

88 CITIES SUMMIT

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

MARCH 19, 2025

Torrance Arts And Cultural Center



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Collaboratively Advancing Growth and Prosperity for All

TODAY'S PROGRAM

8:00 AM	Registration & Networking
9:00 AM	Introductory Remarks by LAEDC Board Chair Ron Frierson
9:05 AM	Setting the Tone by LAEDC VP Jermaine Hampton
9:10 AM	Welcome Remarks by Mayor George K. Chen
9:25AM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Minal Mondkar of Aura Seating
9:30 AM	Keynote by Director Tara Lynn Gray of CalOSBA
10:30 AM	Morning Breakout Sessions
11:15 AM	BREAK
11:30 AM	Midday Breakout Sessions
12:30 PM	Lunch and City Solutions Showcase
2:35PM	Introduction by LAEDC Sponsorship Brain Trust
2:40 PM	Local Economic Snapshot: Insight on Recovery and Resilience
2:55 PM	Introduction by Linda Nguyen of Microsoft
3:00 PM	Philanthropies Fireside Chat With Winners of the Most Business Friendly City Award
3:45 PM	Closing Remarks by Stephen Cheung
4:00 PM	End

**THANK YOU CITY OF TORRANCE FOR HOSTING
THE 2025 88 CITIES SUMMIT**



Microsoft

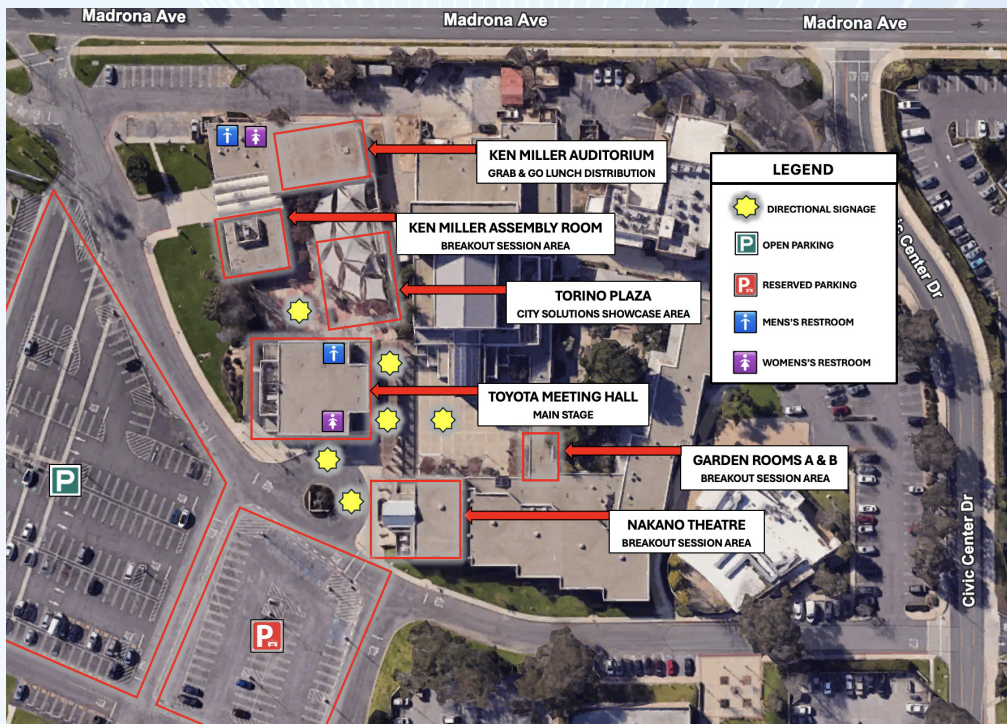


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDISON®

Energy for What's Ahead®

TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

3330 Civic Center Dr, Torrance, CA 90503



FREE WIFI:
TORRANCE PUBLIC WIFI

WELCOME REMARKS



GEORGE K. CHEN
Mayor | City of Torrance

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



TARA LYNN GRAY
Director | California Office of
Small Business Advocate

MODERATOR



KEN BILLUPS
Vice President |
Economic & Social
Impact, AECOM

PANELISTS



**CHRISTOPHER
JACKSON**
Senior Development
Services Director |
City of Inglewood



TRACI WATSON
President |
National Association of
Minority Contractors



BEN GARCIA
Executive Director |
Apprenticeship Readiness
Fund, LA/OC Building
and Construction Trades
Council

