# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



This year, the Annual Report will be a little different and will include this statement by president, Rick Lemmo, incoming president, Joseph Stitick, and executive director, Marco Li Mandri. While we entered last January with high hopes for growing business and boosting economic activity, we are ending this year in a lockdown. Business owners are fearing they may never recover from the forced shutdown of retail and restaurants, after spending their reserve cash on "outdoor" equipment, days before they were shut down. In addition, the ever-increasing deliquency of rent payments is plaguing each and every landlord. The missteps taken by elected leaders – at all levels of government – have been felt hardest by our nation's small-business owners.

2020 began great with a celebration of the 2nd Annual Regional Tribute to Professional Women on International Women's Day in early March. The event was well-attended, with over 200 people. Shortly after this event, the nation began its first phases of quarantine. The impact has been profound and devastating to thousands of Downtown Glendale employees and hundreds of landlords and business owners. The pandemic has taken a major negative hit to everyone's revenue projections.

The challenges really began when political leaders made the distinction between "essential and nonessential" workers and businesses. No entity has been spared from the impact of the pandemic, with the exception of grocery stores, big-box retailers, and companies that make and install plexiglass. In addition to the COVID-19 challenges, the threat of protests moving to Glendale from Los Angeles caused further expenses and business closures, devasting business yet again.

Our two major retail anchors, the Glendale Galleria and the Americana on Brand, have suffered along with the smaller retailers throughout the district. Our Downtown streets may look the same, but unfortunately, they have tremendously less pedestrian traffic and patrons and, thus, sales. We witnessed the closure of all restaurants and retailers in

# **REPORT** FROM THE **PRESIDENT** & **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 2020

the spring, with no business activity, and the closure of major office buildings throughout Downtown Glendale, preventing employees from working and supporting morning and lunchtime-geared businesses. In summer, we experienced a brief reprieve with partial indoor dining and outdoor dining build-outs. Then, when restaurants were given direction to purchase equipment necessary to support outdoor dining in the colder winter months, many doing so with their last bit of savings, they were shutdown except for takeout. Unfortunately, this action was taken with no scientific support, as evidenced with successive judicial determinations. As of a few weeks ago, though, another shutdown of restaurants is now in effect, including outdoor dining.

Big-box establishments and grocery/drug stores were and still are allowed to operate – regardless of what they are selling – because they are considered "essential." We disagree with Governor Newsom's actions to unilaterally decide which businesses will have the ability to keep employees, pay taxes and generate revenue to pay rent. It's a lose-lose for both the individual worker and California's economy as a whole.

Over the past year, the Greater Downtown Glendale Association has sought to work with the City Council on reducing the negative impacts on commercial rent postponements. Most landlords and property owners cannot afford this as they have prior financial obligations and debt service affiliated with their properties. No relief of any kind has been provided to them.

Since March, the DGA staff has continued working to keep the district clean, orderly and sanitized. DGA staff has also worked closely with the City's Economic Development Division on the acquisition and placement of the concrete "K" rails along Brand Boulevard – to allow restaurants and services with mandated closures to continue to operate in a safe manner adjacent to Brand Boulevard. We have purchased branded PPE for our district businesses and

even received tremendous support from Glendale resident Mario Lopez as spokesperson for our Welcome Back to Glendale promotion. Through the promotion, we are offering \$2,000 in special cash certificates, which must be spent in our Greater Downtown Glendale District. This, of course, has been delayed until approximately May of 2021.

So where does this leave us? Businesses have been crushed over this last year due to bad policies adopted at the state and national level. The financial, economic, emotional and spiritual impact has been negative for a huge sector of the business community as well as the general population in Glendale. This is the perfect opportunity for local government to offer assistance where they can, but to please stop interfering in the normal course of business. Please be fair. To defer funds, most of which may never be repaid, from family-owned property owners will only exacerbate the devastation and impact on the payment of property taxes.

Your Greater Downtown Glendale Association Board of Directors will welcome a new president this coming year and has asked our current president to take on the role of government relations director, as well as Treasurer. We, along with staff, continue to manage the district during this crisis. We understand that crisis management is far more challenging than day-to-day operations and programs; but, while we can't predict the future, we do see light at the end of this very dark year. We hope that everyone involved in the Downtown Glendale community – property owners, business owners, employees, customers and the general public – all do our part to recapture and reimagine the future of Downtown Glendale.

