



SELECT LA RECAP

Intercontinental Hotel Downtown LA
May 8, 2025

Select LA 10th Anniversary Summit Recap

Dear LAEDC and WTCLA Members,

Thank you for joining us at the **10th Anniversary Select LA Investment Summit**, held yesterday at the Intercontinental Downtown Los Angeles, the **Select LA Reception** on the 59th floor of the U.S. Bank Tower, generously hosted by **Silverstein Properties**! The SOLD-OUT summit was a tremendous success. This year's theme, *"Celebrating a Decade of Impact, Designing a Decade of Opportunity,"* set the tone for a powerful day of insights, connections, and vision for the future of international investment in Los Angeles and California. The message from so many of our international visitors was clear: the quality of the content and networking at this year's summit has inspired them to Select LA!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 SELECT LA SUMMIT:

Opening Ceremony

Featuring remarks from elected representatives **Mayor Karen Bass**, **Governor Gavin Newsom**, **Supervisor Holly Mitchell**, as well as **Steve Olson** and our own **Stephen Cheung** and **Kendal Turner**, the day began with a powerful call to action for continued investment and innovation across the region. WTCLA & LAEDC were honored to receive a certificate from Mayor Bass to mark 10 years of Select LA and WTCLA's efforts to attract investment to the LA region.

Keynote Highlights

- **The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis**, Lieutenant Governor of California
- **Paul Rennie**, British Consul General in Los Angeles
- **Victor González Herrera**, CEO of Dr. Simi
- **Lord Peter Mandelson**, British Ambassador to the U.S. (video remarks following the announcement of a new US-UK trade deal)





Afternoon Plenary: World Trade in 2025

Experts in global trade discussed how LA is navigating an ever-changing international trade environment to position itself as the ideal investment destination:

- **Felipe Cusnir**, Executive Director, World Trade Center Long Beach
- **Marla Bleavins**, Chief Airport Administrative Officer, Los Angeles World Airports
- **Emily Desai**, Chief Deputy Director, California Governor's Office for Business & Economic Development (Go-Biz)
- **Sophie Hottat**, Consul General of Belgium in Los Angeles
- **Juan Perez**, Director of Trading, Monex

Morning Plenary: LA in 2025

Leaders across sectors in LA discussed the region's transformation over the past decade and its position as a global economic leader in the decade ahead:

- **Tanya Bennett**, Consul General of Australia in Los Angeles
- **Elizabeth Brink**, Co-CEO, Gensler
- **Adam Burke**, CEO, LA Tourism
- **Stephen Cheung**, President & CEO, LAEDC & WTCLA
- **Noor Menai**, President & CEO, CTBC Bank USA



Launch of the 2025 California Foreign Direct Investment Report

A cornerstone of this year's summit, the FDI report revealed:

- **814,102 jobs in California** supported by
- **18,693 foreign-owned enterprises**, contributing
- **\$89 billion in wages** to Californians

This data underscores California's role as a magnet for global investment and LA's position as the gateway to opportunity. This year's analysis breaks down the Golden State into 13 regions (defined by the California Jobs First program) to give crucial insights for all Californians into how foreign investments create jobs in local communities. Check out the full report [here](#):



Breakout Sessions

Attendees engaged in 4 dynamic sessions across high-growth sectors:

- **Trade & Logistics:** the beating heart of LA's global economy.
- **Industry Clusters:** growing innovation centers across LA.
- **Manufacturing:** LA's role as the largest North America's manufacturing hub and its future in sustainable production.
- **Sports & Entertainment:** Olympic momentum and tech innovation redefining the sports economy.



Meaningful Networking

Throughout the summit and evening reception, guests utilized dedicated Networking Stations across key global industries, including:

- **Manufacturing** (powered by Banc of California)
- **Trade & Logistics** (powered by Japanese Business Association of Southern California)
- **Clean Energy** (powered by LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis of the 1st District)
- **Aerospace & Defense** (powered by the City of Palmdale)
- **Sports & Entertainment** (powered by Discover Los Angeles)





From breakfast through to cocktails high above the LA skyline, the energy and collaboration on display reflected the strength and unity of our region's international investment community.

Thank you once again for being part of this milestone event. We look forward to building the next decade of impact and opportunity with you. Keep an eye on **www.selectla.org** for footage of the day's sessions... and for an announcement of the date of Select LA 2026!

Warm regards,

Stephen Cheung

President & CEO

Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation
(LAEDC)

World Trade Center Los Angeles (WTCLA)

