

CITY OVERVIEW



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
 Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson gives his address to the public during the 2024 State of the City at the Long Beach Terrace Theater on Jan. 9, 2024.

Long Beach's 2024 State of the City focuses on housing, tourism and economic stability

Samantha Diaz
 Managing Editor

On Tuesday night, following an extremely short Long Beach City Council meeting, city officials and residents gathered in Downtown Long Beach for the 2024 State of the City.

Mayor Rex Richardson spoke to a crowd that nearly filled the Long Beach Terrace Theater about the past year's accomplishments and goals for 2024, mainly surrounding homelessness, housing, infrastructure and park improvements, tourism, businesses and arts and culture, much of which stems from \$740 million in improvements for the upcoming 2028 Summer Olympics.

Long Beach City College student Maleka Lassiter delivered the inaugural Youth State of the City, highlighting accomplishments from local youth throughout the year such as the Wilson High School swimming team and the Jordan High School boy's basketball team both taking home state titles.

The biggest announcement of the night was a temporary amphitheater with 8,000 to 10,000 seats that will be built in the Queen Mary parking lot, and Richardson was hopeful to host musical acts by 2025 with plans for a larger permanent amphitheater in the future.

"Music is coming back to Long Beach sooner than we think," Richardson said, referencing the many music icons who have performed in the city in previous decades such as The Doors, Sublime, The Rolling Stones and more.

Other projects Richardson hinted at included housing developments made for Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) and Long Beach City College (LBCC) students as part of the Long Beach Housing Promise. The program was announced in late 2023 with no details, but Richardson said both campuses "have projects underway."

Long Beach saw a 2.5% increase in students experiencing homelessness, according to

see 2024 LB STATE OF THE CITY pages 6 & 7

THEATRE

'Marilyn, Mom, & Me': a love letter to Marilyn Monroe, Eileen Heckart and life-defining relationships



Courtesy of Luke Yankee
 Eileen Heckart (left) and Luke Yankee (right). Their mother-son relationship serves as the basis of "Marilyn, Mom, & Me."

Samantha Diaz
 Managing Editor

Long Beach resident and playwright Luke Yankee lives his creative life by one central philosophy: The more personal you make something, the more universal it becomes.

It's this belief that has persisted through his most vulnerable work yet: a play about his relationship with his mother, and her relationship with an unlikely best friend, Marilyn Monroe.

"Marilyn, Mom, & Me" is slated for its world premiere at the International City Theatre on Feb. 16, with whispers of Broadway possibilities already permeating across the

'MARILYN, MOM, & ME' see page 11



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CAREER OPENING

LGBTQ Center Long Beach searching for new Executive Director



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A part of the mural and the sign for The Center on Fourth Street in Long Beach on May 9, 2023.

Staff Report

Signal Tribune

The LGBTQ Center Long Beach will begin the process of finding a new Executive Director, it announced Friday, January 5.

The new director will be taking the reins from Interim Executive Director, Ellie Perez, who joined in August of last year after working for Visit Gay Long Beach. Perez was appointed to the first-ever Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission on Dec. 19.

"As a community-driven organization committed to promoting inclusivity and equity, we are seeking a leader who shares our values and is dedicated to advancing LGBTQ+ representation," said Board President Jason Acosta in a press release.

"We encourage all community leaders who are passionate about making a difference to apply for this critical position. With your leadership, we can continue building a brighter future for all community members," Acosta added.

The position will lead the Center in its advocacy work and for the LGBTQ community, provide leadership and vision for the organization, and oversee day-to-day operations programs and services.

Additionally, the hired applicant will work to cultivate positive relationships with community partners, donors, and stakeholders while developing and executing fundraising strategies to secure financial support.

The Center is hoping to receive applications from individuals who can demonstrate leadership experience in a nonprofit or community-based organization, have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, with experience in fundraising and a knowledge of LGBTQ issues.

To apply, interested candidates are invited to submit their application at www.centerlb.org/careers by 5:00 PM on February 5, 2024.

ENVIRONMENT

Long Beach joins CA cities set to receive electrical school buses



Courtesy of Pexels.com

City News Service

Southern California Local News

Four school districts across the state, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, are set to benefit from a federal grants program to invest in electrical school buses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday.

The EPA announced the selection of 67 applicants throughout the country to receive nearly \$1 billion through its Clean School Bus Program Grants Competition. In total, California was awarded \$88 million that will support L.A. Unified, Kern High School District, Porterville Unified School District and San Diego Unified School District.

Two third-party companies that contract with California school districts to provide bus services also received grants. Zum Services, Inc., received funding for buses for the Los Angeles Unified, San Francisco Unified, Alameda Unified and Oakland Unified School Districts. Also, First Student, Inc. received funding for buses for Long Beach Unified School District, Palm Springs Unified School District, Riverside Unified School District, Fallbrook Union, Orange County Department of Education, and Los Angeles County Office of Education.

The Clean School Bus Program—created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and modeled after the Clean Commute for Kids Act that Sen. Alex Padilla, D-California, introduced in 2021—is expected to provide \$5 billion over five years to support the transition to zero-emission and low-emission school buses.

for our students starts with a diesel-free commute each morning," Padilla said in a statement. "I've seen firsthand the harmful health and respiratory impacts polluted air from outdated buses can cause our children, having grown up riding diesel-powered school buses in Pacoima."

"Modernizing our bus system is a crucial investment in our children, our health, and our environment. That is why I championed the inclusion of the Clean School Bus Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which is now helping California schools make the much-needed transition to electric bus fleets," he added.

According to Padilla's office, through the funding, LAUSD is expected to acquire 50 electrical buses; Kern High School District is expected to acquire 39 buses; Porterville Unified is expected to purchase 35 buses; and San Diego Unified is expected to purchase 30 buses.

Prioritized school districts in low-income, rural, and/or Tribal communities make up approximately 86% of the projects selected for funding, according to the EPA.

Grantees will work with their EPA Regional Project Officers to finalize project plans and purchase their awarded new buses and eligible infrastructure. EPA is also partnering with the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation to provide grantees with robust technical assistance to ensure effective implementation.

EPA is currently accepting applications for the 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program until Jan. 31. EPA encourages applicants not selected for the 2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program—and those that did not apply—to participate in current and future funding rounds.

“Today we’re once again accelerating the transition to electric and low-emission school buses in America, helping to secure a healthier future where all our children can breathe cleaner air.”

- Michael S. Regan,
EPA Administrator



Courtesy of Pexels.com

The program is intended to help grantees purchase more than 2,700 clean school buses in 280 school districts, serving over 7 million students across 37 states.

