



Partnership.LA

POWERED BY HAVEN SERVICES

Annual Summit

**Resilient Ecosystems:
Building Nonprofit Infrastructure**

2026 Agenda



About Partnership

The Partnership Program (Partnership) is a regional initiative created and led by Haven Services—one of Southern California’s leading nonprofits in financial capability and housing counseling. Our mission has always been rooted in meeting people where they are, through a three-pronged approach of education, 1:1 counseling, and support services. As a trusted community-based organization for over 15 years, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of collaborative action in addressing the structural barriers faced by vulnerable populations.

Yet, as service providers, we also saw the challenges: nonprofits working in silos, duplication of efforts, missed funding opportunities, and barriers to authentic collaboration. The nonprofit ecosystem in Southern California—especially for small to mid-sized organizations—is both vibrant and fragmented. Partnership was created to bridge that gap.

Mission

The Partnership Program connects and equips small and mid-sized nonprofits with equitable access to resources, partnerships, and year-round support that strengthen their capacity and impact.

Vision

We envision a collaborative and equitable social impact ecosystem where community-rooted organizations have the power, visibility, and resources needed to thrive and drive lasting change.

Pieces of the Program

It's not about numbers, it's about building together.



Hive

Bi-weekly, 30 minute virtual chats designed for connection over transaction.



Summit & Mixers

Annual in-person events designed to tackle sector-wide challenges with resource and capacity building.



Resources

Community-grown tools to support each other.

2026 Summit

Resilient Ecosystems: Building Nonprofit Infrastructure

Los Angeles is at a definitive inflection point. With the eyes of the world turning toward our city for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic Games, the social impact sector faces an unprecedented challenge: Are we ready?

This isn't a conference of long speeches; it is a high-impact workshop designed to transform your organization from a "seeker of funds" into a "strategic solution" for the city's most pressing challenges. Join us to build the systems, relationships, and collaborative power required to ensure this global moment creates durable, generational opportunity for every neighborhood in Los Angeles.

Steering Committee

Rosie Papazian | HSBC Bank USA

Linda Maldonado | CTBC Bank

Mariah Monique | The Sponsorship Catalyst

Juan Aquino | Capital One

Ranko Fukada, Nonprofit Leader

Betsy Blanchard, Ethel Fimbres, & Camille Carrion | Youth Business Alliance

Ariana Barret | Living Beauty Cancer Foundation

Rebecca Rosansky | Jewish Free Loan Association

Agenda

10:30 AM | Welcome Session

Nora Perez Board Chair	
Erika Toriz Founder & CEO	Taper Auditorium
Eric DePalma Partnership Program Director	

Opening Remarks

Bobby Kobara, Community Engagement Lead, LA28	Taper Auditorium
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11:00 AM | Session 1

Investing in Social Capital	Meeting Room B
Connected for Good	Meeting Room A
Partner Pitch Live!	Taper Auditorium

12:15 PM

Lunch	Courtyard
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1:15 PM | Session 2

Navigating Proposed CRA Changes	Taper Auditorium
CRA Readiness Lab	Meeting Room B
Power of Partnership	Meeting Room A

3:00 PM | Session 3

How AI Can Help Build Capacity	Meeting Room A
From Connection to Collaboration	Meeting Room B
Building a Sustainable Funding Strategy	Taper Auditorium

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Happy Hour & Networking Mixer	Courtyard
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The Challenges

In your own words....

During registration, attendees told us in a sentence or two what their biggest challenges were at that moment. Here are the top seven words/themes mentioned

Partnerships

Infrastructure

Support

Funding

Resources

Sustainable

Building

Our Sponsors



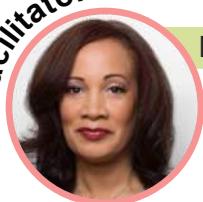
Thank you to our community stakeholders
for making this initiative possible!

