



Women in International Trade
- Los Angeles -

WIT-LA'S 8TH ANNUAL
**GLOBAL
TRADE
AWARDS GALA**

GLOBAL TRADE AWARDS 2020

OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

*Ambassador
Nina Hachigian*

Deputy Mayor of International Affairs,
Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles



INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE EXPORTER OF THE YEAR



Kusum Kavia

Co-Founder & President
Combustion Associates, Inc. (CAI)

GLOBAL TRADE CATALYST OF THE YEAR



Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero

Director of Trade Development,
Port of Los Angeles

GUY FOX SPECIAL AWARD



Tom Good

Vice President, Sales, U.S. Mainland
Matson Inc, Los Angeles

GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR MEXICO



Mayra Velazquez de Leon

President
Organics Unlimited

GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR SOUTH AFRICA



Ntsiki Biyela

Founder
Aslina Wines

GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR VIETNAM



Madame Nguyen Thi Nga

BRG Group Chairman
Permanent Vice Chairman of SeABank

RECOGNIZING WOMEN LEADERS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE



8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala Virtually Celebrating



Join us for an evening of celebration

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

6PM - 7:30PM

*Meet and Greet in our Networking
Zoom Room at 5:45pm*



MESSAGE FROM WIT-LA'S PRESIDENT



Welcome to WIT-LA's Eighth Annual Global Trade Awards Gala!

On behalf of Women in International Trade, Los Angeles (WIT-LA), I would like to thank you for attending our 8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala this evening as we virtually commemorate a great year of programming and events in celebration of WIT-LA's 35 years of participation in the international trade community.

The extraordinary circumstances that we have found ourselves in this year, disrupting our lives and businesses extending to the global economy and world trade, have required exceptional action during these exceptional times.

This year's Global Trade Awards Gala highlights and honors the trailblazers and catalysts in the international trade community as they have traversed this challenging time.

WIT-LA takes pride in recognizing women leaders from as far away as South Africa and Vietnam, and our close trade partner to the south, Mexico, and as close to home as the Southern California area. We will also be recognizing a very special gentleman with our Guy Fox Special Award for supporting, empowering and enabling women in international trade. I want to personally congratulate all the 2020 Global Trade Award Winners.

Tonight, we take a few moments to recognize and honor women who have excelled in international trade and transportation, and who have contributed to global economic growth, whose efforts and accomplishments in conducting and promoting international trade have been exemplary. We believe that by recognizing and celebrating these outstanding leaders and influencers who have made unique contributions to our community and the international business arena, we expand the sphere and value of international trade.

We're honored to host the Global Trade Awards Gala as we celebrate with an evening filled with collegiality, excitement, and pride for the entire international trade community. I would especially like to thank Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Americas, Ana Guevara, Ingrid Vanderveldt from EBW Empowering a Billion Women 2020, and Camelia Mazard, President of OWIT International and Partner at Doyle, Barlow, and Mazard, PLLC, for providing their remarks. As well, I would like to thank Mayor Garcetti from City of Los Angeles, Mayor Garcia from City of Long Beach, and Mayor Furey from City of Torrance for recognizing our efforts and for congratulating our award winners. And, I also want to express our appreciation to Consul General Marcela Celorio and thank her for supporting us in recognizing such accomplished individuals.

We are so grateful for the support of our Gold Sponsors: the Port of Los Angeles and the HKTDC Hong Kong Trade Development Council as well as our Silver Sponsors, the Port of Long Beach, and the DECSC District Export Council of Southern California, and our Bronze sponsor City National Bank. A special thank you as well to our other contributors to this important event. I sincerely extend my gratitude to the WIT-LA Board for all their hard work, and to our entertainers, who are making this event so enjoyable. Without everyone's support, WIT-LA's educational programs and celebratory programs such as this would not be possible.

I look forward to sharing a memorable evening with you tonight.



LETTER FROM MAYOR GARCETTI



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, welcome to the Women in International Trade – Los Angeles' 8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala.

For 35 years, WIT-LA has been a leader in providing community, education, and professional development for women in international trade in the Los Angeles region. WIT-LA's annual awards gala helps elevate and recognize the women who create jobs for our neighbors, empower our communities, and connect our city with the world.