"Every school day, 25 million children ride our nation's largest form of mass transit: the school bus. The vast majority of those buses run on diesel, exposing students, teachers, and bus drivers to toxic air pollution," Vice President Kamala Harris said in a statement.

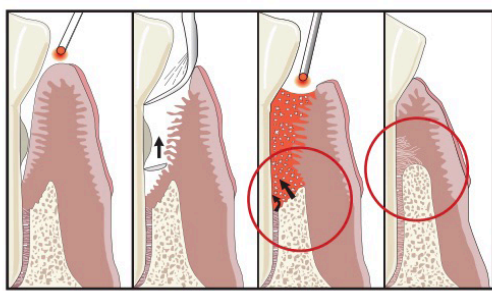
She added, "As part of our work to tackle the climate crisis, the historic funding we are announcing today is an investment in our children, their health, and their education."

Additionally, the program is intended to strengthen the economy by investing in American manufacturing and workforce.

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SURVEY

Long Beach asks for public feedback on 2025 budget

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

The City of Long Beach is encouraging the public to attend upcoming community meetings or complete an online survey in order to help develop the City's budget for fiscal year 2025.

The City's annual budget lays out how the local government will allocate funds to its different departments and programs in the coming fiscal year.

The community budget meetings will take place in person at various locations across Long Beach on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Jan. 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m. – Viva Event Center at the Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.)
- Monday, Jan. 22, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. – Doris Topsy-Elvord Community Center at Houghton Park (6301 Myrtle Ave.)
- Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m. – Small Gymnasium at Cabrillo High School (2001 Santa Fe Ave.)
- Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. – Recreation Park Community Center (4900 E 7th St.)

A virtual community budget meeting will be held online on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information about the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
A cardboard lectern is erected in front of Long Beach City Hall before the People's Budget Long Beach rally starts on Aug. 2, 2022.

City's fiscal year 2025 budget development process and registration for the virtual meeting, visit longbeach.gov/fy25.

Interpretation services in Spanish, Khmer, Tagalog, and American Sign Language will be available for all meetings. Advanced registration for the virtual meeting is required to receive the Zoom meeting link.

In addition to the meetings, community members can submit their budget service priorities by completing the Long Beach Budget Priority Survey online.

The insights gathered from the community meetings and the online survey will be shared with the Long Beach City Council before the fiscal year 2025 budget is developed.

RESOURCES

Long Beach libraries will host Early Learning Fairs for preschool children

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

The Long Beach Public Library will host Early Learning Fairs, four sessions for parents or caregivers and their children to prepare to enter preschool in January and February.

Early Learning Fairs will take place at a different library each session, are free to attend, do not require an RSVP and will cover topics such as early learning mathematics as well as social and emotional learning. Each fair will feature an educational entertainment performance.

"The Early Learning Fairs are a cornerstone of our community's commitment to educational readiness," said Mayor Rex Richardson in a public statement. "Join us as we culminate these fairs with captivating our dedication to preparing the youngest members of our community for future success."

Early Learning Fair sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, Jan. 20 at Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E. Hill St.) from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 27 at Bret Harte Neighborhood Library (1595 W. Willow St.) from 2 to 4 p.m.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Children trade books while Long Beach Councilmember Mary Zendejas speaks about the renovated KidSpace of the Long Beach Billie Jean King Main Library during a dedication ceremony on May 13, 2022.

• Saturday, Feb. 10 at Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.) from 2 to 4 p.m.

• Saturday, Feb. 24 at Mark Twain Neighborhood Library (1401 E. Anaheim St.) from 2 to 4 p.m.

Families who visit every resource table at an Early Learning Fair and attend one of the workshops will receive a "Ready for Kindergarten" backpack filled with learning

supplies and tools, while supplies last. Children should be present to receive their backpack.

Parents or caregivers with children ages 0 to 5 can learn more throughout the year with the library's Dive Into Learning program. Residents can sign up on longbeach.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack tracker app. Call (562) 570-5455 or visit a Long Beach Public Library location

ART

Long Beach releases online survey for future public murals

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

Residents are invited to give their input on what themes and locations they would like to see in Long Beach's future murals through an online survey open until Feb. 2.

Long Beach's Public Mural Program, an entity of the Creative Economy Grants Program, has \$135,000 in available funds for artists to create new murals on public facilities citywide. The survey asks residents for location ideas for murals as well as potential themes such as culture, health and wellness, entertainment, Long Beach history and more.

The Creative Economy Grants Program was launched by Long Beach and the Arts Council for Long Beach (ArtsLB). The program is now run by ArtsLB to fund local arts, culture and history nonprofits as well as professional artists to be utilized for public murals, community projects and professional artist fellowships.

Residents are given nine options for mural locations:

- Future site of Senior Center (125 Elm Ave.)
- Bixby Park (130 Cherry Ave.)
- Recreation Park (4900 E Seventh St.)
- Central Health Building (1133 Rhea St.)
- Heartwell Park (5801 E Parkcrest St.)
- McBride High School Gymnasium (7025 Parkcrest St.)
- Multi-Service Center (1301 W 12th St.)
- Davenport Park (2910 E 55th Way)



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Artist Karina Vazquez paints with olive green paint on her mural at Dana Neighborhood Library during the Long Beach Walls event on Aug. 30, 2022.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Painter Kim Sielbeck adds orange spray paint to a mural, as part of Long Beach Walls, on a building on Daisy Avenue while standing on a scissor lift on Aug. 30, 2022.

mural, what are your sentiments upon visiting this site?

- What theme would you like to see?
- Would you like to be considered to be on the artist selection panel?

The Creative Economy Grants Program is funded by the Long Beach Recovery Act, federal funds meant to fund economic and public health initiatives for residents, workers and businesses critically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To receive assistance taking the survey, residents can contact ArtsLB at (562) 435-2787 or email grants@artslb.org. Technical assistance workshops will also be provided for the Creative Economy Grants, with interpreters available in Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog.

Residents can take the survey online on the ArtsLB website.

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EYE ON CRIME

CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

Wednesday, January 3

3:35 a.m., Auto burglary, 2200 block Village Way
7:55 a.m., Grand theft, 1800 block Molino Ave.
1:10 p.m., Auto burglary, 1900 block Temple Ave.
1:17 p.m., Identity theft, 2700 block Wall St.
8:48 p.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 2900 block E. PCH

Thursday, January 4

4:08 p.m., Criminal threats, 2300 block Village Way
7:45 p.m., Auto burglary, 1900 block Temple Ave.
8:16 p.m., DUI, Orange Ave./Leigh Ct. (suspect arrested)
8:37 p.m., Stolen vehicle – recovered, 3500 block E. PCH
11:34 p.m., Arson, 2400 block Palm Dr.

