



The Valley Economic Alliance

25th Annual

VALLEY OF THE STARS AWARDS GALA

presented by



MISSION VALLEY BANK

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023
THE ODYSSEY | GRANADA HILLS, CALIFORNIA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALLEY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ON 25 YEARS!

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WELCOME

Greetings from Gala Co-Chairs

On behalf of this year's Gala Committee, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 25th Annual Valley of the Stars Awards Gala presented by Mission Valley Bank. Tonight we celebrate 25 years of honoring the exemplary people, organizations, and businesses who positively impact and contribute to the economic vitality of the San Fernando Valley region.

Congratulations to this evening's 2023 Star of the Valley honorees – Bill Allen, Lynette Romero, Home Again Los Angeles, and Mission Valley Bank. You are an inspiration.

As residents and business leaders, we are proud to co-chair this event and support The Valley Economic Alliance's initiatives towards a more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable San Fernando Valley region. We value the work The Alliance is doing to fuel a strong local economy by supporting small businesses, investing in livable and sustainable communities, and encouraging workforce development programs that help residents build wealth.

Thank you for joining us this evening and thank you to the committee members, board of directors, vendors, staff, and volunteers who had a hand in making this night a success. We hope you enjoy your night and leave feeling inspired and motivated to make a difference in the Valley.

Warm Regards,

Your 2023 Gala Committee Co-Chairs



Cleveland Brown



Kristy Lazur



Justis Kao

Gala Committee

Committee Co-Chairs

Cleveland Brown, Pay Scout

Kristy Lazur, Maximus

Justis Kao, Loop Media, Inc.

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Winnie Davis, Coldwell Banker | Quality Partners

Gayle Duffy, Pacific Western Bank

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Kanika Kith, City of San Fernando

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PROGRAM

Reception & Silent Auction

Garden Room

Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Apollo Ballroom

Special Performance

Singer-Songwriter Jessica Louise

Welcome & Introductions

Fred Gaines, Board Chair
Sonya Kay Blake, President and CEO

Emcee

Palmira Pérez-Najarian

Star of the Valley Awards Presentation

Legacy Award - Bill Allen

Media Award - Lynette Romero

Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award - Mission Valley Bank

Humanitarian Award - Home Again Los Angeles

Closing Remarks

Cleveland Brown, Kristy Lazur & Justis Kao, Gala Co-Chairs

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Thank you from the Alliance team

On behalf of The Valley Economic Alliance, thank you for joining us at the 25th Annual Valley of the Stars Awards Gala presented by Mission Valley Bank. We are honored to recognize this year's Star of the Valley Honorees and celebrate the Gala's 25th Anniversary. Congratulations to Bill Allen, Lynette Romero, Home Again Los Angeles, and Mission Valley Bank.

We are so grateful for the generous support of Gala Sponsors. Your support funds critical Alliance workforce development and business assistance programs responsible for raising the standards of living and economic vitality across the five-city San Fernando Valley region.

These programs have recruited, trained and placed more than 10,000 adults, saved over 125,000 local jobs, and assisted more than 44,000 businesses since their inception -- many owned by low-income small business owners.

Thriving communities don't happen by accident. They require sound strategies, effective programming, and humane solutions to complex challenges. The Valley Economic Alliance is committed to putting the Valley first, strengthening our local economy, building liveable and sustainable communities, and supporting small businesses for years to come.

Thank you for being here tonight and supporting our mission. Have a wonderful night.

Sincerely,



Sonya Kay Blake

Sonya Kay Blake
President & CEO



Fred Gaines

Fred Gaines
Chairman of the Board

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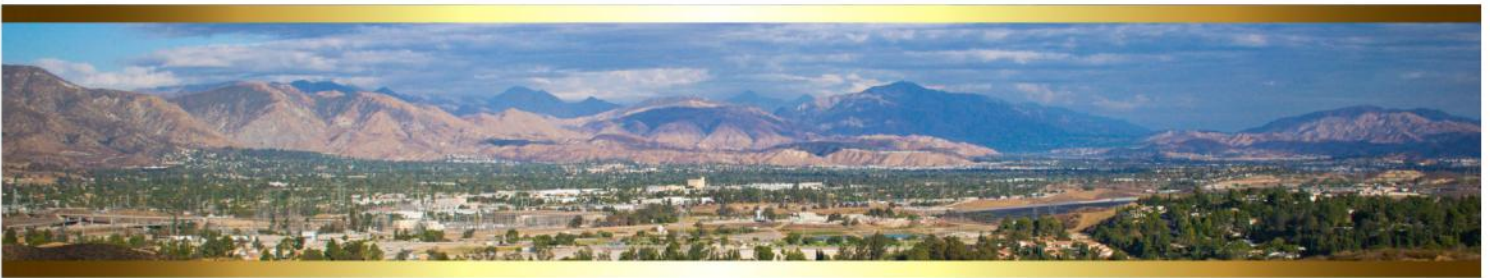
310-263-3060