I am proud to congratulate our very own Ambassador Nina Hachigian, Los Angeles' Deputy Mayor of International Affairs, for being awarded this year's Woman of the Year in International Trade. I also extend my congratulations to Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero, Kusum Kavia, Mayra Velazquez de Leon, Madame Nguyen Thi Nga, Ntsiki Biyela, and Tom Good. Your contributions and commitment to our City of Angels help create jobs for our neighbors and bring joy into our homes.

I send my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

Eric Garcetti
Mayor



LETTER FROM MAYOR FUREY



PATRICK J. FUREY
MAYOR



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
HEIDI ANN ASHCRAFT
GEORGE CHEN
TIM GOODRICH
MIKE GRIFFITHS
SHARON KALANI
AURELIO MATTUCCI

December 10, 2020

Women in International Trade – Los Angeles (WIT-LA)

Dear Members, Participants, and Awardees of the WIT-LA 8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala,

Congratulations on your perseverance in this very unusual year with this very special gala! Congratulations also on 35 years of promoting women doing business in international trade by providing valuable networking and educational opportunities in the field for the women of the Los Angeles region.

WIT-LA has distinguished itself as part of the Organization of Women in International Trade, a non-profit professional organization with over 3,000 members worldwide that has been operating since the late 1980's, by winning the Bob Kleist Leadership Award in 2015. This award recognizes and honors an organization or company that has demonstrated inspirational and visionary leadership in the development of world trade in Southern California.

As Mayor of Torrance, I am proud to acknowledge the number of WIT-LA members who are based in the South Bay Area and the important work that you do to strengthen international ties to our region. Best wishes to you and to all the honorees at this gala event.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Furey
Mayor, City of Torrance



LETTER FROM MAYOR GARCIA



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH



December 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Women in International Trade – Los Angeles 8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala. Thank you for participating in this important and exciting event.

First off, on behalf of the entire City of Long Beach, I want to extend my warmest congratulations to all the women executives being honored and recognized tonight.

I also want to thank the sponsors of tonight's gala, including the Port of Long Beach. Your generosity makes this special evening possible and is essential to the continued support of women's leadership in international trade here in Los Angeles County.

Finally, and perhaps most important, let us all congratulate WIT-LA on the occasion of your 35th anniversary. You have served our region diligently and passionately since 1985, and you deserve to be celebrated.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of trade, and of women in business leadership. The example you set and the work you do are so important, and they are recognized and appreciated.

Have a fantastic evening!

Go Long Beach!

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach





2015 Recipients of Bob Kleist Leadership Award

Leading Organization Promoting International Trade for Southern California

*Celebrating
35 Years!*

**Providing professional
and personal enrichment
and a platform for
global networking**

P.O. Box 45802
Los Angeles, CA 90045-0802
(213) 545-6479
E-mail info@wit-la.org
www.wit-la.org



OUR STORY

Southern California Organization With Global Reach

In 1985, a group of women from the Los Angeles area formed Women in International Trade - Los Angeles (WIT-LA) with the objective to advance career and trade opportunities for women in Southern California.

Today WIT-LA is recognized worldwide for building ongoing trade relationships within and between global communities. After more than 30 years of providing educational programming and networking opportunities, our organization is now well positioned to further the advancement of women and men in international trade in Southern California. By expanding our global horizons and building strong business relationships, our organization will continue to grow and is committed to serve our international trade community so that it thrives and excels as one of the leading centers of international trade around the world.



WIT-LA, achieves global reach by its affiliation with **OWIT - Organization of Women in International Trade** - a non-profit professional organization with over 3,000 members worldwide and operating since the late 1980's designed to promote women doing business in international trade by providing networking and educational opportunities.



WIT-LA

*Leading Organization Promoting International Trade
in Southern California for over 30 years*

OWIT's values and philosophy embrace its mission statement: United around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business. Its growing network continues to provide a collective forum to support education, to facilitate information exchange and to promote networking.

WIT-LA was one of the founding OWIT chapters and is part of a growing list of chapters that span the globe covering a multitude of countries and regions including the U.S., Canada, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

OWIT is recognized worldwide for building ongoing trade relationships within and between global communities and enabling members to expand their client base and alliances throughout its network.

Women in International Trade Los Angeles (WIT-LA), is a leading non-profit association with a focus on helping its members develop and execute global trade opportunities. Championing a results management approach, our chapter members strive for the highest standards of business ethics and expertise in all aspects of international and domestic trade.



