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From The Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC)

MVCC NEWS

Winter
2020

Your connection to the City of Los Angeles since 2002. Population 51,338 and counting!

Why Neighborhood Councils are Important

That's the difference between governments and individuals. Governments don't care, individuals do.
~Mark Twain, 1880.

Did you know that the Mar Vista Community Council represents 22% of your City Council District?

The numbers tell the story. Los Angeles has fifteen city council members and is home to more than four million people—that is about two hundred and seventy thousand per council member. Population of Mar Vista is about sixty thousand.

Neighborhood Councils (NCs) were chartered in 1999 with the hope of putting *individuals* back in charge of the government. The design combined aspects of a citizen-

volunteer and an elected official—volunteers *from* the community that are elected *by* the community to sit on their NC Board.

NCs “gather, vet, and debate” information to provide a “consensus” on the matters that concern stakeholders (a term used for those who “live, work, own property, or have a community interest”) to the City. It takes a majority vote on the NC Board to determine a consensus. Once reached, any consensus is communicated to the City Council and other City Departments (e.g., Department of City Planning) through an official letter called a Community Impact

Statement or CIS. The City considers every CIS a part of the discussion on the pertaining issues. CISs can be viewed online and searched by a keyword or Council File number. MarVista.org provides a link at *Board>BoardMeetingAgendas*.



All ninety-nine of the Los Angeles NCs receive public funds in the amount of \$42,000 annually. The budget is to advocate to the City on behalf

of the stakeholders regarding the issues of concern, to create events and programs that respond to community needs, and to provide other outreach initiatives. How do *you* think *your* money should
...continued on page 5

Welcome



Happy New Year to all! As we ring in the new year, I'd like to invite all stakeholders to become involved with the Mar Vista Community Council. The council has several committees that deal with issues such as planning and land use, homelessness, emergency preparation, and much more. Whatever your interests, there's a place for you. Best of all, meetings are free and open to the public; all stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to participate. So, in the new year, resolve to make your community a better place. Please feel free to reach out to me or to any board member for more information.

Elliot Hanna
Elliot Hanna
 MVCC Chair

Board & Officers

Stakeholders vote for six Zone Directors, six At-Large Directors, and one Community Director.

These thirteen Directors comprise the Board of Directors. The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Mar Vista Recreation Center. It takes a quorum of seven for the meeting to be held.

The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) oversees and regulates every Neighborhood Council as does the City Clerk's office that also conducts the biennial elections. The MVCC is governed by its Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Policies. All of these documents are available online at MarVista.org.

Like other California government agencies, the MVCC must follow the Brown Act that requires all meetings to be "open and public, and all persons shall ...continued on page 6

MVCC Begins - The Origins of the MVCC

On October 12, 2000, Bill Scheduling and Tom Ponton first crossed paths at a meeting organized by the new Los Angeles City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to discuss the creation of a Neighborhood Council in our area. The creation of citywide Neighborhood Councils was now mandated by the new City Charter.

It took two more years of organizing efforts before the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) became the 41st Neighborhood Council on August 13, 2002.



improve stakeholders' voice with the city. The first meeting was held on November 15, 2000, at the West Los Angeles Parking Enforcement Building, and was primarily an attempt to bring neighbors together to talk about boundaries, bylaws, and outreach. Future meetings were primarily held at the Mar Vista Recreation Center, which seemed ...continued on page 6

Primarily using their own email lists of neighbors and the Neighborhood Associations, organizers got the word out to Mar Vista stakeholders about plans to organize something new to



Time is Ticking... Community Plan

It was seventy-four years ago that the City of Los Angeles updated our Zoning Codes and twenty-three years since the Community Plan was updated. Currently, both are happening as part of the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan Update. This means the City is creating a new blueprint for how our ...continued on page 4

Education, Arts & Culture Committee

The EACC is a diverse gathering of community stakeholders dedicated to improving our entire community's quality of life through enhanced Education, Culture and Arts, in and around Mar Vista. Please see back page for meeting details.

Elections & Bylaws Committee

Join the discussion regarding the nuts and bolts about MVCC rules and procedures. The Elections and Bylaws Committee meets every month at Windward School, Room 1030. Please see back page for meeting details.

