adele" on Grey's Anatomy, she earned a Primetime Emmy Award and nomination, a Gracie Allen Award for "Outstanding Female Actor in a Featured Role," a nomination for "Best Guest Performer in a Drama Series" from the Critics' Choice Television Awards and a NAACP Image Award and a NAACP Image Award nomination. Devine has won eight NAACP Image Awards and has received eighteen nominations. Loretta has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Pan African Film Festival and the NAACP Theatre Awards and the Thespian Award from the LA Femme International Film Festival. Devine graduated from the University of Houston and later received a Master of Fine Arts from Brandeis University. She also received a Doctorate of Humane Letters as well as a Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Houston. She currently resides in Los Angeles.
MIKE VAN DYKE

Mike Van Dyke is a fourth-generation Long Beach native. He is the current board president of The Children’s Clinic (TCC). TCC was founded in 1939 by his grandfather along with other physicians and community leaders. TCC is an independent community health center with eleven sites and a mobile medical clinic dedicated to providing comprehensive and innovative health care to medically underserved, low-income, and high-risk populations. More than 40,000 residents call TCC their medical home.

Mr. Van Dyke was taught to serve the community as a young boy. The LB Branch NAACP is one of the many organizations fortunate to be personally supported by Mike Van Dyke and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Mike is also a member of Team 100, a group of men committed to fighting hunger and providing this year more than 300,000 healthy meals to elementary school children of Title I schools in Long Beach to help eliminate food insecurities.

Recently, Mr. Van Dyke joined in the inception of Long Beach’s newest non-profit organization, The Little Green Apples Project. The goal of the organization is to “encourage random acts of kindness” and support organizations that make life better for youth, seniors, veterans, and challenged individuals. The organization targets support for the Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach, Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation, and Pitch In for Baseball. The inspiration and name came from Robert Smith, a blind man, trying to accomplish generating a million acts of kindness.

Mr. Van Dyke is a member of the Long Beach Symphony Association Board of Directors. He believes in the Long Beach Symphony Organization commitment to enriching the community by providing high quality traditional and contemporary music productions for the youth of Long Beach. Mike is also currently on the Heart and Vascular Institute Advisory Board at Memorial Hospital and assists in their fund raising efforts to help the Institute stay on the cutting edge of cardio and vascular procedures for our community.
ART & CULTURE AWARD

RONALD C. NELSON

Ronald Nelson was appointed the Executive Director of the Long Beach Museum of Art in February 2007 where he oversees an annual budget of almost $3.5 million. His position is responsible for day to day operations as well as long term planning and direction of the Museum, both financially and artistically.

Mr. Nelson has worked as both a curator and an art historian. He is an avid art collector, with a deep appreciation of cultural art, artifact, and historically significant design. Ron has an in-depth knowledge of early California art as well as contemporary arts and culture acquired through a decade of owning and operating a contemporary art gallery in Southern California.

Mr. Nelson provide in-kind support of the LB Branch NAACP Discovery of the Arts Program. This project introduces low-income youth and seniors to the various arts of Long Beach and surrounding communities.

Mr. Nelson currently serves on the Board of several institutions, such as the Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, Musica Angelica, The Center, and The Art Theater. He also serves as the director of POW!WOW! Long Beach. Ron has been a resident of Long Beach for the past 32 years. He grew up in the Pacific Northwest and attended the University of Washington and Pacific Lutheran University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine art and art history.

Mr. Nelson has chaired and served on many large non-profit fundraising initiatives and committees throughout Southern California, including the Southern Californian Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts, Whittier Presbyterian Hospital, United Cerebral Palsy Children’s League, CSULB Ceramic Arts Travel Scholarship, in addition to a capital campaign for the historic First Congregational Church located in downtown Long Beach. Ron also continues to serve as a juror for numerous fine art museum and community art center exhibitions and competitions.
The President's Award is presented to members and supporters that provide notable services to the branch. The recipients promote volunteerism, youth leadership, and service to the community. Many people of Long Beach and surrounding communities benefit from the generous support and contributions of our 2016 President’s Award recipients.

