

SUMMER 2017

INSPIRE



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES, INC.
Women building better communities®

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF **WOMEN** CIVIC LEADERS

The Magazine of the Junior League of Los Angeles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an incredible honor serving as President this year. It has been a privilege to continue the work of all of the Junior League of Los Angeles presidents that have come before me and to be a steward for those presidents that will come after me. I am so thankful to each and every one of our members who have worked so hard to serve our community and realize your potential of being agents of change.

One of my greatest pleasures this year has been seeing JLLA members in action on so many levels—united in a common vision and collaborating with community and civic leaders to create lasting change in the Los Angeles community. JLLA engages organizations in unique and emerging community issues and provides programs which focus on growth, progress and the eventual wellness of the community.

Inspire highlights JLLA's impact on our community and many other accomplishments this year. The number of volunteer hours, Done In A Day projects, funds raised and items donated during project drives are impressive. However our greatest impact on the Los Angeles community is in the development of women, community and civic leaders. Through a unique combination of direct service, advocacy and leadership development, JLLA unifies a diverse and vibrant group of women to maximize their impact in Los Angeles.

JLLA is able to grow and thrive thanks to so many in our community. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our community partners for giving JLLA the opportunity to collaborate with you to improve our city. None of the work we do would be possible without the financial support of our generous donors. Thank you for your steadfast support and partnership. And a very special thank you to the remarkable women of the Board of Directors and Management Council for your vision, leadership and passion.

As we continue to amplify our impact in the community, JLLA is committed to making significant strides in our focus areas, being at the forefront of emerging issues and, most importantly, never losing sight of our ultimate goal of empowering women through civic leadership. I am very excited to see what the future holds and to expand upon our rich legacy of not only improving lives but also changing the way people think about important issues. Thank you all so very much for giving me the opportunity to serve you and our community!



Ness Okonkwo

President 2016-2017

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Mattie Stepanek—
poet, peacemaker, and philosopher

YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

- › Honored by community partner Mar Vista Family Center as Community Champion at its Annual Luncheon
- › Honored by community partner Children's Bureau with the Spirit of Giving Award at its Annual Celebration
- › Developed JLLA's Community Impact Statement to better communicate the impact we seek to make not only in our community but also within ourselves
- › Organized 34 Done In A Days (DIAD) throughout Los Angeles, one the highest number of DIADs we've completed in a single year
- › 23 women graduated from our Public Policy Institute, the highest number of graduates in a single year
- › Organized the Community Leadership Forum presented by Legacy Leadership Circle bringing together JLLA members and community leaders to enhance awareness around the challenges foster youth face in the pursuit of higher education
- › Raised over \$208,000 through our fundraising efforts, including over \$56,000 raised through the LA Big 5K, the highest amount ever raised through this event
- › Established a new active project with United Friends of the Children and incubated a new project with Uplift at Hollygrove
- › Graduated 117 new members who organized 6 New Member "Thrive Through Literacy" Projects throughout Los Angeles
- › Through the generous funding of the Legacy Leadership Circle, established the Distinguished Speakers Series to provide additional leadership training for our members
- › Created a visionary 5-year Strategic Plan to be a roadmap for JLLA's future

JLLA'S COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LOS ANGELES
EMPOWERS OUR MEMBERS
TO **IMPROVE** ACCESS TO RESOURCES
FOR LOS ANGELES AREA
TRANSITION AGE **FOSTER YOUTH**
AND **UNDERSERVED** **STUDENTS**
SEEKING **HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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The Junior League of Los Angeles is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively education and charitable.

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JLLA'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FORUM AND BEYOND

EFFECTING CHANGE IN MANY WAYS

BY SAM ZACHRICH

Over 28,000 children in Los Angeles County are currently in foster care. According to the Alliance for Children's Rights, only 58% of foster youth in LA County graduate from high school and only 3% graduate from college. JLLA and our community partners hope to change these statistics and help give Los Angeles area foster youth a better future. It can be overwhelming to hear these statistics and not know how to help. JLLA is committed to providing a platform to discuss these challenges and utilizing a multifaceted approach to influence change in the community.

Every year JLLA's Public Policy Council brings together members of the community to focus on a critical issue affecting Los Angeles County as part of its Community Leadership Forum (CLF) presented by the Legacy Leadership Circle. The 2016 topic was *Psychology of the Streets: Breaking Down Barriers to Education*, focusing on the issue of education involving foster youth. The morning included a moving and eye-opening presentation from keynote speaker Regina Calcaterra, an advocate for foster children. She spoke about how she and her four siblings survived both an abusive childhood and a neglectful foster youth system that didn't always have her family's best interests at heart. Calcaterra was later joined by a distinguished panel that spoke about the lack of support to assist foster youth in overcoming legal, mental and housing instability issues that hamper their ability to pursue higher education. One of the panelists, Sandy Banks, a journalist and former columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, called on the community to do more to support L.A.'s foster youth. "It's foster care and it's a big problem, but it's also thousands and thousands of children who have done nothing wrong and deserve much better than we give them."

CLF provided a place for our community to congregate and learn. In addition, JLLA members walked away feeling more informed and knowledgeable about how to advocate for education and foster youth in Los Angeles and were eager to take advantage of League activities.

Since CLF, JLLA members have had a number of opportunities to make a difference. JLLA has organized several Done In A Day (DIAD) community service events that directly impact foster youth and underserved students seeking higher



education including a Foster Youth Career Day with the LA Department of Family Services, a self-esteem program with Aviva and a Career and College Day at United Friends of the Children, just to name a few. JLLA also offered members high quality training sessions such as "Education in the Los Angeles Area" and "Interacting with Foster Youth" to support their goals of being effective volunteers and civic leaders.

In addition to hosting CLF, JLLA's Public Policy Council manages the ongoing advocacy and governmental outreach efforts for the League, which includes collaborating with elected officials, community partners and advocacy organizations to create lasting change in our community. Through JLLA's Public Policy Institute (PPI), JLLA members are invited to attend sessions throughout the year to learn about public affairs, how our government operates at the state and federal level and how to create permanent change in our community. This year we had one of our largest PPI graduating classes, and Congresswoman Karen Bass came to speak to them about the importance of being active within our communities and government. In addition to PPI, our Public Policy Council also sponsors the annual Day at City Hall program where members shadow an elected official, getting an in-depth look at the workings of our local government.

By organizing community events such as CLF and participating in an array of direct service, advocacy and training opportunities, JLLA members are uniquely poised for effective and impactful community engagement in the areas of education and self-esteem/empowerment of foster youths.

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ADVOCATING FOR IMPACT

BY ERIN ARDON

The **State Public Affairs Committee** (SPAC) is one of the best examples of JLLA's advocacy in action. JLLA's Senior and Junior SPAC delegates represent our League at a statewide level to make sure that voices of women and foster youth are heard in our government. Our Senior SPAC Delegate, Mariana Aroditis, just reviewed HR9, a bill to declare March "Women's History Month" in California. Excitingly, the legislation passed. She is now reviewing AB754, a bill that would provide funding for foster youth to participate in activities that "enhance the foster youth's skills, abilities, self-esteem or overall well-being." The work that JLLA's SPAC delegates perform is an integral part of carrying out our community impact statement.

JLLA's SPAC delegates work with SPAC delegates from other Junior Leagues throughout California. Once our JLLA delegate reviews a bill, a SPAC subcommittee will vote on it. If it passes, the entire SPAC delegation (one

member from each of the 17 Leagues) will vote and decide whether to support or monitor the bill. If they decide to support the bill, delegates write letters to elected officials and sometimes even testify to California state legislators in support of the bill. This work is extremely impactful not only to us as a League, but also to the communities we serve.

