



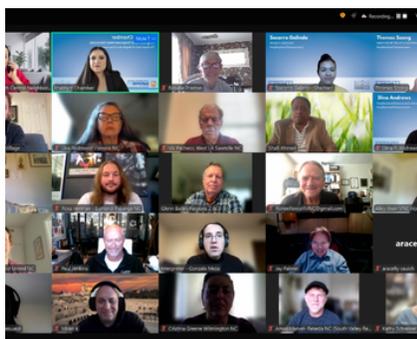
# NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS EMPOWER LA™

Department of  
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT



[www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org) • [EmpowerLA@LAcity.org](mailto:EmpowerLA@LAcity.org) • (213) 978-1551

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

The background is a light blue-toned illustration of a city street scene. It features various buildings of different heights and styles, some with arched windows and doors. There are several trees scattered throughout the scene. In the lower right, there is a bicycle rack with three bicycles. The overall style is clean and modern, with a focus on architectural details.

# **INTRODUCTION & VISION**

**EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT**

# LETTER FROM GENERAL MANAGER CHANG

To our Neighborhood Council leaders, volunteers, community partners, and supporters:



Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was a rollercoaster year for all. A time in which we celebrated 25 years of the Neighborhood Council system, and a year of loss at many levels. But through the bonds of community, we moved forward together and found reconnection and renewed purpose for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system. This impact report is a testament to

what we can achieve when we unite passion with action and partnership.

At the heart of this success are the nearly 1,800 Neighborhood Council board members who volunteer their time and step up to serve Los Angeles. After the successful conclusion of the 2025 Neighborhood Council Elections, Neighborhood Councils immediately got to work, dedicating countless hours to serve your communities. This report is, first and foremost, a celebration of your dedication.

Neighborhood Councils' hard work continues to translate directly into real-world impact. Neighborhood Councils guided 605 Neighborhood Purpose Grants to fund \$1.1M in local improvements, schools, and non-profits. They ensured your communities' voices were heard at City Hall by filing 4,125 Community Impact Statements to advocate for progress. And through vital initiatives like the Homelessness Liaisons program, Neighborhood Councils have become key, trusted partners in compassionate, on-the-ground solutions.

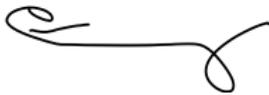
When I began my tenure as General Manager, it was clear that we were entering a defining moment for our City. We have faced a convergence of daunting challenges on a local and national scale—from the devastation of the January 2025 wildfires and the City's fiscal constraints tied to the broader national economy, to the immigration raids that have deeply impacted the safety and wellbeing of our diverse communities. Internally, EmpowerLA navigated these turbulent times

while managing significant losses in staffing, capacity, and resources. Yet in the face of this adversity, our team did not retreat. We worked tirelessly to respond to these crises, pivoting our operations to stay ahead of the curve and ensuring that our commitment to empowering Neighborhood Council leaders and Angelenos remained unshaken.

Additionally, none of this impact is possible without the partnership of the dedicated public servants at EmpowerLA. I am incredibly proud of our resilient team. They worked tirelessly to provide the foundation for Neighborhood Council success—from facilitating 1,383 training attendees across the City to responding to over 50,000 board and stakeholder communications, our staff's commitment to service excellence is unwavering. We are honored to serve as collaborators in this important work.

As we look ahead, our commitment is to continue enhancing our support, ensuring Neighborhood Councils and community members have the tools, training, and resources to step up and lead. The partnership between EmpowerLA and the 99 Neighborhood Councils, the largest grassroots civic engagement model in the nation and Your Voice at City Hall, is the engine of the people in Los Angeles, and I am inspired by the collective impact we will continue to make.

In Partnership,



**Carmen Chang**  
General Manager  
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment



# WHO

# WE ARE

## OUR STORY

EmpowerLA provides operational support to the grassroots-based Neighborhood Council system. This model was created in 1999, when voters passed amendments to the Los Angeles City Charter, adding Sec. 900 to Article IX. The system is extensive: 99 Neighborhood Councils are advisory bodies organized into 12 regions covering 502.7 square miles that make up the diverse and large City of Los Angeles. As locally elected board members who volunteer their time, Neighborhood Councils represent the community members and stakeholders within their boundaries.

The Department's duties are defined in the Los Angeles City Charter Sec. 901. In addition, the Los Angeles Administrative Code Sec. 22.801 subsection (1)(a) defines EmpowerLA's duties as including implementation of Neighborhood Council compliance with City ordinances and regulations. EmpowerLA administers its Charter-mandated responsibilities in partnership with the Offices of the City Attorney and the City Clerk.

