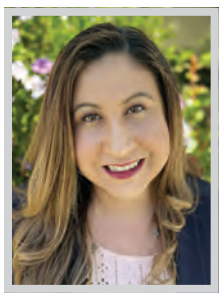
LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Nonprofit & Philanthropy

THERE ARE MANY IMPACTFUL ORGANIZATIONS HERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOING INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT work, and the leaders behind those organizations are essential contributors to the fabric of our community. They steward their teams through a delicate balance of running a business while selflessly serving essential and worthy causes.

In this section, we acknowledge some of the leading lights of the nonprofit sector – inspirational individuals who have stepped up to provide examples of forming powerful partnerships and developing strategies to better meet the many needs of our community and beyond. We've alphabetically compiled this lineup of superb nonprofit leaders and supporters, along with information about their careers, roles and relevant accomplishments they've achieved.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

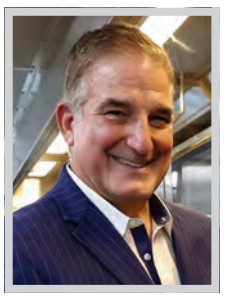


VERONICA ARTEAGA

President; Chief Executive Officer
Exceptional Children's Foundation

During the past 18 months, Veronica Arteaga, LCSW, has led Exceptional Children's Foundation through one of the most consequential periods in its 80-year history—combining measurable service outcomes, fiscal discipline, independent accreditation, philanthropic growth, and public advocacy on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

As president and CEO, Arteaga directs one of Southern California's most comprehensive nonprofit providers of lifespan disability services: a $27 million organization operating across 14 Los Angeles County service locations, with approximately 350 employees, a 24-member Board of Directors, and programs reaching nearly 4,000 children, adults, and family members annually.



RICHARD AYOUB

Chief Executive Officer
Project Angel Food

Richard Ayoub joined Project Angel Food as interim executive director in November 2015 and was appointed executive director in May 2016. At the time, the organization was $400,000 in debt, had exhausted its line of credit and was months behind on loan payments. Ayoub restored confidence among staff, donors, volunteers and community partners. He did more than stabilize the organization; he reawakened belief in what it could become.

Over the past decade, Ayoub has grown Project Angel Food from a $3.8 million nonprofit serving approximately 1,050 people a day into a nearly $20 million organization serving about 3,000 seriously ill Angelenos daily. Today, it prepares and delivers more than 1.5 million medically tailored meals and provides nutrition counseling to more than 7,000 people each year, completely free of charge.

BOB BEITCHER

President; CEO
MPTF (Motion Picture & Television Fund)

Bob Beitcher has been the chief executive officer and president at MPTF since July 2011 and has served on the organization's Board of Directors since 2007. MPTF is acknowledged as the safety net for the industry workforce for over 100 years and most especially during the pandemic and more recently during the work stoppages and Los Angeles wildfires

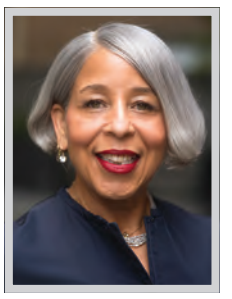
Under Beitcher's leadership, in 2025, MPTF distributed $7.2 Million in charitable assistance to members of the entertainment community in need. 7,073 industry members received MPTF services. MPTF provides an array of financial and social services to a broad range of members of the entertainment community. During and in the aftermath of the 2025 LA Wildfires, MPTF distributed $2,360,000 in financial assistance.

RACHEL BLACK

Executive Director
Garden School Foundation

Rachel Black is a highly accomplished and impactful champion of the school gardening movement. This year is Black's fifth year as the executive director of Garden School Foundation. Since stepping into the ED role, Black has helped GSF become a stable organization with strong partnerships, high-quality jobs, and a growing impact across Title I schools in LA County. She has grown the annual budget from $429,000 to $1.3 million; expanding to 12 elementary school partner sites; securing GSF's first ever federal grant from the USDA in partnership with LAUSD; reducing cafeteria lunchtime waste by 73% in participating schools; and elevating school gardening in local and national conversations.

GSF now reaches over 4,150 students and their families, and maintains a network of over 1,600 volunteers.

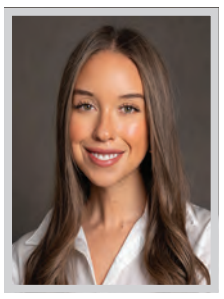


TONJA BOYKIN

Chief Operating Officer
Weingart Center Association

Tonja Boykin is one of Los Angeles's most influential nonprofit executives, with a decade of transformative leadership at the Weingart Center Association (WCA). Since becoming chief operating officer in 2016, Boykin has helped guide the organization through one of the most significant periods of growth in its 40 year history—improving outcomes for thousands of Angelenos experiencing homelessness.

Boykin's achievements at Weingart are exceptional. Under her operational leadership, WCA has evolved from a single site homeless services provider into a major developer and operator of affordable housing. Over the past five years alone, the organization has completed five affordable housing communities totaling 739 units, each designed for individuals exiting homelessness, including seniors and Veterans.

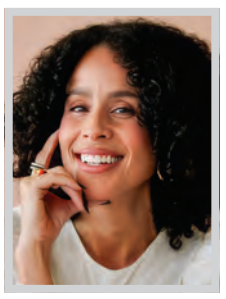


OLIVIA BROOKS

Executive
CAA Community & Impact

Olivia Brooks is redefining what leadership looks like at the intersection of entertainment, philanthropy, and social impact. As an executive with CAA Community & Impact, she has quickly emerged as one of the agency's most influential changemakers, designing programs that expand opportunity, mobilize thousands of employees and partners, and help some of the world's most recognizable creators transform their platforms into lasting social impact.

Since joining CAA in 2018, Brooks has become a driving force behind initiatives that strengthen communities. Her work reflects a rare ability to bring together corporate leadership, nonprofit organizations, entertainment clients, and employees around shared purpose-delivering measurable outcomes that extend well beyond traditional corporate philanthropy.



AMANDA BUTLER

Founder; Executive Director
Cancer Baddies

Amanda Butler's most significant accomplishment is the way she has transformed her personal experience with breast cancer into a movement that is reshaping modern survivorship support. Diagnosed with breast cancer at just 32 years old, Butler recognized a major gap in the cancer space: while treatment addresses the disease itself, many patients and survivors are left without meaningful support for the emotional, mental, physical, and identity shifts that come with life during and after cancer.

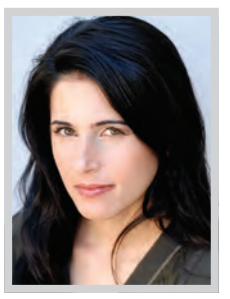
As the founder of Cancer Baddies, Butler has created a fast-growing global community that supports cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers through honest conversation, wellness programming, educational resources, and community connection. What began as personal storytelling evolved into a platform reaching more than 135,000 people.

SHAWN M. CARACOZA

President; Chief Operations Officer
Pacific Clinics

Shawn M. Caracoza is a licensed clinical social worker and has years of experience working directly, understanding the challenges clinicians and therapists alike go through in the behavioral and mental health field. Not only are they combating stigma and people's vices and trauma, but they're also faced with funding cuts and administrative difficulties. Yet, they make an impact every day in underserved communities.

Today, Caracoza is the president and chief operations officer of Pacific Clinics, California's leading community-based behavioral health provider. He has learned the ins and outs of the industry and has a forward-thinking mindset to advance and be innovative. Through intentional partnerships and relationships, Caracoza is pushing community-based behavioral health into the 20th century.

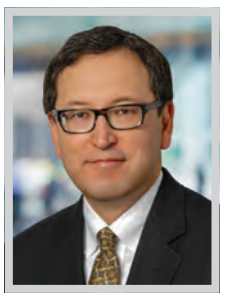


CINDY CHANIN

Founder
Rainbow Edu Consulting

Over the past 15 years, Cindy Chanin has tutored students in virtually every subject. Her full spectrum tutoring runs the gamut from Honors Chemistry to Trig/Pre-Calculus to American/European History, Literature Analysis, Creative Writing, and Spanish to College Application Preparation and Expert College Admissions Exam Preparation.

In addition to tutoring several students to perfect 1600s on their SATs, Chanin has also helped many students gain admission to top universities, including Stanford, Yale, Brown, Northwestern, USC, Oxford, Julliard, and NYU, among others. Her previous work in the Admissions Departments at Yale and USC provided insider knowledge she has incorporated to better serve her student charges in their education goals.