Friday, January 5

1:42 a.m., DUI, E. Spring St./Temple Ave. (suspect arrested)
12:19 p.m., Burglary, 1800 block Temple Ave.
2:11 p.m., Auto burglary, 2600 block Myrtle Ave.
3:02 p.m., Vandalism, 1900 block Stanley Ave.
5:11 p.m., Robbery, 900 block E. 33rd St.
6:37 p.m., Petty theft; felony warrant, 3000 block California Ave. (suspect arrested)

Saturday, January 6

12:54 a.m., Fire, Long Beach Blvd./E. Willow St.
6:39 a.m., Battery, 2600 block St. Louis Ave.
3:09 p.m., Battery, 900 block E. 33rd St.
5:25 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. Willow St.
5:40 p.m., Forgery, 2700 block Cherry Ave.
9:19 p.m., Criminal threats, 2700 block Cherry Ave.

Sunday, January 7

3:53 a.m., DUI; injury traffic collision, 2800 block Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)
9:18 a.m., Auto burglary, 2100 block Gundry Ave.
12:26 p.m., Auto burglary, 2100 block E. 21st St.

Monday, January 8

9:45 a.m., Grand theft, 700 block E. Spring St.
10:37 a.m., Auto burglary, 2200 block E. Willow St.
10:43 a.m., Identity theft, 2600 block Skyline Dr.
11:42 a.m., Identity theft, 2500 block Quiet Sands Dr.
3:53 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, Raymond Ave./E. 28th St.
4:45 p.m., Burglary, 2200 block Ohio Ave.

Tuesday, January 9

9:36 a.m., Burglary, 2900 block E. PCH
10:03 a.m., Burglary, 2200 block Orange Ave.
11:49 a.m., Battery, 1900 block Cherry Ave.
2:14 p.m., Grand theft, 2500 block Quiet Sands Dr.
3:53 p.m., Robbery, E. 33rd St./Lewis Ave.
5:55 p.m., Robbery, 900 block E. 33rd St.
8:01 p.m., Auto burglary, 1000 block E. 32nd St.

LBPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: longbeach.gov/police. Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application & type in an address.

You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.

CRIME

Man arrested as suspect in sexual batteries in Long Beach

City News Service

Southern California Local News

A man has been arrested as a suspect in a series of sexual batteries in Long Beach, and on Tuesday police urged other possible victims to contact detectives.

Charles Larry Matthews, 56, who is homeless, was arrested on Saturday and booked on suspicion of sexual battery, police said.

“His bail is pending magistrate review,” police said in a statement. “The case has been presented to the City Prosecutor’s Office for filing consideration.”

According to police, at the time of his arrest, Matthews allegedly “had just committed a sexual battery.”

Matthews allegedly committed crimes as follows:

- On Saturday at about 2 p.m., a sexual battery against a woman at Alamitos Avenue and Broadway

- On Saturday at about 1:45 p.m., a sexual battery against a teenage



Courtesy of Pexels.com

girl at Atlantic Ave. and Broadway

- On Thursday at about 12:25 p.m., a sexual battery against a woman at Molino Avenue and Anaheim Street.

Detectives believe there may be additional victims, and urged any-

one with information on the case to contact Detective R. Jahangiri at 562-570-7354.

Anonymous tips may be submitted through Crime Stoppers by calling 800-222-TIPS, or by using the website www.lacrimestoppers.org.

CRIME

Police seeking man in two nearby assaults in Long Beach



Courtesy of LBPDP

The alleged suspect in two Long Beach attacks on Jan. 4.

City News Service

Southern California Local News

Authorities released a description of a suspect they believe is responsible for two assaults in Long Beach.

The first assault occurred at about 9:50 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 near 21st Street and Locust Avenue, where someone struck a man who was walking with a child in a stroller with an unknown object, the Long Beach Police Department reported.

The child was not injured.

The second assault occurred later in the day, at about 12:30 p.m. near 21st Street and Pine Avenue, where

a victim walked past a suspect and was struck with an unknown object.

The suspect was described as a man in his mid-20s, between 5-feet-5 and 5-feet-7 inches tall with a “peach-fuzz” mustache. He was last seen wearing a white hat and turquoise sweater over a black-hooded sweatshirt. He wore blue pants and white and black tennis shoes, carrying a black bag hanging from his chest with shoulder straps around his neck, police said.

Anyone with information about the suspect or his whereabouts was asked to call 562-570-7250. Tipsters may also call Crime Stoppers at 800-222-TIPS, or use the website www.lacrimestoppers.org.

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MUSIC

Take a spin with Record Store Meet Up

Record Store Meet Up invites music fans to travel through SoCal cities every other month in search of their next best vinyl find.

Samantha Diaz
Managing Editor

When someone enters a shop on the Record Store Meet Up tour, they are greeted with a sign, a button, a nametag and a warm welcome from club founder Crystal Martinez.

They are then thrown into an at-your-own-pace browsing mingling session with fellow vinyl connoisseurs searching for their next prized find. Oftentimes, those people linger for over an hour, exchanging phone numbers, plans and music recommendations before exploring the nearby shops or heading out to lunch together.

This music-minded meetup was created by Martinez a year ago, and to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Record Store Meet Ups, the group is returning to the place where it all began: Fingerprints Music on Fourth Street in Long Beach.

"It just makes me so happy when I see someone I haven't seen before come to a meeting and to see people start talking to each other and making new friendships," Martinez said. "That just makes me so happy because I love building community and supporting these small businesses and these record stores. They are so important."

Martinez has come a long way with her vinyl collection. At just over 100 records, she states firmly "it's not as robust as I would like."

Her collection is a mix of vinyls she's found on her own, like her first-ever Tower Records purchase, "The Secret of Elena's Tomb" by alternative band ...And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of The Dead, and records she inherited from her father after he passed away in 2021, which she said motivated her to get



Courtesy of Crystal Martinez

Attendees pose for a group photo outside of Fingerprints Music at one of the Record Store Meet Up gatherings.

back into records.

Martinez got the inspiration for her meetups through another beloved Long Beach small business, Bel Canto Books. The indie bookshop that prides itself on diverse offerings has also invited readers on Indie Bookstore Field Trips in the past, of which Martinez was a devoted attendee. She asked Bel Canto Books owner Jhoanna Belfer if she could tweak the idea and get the stamp of approval.