Planning & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)

Promotes community input and involvement in land use, planning, beautification and appropriately sized public, commercial and residential development. Holds forums to help stakeholders understand the best ways to make their voices heard.

PLUM Subcommittee: Community Plan

Responsible for ensuring that the voice of Mar Vista is presented to the Department of City Planning (DCP) regarding the Community Plan Update and reCodeLA. It is important for everyone to participate. Please see back page for meeting details.

At-Large Directors
 Christine Stemar
 Selena Inouye
 Andrea Ambriz
 Rob Kadota
 Kathryn Wheeler
 Gabriel Hill

Zone Directors
 Zone 1 - Stacy Shure
 Zone 2 - Martin Rubin
 Zone 3 - Mary Hruska
 Zone 4 - Dr. Robert G. Watkins IV
 Zone 5 - Michelle Krupkin
 Zone 6 - Holly Tilson

Community Director
 Elliot Hanna

At-Large Directors

Six "At-large" Directors are elected by stakeholders (over the age of 18) who live, work, or own property within the stated boundaries of Mar Vista.

Zone Directors

Zone Directors are elected by stakeholders (over the age of 18) who live, work, or own property within their respective Zone.

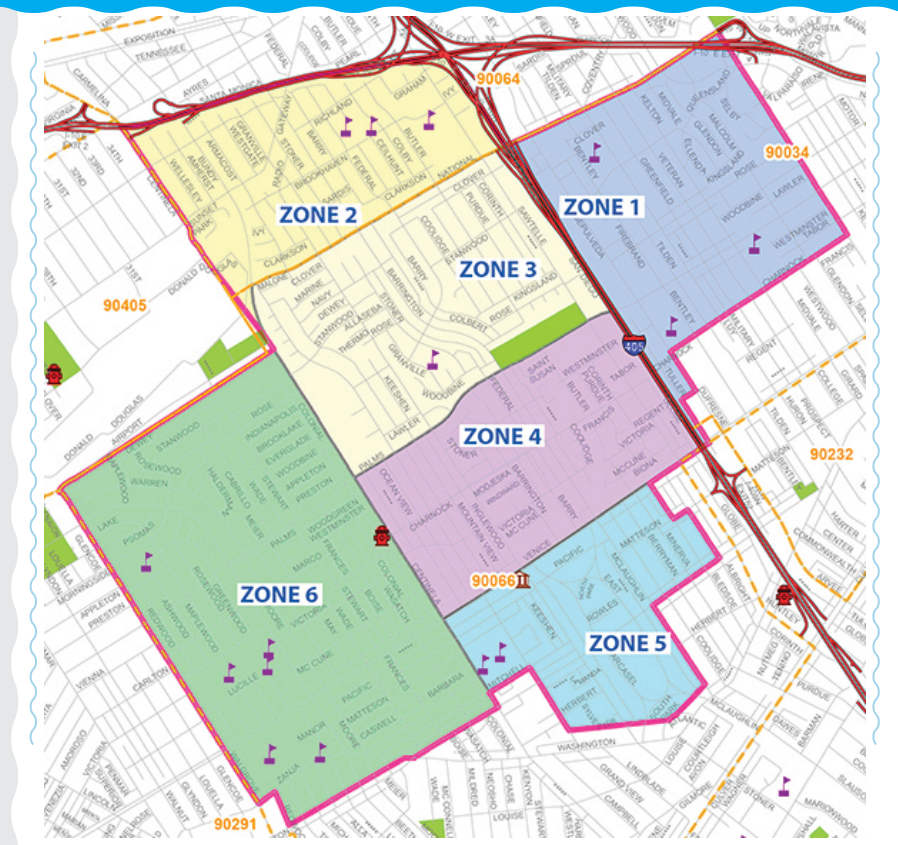
Community Director

Community Director is elected by stakeholders (over the age of 18) who live, work, own property, or have a community interest within Mar Vista.

