



LAI LEW Los Angeles

Land Economics Weekend (LEW)

October 13-15, 2022

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

SCRIBED BY PATRICIA VON GUNDLACH

*REFERENCED PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



The Fall 2022 Land Economics weekend, hosted by the **Lambda Alpha International (LAI) Los Angeles Chapter**, brought about 80 attendees to Southern California, to gain insights about the local economy and new developments in the city and county of Los Angeles. The weekend was filled with opportunities that, to quote LAI International President, **Gary Leach**, “helped us to explore ‘under the skin’ of the city.”

Attendees stayed at the beautiful and historic Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, on 5th Street and Grand, overlooking the infamous Pershing Square,



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION | GENSLER

THURSDAY 10.13.22



The weekend began with a President's cocktail reception at Gensler Los Angeles. Gensler has a downtown campus of over 600 people, and the cocktail reception was hosted in their Jewel Box, with magnificent views of downtown Los Angeles (DTLA). **Karin Chao**, the LAI Los Angeles Chapter President and **Demetra Thornton**, Managing Director, and Principal of Gensler Los Angeles, welcomed attendees to Los Angeles and the Gensler office. The evening was full of beautiful conversations, libations, charcuterie, and ambiance.

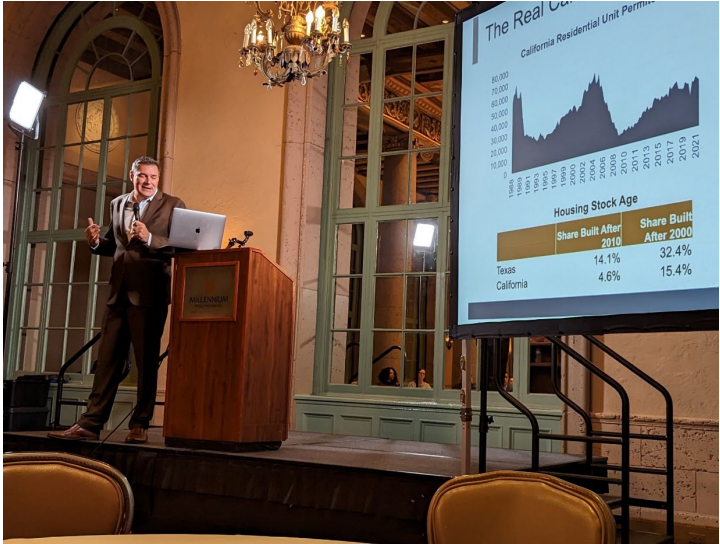
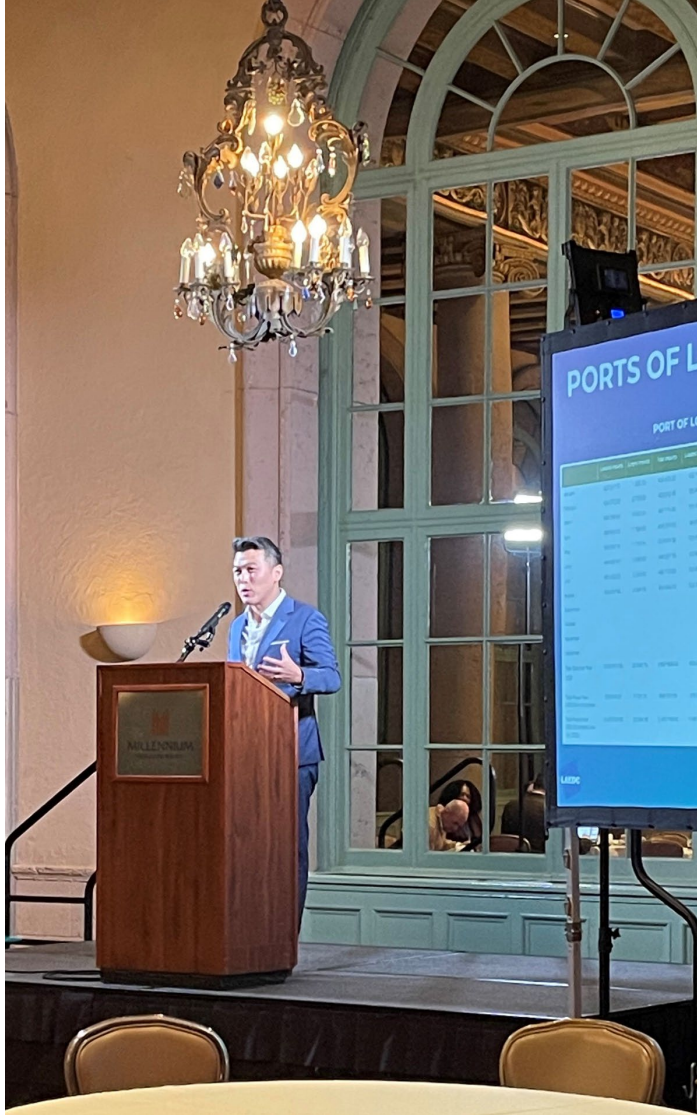