The Neighborhood Council system was created to lift the voices of neighborhoods at Los Angeles City Hall. The Department's role is to assist them in their efforts to generate grassroots-driven advocacy for change to better the lives of neighbors and all Angelenos.

## OUR MISSION

EmpowerLA inspires Angelenos to shape the future of their neighborhoods through civic engagement and community advocacy, working with Neighborhood Councils to strengthen grassroots democracy across the City of Los Angeles and build people power from the ground up.

## OUR VISION

EmpowerLA envisions a co-governing Neighborhood Council system that represents and serves all Angelenos, bringing equity, democracy, and local power to every community in the City. Through the Neighborhood Council system, EmpowerLA aspires to a decision-making process that is equitably shared with people and policymakers throughout the City.

## OUR PARTNERS: THE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SYSTEM

Los Angeles' Neighborhood Council system is the nation's largest grassroots civic engagement model. Created in 1999 by an amendment to the City Charter, Neighborhood Councils ensure all Angelenos are represented in City government. Each Neighborhood Council is made up of Angelenos elected or appointed by their community who live, work, study, do business, worship, or volunteer in a hyperlocal Los Angeles neighborhood. They meet regularly to discuss community issues, collaborate with their City Councilmember and other City departments, and hear insights and input from community members. Advocating on issues like land use, housing, social services, public transportation, and more, Neighborhood Councils are the community's voice in City Hall.



# **OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS**

**EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT**

# OUR IMPACT

## BY THE NUMBERS

### CIVIC LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

**99**

Neighborhood Councils supported

**1,766**

Neighborhood Councils board seats

**1,509**

Neighborhood Council board members seated

**81**

board alternates

**14,613**

voters registered for Neighborhood Council elections

**1,522**

candidates secured for Neighborhood Council elections

**484**

board members attended onboarding Civic Leadership trainings

**43**

trainings facilitated and board retreats assisted

**400+**

attendees supported at the annual Congress of Neighborhoods and Budget Day events

## NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ACTIONS

**4,125**

Community Impact  
Statements  
submitted to City  
Council

**9,678**

agendas posted for  
public meetings

**65**

Neighborhood  
Councils provided  
with hybrid/ virtual  
meeting support

**410**

board member  
rosters processed

## DIGITAL REACH & SUPPORT

**50,071**

phone and e-mail  
communications  
serviced

**17,564**

social media  
engagements

**27,000**

election website  
page visits

**7,633**

newsletter sign ups



# KEY INITIATIVES & SUCCESS STORIES

EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

# KEY INITIATIVES AND SUCCESS STORIES

This fiscal year, our initiatives were guided by a commitment to elevate and support the Neighborhood Council system by listening to board and community members. We focused on executing a successful Neighborhood Council election through outreach and community engagement, and deepening our support for equity and representation in Neighborhood Council governance.

## 25 Years of Empowering LA– Celebrating the Impact of Neighborhood Councils



We closed 2024 and welcomed 2025 by **celebrating 25 years (a quarter century) of EmpowerLA, the Neighborhood Council system, and the lasting impact it has had on neighborhoods, civic participation, and representative models across Los Angeles and beyond.** The Department hosted *25 Years of Empowering LA: Celebrating the Impact of Neighborhood Councils* at Los Angeles City Hall– marking a major milestone for a system that has strengthened community engagement and fostered meaningful connections between neighborhoods and local government since its establishment in 1999.

The event brought together Neighborhood Council leaders from across the city, providing an opportunity to reflect on the system’s legacy while looking ahead to its future. We were honored to hear from our LA City Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Imelda Padilla, members of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC), and Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, whose reflections highlighted the evolution, resilience, and enduring importance of this grassroots democratic system. This celebration set a powerful tone and affirmed our continued commitment to advancing community empowerment across Los Angeles. We are looking forward to the next 25 years!

# 2025 Neighborhood Council Election Engagement

The Awareness & Engagement division designed and administered a robust public engagement strategy for the 2025 Neighborhood Council elections in partnership with the Office of the City Clerk. This campaign created significant momentum and a strong foundation for future outreach.