Investing in Social Capital For the Greater Good

In today's nonprofit landscape, relationships are among an organization's most valuable assets. This dynamic panel will explore how nonprofit leaders can intentionally leverage social capital, their relationships, networks, influence, and community connections, to advance their missions and create greater collective impact.

Panelists will share insights on building authentic partnerships, expanding access to resources and opportunities, strengthening community trust, and transforming relationships into meaningful action. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for investing their social capital in ways that strengthen their organizations while advancing the greater good.

Facilitator



Karen Lewis | Founder & CEO, Going Public PR

Karen Lewis is the Founder and President of Going Public PR, a Los Angeles-based boutique communications firm she has led for more than two decades. A respected communications strategist,

Karen has built her career helping organizations shape meaningful narratives, strengthen their reputations, and connect authentically with the audiences and communities that matter most.

Under her leadership, Going Public PR has grown into a nationally active agency with expertise spanning consumer engagement, multicultural and millennial marketing, digital and social media, faith-based outreach, corporate communications, and reputation management. Karen leads a team of strategists known for combining cultural insight with thoughtful, results-driven communications, executing campaigns and regional activations in markets across the country.

A native Angeleno and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Karen's commitment to impact extends beyond her work in communications. She currently serves on the boards of the Black Cooperative Impact Fund and her alma mater, Notre Dame Academy High School in Culver City, California.

Special thanks to our
program partner:



Connected to Grow: Why Aligned Tools Matter for Nonprofit Sustainability

Room A

Disconnected tools create hidden work, unreliable reporting, and missed opportunities to strengthen donor relationships and scale your mission. This interactive session will help nonprofit leaders identify where their systems are slowing them down and choose one practical improvement that can support greater capacity, sustainability, and growth.

Kimberly Bottom | Director of Community, Velora

Kimberly Bottom is a 15+ year veteran in storytelling and community initiatives. An award-winning broadcast journalist and video producer, Kimberly now focuses on helping nonprofits sharpen their messaging and amplify impact through modern fundraising technology. In her current role as Director of Community at Velora, the nonprofit operations platform, Kimberly's north star is connecting nonprofit professionals to share ideas, elevate diverse voices, and celebrate the people doing the world's most important work.



Special thanks to our
program partner:



11:00 AM Session

Taper

Partnership Pitch Live! Live Pitch Feedback and Guidance



This live pitch workshop offers three selected organizations the opportunity to present their strategic vision directly to two industry experts. Each participating team will receive real-time, constructive feedback from the panel to refine their proposition and maximize strategic impact. To top off the event, one standout organization will walk away with a cash award to help bring their collaborative project to life.

Co-facilitator



Dr. Sharon R. Elefant | Founder & CEO, The Nonprofit Plug

Bio on page 21.

Amber Anthony | CFO, The Nonprofit Plug

Co-Facilitator



Amber Anthony is a highly experienced financial professional with a proven track record of success in finance and accounting. As The Nonprofit Plug Chief Financial Advisor, Amber brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to any team. She is a profit booster, efficiency driver, and strategy specialist, with a passion for all things analytical.

Amber has spent years working in the finance and accounting industries, where she has developed a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of financial analysis, forecasting, and planning. Her experience has included working in a variety of roles, including financial analyst, accountant, and financial advisor. In her most recent position, Amber served as the Chief Financial Officer of a large multinational corporation.

Amber is committed to using her skills and experience to help Nonprofits achieve their financial goals. She is passionate about helping businesses grow and succeed and is excited to drive profitability, efficiency, and success.

Awards for this session were made possible by
The Nonprofit Plug & Haven Services.