Serving the needs of our targeted communities is a major factor in how our delegates decide which bills to support, but it's not the only factor. Always mindful of the governor's priorities, SPAC delegates often look for bills that are high priority in Sacramento and have a good chance of passing so the many letters of support they write have real impact, and sometimes they support bills because, as our Senior SPAC delegate puts it, "it's the right thing to do." Last year Bill AB1561, commonly referred to as a "tampon tax bill" was introduced, which would remove state sales tax from tampons and other feminine hygiene products. Although it passed both houses, it was vetoed by the governor because he wanted to see what other cuts could be made to the budget to cover the loss of revenue that the potential tax on tampons would provide. The authors of the bill were both women, Republican Ling Ling Chang and Democrat Cristina Garcia. They feel that this is a tax on being a woman and are taking steps to fight this gender injustice. The bill is being reintroduced this year, and our SPAC delegates will be supporting it.

The underserved women and children of Los Angeles (and California) need a voice, and the work of our SPAC delegates directly impacts those populations. JLLA was founded by women who did research, identified a community need, and supported a children's convalescent home that would become part of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, which was listed on the US News & World Report Honor Roll for Best Children's Hospitals 2016-2017. The spirit of our founders remains in our League today. Our SPAC Delegates Mariana Aroditis and Erin Wolfson embody that spirit everyday with the impactful work they do on behalf of JLLA.



JLLA'S DAY AT CITY HALL



BY
KELLY
MCFARREN



JLLA's Day at City Hall has always been a special and popular event for the League. Each year, JLLA members visit Los Angeles City Hall and spend the day speaking to City Council members about JLLA's focus areas. In response to JLLA members' rising interest in the topic of becoming an elected official, the Public Affairs Committee piloted a more interactive and intimate approach to this year's event.

On March 24, twelve members of JLLA participated in a Day at City Hall. "After being part of the Los Angeles Women's March on January 21, I remember being near Pershing Square and City Hall and wondering how I could get more involved to empower our community, among other things. The Day at City Hall was one step in becoming more aware and active in local government and the issues that surround us in Los Angeles," said Kelly McFarren, a participant. The group met with City Council staffers and attended a City Council Meeting. JLLA member and host for the day, Tricia Robbins Kasson, is the Economic Development Deputy for the City of Los Angeles. She was informative and provided a glimpse into the work the City of Los Angeles does on a daily basis. "I was personally inspired by the fact that Tricia and our Council members, through their day-to-day work, have the opportunity to make a direct and visible impact to lives of the people and communities they serve," said McFarren.

The event allowed participants the opportunity to communicate directly about JLLA's mission and areas of focus. Members were able to have a dialogue about issues such as foster youth and homelessness, which is a top pri-

ority for the City (visit the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) www.lahsa.org for more information).

Participants also attended shadow sessions with various local officials in Los Angeles and the surrounding municipalities. The day included four sessions featuring Los Angeles City Council members Bob Blumenfield, Paul Krekorian and Nury Martinez and West Hollywood Council member Lindsey Horvath. The intimate setting provided JLLA members the opportunity to truly explore what it is like to be in public office.

JLLA's Day at City Hall is an opportunity to continue to build relationships with the City and prioritize JLLA's focus areas. It is a privilege to have access to and the ability to learn about local government. Day at City Hall is a unique and valuable experience that JLLA offers its members, one that is unparalleled by other volunteer organizations in the Los Angeles area.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

DEVELOPING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN

BY CAMMIE PATTON

Leadership is about inspiring, motivating, and articulating a vision while developing your strengths to empower and produce change and movement. JLLA's Leadership Development Institute (LDI) is an Association of Junior League International (AJLI) award-winning program that provides members with training seminars and one-on-one professional and peer coaching sessions to improve their leadership skills. Participants are taught value assessment, personal leadership styles, coaching for leaders, how to work effectively with different personalities and team building, among other things. The goal of LDI is to help JLLA members become great leaders both in the League and in the community.

During the course each participant is assigned a professional coach for one-on-one and group coaching. Certified executive head coach Harte Logan, a former JLLA member, leads the group sessions with two other coaches, Courtney Webster and Dana Crawford. As a participant in the Fall 2016 class, I believe Harte was really the heart of LDI. Her warm and inviting personality made it feel like a safe place for all the JLLA women involved. She remarks that a big component of LDI is the coaching, a part of the course that was a pleasant surprise to me. Harte believes it's imperative to the model of the program that you learn from each other and the co-leaders throughout the course, but "the magic really happens in the coaching sessions." She defines coaching as "the art of helping someone get to where they want to go based on their own natural abilities and inclinations." Sometimes you "just need someone to ask you a question to help you see it from another perspective. Coaching is not about giving the answers, it's about the person finding the answers themselves."

After being involved in LDI for the last 4 years, this year

was different for Harte because it was the first year that she was the head coach, a position she will continue with in the 2017-18 League year. Additionally co-coaches Courtney Webster and Dana Crawford, were new to the team. Harte commented on how exceptional they are as coaches and that she learned a lot from both of them. Courtney Webster loves the experience of working with clients as they get clarity on what it is they want and why it is important. Her role in helping them find the resources, which are typically within themselves to achieve their goals is particularly "rewarding, beyond words, because you get to help people become the best versions of themselves." What was memorable for her in her first year as an LDI coach was the mountain of "support all the women showed for each other and how amazing it was to see the relationships grow in the peer coaching triads (these are groups of three participants that are assigned to each other at the start of the program). It was awe inspiring to see each member grow personally and also to see how they evolved as coaches with each other."

Harte attributes "part of the key to the success of the Fall 2016 class was that we all shared the same core values of female empowerment, education and curiosity." The changes that each person experiences were not only internal, but external as well. Harte noted that "you can see people's posture change between the first and the last class. People look different when it's over and it's not like they got a new haircut. Seeing the transformation and people begin to reach their full potential is incredibly rewarding." Harte feels that it's a privilege to participate in JLLA's LDI program and feels so fortunate to be a part of it. Now in its 10th year, LDI has had an incredible impact on the leaders who have taken the course.

HERE ARE SOME FIRSTHAND TESTIMONIALS FROM A FEW OF THE WOMEN FROM THE FALL 2016 GRADUATING CLASS:

ALEXA HUGHES

Assistant to the President, 1st Year Active

I had heard from several women who had graduated from LDI that it was their single favorite activity they had participated in at JLLA. I had very little knowledge of what was to be covered, but I hoped to glean some additional leadership skills that I could use both in JLLA and the professional arena. I walked away with a whole new leadership toolkit, something I didn't think was possible from a single workshop. I learned to enjoy and embrace coaching both with our LDI coaches as well as my small group. Some large lessons that I walked away with include that a good leader asks more questions than answers, the importance of surrounding yourself with people who think and work differently because that is what takes a good team to a great team, and that the future is limitless for women in leadership.

Since graduating, I have employed many of the tactics and new ideas that I learned from LDI both in JLLA as well as my workplace. At the tail end of LDI, I was promoted into a new position at work, and I can attribute a lot of my success in my new role to the techniques that I learned at LDI. LDI was a jumping off point for leadership learning and discovery, and I've been able to continue my leadership development through different books guided by LDI.

I would recommend LDI to all women at JLLA. It is an invaluable experience that everyone should be jumping at the bit to take advantage of!

