# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# LOVING THE CHANGES AND ENJOYING OUR GROWING DOWNTOWN GLENDALE

While certain downtowns in the region continue to re-invent themselves in the post-pandemic world, Downtown Glendale has been able to pick up where we left off in early 2020. New businesses continue to come to Downtown Glendale, thousands of new residential units have been built or are under construction, and our public spaces are being used more than ever.

We are very lucky to have two major retail and restaurant anchors in the Glendale Galleria and the Americana, but we are also the home to one of the best bakeries in the LA region, Porto's Bakery. We have hundreds of small businesses who create the fabric of our district.

Our public rights of way are ever-changing. Seasonal displays show people in the valley how our business district can reflect the time of year we are in, and we continue to attract new office workers and visitors to our great hotels. We take pride in our public rights of way, working closely with the Glendale Police Department, Glendale City Council, Community Development Department and City staff to ensure that everyone walking on Brand Boulevard and Central Avenue can see the changes as our city center grows.

We enter 2024 with great hope and know that we are clearly on a positive road now. We invite those of you who have not visited the Greater Glendale area to come and enjoy the shopping, beauty, walkability, personal services and great mix of restaurants, coffee shops, theatres and bakeries that make us proud of what we have achieved up to this point - and show the path to our future.

Sincerely,
Rick Lemmo
President of the GDGA

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Greater Downtown Glendale Association (GDGA) is entering 2024 stronger than ever:

- Glendale was just identified as the sixth safest city in the State of California.
- > Over 100 new businesses moved to Greater Downtown Glendale in 2023.
- > Hundreds of new residential units are being constructed right now at the turn of 2024, with hundreds more planned for construction this year and in 2025.
- ➤ The Greater Downtown Glendale Association anticipates greatly gearing up its special events and promotional activities to bring customers from the entire San Fernando Valley into Downtown to expand and grow our current strong customer base.

All in all, we are very pleased with the support we have received from the property owners, business owners and the City of Glendale to pursue strong growth in the coming years.



We know that the new developments occurring in Downtown will help not only our current businesses, but will also create the critical mass needed to make our Downtown one of the true shining lights for living, visiting, and owning properties and businesses in Downtown.

The Greater Downtown Glendale Association appreciates all of the attention we have received and we know, compared to other downtowns, that we have emerged from the pandemic and see a bright future.

Walk down Brand Boulevard from Stocker on the north to Colorado on the south, as well as Central Avenue, and you will experience this new growth and the depth of our excellent retail and restaurant mix, as we head into the future. Also watch the new public spaces and beautification efforts that the GDGA crew will bring to the area this coming year.

#### Have a safe, prosperous and happy new year.

Marco Li Mandri
 Executive Director of the GDGA



# **DGA AMBASSADOR STATS:**

- > 21,322 42-gallon trash bags; approximately 394,457 pounds of litter picked up off the streets and sidewalks
- → 341 reports filed, including broken city property, extensive graffiti and illegal dumping
- > 436 cleanups performed of bio waste and human waste
- 491 homelessness outreach efforts performed relating to business calls and disturbances

- > 1,427 directions/recommendations given
- > 928 graffiti tags cleaned up
- > 2,137 stickers/posters removed
- >4,000 bus stops cleaned
- > 424 shopping carts returned to businesses or removed from the district



ALWAY

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

52 people attended the third annual International Women's Day event, which was held at the MYA Rooftop at the Glenmark. Diane Doolin led a conversation about bracing equity, which was followed by a reception where guests were able to mingle and network with the speaker.

# **CRUISE NIGHT**

The 28th Annual Glendale Cruise Night took place on Saturday, July 15, 2023. Almost 400 cars filled Brand Boulevard from Broadway to Doran St., with visitors walking the streets to see the cars, eat at our local downtown restaurants and listen to the live music. Performances by "Ticket to Ride – a Tribute to the Beatles," "Gregory Wolfe as Rod Stewart," and "Jumping Jack Flash – THE Tribute to the Rolling Stones" were enjoyed by all. Over 55 local businesses and organizations were in attendance with booths on the street, and local radio and news stations were in attendance, broadcasting live from the event. Staff was able to secure a total of \$45,250 in sponsorships this year to help offset the cost of the event. The evening wrapped up with a fireworks display from behind the main stage. Staff estimated over 40,000 people were in attendance.

### **GLENDALE TECH WEEK**

At Glendale Tech Week, pioneers, business leaders and investors gathered for two days of celebration and connections. Over 2,000 attendees came to exchange ideas at panel discussions, share exciting projects on Demo Day, attract venture capital at the annual PitchFest, and even engage in friendly competition in the Grand Chess Tournament. An awards ceremony capped off the events, recognizing the innovators who make Glendale a growing hub of the tech industry.

# **BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

# PORTO'S BAKERY

Porto's Bakery, co-owned by Beatriz Porto-Magadan and the Porto family (including Raul Porto, who is the Vice President of the GDGA), was born out of their mother Rosa Porto's love for sharing her wonderful cakes and pastries with friends and family. In 1976, Rosa opened her first official storefront, Porto's Bakery, on Sunset Boulevard in Echo Park, California. Today, the family is still committed to using the finest ingredients from all over the world, ensuring that quality remains the cornerstone of the family tradition. Porto's has gradually grown into six current locations in Glendale, Burbank, Downey, Buena Park, West Covina, and Northridge, with a seventh location in the Downtown Disney® District on the way.



