Metro Ambassadors Pilot Program - A METRO bright beacon of change

CEO Stephanie Wiggins is building a better Metro with care of commitment to the rider experience at the forefront of her effort.

By Brent W. Coxer

Chairman and CEO of the LAUL

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) CEO Stephanie Wiggins is busy. Going on two years as Metro CEO, it’s a good kind of busy with a lot of accomplishments and improvements.

Some of those accomplishments include the opening of the K (Crenshaw) Line six months ago. While the line still has not fully opened, the ridership is steady and the line has had low-to-little security issues.

Along the Crenshaw Corridor, Wiggins also implemented the Metro’s Executive Intensive Epidemic Fund, which has helped small businesses both during construction and through post-construction not only survive, but thrive, creating 975 grants to 239 small “mom and pop” businesses along the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project.

Recently, the Metro board extended the Launch of the GoPass pilot program for another year. This will usher in a new generation of transit riders and ensure that students get to campus without having to worry about cost. Metro also launched the LIFE program that provides free rides to vulnerable customers.

Wiggins is dedicated to improving the overall experience for transit riders. The Metro Ambassadors Pilot Program is one of the improvements that she believes is creating a better experience for all.

The Metro Ambassadors Pilot Program is part of our continuing effort to improve the transit rider’s experience and it’s one of our multi-laydown approach to safety, which includes ambassadors, social service providers, public safety, security, transit security officers, and contracted local enforcement partners,” said Wiggins.

The Ambassadors Pilot Program is one of the largest – if not the largest – program of its kind in the U.S. transit industry.

In March, Metro announced a newly trained, Metro Ambassadors and has since been deployed along certain routes of the Metro Rail System which include the K (Crenshaw) Line with expansion to the A Line (Blue), B and D Lines (Red, Purple), and L Line (Silver).

“We want to let riders, who told us what they wanted to see: safer, more unified, and personal riding the system, asking customers by answering questions and helping navigate the system and we listened,” she noted.

As the ambassador program grows, our aim is to provide customers with an enhanced customer service experience for our riders,” she added.

Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins (file photo)

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CEEM Hosts Black Excellence Weekend at L.A. County Fair

Visit www.LASentinel.net

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Dr. Erroll G. Southers was recently elected vice president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners. Mayor Karen Bass nominated Southers in February to replace Eileen Decker, who resigned, and he was confirmed by the City Council in March.

As vice president, he will serve with William Briggs, Police Commission president, and Brian Williams, deputy mayor of public safety. The three men are also members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Southers has an extensive history in law enforcement and criminal justice. Currently, he is the associate senior vice president of Safety and Risk Assurance at the University of Southern California and was previously assistant chief of Homeland Security and Intelligence at the Los Angeles World Airports Police Department.

The Los Angeles Urban League, with support from sponsors and partners like Honda, Target, and JP Morgan, will host a Youth and College Fair on Friday, May 5, at the Beehive, located at 1000 60th Street in Los Angeles.

The job fair, which targets college-aged and high school age students across Los Angeles, begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. The event is occurring in the month of May to honor "Youth Hiring Month."

Career for attendees will have the opportunity to meet with top companies and learn about internship opportunities, and network with industry professionals, in a festive environment. Over 50 companies will be in attendance representing hundreds of opportunities that the over 600 registered career fair attendees will have a chance to explore.

The Career Fair will provide a wide range of career paths and possible employment opportunities for those in attendance, as well as the possibility of attendees being hired on the spot.

By 2024, more than 50% of non-military job positions will demand that candidates possess previous work experience. This means that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds need access to resources that can equip them with the necessary foundational skills and work experience to secure employment, become self-sufficient, and accomplish their desired career objectives.

The Los Angeles Urban League’s 3rd Annual Career Fair is bringing the services, resources, and opportunities like free professional headshots, resume workshops, and interview practice sessions.

"The Los Angeles Urban League, with support from sponsors and partners like Honda, Target, and JP Morgan, will host a Youth and College Fair on Friday, May 5, at the Beehive.

Young people are invited to attend the fair at the Beehive. More than just jobs for ‘right now’ – this Career Fair is the future of LA.”

Visit laul.org/career-fair to register.

The Los Angeles Urban League helps thousands of Angelenos annually through its programs focusing on education, entrepreneurship, job training and placement, and building Los Angeles communities. The Los Angeles Urban League, founded in 1910, is one of 90 affiliates in the United States. Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) serves, educates and empowers African Americans and other minorities to secure economic self-reliance and civil rights by providing integral social programs and advocating for issues that benefit Los Angeles communities.


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Dr. Erroll G. Southers
Offering the community more ways to go

We're always looking for ways to support people's choices in the communities we serve. That's why Bank of America is adding charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) to over 90 financial centers nationwide. We're also supporting the choices our teammates make with employee rebates on EVs.

I am proud of the steps we're taking in the Los Angeles community to help people pursue what matters to them. The same goes for my teammates, as many have chosen to participate in My Environment,® one of our employee engagement initiatives.