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE PARTNERSHIP HIVE

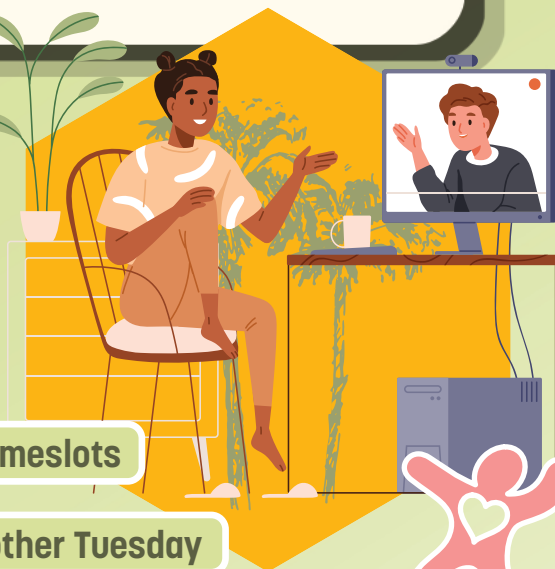
Connect with LA's impact sector, right at your desk.



Had a good brief conversation with an experienced professional about Board Stewardship and how to avoid burnout after a big End of Year campaign.



Jay Bezz
LA Nonprofit Leader



🕒 9AM or 1PM Timeslots

📅 Every other Tuesday



Designed for connection. Built for Impact.

All-New "Partner Pod"
Group Chats Coming in
October!



Join Today!



1:00 PM Session

Taper

Navigating Proposed CRA Changes

What to Expect and Where to Look

As proposed CRA changes could significantly impact community organizations, particularly smaller nonprofits, this fireside chat will explore what these changes may mean for organizations and how they can prepare. The conversation will highlight opportunities to leverage banking partners for technical assistance and other support beyond funding.

Facilitator



Rosie Papazian

Southern California Community Development Relationship Manager, HSBC

Rosie Papazian's career stretches over 2 decades in both financial services and nonprofit direct services. She has dedicated her time to advancing homeownership opportunities, advocacy against predatory lending, and financial management education to break families from the cycle of poverty. Today, she is bridging the relationships between banking and community-based organizations to collaboratively address the needs of families looking to build generational wealth.

Featuring:

Lisa Hill | FVP, SR. Community Development Officer, Bank of Hope

Special thanks to our program partners:



CRA Readiness Lab

A Deep Dive into Nonprofit Compliance and Eligibility

This lab session provides an overview of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and its key role in promoting financial equity across underserved communities. Participants will explore the CRA's primary focus areas—including affordable housing, community services, economic development, and revitalization and stabilization. Additionally, the session offers practical insights and communication strategies to help stakeholders maximize their impact and effectively align with CRA

Linda Maldonado | AVP/Community Outreach Officer, CTBC

Linda E. Maldonado is an accomplished and bilingual executive with more than two decades of experience in organizational leadership, community engagement, and executive administration across the corporate, nonprofit, and faith-based sectors. She is recognized for her ability to build strategic partnerships, strengthen governance structures, and advance mission-driven initiatives that foster community and economic growth.



Linda currently serves as Assistant Vice President and Community Outreach Officer at CTBC Bank Corp (USA), where she oversees initiatives that align the bank's corporate social responsibility and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) goals with measurable community impact. Her work ensures compliance, promotes equitable investment, and deepens relationships between financial institutions and the communities they serve.

Featuring:

Rickey Jimenez, SVP, Director of Community Reinvestment / Enterprise Bank & Trust



中國信託銀行
CTBC BANK

Special thanks to our
program partner:

1:00 PM Session

Room B

The Power of Partnership: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Greater Impact

This session highlights the strategic ways government entities and nonprofit organizations collaborate through contracting and programmatic alignment to impact and empower communities. Through case studies highlighting intentional cross-sectoral partners under the umbrella of the Watts Rising Collaborative and Mayor Bass's Office of Economic Opportunity, attendees will learn:

- Strategies to build programmatic capacity for governmental contracts
- Key considerations when pursuing governmental contracts
 - Resources available for nonprofits to explore partnerships