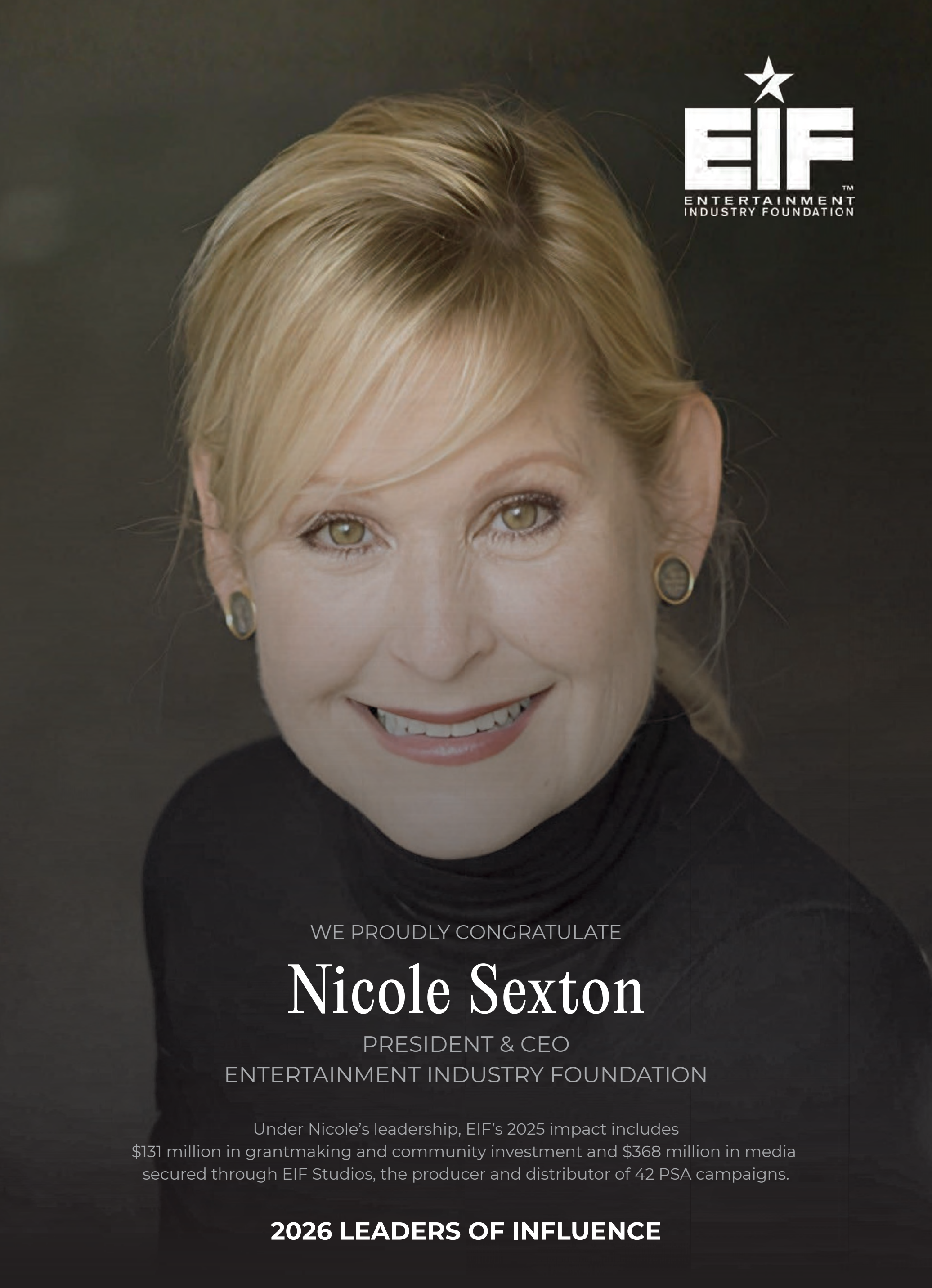


DARRYL W. CLUSTER

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

For more than three decades, Darryl W. Cluster has been one of Los Angeles' preeminent legal advisors to the nonprofit and philanthropic community. As partner at Greenberg Glusker, Cluster counsels nonprofit organizations of all types on the full range of legal issues they face. His representative experience includes the continuing representation of several private foundations with assets ranging from $500,000 to over $100 million, as well as operating charities working in education, general philanthropy, research, athletics, science, the arts, and many others.

Cluster's nonprofit counsel is complemented by a sophisticated estate planning and tax practice. He prepares complex estate plans for high-net-worth clients in the entertainment, real estate, and general business fields, advises on succession planning and tax savings strategies.



ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION™

WE PROUDLY CONGRATULATE

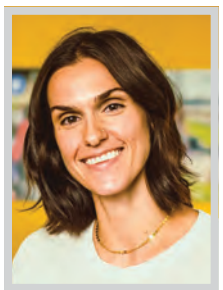
Nicole Sexton

PRESIDENT & CEO
ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY FOUNDATION

Under Nicole's leadership, EIF's 2025 impact includes $131 million in grantmaking and community investment and $368 million in media secured through EIF Studios, the producer and distributor of 42 PSA campaigns.

2026 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

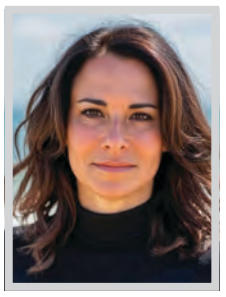


JORIE DAS

Executive Director
Friends of the Children - Los Angeles

Jorie Das is redefining child welfare prevention in Los Angeles County by proving that one consistent relationship can change the trajectory of a child's life. As executive director of Friends of the Children–Los Angeles (Friends LA), Das has led one of the organization's most transformative periods of growth, positioning it as a nationally recognized model for long-term, relationship-based prevention.

Drawing on more than a decade of nonprofit leadership in youth development, trauma-informed care, and systems change, Das has built an organization that is influencing how Los Angeles invests in prevention, mental health, and family stability. Her own lived experience in the foster care system and commitment to youth advocacy shape a leadership style grounded in empathy, accountability, strategic partnerships, and measurable outcomes.

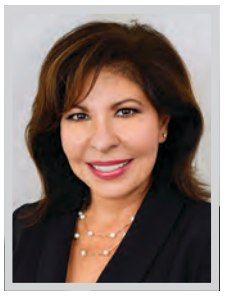


LAUREN DEVILLIER

Chief Executive Officer
Exceptional Minds

Lauren DeVillier became CEO of Exceptional Minds in July 2025, and her first year turned a leadership transition into a growth year for the organization. Enrollment in its full-time programs reached a record high. The Academy launched its inaugural Game Arts Program and graduated its first one-year Media Arts Program cohort. EM also landed a new production partnership with Cartoon Network Studios to release original shorts made by artists on the autism spectrum, adding to a studio client roster that includes Paramount, NBCUniversal, and Netflix.

Under her leadership, EM secured 11 major media placements generating more than 108 million press impressions, positioning the organization nationally as a real pipeline into Hollywood careers for autistic adults, not just a feel-good local story.

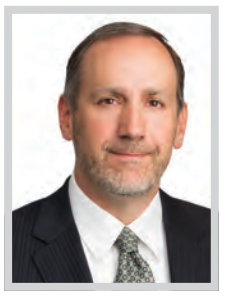


CHARLENE DIMAS-PEINADO

President; CEO
Wellnest

Charlene Dimas-Peinado is a transformational nonprofit leader whose career has been defined by one guiding principle: that every child, young person, and family deserves the opportunity to heal, thrive, and build a better future.

For more than 20 years, Dimas-Peinado has combined the clinical expertise of a licensed psychotherapist with the strategic vision of an accomplished CEO to fundamentally reshape how communities think about mental health, housing, and whole-person care. Since becoming president and CEO of Wellnest in 2016, the organization reimagined its identity, evolving from the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic to Wellnest, a modern, integrated behavioral health and housing organization.

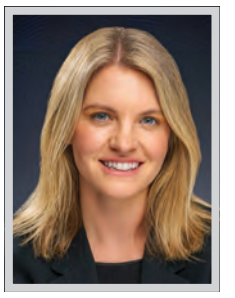


DENNIS EHLING

Partner
Blank Rome LLP

For nearly two decades, Dennis M.P. Ehling has demonstrated that true leadership is measured by how success is used in service of others. He has built one of the most respected careers in the gaming industry during a period that fundamentally transformed the sector. He positioned himself at the forefront of those developments, helping companies navigate opportunities and challenges that often lacked established precedent.

What makes Ehling's career particularly noteworthy is his early recognition that gaming was evolving beyond its traditional roots. As online gaming and sports wagering expanded nationwide, he helped companies enter emerging markets while navigating increasingly complex regulatory landscapes. He also became a trusted advisor on the business and legal implications of digital payments.

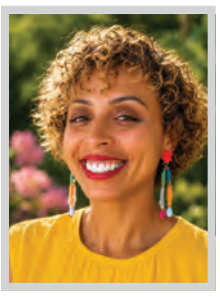


KATHRYN EIDMANN

President; Chief Executive Officer; Helen & Morgan Chu Distinguished Chair
Public Counsel

In a single year, Los Angeles weathered catastrophic wildfires and a wave of aggressive federal immigration enforcement — and through both crises, Kathryn Eidmann positioned Public Counsel as a frontline defender of communities under threat.

Before stepping into Public Counsel's top leadership role, Eidmann spent more than a decade directing innovative legal advocacy to expand opportunity for low-income communities in LA and nationwide, litigating major cases involving education equity, children's rights, the criminalization of poverty, immigrants' rights, and housing and homelessness. A respected civil rights lawyer, Eidmann earned a California Lawyer of the Year award for her victory in People v. Dueñas, a landmark decision limiting mandatory court fees for indigent criminal defendants.