ALLIANCE IMPACT

Together, we're changing lives

OUR MISSION is to engage and unite Valley stakeholders to raise standards of living and economic vitality across the San Fernando Valley.

We convene thought leaders to identify strategies for building a prosperous, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable regional economy. And we advance those strategies in partnership with leading government, nonprofit, and industry stakeholders to promote a great quality of life in our five-city San Fernando Valley region – Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Los Angeles and San Fernando, consisting of more than 160,000 businesses and over 2 million residents covering more than 350 square miles.



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2023-2025 Strategic Plan

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April 13, 2023

The Valley Economic Alliance
5121 Van Nuys Boulevard
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Dear Friends:

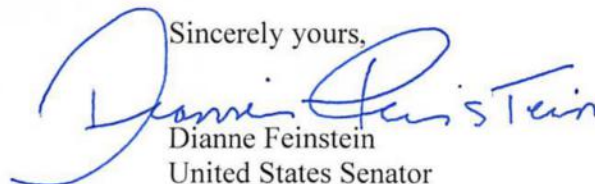
It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to all who have gathered for The Valley Economic Alliance's 25th *Valley of The Stars Awards Gala*.

Since its inception, The Valley Economic Alliance has devoted itself to fostering a successful business environment across five cities, including the Cities of Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, San Fernando and Los Angeles. By creating partnerships with local government, education and businesses organizations and providing resources to its members, The Valley Economic Alliance has helped to grow the regions into communities where both business and culture can thrive. There is no doubt that its work will continue to benefit countless individuals for many years to come.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize today's honorees: Bill Allen, recipient of the *Legacy Award*; Lynette Romero, recipient of the *Media Award*; Mission Valley Bank, recipient of the *Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award*; and Home Again L.A., recipients of the *Humanitarian Award*. They have proven themselves to be leaders of the highest caliber and outstanding community servants.

As your United States Senator representing the State of California, I applaud The Valley Economic Alliance and all of today's honorees for their tremendous achievements and contributions. Please accept my best wishes for a most memorable event.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

EMCEE & HONOREES



PALMIRA PÉREZ-NAJARIAN

EMCEE

Palmira Pérez-Najarian is a four time Golden Mike® winner and five time Emmy Award winner. She is one of Los Angeles' most trusted television news anchors with more than 20 years of television experience in Mexico and the United States. Pérez-Najarian is currently the National Newscaster for Estrella TV as well as an Image Consultant.



BILL ALLEN

LEGACY AWARD

Bill Allen retired in January 2023 after 17 years as President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). During his tenure, Allen transformed the organization's mission and programs, establishing partnerships with key public and private stakeholders to advance a more robust, equitable, sustainable and resilient economy for LA. From 1996-2000 Allen served as the first CEO of The Valley Economic Alliance establishing the organization's framework for what it is today. Bill Allen has devoted his life's work to civic leadership creating a more inclusive and equitable economy for the Valley region.



LYNETTE ROMERO

MEDIA AWARD

Lynette Romero is a well-known and respected Emmy Award winning journalist who is beloved by millions of Southern California viewers. She joined NBC4 in October 2022 as co-anchor of the Morning newscast "Today in LA". Romero is deeply committed to giving back to the local community and is active in countless charities and events that support students and underserved neighborhoods throughout Southern California. Romero is also particularly passionate about raising awareness of Alzheimer's, memory loss and dementia facing the aging population, having lost her own mother to this devastating disease.



MISSION VALLEY BANK

JANE & BERT BOECKMANN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Founding President & CEO Tamara Gurney knows that as a business, having the right bank matters. For more than two decades, Mission Valley Bank has served the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys with the best Community Business Banking products and services. Since its founding in 2001, the bank's team of Trusted Advisors have partnered with thousands of local business owners offering financial solutions tailored to each client's needs helping local businesses and the communities they serve thrive. Headquartered in Sun Valley, California, the bank's philosophy revolves around the principle that their clients' success is their mission. This mission-driven focus is evident in their banking relationships and giving back to the community, including support for local nonprofits through its Give Where You Live initiative.