JEN SOZA

Assistant to the VP of Development, 1st Year Active

I cannot recommend participating in LDI enough, as both your personal and League life will be impacted. I decided to apply for LDI for several reasons. As a first year active in a leadership position, I felt I had so much enthusiasm to give to the League but wanted to be sure I was being the best leader possible. Additionally, I had started a new job with leadership responsibilities and wanted to be able to apply these skills at work. The most valuable tool I took from LDI was not only just learning my style as a leader, but also being able to assess others' styles and work in ways that best complimented them. Recognizing that I *am* a leader was such a profound experience for me. LDI has helped me to define what type of path I want to take in JLLA and my professional career. I believe learning what type of leader I am and why I thrive in certain conditions and don't excel in others has helped me to further understand what I need in my interpersonal professional relationships and what career moves would be best for me.

MITA PATEL

Daybreak Committee member, 2nd Year Active

LDI is by far one of the most impactful experiences I have had through JLLA. LDI was so much more than I could have ever imagined. There was a wonderfully warm, open and supportive group atmosphere and opportunities to grow

“THE FUTURE IS LIMITLESS FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP.”





with fellow JLLA members at every session. We learned how to identify our perceived limitations, build our strengths and acknowledge and appreciate differences in other leadership styles in ways that promote improved outcomes all around. The biggest surprise for me was how useful the coaching techniques have been for all relationships in my life, including with clients, friends, families and even my relationship with myself and how I make decisions in life and resolve conflicts.

“RECOGNIZING THAT I AM A LEADER WAS SUCH A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE FOR ME.”



Top 5 Reasons to Apply for LDI

1. It will help you discover your personal leadership style
2. Learn leadership skills that you can apply in all areas of your life
3. Meet some amazing JLLA members
4. Learn to work with people who all have very different personalities and strengths
5. Personal growth

CATHLEEN CULL

DIAD Chair, 8th Year Active

I decided to apply for LDI because I wanted to take advantage of an opportunity the League offered that I knew would benefit me both in the workplace and in the League. I've been in a sales role my entire career, and haven't made the switch into management by choice, but I wanted to have some management training. I thought that LDI would be a good place to get that type of training. I ended up learning how to apply it to my current role in the League and have seen a marked difference in the way I manage my committee.

The most important lesson I learned was that your time is better spent working on improving your strengths, rather than your weaknesses. We are all so focused on where we fall short and how we can change those traits about ourselves that we forget what makes us great leaders. LDI really hammers home that message.

I made great personal connections. The triads forced you to become vulnerable, and I think that really helps develop fast and strong connections. I enjoyed getting to know new members and getting perspective from people I hadn't worked with in the past. I think we're all conditioned to ask our mentors for help and that we forget how much of a fresh perspective other League members can be to our growth.

LDI definitely helped me out with JLLA because it gave me ideas on how to work with a group of women who all have very different personalities and strengths. It made me realize that being aligned on our end goal is the most important thing and that embracing different styles benefits a large group.

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

A JLLA MEMBER ACTION GUIDE

1. EARN YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT CERTIFICATE

Arm yourself with knowledge about JLLA's issue based community impact focus areas—the self esteem and empowerment of foster youth and underserved students seeking higher education—by completing five trainings on these topics.

2. ATTEND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP FORUM

Dig deeper into a specific issue affecting the populations we serve by attending this half-day training featuring experts in the field.

3. ATTEND DAY AT CITY HALL

Meet your local representatives, receive a tour of the historic building, attend a council meeting, and apply for a one-day mentorship with an elected official.

4. ATTEND DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Receive a tour of the California State Capitol building, attend a legislative luncheon, visit with legislators and staffers, and hear speeches from assembly members and state senators.

5. PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Learn how to advocate on behalf of the populations we serve by attending trainings on Advocacy 101; city, county, state, federal, government; appointments to boards and commissions; and advocacy in action.

6. PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Attend leadership workshops, participate in one-on-one coaching and team meetings, have access to special Leadership Development Institute (LDI) graduate events, and be eligible for the LDI successor program, LDI 2.0.

WOMEN THRIVE ALLIANCE

On April 8th, Emily Bove, the Executive Director of Women Thrive Alliance based in Washington, D.C., led an interactive session at Rainey House. The Women Thrive Alliance works to empower grassroots action and help women to break free from poverty, violence, and inequality. The organization supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5), a goal designed to achieve global gender equality and empower all women and girls. Members participated in an inspiring and engaging talk and learned about this initiative that all women, including members of JLLA, can stand behind in terms of what to do next for women's rights and advocacy on a global scale. While 143 of 195 countries guarantee equality between women and men in their constitutions, discrimination against women still persists and there is a great deal that can be done economically, socially, and politically throughout the world. Women Thrive Alliance provided an understanding of the SDGs and how to become involved. For more information, visit www.womenthrive.org, or, contact the JLLA Vice President of Public Policy at publicpolicy@jlla.org.

“This was such an insightful and impactful training, that it still keeps popping into my head months later. It greatly increased my awareness about how connected the issues facing the world are. I left feeling inspired to create more awareness about the challenges women are facing due to gender inequality, not only in the United States but around the world.”

—Katie Darling, JLLA Member

SPRING MEETINGS | HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY IMPACT

BY BRITTNEY BANKS, MIREYA GIDEON,
KATHLEEN RICHTER, AND SAM ZACHRICH



From March 13-15, JLLA organized general membership meetings at each of its four community partner agencies across Los Angeles. As Ness Okonkwo, JLLA's President explains, "This year as the Board began to develop JLLA's Community Impact statement, I felt that it would be beneficial for our members to see first-hand the work that JLLA does in the community in collaboration with our community partners. This would empower our members and further educate them on important issues in Los Angeles." At each of the March general meetings, each partner gave members special insight into the impact JLLA has made to their organization throughout the years.

Approximately 30 members of JLLA attended a meeting at **The People Concern**, formerly the Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC).

The People Concern's Cloverfield facility is located in Santa Monica and is one of their three transitional housing locations. There is room for 55 residents. Men are assigned to the first floor, women on the second. Every detail of the facility serves a purpose and is meant to prepare home-

less residents for life off the streets and in a real home. The dorms are set up to teach people to be respectful of their neighbors' privacy and personal space. The benches on the patio are big enough to sleep on for those clients who are not yet ready to come inside.

"It's somewhere that's safe and their stuff is tucked underneath them," Kate Berman, The People Concern's Volunteer Services Coordinator, explained. "They know no one will get them. They're safe here."

Berman gave JLLA members a tour of the Cloverfield facility and talked about the League's impact on residents.

"You provide support, act as role models, talk and truly see people," Berman said. "You give people something to look forward to and bring hope to people."

More than 15 years ago, JLLA teamed up with OPCC on an entrepreneurship project. The project's initial goal was to help women start their own businesses. JLLA members started helping with Daybreak Designs, a client-run micro-business in which artisans (The People Concern's female residents) create arts and crafts to sell. The boutique is based in the Cloverfield building. For seven years JLLA's project focused on entrepreneurship, but as the needs of the clients have changed, the program has evolved to focus on life skills. Each year JLLA creates a unique curriculum for Daybreak to help participants build their social skills. JLLA volunteers teach the women at Daybreak how to journal, meditate and work well with peers among other things. Through the "Women's Empowerment" project, JLLA has positively impacted the lives of homeless women in Los Angeles by giving them a space to learn about their own self-worth.

"It's very hard to replace what you guys leave," Julie Guest, The People Concern Board Chair and 2005-2006 JLLA President, noted. "Our members have left a lasting legacy with OPCC over the last 15 years."