- **Voter & candidate recruitment:** Working in collaboration with the Office of the City Clerk, successfully registered 14,613 voters and secured 1,522 candidates across 66 Neighborhood Council elections to fill 1,119 seats. An increase of over 16% from the previous election cycle, demonstrating a significant expansion of the civic leadership & engagement pipeline. Additionally, seven (7) of the 12 regions saw an increase in the number of certified candidates.
  - **Selections and Election Scheduling:** Twelve (12) Neighborhood Councils did not hold elections in 2025. Of those, eight (8) conducted Selections, including four (4) that exercised a one-time option to implement Selections as an alternative process best suited to their community. Selection is a process where board members are chosen through an internal decision-making process, bypassing a wider electoral vote to streamline the process. The remaining four (4) Neighborhood Councils were not scheduled to hold elections in 2025 in accordance with their bylaws.
  - **Board Affirmations:** The number of Neighborhood Councils that did not trigger an election dropped from 39 in 2023 to 21 in 2025, a 46% decrease.
  - **Engagement & turnout:** Achieved a 61% vote-by-mail ballot return rate, reflecting a highly engaged and responsive electorate. Six (6) of the 12 regions and 34 Neighborhood Councils saw an increase in the number of ballots returned.
  - **Candidate & Voter Engagement:** Sent 90 Get-Out-the-Vote emails to registered voters and up to 43,000 addresses to remind them of deadlines and offer assistance. Additionally, distributed over 13,000 election materials to register voters and candidates at events and public meetings.
- **Strategic partnerships:** Forged formal partnerships with 41 City Departments (in addition to 42 LA Public Library branches) and 30 community-based organizations to amplify outreach.
  - **Community Events:** Tabled and participated in 49 events to promote vote-by-mail, candidate applications, and create general election awareness. Eighteen (18) of those events were in direct support of Neighborhood Councils that participated in events.

- **Presentations:** Led 45 Neighborhood Council 101 sessions during the election cycle to promote regional elections and deadlines.
- **Direct Neighborhood Council support:** Provided direct election strategy support by completing 1-on-1 consultations with 75% of Neighborhood Councils and hosting 28 regional workgroup meetings on outreach best practices.



- **Material & digital support:** Produced and distributed over 15,500 pieces of election-specific collateral (flyers, postcards, candidate materials) and created 317 unique graphics to drive awareness. Distributed 22,904 resources and promotional materials.

- **Social Media Toolkits:** Composed 14 toolkits for Neighborhood Councils, City Departments, and trusted community partners. These toolkits were downloaded 893

times and provided general and regionally specific information about candidate filing, voter applications, vote-by-mail deadlines, and more.

- **Awareness Assets:** Designed 583 graphics and flyers to promote election awareness and printed over 4,800 outreach materials.

## Connecting Angelenos with City Leaders

We successfully supported two annual flagship events, the annual Congress of Neighborhoods and the citywide Budget Day hosted by the Congress of Neighborhoods planning committee and the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, to provide a critical bridge connecting grassroots leaders and community members with City Hall. These events collectively brought **over 400** Angelenos, Neighborhood Council leaders, and City officials together for direct dialogue and collaboration on the most pressing issues facing our communities.



**Congress of Neighborhoods:** The annual Congress of Neighborhoods connected over 300 leaders and policymakers, fostering city-wide policy development and ensuring neighborhood priorities inform municipal strategy. The 2024 Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods, hosted in September at City Hall, offered workshops focused on practical civic skills, such as

understanding city budgets, zoning codes, and government transparency tools to empower

Neighborhood Council members.

Participants also engaged in training sessions addressing pressing community issues like climate resilience, homelessness, disability advocacy, and strategies for effective collaboration with City departments.

**2025 Neighborhood Council Budget Day:** The Budget Day, hosted by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates in June at City Hall, was a key engagement highlight. Over 150 Neighborhood Council board members and community stakeholders came to City Hall to hear from a robust lineup of budget experts, including Mayor Karen Bass, Budget and Finance Chair Katy Yaroslavsky, City



Administrative Officer Matt Szabo, EmpowerLA General Manager Carmen Chang, Board of Neighborhood Commissioner Len Shaffer, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation CEO Steven Cheung, and Chief Deputy Controller Rick Cole. The event concluded with productive regional breakout sessions focused on discussing neighborhood aspirations, challenges, and opportunities.

## Direct Training & Support

EmpowerLA is dedicated to providing Neighborhood Council board members with the tools they need to lead effectively. This year, we conducted **43 trainings and board retreats**, providing **484** board members with new tools. Our strategic approach to capacity-building included several key initiatives:



- **Strategic regional onboarding for new board members:** Following the 2025 Neighborhood Council elections, the Civic Leadership division launched a series of regional meet-and-greets across the City. These four gatherings established a high-value onboarding model by connecting newly elected board members directly with executive partners and each other.