Raul Anaya
President, Bank of America Los Angeles

See all we're doing at bankofamerica.com/LA

What would you like the power to do?®
More than 1,500 Los Angeles students, community members, employees and prospective job candidates gathered today at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s (LADWP) Transmission Training Center for the inaugural Women’s Career and Wellness Expo.

The location usually used for line worker training was transformed to show-case a variety of utility careers, many available to women, in a family-friendly setting. The regional event was conceived by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the Department’s Women’s Council, an LADWP employee resource group formed in 2021 with a mission to support, educate and advance women in the LADWP workforce by promoting opportunities for women who work with us.

“We have great women leadership in our company, and we want more to know about the variety of opportunities available to them,” said Gus Corona, IBEW Local 18 Business Manager and Chief Engineer. "As the provider of critical services to our city, LADWP wants to be the linchpin of everyone’s day-to-day experience, and we are able to do that in large part due to the women in our workforce who are excellent at what they do, and are supported and acknowledged for their contributions. We’re thrilled to see many people come out to our first-ever Women’s Career and Wellness Expo. Our hope is that many get to meet the women who work with us and see for themselves how fulfilling it is to be a part of this career and the service we deliver for our community. It was personally inspiring for me to be a part of this. LADWP’s Women’s Expo staff shared insight on utility careers.

Hundreds of L.A. area students attended the expo.

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LADWP’s partnerships with local nonprofit and community-based organizations helped result in a strong turnout with a ‘Cara-van to a Career’ that brought several hundred students to the expo, from Ulysses S. Grant High School, Unite LA/Avantus Clean Energy Academy, Compton City Neighborhood Partners and Compton Unified School District. The event was conceived by the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the Department’s Women’s Council, an LADWP employee resource group formed in 2021 with a mission to support, educate and advance women in the LADWP workforce by promoting opportunities for women who work with us.

“IBEW Local 18 is proud to partner with LADWP to mount this historic event focused on promoting careers in professional work settings (Customer Service, Engineering, Financial Services), in addition to jobs in skilled crafts or careers that are non-traditional for women (Electrical Mechanic, Local Dispatcher, Heavy Duty Truck Operator, Security Officer and Stonekeeper). Attendees were also able to discuss careers at LADWP directly with current employees, who help provide relevant knowledge, experience and expertise. Staff members also participated in live demonstrations focusing on utility careers at LADWP and utility equipment. The Expo’s wellness section showcased benefits offered to LADWP employees, including health and dental plans, retirement, family care and employee resource groups, along with businesses and recognized financial service companies, and local women-owned businesses. Families were encouraged to attend with an offering of activities such as a petting zoo, holding demonstrations for women.”
**NEW CAAM EXHIBITS EXPLORING AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN CALIFORNIA**

**By Mozart Contributing Writer**

The California African American Museum (CAAM) has announced the opening of its summer exhibitions in galleries that have recently undergone an upgrade. The exhibitions will open on August 5, and will host a summer solstice program on June 21, 2023. This will mark the debut of a participatory analemmatic sundial, casting shadows on each of the sixteen blue glass panels to determine the time of day. Meanwhile, CAAM Executive Director Cameron Shaw has expressed excitement about the upcoming exhibitions, which will offer visitors a deep, vibrant experience.

One of the exhibitions, A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration, explores the profound impact of the Great Migration on the social and cultural life of the United States from both historical and personal perspectives. It features newly commissioned works across media by 12 acclaimed artists, including Mark Bradford, Teresa Dyer, and Carrie Mae Weems. The exhibition will be co-curated by the Museum of Art and co-curated by the Jim Crow era. This exhibition is curated by Alison Rose Jefferson, an independent historian and author of “Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era.” Lastly, “Keeping Time” is a short film by Daniel Olu Kae, an artist and filmmaker born and raised in South Los Angeles. It examines the Pan-African Peoples Orchesta (the Ark), an avant-garde jazz group from South Central LA, active since the 1960s. The film reflects on the group’s contributions to the community and the larger cultural landscape. CAAM has been closed for several months due to the upgrade of its building, and its lobby will be closed from May 8, 2023, leading up to the reopening celebration on the evening of August 4, 2023. However, the museum will offer a slate of public programs outdoors this summer, including the summer solstice program and the debut of the participatory sundial. The exhibitions promise to offer visitors a wide range of opportunities for expansive thinking about Black lives past, present, and future.