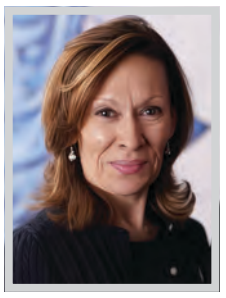


NAKEYA FIELDS

Founder; Chief Executive Officer
The Therapeutic Play Foundation

Nakeya T. Fields, LCSW, PPSE, RPT-S, is the founder and CEO of The Therapeutic Play Foundation (TPF), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit transforming how behavioral health, community wellness, and healthcare are delivered in historically underserved communities. With more than two decades of experience, Fields has dedicated her career to creating innovative, culturally responsive solutions that bridge behavioral health, healthcare, workforce development, and community engagement.

Under Fields's leadership, TPF has evolved into a trusted community-based organization that integrates Enhanced Care Management, Community Health Worker services, behavioral health, maternal and family wellness, youth development, and community resource navigation into a coordinated continuum of care.

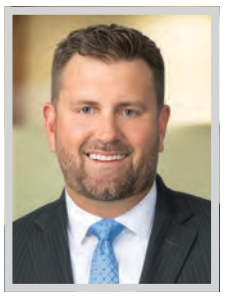


YOLIE FLORES

CEO; President
Families In Schools

Yolie Flores has dedicated her life to ensuring that students (and their families) furthest from opportunity have the education and support they need to succeed in life and career. In all the roles she has previously served in her career, including LAUSD Board member, to her current role as CEO and President of Families In Schools, she has led with courage and inclusiveness.

Most recently, Flores' work has brought attention to the important of Science of Reading statewide, and with the passage of AB 1454 in 2025, high-quality evidence-based reading materials will now be required with $200 million will now be available for teacher training. Her role to move beyond the "reading wars" to a consensus-driven movement has been profound.

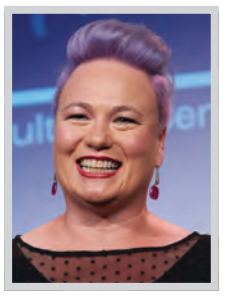


JOHN GIOVANNONE

Founding Partner
Giovannone Law Corporation

John R. Giovannone has built an exceptional career as a labor and employment attorney, distinguished by the breadth of his litigation experience, the caliber of his clients, and his ability to bridge two sides of the employment relationship. In 2025, he founded Giovannone Law Corporation, where he and his team represent both employers and employees.

Giovannone's commitment to community service extends well beyond his professional responsibilities. In 2016, he joined the Southern California Chapter Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society because of a deeply personal connection to the disease and desire to make a difference. He quickly raised his hand to do whatever he could to advance the Society's mission, with a particular focus on driving research dollars toward a cure for MS.



SHANE MURPHY GOLDSMITH

President; CEO
Liberty Hill Foundation

Shane Murphy Goldsmith is the president & CEO of the Liberty Hill Foundation, one of the nation's most admired social change foundations and a leader in funding grassroots community organizing in Los Angeles. Since becoming CEO in 2013, Goldsmith has transformed Liberty Hill into a powerful force for systemic change, significantly expanding its capacity, influence, and impact across the region.

Under Goldsmith's visionary leadership, Liberty Hill's annual budget has grown form approximately $8 million to more than $30 million, enabling the foundation to make its largest-ever investments in grassroots organizing, leadership development, advocacy, and movement building.

DANIEL L. GORDON

Founder
Gordon Philanthropies

Through Gordon Philanthropies, Daniel Gordon has focused on practical, measurable support for children and families across Los Angeles County, with a particular emphasis on literacy, family connection, and community resilience. His work reflects a clear belief that philanthropy should not simply fund good intentions; it should solve real problems in tangible ways.

One of Gordon's most meaningful accomplishments is helping to drive the donation of more than one million books across Los Angeles County, a milestone that reflects both scale and sustained commitment. Under his leadership, Gordon Philanthropies has supported children's literacy initiatives, pediatric hospital reading programs, children's library efforts, and family-centered initiatives that deliver books and educational materials directly to those who need them most.

On behalf of the CBRE Team:

Congratulations, Tonja Boykin!

2026 Leader of Influence:
Nonprofits & Philanthropy
Los Angeles Business Journal

Your leadership at Weingart Center Association continues to shape a stronger, more resilient Los Angeles.

This recognition is a testament not only to your remarkable impact, but also to your steadfast dedication to the community and the individuals you serve.

Through your efforts to help residents secure safe, stable housing and foster an inclusive, supportive environment, you have created meaningful opportunities for individuals to improve their quality of life.

Since joining Weingart Center as Chief Operating Officer in 2016, you have applied three decades of nonprofit leadership to some of Los Angeles's most pressing housing challenges, building the strategy and infrastructure that turn vision into lasting outcomes for the people you serve. That impact has been recognized time and again, from being named one of LA's 50 Power Women in Real Estate Development to receiving the City of Los Angeles Impact Maker to Watch Award, and this latest honor continues that well-deserved legacy.

CBRE is proud to celebrate this well-earned honor with you.

CBRE

WEINGART

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

JEROME GREENING

CEO
PUENTE Learning Center

Jerome Greening has devoted his career to strengthening educational opportunity and community well-being in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. Over more than two decades at PUENTE Learning Center, he has served in numerous leadership roles, bringing a rare combination of institutional knowledge, operational excellence, and mission-driven leadership.

As CEO, Greening has guided PUENTE through a period of remarkable growth and stability, leading the organization to an annual operating budget exceeding $10 million while preserving its unwavering focus on serving the community. Under his leadership, PUENTE expanded its charter school to serve students from Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade, creating a stronger educational pathway for families.

HOWARD GROBSTEIN

Board President
Cory Fights Back

Cory Fights Back is one of Howard Grobstein's most meaningful and successful accomplishments to date. Founded in loving memory of his fiancée, Cory Zera, after her courageous battle with ovarian cancer, the nonprofit reflects Howard's ability to turn personal loss into purposeful action. Within months of Cory's passing in February 2025, he moved the organization from concept to execution.

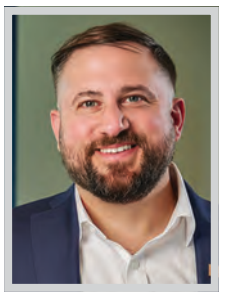
Under Grobstein's guidance, Cory Fights Back held its inaugural fundraising event on October 4, 2025, benefiting the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and generating nearly $160,000 through sponsorships, ticket sales, auction participation, and individual donations. In its first year, the foundation also built an active social media presence, shared stories from individuals affected by ovarian cancer, expanded community awareness, and developed partnerships.

RACHEL GROSE

Executive Director
Jewish Free Loan Association

Rachel Grose has devoted her professional career to strengthening Los Angeles' nonprofit community and expanding access to financial opportunity. As executive director of Jewish Free Loan Association (JFLA), she leads a 122-year-old nonprofit built on a distinctive model: providing zero-interest, zero-fee loans to individuals and families who may not qualify for traditional financing, helping borrowers address critical needs while preserving dignity and promoting self-sufficiency.

Grose joined JFLA more than two decades ago and was named executive director in 2017. Her progression through the organization reflects the breadth of her leadership. She has worked across fundraising, program development, donor relations, board development, technology, marketing and organizational strategy, while helping advance JFLA's mission of providing equitable access to clean capital.



HRAG HAMALIAN

CEO
TGR Foundation

Hrag Hamalian is a transformational nonprofit executive and education leader whose career has been dedicated to expanding educational opportunity for students from under-resourced communities. For more than 20 years, he has built innovative schools, led high-impact nonprofit organizations and developed strategic partnerships that help young people discover passions and prepare for college, careers and lifelong success. As CEO of TGR Foundation, Hamalian leads the organization's strategic vision, advancing its mission to empower students through education while positioning the Foundation for its next era of growth and impact.

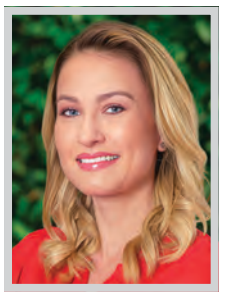
Hrag was appointed CEO in early 2026, reflecting the Board's confidence in the leadership he had demonstrated in expanding the Foundation's educational programs, partnerships and national reach.

JOE HOLLENDONER

Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles LGBT Center

Joe Hollendoner has dedicated nearly 25 years to leading nonprofit, healthcare, and equity organizations focused on public health and social impact. As CEO of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, he oversees the world's largest provider of direct services for LGBTQ+ people, leading an organization of more than 800 employees across 10 locations that serves more than 420,000 client visits annually.

Under Hollendoner's leadership, the Center continues to expand its impact while responding to the unique needs of LGBTQ+ communities. The organization provides a holistic model of care that spans four broad categories: Health, Social Services and Housing, Culture and Education, and Leadership and Advocacy, while remaining a trusted resource for LGBTQ+ people across Los Angeles. He prioritizes protecting critical services while ensuring responsiveness to the community.

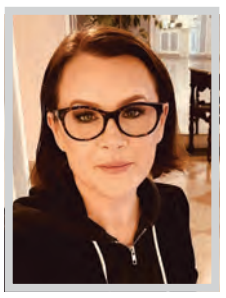


MELANIE HOROWITZ

Principal
GHJ

Melanie Horowitz, CPA, plays a huge role in the Nonprofit Practice at GHJ and the development of the Audit and Assurance Practice's training, learning, development and client-centric approach to service. Her dedication to excellence and impactful contributions to the nonprofit community make her a standout Leader of Influence: Nonprofit and Philanthropy.