Presenter



Ivory Rose Parnell-Chambeshi, MPA, MPL, CS

Neighborhood Initiatives Director

Watts Rising Collaborative, Office of L.A. Mayor Karen Bass

Ivory Rose Parnell-Chambeshi serves in the L.A. Mayor Karen Bass's Office as Neighborhood Initiatives Director for Watts Rising, a resident-guided, multimillion dollar community development and climate resilience initiative, co-led by the Housing Authority of L.A. (HACLA). She oversees strategic implementation, project management, and policy for Watts Rising's CA SGC Transformative Climate Communities and HUD Choice Neighborhood grants, and also facilitates city department coordination as Mayoral liaison to HACLA's Jordan Downs public housing redevelopment, a billion-plus dollar, 70-acre housing, commercial and open space initiative. Previously, she founded Urban Rising... (continued on page 15)



KAREN BASS
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

Special thanks to our
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Group where she applied extensive management, planning and capacity-building expertise to support high-impact organizations. Ivory earned her Bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside, Master's Degrees in Urban Planning and Public Administration at USC, and a Sustainability Certificate from UCLA Extension. She leverages thought leadership and passion for culturally-rooted, social justice-focused community economic development by serving as adjunct faculty in public policy and nonprofit management for local universities, and as advisor for statewide and local climate initiatives. She is most proud to be a South Central L.A. native and 'mommy' to two adult children and two spunky daughters that she stewards to 'run the world' (as Beyoncé invoked).

Submit Surveys. Get Raffle Entries.

Get automatically entered into our Happy Hour raffle by submitting a feedback survey at the end of each session.

Up to 3 entries per attendee.

1 Survey = 1 Entry



3:00 PM Session

Room A

How AI Can Help Build Capacity

Exploring Ethics, Security, & Use-Case

This introductory session offers a clear, practical overview of artificial intelligence and how it is changing the way we work. Participants will learn what AI is, how tools like ChatGPT work, and how to use them safely, responsibly, and effectively.

Through demonstrations, participants will explore how AI tools can be used in practical, everyday ways. The session will provide an opportunity to experiment with AI, consider its potential, and build greater comfort using these rapidly evolving tools.

No technical experience is required- just curiosity and a willingness to experiment. By the end of the session, participants will have a stronger understanding of modern AI and greater confidence using AI tools.

Facilitator



Jason Baer | AI Product Manager, Adobe

Jason Baer is currently the Principal AI Product Manager at Adobe, a global leader in digital media and marketing solutions. He has over two decades of experience in enterprise technology, beginning his career in infrastructure roles at Lumen and Internap before moving into SaaS and AI product management. Jason has completed advanced studies in artificial intelligence and business strategy at MIT and Cornell University. Jason is also an instructor at UCLA Extension, where he teaches a series of courses on AI for Marketers.

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Visit findpartnership.org for more information.

Special Recognition

**Thank you to all of our Hive
Meet N' Greet Stakeholders!**

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Enterprise Bank & Trust

Bank of Hope

CTBC Bank

Capitol One

First Citizens Bank

Sunflower Bank

Preferred Bank

Inluminaire



**More Meet N' Greet
Opportunities in the
Partnership Hive!**

See page 11.



From Connection to Collaboration

A Roundtable on Partnership

Room B

How do we turn fragmented networking into high-impact collective action across Los Angeles? This interactive think tank brings together nonprofits, CRA bankers, and civic leaders to tackle pressing operational bottlenecks. Led by an independent facilitator, the session dynamically adapts to the room, using the From Connection to Collaboration framework and Engagement Pyramid to evaluate relationship readiness, unpack barriers, and map mutual value.

Unbound by a rigid script, the discussion focuses where participants need it most—helping you discover unexpected alignment and design right-sized next steps. You will leave with actionable commitments tailored to your goals, while providing direct focus-group intelligence to shape the Partnership Program's strategic agenda and future offerings.