The group who toured **Children's Bureau**, located near downtown, learned how JLLA volunteers focus on improving children's literacy through a hands-on, educational program "Building Literacy One Family at a Time" which aims to increase literacy skills in children aged 5 to 8. The curriculum includes hands-on activities, arts and crafts and

lots of reading. Parents and families of the children participating are encouraged to attend the sessions and work with the children in the learning process. The goal is not only to build reading confidence at school, but also in the home.

After a brief tour of Magnolia Place Family Center at the March meeting, Children's Bureau's Chief Program Officer Ron Brown spoke to the women of JLLA and answered questions about the history and future of Children's Bureau.

Laura Stroud, Program Supervisor at Children's Bureau said, "It was great to have the women from JLLA host their meeting at Children's Bureau. JLLA has been a great partner with Children's Bureau for the past 6-plus years. Their 'Building Literacy One Family at a Time' project has significantly impacted the lives of hundreds of families." Stroud's daughter Sage, age eight, attended a few sessions. Stroud noticed that after the sessions Sage began to play "Junior League" with her younger brother at home. Sage mimicked what she had learned at the class and read aloud to her brother, provided snacks and let him leave at the end with three or four books of his choosing. In addition to being a sweet story, this is also what JLLA members are striving for. We want to make a difference and an impact on the children and families with whom we are working.

Another group visited JLLA's newest project, **Alliance for Children's Rights** (Alliance). For 25 years, Alliance has been a leader in protecting the rights of children and youth in need. Its projects and programs represent a holistic approach to caring for impoverished, abused and neglected youth. Since 1992, they have served over 125,000 children, providing them with permanency through adoption and legal guardianship, access to healthcare and an equitable education. The efforts of Alliance are focused in three main areas:



34 Total DIADs

Our Done in a Days allow members to work with nonprofit community agencies with projects that can be completed within a three to six hour period. These events address specific needs of the community within the mission of JLLA. It allows our members to see a vast variety of community projects and realize the immediate impact that we can make!

1252

TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED BY OUR MEMBERS

507

TOTAL NUMBER OF OUR JLLA ATTENDEES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



“TOGETHER WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS INFORMATION TO OUR CLIENTS IN A WAY WHERE WE ARE SHARING EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING AT THE SAME TIME.”

free legal services and advocacy for children in poverty and in foster care, policy reform to improve children’s lives, and training and education, which was the focus of JLLA’s project.

JLLA’s “Fostering Independence” project with Alliance began in Fall 2016 and focuses on developing and executing a life skills workshop for young women aged 14 to 21 that are currently in or were once in foster care. Participants from Alliance chose the training topics of interest to them, and the JLLA team developed the content for eight monthly sessions through Fall 2016 and Spring 2017. During the sessions with Alliance, League members coordinated program content and activities around topics such as conflict resolution, goal setting, budgeting, stress management and nutrition. One of the highlights from the year was when Chei Burris, a Human Resources representative from Lucky Brand Headquarters, came to discuss interviewing skills with the participants. Another popular session included a goal-setting workshop with actress and singer Maranda Barskey. Through the “Fostering Independence” project,

JLLA provided Alliance participants with meaningful and useful tools to empower their lives.

JLLA Board member, Alecia Burkett, who attended the site visit says, “It gave JLLA members a great opportunity to hear directly from one of our project partners.” Alliance’s Special Projects Manager, Stephanie Lopez, has found great value working with JLLA: “I have enjoyed being able to partner with amazing and dedicated women who want to help other young women. Together we have been able to provide valuable life skills information to our clients in a way where we are sharing experiences and learning at the same time.” Lopez works with transition-age youth at Alliance and educated JLLA members about an exciting initiative called Opportunity Youth Collaborative, a multi-agency effort to improve education and employment outcomes for transition-age youth.

While Alliance meets the legal needs of many foster youth in Los Angeles, they rely on organizations like JLLA to fill in the gaps. Lopez emphasized the importance of a partnership with JLLA, which provides extra services such as life skills workshops to the foster youth they serve. She also gave members great tips for working with foster youths, emphasizing that the most important one was to be genuine and be yourself. The on-site, small group setting gave JLLA members the opportunity to have a more personal interaction and deeper connection to our newest project partner.

JLLA’s work with the young women of Alliance has not only impacted the participants, but also has furthered JLLA’s vision of creating lasting community change for the foster youth of Los Angeles.

The final March meeting was held at the **Mar Vista Family Center (MVFC)** and was hosted by its Chief Executive Of-

ficer, Lucia Diaz. MVFC was founded in 1977 as a preschool for low-income families that aimed to engage parents as partners in the education of their children. MVFC's long-term involvement with entire families has improved family functioning, decreased domestic violence and improved youths' academic successes and rates of attendance at institutes of higher education.

JLLA members had a chance to tour MVFC and learned more about the breadth of services that the organization provides, from college prep for high school seniors to health and wellness activities. Diaz spoke to the group about the challenges that MVFC faces including the perception that its West Los Angeles location insulates it from resource constraints. She noted that JLLA's partnership provides much needed support to MVFC by delivering a program that includes the entire family.

JLLA's arts education program, "Discover You," fosters creativity and self-confidence within pre-teen youths aged 9 to 12 through creative and/or performing arts workshops. This year, 50 children participated in an "Around the World" themed program along with their families. At each session, JLLA members designed a craft and an educational component for the children centered around a different country.

Diaz values the relationship with JLLA and its members, "I believe that Mar Vista Family Center has established a great partnership with JLLA, and it's always a pleasure to have JLLA members visiting the center. Every year we look



forward to meeting new members who are interested in learning about Mar Vista Family Center and want to be part of the larger community."

Each of these March events was a testament to the League's impact in Los Angeles. Okonkwo says, "I thought it was important for our partners to meet more of our members and to witness how engaged and passionate our members are about the communities they serve. I am very proud that we were able to organize a wonderful week of meetings where everyone who attended left feeling more informed and inspired."

TRAINING

At its core our mission centers around developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Through an annual program of training and education, covering a range of workshops, seminars and events, the members of JLLA make a significant impact on our community through what they have learned.

1430 | TOTAL TRAINING CREDITS EARNED

RAISING CIVIC LEADERS

BY MARY LISCHKE

Women are inspired to join the Junior League for a multitude of reasons. The civic leaders featured here were inspired by their mothers to join the League and were trained from an early age to view community service as part of their mission in life.



Mary Lischke and
Marcie Hubbard



Treble Makers

MARY LISCHKE / 6TH YEAR ACTIVE

From early in life, I remember my mom going to Junior League of Winston Salem meetings at night. There were times when I told her I didn't want her to go, but she always reminded me how important it was for her to go and volunteer. She was an active member in the League for 20-plus years and is now a sustainer. She always said the League was "the best place to find a way to volunteer because the League is tied into the community and organized." One of her favorite placements was a daytime group that sang to nursing homes in the area. The women who participated in this placement were so committed to it that when the League decided to sunset the program, my mom and the other members took it over.

That was 25 years ago. The group is called the Treble Makers, and they still sing at two nursing homes each week. My mom told me, “The League is a place where one can give back to people where there is no expectation those people will give you anything in return.” In the League, she was able to give without getting and she always said these opportunities often end up giving you the most. Being able to pay it forward always comes back to you because it makes you a better and stronger person. The League gave her a chance to stretch herself, which now benefits all of the other charities and boards she participates in. I joined the League because of my mom. I have stayed in the League because I know it is an important group doing important work for our community. It is part of my DNA. I have three young daughters now, and I hear myself using the same words my mom did to explain why volunteering is important. I can only hope I am teaching them and shaping them the way my mom did to my sister and me.