DIRECTORS

Know Your Zone

- 01** South of National
 North of Charnock
 (between Overland & Sepulveda)
 East of the 405
 West of Overland
- 02** South of the 10
 North of National
 East of Centinela
 West of the 405
- 03** South of National
 North of Palms
 East of Centinela
 West of the 405
- 04** South of Palms
 North of Venice
 East of Centinela
 West of the 405
- 05** South of Venice
 North of Culver City
 East of Centinela
 West of Sawtelle
- 06** South of Santa Monica Airport
 North of Washington
 East of Walgrove
 West of Centinela
 North of Culver City Border
 (between Sawtelle and the intersection of Zanja/Walgrove)



Our Work So Far Since August to Now

- Requested LAPD increase enforcement of drug violations
- Active engagement for RSO tenants to prevent displacement
- Review of discretionary developments in Mar Vista
- Request for regulation and monitoring of dockless scooters
- Request for Parking Demand Study along major corridors
- Request for sidewalk installation, street & landscape maintenance

Time is Ticking... Community Plan

...continued from page 3
neighborhood will develop. Each month the MVCC Community Plan Subcommittee meets to discuss these changes and is your opportunity to provide input to the City. This input depends on YOU and what you tell us, so please join us!

The Zoning and Community Plan decisions are being made NOW. What do you want Mar Vista to look like in five years? Ten years? Twenty-five years? Do you want hotels? Multi-family units? Single-family homes? How high do you want the buildings? The traditional two-story, or a five/six-story building? Should new structures be rent stabilized? Are there any areas that you would like



adopted an “accelerated timeline for the proposed updates” to achieve a more sustainable result—“ensuring that the adoption of the new community plans keep pace with the latest development trends.”

Community Plans instruct residents and developers of “where and what type of development will be permitted” and plans twenty to twenty-five years into the future.

Why Neighborhood Councils Are Important:

...continued from page 1

be spent? Do any of the thirteen MVCC Board members know how and where you would like *your* tax dollars to be spent? Do they know what issues concern *you*? Do any of *your* concerns come before the Board? If so, do Board members know how *you* would like them to vote?

The answer is, “probably not.” And, the reasons are varied and not up for discussion—it is your life, your time, and *you* get to choose how *you* wish to spend it. But, please remember that *your* Neighborhood

Make a Difference: One Stakeholder’s Story

My primary focus in City and County issues have been those improving transportation, mobility, and infrastructure. These are the things we need and yet are often ignored every day of our lives...unless we are suddenly without them. Without roads, electricity, cellphone

service, or the Internet, our civilized lives become quickly and hopelessly disrupted. My work with the MVCC has mainly focused on how transportation and infrastructure (T&I) are required for the survival of our Economy, the preservation of our Environment, and the enhancement of our Quality of Life.

My first forays into the T&I world were at the grassroots level. It was relatively apolitical, and my ongoing efforts were dedicated to both my transit-dependent and car-

at work. The raise cannot possibly justify doubling one’s spending—yet, that is exactly what is occurring in the City and County.

Hence, many of us in the MVCC have major concerns about over-development without first accommodating for transportation, electricity, water, sewage, and communications infrastructure that are fundamental and mandatory for these new developments to be built and be livable. The affordable housing crisis is very real, but in no

Public Health & Safety Committee.

Facilitates health and safety through providing resources to assist in preparing, training, and actionable steps. Encourages personal responsibility and cooperation with public and private-sector agencies. Please see back page for meeting details.

Public Health & Safety Subcommittee: Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness (e.g., earthquake) minimizes injury, loss of life, and property damage, which is why we’re working to help prepare as many as possible. We welcome your ideas and participation in this goal. Please see back page for meeting details.

Public Health & Safety Subcommittee: Homeless Issues

Seeking to protect the community from the impacts of homelessness by helping homeless individuals with the objective of obtaining permanent housing and a more hopeful future away from the streets. Please see back page for meeting details.

Outreach Subcommittee: Renters’ Engagement

Our mission is to encourage and promote renter engagement with the MVCC and its committees. We value participation from all community members interested in promoting renter engagement with the MVCC. Please see back page for meeting details.