**Autumn Burke邓ies Running for 53rd Senate Seat**

Autumn Burke flatly denied rumors that she intends to enter the race for the 35th Senate District. The seat is currently held by Steven Bradford, who terms out in 2024. In a statement to the L.A. Sentinel, Burke said “the rumors are false, and she has no interest in running” for the 35th Senate District. Meanwhile, CAAM has announced the opening of its summer exhibitions in galleries that have recently undergone an upgrade. The exhibitions will open on August 5, and will host a summer solstice program on June 21, 2023. This will mark the debut of a participatory analemmatic sundial, casting shadows on each of the sixteen blue glass panels to determine the time of day. Meanwhile, CAAM Executive Director Cameron Shaw has expressed excitement about the upcoming exhibitions, which will offer visitors a deep, vibrant experience. One of the exhibitions, A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration, explores the profound impact of the Great Migration on the social and cultural life of the United States from both historical and personal perspectives. It features newly commissioned works across media by 12 acclaimed artists, including Mark Bradford, Teresa Dyer, and Carrie Mae Weems. The exhibition will be co-curated by the Museum of Art and co-curated by the Jim Crow era. This exhibition is curated by Alison Rose Jefferson, an independent historian and author of “Living the California Dream: African American Leisure Sites during the Jim Crow Era.” Lastly, “Keeping Time” is a short film by Daniel Olu Kae, an artist and filmmaker born and raised in South Los Angeles. It examines the Pan-African Peoples Orchesta (the Ark), an avant-garde jazz group from South Central LA, active since the 1960s. The film reflects on the group’s contributions to the community and the larger cultural landscape. CAAM has been closed for several months due to the upgrade of its building, and its lobby will be closed from May 8, 2023, leading up to the reopening celebration on the evening of August 4, 2023. However, the museum will offer a slate of public programs outdoors this summer, including the summer solstice program and the debut of the participatory sundial. The exhibitions promise to offer visitors a wide range of opportunities for expansive thinking about Black lives past, present, and future.

**EECI Hosts Business Seminar in Watts**

Entrepreneur Education Center Executive Director Barbara Stanton welcomed attendees to opening day enrollment Business Seminar at Ted Watkins Park on May 6. Attendees were given overviews of programs and signed up for free business plan development classes and the new Scuba Diving & Life Guard Certification Program. The session will be repeated on Saturday, May 13, at 2 p.m. at the South Central LA Opportunity Business Center, 10121 S. Broadway, in Los Angeles. For more, call (323) 787-7509.

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On May 6, the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans held its 15th meeting and voted on its final report. The report must be submitted to the California Legislature by the end of June. During the meeting, held at Mills College, a former task force memberfsaid that the final report must be available to the public is expected to be about 1,200 pages long.

During the meeting, members heard from a variety of experts and advocates, including representatives from organizations that have been working on reparations issues for decades.

Some of the key points of the final report include:

- A call for the state to establish a reparations fund to address the harms of slavery and systemic racism.
- A recommendation for the state to create a reparations commission to develop a plan for distributing compensation.
- A proposal for the state to provide financial assistance to individuals and communities affected by slavery and systemic racism.

The report also includes a series of recommendations for specific actions that the state can take to address the harms of slavery and systemic racism.

The final meeting for the task force will be held in June, at which time the task force will submit its final report to the Legislature.
By MAGGIE ELIZABETH
California Black Media

Rae Benjamin, a Los Angeles resident and writer for the Netflix series “The Witcher,” among more than 11,000 members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA), participated in a strike that has dwarfed film and television production for almost a week now, workers joining more than 16 major studios in Los An- geles and New York City and, after failing to reach a new con- tract agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), have remained on strike.

The writers’ contracts expire at midnight Tuesday with negotiations with the Film and Television Industry Committee (FTIC) not resulting in an agreement.

“For me, streaming residuals are really impor- tant,” said Benjamin, one of the few Black writers in the room. “Whenever they re-air an episode television writers would get a check.” That’s how she put it. She explained: “When network shows were the only options, content was con- stantly re-used, and it real- ly could be worked on a popular show. You could be making money from that show, you know, because it’s in syndica- tion.”

Benjamin says the compensation structure is dif- ferent for streaming com- panies like Netflix.

“They refuse to release data on how many people actually watch your shows, even though it’s easy to do, because they claim that we do that, that we do not get accurately paid for our work. We can’t track the residuals and streaming residuals separately. It’s a matter of fact, we don’t know.”

In the past decade, streaming platforms, particu- larly Netflix, have dis- rupted the traditional television model by pro- ducing new shows with the express intent of attracting new subscribers. According to the WGA, streaming platforms offered an annual salary increase for writers that made other concessions, like a Committee of Corresponding respect to the respond to the proposal.

“When we see what was put on the table, and then you see that the pro- fessionals in the room even proposed such as making now that we’re hiring artists and not robots on set, and they’re making a pretty good living,” she said. “I think that we might be able to write your entire show, and that’s one of a kind. This is a moment, AMPTF acknowledged that the knowledge and intelligence of writers is ‘a lot more than that’.”

“AI raises hard, impor- tant creative and legal questions for everyone. For example, writers want to be able to use this technology to improve, to change the way you communicate. But when this group is rewritten, it cannot be used as source material,” she added.

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Energy Deregulation Is a Sham

CHARLES H. DEBORI III

The Louisiana Public Service Commission, the state agency which oversees the electric utilities operating in Louisiana such as En- tergy, Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEP- Co), and Claro has publicly discussed the pos- sibility of deregulation in 1999, with the promise that competi- tion would bring lower rates and better services. But that has been a recent Wall Street Journal article that says this would protect the interests of empire. Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at California State University-Long Beach, said in his recent book, *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of the Principles of the African Commune of the Emancipation* that customers in the United States that need some kind of competitive supplier are in deregulated states, paid $19.5 billion more for electricity between the years 2010 and 2013, than if they had stuck with their regulated utilities.