These partners included the Mayor's office representatives, City Council representatives, Board of Public Works commissioners, and Recreation & Parks Department staff. This strategic engagement provided immediate, high-level operational context, strengthening collaboration for all.

- **Enhanced language access for governance training:** The Division continued to expand its commitment to equitable training through the "Robert's Rules Made Simple" online portal. A key development was the creation of a complete series of instructional videos in Spanish to teach parliamentary procedure. This critical step ensures that the City's Spanish-speaking board members have full, accessible, and on-demand learning resources for mastering deliberate governance, promoting a more inclusive, well-trained Neighborhood Council system.
- **Launch of the second edition board manual:** The One-Stop Operational Guide. We developed and released the comprehensive second edition of the Neighborhood Council Board Manual. This manual was revamped to serve as a single, user-friendly source for all operational, regulatory, and compliance guidance. The manual also provides direct access and a directory to key City contacts, including the Mayor's office and City Council offices, effectively streamlining the Neighborhood Councils' ability to connect with and advise City leadership.

## Equity & Inclusion Initiatives

EmpowerLA is committed to ensuring that the Neighborhood Council system reflects the rich diversity of Los Angeles and serves all communities equitably. This fiscal year, we advanced this commitment through several key initiatives:

- **Racial Equity Baseline Study:** We established an internal committee to support the City-wide racial equity baseline study for all 99 Neighborhood Councils (CF 21-0600), laying the groundwork for more equitable outreach and participation.
- **Neighborhood Council Women in Leadership:** We continued to convene and create spaces for the Neighborhood Council Women in Leadership Group, fostering mentorship and advancing their growth and participation in executive positions on boards and committees.
- **Antiracist Results-Based Accountability Training:** The development of our Results-Based Accountability training program provides a powerful new tool for Neighborhood Councils to center equity in their work and decision-making.



## Compassionate Action, Local Solutions



EmpowerLA's Homelessness Liaisons program has evolved into a vital model for inclusive civic action, now comprised of 84 appointed liaisons representing 50 Neighborhood Councils. This year, the program moved beyond general advocacy to establish critical operational partnerships, connecting liaisons directly with the Mayor's Inside Safe program and L.A. Care's Street Medicine teams to coordinate

resources. By integrating the unique perspectives of community members with lived experience, the program has transformed community concern into a decentralized, rapid-response network that effectively bridges the gap between hyper-local sentiment and City Hall.

- **Strategic alignment & advocacy:** Liaisons utilized their specialized training and access to City leadership to drive policy, resulting in 63 Community Impact Statement (CIS) submissions focused on supportive housing, non-violent crisis response, and street-based medicine services.
- **Innovation at the neighborhood level:** Moving from policy to practice, Neighborhood Councils deployed creative, data-driven solutions, such as Studio City NC's dashboard for prioritizing unhoused neighbor concerns and Atwater Village NC's laundry service days to support local hygiene needs.

For more information, please visit our webpage: [www.empowerla.org/homelessness-liaisons](http://www.empowerla.org/homelessness-liaisons).

## Resilience in Crisis

This fiscal year, EmpowerLA navigated a period of intense operational stress, defined by an ongoing citywide fiscal crisis, the devastating January 2025 wildfires, and persistent federal uncertainties. Amidst these external pressures, our department absorbed significant internal challenges, including the elimination of several full-time positions. This staff loss, coupled with the necessity of managing cuts to operational



funding, required immediate and strategic reorganization to protect core services. Despite these capacity constraints, the EmpowerLA team demonstrated unwavering resilience and operational innovation. We successfully mitigated the impact of these reductions by implementing cross-functional support models. Key organizational adjustments included:

- **Expanded NEA portfolio management:** Our remaining Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates (NEAs) took on significantly expanded portfolios, with each now providing direct support to a challenging ratio of 9 to 11 Neighborhood Councils (a 28% increase in assignments).
- **Process standardization:** We prioritized efficiency by launching the comprehensive second edition board manual, which standardized all compliance and operational guidance into a single, user-friendly source. This action streamlined common Neighborhood Council requests, freeing up NEA time for complex, urgent community issues.
- **Uninterrupted service continuity:** Through a coordinated, department-wide commitment, we ensured that all 99 Neighborhood Councils received essential, uninterrupted logistical and governance support, maintaining a stable platform for grassroots democracy during a time of critical need.

## Listening to Our Leaders



Upon her appointment in June 2024, General Manager Carmen Chang prioritized immediate, direct engagement with the Neighborhood Council system. Understanding that effective support begins with listening, the Department launched a comprehensive "Listening Tour," conducting seven regional meet-and-greet sessions with Neighborhood Council Presidents and Vice Presidents to hear directly from leaders.