**NICOLE VELASQUEZ**

Nicole Velasquez began her career working with the City of Long Beach in 1990. In 2006 she accepted a position with the City Prosecutor's Office as a legal office specialist, assisting in the preparation of misdemeanor cases. Nicole's recognition is because of her work these past two years as a community service coordinator with the Prosecutor's Office.

Ms. Velasquez assists defendants with getting a second chance by enrolling in the Community Service Program, which was implemented in Long Beach by Prosecutor Doug Haubert.

Ms. Velasquez is dedicated to improving the lives of the individuals in the Community Service Program. She provides excellent customer service and takes the time to hear each enrollee's personal struggles. The program averages 70-100 enrollees per month, with a minimal recidivism return rate.

Ms. Velasquez has made Long Beach her home for the past 44 years. Married with four adult children, she enjoys antique shopping and spending time with her grandchildren and family. Throughout her years with the City of Long Beach, Nicole has received several accolades, including the 2016 NUSA Community Service Program Award, 2014 Employee of the Year for the Prosecutor's Office, 1997 VIP Award and 1993 Employee of the Year for Public Works department.

**DR. LANCE ROBERT**

As a distinguished educator for well over two decades, Dr. Lance Robert has dedicated his entire career to helping his students feel a sense of confidence in their abilities to succeed. Presently, Dr. Robert teaches full time in the Los Angeles Community College District at Los Angeles Southwest College.

In addition to his teaching assignments, Dr. Robert has served as one of the instructional leaders for the tutorial staff of the LASC Student Success Center, where he conducts weekly campus-wide empowerment seminars on academic success strategies. He has authored and presented countless academic papers at conferences and served as keynote speaker for numerous graduations and district-wide trainings sessions throughout the state of California.

Dr. Robert is a founding charter member of the Long Beach chapter of the 100 Black Men, Inc. Since its inception in 2008, he has served as the mentoring chair. Lance has never missed a session of the monthly youth mentoring program that is conducted on the campus of California State University, Long Beach and teaches fundamental academic skills, cultural awareness, moral development and personal responsibility to male youth participants ages 8-18. Under his leadership, the mentoring program has become the flagship program for the Long Beach chapter. As a result, the program has garnered national recognition for its success and has produced a number of socially aware college-bound young men. Through the LB chapter of 100 Black Men, Dr. Robert has supported and collaborated with the LB Branch NAACP, specifically in the development of males of color.

Dr. Robert's success in building personal efficacy and encouraging the academic resilience of his students has made him a much sought after adviser. Recognized for his efforts at helping students demonstrate a more positive experience in the classroom, the City of Long Beach invited the entire mentoring committee to work as a hub partner with the LB GRIP 5 (Gang Reduction Intervention Prevention) mentoring component. His committee was also invited to partner with President Obama's local My Brother's Keeper task force.
Jose Hurtado, General Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Long Beach.

The Mercedes-Benz dealership holds several distinctions. They deliver an exemplary brand experience in a world-class environment. But also occupy a unique geography, serving an extremely diverse community. Their goal was to take Mercedes-Benz of Long Beach to the next level by listening, learning and then catering to this multitude of preferences. As a result, they have earned the kind of loyalty from their customers that is the cornerstone of our current and future success. The dealership includes new and pre-owned vehicle sales and a service center. Mercedes-Benz of Long Beach is part of the Shelly Automotive Group. Website: http://www.mbzlongbeach.com/ Address: 2300 East Spring St. Signal Hill, CA 90755 (888) 261-2508

Shelly Automotive Group:
The Shelly Automotive Group has built a record of distinction by creating world-class automotive retail experiences that blend architecture, prestige offerings, and unmatched product and customer service. As a proud member of the Shelly Automotive Group family, Mercedes-Benz of Long Beach is committed to serving our customers with honesty and integrity. Our priority will always be, first and foremost, the customer. Listening to our customer’s concerns, wants and needs and delivering the red carpet experience is our standard.

Greg Keebler

For the past three years Greg Keebler has been the General Manager with Atrium Hospitality at Hilton Long Beach. The LB Hilton has been a supporter of NAACP for more than two decades, providing internships, in-kind donations, and diversity grants. The Atrium Hospitality group has continued this major support formerly provided by the Hilton Corporation. Prior to 2013, Greg was the general manager with Evolution Hospitality at the Queen Mary.