My opposition to deregulation stems from experience come from Texas where my organization is located in Washington, DC, we have implemented deregulation. For most DC residents, hardly a week goes by without getting a letter from a competitive energy supplier urging us to switch to clean energy for a few dollars more. But, the prices of electricity are so high that it won’t matter if you use less or pay more for it. And it also means that there are those who can’t pay, and the people who are those who are electricity customers who are having difficulty paying their bills.

If you’re business- owners or people are those who are facing the strain of deregulation, read this book. Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at California State University-Long Beach, said in his recent book, *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of the Principles of the African Commune of the Emancipation*. And what kind of persons and practices of violence, which caused Dr. Martin Luther King to describe it as “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world”, but also as a way of life that will not only be radical in its implications for an unrelated drive throughout a struggle of a public safety, inclusiveness of all and providing not only security but also security of rights, health, housing, education and other human needs for everyone in a deep and a sleeping community of the world and in all.

**Energy Deregulation Is A Sham**

Charles H. Debori III

*Editor’s Note: Charles H. Debori III is the former National Black Community Chairman.*
Anointed Feet Going to Keep on Dancing

My husband and I recently had a most enjoyable experience when we had the privilege and pleasure of seeing a play called, "The Waist Ring," by Dr. Kanisha Bennett of Anointed Feet Dance. The production was absolutely phenomenal. The play is a Christian spin off of the Wiz of Oz, or is one, in our community, the Wiz. The music minister is Dorothy (instead of Dorothy) and the main characters are the trials and tribulations she would have to face if she were to meet our twosome, Dr. Bennett and her husband, and find God's purpose for her life.

To see so many people in our community, children and adults alike, demonstrating that not only the fluid movements of dance was amazing. As a grandmother, I sit with extreme pride seeing them so young and the positive experiences we or in, our community, the Wiz. The music minister is Dorothy (instead of Dorothy) and the main characters are the trials and tribulations she would have to face if she were to meet our twosome, Dr. Bennett and her husband, and find God's purpose for her life.

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This definition points clearly to the subject of "artificial intelligence." Perhaps one of our first, most visible examples of this subject would point to the automobile. You recall when parking your car, it's equipped with computer chips, which accept computer commands and automatically operate the vehicle. This is a glimpse of artificial intelligence. Is it the beginning levels where we might recognize and embrace today?

Let's look back, way before the inception of cars. Now we're at 2013. Before the invention of cars, people had to walk to places. It was with a dance to the Garden of Eden that man embraced "artificial intelligence" with the serpent. Lucifer-Satan entered the conversation between Eve and the "serpent" was artificial intelligence. It's saying, "You can believe what you want to."

I cannot express the appreciation and gratitude in return for their kind offer. We are free to use this money, in any way, shape or form. We vamos on this wonderful God-thing that has come into existence. It is rewarding to find God's purpose for our life. Let's embrace a lasting love and life of education.

Be 18 years of age or older. Minimum loan amount is $5,000.00. Maximum loan amount is $80,000.00. Loans are free to use this money, in any way, shape or form. We vamos on this wonderful God-thing that has come into existence. It is rewarding to find God's purpose for our life. Let's embrace a lasting love and life of education.

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Los Angeles General Medical Center.

Los Angeles General Medical Center is a premier teaching hospital that provides world-class care across a broad range of specialties, in addition to providing excellent patient care in primary care. Its modern facilities include a Level-One trauma center, a training site for the U.S. Navy, and it is one of the county’s premier teaching hospitals. The medical center’s campuses are also home to a nonprofit community health clinic, the Los Angeles General Medical Center, which provides a range of programs for community members.

Los Angeles General Medical Center continues its affiliation with School of Medicine of USC for graduate medical education for the county’s next generation of care. Los Angeles General Medical Center will recognize our past and brand, bringing us one more step into our future, while recognizing our past,” said Lenore Ormes, CEO of Los Angeles General Medical Center.

For years, I have heard from stakeholders that they believe that the name of the institution speaks to the campus’ history, resonates with our residents, and can be easily understood in Spanish and English. As the campus moves into the next chapter of expanding our world-class care by creating a comprehensive continuum of care, Los Angeles General Medical Center will recognize our past and brand, bringing us one more step into our future, while recognizing our past,” said Lenore Ormes, CEO of Los Angeles General Medical Center.

We are proud to unveil the new name of this extraordinary medical facility, Los Angeles General Medical Center,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti, former Physician Assistant at the medical center.

We are proud to unveil the new name of this extraordinary medical facility, Los Angeles General Medical Center, which has been serving Angelenos for 145 years, said Dr. Christin Glack, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS).

L.A. General is a premier teaching hospital, seeing nearly 1% of all resident physicians in the US. One medical center treats patients regardless of income or background and offers preventive and primary care services that are among the best in the nation.

With state-of-the-art facilities, best-in-class programs that are among the best in the nation, and the Southern California region’s next generation of care, Los Angeles General Medical Center will recognize our past and brand, bringing us one more step into our future, while recognizing our past,” said Lenore Ormes, CEO of Los Angeles General Medical Center.