Horowitz provides auditing and consulting services to a diverse range of nonprofit clients, including organizations that offer social services like child development, mental health and educational services. Her expertise helps these organizations maintain financial stability and compliance and enables them to focus on their critical missions. Her work ensures that nonprofit organizations can operate effectively and foster trust among stakeholders.

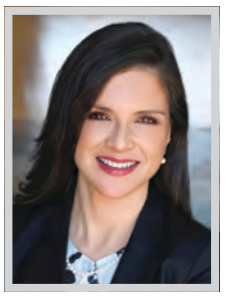


JENNIFER HOWELL

CEO; Founder
The Art of Elysium

Jennifer Howell is the founder and CEO of The Art of Elysium, the Los Angeles-based nonprofit she established in 1997 with a simple yet transformative belief: art is not a luxury; it is an essential part of healing. Nearly three decades later, that vision has grown into one of the nation's most respected arts-based service organizations, engaging thousands of professional artists who volunteer their time to bring creative experiences to children and adults facing hospitalization, homelessness, elder isolation, disability, military service, and other life challenges.

Howell continually reimagines how creativity can serve communities in need. Under her leadership, The Art of Elysium has expanded into a multidisciplinary organization encompassing visual art, music, film, fashion, design, literary arts, education, and community engagement.

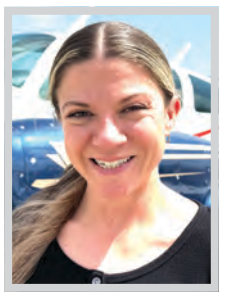


MARIA HUNTER

Market President, Los Angeles
Enterprise Bank & Trust

Maria Hunter is market president, Los Angeles, at Enterprise Bank & Trust. She spearheads the bank's Greater Los Angeles commercial banking strategy, and continues to demonstrate professional excellence coupled with an unwavering commitment to aligning business financial partnership and community impact.

As a leader, Hunter consistently engages with the business community and associations through Enterprise-hosted event partnerships, roundtables and guest speaking. She is particularly dedicated to supporting and donating to community organizations focused on youth and social responsibility, including the Los Altos Family YMCA, where she has held roles on its board for 10 years, including a three-year term as Board Chair. A longtime volunteer with Junior Achievement of Orange County & Inland Empire, Hunter joined its board in 2025.

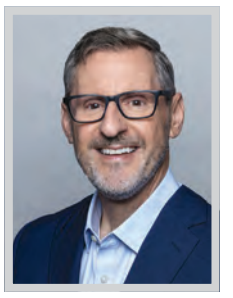


MARY HUNTER

Executive Director
Angel Flight West

Mary Hunter's most successful career accomplishment is her masterful leadership transition and ongoing strategic expansion as the executive director of Angel Flight West (AFW). Having dedicated years to the o rganization—previously serving with distinction as the development director— Hunter stepped into the top leadership role with an intimate, ground-level understanding of AFW's mission. Her ultimate accomplishment has been scaling the organization's reach across 12 Western states while maintaining the heart of its volunteer-led culture.

Under Hunter's direction, Angel Flight West has significantly deepened its impact, coordinating thousands of free, non-emergency medical flights annually for children and adults facing severe geographical and financial barriers to care.



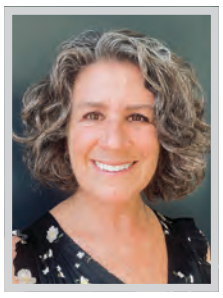
DIMITRI KALES

Chief Executive Officer
Braille Institute of America

Braille Institute CEO Dimitri Kales has an ambitious goal to change the face of low vision support in the US and improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Since Kales became CEO in 2022, Braille Institute has changed from a respected nonprofit providing free services for people with blindness or low vision on a mostly local level, to one that is making a difference on a national scale.

Kales led the development of a five-year strategic plan, called Mission Magnified, which aims to reach 200,000 people by 2030, 10 times the number Braille Institute served when it launched. He started Vision Support America to help the millions who are experiencing vision changes and who do not have access to support.

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

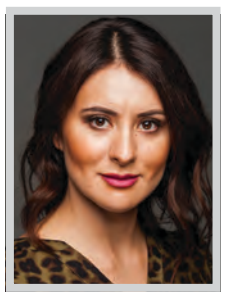


STEPHANIE KLASKY-GAMER

Chief Executive Officer
LA Family Housing

For nearly two decades, Stephanie Klasky-Gamer's nonprofit leadership has helped LA Family Housing transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of Angelenos by advancing a simple and urgent mission of helping people transition out of homelessness and poverty and into permanent housing and greater stability.

Since becoming president and CEO of LA Family Housing in January 2007, Klasky-Gamer has helped transform the organization into one of Los Angeles County's largest homeless service providers and a leading developer of permanent, supportive, and affordable homes. Her nearly 30-year career in social and economic justice has uniquely positioned her to lead in solutions to some of Los Angeles' most complex challenges.

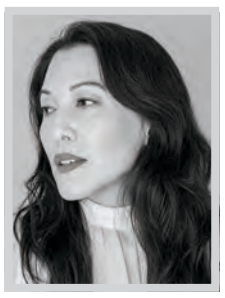


OLGA KLOCHKO

CFO
Men's Health Foundation

Olga Klochko, known for being an amazingly energetic, and dynamic individual, joined Men's Health Foundation six years ago and has had a tremendous impact on the organization and on its company culture. She started as the Foundation's controller and excelled such that when the CFO position became open, she was seen as the ideal candidate. She has served as CFO for the past four years and led the nonprofit to a place of fiscal security and safety.

Last year, the CEO took time off and Klochko stepped into the role with confidence and skill. She led the organization through steep federal cutbacks. She not only kept the ship afloat, she also grew the organization, the company culture, and the happiness of the Foundation's employees.



ANN YOUNG LEE

Co-Founder; CEO
CORE Response

Ann Young Lee is one of the foremost humanitarian leaders shaping the future of emergency response and recovery for vulnerable communities in and beyond crises around the globe.

For more than two decades — from conflict zones in Haiti, Ukraine, Sudan and Syria to natural disasters across the Caribbean and United States – Lee took a founder-driven earthquake relief effort, co-founded alongside Sean Penn after Haiti's 2010 earthquake, and built it into CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) — a global emergency response organization operating on six continents. CORE is credited with 42 disaster responses and 14.4 million people helped, led by a team of nearly 200 humanitarian staff. CORE's operations have spanned North America, South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

JEFF LEVINE

President; CEO
Long Beach Rescue Mission

In his role as president and CEO since July 2022, Jeff Levine's leadership has been impactful to the community, bringing transformation, renewal and growth to Long Beach Rescue Mission. Under his leadership, the Mission's services and programs have expanded with the opening of Apostle House, a home for unhoused disabled veterans.

Recognizing the need for the most vulnerable to have a safe-haven, Levine led the team into a new season of expansion for a new three-story Lydia House, which will provide 60 additional beds to women and mothers with children who are often living in their cars for shelter. Last year, under Levine's leadership, the Mission also opened Timothy House, a safe haven for young men 18-24 years old experiencing homelessness.

KARL LOTT

Partner
Holland & Knight

Karl J. Lott has distinguished himself as one of Southern California's premier commercial real estate attorneys through more than three decades of leadership in some of the region's most significant real estate, finance, leasing, and development matters.

Lott's commitment to pro bono service reflects his longstanding dedication to improving lives and expanding access to justice. He successfully represented a young man from El Salvador in a complex asylum matter, securing protection for his client who had suffered severe persecution, violence and threats from both gangs and military forces because of his sexual orientation. Lott has also leveraged his legal expertise to support nonprofit organizations, including obtaining tax-exempt status for a startup nonprofit focused on serving underprivileged youth.

HAYNES FAMILY OF PROGRAMS / David&Margaret YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Fostering Growth and Success

Congratulations, Daniel S. Maydeck

Los Angeles Business Journal Leaders of Influence Nominee

As President & CEO of Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, Dan leads a **$48M organization** serving over **5,000 children and families a year**. Now, his vision and leadership have earned him a nomination for LABJ's Nonprofit Leader of Influence.

Scan to learn more about Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services

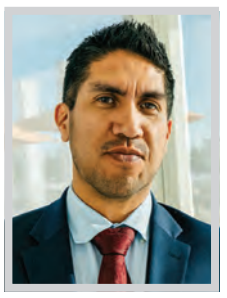
LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

KAREN MACK

Founder; Executive Director
LA Commons

Karen Mack is a visionary cultural leader, community builder and arts advocate whose work has transformed what it means to create cultural connections and increase civic engagement via the power of artists and youth development in Los Angeles. As founder and executive director of LA Commons, which she launched in 2000, Mack has dedicated her career to building community connection in LA.

By creating opportunities for community members, mainly in South LA, Mack's work has helped thousands express themselves, preserve their unique stories and use creativity as a tool for stronger, more connected communities. Under Mack's leadership, LA Commons has become a nationally recognized organization that utilizes a unique model for collecting community stories and transforming them into public artworks.