Be safe, wear your mask, and we will work through this together.

- Marco Li Mandri, Executive Director
- Rick Lemmo, Immediate Past President,
  Government Relations Director & Treasurer
- Joe Stitick, Incoming President

# **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020**



## March 10, 2020

Over 200 people attended 2nd Annual Event \$2,085.90 Raised



# MASK DISTRIBUTION AND AL FRESCO DINING

Quantity -10,000 Masks

Price - \$16,720.31

Distributed - Approximately 5,500 masks to over 200 businesses

The plan is to deliver more as businesses reopen and when businesses ask for more.

### AL FRESCO DINING:

Items Purchased:

Number of Tables - 40

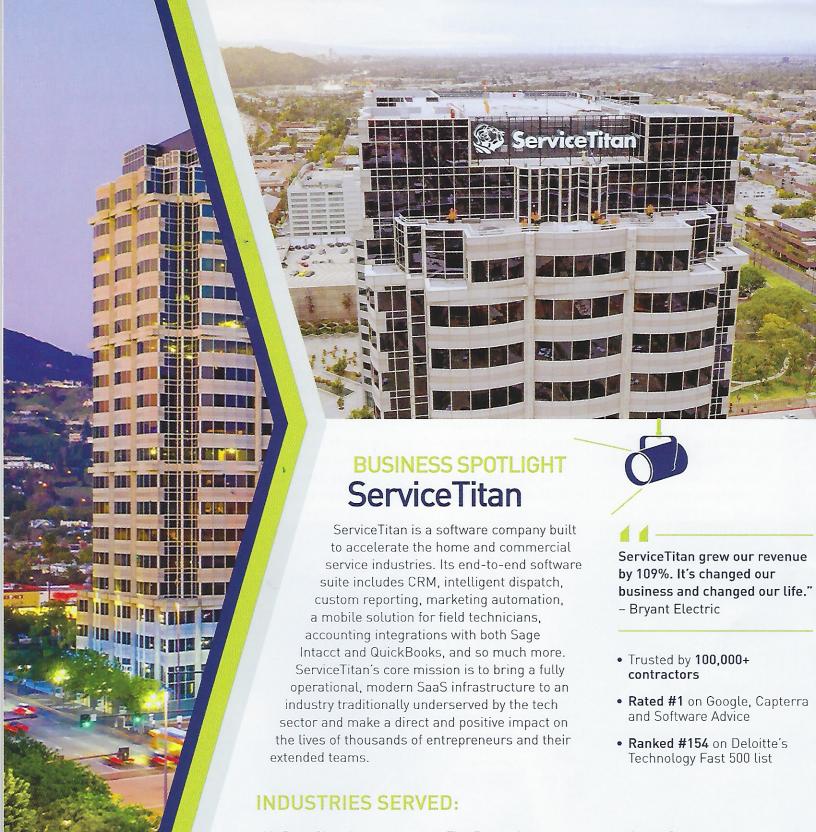
Number of Chairs - 160

Number of Umbrellas - 30

Number of Umbrella Bases - 30

The DGA Ambassadors coordinated assembly, distribution and daily unlocking/locking of the tables, chairs, umbrellas. They were installed on Brand Boulevard. The Ambassadors pressure washed these items before they were installed and continued to pressure wash weekly. They also sanitized the trash cans, crosswalk buttons and ash trays nearby.

They also coordinated with the City and helped with distributing over 1,000 gallons of hand sanitizer throughout the district to businesses and residents.



- · Air Duct Cleaning
- Alarm Systems
- · Carpet Cleaning
- Chimney Sweeping
- Commercial Food Equipment
- Electrical

- Fire Protection
- Garage Doors
- · Gutter Cleaning
- HVAC
- Irrigation
- Landscaping

- Lawn Care
- · Pest Control
- Plumbing
- Pool Service
- Septic Systems
- Water Treatment



# **PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

### MEDIA ATTENTION

3 press releases

30 media mentions

### **SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE**

### Facebook

9,793 followers 9,679 tweets

### Instagram

961 posts 2,057 followers

### **Twitter**

1,395 followers



### **NEW BUSINESSES OPENED IN 2020**

- > Amazon 889 Americana Way Now Open!
- > Big Chicken 252 S Brand Blvd
- > Cereal Twister Café 2210 Glendale Galleria Now Open!
- > Chick-Fil-A 807 Americana Way Coming Soon!
- > F45 611 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Glenmark Hotel 1100 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Grillers Mediterranean Kitchen 425 N Brand Blvd Now Open!