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We are proud to unveil the new name of this extraordinary medical facility, Los Angeles General Medical Center,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti, former Physician Assistant at the medical center.

We are proud to unveil the new name of this extraordinary medical facility, Los Angeles General Medical Center, which has been serving Angelenos for 145 years, said Dr. Christin Glack, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS).

L.A. General is a premier teaching hospital, seeing nearly 1% of all resident physicians in the US. One medical center treats patients regardless of income or background and offers preventive and primary care services that are among the best in the nation.

With state-of-the-art facilities, best-in-class programs that are among the best in the nation, and the Southern California region’s next generation of care, Los Angeles General Medical Center will recognize our past and brand, bringing us one more step into our future, while recognizing our past,” said Lenore Ormes, CEO of Los Angeles General Medical Center.

Los Angeles General Medical Center is a premier teaching hospital that provides world-class care across a broad range of specialties, in addition to providing excellent patient care in primary care. Its modern facilities include a Level-One trauma center, a training site for the U.S. Navy, and it is one of the county’s premier teaching hospitals. The medical center’s campuses are also home to a nonprofit community health clinic, the Los Angeles General Medical Center, which provides a range of programs for community members.

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Metro Ambassadors Pilot Program - A METRO bright beacon of change

Kiana Webb (COURTESY PHOTO) Bishop T.D. Jakes received a 2023 Alumni of the Year Award for Leadership, Ebony Magazine’s 2020 Impact 100 list and Vocal of Money 2019 Wall Street Legacy Award. "The life of Bishop Jakes is an executive at JPMorgan Chase, Kaalund is Advancing Black Pathways to reduce the racial wealth gap. The success of the global initiative resulted in the hosting of thousands of Black students, providing millions of dollars in scholarships, and led to a historic five-year, fully-supported advancement in racial equity.

Since joining U.S. Bank last year, Kaalund serves as diversity and oversees Branch and Small Business Banking, which consists of 2,000+ branches across 26 states. His efforts have led to recognition as INROADS 2022 President for Leadership, Ebony Magazine’s 2020 Impact 100 list and Vocal of Money 2019 Wall Street Legacy Award. "The life of Bishop Jakes is a characteristic by his relations to service to others. A minister by profession, his activities extend well beyond the church walls. The Black Impact marketplace model builds bridges across industries as well as government, business and civil society. The T.D. Jakes Foundation aims to uplift communities, educate all ages on STEAM subjects, and connect corporations to new, highly-skilled pools of talent.

An advisor to three U.S. Presidents, Kaalund founded the Black House, a non-denumerational global model that builds bridges across industries as well as government, business and civil society. The T.D. Jakes Foundation aims to uplift communities, educate all ages on STEAM subjects, and connect corporations to new, highly-skilled pools of talent.

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During its inaugural celebration of National Small Business Week, the newly created L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) hosted a week-long series of events including local events, community engagement sessions, and panel discussions to empower and celebrate the contributions of small businesses countywide, including the first-ever L.A. Region Small Business Summit presented in partnership with the City of L.A.

The summit brought together more than 8,000 local, state, and federal business service providers at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College on Wednesday, May 3, and connected millions of local small businesses to free, on-site support with grant applications, business networking, and procurement opportunities, legal aid, and more—all in one place.

Business owners were invited to participate in discussions with local and regional networking opportunities welcome to keynote addresses by the City of L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, Director of LA County’s Department of Business and Economic Development (Wells Fargo senior vice president of Philanthropy and Community Impact) highlights the potential of small businesses and entrepreneurs within local communities.

Educational panels throughout the day covered emerging trends and challenges: the latest in advertising tools, workforce development opportunities, navigating contracts and subcontracting opportunities, and more.

For help breaking barriers that small businesses may face, “Small businesses do more than sell a product; they are cultural anchors that bring communities together. While our local communities were in crisis, many small businesses stepped up and showed up where they bared the brunt of the economic impact. And now, it’s our turn to help,” said Kelly Lollis, Director of LA County Department of Economic Development.

“As National Small Business Week comes to an end, we want all small businesses in L.A. County to know that DEO will be here round the clock to help small businesses and entrepreneurs connect to new opportunities, create new pathways, and access new resources to help their recovery and growth. We can’t thank our partners enough, including the City of Los Angeles for their support in the Small Business Summit and all our events celebrating and empowering small businesses throughout this week,” said Lollis.

The resource expo featured various DEO programs, among others, Shop Local LA County, a new initiative launched on April 29 at Grand Central Market in downtown Los Angeles marking the start of Shop Local LA Week at the City of L.A.郡府.

Given as a gift, The Power to B collection provides tangible support for a sister, mother or friend navigating challenges in their life, such as employment issues or career choices. “Being commercially consistent, which is to always wear every day,” explains Baribault-Ortiz. “When given as a gift, The Power to B collection provides tangible support for a sister, mother or friend facing challenges in their life, such as employment issues or career choices. Being commercially consistent, which is to always wear every day,” explains Baribault-Ortiz.

Small businesses owners received free support during the regional summit. Additionally, DEO staff and partners provided on-site technical assistance and application support for the Economic Opportunity Grant program throughout the summit. EOG offers DEO programs, services, and resources to help small businesses and nonprofits ranging between small business and nonprofits.