This initiative provided a vital platform for frank dialogue, grounding the Department's new leadership in the real-world experiences of Neighborhood Council board members. Key takeaways from the tour included:

- **Identifying Core Themes:** The sessions surfaced three primary areas of focus: the evolving role of EmpowerLA, the need for enhanced outreach and engagement support, and the challenges of navigating working relationships with other City departments.
- **Balancing Compliance with Support:** While leaders expressed deep appreciation for the guidance of their Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates (NEAs), they also highlighted the need for EmpowerLA to pivot from a focus on bureaucratic compliance to providing more robust support in marketing, communications, and leadership development.
- **Streamlining Systems & Strengthening Partnerships:** Leaders highlighted a clear need for continuous improvement in navigating Citywide administrative frameworks. Feedback emphasized the importance of reducing bureaucratic hurdles within fiscal and operational processes and fostering stronger collaboration across departments to ensure seamless access to essential resources, such as meeting spaces.

The background is a green-toned illustration of a city street scene. It features various buildings of different heights and styles, some with arched windows and doors. There are trees scattered throughout the scene, and a bicycle rack with several bicycles is visible on the right side. The overall style is a simple line-art illustration.

# **VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY**

**EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT**

# VOICES

## FROM THE COMMUNITY

*"I am so impressed, and I want to give kudos to this wonderful staff that's at EmpowerLA. I really appreciate the staff that has come on board, I appreciate their backgrounds – whether it's in education or community service, whatever it is they were doing before they came to the Department, I'm so inspired by all that they've done and the work that they're doing."*

**Joy Atkinson, The Late Commissioner Emeritus,  
Board of Neighborhood Commissioners**



*"The Department's support has been instrumental in strengthening our Neighborhood Council's impact—from facilitating meaningful connections with other City departments to partnering on major events such as Del Rey Day and the Los Angeles Congress of Neighborhoods. Through practical workshops and ongoing collaboration, your team has helped advance board member effectiveness and deepen our ability to serve the community."*

**Daniel Perez, President, Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council**

*"The Hollywood United board appointed in 2023 was still fairly nascent, with zero institutional knowledge heading into the Neighborhood Council 2025 election cycle. Without the critical and timely assistance of EmpowerLA, and more specifically the Awareness and Engagement team, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council would not have been able to hold a successful election required for its rejuvenation. The Department quickly responded and facilitated the needs of the sole member of the Election team in both candidacy recruitment and elections."*



**Brandi D'Amore, President, Hollywood United Neighborhood Council**



*"You've been there, DONE that and more – from doorstep deliveries for events to supporting our members through language and physical challenges, showing up for our events whenever they could, and even helping us wrangle our way through the NC paperwork (a heroic feat in itself). EmpowerLA has been such a joy to work with, and their support has truly lifted our Neighborhood Council and our community."*

**Aurora Corona, former Secretary, Pico Union Neighborhood Council**

*"EmpowerLA is a small department in the City, yet its impact is monumental and seen throughout the City of Los Angeles. Not only are their reps actively supporting Neighborhood Councils on a daily basis, but they are also actively collaborating with other departments in Public Works to help community members access city resources and create solutions to issues throughout Los Angeles. LASAN appreciates working with EmpowerLA and how their staff always has a 'can-do' attitude."*



**Tristen Marler, Service Coordinator, Department of LA Sanitation**

# BUILDING

## LOCAL IMPACT

### The Civic Leadership Pipeline: 2025 EmpowerLA Youth Conference



In 2024–25, EmpowerLA strengthened its commitment to youth civic engagement through our Civic Youth initiatives—creating meaningful pathways for young Angelenos to understand, participate in, and shape local government. At the heart of this effort was the EmpowerLA Youth Conference, a one-day event that brought together 150 youth (ages 14–17) from across the City to explore civic leadership,

learn about the Neighborhood Council system, and build connections with peers and City leaders.

The conference provided hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and a resource fair featuring over a dozen City departments, Neighborhood Councils, and community partners. Workshops led by LA Sanitation, Civil + Human Rights, the Office of the City Clerk, and Recreation & Parks introduced youth to civic processes and opportunities for engagement they might not otherwise encounter. The resource fair highlighted Neighborhood Councils from across the city, including the Zapata-King, West Adams, EC Central, and others—demonstrating grassroots civic leadership. A highlight was a panel moderated by North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council President Zaid Diaz-Arias, featuring Youth Development Department Executive Director Lisa Salazar, LAUSD Director of Engagement Antonio Plascencia, City Controller Kenneth Mejia, and EmpowerLA General Manager Carmen Chang.

