Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018
MISSION STATEMENT

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council will work to honor diversity, build community, forge bonds with neighboring communities and promote participation in city governance and decision-making processes to improve the quality of life for all of Silver Lake’s stakeholders.
Dear Silver Lake Residents and Stakeholders,

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) had a fabulous 2018 filled with purposeful projects, community involvement and positive results. We could not be more proud of the SLNC and members of the multiple and diverse advisory committees who volunteer their time and talent to serve their community and turn ideas into action. All of us on the Governing Board are excited to begin 2019 with new energy and positive momentum. And as always, we invite you to join us in our mission to improve our community.

All meetings of the SLNC are open to the public. If you have a general interest or a specific goal, there is an advisory committee just for you. Any Silver Lake stakeholder can be an immediate voting member on most committees and make a difference in Silver Lake. For more information about the SLNC, its committees and meeting schedules—and to sign up to receive our bi-weekly newsletters—please visit www.SilverLakeNC.org.

On behalf of the entire SLNC board, we wish you and your family a happy, healthy and engaged 2019.

Sincerely,

Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante
SLNC Co-Chairs
Governing Board Officers

Co-chairs: Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante
Vice Chair: Darius Derakshan
Treasurer: Terry Jackson
Secretary: Betsy Isroelit

Members of the Board

Heather Carson: At-Large Representative
Jerome Courshon: At-Large Representative
Darius Derakshan: At-Large Representative, Vice Chairman, SLNC
Governing Board & Executive Committee, Co-chair Homelessness in Silver Lake
Glenn Harrell: At-Large Representative
Anne-Marie Johnson: At-Large Representative, Co-chair SLNC
Governing Board & Executive Committee, Co-chair Bylaws & Standing Rules Committee
Scott Plante: At-Large Representative, Co-chair SLNC Governing Board & Executive Committee, Co-chair Urban Design and Preservation Committee
Antonio Stifano: At-Large Representative, Sergeant-at-Arms
Hannah Anderson: Region 1 Representative, Assistant Secretary
Doug Loewy: Region 1 Representative
Barbara Ringuette: Region 2 Representative, Co-chair Governmental Affairs Committee
Douglas Reed: Region 2 Representative
Rebecca Ruben: Region 3 Representative, Chair Youth Committee
Lee Sherman: Region 3 Representative, Co-chair Elections Committee
Kathleen Hudson: Region 4 Representative
Melissa Samuels: Region 4 Representative
Bob Lisauskas: Region 5 Representative, Co-chair Green Committee
David Valdez: Region 5 Representative, Assistant Treasurer, Co-chair Governmental Affairs Committee
Betsy Isroelit: Region 6 Representative, Board Secretary, Co-chair Outreach Committee
Taryn Poole: Region 6 Representative, Outreach Social Media Advertising
Janis Purins: Region 7 Representative, Co-chair Silver Lake Reservoirs Committee
Terrence Jackson: Region 7 Representative, Treasurer, Co-chair Silver Lake Reservoirs Committee, Co-chair Outreach, Co-chair Budget & Finance Committee
SLNC ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Arts & Culture
Co-chairs: Renee Dawson and Dulce Stein

Budget & Finance
Co-chairs: Terrence Jackson and David Valdez

Bylaws & Standing Rules
Co-chairs: Lee Sherman and Anne-Marie Johnson

Elections
Co-chairs: Lee Sherman and Eric Kissack

Executive
Co-chairs: Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante
Vice Chair: Darius Derakshan
Treasurer: Terry Jackson
Secretary: Betsy Isroelit

