

2024 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

LA COUNTY ON THE WORLD STAGE

June 20, 2024



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

County of Los Angeles
Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
Quality and Productivity Commission



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION



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Program Manager



Ruben Khosdikian
Program Support

Quality and Productivity Commission

The Quality and Productivity Commission is in a unique position to recognize best practices throughout the County as a result of its various programs, including the Productivity Investment Fund, Department Visits, and Productivity and Quality Awards Program.

Mission and Vision Statement

Provide advice, innovative ideas, assistance and support to the County's elected officials, managers, and employees to promote the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of County public services.



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

To foster collaborative leadership that ensures excellence, equity, inclusion, and opportunity as Los Angeles County engages on the world stage.

The Commission wishes to thank the Productivity Managers' Network for its dedication, energy and commitment in supporting quality and productivity throughout the County.

21ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
LA COUNTY ON THE **WORLD STAGE**
JUNE 20, 2024

Commissioner William B. Parent, Chair
Quality and Productivity Commission
Master of Ceremonies

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:05 **Welcome and Introductions**
Dion Rambo, Chair
Leadership Conference Ad Hoc Committee
- 9:05 – 9:10 **Pledge of Allegiance**
Dennis Campos, Veterans Claims Assistant II
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- 9:10 – 9:20 **Board of Supervisors' Remarks**
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair
Third Supervisorial District

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
First Supervisorial District

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Second Supervisorial District

Supervisor Janice Hahn
Fourth Supervisorial District

Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Fifth Supervisorial District
- 9:20 – 9:30 **Opening Remarks from the Chief Executive Officer**
Fesia A. Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles
- 9:30 – 10:10 **Keynote Speaker**
Susan Goldsmith, Principal
Deloitte Consulting LLP

21ST ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
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10:10 – 11:00

World Stage Panel

Moderator:

Kevin McGowan, Director

County of Los Angeles, Office of Emergency Management

Panel Speakers:

- Kelly LoBianco, Director
Department of Economic Opportunity
- Kristin Sakoda, Director
Department of Arts and Culture
- John T. Cooke, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Chief Executive Office, Asset Management Branch

11:00 – 11:25

Guest Speaker

Vic Nol, Director, Venue Cities Relations

LA28 Olympic & Paralympic Games

11:25 – 11:30

Closing Remarks/Acknowledgements

Dion Rambo

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



William B. Parent

Chair,
Quality and Productivity
Comission

Bill Parent is a recently-retired lecturer in public policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, where he worked as an administrator and teacher for 20 years. He taught courses on Leadership and Management of Nonprofit Organizations, Leadership in the Public Interest, and Urban Homelessness Policy. He served as Associate Dean for Administration, Associate Dean for Advancement, and Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives. He was Acting Director of the former UCLA Luskin Center for Civil Society from 2009 to 2015.

In Santa Monica, Bill has served on the Social Services Commission since 2015, including a term as Chair, with a focus on homelessness. He was also Co-Chair of the Santa Monica Homelessness Steering Committee, 2017-2018.

Before joining UCLA in 2000, Bill was on the senior staff of the Harvard Kennedy School from 1986 to 1999, including five years as Executive Director of the Harvard University-Ford Foundation Innovations in American Government Program.

He is a former newspaper reporter who has published articles in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe* and *California Policy Options*. He also worked previously for the Paterson New Jersey Board of Education, New York City Board of Education, the California Governor's Office of Appropriate Technology during Governor Jerry Brown's second term, and for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he also received his B.A and Ed.D.

SPEAKER



Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer,
County of Los Angeles

Fesia Davenport was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Los Angeles County in January 2021. She is responsible for managing the strategic direction and day-to-day operations of the nation's largest county government, including the oversight of Los Angeles County's \$46 billion- plus budget and coordinating implementation of key priorities of the Board of Supervisors.

In a County career spanning more than two decades, she has successfully facilitated cross-departmental, public-private, and inter-governmental collaborative efforts aimed at implementing a range of major initiatives involving data sharing to prevent homelessness and track outcomes for justice involved individuals, probation reform, and providing legal defense services for undocumented residents at risk of imminent removal. She also played a leadership role in the launch of several new organizational units within the County, including the Office of Child Protection, the Center for Strategic Partnerships, the Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Chief Sustainability Office and the Women and Girls Initiative.