By centering youth voices and investing in early civic leadership, we are helping build a more inclusive and informed civic future—one where young leaders are prepared to advocate for their communities today and into the future.

# From Community Need to Concrete Action

In 2024, the Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council (GCPNC) identified a critical need for new stop signs to improve public safety at a key intersection. Public safety improvements, such as stop sign installations, save lives and can significantly enhance the quality of life, particularly in communities impacted by heavy cut-through traffic and unsafe roadway conditions.

Bringing this project to life can require navigating a complex process. This is where EmpowerLA plays a key role by supporting Neighborhood Councils through each stage of the capital improvement process, ensuring they have a clear roadmap to move from identifying a community need to implementing a solution.



Neighborhood Empowerment Advocates (NEAs) served as essential partners by connecting Neighborhood Councils with the appropriate City departments, outlining required steps, and providing the guidance and resources needed to advance the installation of stop signs.

Across Los Angeles, Neighborhood Councils are turning community priorities into visible impact—such as North Hollywood Northeast’s collaboration to bring public art to the Fair Avenue Elementary School mural, and Hollywood United’s ongoing maintenance of dog waste bag dispensers in local parks to promote cleanliness.

Together, these projects demonstrate the strength of the Neighborhood Council system: community members bring local insight and vision, while EmpowerLA provides the expertise and navigation needed to transform ideas into lasting improvements that benefit Angelenos citywide.



# **LOOKING AHEAD TO FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

**EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT**

# LOOKING AHEAD

## TO FY 2025-2026

As we celebrate the accomplishments of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, we are already focused on the work ahead. Our 2025-2026 budget and strategic plans are centered on deepening our support for the Neighborhood Council system.

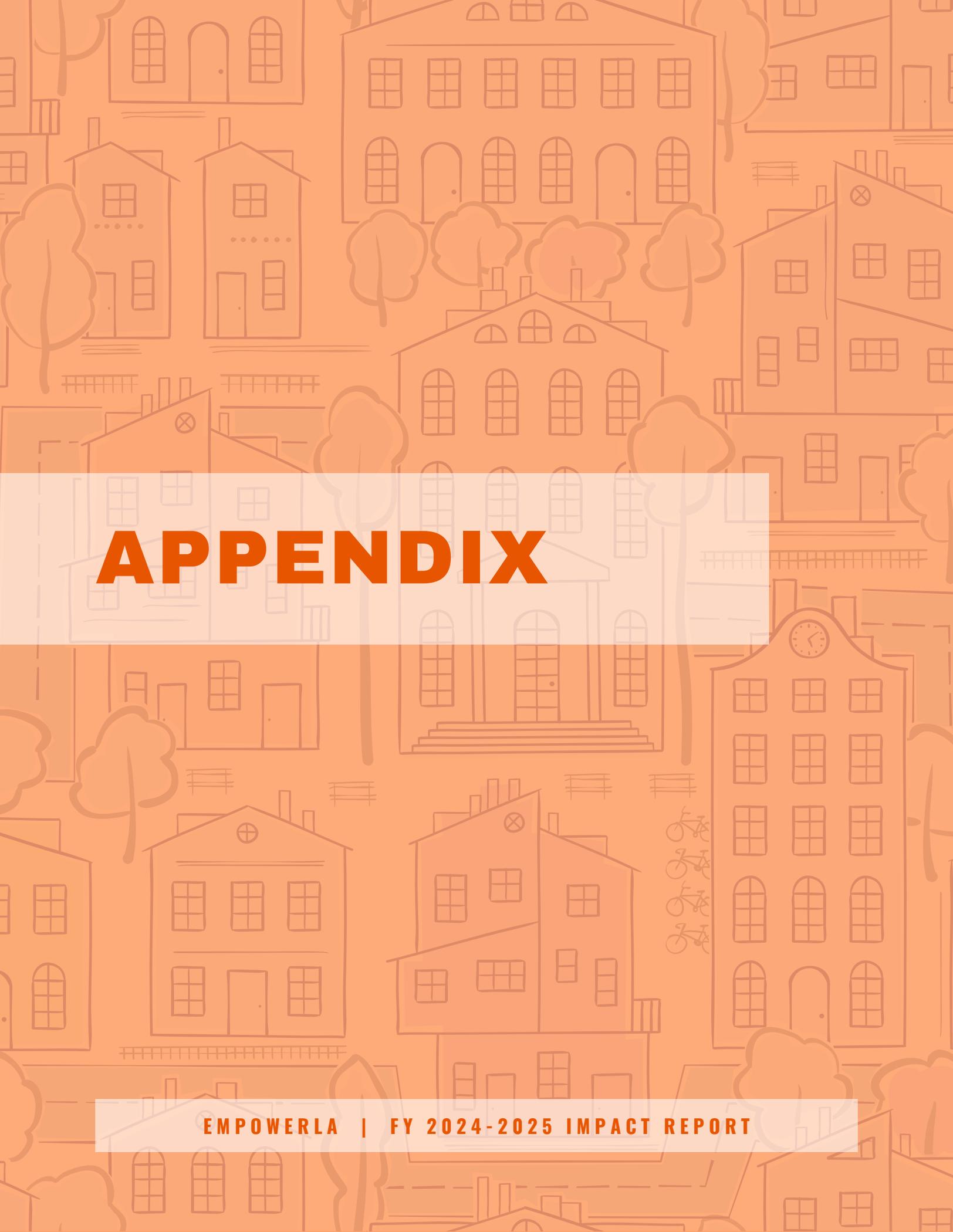
Our key priorities include:

**Enhancing direct support:** We remain committed to reducing the Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) to Neighborhood Council ratio, providing more direct, hands-on support for every board member.

**Expanding year-round outreach:** Building on our election success, we will invest in year-round outreach to build a deeper bench of community leaders and ensure our Neighborhood Councils reflect the full diversity of our city.

**Preparing for the global stage:** With the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games on the horizon, EmpowerLA and the Neighborhood Council system are uniquely positioned to help the City engage community volunteers and ensure these global events have a lasting, positive local impact.

We will continue to advocate for the tools, resources, and staffing our Neighborhood Councils need to thrive, remaining steadfast in our vision for a more responsive and participatory local government.



# APPENDIX

EMPOWERLA | FY 2024-2025 IMPACT REPORT

# OUR PARTNERS

## IN GOVERNANCE

We extend our deepest gratitude to the 1,800+ volunteer Neighborhood Council board members who dedicate countless hours to serving their communities. You are the heart of this system.

Arleta • Arroyo Seco • Arts District Little Tokyo • Atwater Village • Bel Air-Beverly Crest • Boyle Heights • CANN DU • Canoga Park • Central Alameda • Central Hollywood • Central San Pedro • Chatsworth • Coastal San Pedro • Del Rey • Downtown LA • Eagle Rock • East Hollywood • Echo Park • Elysian Valley Riverside • Empowerment Congress Central • Empowerment Congress North • Empowerment Congress Southeast • Empowerment Congress Southwest • Empowerment Congress West • Encino • Foothill Trails District • Glassell Park • Granada Hills North • Granada Hills South • Greater Cypress Park • Greater Toluca Lake • Greater Valley Glen • Greater Wilshire • Harbor City • Harbor Gateway North • Harbor Gateway South • Hermon • Historic Cultural North • Historic Highland Park • Hollywood Hills West • Hollywood Studio District • Hollywood United • LA 32 • Lake Balboa • Lincoln Heights • Los Feliz • MacArthur Park • Mar Vista • Mid City • Mid City West • Mission Hills • Noho • North Hills East • North Hills West • North Hollywood Northeast • North Hollywood West • North Westwood • Northridge East • Northridge South • Northridge West • Northwest San Pedro • Olympic Park • Pacoima • Palms • Panorama City • Park Mesa Heights • PICO • Pico Union • Porter Ranch • Rampart Village • Reseda • Sherman Oaks • Silver Lake • South Central • South Robertson • Studio City • Sun Valley Area • Sunland-Tujunga • Sylmar • Tarzana • United Neighborhoods • Valley Village • Van Nuys • Venice • Voices • Watts • West Adams • West Hills • West Los Angeles Sawtelle • Westchester-Playa • Westlake North • Westlake South • Westside • Westwood • Wilmington • Wilshire Center-Koreatown • Winnetka • Woodland Hills • Warner Center • Zapata-King

# OUR BOARD



**Len Shaffer**  
President & South  
Valley  
Commissioner



**Keren Waters**  
Vice President &  
North Valley  
Commissioner



**Joy Atkinson**  
The Late  
Commissioner  
Emeritus,  
South Los Angeles



**Debbie Wehbe**  
Central Los Angeles  
Commissioner



**Maggie Quiroz**  
East Los Angeles  
Commissioner



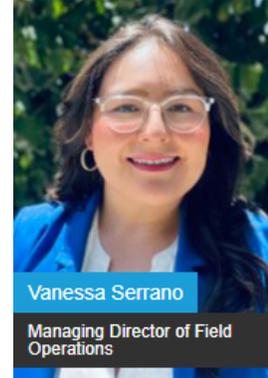
**Randell Erving**  
West Los Angeles  
Commissioner