Governmental Affairs
Co-chairs: Barbara Ringuette and David Valdez

Green Committee
Co-chairs: John Wingler and Bob Lisauskas

Silver Lake History Collective
Co-chairs: Michael Masterson and Cheryl Revkin

Homelessness in Silver Lake
Co-chairs: Darius Derakshan and Nithya V. Raman

Housing & Tenants’ Rights
Co-chairs: Carol Cetrone and Ninotchka Regets

Mature Adult Advocates
Co-chairs: Nina Sorkin and Stephanie Vendig

Neighborhood Business
Chair: Position Open

Outreach
Co-chairs: Betsy Isroelit and Terry Jackson

Silver Lake Reservoirs
Co-chairs: Terrence Jackson and Janis Purins

Transportation & Neighborhood Safety
Co-chairs: Tony Michaelis and Paul Emmons

Urban Design & Preservation
Co-chairs: Scott Plante and Joe Ferrell

Youth
Chair: Rebecca Ruben
## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless count in Silver Lake provides essential data.</td>
<td>SLNC votes to ban rat poisons.</td>
<td>Final discussion in “Words Can Help… And Hurt” series.</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>JUNE</td>
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<td>SLNC holds community meeting on reservoirs walking path plus huge turnout for historic stairways tour.</td>
<td>Slow Down Silver Lake Campaign kicks off.</td>
<td>SLNC supports Councilmember Ryu’s WAZE action.</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
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<td>Traffic safety top topic on Transportation Committee agenda.</td>
<td>Following the death of Trader Joe’s store manager Melyda Corado, during the hostage standoff on July 21, officers from LAPD’s Northeast Division answered questions at the SLNC August 1 board meeting.</td>
<td>DOT asked to report back on feasibility of the transportation and infrastructure strategies recommended in Waverly/Rowena/Angus Cut-Through Traffic Study.</td>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
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<td>SLNC/Loyola Marymount Open Space Survey begins.</td>
<td>LADWP updates plans for Fletcher Drive Pipeline Project at SLNC meetings.</td>
<td>Green Lecture series announced; Candidate filing for SLNC elections opens.</td>
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## STATS
### AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>33,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population Under 18 Years Old</td>
<td>4,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Million Gallons of Water in Silver Lake’s Reservoirs</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Species of Birds at Reservoirs</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean Household Income</td>
<td>$107,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own a Home</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsheltered Persons in Silver Lake</td>
<td>128</td>
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<td>Oral Histories Recorded by The History Collective</td>
<td>100+</td>
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<td>Hygiene Kits Distributed to the Homeless</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td>Halloween Treats Distributed at Bellevue Rec Center</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slow Down Silver Lake Signs</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Flakes Delivered to Silver Lake Rec Center</td>
<td>UNCOUNTABLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Stairways</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>People Reached Through Facebook</td>
<td>250,254</td>
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<td>SLNC Meetings in 2018</td>
<td>94</td>
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<td>SLNC Committees</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Governing Board Members</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Budget Advocate Reports</td>
<td>24</td>
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All Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) governing board and committee meetings are open to the public—and all agendas, actions and minutes are posted for public viewing at www.SilverLakeNC.org. The SLNC also holds community meetings on important issues so all residents and stakeholders have the opportunity to hear from city representatives and elected officials—and ask questions in an open forum. For example:

**Words Can Help**

Final installments of the SLNC’s and Silver Lake Library’s “Words Can Help... And Hurt” series of community conversations took place in January and March. The forums encouraged participants to think about how words can impact perceptions and featured notable panelists, including Greg Braxton, Pulitzer Prize winning writer for the Los Angeles Times and actress, comedian and singer Jenifer Lewis (Black-ish).

**Ivanhoe Walking Path**

In conjunction with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, the SLNC held a special community meeting to give attendees the opportunity to learn about the proposed walking path near the corner of Tesla Avenue and West Silver Lake Boulevard.

**Fletcher Lanes Closure**

The SLNC and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) partnered to present detailed plans for an upcoming project to replace aging water pipes along Fletcher Drive in Silver Lake. Two meetings were held to explain the scope of work, which will require lane closures on heavily trafficked thoroughfares in 2019.
The Homelessness in Silver Lake Committee works with the city and community organizations like SELAH to provide outreach and services to homeless neighbors. Photo: Volunteers prepare for a monthly dinner for unsheltered residents held at the Silver Lake Community Church.

PUTTING COMPASSION FIRST

The SLNC’s Homelessness Committee is a vital community resource for homelessness initiatives and volunteer efforts. The committee works closely with elected officials, other neighborhood councils and community organizations, such as the SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition. Examples include:

Accurate Information. Informed Decisions.
Each January, the Homelessness Committee coordinates The Silver Lake Homeless Count, which is part of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. The information helps the city and groups working to end homelessness in L.A. allocate resources, make informed decisions and build creative solutions. (See the year in review recap at www.SilverLakeNC.org.)

Working Together
Through the Homelessness Committee, the SLNC is funding a second hygiene kit drive for unsheltered neighbors. At the first drive, local Girl Scout troops and volunteers pitched in to assemble kits, which were distributed to those experiencing homelessness.

Unified Action
Over this past year, the committee worked with CD13 Councilmember O’Farrell’s office in efforts to bring increased services to Silver Lake, including a safe parking site, permanent supportive housing and plans for bridge housing. Working with the offices of CD4 Councilmember David Ryu, Supervisor Sheila Keuhl and Assembly Member Laura Friedman, the SLNC provided funding and volunteer support for the Homeless Connect Day.
Silver Lake is known for its iconic reservoirs and green spaces, which are home to 140 species of birds and a variety of wildlife. The SLNC’s Green, Outreach and Reservoirs Committees work together to protect and improve Silver Lake’s natural resources and its environment to benefit both residents and wildlife. Examples include:

**Safer Parks and Water for Residents and Wildlife**
In February, the SLNC voted unanimously to support a motion by the Green Committee urging businesses, residents and the City of Los Angeles to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides (poisons) in Silver Lake.