PRISCILLA SHERIDAN / NEW MEMBER

Growing up in Mexico City where the social differences are so clear and devastating, my mom always tried to truly make a difference. Ever since I can remember she has been actively involved in various organizations, and she worked in government and politics to positively impact our community and to make a difference in our country.

She often found herself with inexperienced and untrained volunteers. As a result, many organizations were inefficient and not achieving their true potential. She would always remind me that “goodwill is not enough.”

This experience motivated her to make a difference and join the Junior League of Mexico City. She sought a place where she could acquire the training she needed and work with professionals to ensure a better future for our community. It was genuinely a rewarding experience where she made great friends who shared the same passion for service and making a difference.

“MY MOM TOLD ME, ‘THE LEAGUE IS A PLACE WHERE ONE CAN GIVE BACK TO PEOPLE WHERE THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THOSE PEOPLE WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING IN RETURN.’ ”

A little over a year ago, I moved to Los Angeles and joined JLLA. I want to follow in her footsteps and part of that is acquiring the training and mentoring needed to improve our community in the most significant way possible.

Giving back is much more than just doing community service. It’s about being aware of the issues and problems that our society faces and doing something about them that can actually make a difference.

The Junior League brings my mom and me closer. We enjoy sharing stories and talking about what we’re doing to make a difference. We want to be able to touch the lives of others by doing what we love.



Gloria Muñoz and Priscilla Sheridan

Laura and
Dorothy Weil



“AT EVERY STOP, MY FRIEND AND I GOT TO HAND OUT THE MEALS. THE RECIPIENTS WERE SO GRATEFUL AND SO HAPPY TO SEE US. THE SENSE OF MEANING THAT COMES WITH GIVING BACK WAS PALPABLE.”



LAURA WEIL / NEW MEMBER

Growing up in the south, the Junior League is ubiquitous. My first distinct memory of the Junior League is from first grade. My mom informed me that my friend and I would get to go with her on her Meals on Wheels route. We were elated. At every stop, my friend and I got to hand out the meals. The recipients were so grateful and so happy to see us. The sense of meaning that comes with giving back was palpable. At the end of the day, my friend and I promised that someday we would join the Junior League and drive Meals on Wheels together.

During her time in the Junior League of Dallas, my mom held many different positions. I watched in awe as she deftly managed her Junior League responsibilities while running her own company. When I asked her about her time in the League, she told me that the experiences she had and relationships she made in the League were invaluable and that the League had helped her in her career as an event planner and public relations executive and had also given her the opportunity to serve on many non-profit community boards. My mom made lifelong friends in the League who she sees socially and volunteers with.

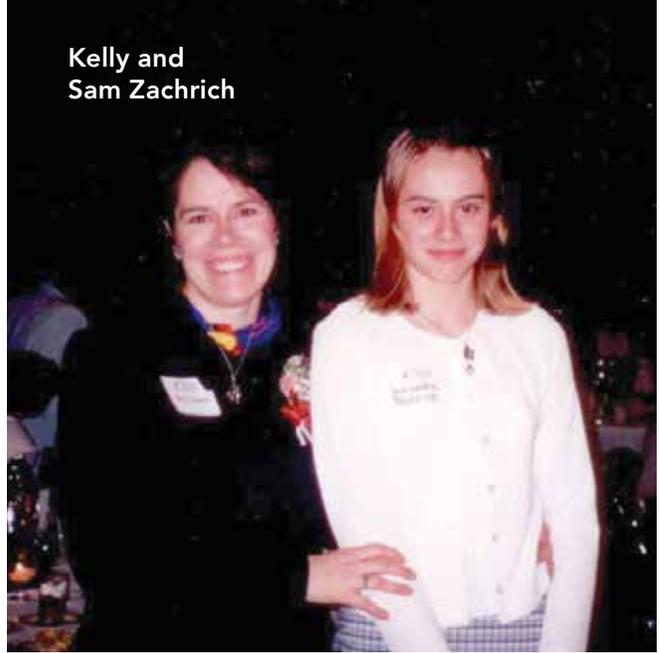
When I decided to move to California for college, I turned to my mom for advice regarding making friends in a new city. She told me that “lasting friendships are forged through meaningful shared experiences” and to look for people with whom I shared “a passion for community involvement.” That resonated and led me back to my childhood dream of joining the Junior League.

While a lot of things have changed since my mom first introduced me to the Junior League, our mutual commitment to service has remained constant. My mom still works as a community volunteer for two of her favorite former League placements, and I fulfilled my goal of joining the Junior League earlier this year. I will never forget the joy I felt giving back to the community with my mom on our first joint Meals on Wheels route. It propelled me to pursue community service opportunities in every stage of my life, and I will always consider that trip 17 years ago to be my first, albeit unofficial, Junior League placement. As I transition from a new member to an active member with a committee placement this coming year, I will strive to be as poised, effective, and gracious as my ultimate inspiration: my mother.

SAM ZACHRICH / 3RD YEAR ACTIVE

I grew up surrounded by the Junior League of Fort Wayne (JLFW). My mother was a very active member, also a former President, who took her three children to everything Junior League. The JLFW office was like our second home; we made fake agendas and crafted our own projects while she

Kelly and Sam Zachrich



held real meetings across the hall. We were constant volunteers at every project and fundraising event our schedules would allow us to attend (I believe I now have enough Community Service hours to be a 30-year active). We marched for various children's and women's rights alongside members from other Leagues in Washington D.C. and Indianapolis. The most memorable was a local march to the Chamber of Commerce that was led by the JLFW. We marched because they would not let the public attend their legislative meetings with the state legislators. The Chamber of Commerce eventually caved and came out to address the concerns of the march.

It wasn't until I was older that I understood why she wanted us to be so involved. She was teaching us compassion for others, to stand up and not be afraid to have a voice when something is unjust, to be a part of a community and to do your best to make a difference for others. She took us outside of our comfort zones constantly, many times we hated it and complained but it gave us a different perspective on our community and on what was happening around us.

Looking back now I am so grateful for the experiences she gave us. We were raised surrounded by strong, opinionated, gracious women who taught us so much. I'm now going into my fourth year as a very proud active member of the Junior League of Los Angeles continuing the legacy of the women who came before me.

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Krystin is a licensed professional in the State of California, representing the top financial institutions in her field. She is an active resident of the South Bay community and has been a member of the Junior League for 23 years.

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WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS INTO LEADERSHIP

BY BROOKE GOLDSTEIN

This year JLLA debuted its community impact statement: “The Junior League of Los Angeles empowers our members to improve access to resources for Los Angeles area transition age foster youth and underserved students seeking higher education.” At the core of this statement are our members who put it into action. Our members are a diverse, focused and compassionate group of civic leaders who are looking to make a difference in their community. Every year, JLLA welcomes a new class of women. They spend one year in our New Member Program where they learn about the League, attend trainings, participate in direct community service and work together to execute community service projects. Upon completion of the New Member Program they become Active members of JLLA. We are proud of our newest JLLA members and look forward to their leadership.



Melanie Gifford says, “I decided to join JLLA because I wanted to get more involved in the community. I wanted to volunteer with children and families less fortunate than myself, while meeting like-minded women.”

Melanie was a part of the programming committee for her New Member Project. She loved seeing the inner workings of putting a project together and how every committee relied on each other and worked together. The greatest

lesson she learned was the importance of compromise and teamwork to achieve a goal.