As Chief Executive Officer, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, she has led LA County's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic across multiple departments, overseeing \$1.22 billion in CARES Act funding and \$1.9 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding to bring urgently needed equity-focused assistance to residents, small businesses and hard-hit communities. She is responsible for leading the County in carrying out a series of transformative Board-directed initiatives, including the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and the Poverty Alleviation Initiative, both housed in the CEO's office.

At the Board's direction, she coordinated across multiple County departments in a successful landmark effort to return the valuable oceanfront property known as Bruce's Beach to the rightful descendants of the family that had been wrongfully stripped of their property 100 years ago. CEO Davenport has also been instrumental in establishing the Board's Care First, Jails Last vision as a budgetary and operational policy, and in assisting with the launch of an unprecedented four new County departments in a single year.

A graduate of Cal State Long Beach, she earned a master's degree in public administration from Cal State Northridge and a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Susan Goldsmith
Principal,
Deloitte Consulting LLP

Susan Goldsmith is a Principal in the Monitor Deloitte strategy team. She is a seasoned executive with over 25 years of experience in Media and Entertainment, Consumer Products / Retail, and High Tech, specializing all aspects of broad scale organizational strategy and change. Susan leads Deloitte's relationship with The Walt Disney Company and has also worked extensively with Mattel, Gap, The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Tyler Perry Studios, and Intel to enable growth through global branding capabilities, customer engagement / experience and digital enablement.

Susan has focused her career on working with executives who are leading a broad change agenda, helping them translate their aspirations into an executable program. She brings vast experience across people, process, and technology and has herself been the executive on several multi-year, enterprise-wide transformations. She specializes in the oftentimes more difficult dynamics of change including leadership, talent and culture.

Susan is also Deloitte's new Sustainability Leader in the US Purpose and DEI Office (PDEIO). In this role, Susan will build on her longstanding commitment to social impact to guide the internal strategy and execution of the US climate ambitions in collaboration with the Deloitte Global network. She will work closely with the PDEIO Social Impact team and collaborate closely with Deloitte's external Sustainability, Climate & Equity (SC&E) Strategic Growth Offering (SGO), who bring innovative solutions and capabilities to our clients to support their sustainability aspirations.

Susan has a dual Masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Social Psychology and Education, with a concentration in Organizational Behavior from the Wharton School of Business. Through this focus on education and workforce development, Susan commits her time to the Boards of both the Posse Foundation and the Cayton Children's Museum. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two children. Susan began her Los Angeles career as a County employee with the Department of Health Services.

PANEL MODERATOR



Kevin McGowan

Director,
County of Los Angeles,
Office of Emergency
Management

Kevin McGowan serves as the Director of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. Leading an all-hazards emergency management program, Mr. McGowan is responsible for countywide emergency management preparedness, planning, coordination, training, response, recovery and mitigation efforts. During his tenure with Los Angeles County and in previous emergency management positions, Mr. McGowan has led preparedness, response and recovery efforts for multiple presidential major disaster declarations and for numerous natural, technological and human caused disasters such as wildland fires, debris flows, severe winter storms, COVID-19, mass fatality incidents and hazardous materials events.

A native of Southern California, Mr. McGowan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public policy from Pepperdine University. Mr. McGowan has attended a variety of emergency management educational programs, to include FEMA's National Emergency Management Executive Academy, the Naval Post Graduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Executive Leaders Program and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crises.

WORLD STAGE PANEL



Kelly LoBianco

Director,
Department of Economic
Opportunity

Kelly LoBianco is the inaugural Director of the newly created Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity.

Most recently, she served as Chief Program Officer for a leading NYC-based nonprofit, The HOPE Program, growing workforce development and social enterprise programming in the green economy. Prior to that, Kelly served as Assistant Commissioner of Training for the New York City Department of Small Business Services and held various roles in local and state government in New York as well as the US Senate in Washington DC.

She earned an MPA from Columbia University and a BA in Political Science from Northwestern University.

WORLD STAGE PANEL



Kristin Sakoda
Director
Department of Arts
and Culture

Kristin Sakoda is Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, a local arts agency with a mission to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout the most populous county in the U.S. The Department provides grants and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations; the nation's largest arts internship program; public-private arts education initiatives; creative career pathways; civic art commissions and care; research and evaluation; and cross-sector arts strategies to address civic issues. All with a lens of cultural equity and inclusion.