**Trees for Micheltorena**
In April, the SLNC endorsed a tree-planting project on Micheltorena Street, a joint venture with Tree People.

**The Dos and Don'ts of Tree Care**
In September, renowned local arborist Gary Knowlton gave an informative lecture and shared practical examples about tree care. The SLNC and Green Committee sponsored the free lecture.

**Green Lecture Series**
On January 24, the Green Committee will kick off the New Year with a series of four talks presented by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Green Committee and the Silver Lake Public Library. The lectures will cover climate change, habitat restoration and biodiversity in Silver Lake and beyond and feature experts on these crucial topics.
In conjunction with the Transportation & Neighborhood Safety Committee, the SLNC supports numerous initiatives to address traffic, safety and City of L.A. service issues. From coordinating pothole and sidewalk repairs to providing a forum for LAPD and LAFD representatives, the SLNC works to help residents access city services, including public works projects and safety issues, and improve service delivery.

**For example:**

**Slow Down Silver Lake**
To combat the dangerous impact of speeding on neighborhood streets, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council launched a community wide campaign to remind motorists to slow down and drive safely. The project featured eye-catching “Slow Down Silver Lake” yard signs, distributed in each of the SLNC’s seven regions.

**Rowena Avenue, Waverly Drive, Angus Street Cut-Through Traffic Study**
In November, the Los Angeles City Council sent the Rowena Avenue, Waverly Drive, Angus Street Cut-Through Traffic Study (funded by CD4) to the Department of Transportation (DOT) to review and report back on the feasibility of proposed transportation and infrastructure strategies. Members of the SLNC were on the task force that worked with CD4 to develop the study. The SLNC plans to hold community meetings to review the DOT report once it is released.

**Supporting Our First Defenders**
Mayor Eric Garcetti spotlighted the SLNC’s work with the community at the 6th Annual National Night Out in Silver Lake, held to support community-police awareness.
SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

The SLNC’s Urban Design and Preservation Committee works with city government and the private sector to shape proposed projects and develop alternative ideas that conform to community standards. The committee’s work spans all seven SLNC regions, from the L.A. River to the 101 and 2 Freeways to Hoover, Myra and Hyperion.

Examples include:

**Conditional Use Permits (CUPS)**
The committee and the SLNC reviewed—and advised on—nine conditional use permits for restaurants and lounges. CUPs impact everything from hours of operations to parking for customers and staff.

**Small Lot Housing**
In 2018, the committee reviewed 10 small lot housing projects, working with developers to mitigate and improve plans for construction that impacts the community.

**Parking**
Lack of parking is a growing issue in Silver Lake. In 2018, Urban Design formed a parking workgroup to explore creative solutions.

**Preserving El Cid**
Urban Design is also working to preserve the El Cid building, which was recently sold.

**Advocacy and Advice**
In addition, the committee assists residents and stakeholders on a range of issues, from noisy lounges to concerns about blocked driveways.
In recognition of the critical moment facing the Silver Lake community as the new Silver Lake Reservoirs Master Plan takes shape, the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council selected the Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience (LMU) to conduct a survey of residents and stakeholders. The goal of the study is to gather timely foundational data about the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of residents and people who use and live nearby the historic 96-acre reservoirs.

- Dr. Eric Strauss, executive director of the LMU Center for Urban Resilience, and Michele Romolini, Ph.D., LMU director of research, directed the study.
- LMU researchers conducted the survey at locations within Silver Lake, including areas surrounding the reservoirs, public spaces and the Silver Lake Library.
- Respondents took the survey in English or Spanish, and an online link to the study was available.
- The study began in mid-October and concluded at the end of December. LMU will present the findings at a community meeting in early 2019.
Since its founding in 2005, the History Collective Committee has preserved the oral histories of long-term residents, business owners, artists and other interesting people in Silver Lake to create an archive of the unique history of Silver Lake for future generations. Other committees also work with the SLNC to celebrate and preserve the storied history of our community. **Examples include:**

**The History Collective Channel**
The History Collective added a number of important video histories to its YouTube channels in 2018, and presented the *Other Side* film and an interview with Carol Cetrone and John Fleck during Pride Month, in conjunction with the Silver Lake Library.

**Stair-steppers Turn Out**
Nearly 200 enthusiastic stair-steppers turned out for a special guided tour of four iconic Silver Lake stairways, The tour was led by Charles Fleming, noted author of *Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles*. Presented by the SLNC and the Green Committee, the tour also celebrated the popular Adopt A Stair program.