HOME AGAIN LOS ANGELES

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Since 2010 Home Again Los Angeles has helped more than 600 homeless families move back into permanent housing. The organization, created by volunteers to support situational homelessness, is thriving today under the leadership of Albert Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer. Home Again Los Angeles has three sites, including two in Burbank and one in Glendale that support the region's most vulnerable population providing unique programming to help families experiencing homelessness gain independence by transitioning into permanent housing and employment.

Congratulations, Bill



ON 28 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE VALLEY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE AND FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT YOU HAVE MADE ON SO MANY LIVES THROUGHOUT THE VALLEY.

Every day of our 43 years together I've been proud of your commitment to family, friends and community.

Our children join me in thanking you and your fellow honorees for making our valley such a wonderful home.

With all of our love and admiration,
MARIE, AMANDA, BRAD, BOBBY AND TESSIE



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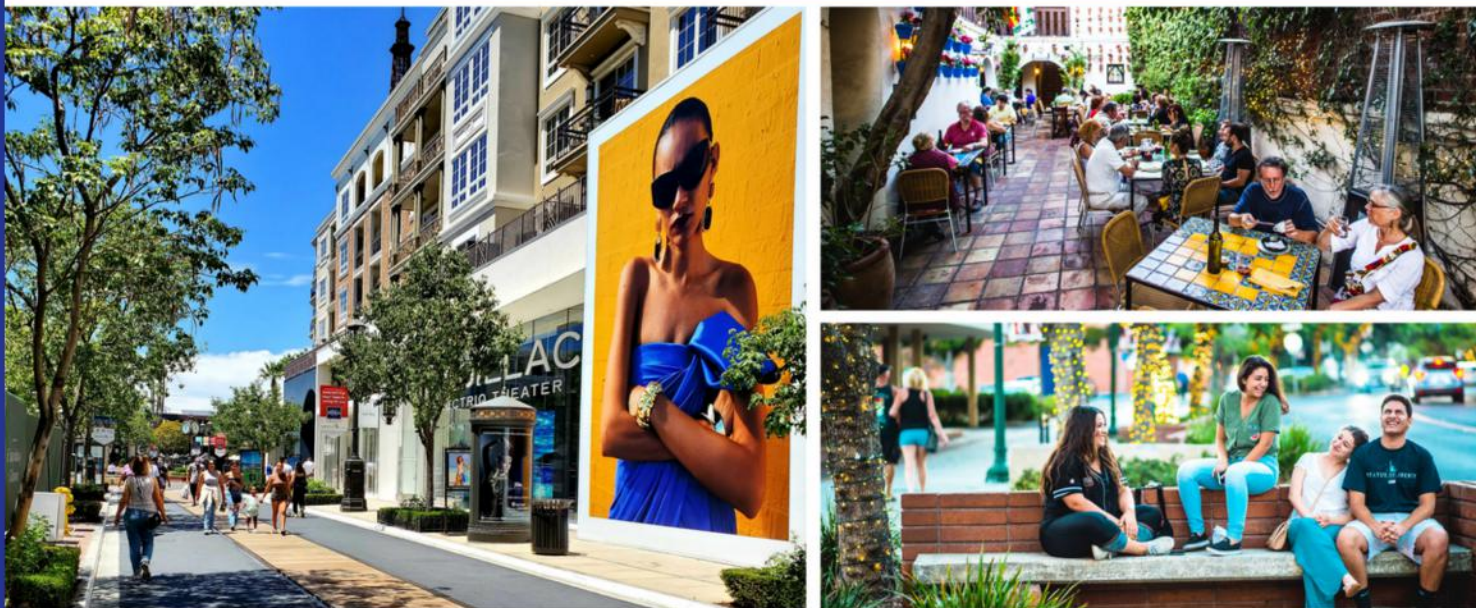
Congratulations to
Home Again Los Angeles and the
rest of the Awardees!

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The Valley Economic Alliance

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Congratulations to NBC4's Today in LA Anchor, Lynette Romero and tonight's Valley of the Stars honorees. We applaud your efforts to further our communities.