Welcome Presentation + The Economics of Los Angeles and California

The second day of the LA LEW began with breakfast at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, in the Emerald Room. **Karin Chao** welcomed everyone to the first full day of events and introduced **Stephen Cheung** to the podium.

Stephen Cheung, representing the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, gave a presentation on Los Angeles County and Southern California as an economic powerhouse and the many industries, in addition to film, that drive the local economy. He highlighted the relationship of Los Angeles County's dense population to other parts of the United States and world and recognized the high number of small businesses that call this city and county home. He reiterated that Los Angeles has a lot of space for any type of business and investment.

Dr. Chris Thornberg of Beacon Economics gave a riveting Economic Forecast, focusing on real estate and the housing crisis from undersupply and overdemand, not only on a local level but across the state of California and extending across the country. Both speakers eloquently, and poignantly, touched on many of the topics we explored throughout the weekend.

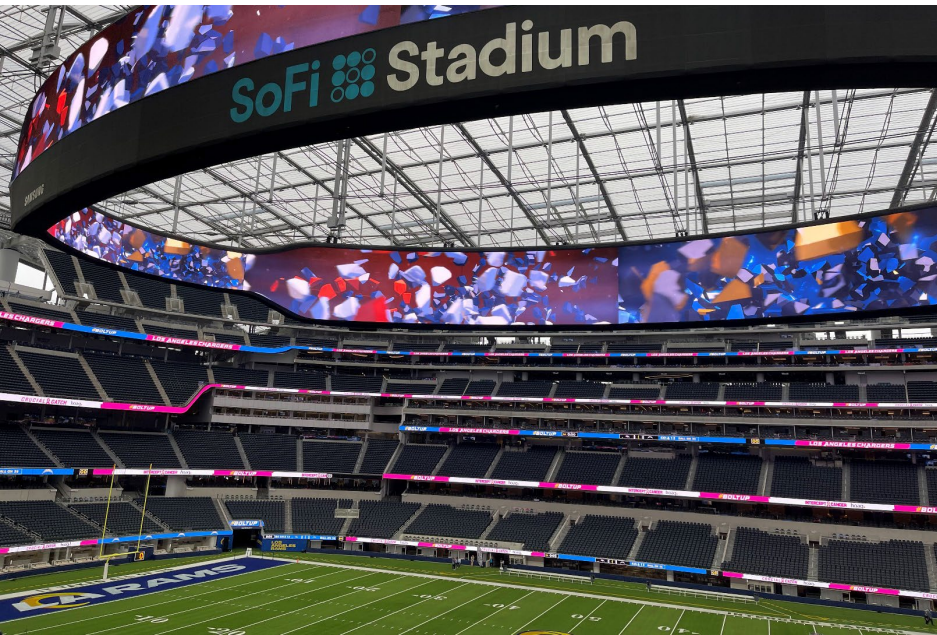


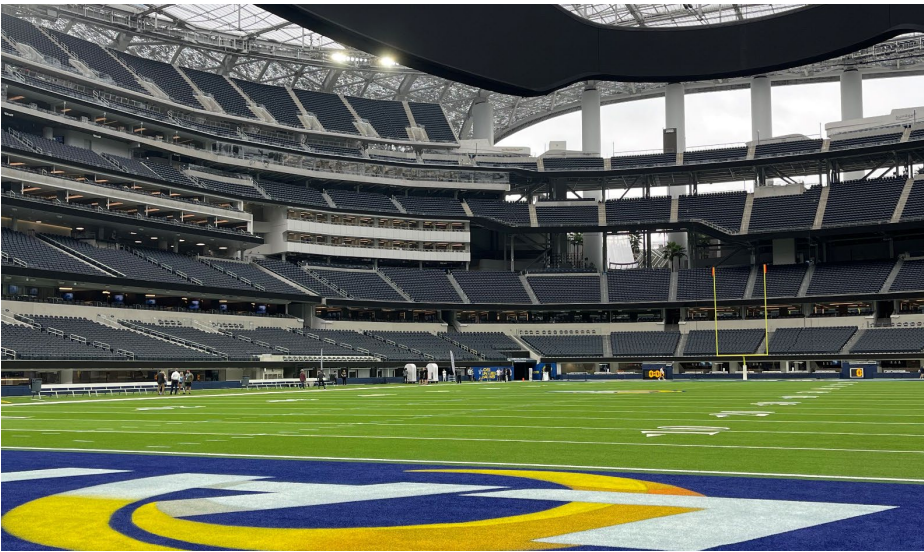
SoFi Stadium + Film Studio Tours