Ms. Sakoda is an arts executive, attorney, and performing artist with over 25 years in the field. As an artist she's appeared with dance and social justice company Urban Bush Women, National Tour of Rent, and Mamma Mia! on Broadway. Prior to her work at LA County, she served at New York City Department of Cultural Affairs overseeing a portfolio of strategic, programmatic, policy, legislative, and funding programs with a \$200M annual budget. She was instrumental in advancing diversity and inclusion; public art; creative aging; cultural facilities and affordable workspace for artists. She holds a J.D. NYU School of Law with honors in Entertainment Law, and B.A. Stanford University with a specialization in Race and Ethnicity and secondary major in Feminist Studies. Visit www.lacountyarts.gov and follow @_kristinsakoda on Instagram.

WORLD STAGE PANEL



John T. Cooke
Assistant Chief
Executive Officer,
Chief Executive Office,
Asset Management Branch

John T. Cooke was appointed as the Assistant Chief Executive Officer over the Asset Management Branch on August 23, 2021. He is responsible for directing the Asset Management Branch in overseeing the County's capital construction program, real estate leasing and acquisition, property management, and master planning.

John is a Chicago area native and has over 25 years of extensive management experience in overseeing, comprehensive real estate, capital projects, and facilities services. Since 2015, he had been serving as a Regional Commissioner over the Public Building Service for the Great Lakes Region of the United States General Services Administration where he directed and managed a portfolio across six states. He also previously directed asset management functions for Cook County and Chicago Public Schools.

GUEST SPEAKER



Vic Nol

Director, Venue Cities
Relations, LA28 Olympic
& Paralympic Games

Vic is a public affairs professional specializing in government relations and community engagement. He is an experienced leader with a successful history of crafting and executing strategic community outreach initiatives and political campaign advertising.

Vic works within LA28’s External Affairs department, leading LA28’s relationships across all of LA County’s venue and supporting cities outside of the LA28 host city of Los Angeles. He is actively securing agreements that ensure co-creation between LA28 and local municipalities to ensure a seamless Games experience for athletes, fans, and local communities.

A proud Angeleno, Vic can often be found at the area’s local beaches with his wife and three kids.



CLOSING REMARKS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Dion Rambo

Chair,
Leadership Conference
ad hoc Committee,
Quality and Productivity
Commission

Dion Rambo is well known in Los Angeles as a creative and strategic problem solver. He is the founder and CEO of Rambo House, a full-service marketing firm. His expertise includes public relations, event and media coordination, advertising, branding, and social media marketing.

Mr. Rambo is also the founder and CEO of TeleHealth Vans, a company he created during the pandemic to solve the problem of lack of access to ongoing mental health services in underserved communities of Los Angeles. TeleHealth Vans has facilitated more than 10,000 telehealth visits with mental health therapists for L.A.'s low-income community. TeleHealth Vans has also been recognized by the U.S. military and provides telehealth services to Afghani refugees being housed at three military bases.

In 2022, Mr. Rambo was selected to participate in Mayor Eric Garcetti's Entrepreneur-in-Residence, a program that enlists business executives and expert entrepreneurs to work with the City to strengthen L.A.'s economy. Mr. Rambo's efforts will be focused on developing additional resources to help minority entrepreneurs to successfully win contracts with the City.

Working with the City and County of Los Angeles as an inclusion strategist, Mr. Rambo was instrumental in the development of ongoing workshops, seminars and websites designed to help entrepreneurs gain access to capital through contracts, including:

- Accessing LA Expo, Los Angeles Board of Commissions
- Access to Capital Expo, City of Los Angeles Office of Economic Development
- Leveraging Women Owned Businesses, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
- Building LA Today, City of Los Angeles

Mr. Rambo also owns a successful import business based in Inglewood. He has provided funding to support STEAM programs in five Inglewood elementary schools.

Mr. Rambo was born and raised in South Los Angeles. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Food Bank of Southern California. He is a member of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Ad Hoc Business Advisory Committee.

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Supervisor, 3rd District



Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, 1st District



Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, 2nd District



Janice Hahn
Supervisor, 4th District



Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, 5th District

SPECIAL THANKS

2024 Leadership Conference Ad Hoc Committee

Dion Rambo, Chair

J. Shawn Landres, Vice Chair

Nancy Harris

Edward McIntyre

Marsha D. Mitchell

William B. Parent

Mark A. Waronek

William R. Wright

Heidi Oliva, Productivity Manager, Fire

Productivity Managers' Network

Internal Services Department

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

QPC Staff



qpc.lacounty.gov

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