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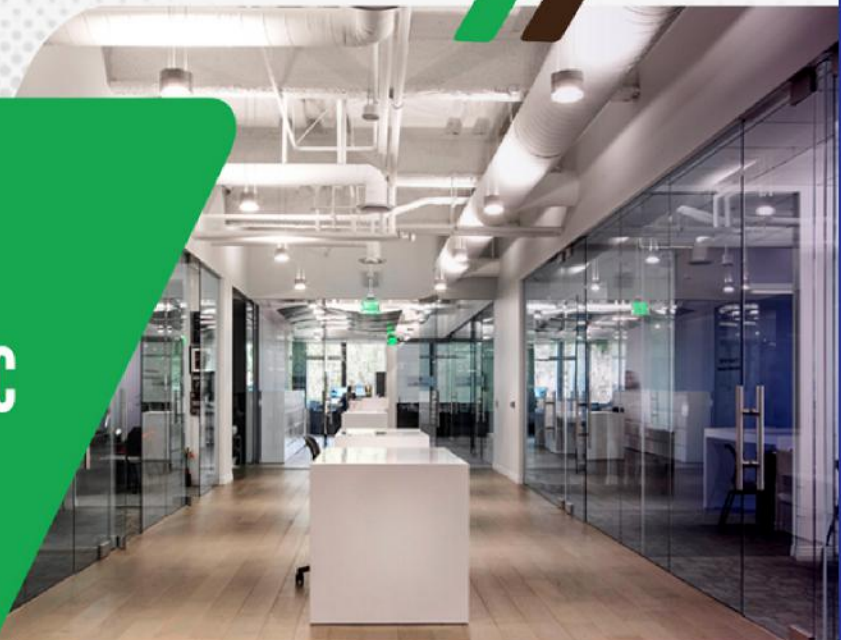