Our diverse membership of women and men within the Southern California area are professionals from all facets of international trade, industries and business sectors, not limited to: banking and finance, communications, customs and trade law, education, government and diplomacy, import/export compliance, insurance and risk management, technology, transportation, and other trade-related services. Our members share knowledge, mentor youth and peers, connect with counterparts in other countries and exchange business contacts and referrals. WIT-LA's strength is the global expertise of our members who have a strong focus on planning and executing business opportunities involving international trade.

WIT-LA believes in extending educational opportunities beyond our professional programming. We strive to have a local as well as global impact on education for our youth around the world. To meet that goal, WIT-LA is proud to provide annual scholarships to two local college students, contribute financial support to

our preferred charity, Room to Read, in their efforts to end the cycle of poverty one child at a time by building schools and libraries and providing long term scholarships to girls in the developing world.

WIT-LA's values and philosophy are embraced in its mission statement; "Providing professional and personal enrichment for the women and men in international trade" in the Southern California area. Supporting this mission, we provide educational programming to enhance and advance the career opportunities of our members. Our continuously increasing business network continues to provide a collective forum to support education, facilitate information exchange and promote networking. In pursuing these goals, WIT-LA strives to provide a rewarding volunteer environment, to stay at the forefront of trade and technological developments, and to work in sensitive cooperation with peers and alliances.





WIT-LA

PROMOTING TRADE, EXPANDING MARKETS, GROWING ECONOMIES



The Vision OF THE GLOBAL TRADE AWARDS GALA

WIT-LA is very proud to present a premier one of a kind event in the Southern California area that recognizes women influencers in international trade.

We are thrilled to present WIT-LA's 8th Annual Global Trade Awards Gala! This Award Gala is a celebration that has long been WIT-LA's most prestigious event. It's a perfect opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and unique contributions to our community and to the international business world.

WIT-LA's Global Trade Awards Gala draws individuals together from the international trade community. It recognizes and celebrates international trade and women who have made a difference by serving as role models and by laying the groundwork to advance international trade. We all are paving the way for others to successfully expand their business internationally as we strengthen the vision of a more integrated world of international trade.

WIT-LA's goal in presenting the Global Trade Awards at this 8th Annual Gala in 2020, and those to follow in coming years, is to heighten awareness of the critical importance of international trade in Southern California, and to recognize the far reaching effects and powerful impact generated by the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Hueneme, and the Los Angeles World Airport on not only our local, regional, and national economies, but also on the global economy. WIT-LA is proud to celebrate the importance and magnitude of this effect on international trade.

WIT-LA is committed to our vision of service in support of sustained, profitable growth for all enterprises, organizations, agencies, and entities whose charter and mission includes participation in, or support of, international commerce. Our Annual Global Trade Awards Gala recognizing the contributions and achievements of those who lead and share this vision now and in the future will continue in pursuit of fulfilling our vision.





*Congratulations,
2020
Global Trade Award
Recipients!*



Program

5:45 PM

Pre-Awards Networking

6:00 PM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lilia Navarrete
President, LKN Global & WIT Los Angeles

OWIT International Remarks

Camelia Mazard, Esq
President of OWIT International & Partner, DBM Law Group

Entertainment

Karen Han, Instrumentalist

Keynote Speaker

Ana M. Guevara
Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of Commerce

Special Guest Speaker

Ingrid Vanderveldt
CEO, Empowering a Billion Women

Entertainment

Hula 'Auana

6:40 PM

Presentation of Awards

Congratulatory Message

Stella Poon

7:30 PM

Closing Remarks



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ana Guevara

Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Field Operations

The Honorable Ana M. Guevara was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Field Operations at the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) in January 2019. She oversees approximately 275 trade professionals based in more than 100 U.S. cities, focused on assisting U.S. businesses to export their goods and services to foreign markets.