As part of the event’s program, DEO staff selected the first of the four microbusiness Phase 1 grant recipients, equaling $25,000 in grant funding directly into L.A. County’s small business community.

Small businesses play in driving growth, including access to local and national charities. bracelets for a variety of causes, including cancer and heart disease. The PowertoB.com. The six new power word designs created after both sisters created new power word designs created after both sisters.

The newly expanded The Power to B jewelry line includes six additional power word bracelets set to a varient of colors and sizes that are exclusively available at Jewelers at 81 Rankin Road are exclusively available at Jewelers at 81 Rankin Road that are exclusively available at Jewelers at 81 Rankin Road.

Jewelry is always the best gift that makes memories for Mother’s Day. The Power to B collection has grown and diversified and the designs and collections reflect that. Jewelry is the perfect personalized piece,” she said. The Power to B collection can be purchased online at thepowertob.com.

The new six new power word designs are exclusively available at Jewelers at 81 Rankin Road, in Glendora and San Dimas, taking this summer. Learn more at thepowertob.com.
Celebrating Mother’s Day with Cassandra Nickerson

By DRISSEL MACK
Contributing Writer

Celebrating Mother’s Day, Cassandra Brit-Nickerson talked with the Sentinel about her career and her organization, Get Fit with Britt Nick, a nonprofit dedicated to helping women of color develop the nutrition and fitness tools necessary to create a positive health legacy in their homes and communities.

Most recently, Brit-Nickerson completed a 13-year career with the Los Angeles Police Department. In her three-plus decades with the force, her working assignments included Detectives, Undercover Hispanic Narcotics, Field Sergeant, Anti-Terror Division and Undercover Vice.

Her last assignment was the Assistant Officer in Charge of Business and Employment Division. Brit-Nickerson was “the poster child” for LAPD and was featured on numerous recruitment campaigns for them. She retired from LAPD in 2021.

In addition to being a wife, a mother, mentor, educator, fitness coach and personal trainer, Brit-Nickerson is a cancer survivor. Britt says she is living proof of how being physically fit can help save your life.

Diagnosed on her birthday in 2015, she says through God’s grace, early detection, aggressive treatment (including numerous surgeries and chemotherapy), healthy diet, regular exercise, a positive attitude and good support, she is nothing but the walking tale. She is a Los Angeles native, having grown up in what was called South Central L.A., but is now known as South Los Angeles. A Washington Prep alumna, she was a cheerleader and a scholar.

Always active, she was introduced to fitness formally during her undergraduate studies at U.C. Ber- vilia. She ultimately received her Bachelor's degree from California State University at Long Beach and is also a Certified Personal Trainer.

In addition-to-operating ‘Get Fit with Britt-Nick’, Brit-Nickerson also runs the “Get Fit with Britt Nick Boot Camp” in Los Angeles and hosts an annual “Women’s Fitness Retreat.” She says it is her goal to help others, particu-

larly in the African-American and Latino communities, to get fit, stay fit and lose weight, celebrate and interact in order to positively impact in public health and wellness to generate a healthy lifestyle legacy.

Relating what inspired her to start her fitness organization and the rewarding aspects of working with women, she explained, “I was always into fitness and always get a lot questions from women who come to me and are all of weight lifting and I feel like there are always been a stigma about the muscle being a feminine. So, you do the mix of it out it.

Brit-Nickerson is stranger to working out and has competed in and won numerous bodybuilding competions. In her fitness business, she has worked with the Los Angeles Police Department, Chief of Police and even people sublimating from cata
strophic injury and illness. She won the L.A. Times Healthy Medal Award from the LAPD for saving a man’s life who was attempting to jump off the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles.

In the spirit of Mother’s Day, Brit-Nickerson wants to send the message, “Celebrate yourself, whether you are a mom or not, and if you have one, celebrate her. We don’t know how long we have on this earth, have those conversations, give her those flowers, and celebrate her now. Nobody is in your biggest supporter than your mom and you can’t take that for granted now.”

Staring on May 15, Britt will host her annual health and fitness retreat, Glow Up in Monte Rio, Jamaica, where women can look forward to “a sense of renewal, experiences that some of us have never been exposed to, out of the country, do things you normally would not have done on your own, ” she said.

“We are going to take some baggage with us and leave it! We are going to wake up and enjoy each day and learn something from one another!”

For more information on the Glow Up Retreat in the coming weeks, and find Cassandra Brit-Nickerson’s website www.brittnick.com/ and Instagram @getfitwithbrittnick please visit:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/Black-History-Month

Simon Burris: “African Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

**African-ish: Mother’s Day

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Am. 1. *Wally*; film actress
2. *Muhammad*
3. “[I can not ___ ___ wink” (2 wds.)
4. *Angles
5. *Hotel
6. *Pledge
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Empowerment Congress West Area Presents Wellness Fair

By Irvin L. Davis
Contributing Writer

The Empowerment Congress Area Neighborhood Development Council will host The Collective: Mind, Body, and Soul, which is the group’s 2nd annual wellness event.