Next year, Melanie will be the Assistant to the VP of Projects, Katie Anderson. Melanie feels that her work on the New Member project has provided her with valuable experience for her leadership position in the upcoming year. “I have enjoyed learning about all of the different community partners in the LA area,” says Melanie. “I have also been amazed with how much impact JLLA has. I am looking forward to diving in head first into my first year as an Active member and specializing my focus on projects. I cannot wait

to form deeper relationships with all the great women.”

Melanie is originally from East Greenwich, Rhode Island and is the Director of Business Development for a Retail & Hospitality Architecture Firm.



get involved in my own neighborhood, make a difference, and develop sides to my skill set that I wasn't necessarily tapping into at work.”

Amanda is an Account Executive at iHeartMedia and is looking forward to her next new role with JLLA as the Assistant to the President, Katie McCullough.



Tiffany Hamilton joined JLLA in short order. “Within 2 weeks of learning about Junior League I was signed up! I was really impressed by all of the different training opportunities, the focus of JLLA on education and foster youth and felt like this could be a unique chance to meet new people and be involved within the Los Angeles community.”

Tiffany is excited to get more involved in JLLA through leadership. As Co-Chair of the Development

“WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF LEARNING ABOUT JUNIOR LEAGUE I WAS SIGNED UP!”

committee for her New Member Project, she learned how to step outside of her comfort zone. “Part of the reason I joined JLLA was to stretch myself in areas that I did not necessarily have a lot of experience in. Development was for sure one of those areas that made me a bit uncomfortable.” She took away one important lesson, which was to “start by laying out a plan of action, understanding that life happens, so it is best to be open and flexible while focusing on the end goal”.

Tiffany is a native Californian and Program Director for doctoral programs (focused on Higher Education, Leadership and Management, and Adult Education) at Walden University. She is excited for her upcoming JLLA role as Assistant to the President-Elect, Karla Sayles.

These are just a few of our amazing JLLA Members who will be a part of leadership next year. With their deep desire for volunteering, the 2017-2018 year is sure to be both fulfilling and successful!

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George Washington University	University of California, All Campuses
Gonzaga University	University of Chicago
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SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

BY NADINE WEISS-FLAM

A sustaining member of JLLA is one who has contributed seven or more years of Active member status in addition to their first year as a new member. JLLA's sustaining members play a large and important role in the success of JLLA via their mentorship of Active members, their active groups including Legacy Leadership Circle and their social groups. JLLA Sustaining members take the training and volunteer experience they gain in the League and employ that expertise by serving on nonprofit boards or assuming leadership positions in community and civic organizations.

Sustaining members value activities where they can build and continue relationships with other Sustainers and also continue to engage in the community work that JLLA wove into the fabric of their lives. During the 2016-2017 League year, Nadine Weiss-Flam, Sustaining Director and Katharine Newman, Sustaining VP worked with a number of other Sustainers to meaningfully engage this important group of members on behalf of JLLA.

Nadine and Katharine organized Sustainer meetings throughout the year and invited Active JLLA leaders and leaders in Los Angeles's nonprofit world to educate the group on different areas of need in the greater Los Angeles community. JLLA's areas of focus are health and education of women and children with an emphasis on education and

self-esteem and empowerment of foster youth. With that focus in mind and after hearing from the Director of Access Books, Rebecca Constantino, and Deniece Gonzales-Kim from School on Wheels, the Sustainers organized a year-long book drive and collected over 5,000 books for Access Books, which they donated while installing a new library for a school in need in South Los Angeles. JLLA's Sustainers were joined by Girl Scouts in painting and installing the library and cataloguing the books. JLLA also provided a grant that went towards the purchase of new furniture for the library.

One of the most popular social events was a trip to The Getty with Sustainer Susan Steinhauser, who organized a behind the scenes tour of the *Breaking News* and *Sealander* Exhibits with Photo Department Curator Arpad Kovacs and Interim Head and Curator Virginia Heckert.

Additional social activities included a night at the LA Ballet, an art opening at Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), and a Valentine's Day lunch at The Beach Club. The group is looking forward to additional events at the Reagan Library, tea at the Huntington Library, Santa Anita Race Day, a tour of Fashion Institute of Design Merchandising (FIDM), a Santa Barbara winery tour, a holiday party and much more.

JLLA thanks our Sustaining members for their service and dedication to the League.



4TH ANNUAL JLLA LA BIG 5K

BY LAUREN SEELY



Rebecca Rodriguez & Emily Craig
Social & Special Events Co-Chairs 2017 (5K Leads)

"It was awesome to hold our own among other charity heavyweights like Big Brothers & Big Sisters, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and Students Run LA. I was focused on making sure we had a good turnout. I provided info about the projects we do to share with the public and community members. We had a goal of raising \$30,000 and our members far surpassed that, raising over \$56,000!"

—Rebecca Rodriguez

MONEY RAISED 2016 \$33,806
MONEY RAISED 2017 \$56,814
A 54% increase in fundraising from last year! Team beat a goal of \$30,000

164 JLLA members registered



INTERVIEW
SYDNEY JOHNSON
#2 JLLA FUNDRAISER!
WITH HER HUSBAND
SCOTT JOHNSON

Why is it important to you to participate in the 5K and how do you activate your friends and family to donate? Was your experience this year different from years before?

"I really like to do the 5K because you get to do it with a lot of other nonprofits and there's something so inspiring about seeing all of these different types of people supporting different causes, all joining together to make money.

I really like seeing JLLA members come together and walk or run it together. I always include my husband and we fundraise together and do the 5K together.

To raise money, we post and ask on Facebook and provide details on the work that JLLA does and why it's important to LA and to me. We are able to get a lot more donations because we reach out to both of our friends and families."



#1 JLLA Fundraiser
NEW MEMBER
Tiffany Faith Demers
\$3,288

"When I found out that our new member project for the year was Thrive Through Literacy, I was inspired to get to work on fund development. I am very excited to be part of the effort working to improve the literacy rate in Los Angeles, which now ranks second lowest in the nation."

ANGELENO NIGHT

BY CARLY WEAVER



Angeleno Night, Junior League of Los Angeles's spring fundraiser, took place at Union Station in the heart of downtown Los Angeles on May 6. The event was themed 'Old Hollywood,' a nod to the era in which the iconic train station was built, and a good time was had by all.

Old Hollywood movie posters graced the hall where the event was held, and classic films were projected onto the grand walls above as guests enjoyed the night's festivities. The event boasted an abundant silent auction that included getaway vacation packages, autographed collectibles by stars like George Lucas and Adele, a Disneyland experience, and many more exciting prizes. Magic Castle's Chris Lesinski gave an exclusive performance, and photo and GIF booths by The Bosco were spread throughout the venue to capture the memories. DJ Kiss played hit after hit atop a dance floor in the middle of the train station as people danced and mingled the night away.

Angeleno Night partnered with multiple sponsors that made the event possible, each contributing a wonderful piece of the night. Guests enjoyed open bars sponsored by Tito's Handmade Vodka. Zico Coconut Water was passed throughout the crowd as the night went on. A special section outside consisted of a beer garden hosted by Golden Road Brewery as well as a cigar bar by Lone Wolf Cigar Company for VIP guests, and The Grilled Cheese Truck doled out delicious grilled cheeses and tater tots all night long. Other sponsors included Ewing Sprinklers, Korbel and HHLA.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Icelandic Glacial, who has partnered with us throughout 2017 as JLLA's official water bottle sponsor. Through this partnership, Icelandic Glacial has provided nearly 200 cases of water for various groups and events during the year.