#### MEDIA ATTENTION

6 media highlights

6 awards



#### **SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE**

#### Facebook

9,792 followers 9,685 likes

#### Instagram

2,433 followers

X (formerly Twitter)
1,480 followers



#### **NEW BUSINESSES** THAT OPENED IN DOWNTOWN GLENDALE IN 2023

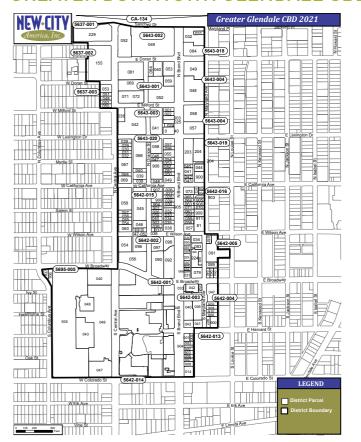
- > 120 Degreez
- > Abraham Lincoln University
- > American Eagle
- > Anthem Blue Cross
- > Arthur Chalekian
- > Artie's Express
- > Arzoomanian Law PC
- > Atllas, Inc.
- > Auntie Anne's
- > Aversano Tax Resolution Glendale
- > Avian Premium Finance
- > Beard Papa's
- > Beyond Limits
- > Block Advisors
- > Boarders
- California Community Reinvestment Corporation
- > Chalice Collectibles
- > Choupette
- > Cimmarusti Development, LLC
- > Cimmarusti Holdings LLC
- > Clothing LA
- > Comcare Home Health Agency, Inc.
- > Concept 33
- > Cotton On Kids

- > Crumbl Cookies
- > CTA Law
- > Dermtech Mohs Service Group
- > Devil & Angel
- > DLK Law Corp
- > Dodgers Clubhouse
- > Doll House
- > Dorothy Storm Thrivent
- > East West Bank
- > Escape The Room
- > Euro Kids
- > Euro Tween
- > Express
- > Farmers Insurance
- > Gallini
- > GameStop
- > Genesis Chiropractic & Wellness Center
- > Get YokD
- > Gharibian Law APC
- > Go Junk Less
- > Gradillas Court Reporters Inc.
- > Hearst Integrated Media
- > Integrity Accounting Solutions
- > Introstem

- > It's Boba Time
- > JD Finish Line
- > Kpop Station
- > L&R Construction
- > Lady Elite Milano
- > Lanterman Foundation
- > Law Office Of Eric A. Boyajian
- > Law Offices of Sheldon J. Eskin
- > Limonjyan Law Group
- > LIQ
- > Luxury Nail And Brow Bar
- > Madewell
- > Maison Law
- > Maternity Imaging
- > Meta Wellness
- > meyer2meyer
- > Mrs. Fields
- > Navy Career Center
- > Newport Advisory LLC
- Pacific Global Investment
   Management
- > Piercing Pagoda
- > PWC-Porro
- > Reich, Adell & Cvitan
- > Rekon Technologies
- > Reliance Matrix

- > Salt & Fries
- > See Sea
- > Selfie World
- > Soleniverse
- Spa Glisten
- > Spirit Halloween
- > Sunglass Gallery
- > Suzy Hair Design
- > Target Garage Doors
- > The Coffee Bean And Tea Leaf
- > The Lobby Shop
- > The Travel Store
- > The Walking Company
- > Ticor Title
- > Trans Financial Group
- > VERICRE Commercial Real Estate
- > Viva Concepts
- > We 2 Can Do Training & Fitness
- > Wells Fargo
- > White House | Black Market
- > Windsor
- > Yan Marketing

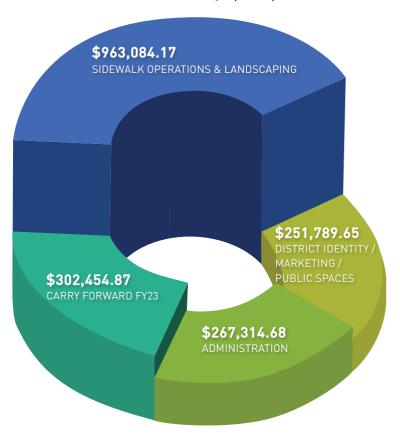
#### GREATER DOWNTOWN GLENDALE CBD





#### DOWNTOWN GLENDALE ASSOCIATION

2023 EXPENSES — \$1,784,643.37



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### 2024

#### Rick Lemmo

President | Executive Committee Chair | Director of Government Relations

The Americana at Brand | Caruso

#### Raul Porto

Vice President Porto's Bakery

#### Randy Stevenson

Vice President | S0B0 Committee Chair

Stevenson Real Estate

#### Helen McDonagh

Secretary | Treasurer | DISI Committee Chair Massage Envy Glendale

#### **Bradley Calvert**

Board Member City of Glendale

#### **Craig Gorris**

Board Member Glendale Galleria | Brookfield Properties Retail

#### Judee Kendall

Board Member Glendale Chamber of Commerce

#### 2023

#### Rick Lemmo

President | Executive Committee Chair | Director of Government Relations

The Americana at Brand | Caruso

#### Raul Porto

Vice President Porto's Bakery

#### Randy Stevenson

Vice President | SOBO Committee Chair

Stevenson Real Estate

#### Helen McDonagh

Secretary | Treasurer | DISI Committee Chair Massage Envy Glendale

#### Bradley Calvert

Board Member City of Glendale

#### **Steven Sayers**

Board Member Glendale Galleria | Brookfield Properties Retail



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