The fair will take place on Saturday May 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the upstairs parking area of the Bullocks Wilshire Center Crenshaw Mall, located at 3670 West Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., in Los Angeles.

Some of the attendees can participate in a yoga demonstration at the free wellness event.

Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council

L.A. Opera Presents Free Live Simulcast of Verdi’s ‘Othello’

Sentinel News Service

L.A. Opera will present a live simulcast of its opening night of Giuseppe Verdi’s ‘Othello’ for audiences at two outdoor locations. At 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, L.A. Opera’s presentation of the towering operatic masterpiece will be transmitted live in high-definition via satellite feeds from nine cameras at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to large LED screens at California State University, Dominguez Hills and the Santa Monica Pier.

The performance will star tenor Russell Thomas, the company’s Artist in Residence, in the title role alongside soprano A. Parham. “This simulcast is another opportunity for the community, but of the experiences by audiences in CSUDH to demonstrate our university on collaborations with LA Opera for creatively using music as the catalyst to bring their own seating and blankets to the simulcast beg for families to enjoy before the performance. Attendees are advised to arrive early both for pre-performance picnicking and to secure the best viewing areas. There will be arts and crafts activities for families to enjoy before the simulcast begins. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Pets are not allowed.

Russell Thomas comments on important information about parking and the latest updates, and to receive a free gift at the event plus a chance to win a three-opera ticket package. Seating at both locations is general admission, and gates will open at 5:30pm. Attendees are advised to bring their own seating and to arrive early both for pre-performance picnicking and to secure the best viewing areas. There will be arts and crafts activities for families to enjoy before the simulcast begins. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed. Pets are not allowed.

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L.A. Ministries toObserve ‘No Menthol Sunday’ on May 21

By Dr. Mau Welton Contributing Writer

Ministries across greater Los Angeles will observe No Menthol Sunday on May 21 to raise awareness about menthol cigarette consumption and to encourage people to quit smoking. Menthol cigarettes are linked to lung cancer, heart disease and other smoking-related illnesses, and are disproportionately used by African Americans and other vulnerable populations.

“We live in a day and an age when many people, and even many who claim to be Christians, who say that they ‘have been born again’ and who are even members of a church, yet they seem to come home to the place where they question the power, and the authority, and the ability of God. And, even amongst our own clergies, there seem to be some who don’t strive to study God or serve His faith, and the role of minister and other flavors.

Stressful by the Calvert

May 21, to educate church and community members about smoking, vaping and the role of menthol and other flavors. Supported by the California Association of African Methodist Episcopal Church and local ministry groups, the initiative enlists faith leaders to join the L.A. community. Today, members of Ward are keeping the faith and inviting the L.A. community to join us as we plan for the next mile.”

On Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m., Brian Williams, Esq., will deliver an inspirational message. A veteran attorney, Williams serves as deputy mayor under L.A. Mayor Karen Bass. “Brian possesses a wealth of professional experience as an executive director of the L.A. County Sheriff’s Civilian Oversight Commission,” said Jacqueline Dupont-Walker, program chair. He also directed government and community affairs at the Southern California Association of Governments and worked as deputy mayor under Mayor James Hahn. “In preparation, we encourage attendees to read from James 1, in the Messianic translation, ‘Act on what you hear!’ Those who bear and don’t act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away and ten minutes later have no idea who they are or what they look like. Reach out to the homeless and loveless in our midst. Learn more by being our special guest at this worship service,” Dupont-Walker said. Pastor Settle added, “Expect to leave ready to stand in tandem with the calling upon all of us to be the difference we want to see.” For more information, call (213) 747-1867.
**The Rams Honor Kenny Washington with Documentary**

The Los Angeles Rams held a special screening of the short film “Kingfish: The Story of Kenny Washington” at the Miracle Theatre in Inglewood.

**About the Short Film**

The documentary, titled “Kingfish: The Story of Kenny Washington,” tells the story of the first Black player to be signed with an NFL team in the modern era. The film explores Washington’s journey from being a police officer in his community to becoming a professional football player and his impact on the team and the league.

**Screening Details**

The screening was held at the Miracle Theatre in Inglewood, and it featured a special appearance by Kenny Washington’s daughter, Jasmine Alston. The event was sponsored by Black-owned creative company Loyd Visuals, led by Black-owned creative executive producer and co-founder Khedlel Loyd.

**The Rams Hosted a Movie Premiere and Panel Discussion**

The Rams hosted a movie premiere and panel discussion for the documentary “Kingfish: The Story of Kenny Washington.” The event was held at the Miracle Theatre in Inglewood and featured a special screening of the film, followed by a panel discussion with cast members, filmmakers, and special guests.

**Cast and Crew**

The cast of the film includes Jasmine Alston, who portrays her father’s daughter, and various other actors. The documentary is directed by Khedlel Loyd, who is also the co-founder and executive producer of the film.

**Discussion Panel**

The discussion panel featured a conversation with experts in the field of sports and entertainment, discussing the importance of diversity and inclusion in the industry.

**After-Screening Reception**

Following the screening, there was a reception where attendees had the opportunity to meet the cast and crew of the film and discuss the documentary with them.