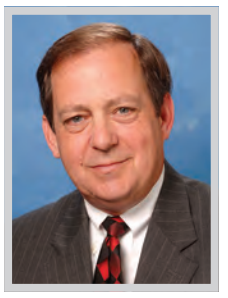


JULIO MARCIAL

Chief Impact Officer
Liberty Hill Foundation

Julio Marcial is the chief impact officer of the Liberty Hill Foundation, one of the nation's most admired social change foundations and a leader in funding grassroots community organizing in Los Angeles. In this capacity, Marcial leads foundation strategy, government and cross-sector partnerships, public policy, research, and evaluation, while overseeing the organization's transformative justice and youth justice portfolio.

Under Marcial's leadership, Liberty Hill has strengthened efforts to reduce reliance on the justice system and advance a "care first, jails last" approach that prioritizes prevention, healing, and community investment over punishment. His work has helped elevate community-centered approaches to justice reform, influencing policy discussions and funding strategies.

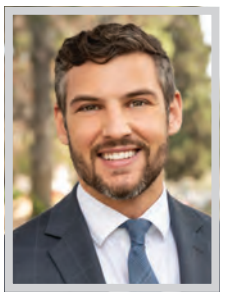


DANIEL S. MAYDECK

President; Chief Executive Officer
Haynes Family of Programs / David & Margaret Youth and Family Services

As president and CEO, Daniel S. Maydeck successfully leads Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, overseeing organizations that collectively serve more than 5,000 children, youth, and families annually; employ approximately 600 staff members with more than 900 associates statewide; operate with an annual budget of approximately $48 million; and positively impacted more than 110,000 lives over their history.

These accomplishments demonstrate the leadership of an executive who has strengthened essential community institutions while expanding access to critical services for vulnerable children, youth, and families. Maydeck's ability to grow responsive programs demonstrates his vision, resilience, and accountability.

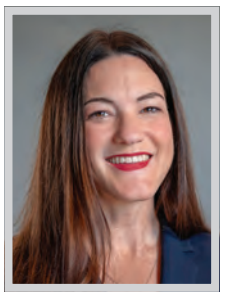


STEPHEN MILLER

Chief of Operations, USC Norris Cancer Hospital
Keck Medicine of USC

Stephen Miller is a leader making a lasting impact through the lives he helps change every day. As chief of operations for USC Norris Cancer Hospital and the Cancer Service Line at Keck Medicine of USC, he plays a critical role in ensuring patients receive world-class cancer care at one of the nation's leading academic medical centers.

Miller never loses sight of the people behind the metrics. He consistently goes above and beyond to remove barriers, improve access to care, and create systems that help patients receive timely, high-quality treatment when they need it most. Whether navigating complex healthcare challenges or identifying opportunities for innovation, his guiding principle is the same: "how can we better serve patients and their families?"



ELIZABETH MITCHELL

Partner
Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP

Elizabeth Mitchell has built one of the more compelling legal careers in Los Angeles litigation, and her work as a partner at Umhofer, Mitchell & King LLP reflects both deep courtroom experience and a genuine commitment to the causes she represents.

Beyond the courtroom, Mitchell has remained active in service to the profession and to her community. She is involved with the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and California Women Lawyers, organizations dedicated to advancing women in the legal field, and she serves on the Cedars-Sinai NICU Parent Family Council, channeling personal experience into support for other families. Colleagues have described her as a tireless advocate who balances a demanding trial practice with genuine dedication to mentorship and community.

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

CYNTHIA MITCHELL-HEARD

President; CEO
Los Angeles Urban League

Cynthia Mitchell-Heard's appointment as president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League represents the culmination of more than 25 years devoted to nonprofit management, government, philanthropy and community advancement. A nationally recognized social-impact strategist, coalition builder and philanthropic change agent.

Mitchell-Heard became Los Angeles Urban League's first female chief operating officer and, in 2023, the first woman in more than 90 years to lead the organization as president and CEO. Her advancement within the League reflects the natural progression of a career dedicated to strengthening institutions that serve communities too often excluded from economic opportunity.

IFUNANYA NWEKE

Founder; Executive Director
Jazz Hands For Autism

Dr. Ifunanya Nweke, Ed.D. is the founder and executive director of Jazz Hands For Autism, a Culver City-based nonprofit she built into one of the country's leading organizations serving autistic musicians through music education. For nearly twelve years, Dr. Nweke has led JHFA's growth from a single idea into a multi-program organization built around the Jazz Hands Music Academy, an educator training program, and a biannual concert series.

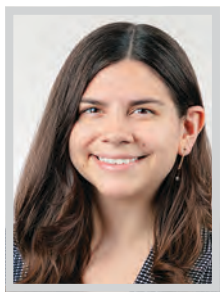
Under Dr. Nweke's leadership, JHFA's Jazz Hands Educator Training program has now trained more than 100 educators, collectively reaching more than 1,400 students, with a goal of 400-plus trained educators by the end of 2026. JHFA's musicians have played more than 300 gigs, the majority paid, earning more than $54,000 directly from their craft.

STEVE O'CONNELL

President; CEO
California Credit Union

Steve O'Connell has built a career defined by the belief that successful organizations have an equally important responsibility to strengthen the communities they serve. As president and CEO of California Credit Union, he has transformed one of Southern California's largest credit unions into a recognized leader in financial inclusion, education and community investment while delivering exceptional business performance.

During O'Connell's tenure, California Credit Union has grown to nearly $5.4 billion in assets, serving more than 200,000 members nationwide and earning recognition as a Forbes Best-In-State Credit Union. O'Connell has led more than $4.2 million in community investments supporting educators, students, military families and nonprofit organizations throughout Southern California.

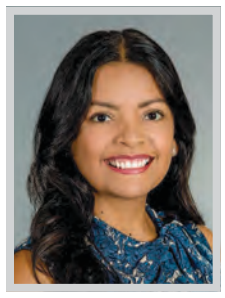


DANA ONTIVEROS

Associate
Snell & Wilmer

Dana Ontiveros is an accomplished corporate and securities attorney who advises clients on mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings, and corporate governance matters. She has played a key role in complex, high-value transactions across a range of industries, including technology, healthcare, and consumer products.

Ontiveros is deeply committed to community service and philanthropic leadership, particularly in education and the arts for underserved communities. She serves on the board of two nonprofit organizations: PUENTE Learning Center, where she serves as chair and supports the organization's mission of expanding access to educational opportunities, and Grand Performances, which provides free arts and music events to the local community.



CONSTANZA PACHON

Chief Executive Officer
The Whole Child

As CEO of The Whole Child, Constanza Pachon has established herself as one of Los Angeles County's most influential nonprofit leaders by transforming how children and families access critical mental health, housing, parenting, and family support services. Since joining the organization in 2018, she has led a remarkable period of strategic growth, increasing annual revenue from $9 million to more than $30 million while expanding services to meet the growing needs of communities throughout Southeast Los Angeles County.

Amid ongoing challenges facing children and families, Pachon has remained steadfast in expanding access to integrated, family-centered care while strengthening partnerships across healthcare, education, government, philanthropy, and the nonprofit community.

Braille Institute congratulates...

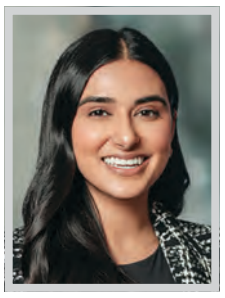
Dimitri Kales
Chief Executive Officer
Braille Institute of America

... on his recognition as a Los Angeles Business Journal 2026 Leader of Influence.

Driven by a belief that every person deserves the opportunity to thrive, Dimitri is leading Braille Institute through a period of unprecedented growth. Through Vision Support America (VSA), our new initiative for people experiencing low vision, he is expanding access to free vision support for communities across the U.S. We celebrate Dimitri's compassionate leadership and bold vision that continue to inspire and move our mission forward.

Vision Support America℠ | Braille Institute® | VisionSupport.org | BrailleInstitute.org

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY



AASHIKA PATEL

Partner
CCS Fundraising

As a partner at CCS Fundraising, Aashika Patel plays a pivotal role leading and growing CCS's client partnerships across Los Angeles, Southern California, and the Western United States. For more than 14 years, she has worked alongside nonprofit organizations, foundations, educational institutions, healthcare systems, and cultural organizations to build fundraising capacity, inspire philanthropic investment, and help leaders achieve transformational impact.

Patel is recognized for her rare combination of strategic rigor and relationship-centered leadership, enabling organizations to raise significant resources while building stronger boards, leadership teams, and cultures of philanthropy. Since 2019 alone, she has advised 65 nonprofit organizations across nine philanthropic sectors throughout the Western United States.

CORRENDA PERKINS

Chief Program Officer
Hillsides

Under Correnda Perkins' leadership, Hillsides successfully introduced AI to help clinical teams spend less time on paperwork and more time focused on the children, youth, and families they serve. She led the transition of 150 clinicians from traditional, time-consuming documentation to an ethical AI-assisted process. The time required to complete a typical client note dropped from an average of 20 minutes to just 4.4 minutes, saving Hillsides team members more than 10,000 hours in 2025 alone. That time can now be redirected toward clients, meaningful interactions, and employee wellbeing.