Fingerprints was her first choice, and once she got the go ahead from its owner, she lovingly "bullied" a few of her friends into attending the first meetup.

Record Store Meet Up now gathers every other month on a Sunday, exploring the record store scene in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena and surrounding cities. The month-long breaks are so attendees have time to save up for their next prized purchase.

Martinez said she hasn't even

been able to make a dent in her "to visit" list, as she's regularly scouting locations that will have a bit of something for everyone.

She makes sure the location and staff are as welcoming as her club, the primary identifier for the group. Whether someone is into punk, rock, rap or anything in between, if they're a newbie just building up their collection or a connoisseur searching for rare used finds, everyone is welcome at Record Store Meet Ups.

Once in a while, Martinez collaborates with Metro Session for a day of vinyls DJ sets.

The one-year anniversary of Record Store Meet Up gatherings will take place on Sunday, Jan. 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fingerprints Music at 420 E Fourth St.

For updates on future meetups, follow @recordstoremeetup on Instagram. Residents can also RSVP for free on Eventbrite.



Courtesy of Crystal Martinez



Courtesy of Crystal Martinez



Courtesy of Crystal Martinez

Attendees of the Record Store Meet Up browse through vinyls.

2024 LB STATE OF THE CITY

continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A slide saying "We have more work to do" is on screen during Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson's 2024 State of the City address at the Long Beach Terrace Theater on Jan. 9, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

(Above) Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson introduces the inaugural class of the Long Beach Public Service Corps to the public during the 2024 State of the City address at the Long Beach Terrace Theater on Jan. 9, 2023. (Below) Long Beach City College student, Maleka Lassiter, gives the first-ever Youth State of the City address during the 2024 Long Beach State of the City event on Jan. 9, 2024.

the 2023 Point in Time Count.

The Signal Tribune reached out to CSULB and LBCC representatives for updates on their projects and is waiting for a reply.

Richardson highlighted Long Beach's accomplishments during the year, plus the local emergency proclamation aimed to reduce the number of people experiencing or in danger of homelessness. The City Council will vote on whether to end the proclamation in February.

Some of the highlights included:
• Long Beach now has a total of over 2,300 shelter beds. In the 2023 Point in Time Count, volunteers found and identified 3,447 homeless people in Long Beach.

• Long Beach has 553 Accessory Dwelling Units approved.

• There are 4,500 housing units "in the pipeline," though Richardson did not specify what this meant.

• Long Beach has issued 100% of

its Emergency Housing Vouchers.

Richardson also introduced a five-year goal to end youth homelessness in Long Beach. The city identified over 200 people under 24 years old experiencing homelessness in the 2023 Point in Time Count.

"Music is coming back to Long Beach sooner than we think."

- Rex Richardson, Mayor of Long Beach

While speaking about the city's economy, Richardson largely focused on businesses and tourism, including the temporary amphitheater in the Queen Mary parking lot.

He introduced several technological and transportation companies that are moving into Long Beach, such as AIBOT, Ex Labs, JetZero and Bio Gas Engineering.

Richardson also announced two programs that will assist small businesses this year. The first is an "inclusive business navigator program" in partnership with ORALE (Organizing Rooted in Abolition, Liberation, and Empowerment) to help Latine residents receive their business licenses.

Long Beach will also introduce Level Up LB, an "extreme small business makeover program." The program will select 25 local businesses to receive support through marketing, planning, financing and help applying for City contracts. Those businesses will also be eligible for up to \$10,000 in micro-grants.

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Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Politicians and the public line up to get coffee from the Carmen's Coffee Company truck before the start of the 2024 Long Beach State of the City address on Jan. 9, 2024.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The crowd for the 2024 Long Beach State of the City wait inside the Long Beach Terrace Theater for the address to begin on Jan. 9, 2024.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Dancers with the Long Beach Poly Dancers perform during the opening of the 2024 State of the City address on Jan. 9, 2024.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Long Beach City College student, Maleka Lassiter, gives the first-ever Youth State of the City address during the 2024 Long Beach State of the City event on Jan. 9, 2024.



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AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A statue of Martin Luther King Jr. is prominently displayed at the Long Beach park, bearing his name on Oct. 3, 2022.

As we enter the halfway mark of the first month of 2024, residents have countless fun ways to spend the week whether you desire an afternoon outside, social events or film screenings.

Those with a penchant for sweets will be delighted to hear that a new See's Candy location will be having its grand opening in Bixby Knolls on Saturday. Also on Saturday, community members can celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the annual parade on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Though the Christmas season has passed, it's not too late to be whisked away into a Whiskey Wonderland, with Roxanne's celebration of whiskey returning this Sunday.

12 FRIDAY

RESTORATION FRIDAY

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help care for native plants and pull weeds at Willow Springs Park (2745 Orange Ave.). Volunteers are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle, comfortable shoes and sunscreen. Free.

SWING SET OPEN MIC

6:30 p.m. Local creatives are invited to share their work at the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (2017 E. Fourth St.) during this open mic. Participants will sign up on a first come first served basis. Participation costs \$5 per person.

SOUND BATH

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Relaxing and healing sounds will fill the space of Loiter Galleries (425 Promenade N) as Gongphoria plays a live concert to immerse audiences into a therapeutic sound bath. Attendees can lie on the ground with a face covering on, or enjoy the sounds any way they please in hopes of relieving stress and tension. Tickets are \$30 on Eventbrite.

13 SATURDAY

TREECYCLING

7 a.m. Long Beach residents can have their Christmas tree picked up for free on this day. The tree must be outside where the trash cans are

usually placed and all decorations must be removed. Free.

KAYAK TOURS

Multiple times. Los Cerritos Wetlands invites residents to tour scenic areas of the wetlands and Steamshovel Slough with an environmental guide. Participants will meet at Mother's Beach (5865 Apian Way), where there is metered and street parking, for the two-hour, multi-mile tour. Attendees must be physically able to paddle their own kayak solo, wear proper attire to get splashed in (no jeans and tennis shoes), and be at least 12 years old. Tickets are \$40 on Eventbrite.

PRIVATE TOUR OF MERCEDES BENZ CENTER

9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mercedes Benz Classic Center (3860 N Lakewood Blvd.) will be giving private tours of the facility. The event will start with a light continental breakfast and end with a lunch at local eatery The 908. The cost of food is included in the ticket price. Tickets for this event can only be purchased on Eventbrite, at \$150 per person.