**More Information**

For more information about the film and the screening event, please visit the Rams’ official website or contact the Rams’ public relations department.
BHERC Hosts 30th ‘Sistas’ Short Film Showcase and Festival

The Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC) will host the 30th Anniversary of Sistas Art Don’t Stop Themselves Short Film Showcase and Virtual Film Festival on Friday, May 19, through Sunday, May 21, and will feature a screening and discussion of the latest diverse emerging talent. The virtual festival is $20. A pass for admission to all events costs $180 for adults and $130 for seniors and students. Additional information on Porter’s work, visit www.valence.studio. For more information or Porter’s work, visit www.valence.studio.

PHOTO BY HARRIS

Sandra Evers

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Fever’ Art Show Pays Homage to R&B and Iconic Singers of Black Love

Located on the world-renowned Sunset Strip, the hotel has been a hotspot for the music industry since the 1960s. Legends such as Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, and Prince have made their mark at the hotel. For more information or Porter’s work, visit www.valence.studio.

PHOTO BY HARRIS

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PHOTO BY HARRIS

Sandra Evers

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Fever’ Art Show Pays Homage to R&B and Iconic Singers of Black Love

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Sandra Evers
Danielle Mone Truitt Has the ‘Blues’ About Her Return to the Stage

By Larita L. Green/Contributing Writer


With an unyielding cache of roles in television, Truitt has a degree in theatre from San Francisco State University and still manages to appear on stage with regularity.

Truitt’s most recent stage project is “3: Black Girl Blues” at the WACO Theater Center. In a one-woman play created, produced, and starring Truitt, it was written for the stage by Anthony J. Imber. “3: Black Girl Blues” is about friends who grew together since the age of six in Sacramento. It’s an adult world that adult women are having to face to demonstrate and things they’ve done in their past.

“Things they haven’t admitted to all at or have just been pushing out of the way,” said Truitt.

The 40-minute show, which opened April 1, is curated by WACO Vice President, Tina Knowles Lawson and General Administrator, Anya Good Morrow, a cultural anthropologist and interdisciplinary studio community manager. The show is created to demonstrate and include Black women as whole and diverse individuals.

Located at 5144 Lankershim Boulevard in the North Hollywood and Sylmar District, the gallery is open to the public Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. through May 27. Admission is free.

Artists featured in WITNESS range from filmmakers to photographers to curators, and the roster includes Danielle Mone Truitt, Amber J. Phillips, Amber Esposito, Lynn Chau, Elinie Taylor, Dana Drost, Drav Driessen, Amah Williams, L-Shay Ivy, Elise Peterson, Home of Sara, Zane Brooks, Sade Nyda, Nacha Ali, and Stephanie Mei-Ling.

April’s large-scale textile portraits on display.

It’s [almost] never about Black women as whole beings with a role on television show called “Dempsey” on Fox. We got cancelled because of Covid. I was unemployed again, so auditioned for ‘Rebel.’ In 2020, Truitt auditioned and was cast in a recurring role on the BET crime-drama “Chicago Med.” It was this role that led her to cast as “Sgt. Bell” on “Law & Order: Organized Crime.”

“The producers saw my work on ‘Chicago Med,’ and they were looking for an actress to play ‘Sgt. Bell’,” said Truitt. “I even had to audition… that story and the character were really out of the blue,” said Truitt.

Speaking of blue, Truitt breaks down the few African American female characters she’s portrayed in her career and the roles she was looking for.

“‘Rebel’ was cancelled,” said Truitt. “It was a beautiful character, and the art director asked if I was interested. I was about that time after I started doing ‘Snowfall’ where I was cast and I was devastated.”

But after only four episodes, Truitt’s character, “Katrina,” was devastated when it was canceled, and Truitt was grateful to work with John Singleton.

Truitt recalls it as the high point of her career. Singleton told her she had exactly what he wanted in the character “Katrina.”

“Eventually, ‘Snowfall’ was picked up by another network, and I had another character. That was really my first experience where I knew I was doing really well,” said Truitt.

Truitt remembers Singleton talking about her character back to a regular character. Unfortunately, he passed away before it happened.

“She’s struggling and man… it was a beautiful thread. She had a baby with another character, and she was pregnant with her and that’s a whole other story,” said Truitt.

“I think these artists represent the unique challenges of the African American experience. We’re still trying to prove ourselves. We’re trying to showcase the work we’ve done and who we are,” said Truitt.

But the show is a celebration of the artists and the viewers.

“That’s how you will thrive in the world,” Truitt said. “Know your stories,” she concluded. “The voice of the people is the power of the people.”

For Los Angeles audiences, the play is produced by WACO and Tamar Scatter Love Productions. It is written and performed by Truitt and written by Anthony J. Imber.

April’s large-scale textile portraits on display.

Artist Nacha Ali’s projection investigates the supernatural abilities of Black women.

“Black women are not a monolith. We are different, and they are looking for our diversity in comparison to what you see on television. I think these artists represent the unique challenges of the African American experience,” said Truitt. “We’re still trying to prove ourselves. We’re trying to showcase the work we’ve done and who we are.”

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