They've generously donated 65 cases to our Development Committee, five cases to our Training Committee, 30 cases to our New Members' Project (Thrive Through Literacy) and 82 cases to Done In A Day Events and Projects. Ness Okonkwo, President of JLLA, offers her thanks to all of our participating sponsors: "Their support and partnership are critical for the Junior League of Los Angeles to continue to create lasting change in our community, specifically in the areas of education and foster youth."

Angeleno Night is in celebration and support of JLLA's influential work throughout our community. It provides a platform for local businesses and JLLA to partner, providing a glittering night of festivities and entertainment to show our appreciation. The proceeds raised from the event will be used to support the wide range of programs and projects that JLLA leads throughout the year, including service projects with Alliance for Children's Rights, Children's Bureau, Mar Vista Family Center and The People Concern. We at JLLA are so grateful for the outreach and support we receive each and every year so that we can continue to bring about positive change and impact those around us.



JLLA'S GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT MODEL

A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SENIOR LEADERSHIP

BY NICOLE GONZALES

In 2014 the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) introduced the concept of the governance and management model. The objective was to provide efficient and effective management of Leagues by separating governance and management responsibilities. JLLA adopted this structure and created a governance Board of Directors (BOD), led by the President and a Management Council, led by the President-Elect. The model allows the BOD to be strategic and future-focused while Management Council is responsible for executing the Board's strategy and managing day-to-day operations of the League. This reflects a change in how JLLA previously governed the League. In the past, JLLA Board members held one-year positions and were tasked with both governance and daily management of League activities.

The women elected to the JLLA Management Council for the 2015-16 year were the first group of women to serve a two-year term comprised of one year as a member of Management Council and one year on the Board of Directors. While serving on Management Council, each woman managed one of JLLA's nine councils as the vice president of her council. The work supervised by the Management Council covers all of the daily needs of the League including planning and executing projects with community partners, fundraising, managing finances and developing training programs. In the second year of her term, as a Director of the Board, these women worked together on strategic, future-focused initiatives for JLLA.

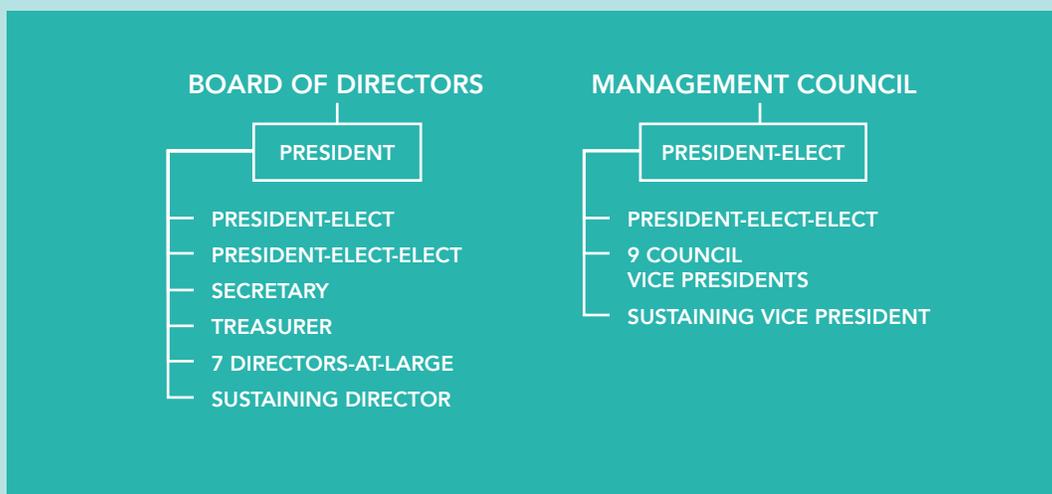
In 2016-17 the BOD structured sub-committees on communications, community impact, fund development and membership engagement. These Board sub-committees created a communications plan framework, a community impact statement, fundraising standards and recommendations for member engagement initiatives. The work done by these sub-committees, which included members at large

and sustainers as well as the Directors of the Board, were presented to the 2017-18 Management Council for implementation. In addition, the 2016-17 Board, working with the Strategic Planning Committee, developed and approved a five year Strategic Plan for JLLA.

The framework of JLLA's governance and management model is unique in the world of non profits in that Directors of the Board are elected to two-year terms that include one year of management and one year of governance. Most nonprofit organizations do not limit Directors of the Board to serving one-year terms or offer a year of management training before the member becomes a Director of the Board. Additionally, many nonprofits have Boards of Directors that focus almost entirely on fundraising, which is not the primary objective of the JLLA's Board of Directors.

Karla Sayles, JLLA's current President-Elect says, "I've learned so much from watching us grow into the new structure. To see the last two BODs debate and discuss the true meaning of governance, set up processes and protocols, start to have strategic conversations about where we're going versus where we should be going. It's an exciting time to be part of JLLA's BOD, and I am learning the meaning of governance first hand, which has helped me in thinking about the year ahead as President-Elect and made me a better Board member."

JLLA's new governance model gives the League's senior leaders who nominate themselves for these positions the opportunity to gain nonprofit management experience as well as longer term strategic thinking and planning experience as a Director of the Board. The 2017-18 BOD will build on the work done by the 2016-17 Board and will focus on specific strategic initiatives identified in the 2017-22 Strategic Plan all in an effort to ensure a healthy and sustainable League for years to come.



**2017-2018
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**2017-2018
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 Catherine Nally, Assistant to the President-Elect-Elect



**Katie
McCullough**
2017-2018

“Strategy is not the consequence of planning, but the opposite: its starting point.” —Henry Mintzberg

I couldn't be more excited to embark on a new League-year in my role as President. I, along with the Board of Directors, am especially excited to steward our new five-year Strategic Plan.

As we enter the 2017-18 year, the Board of Directors is prioritizing three key strategies from the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan: Governance, Sustainability and Communications. These three priorities will guide our actions over the course of the year.

We will begin this year by considering the best practices and policies needed to support our Governance structure. As we enter the third-year of the split structure, we are committed to the continual development and improvement of systems that allow the Board of Directors to focus less on the day-to-day management of the League and more on the long-term sustainability of the League.

The Board of Directors will concurrently focus on increasing funding from external sources—corporate matching grants from firms associated with our valued members, League-wide sponsorships, and large scale community events including LA Big 5K. This emerging fundraiser achieves a majority of its revenue from external, non-member sources, and incurs nominal expenses.

Lastly, increased efforts will be placed on strengthening internal and external communications to increase member and community engagement. The Board of Directors will continue to closely monitor recruiting messaging to ensure we accurately convey the JLLA experience to prospective members, and analyze internal messaging to ensure members understand how League activities align with our mission. Additionally, the Board of Directors will allocate resources to the redesign of our public website, tools to deepen and track engagement, and upgrading technology. The Board of Directors is also committed to raising brand awareness in the Los Angeles by increasing JLLA's presence in community conversations through community coalitions and local public affairs.

In addition to these priority areas, the Membership Strategy Team will continue its work addressing the changing needs of our membership through the examination of a new Membership Model.

The Board of Directors is pleased to join with you, our valued members and stakeholders, as we all reach to accomplish JLLA's next major milestones.



PRESIDENTS' CUP AWARD



The Presidents' Cup Award is given annually by JLLA's Past Presidents to an Active member who has held at least two leadership positions and has made a significant and long-lasting contribution to JLLA. Past recipients of the award have gone on to serve on important nonprofit boards, commissions and in elected office. This year JLLA was honored to recognize Ricci Ramos for her extraordinary service in JLLA and our community.