- Hosted Community Presentation by LA City Comptroller
- Hosted Community Presentation by LINXS on LAX People Mover
- Coordination of public meetings on Culver City Stormwater Project - new sewer line along Venice Blvd., and new water main along Sepulveda Blvd.
- Pothole Blitz

Fund Local Events

- Free Disaster Workshop
- MV Kids & Craftz Festival
- Mobile Graffiti Wall
- Venice High School Grease Night

to be preserved, or designated as “historic?” Do you want added “open spaces” or “green spaces”?

These are just a few of the questions that the MVCC Community Plan Subcommittee is tackling. And, there isn’t much time left for the decisions to be sent to the Department of City Planning (DCP).

The DCP has been charged with updating all 35 Community Plans by 2024. The Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan Update is one of the sixteen plans (covering 180 square miles) that are already in process; yet, still open to stakeholder (i.e., your) comments, ideas, and input. The DCP has

It will incorporate the “new zoning designations,” or re:codeLA. The final Community Plan will contain the “goals, policies and programs for future land-use decision making, and a land use map which designates the land use for each property in the Plan area.”

To learn more, attend a monthly meeting every fourth Tuesday. Meetings begin at 7:30pm in the Narthex Room at Saint Andrew’s. See the back page for more details.

Quotes are from the City’s website: <http://planning.lacity.org>.

*By Mary Hruska
Zone 3 Director, MVCC Secretary
Community Plan Chair*

Council (i.e., MVCC) is made up of thirteen volunteer and elected individuals that represents 22% of Council District 11’s population or “vote.” And, if *you* are not clearly communicating to one or all of the thirteen directors about the issues that concern *you*—who is? And, how are *your* concerns going to be communicated to the City?

Like Mark Twain said (one hundred and forty years ago), “That’s the difference between government and individuals. Governments don’t care, individuals do.”

*By Kathryn Wheeler
At-Large Director
Outreach Chair*

commuting patients...because their mobility and access to me were all negatively impacted by traffic. Both roads and rail, and both buses and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, are all sorely lacking to meet the needs of City and County residents.

I soon became keenly aware of the disconnect between Planning and Transportation. Approval for developments (which increases traffic) was faster than building the infrastructure necessary to support the developments. This disconnect is the equivalent to doubling one’s spending after receiving a 10% raise



way precludes the need for these mobility and infrastructure needs.

My efforts, and those of others, have resulted in the Exposition Light Rail Line, and played a major role in the future connection between our countywide Metro Rail and LAX Airport.

I’ve learned to never forget that one person can always make a difference...and maybe that person is YOU.

*By Dr. Ken Alpern
MVCC Founding Member
T&I Chair, PLUM Vice-Chair*

Board & Officers

...continued from page 2

be permitted to attend.” It is also required that meeting agendas be posted a minimum of 72 hours before the public meeting. A copy must be posted at the Mar Vista Recreation Center (11430 Woodbine St.). Also, an online version is posted on MarVista.org and with DONE’s Early Notification System (ENS). You may subscribe with DONE to receive notification of posted agendas. Search “EmpowerLA ENS” and subscribe to “Mar Vista NC.”

Each month, the Board is presented with motions that have been sent from the various committees. There are three types of motions: Administrative, Policy,

MVCC Begins - The Origins of the MVCC

...continued from page 3

to be a centrally located hub of the geographic MVCC. This group of early organizers (referred to as the Organizing Committee) quickly formed an Outreach Committee and a Bylaws Committee. Soon after came a Website Committee, a Certification Committee, and an Election Committee.

Committee leadership began as unofficial and fluid, but committee leaders included Ken Alpern, Martin Rubin, Alex Utas, Marie Wallace, and Carl Beierle on Outreach; Cathy Bekian, Bryan Gordon, Tom Ponton, Stacy Brown, and Dorris Isolini Nelson on Bylaws; Bill Scheduling

politicians, most understood the different nature and the potential strengths of joining together.

One of the biggest challenges was coming to an agreement on the structure and rules by which the council would be governed for years into the future. The City Charter left most of this up to the organizers of each individual council to resolve on their own. And, as was the case around the city, Mar Vista organizers invested a lot of time working out these details. The organizers spent countless hours discussing the optimal number of directors and the breakdown of who they represented. It was

to get involved. Early issues included discussions and votes involving: the future Exposition Light Rail, Playa Vista’s future traffic impacts on Mar Vista, proliferation of WLA Strip Clubs, Santa Monica Airport noise and pollution, LA City Council Redistricting, Venice Blvd improvements, and Viacom Street Furniture installations.