After wrapping up the morning presentations, we boarded 3 coach busses and headed to Inglewood for a Dine and Tour of SoFi Stadium. We began with a delicious early lunch and a presentation from **Mayor James Butts, Jr.**, the esteemed leader who brought SoFi Stadium, and numerous other projects, to the City of Inglewood.

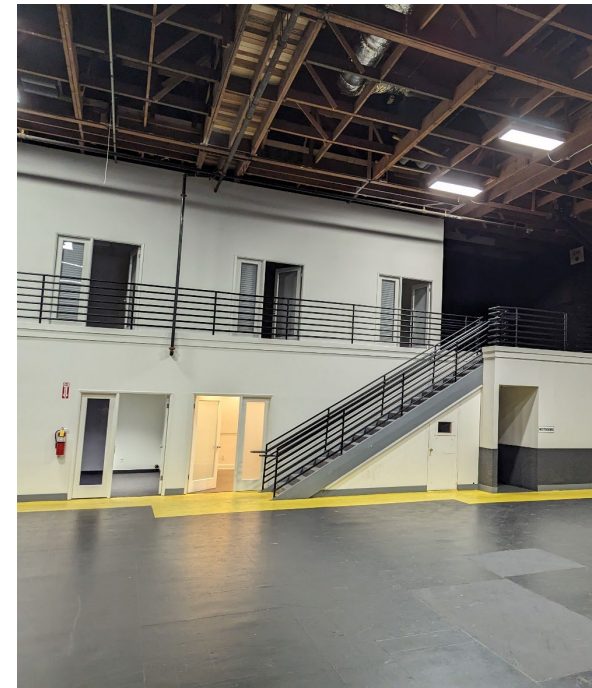
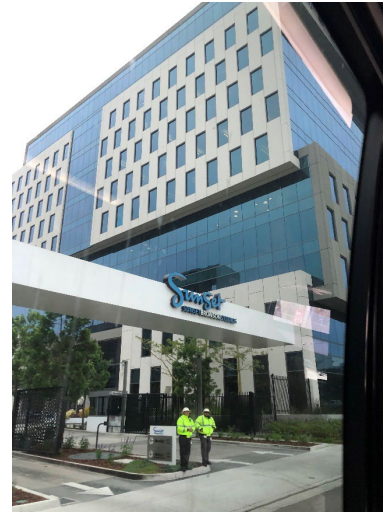
This was followed by an incredible in-depth presentation on the design and revolutionary construction of the stadium by Turner and AECOM HUNT teams, **Craig Bojda, Michael Marchesano** and **Juresha Alemayehu**. From there we toured the 70,000 seat sports and entertainment complex, home of the Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams, winners of Super Bowl LVI. We were invited to run through the tunnel as if we were players on either team and explore the locker rooms and field perimeter.







Next, we boarded the busses once again and headed to the heart of Hollywood to tour three historic film studios, Las Palmas Studio, the Bronson Studio, and the Gower Studio. These are some of the oldest existing Hollywood Studios with very rich history. The three studios were acquired by Hudson Pacific Properties, now home to a variety of productions by Netflix, Disney and more. For these tours, we divided into three smaller groups to accommodate the intimate nature of the studios.