GRAND OPENING

9:30 a.m. A new See's Candy location is opening at the Bixby Knolls Shopping Center (4270 Long Beach Blvd.). The public is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with free samples and special offers. Free to attend.

MLK PARADE & CELEBRATION

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This community celebration will begin with a parade starting at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Anaheim Street. Then attendees can celebrate together at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (1950 Lemon Ave.), where there will be community resources, performances, and food & drink vendors. Free to attend.

NO H8

2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Individuals are invited to get their photo taken by photographer Adam Bouska for the NOH8 campaign at the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach (2017 Fourth St.). All subjects must come wearing a white T-shirt. Photos will be sent to buyers about eight weeks later. Photos cost \$40 for a solo picture or \$25 per person for couple or

group photos.

DOWNTOWN ART WALK

4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Four locations in Downtown Long Beach will host exhibits featuring a variety of mediums such as photography, ceramics, drawings and more. For more information on the exhibits and locations visit www.downtownlongbeach.org/artwalk. Free to attend.

14 SUNDAY

KID-FRIENDLY MOVIE SCREENING

Children and families can enjoy a movie screening at the historic Long Beach Art Theatre (2025 E Fourth St.) of the 1995 film, "Gumby: The Movie." Children ages 12 and under are free, as well as theatre members. General admission is \$12 and tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

RECORD STORE MEET UP ANNIVERSARY

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This group that gets together to visit record stores will be celebrating its one-year anniversary at Fingerprints Music (420 E Fourth St.) and invites local vinyl-lovers to learn more about them. Free.

WHISKEY WONDERLAND

Noon to 6 p.m. Roxanne's (1115 E Wardlow Road) will be hosting a election-season-themed celebration of whiskey, featuring interactive workshops, a whiskey-centric debate, whiskey tastings, live entertainment and more. General admission tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite for \$30.

WEAVING HATS

3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. This workshop at Native Sol (2018 E Fourth St.) will teach attendees how to weave hats from coconut leaves. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 each on Eventbrite.

15 MONDAY

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

8 a.m. Leadership Long Beach is helping residents connect to a wide range of public service projects in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. Residents can

sign up for a project at leadership-lb.org/mlk/, ranging from helping at a community garden to planting trees. Participants can enjoy a complimentary breakfast at Long Beach City College's Pacific Coast Campus (1305 E Pacific Coast Highway). Free.

DROP-IN MAH JONGG

6 p.m. Mah Jongg enthusiasts are invited to play together at the Alpert Jewish Community Center (3801 E Willow St.). Cards will not be provided so participants should bring their own. General admission costs \$5.

SMUT BOOK CLUB

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first Smut Book Club meeting of the year will cover the first three chapters of "Delilah Green Doesn't Care" by Ashley Herring Blake. This book club is held every Monday at Good Time LB (1322 Coronado Ave.) and is free to join. Message @goodtime.lb on Instagram for details.

16 TUESDAY

AQUA THERAPY YOUTH PROGRAM

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hunter's Heart foundation will be sponsoring year-long memberships at California Aquatic Therapy and Wellness Center, Inc. (6801 Long Beach Blvd.) for youth with muscular dystrophy. Youth will receive aqua therapy. Register on Eventbrite. Free.

SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB

11 a.m. to Noon. Seniors can meet up and go on a walk together while socializing at Reservoir Park (3315 Gundry Ave.). Free.

18 WEDNESDAY

STATE OF THE PORT

12:25 p.m. The Port of Long Beach will share an online presentation of their successes, milestones and plans for 2024, which they've deemed "The Year of the Rail." The event will be streamed on the City of Long Beach's Youtube page and on the Port's website.

DO-IT-YOURSELF CRAFT CLUB

3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Children ages 8 and older are invited to create crafts

at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Children must be accompanied by an adult. All materials will be provided. Free.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The City of Long Beach invites residents to the Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.) to give their input on the upcoming fiscal year budget for the City. Free.

19 THURSDAY

DOCENT TRAINING BEGINS

9 a.m. to noon. Rancho Los Cerritos' (4900 Virginia Road) eight-week-long course will prepare volunteers to become docents for the historic site. Attendees must be able to attend all seven workshops, which will be held every Thursday from Jan. 18 to Feb. 29. To sign up, visit the Rancho's website, email Rancho@RanchoLosCerritos.org, or call (562) 206-2040. Free.

LB JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING

7 p.m. The Alpert Jewish Community Center (3801 E Willow St.) will be hosting a screening of the 2023 film "The Story of Annette Zelman" as part of the annual Long Beach Jewish Film Festival. The film is in French with English subtitles. General admission costs \$20 and can be purchased on the AJCC's website.

IS THAT IT? NOPE!

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SIGNALTRIBUNE.COM FOR MORE EVENTS.

CITY COUNCIL

Here's what your Signal Hill councilmembers make in a month

Kristen Farrah Naeem
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Signal Hill city council members were appointed to serve on various public associations and subcommittees, some of which provide compensation.

According to the City's website, city council members earn a base pay of \$494.40 a month. The State's online Government Compensation in California portal states that in 2021 council members earned between \$4,570 and \$11,536 in wages.

Below is a breakdown of the Signal Hill City Council member's monthly wages from their work on the council as well as other associations and groups:

- All members:
- County Sanitation District No. 29, Meets Second Wednesday monthly - \$125/meeting + \$.555/mile
 - Spring Street Corridor Joint Powers Authority



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Signal Hill Mayor Lori Woods poses for a portrait outside of Signal Hill City Hall on Dec. 19, 2023.

Mayor Lori Woods:

- Central Basin Municipal Water District, Quarterly general meeting - \$0
 - Central Basin Water Association, As called - \$0
 - County Sanitation District No. 3, Meets Second Wednesday monthly and Occasional special meetings - \$125/meeting + \$.555/mile
 - L.A. County City Selection Committee, As called - \$0
 - Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (SERRF), As called - \$0
 - Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), General Assembly Annual Meeting in May - \$120
 - Sustainable City Committee, Meets quarterly - \$0
 - Centennial Celebration Subcommittee - No information is available at this time
 - Park Subcommittee - No information is available at this time
 - Minimum monthly wages: \$619.40
- Vice-Mayor Edward H.J. Wilson:**
- Gateway Cities COG, Meets

First Wednesday monthly - \$125/meeting

- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Energy & Environmental Committee, Meets First Thursday monthly - \$120 per meeting
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Audit Committee, As called - \$120 per meeting
- Workforce Investment Network, As needed - \$0
- Park Subcommittee No information is available at this time
- Minimum monthly wages: \$739.40

Councilmember Robert D. Copeland:

- Joint City/LBUSD, Meets quarterly - \$0
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Energy & Environmental Committee, Meets First Thursday monthly - \$120 per meeting
- Vector Control District, Meets Second Thursday monthly - \$100 per month
- Sustainable City Committee, Meets quarterly - \$0
- Housing Subcommittee - No information is available at this time
- Minimum monthly wages: \$714.40

Councilmember Tina Hansen:

- Joint City/LBUSD, Meets quarterly - \$0
- Centennial Celebration Subcommittee - No information is available at this time
- Housing Subcommittee - No information is available at this time
- Minimum monthly wages: \$494.40



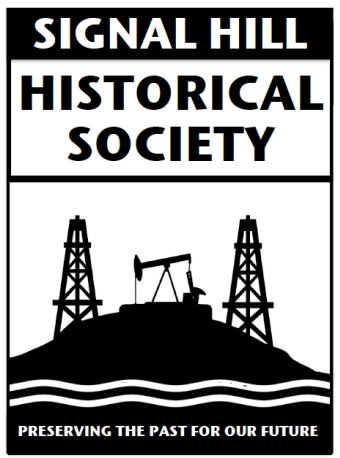
Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Signal Hill councilmember Keir Jones speaks to attendees at Signal Hill Park before being presented with a \$5 million check that will go towards the renovation and expansion of the amphitheater in the park on Oct. 18, 2022.

Councilmember Keir Jones:

- League of California Cities, Meets First Thursday monthly - \$0
- California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) - \$0
- California Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA), Annual Meeting in July - \$100
- Minimum monthly wages: \$494.40

COLUMN

Part I a continuing series about **HISTORY** On the Hill



Long before Europeans invaded the North American continent, before the Spanish Missionary Padres converted Southern California's natives, local inhabitants had recognized the strategic importance of the 365-foot high, dome-shaped promontory we now call Signal Hill. As the highest spot for miles around, the Hill was used as an Indian watchtower. It also offered natives a vantage point from which to send smoke signals to the nearby tribes who inhabited the coastal basin, Santa Catalina Island, and the San Pedro peninsula.

The first Indians to occupy the Signal Hill area were a Hogan-speaking people who survived as hunters and gatherers. These people were driven out of the coastal basin by another tribe, the Gabrielinos, named after the San Gabriel Mission region they inhabited. The Gabrielinos occupied roughly 100 miles of Southern California coastal region, from Aliso Creek, Orange County to Malibu. Although this group began moving into the area from as early as 500 B.C., they were not established as a dominant culture until 1200 A.D.

The Gabrielinos spoke Shoshonean, a language shared by the Hopis people of the Arizona mesas. Today, little remains of their language but a few phrases, religious terms and area names such as Azusa, Cahuenga, and Topanga.

This peoples' complex religion centered around the village of Puvungna, located near the present site of the Bixby house on Rancho Los Alamitos. It was here, two miles inland from Alamitos Bay, that the god and lawgiver Chiniginich declared himself, according to Gabrielino mythology.

The Gabrielinos gathered seeds, acorns, wild plants, greens and nuts to supplement their meaty diet of deer, fish, shellfish, rabbits, caterpillars, grasshoppers, grubs and birds. They hunted small

game, fish and birds with nets. Larger quarry was caught by using bow and arrow, snares, and stone fish hooks.

Indian housing consisted of summer huts made of a framework of wooden poles covered by tule (cattail) mats. These structures were portable. For winter, the Gabrielinos constructed permanent domed huts made from poles and brush covered with earth. Villages typically included sweat houses and female segregation huts.

It was the Gabrielinos who first discovered a sticky goo they called "capapote" and used to waterproof their canoes, baskets, and robes. Capatote, otherwise known as crude oil, came up through fissures in the ground on Signal Hill, and up from the ocean floor. Little did the Indians realize that capapote would one day forever change the history of the Hill.

What did forever change the lives and history of the Gabrielinos, however, was the arrival of two Spanish ships into San Pedro Bay, led by the Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. The date was October 8th, 1542. For the Gabrielinos, it marked the beginning of the end of their culture, their lifestyle, and their future;

To Be Continued . . .

Check out more stories from the Signal Hill Historical Society at shhs90755.org

This is a reprint 1 of 21 articles first published in the Star Tribune dated Sept 28, 1990. Written by Julie Bendizick-Sin. Digitally Preserved by the Signal Hill Historical Society for future generations

RECREATION

Long Beach's Lincoln Park hosting free activities for all ages

Staff Report
Signal Tribune

The City of Long Beach's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine (PRM) will be hosting free recreation activities at Lincoln Park (101 Pacific Ave.) for the foreseeable future.

The activities cater to various interests and age groups, from adults to children. Available group activities are as follows:

Walking Group (All Ages)—Tuesdays, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., check-in at the PRM canopies.

Participants can join a walk starting at Lincoln Park, circling the Civic Center and the Billie Jean King Main Library. Participants can walk at their own pace. The walk will take place on flat ground.

Intro to Fitness with Park Equipment (Ages 13 and up)—Wednesdays, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., check-in at the PRM canopies.

This class aims to encourage par-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
Long Beach resident Gabriel Perez spins his daughter Zalina in the rotating gazebo near the center of Lincoln Park in Downtown Long Beach on Feb. 11, 2022.

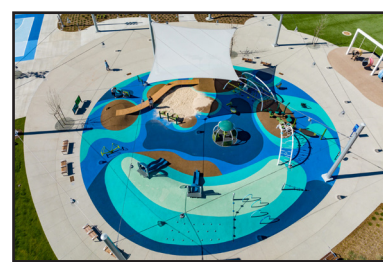
ticipants to use the fitness equipment available at the park. It is suitable for all fitness levels, focusing on cardiovascular conditioning, endurance, strength-building and stress reduction through physical movement. Participants can go at their own pace in a group setting.

Come and Dance: Moving and Grooving (All Ages)—Fridays, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., check-in at

the PRM canopies. Attendees will learn various free-style dance styles with different music genres. This beginner class includes line dancing and other fun dance forms.

Play Dates in the Park (3 Years and Older)—Fridays, noon to 1 p.m., check-in at the PRM canopies.

Geared towards children ages 3 to 12, this session offers different activities for casual play dates between local children.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune
An aerial shot of the Lincoln Park playground in Downtown Long Beach on Feb. 11, 2022.