Even the name of the new council was a hot topic for several months. “Mar Vista Neighborhood Council” was an obvious consideration, but possibly confusing due to the already existing Mar Vista Neighborhood Association. “Westside Neighborhood Council” and “North

eight monthly meetings and sixty to seventy committee meetings. The first eleven monthly meetings were co-chaired by both Bill and Tom.

The MVCC was eventually certified at a meeting of the LA City Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on August 13, 2002, at Daniel Webster Middle School.

The first official election was held on March 27, 2003, and first official thirteen Directors were Ken Alpern, Barbara Corry, Evelyn Dravecky, Bryan Gordon, Rob Kadota, Amy Lawrence, Tony Navarro, Tom Ponton, Maritza Przekop, Bill Scheduling, Amanda Seward, Andy Shrader, and

Fun Facts...

2002

Mar Vista population estimated to be 50,417 with 22,247 households.

2020

Mar Vista population estimated to be 51,338 with 23,573 households.

2002

Los Angeles population estimated to be 3.8 million with 1.3 million households.

2020

Los Angeles population estimated to be 4.1 million with 1.4 million households

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (T&I)

One of the most vital committees, it addresses travel (e.g., air, roads, parking) and any other mobility issue. It also addresses infrastructure, such as electricity, water, sewage. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month. See the back page for meeting details.

T&I Subcommittee: Airports

Share your concerns and keep up-to-date on issues with regard to the Santa Monica Airport and the Los Angeles International Airport. Meetings are held the first Saturday of every month. Please see the back page for meeting details.

T&I Subcommittee: Great Streets

The Great Streets Initiative is a program still in progress on Venice Boulevard. Mar Vista stakeholders wishing to have their interests heard should attend the monthly subcommittee meetings. Please see the back page for meeting details.

T&I Subcommittee: Mobility

Promotes safer walking, biking, and rolling through our neighborhood. Supports the Mar Vista Farmers’ Market Free Bike Valet and Repair Stand, hosts safe cycling workshops and an annual Bike Safety Fair. Please see back page for meeting details.

and Funding. It takes a majority for a motion to pass. There are also NPGs (i.e., Neighborhood Purpose Grants, CISOs (i.e., Community Impact Statements, and CIPs (i.e., Community Improvement Projects). All are designed to improve the quality of life for Mar Vistans.

Five officers are elected from the thirteen Directors by a majority vote of the thirteen Directors. These Directors comprise the Executive & Finance Committee that meets on the first Monday every month.

The five officers are Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

KW

on the Website; Tom Ponton on Certification; Jerry Gotlieb, Dorris Nelson, and Evelyn Dravecky on Elections. Minutes were taken by various volunteers such as Lillia Singer, Tina Esposito, Bill Scheduling, Carl Beierle, and Amy Lawrence. Early organizing support also came from leadership of the Mar Vista Neighborhood Association, the Hilltop Neighbors Association, the Westdale Homeowners Association, the North Westdale Neighborhood Association, the Westside Village Home Association and the Ven-Mar Neighborhood Association.

Although some in these associations feared their own groups might lose clout with city

finally agreed that there should be a seat for each of the six Zones of Mar Vista and each Zone would generally represent each of the existing Neighborhood Association. These seats would be called Zone Directors. A nearly equal number of At-Large Directors would be elected in which other diversified interests might be represented, but without trying to individually identify the many different possibilities.

But, as can be confirmed by the minutes of the early meetings, discussion of community issues was frequent at the meetings, and may have been one of the strongest outreach tools used by early leadership to inspire stakeholders

Mar Vista Neighborhood Council” were other choices popular with some stakeholders. Final agreement on “Mar Vista Community Council” as the official name came after first being proposed by Bryan Gordon, who pointed out that two of the oldest and most respected councils around, although not certified, were the Brentwood Community Council and the Pacific Palisades Community Council and that “Community” might best describe the collection of neighborhoods joining forces in Mar Vista.