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OUR HISTORY

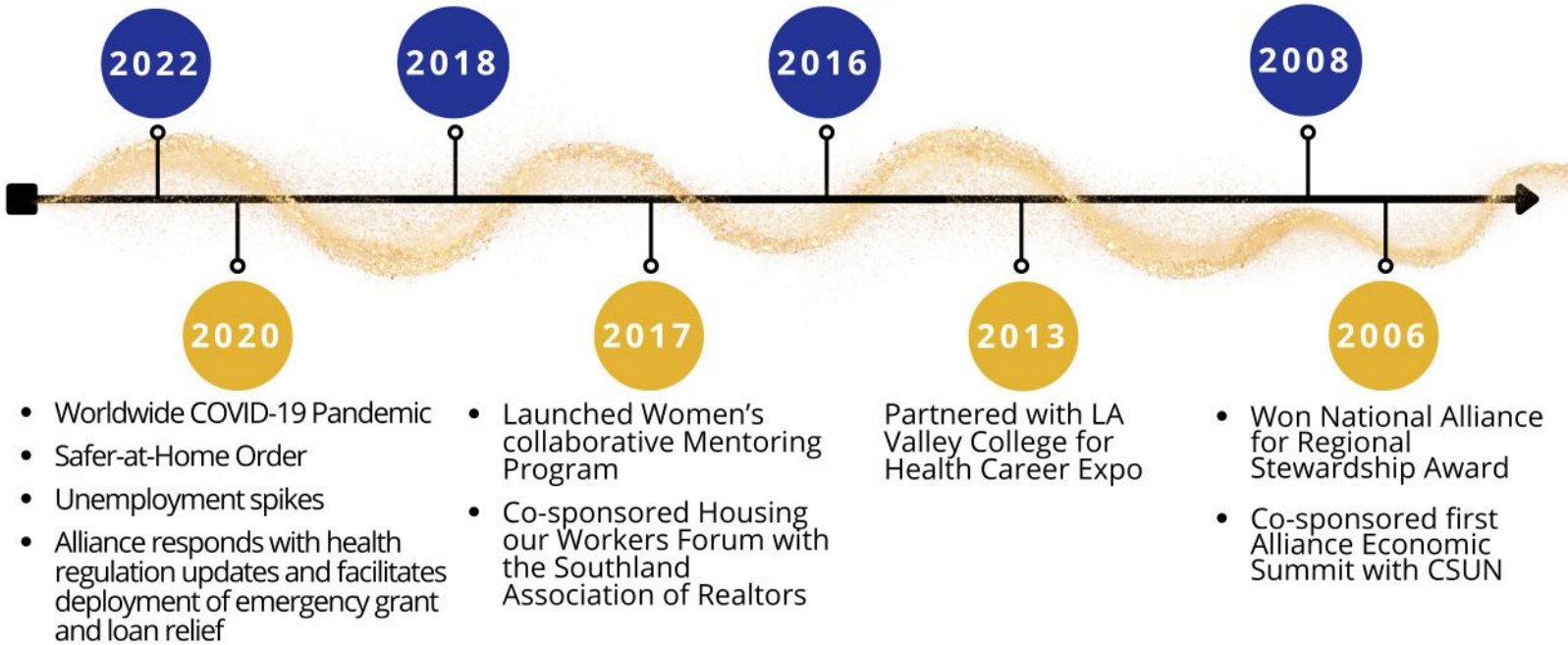


Watch 2022 Annual Report Video

Hosted Heart of Giving

- First annual Valley Hackathon
- Started Valley Business Accelerators program

First Hire A Vet Job Fair — largest vet job fair in the nation



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10,000 people attend Alliance events

2003

- First Valley Industry Clusters Analysis
- Mobile Manufacturing Tech Lab takeover
- Steve Allen Excellence in Education Awards debuts

2000

- Five cities added as strategic partners
- Transit Summit facilitates consensus to establish the Orange Line

1997

Northridge earthquake devastates the San Fernando Valley

1994

2002

- San Fernando Valley established as geographic region for U.S. Census
- San Fernando Valley International Trade High School Academy launched with Alliance collaboration

1998

First Annual Valley of the Stars Gala

1995

Alliance incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization on April 10



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For 25 years, you've created life-changing impacts by growing economic opportunities across the San Fernando Valley. Congratulations on this milestone — **we're proud to be part of the communities you serve!**



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We proudly sponsor The Valley Economic Alliance. Happy 25th!



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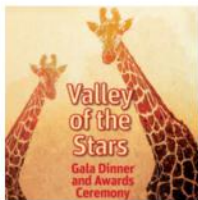
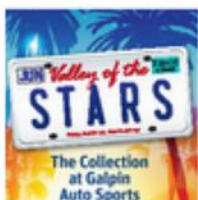
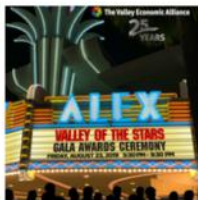


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HALL OF FAME



2022

Host:
Jerry O'Connell

- **Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award** – Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
- **Humanitarian Award** – Ken Craft, Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission
- **Sports and Entertainment Award** – Eric Dickerson
- **Trailblazer Award** – Christy Vega

2021

Host:
Jerry O'Connell

- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Joe Mantega
- **Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award** – Amgen
- **Inspiration Award** – Drs. Aimee & Brian Ostick | Nirvan Rayamajhi
- **Pathfinder Award** – Jeanie Buss
- **Trailblazer Award** – Aszkenazy Family

2019

Host:
Palmira Pérez-Najarian

- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Bruce Boxleitner | Cybill Shepherd
- **Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award** – Morphe, LLC
- **Education Award** – Age of Learning
- **Humanitarian Award** – Mel Wilson

2018

Host:
Randy Kerdoon

- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Derek Fisher
- **Jane & Bert Boeckmann Business Leadership Award** – Madelyn Alfano, Maria's Italian Kitchen
- **Education Award** – Exceptional Minds
- **Humanitarian Award** – Patrick McClenahan, Goodwill Southern California

2017

Host:
Bill Allen

- **Business Award** – Jane Boeckmann
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Bob Miller
- **Leadership Award** – Marianne Haver Hill

2016

Host:
Kevin Dobson

- **Business Award** – Second Sight
- **Entertainment Award** – Danny Trejo
- **Humanitarian Award** – Pump Brothers
- **Leadership Award** – Jill Banks Barad

2015

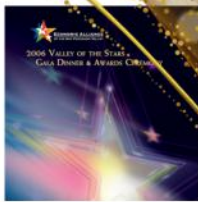
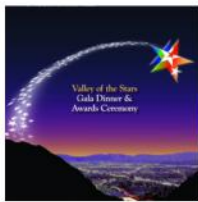
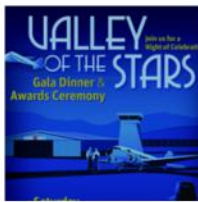
Host:
Kevin Dobson