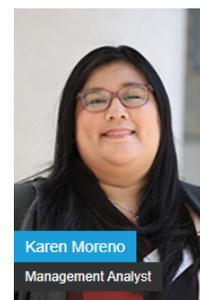
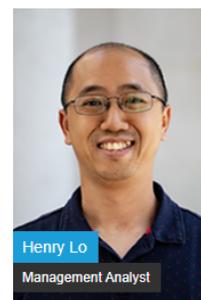
**Douglas Epperhart**  
Harbor Area Commissioner

# OUR TEAM

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION





Man-Qin He  
Senior Accountant



Cecilia Elmange  
Accounting Clerk



Mario Gomez  
Administrative Clerk



Axel Perez  
Administrative Clerk



Vartan Shatarevyan  
Administrative Clerk



Kevin Argueta  
Project Assistant



Joanna Alvarez  
Project Assistant



Preston Colthirst-Peryer  
Project Assistant

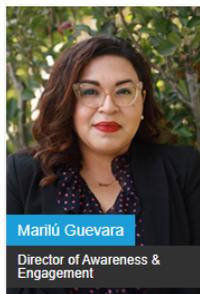


Lena McElroy  
Project Assistant



Kyle Stone  
Project Assistant

# AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT DIVISION



Manlú Guevara  
Director of Awareness & Engagement



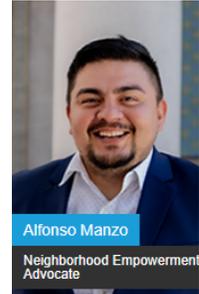
Ava Marinelli  
Public Information Officer



Erica Gatica Doughty  
Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate

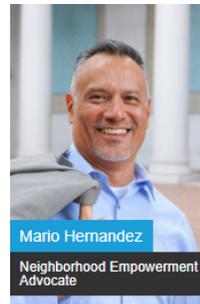


Daniel D. Johnson  
Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate

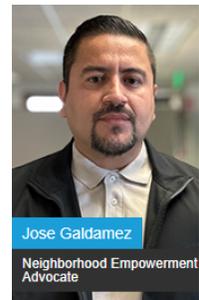
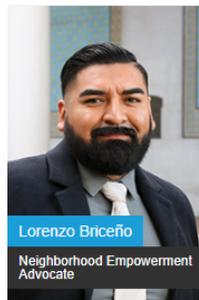


Alfonso Manzo  
Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate

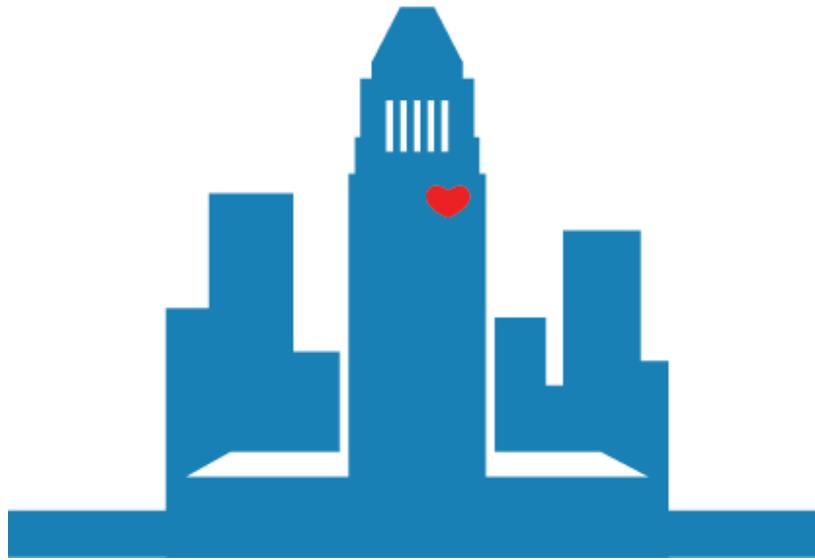
# CIVIC LEADERSHIP DIVISION



# POLICY, GOVERNMENT, & INNOVATION DIVISION



NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS  
**EMPOWER** **LA**<sup>™</sup>



@EmpowerLA



@empowerla.bsky.social



@EmpowerLA



@EmpowerLA

200 N Spring St, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 978-1551  
[empowerla.org](http://empowerla.org)