MODERATOR



FRAN FULTON
Economic Development
Manager | City of Torrance

PANELISTS



AKIRA KAJITA
Chief Executive Officer
| JETRO Los Angeles



WILLIAM POWLES
Senior Director | Intl.
Trade World Trade
Center Los Angeles



DEBBIE HAYS
Community Representative
| Discover Torrance



SACHA DUNCAN
Member |
Torrance Chamber



MR. YASUHIDE
MIZUNO
Chairman and CEO |
Sony Honda Mobility
AFEELA

MODERATOR



JACKI BACHARACH
Executive Director |
South Bay Cities
Council of Govt

PANELISTS



WALLY SIEMBAB
Research Director |
South Bay Cities
Council of Govt



MARK HENDERSON
Councilmember |
City of Gardena



DREW MCNAUGHTON
President | Fabric
Networks RSG Telecom



KEITH PONTON
Product Manager |
Arcadis

PANELISTS



NICK KIMBALL
City Manager | City of
San Fernando



RITA KAMPALATH
Chief | Sustainability
Office Los Angeles County



LYNN VON
KOCH-LIEBERT
Head of Climate | Energy &
Infrastructure Lendistry



TUNUA THRASH-NTUK
President & CEO |
The Center by Lendistry

MODERATOR



SCARLET PERALTA
Former Mayor &
Councilmember
City of Montebello

PANELISTS



**DR. TAMALA
KELLY**
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Monrovia



**CASSANDRA C.
CHASE**
Vice Mayor
City of Lakewood



**YASMIN-IMANI
MCMORRIN**
Former Mayor & Current
Councilmember
City of Culver City

BREAKOUT SESSION

**EMPOWERING THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW
AND CREATING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES: YOUTH,
BROADBAND, AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN LOS
ANGELES COUNTY**

MODERATOR



DAVIS PARK
Senior Program Director |
LA DEAL, LAEDC

PANELISTS



JOSHUA BUTLER
Senior Policy & Advocacy
Manager | Human IT



VANESSA ARAMAYO
President and CEO |
Alliance for a Better
Community



HECTOR DE LA TORRE
Executive Director |
Gateway Cities Council
of Governments



RICARDO REYES
City Manager | City of
Huntington Park



JASON FOSTER
President and CEO |
Destination Crenshaw

Midday Breakout Sessions 11:30am to 12:15pm

Location: Ken Miller Assembly Room

BREAKOUT SESSION

**COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO
TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS FOR
OPPORTUNITY YOUTH**

MODERATOR



AMBER CHATMAN
Director | Workforce Systems
& Policy, UNITE-LA

PANELISTS



BRYSON GAUFF
Senior Project
Coordinator | City of
Los Angeles



HAIDE ARRIAZA
Pupil Service & Attendance
Coordinator | Los Angeles
Unified School District



SAM POWERS
Central Office Navigator |
Los Angeles Unified
School District



ALEX GUERRERO
Opportunity Youth
Assistant | Los Angeles
Youth Collaborate

Midday Breakout Sessions 11:30am to 12:15pm

Location: Garden Rooms A&B

PANELISTS



LINDA ROSENBERG
Senior Client Advisor |
California Manufacturing
Technology Consulting



VERONICA PUGIN
VP of Business |
International and Industry
Development, LAEDC

LUNCH MENU

Lunch will be served at 12:30pm

CATERED BY PICCINI ITALIAN TAKEOUT

Sandwich Boxed Lunch (Includes 8-inch sandwich, farm salad & chocolate chip cookie)

1. GRILLED CHICKEN PESTO

Grilled chicken, melted provolone, fresh spinach, oven roasted tomatoes, pesto, ciabatta

2. MEATBALL SANDWICH

Grandma dot's famous meatballs, mozzarella, marinara sauce, parmesan, baguette

3. THE PICCINI

Ham, mortadella, salami, provolone, cherry pepper spread, tomatoes, pickled red onions, lettuce, French roll

4. TURKEY CLUB

Roasted turkey, provolone, applewood bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, mayo, mustard, French roll

5. VEGGIE SANDWICH

Avocado, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, lemon honey vinaigrette, French roll



*Special thank you
to ican coffee*



CITY SOLUTIONS SHOWCASE

12:30PM TO 2:30PM

The City Solutions Showcase is an opportunity for contributors to exhibit their current work and initiatives to enhance the economic wellbeing in Los Angeles County.

Featuring Most Business Friendly Finalist and Winners:

**City of Monterey Park
City of Glendale
City of Long Beach
City of Torrance**

Featuring:

**The Collidescope Foundation
Human-I-T
Linked Learning Alliance
Alliance for a Better Community
Scout**

Location: Torino Plaza

AFTERNOON MAIN STAGE SPEAKERS

FIRESIDE CHAT: LOCAL ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT INSIGHTS ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE



SHANNON SEDGWICK
Senior Director of Institute for
Applied Economics, LAEDC

A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH WINNERS OF THE MOST BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CITY AWARD



MODERATOR
VERONICA PUGIN
VP of Business |
International and Industry
Development, LAEDC



PANELIST
BARBARA VOSS
Deputy City
Manager | City of
El Segundo



PANELIST
SYDNEY YESETA
Economic Development
Manager | City of
Lancaster

CLOSING REMARKS



STEPHEN CHEUNG
President and CEO, LAEDC