Taco Night in West Hollywood

For the Friday evening dinner, LEW attendees were hosted by the LAI Los Angeles Chapter and LAI Los Angeles Chapter Board Member and Past President **Greg Karns** and his wife, **Tobe Karns** at their beautiful home in West Hollywood. It was a spectacular evening under the stars where everyone enjoyed street tacos, scrumptious churros and refreshing margaritas, all staples of a true Angeleno diet. We enjoyed a visit from the City of West Hollywood **Mayor Lauren Meister**, who spoke to the group about the city's vibrant culture and growth. The Karns' have a fabulous California art collection which guests were able to view and enjoy indoors and outdoors throughout the evening.

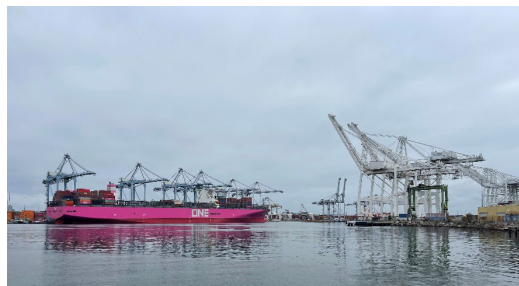




Harbor Boat Cruise + Tour

On Saturday morning everyone had breakfast and coffee on their own before boarding the busses at the Biltmore Hotel to head to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for a chartered Harbor Boat Cruise. The immersive tour was narrated by our in-house port expert, LAI Los Angeles Chapter Board Member, and LAI Past President and Fellow, **Dr. Jim Fawcett**. Jim is a professor of Environmental Studies at USC. The geography, location, railroad, climate, and economics make the Los Angeles seaports the busiest seaport city in all North America.

Mid-way through the boat cruise, we enjoyed boxed lunches with front row seats to a cargo railroad train crossing over an elevated bridge. It was an atypical cloudy and cool day but enjoyed by all. Soon after, we arrived back at the dock where there was a little time to explore the marina shops and aquarium before heading back to the Biltmore on the busses.



Closing Dinner

On Saturday evening, the Closing Dinner cocktail reception began at 6pm in the Biltmore Hotel's Emerald Room. Attendees mingled and connected before being seated for the dinner and awards ceremony. **Karin Chao** was radiating as she welcomed everyone for the evening and thanked attendees for participating in the Los Angeles Land Economics Weekend. Lambda Alpha International President, **Gary Leach**, gave thoughtful remarks about the weekend's diverse activities, speakers, and events.

The following awards were presented:

- 2020 Richard T. Ely Distinguished Educator Award to **Christopher B. Leinberger**.
- 2022 Richard T. Ely Distinguished Educator Award to **Professor Uwe Brandes**
- 2022 Member of the Year to **Elizabeth Davison**
- 2022 Los Angeles Skyline Award to SoFi Stadium:
 - o Turner Construction, AECOM HUNT – accepted by **Vesna Conroy, Ryan Verharst** and **Nino Adamo**
 - o The City of Inglewood – accepted by **Mayor James Butts, Jr.**

The distinguished honor of LAI Fellow was presented to **Millard Lee**, Los Angeles Chapter and **Lou Slade**, George Washington Chapter.

Finally, a preview of the 2023 LEW was announced:

Goodbye Los Angeles, Hello Barcelona!

Tentatively scheduled for the first week of October 2023.





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[Alan Billingsley](#), Billingsley Investments

[Craig Binning](#), Hemson Consulting

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[Ann Bouslog](#), PBR Hawaii

[Nicole Brandes](#)

[Uwe Brandes](#), Georgetown University

[Ludmilla Buss](#)

[Ron Buss](#), Buss-Shelger Associates

[Elisa Campbell](#), Canada Lands Company

[Eddy Chao](#), Asia Pacific Capital Company

[Karin Chao](#), Infinity Realty Advisors

[Mark Conway](#), N. Barry Lyon Consulting Limited

[SHARON Conway](#), N. Barry Lyon Consultants Limited

[Jamie Cook](#), Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

[Richard Cook](#), LAI

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[Elizabeth Davison](#), Davison Consulting

[Jeff Dawson](#)

[Mariaha Dean](#), Eden Resources

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[Jocelyn Frederick](#), HC Tangram Design LLC

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[Deana Grinnell](#)

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[Sheila Hamilton](#), Getting it Done

[Gordon Harris](#), Urban Land Advisors

[Sheila Harris](#), Sheila D Harris Consulting Services

[Mary Ann Henderson](#)

[Lorraine Huinink](#), LAI

[Jeanette Justus](#), JCJ Partners, LLC

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