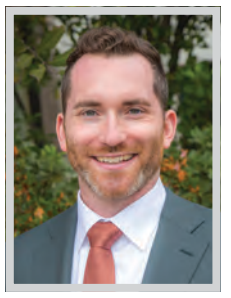
Correnda's leadership extends beyond innovation in clinical care. She has been a strong advocate for transition-age youth and has championed new ways to help them build the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive.

STACY PHILLIPS

Partner, Family & Matrimonial
Blank Rome LLP

The Adopt-A-Center Program (AAC) was founded in 1999 by Stacy D. Phillips and her former law firm, Phillips Lerner, to support and raise the public profile of Los Angeles-based nonprofit organizations helping underserved children and families. When Phillips joined Blank Rome in 2016, firm leadership and colleagues embraced the program, and it became Blank Rome's Adopt-A-Center Program. With a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to COVID, this year marks the 25th anniversary of AAC.

AAC annually partners with an LA-based nonprofit organization helping children and families from underserved communities. Together, Phillips, Blank Rome and the "adopted" organization plan an event for the nonprofit's constituents, as well as guests of the nonprofit and Blank Rome.

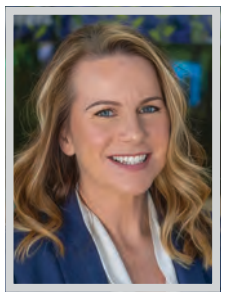


JUSTIN PRESSMAN

Executive Director, Western Region
American Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Under Justin Pressman's leadership, the Western Region has achieved significant philanthropic growth, highlighted by the unprecedented success of Los Angeles' flagship event, the Bel Air Affaire, which has become one of the organization's most successful national fundraising events.

Through strategic relationship-building and creative engagement, Pressman has helped secure transformational support spanning student scholarships, medical research, international academic collaboration, and programs addressing some of society's most pressing challenges. His approach to philanthropy extends beyond fundraising – creating meaningful connections between donors and the researchers, students, and discoveries that are shaping the future.

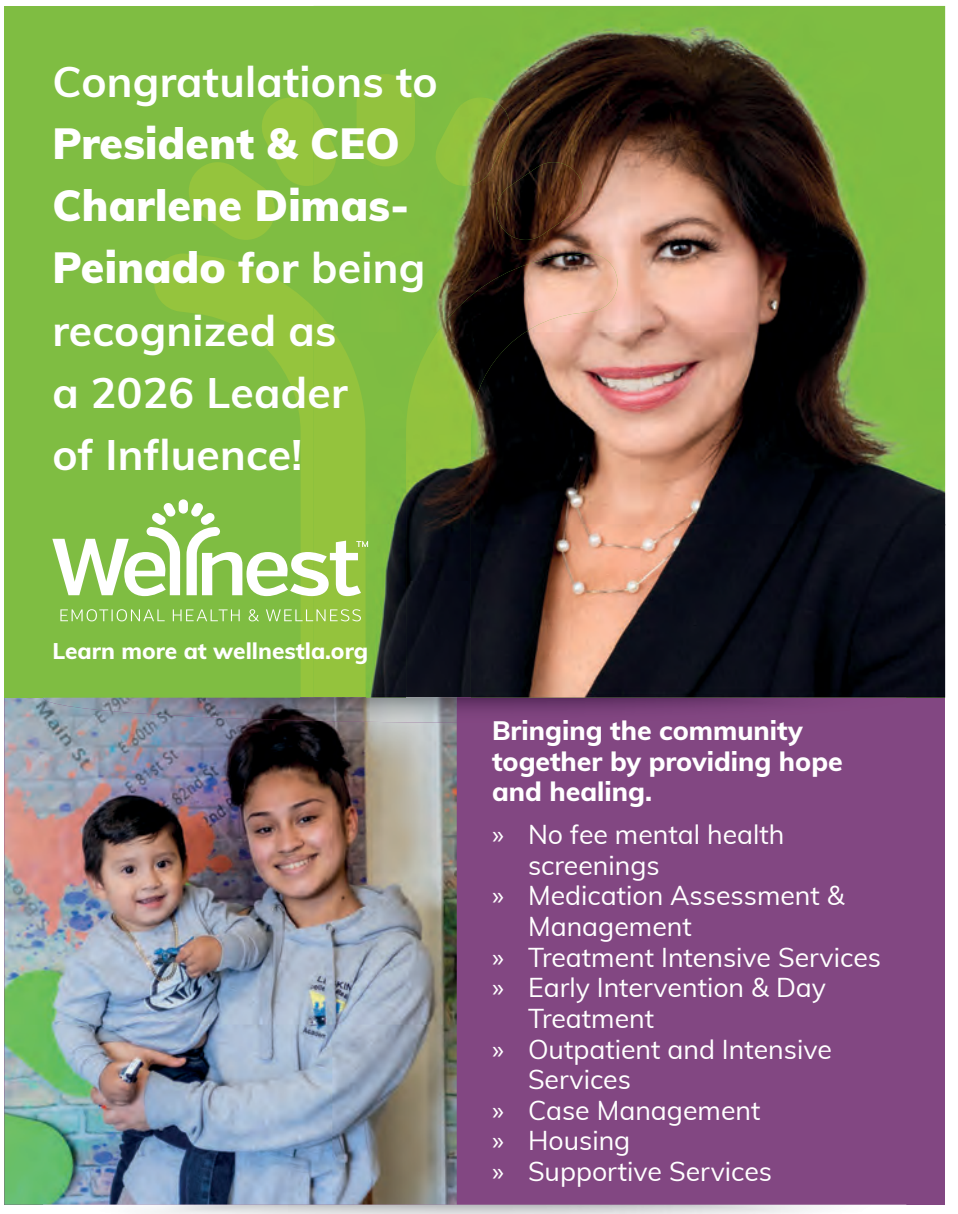


TRACY QUINN

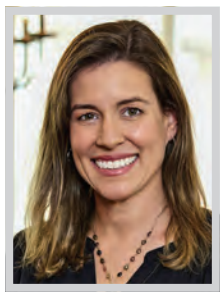
President; CEO
Heal the Bay

Tracy Quinn has built a career around one guiding principle: using science, engineering, and public policy to solve some of California's most pressing water challenges. Her leadership has consistently bridged the gap between technical expertise and real-world environmental impact, making her one of the state's most respected voices on water quality, climate resilience, and equitable water policy.

As president and CEO of Heal the Bay, Quinn leads a multidisciplinary team of scientists, policy experts, educators, and outreach specialists working to protect the health of Southern California's watersheds and coastal waters. Under her leadership, Heal the Bay has strengthened its role as one of California's leading environmental organizations.



LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

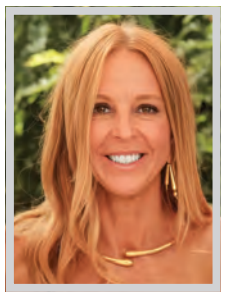


ERIN ROSS

CEO
Girls Inc. of Los Angeles

Erin Ross has led one of the most significant periods of growth in Girls Inc. of Los Angeles' history, expanding both the organization's reach and its long-term impact for girls across Los Angeles. Under her leadership, Girls Inc. LA has grown from serving eight to twelve Los Angeles Unified School District partner schools – a 50% increase in the last year–while remaining intentionally focused on communities facing systemic barriers to opportunity.

Ross has built a scalable program delivery model centered on consistency, trust and long-term relationships. Girls Inc. LA works alongside school administrators, teachers and families as a year-round partner, becoming deeply embedded within each campus community. This year, Girls Inc. LA launched its first-ever high school partnership at Venice High School.

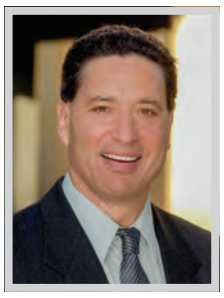


TARA ROTH

President
Goldhirsh Foundation

Tara Roth is the president of the Goldhirsh Foundation, a 100% mission-aligned foundation that supports innovation via its financial, human, and social capital. Every day, Roth provides visionary, values-driven leadership to one of the region's most vital organizations. She oversees all aspects of the Foundation, including its popular LA2050 initiative, which is home to the innovative and entrepreneurial LA2050 Grants Challenge. While LA2050 may be modest in staff size and budget, under Roth's leadership, LA2050 has become a movement.

The numbers speak for themselves. In the 2026 edition of the LA2050 Grants Challenge, Roth led efforts that saw Angelenos cast more than 110,000 votes selecting the issues that matter most to them. This groundbreaking transparent process brings to the fore 10 top issues.

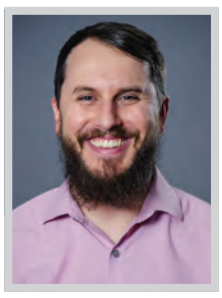


JEFFREY RUDOLPH

President; CEO
California Science Center

Jeffrey Rudolph is the president and CEO of the California Science Center. For more than 40 years, he has provided the leadership for the planning, design, fundraising, and implementation of the California Science Center's three-decade Master Plan which transformed the California Museum of Science and Industry into the world-class California Science Center in 1998, and created an award-winning Exposition Park Master Plan, guiding the redevelopment of Exposition Park in South Los Angeles.

The third and final phase of the California Science Center's master plan, the 200,000-square-foot Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, will open on November 13, 2026. The $450 million expansion nearly doubles the Science Center's exhibit space and serves as the permanent home of Space Shuttle Endeavour.