- > **Jimmy John's** 1325a Galleria Way Now Open!
- > Kura Sushi 1314 Galleria Way Now Open!
- > La Michoacana Plus 2141 Galleria Way Now Open!
- > Louise Vuitton 863 Americana Way Suite D-6 Now Open!
- > Love You Latte 275 W Lexington Drive, Glendale Now Open!
- > Maggie's Pastry 238 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Mila Rooftop 1100 N Brand Blvd Now Open!

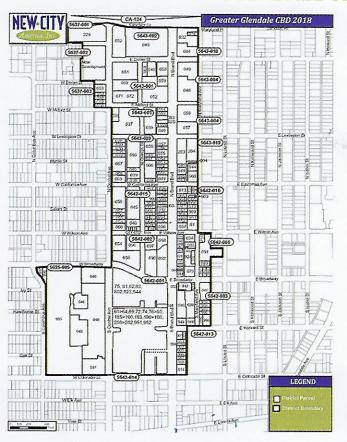
- > Muffin Can Stop Us 1017 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- Nike 837 Americana Way Suite D-1 Now Open!
- > Oishi Sushi 308 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Olia Restaurant 1100 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Plant Nation 702 Americana Way Coming Soon!
- Project Taco 112 E Wilson Ave Now Open!
- > Seaweed Hand Roll Bar 318 N Brand Blvd Coming Soon!

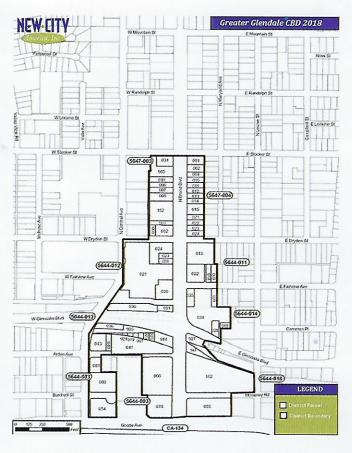
- > ShareTea 2210 Glendale Galleria Coming Soon!
- > Starbucks Coffee 241 N Central Ave Coming Soon!
- > Tokyo Hot Chicken 237 S Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > Vie Spa 611 N Brand Blvd Unit 102 Now Open!
- > WeWork 611 N Brand Blvd Now Open!
- > YOLO Chicken 303 1/2 N Brand Blvd Now Open!





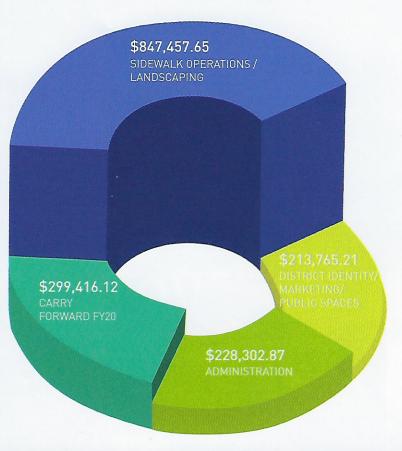
# **GREATER DOWNTOWN GLENDALE CBD**





### DOWNTOWN GLENDALE ASSOCIATION

2020 EXPENSES — \$1,588,941.85



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### 2020

### Rick Lemmo

President/Executive Committee Chair

### Joseph P. Stitick

Vice President/Land Use Committee Chair

### Raul Porto

Secretary

### Helen McDonagh

Treasurer/DISI Committee Chair

### Randy Stevenson

SOBO Committee Chair

### Jennifer Hiramoto

Board Member

### Nicole Dedic

Board Member

### Steven Sayers

Board Member

### 2021

### Joseph P. Stitick, CCIM

President/Executive Committee Chair/Land Use Committee Chair

### Raul Porto

Vice President

### Helen McDonagh

Secretary/DISI Committee Chair

### Rick Lemmo

Treasurer/Government Relations

### Randy Stevenson

SOBO Committee Chair

### Jennifer Hiramoto

Board Member

### Steven Sayers

Board Member



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