- **Business Award** – Comcast NBCUniversal
- **Education Award** – California Lutheran University
- **Humanitarian Award** – Rickey Gelb
- **Leadership Award** – Rafer Johnson
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Edward Asner

2014

Host:
Ross Porter

- **Business Award** – Wells Fargo
- **Community Development Award** – Southland Regional Association of Realtors
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Wink Martindale
- **Leadership Award** – Tracy Rafter



2013
Host:
Fritz Coleman

- **Business Award** – Clay Lacy, Clay Lacy Aviation
- **Community Leadership** – Van Nuys Airport
- **Education** – LAUSD North Valley Occupational & Aviation Center

2012
Host:
Wink Martindale

- **Business Award** – Providence Health & Services
- **Community Development Leadership Award** – Valley Economic Development Center
- **Education Award** – Columbia College Hollywood
- **Humanitarian Award** – Dennis McCarthy
- **Special Tribute** – Dick Clark

2011
Host:
Fritz Coleman

- **Business Award** – Curb Records
- **Education Award** – Jim Berk, Participant Media
- **Arts & Entertainment** – Cheech Martin
- **Humanitarian Award** – David Fleming
- **Special Recognition** – Valley Performing Arts Center

2010
Host:
Wink Martindale

- **Business Award** – Bernards
- **Education Award** – California State University, Northridge Foundation | Glendale College Foundation | Los Angeles College Foundation | Foundation for Pierce College
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Nancy Cartwright
- **Humanitarian Award** – Eisner Foundation with Michael & Jane Eisner

2009
Host:
Bob Eubanks

- **Business Award** – The Walt Disney Company
- **Education Award** – Woodbury University
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – The Iconic Television Series "Laugh-In"

2008
Host:
Steve Allen

- **Business Award** – The Daily News
- **Education Award** – Pierce College
- **Arts & Entertainment** – Sally Field
- **Leadership Award** – Ron Kaye
- **Humanitarian Award** – Judge Harry Pregerson

2007
Host:
Wink Martindale

- **Business Award** – Westfield Group
- **Education Award** – Los Angeles Valley College
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Betty White

2006
Host:
Steve Allen

- **Business Award** – Dave Power, J.D. Power & Associates
- **Education Award** – Roberta Weintraub
- **Leadership Award** – Wendy Greuel, LA City Councilmember
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Dick Van Patten

HALL OF FAME



2005

Host:
Wink Martindale

- **Business Award** – Douglas Emmett Company
- **Education Award** – Glendale Community College
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – George Lopez

2004

Host:
Peter Marshall

- **Business Award** – Dr. Richard Grossman, Grossman Burn Center
- **Education Award** – Project GRAD Los Angeles
- **Leadership Award** – Laura Chick, Los Angeles City Controller

2003

Hosts:
Gary Collins &
Mary Ann Mobley

- **Business Award** – Angelo Mozilo, Countrywide Financial Corporation
- **Education Award** – California State University Northridge
- **Leadership Award** – Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, County of Los Angeles
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Mickey Mouse

2002

Host:
Wink Martindale

- **Business Award** – Rick Caruso, Caruso Affiliated Holdings
- **Education Award** – John Wooden | Dr. Yvonne Chan, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center
- **Arts & Entertainment** – Chick Hearn, Los Angeles Lakers

2001

Host:
Hector Elizondo

- **Business Award** – Lodwick Cook, Global Crossing
- **Education Award** – Mayor Richard Riordan, City of Los Angeles
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Garry Marshall

2000

Host:
Steve Allen

- **Business Award** – Robert D. Voit, The Voit Companies
- **Education Award** – Harvard-Westlake School
- **Leadership Award** – Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, California State Assembly
- **Special Award** – William C. Allen

1999

Host:
Dick Clark

- **Business Award** – Alfred E. Mann, Mini Med
- **Education Award** – North Hollywood High School Highly Gifted Magnet
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Steve Allen | Bob Hope

1998

Host:
Steve Allen

- **Business Award** – Herbert F. Boeckmann II, Galpin Motors, Inc.
- **Education Award** – John Wooden | El Camino Real High School U.S. National Decathlon Champions
- **Arts & Entertainment Award** – Gene Autry | Glendale Symphony Orchestra

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Congratulations to all the 2023 VEA honorees!