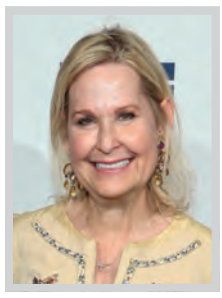


MIKE SCHMUECK

Director, Studio Programs
Exceptional Minds

Michael Schmueck brings a rare combination to his work at Exceptional Minds: real, hands-on experience in high-profile film and television production, and a genuine commitment to building career pathways for autistic adults in the entertainment industry.

What sets Schmueck apart in his field is not just his production background but how he applies it to the unique environment of Exceptional Minds. He translates the standards of a working studio, real deadlines, real client expectations, real crew dynamics, into an environment built for autistic adults who are training for and entering the industry. Since his arrival, the VFX team has had its largest ever project by shot volume, and the largest single season project by revenue, Outer Banks Season 5.



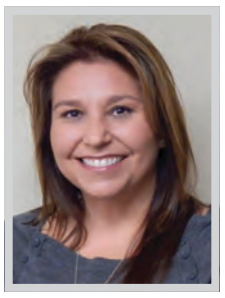
NICOLE SEXTON

President; CEO
Entertainment Industry Foundation

Nicole Sexton leads all day-to-day operations of EIF, the creative community's trusted partner in philanthropy since 1942. Through fiscally sponsored funds, telecasts, programs and PSAs, EIF leverages the strength of the entertainment industry to positively impact millions of people globally. EIF has raised more than $1 billion, granting funds to 200+ nonprofits per year.

EIF's programs and campaigns include Defy:Disaster, the entertainment community's immediate response to natural disasters; EIF Careers Program, which creates a more diverse talent pipeline into film and television careers; and Stand Up To Cancer, which raises funds to accelerate the pace of cancer research. The nonprofit is a fiscal sponsor of funds led by a number of globally recognizable celebrities.

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

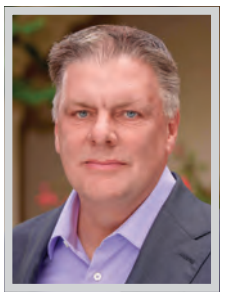


DONNA SNELL

Senior Vice President, Sales, Operations and Marketing
Goodwill SOLAC

Donna Snell has played a pivotal role in growing Goodwill Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC) retail operations and improving operational efficiency. Snell's leadership and stewardship has been the driving force of performance improvement, generating 20% sales growth and 5% operational efficiency, enabling Goodwill to increase the funding of its mission-based career training and job placement to 10,000 individuals in need in the community.

Snell's drive and passion for the mission enabled her to achieve these results despite growing competition, increasing labor rates and falling market prices. In fact, she helped Goodwill SOLAC standout as the only Goodwill Member in California to grow its market share in the thrift industry.



TRENT STAMP

CEO
The Eisner Foundation

Trent Stamp has spent nearly two decades building and leading something entirely new: the only foundation in the United States investing solely in intergenerational solutions to society's challenges.

Since 2008, Stamp has led The Eisner Foundation, the family foundation of former Disney CEO Michael Eisner and his wife, Jane. Under Stamp's leadership, The Eisner Foundation has become a defining voice in a field it helped create: intergenerational programming. Before Trent's tenure, the idea of connecting older adults and youth in mutually beneficial ways was a niche concept. Stamp built the infrastructure, funding strategy, and national platform to turn it into a recognized field of philanthropic practice, earning the Foundation national and international recognition as one of its key leaders.

JOSEPH TAYLOR

Vice President, Workforce Development
Goodwill SOLAC

Joseph Taylor has transformed Workforce Development at Goodwill Southern Los Angeles County into a high-performing, innovative program that creates real opportunities for individuals facing barriers to employment. Through his leadership, the division has expanded both its reach and its impact, now serving approximately 10,000 individuals annually and providing occupational training to nearly 1,000 people each year.

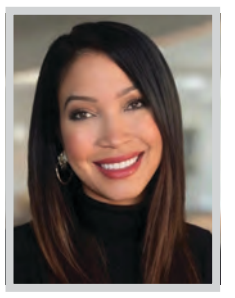
Taylor has led the development and expansion of workforce programs that directly respond to regional labor market needs. Under his leadership, Goodwill has strengthened programs in Certified Nursing Assistant training, Security Officer training, Digital Skills, Supported Employment, and Career Services, while launching new healthcare career pathways.

MANUELA TESTOLINI

Founder; CEO
In a Perfect World

For more than two decades, Manuela Testolini has redefined what youth leadership can look like. The past year marked a significant milestone as In a Perfect World (IAPW) celebrated its 20th anniversary and, alongside young people from Los Angeles, completed its 35th school and classroom internationally. The experience reflected Testolini's belief that leadership is built through meaningful relationships, shared purpose, and service alongside communities.

As the founder of IAPW, Testolini has built one of the most distinctive youth leadership movements in North America by starting with a simple premise: before young people can lead change in the world, they need the opportunity to discover who they are, what they care about, and how they want to show up for others.



JESA TOWNSEND

Founder; CEP
Fund & Found, LLC

Jesa Townsend is a distinguished senior executive in the nonprofit landscape, an arts leader, innovative strategist, and champion for community-centered impact whose career seamlessly blends creativity, social policy, and philanthropic strategy. Her work combines public art, education, nonprofit development, research, and civic engagement to effect measurable change.

Townsend's multifaceted career has been defined by her relentless commitment to using art as a vehicle for community transformation. Her commissioned works have been recognized for their aesthetic impact and their power to amplify community voices and catalyze conversations about identity, equity, and cultural belonging. She has also built a robust career in fund development, where she has raised millions of dollars in public and private funding.

Congratulations

SHAWN M. CARACOZA
President / Chief Operations Officer

Congratulations to Shawn M. Caracoza on being named a Leader of Influence in Nonprofit & Philanthropy!

Shawn's leadership, innovation and commitment to California's communities help advance Pacific Clinics' mission:

We deliver integrated behavioral health care and social services to advance health equity and mental well-being for children, adults and families.

PacificClinics.org

Pacific Clinics.

LISA VON ESCHEN

Partner
Greenberg Glusker LLP

In her more than three decades of practicing law, Lisa Von Eschen has earned a reputation for counseling and defending nonprofit organizations, foundations, and businesses, in state and federal employment law matters.

Von Eschen's nonprofit and philanthropic client base is significant. She serves as a trusted employment advisor to many of the region's most prominent private and family grantmaking foundations, as well as civic organizations dedicated to the city's parks and public spaces, philanthropic arms of major sports and entertainment institutions, housing and civil rights organizations, educational funds, and mission-driven nonprofits spanning youth sports, community development, and civic engagement. She understands that for nonprofits, every dollar spent on a dispute is a dollar diverted from the mission.

JOHN WARNER

Chief Executive Officer
Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles

John Warner is the chief executive officer of Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (MMCC), LA County's only year-round marine mammal rehabilitation center that rescues more marine mammals per mile of coastline than any other organization in the US.

Since joining the organization in 2023, Warner has focused on strengthening the organization's operational and financial capacity while expanding its public-private partnerships throughout Los Angeles County to ensure that MMCC can respond effectively to the growing challenges facing marine wildlife along one of the nation's busiest coastlines. The growth and strength of MMCC have become increasingly important as the organization has responded to repeated domoic acid outbreaks along the Los Angeles County coast.

MARK WILSON

President; CEO
Coalition for Responsible Comm

Mark Anthony Wilson, Jr., has spent more than two decades building opportunities for South Los Angeles residents in the community where he was raised. In 2005, he co-founded the Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) alongside Ruth M. Teague, Noemi Soto, Fernando Miranda, and Hugo Ortiz. He served as CRCD's executive director for its first decade and now leads CRCD and its related entities as President and CEO.

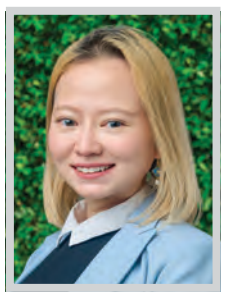
Under Wilson's leadership, CRCD has grown from a community-based organization focused primarily on young people in Vernon-Central into a comprehensive community development organization addressing housing, education, employment, small business growth, and neighborhood investment. CRCD has grown to an ecosystem of approximately 250 employees and a $60 million annual budget.

STEPHANIE YAN

Managing Director
GHJ

Stephanie Yan, CPA, is GHJ's Private Foundation practice leader and a managing director. With over 25 years of experience in public accounting and deep expertise in private foundations, her leadership has helped establish GHJ as a trusted advisor in the private foundation space that is known for both technical excellence and personalized guidance.

Yan specializes in audit, accounting and consulting services for private foundations, museums and nonprofit organizations. She advises mission-driven organizations with a depth of business acumen. This is because she began her career in corporate accounting, which allowed her to gain valuable experience in both privately held and public companies. As a bilingual professional with global experience, she brings an inclusive and international lens to her work in philanthropy.