Linda Rodriguez | Founder, Coast-to-Coast Consulting LLC

Linda Rodríguez is a social impact and strategic partnerships leader with more than 16 years of experience in nonprofit advocacy, fundraising, community engagement, and coalition building. She has cultivated relationships across nonprofits, businesses, volunteers, and community leaders while developing strategies that move people from initial connection to sustained action. As Founder and Principal Consultant of Coast-to-Coast Consulting LLC, Linda helps mission-driven organizations strengthen partnerships, expand engagement, and advance their fundraising and sponsorship goals.



Special thanks to our
program partner:

**Coast-to-
Coast
Consulting**

Building a Sustainable Funding Strategy Through Diversified Revenue

What happens when one funding source disappears? For too many nonprofits, the answer is uncertainty. The strongest organizations don't rely on a single revenue stream—they build resilient funding strategies that withstand economic shifts and changing donor priorities.

Join an engaging conversation with leaders representing every side of the funding ecosystem: a philanthropic institution, an experienced grant writer, a nonprofit capacity builder, a corporate sponsorship strategist, and a nonprofit executive who has successfully diversified their organization's revenue. Together, they'll share practical strategies for balancing grants, corporate partnerships, earned revenue, individual giving, and other funding opportunities while building the internal systems needed for long-term sustainability.

Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to reduce funding risk, strengthen financial resilience, and create a diversified fundraising strategy that positions their organizations for lasting impact.

Moderator



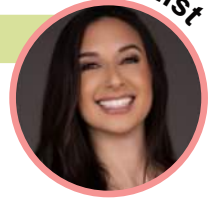
Mariah Monique | Founder, The Sponsorship Catalyst

Mariah Monique, MPH is the Founder and CEO of The Sponsorship Catalyst, where she and her team help nonprofit organizations position themselves to secure event sponsors through her online course, team training, and 1:1 consulting services. Mariah is a Sponsorship Strategy Educator and Consultant, sponsorship seeker, and a funder, so she has a tri-fold perspective to teaching nonprofit organizations how to secure purpose-driven aligned sponsors. Additionally, she has reviewed and evaluated hundreds of sponsorship packages and pitches, distributed \$7M to nonprofit organizations, built brand activations and has helped dozens of organizations secure nearly \$1M since 2021. She knows what sponsors want and how to help you have a competitive advantage.

Panelist

Dr. Sharon R. Elefant | Founder & CEO, The Nonprofit Plug

Dr. Sharon R. Elefant is a nationally recognized nonprofit strategist, educator, and community advocate dedicated to helping mission-driven leaders turn bold ideas into sustainable, fundable organizations.



As the Founder and CEO of The Nonprofit Plug, Dr. Elefant has supported more than 1,000 nonprofit leaders, helped launch and scale over 500 nonprofit organizations, maintained a 100% IRS approval rate, stewarded over \$5 million in nonprofit assets, and supported organizations that have collectively secured more than \$15 million in funding.

At the core of her work is a simple belief: good intentions deserve strong infrastructure.

Panelist

Felicia Carbajal | Executive Director, The Social Impact Center

Felicia Carbajal is the Executive Director of The Social Impact Center, where they work to build power in criminalized BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities through mutual aid, storytelling, leadership development, and systems change. A nationally recognized advocate, organizer, and leader, Felicia draws on their own lived experience to challenge stigma, expand opportunities for healing and belonging, and help create communities where every person is treated with dignity. They believe that our greatest transformations happen when we listen deeply, care for one another, and recognize that our liberation is interconnected.



Special thanks to our
programmatic sponsor:



Building a Sustainable Funding Strategy Through Diversified Revenue (continued...)

Panelist



Daniel J. Estes | Sr. Director, Specialty Family Foundation

Daniel J. Estes is the Senior Director of Programs and Operations at the Specialty Family Foundation, where he leads strategy, grantmaking, and operations in service of housing stability, transition-age youth, and education across Los Angeles. With more than a decade of experience in philanthropy and nonprofit leadership, he works closely with boards and community partners to align donor intent with effective, long-term impact.