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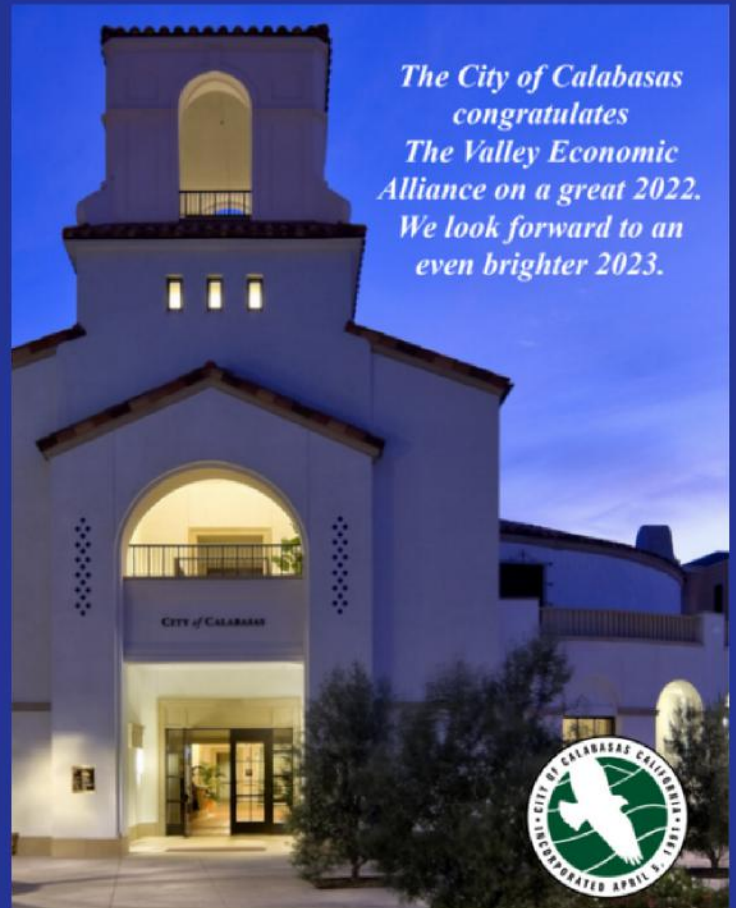
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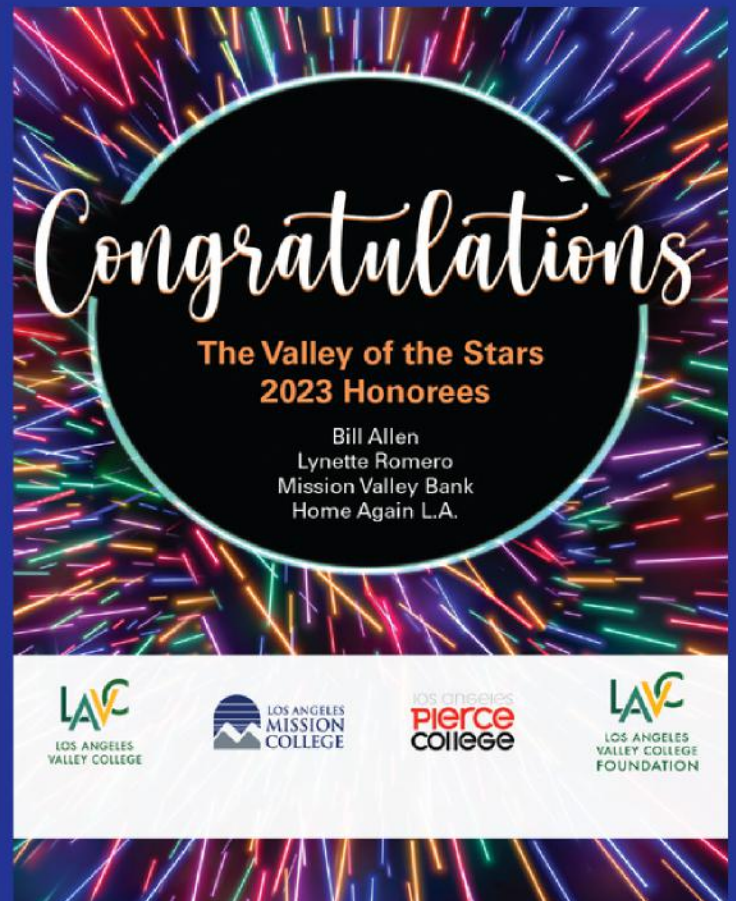
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Best wishes to
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