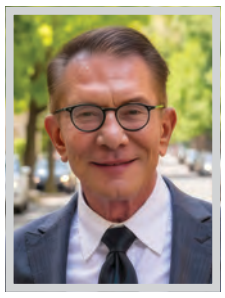


YOYO YANG

Manager
GHJ

Yoyo (Yi) Yang is an accomplished accounting professional and emerging leader in the nonprofit sector whose career has been defined by service, technical excellence, and a commitment to helping mission-driven organizations create meaningful impact in their communities. As a manager at GHJ, Yang specializes in nonprofit assurance services and brings nine years of accounting experience to her role, serving as a trusted advisor to charitable organizations, educational institutions, and social service agencies throughout California.

Yang has dedicated her expertise to supporting nonprofit organizations in achieving financial transparency, accountability, and compliance with complex state and federal requirements. Her work helps organizations strengthen donor confidence, improve governance practices, and demonstrate responsible stewardship of resources.



JAMES J. YUKEVICH

Partner; Founder
Yukevich | Cavanaugh

In his over three decades of legal experience, James Yukevich has cemented his status as one of the best and most sought-after litigators in the country, winning incredibly high-profile cases in areas involving liability, damages, proposed recalls, and public relations.

In the last 20 years, Yukevich has served on the Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Food Bank and in the last 10 years has raised over four million dollars to help combat the alarming extent of food insecurity. Yukevich's ability to continuously raise millions of dollars over the past decade for the Food Bank has earned him multiple accolades. Yukevich is also an active participant in countless organizations dedicated to furthering the betterment of the legal profession.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL'S

2026 LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

The Changing Corporate Philanthropy Landscape Under OBBB

US charitable giving is expected to be lower under new tax provisions included in the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) law enacted in 2025 than it otherwise would have been under previous law, according to a new research report researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and presented by CCS Fundraising. The study also estimates that more households will give to charity than previously gave.

The report, Philanthropy Outlook: Estimating Effects on Charitable Giving from the One Big Beautiful Bill, estimates how specific policy changes in the new law (also known as 2025 H.R. 1 and Public Law 119-21) will affect both household and corporate giving, as well as the combined effects on giving.

The research provides estimates of the anticipated shift in giving behavior resulting from each of the policy changes, holding everything else constant (e.g., income, wealth, GDP, the stock market, and other factors). It thus represents long-run annual effects of the policy changes, rather than predictions for any particular year.

> 'This is a moment for nonprofits to adapt with clarity by educating supporters and refining strategies that welcome both major contributions and the cumulative strength of smaller gifts. At CCS, we view shifts like these as catalysts for more resilient fundraising.'
>
> GREG HAGIN
> CCS Fundraising

KEY FINDINGS:

Overall, the OBBB is estimated to lower charitable giving by about $5.69 billion per year compared to previous law. That is roughly equivalent to about 1% of all U.S. giving.

The number of U.S. households who give is estimated to increase by about 8 million.

Total corporate giving is estimated to be approximately $1.55 billion lower, or -3.5% of total corporate giving.

The above effects may not be fully seen in the first year the law is in effect, as it may take some time for taxpayers to become aware of and adapt to the new policies.

"Tax policy changes shape charitable giving, and their effects vary across different policies, types of donors and ways of giving," said Patrick M. Rooney, Ph.D., professor emeritus of philanthropic studies and economics at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. "Changes that affect high-income households and large corporate donors have the greatest influence on total giving levels. Policies that broaden incentives to give, such as the newly enacted universal charitable deduction, are likely to increase the number of people who give."

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Different nonprofits may experience the decrease differently. The overall estimated decrease in giving is fairly slight relative to total U.S. giving; however, some nonprofits may feel it more acutely. Organizations whose giving comes disproportionately from households in the top 37% tax bracket or that rely heavily on corporate giving could see a larger impact.

Nonprofits that alert their potential donor base to new opportunities may see more giving in the short term. An increase in giving tied to new the universal charitable deduction (UCD) for people who don't itemize on their income taxes will come from households who realize that they now have this opportunity.

Nonprofits may experience shifts in the timing and structure of some gifts as households and especially corporations who are close to the deduction floor on their taxes annually may "bunch" their gifts and instead give and deduct biennially. This may affect how nonprofits solicit and receive gifts.

More smaller-dollar donors are likely to contribute to nonprofits due to the introduction of a UCD. Some types of charitable organizations, such as those providing basic human services, rely more heavily on smaller contributions.

Most corporations no longer have a tax incentive to donate. Charities will need to make their case based on philanthropic and community-based values, as well as enhancing the brand and image of the corporations to consumers, employees and shareholders.

"Changes in tax policy can introduce new complexities for charitable giving, and they can also create opportunities for more donors to engage meaningfully in philanthropy," said Greg Hagin, managing partner at CCS Fundraising. "This is a moment for nonprofits to adapt with clarity by educating supporters and refining strategies that welcome both major contributions and the cumulative strength of smaller gifts. At CCS, we view shifts like these as catalysts for more resilient fundraising."

Learn more at philanthropy.indianapolis.iu.edu.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

GIOVANNONE LAW CORPORATION
www.giolawcorp.com
(213)545-5425

CONGRATULATIONS TO
John Giovannone, Esq.
Member, Board of Trustees
National MS Society, Southern California

LA Business Journal's
2026 Leaders of Influence,
Non-Profit & Philanthropy

John has transformed his personal connection to MS into a passionate pursuit of a cure through his leadership, advocacy, and generosity.

Connect with National MS Society to learn more about its vision for a world free of MS.

Congratulations to Yolie Flores on being named an LABJ Leader of Influence!

Yolie Flores, President & CEO

Your leadership is building a Los Angeles where families are true partners, children become strong readers, and every child has the opportunity to thrive.
— Families In Schools' Staff and Board

Partner with us to advance early literacy across LA!

Families In Schools+
familiesinschools.org

LOI: NONPROFIT & PHILANTHROPY

Baby Boomers' Unique Relationship with Charitable Giving

While many retirees work with a financial advisor, only half have had a charitable planning conversation

Fidelity Charitable, an independent public charity and the nation's largest grantmaker, shared findings from its "Charitable living and the new retirement" study, highlighting how donors age 50+ plan for and engage in charitable giving during retirement. With more than four million Baby Boomers turning 65 this year, the study shows that more than half of pre-retirees and retirees ages 50-80 are committed to giving, with 78% saying that charitable giving plays a significant role in their lives.

"Retirement is an exciting new chapter in life that creates opportunities for retirees to spend more time and resources in support of the meaningful causes they care about, but it also has implications for charities and financial advisors. While the intent and desire to make a difference are strong with retiring donors, there is a knowledge gap around tax-smart strategies," said Amy Pirozzolo, head of marketing at Fidelity Charitable. "That is where we can help them make charitable dollars go further and ensure they achieve their goal of doing well while doing good throughout this next stage of their lives."

> 'While the intent and desire to make a difference are strong with retiring donors, there is a knowledge gap around tax-smart strategies. That is where we can help them make charitable dollars go further...'
>
> AMY PIROZZOLO
> Fidelity Charitable

A DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO GIVING

Beyond providing financial support for charities, pre-retirees and retirees are also actively giving back through volunteerism. In the past year, over two-thirds of pre-retirees (71%) and over half of retirees (55%) volunteered. This could indicate that the trend toward volunteerism may continue to grow as the current group of pre-retirees transitions into retirement.

Of those retirees who volunteer, more than one in four (27%) report doing so for over 13 hours a month, indicating commitment to their causes.

Nearly nine in 10 retired respondents who volunteer agree that volunteering is a way to remain active (88%) and connected (91%).

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVISORS

Additionally, the research reveals that many retirees rely on advisors for financial planning, but only half (51%) have discussed charitable giving with an advisor. With their knowledge of tax-smart charitable planning methods low, this audience is ripe for additional guidance.

Tax-smart giving awareness: While most pre-retirees and retirees are familiar with at least one vehicle or method used to support charities financially, 21% are unaware of any.

Giving method awareness: Awareness of what can be donated is also low. For example, just one in three pre-retirees and retirees (32%) are aware that they can donate appreciated assets, like stocks.

Professional charitable advice: While about two-thirds of pre-retirees (69%) and retirees (65%) work with an advisor (financial advisor, certified public accountant, or attorney), 61% of pre-retirees and 51% of retirees report ever having had a conversation with a professional advisor about charitable planning or giving.

The study surveyed more than 2,500 people, ages 50-80, including 844 givers with investable assets of at least $1 million. To qualify for the survey, respondents had to contribute at least $500 or more per year to charitable organizations. The study asked pre-retirees and retirees how they plan for and participate in charitable activities.

For more information, visit fidelitycharitable.org.

CONGRATULATIONS, TONJA!

The Weingart Center's very own Chief Operating Officer, TONJA BOYKIN, has been named a 2026 Leader of Influence in Nonprofits and Philanthropy.

For 10 years, Tonja has led the center with steadiness, humility, and an unmatched commitment to the thousands of residents who Weingart serves every day. Under her leadership, Weingart continues to break the cycle of homelessness for thousands of Angelenos each year; providing meals, permanent supportive housing, medical and mental health care, job training, and the wraparound case management support that helps people rebuild their lives.

Weingart has been serving Los Angeles since 1983, and Tonja is carrying that mission forward at a time when the city needs it most. Her leadership is steady, principled, and deeply human.

Thank you, Tonja, for everything you do. This recognition is well earned.

With gratitude and admiration,
The Weingart Center
Board of Directors
Antonio Manning,
Board Chair

WEINGART