Daniel has helped guide major strategic initiatives at the Foundation, including a multi-year plan shaping grantmaking priorities and the development of innovative housing stabilization efforts supporting families at risk of homelessness. He is deeply engaged in the regional ecosystem, serving on the boards of Safe Place for Youth and Para Los Niños and as a steering committee member for One Roof 2.0, a cross-sector collaborative advancing housing solutions for young people impacted by the child welfare system.

A former educator, Daniel brings a collaborative and systems-oriented approach to his work, with a focus on partnership, equity, and continuous learning.

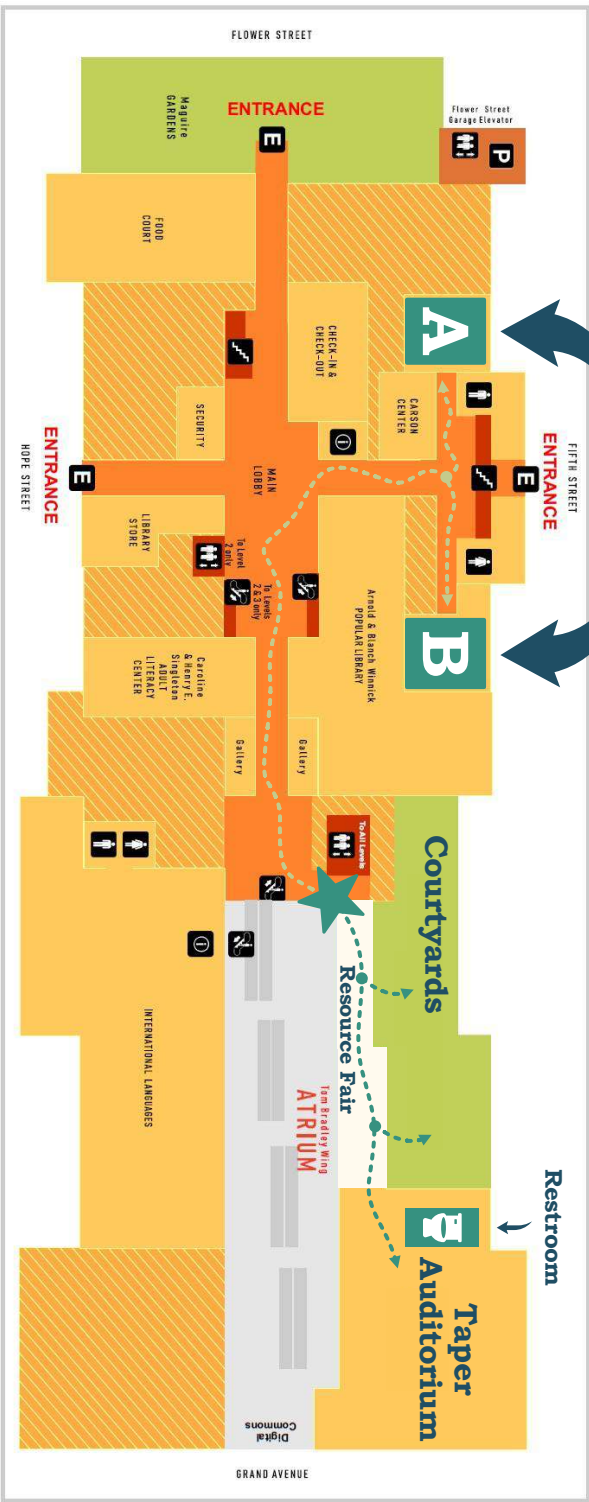
Our Community

Partnership Needs a Haven

The Partnership Program wouldn't exist without Haven Services. We want to thank our community of sponsors that support Haven Services' vital programming:



Meeting
Rooms



LEGEND

E Entrance

P Parking

I Information

E Elevator

S Stairs

U Escalator (Up)

D Escalator (Down)

M Men's Restroom

W Women's Restroom

No Public Access

★ Check-In