The original uncertified Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC), later referred to as the MVCC Organizing Committee, held a total of twenty-

Christine Taylor. These thirteen were elected from among forty-seven candidates with three hundred and eighty-nine stakeholders casting votes.

At the installation ceremony on May 13, 2003, the first Election for officers was held. Tom Ponton was elected the Chair, with Bill Scheduling as First Vice-Chair, Evelyn Dravecky as Second Vice-Chair, Amy Lawrence as Secretary, and Tony Navarro as Treasurer. For a more detailed history, visit the About page on MarVista.org.

By Tom Ponton
MVCC Founding Member
First MVCC Chair

Where Were You In 2002...

The Sanyo SCP-5300 became the very first cell phone released in the US to have a built-in camera.

Fujitsu introduced a lightweight handheld device with Microsoft’s operating system. It was called an iPAD. Apple would pay \$4 million to acquire the name.

Halle Berry won the Academy Award for Best Actress. The movie was *Monster’s Ball*.

Kelly Clarkson won the very first season of *American Idol*.

Meetings...

1st Week of the Month:

- Monday:** Executive & Finance, 7pm, Coffee Connection
- Tuesday:** Education, Arts & Culture, 6:30pm, Mar Vista Library
Planning & Land Use Management, 7pm, Windward
- Wednesday:** Transportation & Infrastructure, 7:30pm, Windward
- Thursday:** Public Health & Safety, 6pm, Windward School
- Saturday:** Airport, 6pm, Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

2nd Week of the Month:

- Tuesday:** Board of Directors, 7pm, Mar Vista Recreation Center
- Wednesday:** Great Streets, 6:30pm, Mar Vista Library

3rd Week of the Month:

- Monday:** Emergency Preparedness, 7pm, Coffee Connection
- Wednesday:** Homeless Issues, 6:30pm, Mar Vista Library
- Thursday:** Outreach, 6:30pm, Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

4th Week of the Month:

- Monday:** Mobility, 7pm, Windward
- Tuesday:** Community Plan, 7:30pm, Saint Andrew's Church
- Wednesday:** Elections & Bylaws, 6pm, Windward School

Check Calendar: Renters' Engagement

Meeting Locations

Coffee Connection*

Ramp Room Lounge or Station Room
3838 South Centinela Avenue

Mar Vista Library*

Community Room
12006 Venice Boulevard

Mar Vista Recreation Center*

Auditorium
11430 Woodbine Street

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church*

Narthex Room or Library
11555 National Boulevard

Windward School*

Room 1030 or 210
11350 Palms Boulevard

**Please check the Calendar on MarVista.org before attending. Meeting times and locations have been known to change. Additionally, Agendas, Minutes, and Supplemental Materials are posted within the meeting link on the Calendar for downloading.*

Outreach Committee

Local engagement is essential because no one understands a community better than those who live, work, and play there. Outreach is fundamental to the MVCC and how the community connects with the City. This committee is dedicated to informing stakeholders of the issues before the MVCC.

Executive & Finance Committee

Provides a forum for discussion of issues that affect stakeholders' quality of life and to facilitate stakeholder communication and serve as the advocate for the Council area with officials of the City of Los Angeles and other governmental and non-governmental entities.

Contacts

EXECUTIVE & FINANCE

ELLIOT HANNA
MVCC Chair
Elliot.Hanna@MarVista.org

MARTIN RUBIN
MVCC First Vice-Chair
Martin.Rubin@MarVista.org

CITY SERVICES

LAPD
Pacific Division Front Desk
310-482-6384

HAZMAT
Needles & Human Waste
323-542-1513 (Direct Line)

NEWSLETTER

KATHRYN WHEELER
MVCC Outreach Chair
Kathryn.Wheeler@MarVista.org

BOARD OR COMMITTEES

BOARD OR COMMITTEES
Check Page on Website
MarVista.org

Any other enquiries email: info@MarVista.org

Board members' email: FirstName.LastName@MarVista.org

About Meetings

All locations are ADA complaint.

In compliance with the Brown Act, all agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Agendas are posted in three places:

- Mar Vista Recreation Center
Bulletin Board
10430 Woodbine Street
- MarVista.org
Calendar
- EmpowerLA.org
Early Notification System