Ricci has been a member of JLLA since 2008. She has held several leadership roles during her tenure including chairing the Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) College Prep 101 program for two years and co-chairing the Mar Vista Family Center arts education program. Ricci is a graduate of JLLA's

Leadership Development Institute (LDI) program. She has served as Projects Director and as Public Policy Director-Elect. Through Ricci's outstanding leadership and vision as Public Policy Director-Elect, Public Policy's Community Leadership Forum was recognized and awarded The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) 2015-16 Public Policy and Advocacy Award. During her service on JLLA's 2016-17 Board, Ricci was instrumental in developing JLLA's Community Impact Statement.

Ricci is currently a senior principal IT business systems analyst at Medtronic. She is a management professional with an extensive background in Finance and Information Technology, coordinating multi-disciplinary teams while providing expertise and leadership in program, project, and operations management.

Ricci holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Economics from California State University Los Angeles and a Masters in Organization Management from Antioch University. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

We are grateful to Ricci for her leadership and devotion to JLLA over the years!

LINDSAY SPILLER: SHINING STAR

Inspiring. Dedicated. Innovative. Effective. Passionate. Flexible. President-Elect-Elect Karla Sayles said that these words and more embody the essence and character of this year's Shining Star Award winner, Lindsay Spiller.

Karla recognized Lindsay's desire to impact JLLA from day one, and she was not alone. During Lindsay's first year in the League, fellow members couldn't stop talking about how amazing and passionate she was.

Lindsay has spent the past four years dedicating her time and efforts to improving JLLA's new member experience. Over the last two years, she has served as New Member Training Team Co-Chair. Lindsay is a visionary who helped transform the New Member program. According to Karla, it was her drive, leadership, and desire to train the new members in development that enabled them to raise \$37,000 through this year's 5k race.



It's evident that Lindsay wants to leave her mark on JLLA. She pitched a new pilot project about membership engagement and retention to the Board of Directors who fell in love with the idea, and over the last few months Lindsay has worked on the First Year Active Pilot Project via her new role as Membership Vice President.

Lindsay's compassion and leadership were especially evident during the 2016-17 League year as she guided her team of advisors through a year of highs and lows and traversed Los Angeles to inform new members about potential leadership opportunities and to recruit her own leadership team.

Thank you for your service, Lindsay!

JLLA would like to thank Mrs. William (Daryn) L. Horton for her most generous donation of \$10,000. The funds will be used to support JLLA's projects and programs.

In 2016, JLLA recognized Daryn Horton as its Spirit of Voluntarism Awardee. Daryn served JLLA in various leadership capacities as an Active member including Education



Chair, Vice President of Community and Administration and President from 1979-1980. While active with JLLA, she developed a volunteer package with the UCLA Center for Early Education, established a future planning process for JLLA and acted as a delegate to the AJLI

national convention. For a few years, she transferred to the Junior League of Washington, D.C., where she gave guided tours of the White House, the Houses of Congress and the Library of Congress to invited guests of the State Department.

Like so many members, Daryn thanks the League for the opportunity to gain skills by volunteering in the organization and the community which enabled her to assume leadership positions elsewhere. Daryn has served as trustee for Hollenbeck Palms, board member for United Way of Los Angeles and for the Los Angeles Council on Careers for Older Americans. She also was President of the Board of Marlborough School.

Daryn also worked as Vice President, Finance at Fitness Systems, Inc., her husband's multi-state business. Currently, Daryn is retired but remains an active supporter of Children's Institute, Inc., Teach for America and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Daryn and her husband, Bill, have two married daughters, a granddaughter at Marlborough School and a grandson at Williams College.

JLLA is grateful for your support!

CASH DONATIONS

\$10,000 and Above

Every Day Hero
Mrs. William L. Horton

\$7,500 to \$9,999

Pritzker Foster Care Initiative

\$5,000 to \$7,499

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Mrs. Douglas M. Weitman

\$2,500 to \$4,999

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2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

Net Fundraising Activities	\$208,926.62
Contributions (cash and in-kind)	\$122,788.50
Membership Dues & Fees	\$244,954.00
Investment Income	\$41,360.54
HQ Contingency Fund	\$36,299.67

GRAND TOTAL \$654,329.33

EXPENSES

Administration	\$171,081.58
Auxiliary Services	\$4,805.12
Dues	\$44,849.50
Placement & Program	\$201,909.62
Projects & Grants	\$42,226.13
Training & Education	\$29,762.46

GRAND TOTAL \$494,634.41

CASH & INVESTMENTS (TOTAL)

CASH BALANCES

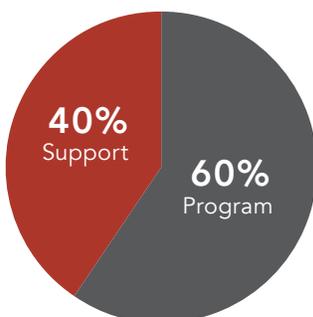
General Fund	\$323,450.18
HQ Contingency Fund	\$26,434.96
Sustainers Fund	\$18,688.90
Legacy Leadership Circle Fund	\$67,375.94

INVESTMENTS BALANCES

General Fund	\$762,519.11
Projects Fund	\$836,129.97
HQ Endowment Fund	\$884,862.18

TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS \$2,919,641.24

FINAL PROGRAM/SUPPORT SPLIT PERCENTAGE 60%/40%



PROGRAM FUNDS—raised by Development* (fundraising efforts/events) to support Projects, Programs, Public Policy Initiatives and Member Trainings

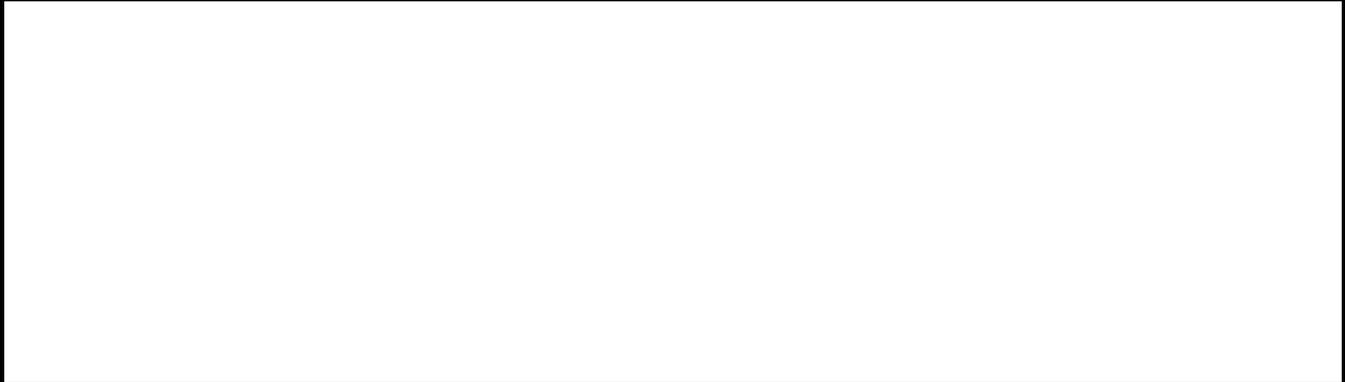
SUPPORT FUNDS—raised by Dues, Interest Income from Bank Accounts, Dividend Revenue from Investment Accounts goes to support Staff, Rainey House headquarters, Digital Cheetah website, and General Meetings

DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO): Annual Giving, Social & Special Events (e.g., LA Big 5K event), Harvest Boutique, Angeleno Night



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