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**TST7182 / 2023 260433
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: STAGERIGHTSOCAL, 2826 CEDAR AVE, LONG BEACH, CA. 90806. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: 1. LISA PEARSON, 2826 CEDAR AVE, LONG BEACH, CA. 90806 2. BILLY OBRIEN, 610 N LEMON ST, ANAHEIM, CA. 92805. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: Copartners. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: LISA PEARSON, GENERAL PARTNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in December, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on December 5, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: December 29 & January 5, 12, 19, 2023

**TST7185 / 2024 001332
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: READY, SET, & GROW!, 4140 DEEBOYAR AVE APT 3, LAKEWOOD, CA 90712. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: ALECIA COUTEE, 4140 DEEBOYAR AVE APT 3, LAKEWOOD, CA. 90712. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: ALECIA COUTEE, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in January, 2024. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on January 3, 2024. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024.

**TST7178 / 2023 255240
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: 1. BAMBUSI ENTERPRISES LLC, 2. CH CONSULTING LLC, 300 LONG BEACH BLVD 714, LONG BEACH, CA 90802. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: CONSTRUCTIONJANE LLC, 300 LONG BEACH BLVD 714, LONG BEACH, CA 90802. State of Incorporation/Organization: CA. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: GOODNESS OLAYIWOLA, MANAGING MEMBER. The registrant has not begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in November, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on November 28, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: December 22, 29, 2023 & January 5, 12, 2024

**TST7180 Case No. 23CMCP00222
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, Compton Courthouse, 200 West Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90220 PETITION OF: Emma Gutierrez for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioners: Emma Gutierrez, by and through her parents. Mother, Vanessa M. Chavez & Father, Osvaldo Gutierrez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing their daughter's name as follows: Present Name: Emma Gutierrez Proposed Name: Emma Violet Gutierrez 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: February 20, 2024; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. B, Room 906. The address of the court is the same as above. A

copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755 December 22, 29, 2023 & January 5, 12, 2024. ___/ss/___ Fumiko H. Wasserman, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: December 15, 2023

**TST7184 Case No. 23LBCP00481
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse, 275 Magnolia, Long Beach, CA 90802 PETITION OF: Soul Jolie Gonzalez for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioners: Soul Jolie Gonzalez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing his name as follows: Present Name: Soul Jolie Gonzalez Proposed Name: Soul Wild Gonzalez 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: February 9, 2024; Time: 8:30a.m., Dept. S-27, Room 5400. The address of the court is the same as above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, THE SIGNAL TRIBUNE, 1860 Obispo Ave., Ste. F, Signal Hill, CA 90755 January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024 ___/ss/___ Mark C. Kim, Judge of the Superior Court Dated: December 29, 2023

**TST7186 / 2023 274460
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

The following person is doing business as: 1. RM MOBILE, 2. RM MOBILE DETAILING, 11827 HIGHDALE ST, NORWALK, CA. 90650. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: RONY E MOLINA ESQUIVEL, 11827 HIGHDALE ST, NORWALK, CA. 90650. State of Incorporation/Organization: N/A. This business is conducted by: an Individual. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: RONY E MOLINA ESQUIVEL, OWNER. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in December, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on December 22, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: January 12, 19, 26 & February 2, 2024.

**TST7187 / 2023 274462
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT**

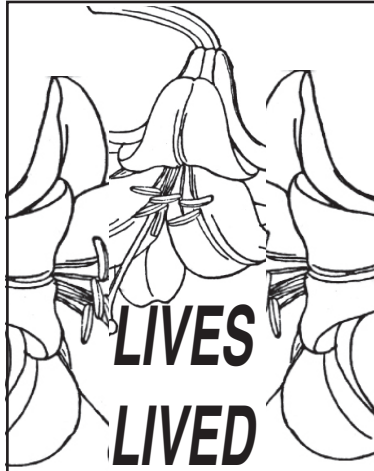
The following person is doing business as: URBAN RENOVATIONS INC, 14036 ORIZABA AVE UNIT A, PARAMOUNT, CA. 90723. County: LOS ANGELES. Registrant: URBAN RENOVATIONS INC, 14036 ORIZABA AVE UNIT A, PARAMOUNT, CA. 90723. State of Incorporation/Organization: CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. Signed: PEDRO R URBAN HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT. The registrant has begun to use this fictitious business name. The registrant began using this fictitious business name in October, 2023. This statement was filed with the county clerk of Los Angeles County on December 22, 2023. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). Pub. The Signal Tribune: January 12, 19, 26 & February 2, 2024

TST7188/Order No: 16498
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/23/2024 at 3229 E IMPERIAL HWY INGLEWOOD, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2014 FREIG VIN: 3ALACWDT1EDFL2446 STATE: CA LIC: EP12853 at 8AM

TST7189/Order No: 16506
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/23/2024 at 16971 SIERRA HIGHWAY CANYON COUNTRY, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2020 KIA VIN: 3KPF24ADXL228015 STATE: CA LIC: 8RHH703 at 10 AM



- Freddie Cummings 67
- Dagoberto Martinez Torres 47
- Etuale Suafoa 72
- Joseph Mosley 56
- Jose Antonio Hernandez Ramirez 60
- Howard Marks Jr 67
- Isaiah Pryor Jr 68
- Roy McDonald Jr. 84
- Richard Prowse 82
- Ernest Sanchez 73
- Mercedes Rodriguez 84
- Mary Brown 79
- Robert Eberhardt 80
- Kollette Imbler 79
- Jose Alatorre Graciano 53
- Anthony Pearson 78
- Ferdinand Pena 73

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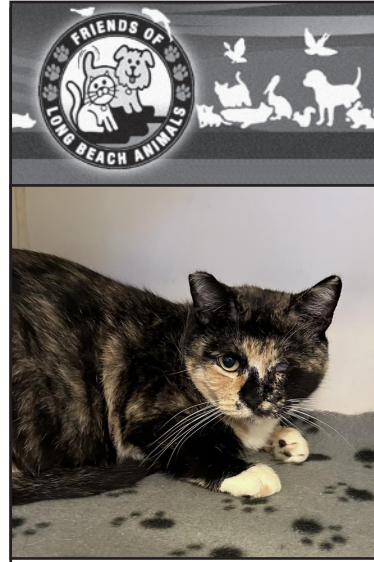
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**Pet of the week:
Trudy**

Trudy, a little 2-year-old tortie, began her time at the shelter by not giving anyone the time of day. Two years on the street without experiencing affection and care from humans can do that to anyone. Trudy came in with a damaged left eye, which she still can't see out of, and a poor appetite. But thanks to the loving cat volunteers, she's had lots of love, care and good meals, and she's now a sleek, purring sweetie-pie who loves petting and chin scratches. Now, all she needs is a forever home, with all the benefits! To adopt or foster Trudy, email PetAdopt@longbeach.gov to speed the process, or call (562) 570-7387. Better yet, meet her in person at Long Beach Animal Care Services, 7700 E. Spring St., Long Beach, at entrance to El Dorado Park (no parking fee for shelter visitors). Ask for ID#A699900.