Ms. Guevara is a respected leader in both the public and private sectors,



with extensive experience in international trade and development. Previously, she served at the US Agency for International Development as the Senior Advisor for Trade and Economic Growth; at the World Bank as the US representative on the Board of Directors; and at ITA as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries. Ms. Guevara has also served at two Fortune 50 companies as a Vice President. She received her B.A. in public and international affairs from the George Washington University.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Lilia Navarrete

President, LKN Global & WIT Los Angeles

Lilia Navarrete is founder and owner of LKN Global Enterprises with more than 30 years in global business. She draws on more than 30 years of experience identifying leading trends in the global marketplace and their impact on business to help companies use innovative ideas to enter new markets. During her career, Ms. Navarrete's catalytic leadership style has enabled her to contribute to the growth of several organizations involved in international business and trade. In addition to background in international transportation in the U.S. and abroad, her expertise in cross-cultural communication, in media advertising and on-site studies worldwide has also contributed to her understanding of the



global consumer. Ms. Navarrete is the President of Women in International Trade Los Angeles. She has served on various international boards including OWIT International, where she served as President of the global organization. She also served on the Board of Directors for TIAW (The International Alliance for Women) and serves on the World Trade Week Committee of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Navarrete holds an international MBA in Finance and Marketing from Loyola Marymount University together with an undergraduate degree in International Business Management and Economics from CS University Los Angeles.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Ingrid Vanderveldt

CEO of Empowering a Billion Women

Ingrid Vanderveldt (iV) has been named one of Oprah's SuperSoul 100 Global Leaders, ranked #1 "Super Connector" by Fast Company, and is the recipient of the Forbes & Northwestern Mutual Global "Entrepreneur in Excellence Award". She has spoken in 30+ countries over the last 5 years on the topics of entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, finance and women's empowerment.



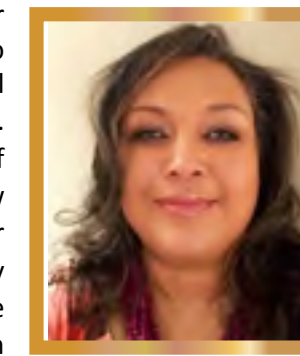
iV is the Founder and Chairman of Empowering a Billion Women by 2020 (EBW2020), the #1 financial empowerment community for women giving them the tools, education, and network to help them succeed as leaders and entrepreneurs. She has spoken in 30+ countries over the last 5 years on the topics of entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, finance and women's empowerment.

REMARKS, OWIT INTERNATIONAL

Camelia Mazard

President, OWIT International

Camelia Mazard is a founding partner of Doyle, Barlow & Mazard PLLC who focuses on Antitrust, International Trade Regulation and Hospitality Law. Ms. Mazard practices in all areas of international trade and customs law and participated in many of the major trade disputes over the past twenty years. Ms. Mazard's clients include U.S. and foreign corporations in such industries as aluminum, mattresses, metal lockers, motion pictures, natural casings, refractories, steel, thermal paper and tires. In addition, Ms. Mazard also represents domestic and international clients with respect to import and export transactions and USMCA issues.



Ms. Mazard also has experience representing private parties and sovereign governments before U.S. courts and international arbitral tribunals and also counsels a range of clients. In the past, Ms. Mazard worked for the State Department at the United States Mission to the United Nations in New York and for Duracell, Inc. in Connecticut. She is fluent in French and proficient in Spanish. Ms. Mazard is a strong supporter of women's causes - serving as the current President of the Organization of Women in International Trade, on the Board of Directors of the Women in International Trade Trust, a member of the D.C. Commission for Women, Vice President of the Washington Chapter of the Northeasterns, Inc. and the Ethics Chair for the Capital City Chapter of the Links, Inc.



WIT-LA RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL TRADE LEADERS

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*Congratulations,
Ambassador Nina!*



WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

AMBASSADOR

Nina Hachigian

DEPUTY MAYOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020

Ambassador Nina Hachigian was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to be the first Deputy Mayor of International Affairs in September 2017. In this role she leads the Office of International Affairs responsible for building the City's relationships with local and global partners to bring more business opportunities to Los Angeles and to promote the city's role internationally.



She has traveled throughout ASEAN's ten member states and Asia to support the growth of business relationships between the U.S. and ASEAN.

Her deep interest in Asia was influenced by her adventurous parents' love of Asian food. The Ambassador and her brother were taken frequently to Chinese noodle restaurants and sushi bars while living in New York.

With her vision, the Mayor's Office developed its first foreign direct investment attraction strategy. Along with Mayor Eric Garcetti, Nina has led trade missions to Tokyo, Seoul, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Hong Kong in 2018 that resulted in increased exports and millions of dollars of business growth as well as new agreements between counterparts to facilitate trade and investment. In October 2020, her office facilitated a Virtual Trade Mission to Vietnam which not only provided Los Angeles companies with connections into Vietnam's rapidly growing economy but also valuable market insights relating to architecture, design and sustainable construction; renewable energy and clean technology; and smart city innovations.