**Music Box Steps Day**
On October 20, Silver Lake celebrated its starring role in the famous Laurel and Hardy short, “The Music Box,” at a festival for film buffs and families, presented by the Silver Lake Improvement Association and co-sponsored by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.
ADVOCATING
FOR YOUTH AND MATURE ADULTS

In 2018, the 50+ Committee became the Mature Adult Advocates Committee, focusing on advocating for and providing services to older residents. **Examples include:**

**Safe Streets for Everyone**
SLNC approved funding for the SAFE (Streets Are For Everyone) Kids education program, conducted in partnership with the LAPD’s Central Traffic Division to elementary school children safe pedestrian habits.

**Supporting the Griffith Park Adult Community Club and Center**
The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council co-sponsored the Griffith Park Adult Community Club and Center’s (GPAC) 10th Annual Spring Faire, which featured activities for children, teens, adults, and seniors.

**Silver Lake Cancer Crusaders**
Youth volunteers and members of Silver Lake’s Cancer Crusaders turned out to support the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay for Life and the fight against cancer. The SLNC supported the Relay and the Youth Team, which was coordinated by Relay organizer Nina Sorkin and the SLNC Youth Committee.

**SLNC Youth Liaison**
Sixteen-year-old Sosi Day was appointed to serve as the SLNC’s Youth Liaison. In her new position, Sosi will advocate for the youth of Silver Lake and represent younger residents at Governing Board and Youth Committee meetings.

**Supporting Safe and Fun Events at Rec Centers**
Co-sponsored by the SLNC, the Halloween Celebration at Bellevue Recreation Center is a tradition that provides a safe place for children and parents to enjoy Halloween.

Silver Lake kids enjoyed saucer rides on real snow provided by the SLNC at the Silver Lake Rec Center "Holiday in the Park Event."
DEFENDING TENANT’S RIGHTS

To help people understand their rights as tenants, the Governing Board of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to form a new Housing and Renters’ Rights Committee. The Committee pursues an agenda to protect the rights of those who are facing eviction or being displaced. Examples include:

**Ethical Real Estate**

The committee met with members of the LA Tenants Union (LATU) and local realtors to find common ground and clarify the ethics of real estate.

**Free Legal Counsel**

At a special meeting, the committee voted to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of a Tenants Rights to Counsel Program proposed by Councilmember Koretz. The program helps tenants obtain free legal counsel for housing issues; The SLNC approved the advisory motion, which was submitted to the city on September 4.

**The Negative Impacts of Displacement**

At a committee meeting, Jared Baxter, Policy Committee of the LA Tenants Union (LATU) explained the legal action being brought against the City of Los Angeles that focuses on negative health impacts as well as cumulative impacts of displacement.
In 2018, the SLNC achieved record levels of community engagement through its Outreach Committee, working closely with other committees and community partners.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council keeps residents, stakeholders and the media informed about activities and news and is dedicated to involving more members of the community in the work of the SLNC and its 17 committees.

Newsletters, Events and Meetings
In 2018, the Outreach Committee published and distributed 27 newsletter and special announcements. The committee also coordinated numerous events, projects, lectures and community meetings, working closely with other SLNC committees and community partners to organize and publicize these activities.

Social Media
The Outreach Committee also coordinates the SLNC’s social media initiatives, including outreach initiatives that reached well over 250,000 people in Silver Lake and surrounding communities.

Participation in Elections
The Elections Advisory Committee worked with the SLNC to prepare for the 2019 Neighborhood Council elections, which take place on April 6. All 21 seats on the Governing Board are open in the upcoming elections.

Important City Contacts Magnets
The SLNC distributed magnetized cards with key contacts for city services, police and elected officials. The cards make it easy to find information in an emergency and when services are needed.
LIAISONS & REPRESENTATIVES

Aging Liaison: Nina Sorkin and Stephanie Vendig
Homelessness Liaison: Darius Derakshan, Nithya V. Raman and Barbara Ringuette
Film Liaison: Glenn Harrell
Budget Advocate Representatives: Barbara Ringuette and Tony Michaelis
Alliance of River Communities Representative: Barbara Ringuette and Taryn Poole
Animal Services Liaison: Taryn Poole and Kate Hudson
Sustainability Alliance Representative: Bob Lisauskas
Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition: Terry Jackson
Plan CheckNC LA Liaison: Barbara Ringuette
DWP MOU Oversight and Advocacy Committee Representative: Anne-Marie Johnson
Public Safety Liaison: Tony Michaelis
CONTACT INFORMATION

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