(This rescue encouraged by the usual suspects.)

**NEED TO
POST A LEGAL
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TST7190/Order No: 16550
Auto Lien Sale

On 1/29/2024 at 9223 S VERMONT AVE LOS ANGELES, CA a Lien Sale will be held on a 2021 JEEP VIN: 1C4PJMDX9MD181172 STATE: CA LIC: 9FLL338 at 10 AM

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'MARILYN, MOM, & ME'
continued from page 1

STARRING CAST:



Alicia Soper (left) stars as Marilyn Monroe (right).

Courtesy of Luke Yankee



Brian Rohan (left) stars as playwright/director Luke Yankee (right).

Courtesy of Luke Yankee



Noah Wagner (left) plays "Bus Stop" director Joshua Logan (right).

Courtesy of Luke Yankee



Jacquelin Lorraine Schofield (left) plays Rosetta LeNoire (right) as well as Ella Fitzgerald.

Courtesy of Luke Yankee



Laura Gardner (left) stars as Eileen Heckart (right).

Courtesy of Luke Yankee

coasts. The production has received accolades such as the 2020 Rising Artists Sponsor's Choice Award, "Best Play" in the 2021 Writer's Digest Play Competition and the 2022 Stanley Award for Drama (previous recipients include Terrence McNally's "This Side of the Door" and Jonathan Larson's "RENT").

The play reveals a widely unknown side of Marilyn Monroe, a genuine friendship between two powerful and talented women, and how that friendship shaped Yankee throughout his life.

Yankee's mother, Eileen Heckart, whom he describes as a "tough customer," a loving mother and a harsh critic, is known to most as the no-nonsense Broadway actress and a Theater Hall of Fame recipient. Following a rewarding career earning both Academy Awards and Golden Globes, Heckart could happily recall her journey with riveting stories for party guests. That is, however, until someone would ask about Marilyn.

from lung cancer in 2001, Yankee wrote a novel about his life growing up with a famous actress as a mother titled "Just Outside the Spotlight." The book explores their relationship, but looking back, Yankee acknowledges he omitted certain details.

"I wouldn't say it sugarcoats it, but there are certain elements I chose to skate over about her toughness, about her being a pretty hard drinker," Yankee said. "In the play, while it's by no means an expose, and by no means a 'mommy dearest,' I show our relationship warts and all."



Eileen Heckart and Marilyn Monroe on the set of "Bus Stop."

Courtesy of Luke Yankee

Heckart and Monroe met on set of the production for the 1956 film "Bus Stop." Both women were incredibly popular in the industry, with Monroe at the height of her fame. Monroe had just come off a year of studying at the Actor's Studio in New York, and decided she wanted to dive into method acting.

Since the two were cast as best friends, Monroe was determined to make that true, at least for the time of filming. Although it made Heckart uncomfortable at first, Yankee said the two wound up "bonding over their wounds," both being or-

phans from a young age and "for all they achieved, never really felt like they deserved a place at the table."

Heckart's mother was married five times beginning in 1919 (an uncommon occurrence at the time), and if one of the husbands didn't want a child around, Heckart would be shipped off to live with her grandparents. She could return if the next husband had a softer imposition toward children, only to be sent away again.

"By writing the play, I was able to realize the other side of that and able to see where she was really coming from, and the good intentions behind the toughness, which as a kid isn't always easy to see," Yankee said.

In 2019, Yankee began going through every book he could find on Monroe and interviewing people who could help him piece together the lesser-known aspects of his mother and Marilyn's lives. He holed himself up in his Palm Springs home, and in the heat of the summer, wrote "Marilyn, Mom, & Me."

The play is told from the perspective of a 40-year-old Yankee interviewing his mother about her friendship with Monroe, shifting timelines from 1956 to 2000, a year before Heckart died. He said the process helped him arrive at some "basic truths" of his relationship with his mother.

"I started out to write a play about my mother and Marilyn, and I wound up writing a play about my mother and myself," Yankee said. "Through writing this play, I unearthed a lot of things about our relationship and in a way, I found myself forgiving my mother for some of the shortcomings and some of the things that I might have liked to have been different as her son."

The play delves into the persona of Monroe, Heckart and Yankee with equal strengths, while disproving some assumptions made



Courtesy of Luke Yankee

Eileen Heckart and Marilyn Monroe in the dressing room during "Bus Stop."

about Monroe over the years. The production tells unknown stories about how Monroe dealt with studio executives and acting coaches, but more importantly, dispels the notion that Monroe was a victim, or became famous due to her romantic relationships.

Monroe was one of the first female actors who created their own production studio to produce their motion pictures, "Bus Stop" being the first film produced by her own company, Marilyn Monroe Productions. "Marilyn, Mom, & Me" portrays Monroe as "a very smart and brilliant businesswoman," Yankee said, and her relationship with a woman who was her equal.

Making a production about Monroe is a daunting task. One can look at the myriad of tried and failed attempts in recent years, portraying flat, and sometimes frankly, uncomfortable depictions of the famous actress. Yankee said these failed attempts have not discour-

aged him from making his play.

"I don't have any hesitation in that regard, because I do treat Marilyn with great respect," Yankee said. "Ultimately, it's my love letter to both women in a way."

The production is also a love letter to Long Beach, in another way. Yankee was once the creative director at the since-shut down Civic Light Opera, which closed due to financial issues. When Yankee joined the team, he said, "the writing was already on the wall," but he left the role having made his name in the West Coast theater scene and meeting his now-husband of 28 years.

"Marilyn, Mom, & Me" will be Yankee's fourth show at the International City Theatre. Yankee chose artistic director Caryn Desai to lead the production team.

Tickets for "Marilyn, Mom, & Me" are on sale on the International City Theatre's website, and will play on select nights from Feb. 16 through March 3.

POPCORN TRIVIA

Eileen Heckart
Heckart has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6162 Hollywood Blvd.

Heckart would become "tight-lipped," Yankee recalled, and if pushed on the subject of her time with Marilyn, would burst into tears.

"I had never seen anyone else affect her that way in her life," Yankee said, adding that the public display of such strong emotions was uncommon for his mother.

Five years after Heckart died



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