Before starting his work in Long Beach, Mr. Keebler served as general manager with Evolution Hospitality at multiple West Coast hotels. On two occasions he received the General Manager of the Year Award and the President’s True North Award. Greg also held various positions over twenty years with Marriot Hotels in San Francisco, Monterey, New York and Washington, DC markets.

Mr. Keebler is a board member with the Long Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau. He has served as a past president for the Monterey County Workforce Investment Board, the Monterey County American Red Cross, and the Seaside Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Keebler is married to Lesa Melbostad and resides in Long Beach. They love spending their free time with their five children and six grandchildren. As a veteran of the U.S. Army, he lives by the guiding principle, “Make things around me just a little better for others today, than they were yesterday.”
Maestro Marcy Sudock is the artistic director and conductor of the Southern California based Musique Sur La Mer Orchestras, a non-profit organization that includes the Musique Sur La Mer Orchestra, Chamber Ensembles, Youth Symphony Orchestra and Honors Chamber Orchestra. She is a professional orchestra conductor, violinist/violist and instructor and also assists regularly as the strings coach at Stanford Middle School in Long Beach. Musique Sur La Mer Orchestras formed a collaboration with the LB Branch NAACP over six months ago. The purpose is to combine services to serve a larger number of low income talented youth of color.

As a violinist, Ms. Sudock has performed with Luciano Pavoratti, Andrea Bocelli, Lou Rawls, Lionel Richie, Reba McIntyre, Paula Abdul, Freddie Hubbard, Leonard Penario, Marnie Nixon, Richard and Karen Carpenter, to name but a few. She has performed with numerous symphonies, chamber orchestras and ensembles, recording studios and shows throughout the USA and abroad.

As a conductor, Ms. Sudock, has performed to sold out audiences in Austria, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Australia and France. In 2011, she conducted the Musique Sur La Mer Orchestra in London, England’s Royal College of Music in honor of the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton. She returned to London and the RCM in 2012, for the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II where Ms. Sudock and the Musique Sur La Mer Orchestra performed a concert in honor of the occasion.

Ms. Sudock graduated with her bachelor’s degree in from California State University, Long Beach. Marcy Sudock has been married for nearly forty years to Mark Sudock, the eight-time Emmy Award winning news editor and producer. They have four grown children and one grandchild.
In 1973, John Morris moved to California and attended Long Beach State where he founded the Long Beach State Rugby Club. In 1979, John and Dennis Harrah, a first-round draft pick for the LA Rams, opened the granddaddy of all sports bars called Legends in Belmont Shore. In February of 1988 John opened Mums Restaurant on Pine Avenue in downtown Long Beach. Some call him the pioneer of Pine Avenue. For more than two decades, Mr. Morris has been an active supporter of the LB Branch NAACP and has served in many capacities, providing in-kind donations/facilities usage, internships for culinary students, employment of college students. He is also a supporter of the LB Branch NAACP’s Holiday Program for children and the veterans project.

Some of John’s many accomplishments include being named the Business Man of the Century in Belmont Shore in the 1980s, founding the Belmont Shore Christmas Parade, New Year’s Eve on Pine Celebration, Summer of Music Concert, Gospel Fest, the Big Bang on the Bay and the Belmont Shore Rugby Club. He has been the president of both the Belmont Shore Business Association and the Downtown Long Beach Associates.

For the past 30 years Mr. Morris has been a board member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and a board member for the Boys and Girls Club for the past 20 years. He is involved with and supports all local charities and schools, recently raising over $115,000 for Children’s Today, a local nonprofit that works with homeless children.

In 2014, Mr. Morris became a managing partner of The Boathouse on the Bay. He and his partners continue to help expand the local culinary scene with their restaurants that include Legends Belmont Shore, Legends Huntington Beach, O’Malley’s Seal Beach, Patti’s Place Seal Beach, The Boathouse on the Bay in Alamitos Bay and The Boathouse on the Bay at the Long Beach Airport.