She has also spearheaded initiatives to expand international opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. She founded the Mayor's Young Ambassadors Program which to-date has brought 141 community college students to Mexico, Egypt, France, Australia, Japan, and Vietnam. To ensure the future generations are globally engaged, she has put in special efforts to connect the Consular Corps with the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Prior to her current appointment, she served as the second U.S. Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for almost 2.5 years. She was responsible for working with ASEAN member states and other stakeholders to advance U.S. interests in the region.

Ambassador Hachigian had demonstrated her strong international connections with the Asia Pacific market through her different positions with the Center for American Progress focused on Asia policy and U.S.-China relations, RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy, Pacific Council on International Policy, and the Council on Foreign Relations. She is the editor of *Debating China: The U.S.-China Relationship in Ten Conversations* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and co-author of *The Next American Century: How the U.S. Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise* (Simon & Schuster, 2008).

In promoting opportunity for women, she co-founded WASA (Women Ambassadors Serving America - a group of some 200 current and former U.S. Ambassadors) and LC-WINS (Leadership Council for Women in National Security). She grew the youth program, US-ASEAN Women's Leadership Academy, that she established to over 100,000 members. She was awarded the State Department's Superior Honor Award for her service. Recently, she also launched CHANGE (International City Hub and Network for Gender Equity).

For her excellent achievements in international Trade, WIT Los Angeles would like to honor Ambassador Hachigian as the "Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade."



Congratulations, Kusum!



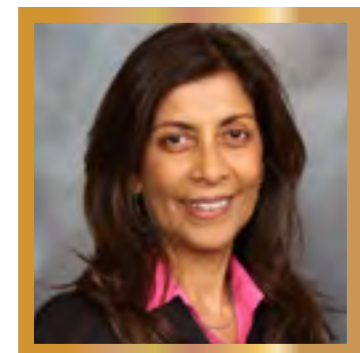
CAI's systems are powering projects in the U.S., Canada, Middle East and countries in Africa and Asia.



INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

Kusum Kavia

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT
CAI - COMBUSTION ASSOCIATES, INC.



Ms. Kusum Kavia is the President of Combustion Associates, Inc. (CAI), an engineering and manufacturing company, that she co-founded over three decades ago in Southern California. From humble beginnings, an entrepreneur emerged into a male-dominated industry where big giants such as GE, Siemens and Caterpillar brands rule and control the power generation market.

Kusum was born in Kenya and was educated in the United Kingdom. Since moving to California with her husband, Mukund, being an entrepreneur and promote international trade between the U.S. and her home country Kenya has always been an important part of her American dream. In 1989, when she founded CAI, it was an environmental consulting company but today CAI is a full-service engineering and manufacturing company that specializes in providing "turn-key" solutions / electric power generation systems world-wide including Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Cameroon, Canada, China, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, etc..

Throughout the years, the Company has won numerous State and Federal awards for exemplary work and service, including twice the prestigious US Presidential E Awards. In 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama himself singled-out Kusum and CAI's export contribution to Africa at the U.S.-Africa Business Leaders Summit in Washington DC. Their most recent

award, achieved during a pandemic, is the 2020 Exporter of the Year award presented by the U.S Small Business Administration Southern California region.

Kusum attributes her success to the many mentors, advisors, and associates that have helped her along the way. Majority of these promoters are other women in business and international trade who have provided their unique personal coaching and guidance. In return, Kusum has also been active in mentoring other women looking to realize their American dreams. At the 2019 Annual Women in Manufacturing Summit in Southern California, she participated as a speaker/panelist and shared valuable tips with other women attendees on how to market their products and services to an international clientele, in line with the aim of the event to inspire the next generation of women to choose manufacturing and technology/engineering as career paths. She also inspired many women at the second annual ShE Conference in Southern California with her insights of development of women leadership in the workforce and community.

With her strong accomplishment in export, bringing innovative power generation solutions to many countries and her dedication in helping other women achieve their American dreams, WIT-LA is honoring Kusum Kavia as Innovative Sustainable Exporter of the Year.

Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020





GLOBAL TRADE CATALYST

Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero

**DIRECTOR OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT
PORT OF LOS ANGELES,**



Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero is the director of trade development for the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container port in North America. The Port of Los Angeles is a department of the City of Los Angeles (also known as the Los Angeles Harbor Department) and is governed by the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners. Appointed to this position in 2019, she oversees the Trade Development Division, ensuring the Port fulfills its mission to connect U.S. businesses throughout America with overseas trade opportunities—particularly exports—through trade promotion workshops that encourage increased trade through the Port of Los Angeles. Trade Connect, the Port's educational trade outreach program, is tailored to small-and medium-sized businesses dealing with specialized commodities to consider export markets.

Prior to her current position, Marisela has served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Port for almost 17 years. She oversaw the function of intergovernmental relations with foreign governments and advanced the Port's influence on expanding trade markets. Marisela also oversaw protocol for international delegations visiting the Port, and she has coordinated hundreds of successful visits of high-level officials.

Marisela immigrated to the United States in the 1960s. At the beginning, it was full of challenges from learning a new language to a different culture. She quickly adopted and found her place in her new home in the new world while not forgetting her Cuban heritage. In the process, she learned to be fearless and determined to become the catalyst for others wanting to succeed as well.

Along her professional career path, Marisela was blessed with many great women mentors including former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, former State Senator

Bowen, Commission President and Author Cynthia Ruiz, and inspired by the Ladies of Logistics.

Due to the pandemic, year 2020 has not been easy for many businesses including the Port. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti formed Logistics Victory Los Angeles (LoVLA) to manage a program which matches medical and non-medical suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with L.A. area health care providers that need PPE and other supplies to treat COVID-19 patients. In addition to her day-to-day duties, Marisela took up new role with LoVLA in reaching out to regional trade and manufacturing associations, and Mexican manufacturers who could produce PPE and meet the federal guidelines as well as manage PPE donations of masks, hand sanitizers, and face shields from the international diplomatic community, which must also meet the federal guidelines for distribution.

Her busy schedule did not prevent her from promoting international trade as she was frequently invited to share her expertise relating to the Port and development of international trade and sharing of business opportunities arising at various webinars including one organized by WIT-LA in the summer. Through her efforts, the Port has sponsored many international trade related activities. Although the Port's award-winning Trade Connect workshop program is only under her belt for a year, she is already making plans to bring the Port's award-winning Trade Connect workshop program online in 2021 benefiting more small companies looking to grow internationally.

WIT-LA is honored to name Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero as International Trade Catalyst of the Year for her dedication in international trade promotion.



Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020



Matson's First Ship



Matson's MV Maunawili in Honolulu Harbor



ITEP student and winners of the Matson Education Scholarship

Matson®



A mentor of mine, Carol Rowen, Founder and CEO of the International Trade Education Program (ITEP) and former Los Angeles Harbor Commissioner



Matson's Kaimana Hila departing Long Beach

Congratulations, Tom!



GUY FOX SPECIAL AWARD

The WIT-LA Guy Fox Special Award is given annually to an individual of ardent support and encouragement of women in the field of trade and transportation.

Tom Good

VICE PRESIDENT, SALES, U.S. MAINLAND
MATSON INC



Tom Good has been involved in the field of Transportation/Maritime since the early 1980's. At that time, there were very few career opportunities for women in the male-dominated business. Being deeply influenced by his mother who was his first role model, Tom has made important contribution in the advancement of women in this industry.

Director of Corporate Development, Randi Sahai, and Vice President, Customer Service, Laura Rascon at his various presentations. He has made the journey of moving up the path in Operations and Customer Service in the company possible for the young women who did not believe they could be successful in this industry.

In addition to his mother, Carol Rowen, former LA Harbor Commissioner and ITEP

Founder was one of Tom's important mentor. She recruited him as one of her first Advisory Board members of ITEP and he later became her Board Chair and also served on the Selection Committee. Tom was the recipient of ITEP's Bill Stein Leadership Award and continues to support the Transportation industry and local community. Tom is serving on the Board of Directors for the International Seafarers Center (ISC) for many years and has fully supported their humanitarian efforts bringing the organization to what it is today. In addition to the ITEP and International Seafarers' Center, he is also affiliated with many other related organizations like the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, Steamship Association of Southern California, etc. and involved with charity work like Ronald MacDonald House.

Between his career in Trade and Transportation and family, he also found time to coach at the Lunada Bay Baseball and Bogdanovich Basketball League for many years.

With Tom Good's dedication in encouraging and promoting women in the transportation industry, WIT-LA is proudly honoring him as the recipient of the 2020 Guy Fox Special Award.



Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020



bananas bananas bananas bananas

Congratulations, Mayra!



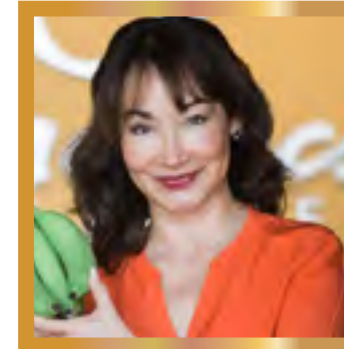
GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR MEXICO

Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020

Mayra Velazquez de Leon

PRESIDENT, ORGANICS UNLIMITED

As President and CEO, Mayra Velazquez de Leon is responsible for the sales and marketing growth of the company. Her multi-cultural experience positions her as the perfect liaison between the product and today's customer. Four generations of her family have grown organic bananas in Mexico, giving her and her staff expertise in growing methods that produce delicious, high-quality organic bananas in a sustainable way.



need it the most, regardless of their employment. Sixty cents of every box of GROW organic bananas is directed toward these programs.

Her Story:

Mayra's story begins when she was a teenager, in Mexico City majoring in Translation and interpretation, but also working during the summers for

her parent's organic banana company in San Diego. In 1987 she moved into the U.S. for 6 months to help her parents with the business, and her and her husband end up staying 33 years. Her parents retired in 1999 and they started Organics Unlimited. In 2005 they founded the GROW foundation, it's also their fairly traded label. GROW helps the underprivileged communities in the banana growing regions, but it also helps in other ways on their San Diego/Tijuana border. They also empower women and children to prepare themselves and excel in what they are best at. Her company is women lead from the farms to the distribution and that is important as they work towards true gender equality, empowering women to work in all aspects of the produce industry.

When Organics Unlimited was founded in 2000, it was with a mission to provide the best quality organic tropical fruits to consumers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The mission also included not forgetting the social responsibilities of the founder's family background – to care for the workers who make this quality possible.

Now, Organics Unlimited takes extra care to continue growing a natural, truly organic fruit just as our ancestors did, importing the freshest and healthiest tropical product from organic banana farms in Mexico and South America.

In 2005, Organics Unlimited started a program called GROW, meant to benefit the communities where the organic bananas are grown. GROW was founded on the principle of providing a better lifestyle for not only the workers who grow the produce, but also others in the community who are often living in poverty. The GROW program helps provide educational, dental and vision support to those who

For her success in the banana export business, the trade link with California also providing jobs in the San Diego area with her distribution center, together with her work with her foundation, GROW, founded to help women in the supply chain, we are very pleased to present Mayra Velazquez de Leon with the Global Trade Ambassador, Mexico award.



Congratulations, Ntsiki!



GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR SOUTH AFRICA

Ntsiki Biyela

FOUNDER, ASLINA WINES



Ms. Ntsiki Biyela is Founder of renowned Aslina Wines with its range of international award-winning premium wines. Ntsiki grew up in Mahlabathini, a rural village in KwaZulu-Natal, and matriculated from high school in 1996. Having spent a year as a domestic worker, she was awarded a scholarship to study wine-making at Stellenbosch University in 1999. The four-year program was full of challenges, not only school was 16 hours away from her home town, she had no experience, never seen grape vines before and even disliked the taste of red wine, at that time, winemakers in the program predominantly spoke Afrikaans, which she did not. Despite that, she graduated in 2003 with a BSc in Agriculture (Viticulture and Oenology) and joined boutique winery Stellekaya as their winemaker the following year. Her first harvest in 2004 already resulted in an award-winning wine. At this point, her love of wine-making was setting path for her to become South Africa's first black female winemaker in a male-dominated industry.

After spending 13 years as a winemaker and ambassador for Stellekaya Wines, she had an opportunity to partner with Californian winemaker, Helen Kiplinger. Through the collaboration, Ntsiki has become more determined to find her success in wine-making and build her own brand. In 2016, named after her beloved grandmother who has been the guiding light of her life, she established Aslina Wines.

Since then, Aslina Wines has won numerous international awards including the Old Mutual Trophy Awards 2020, Sakura Awards Japan 2019, Michelangelo International Awards 2018, etc. Ntsiki was voted Woman Winemaker of the Year in 2009 and has been the finalist for two consecutive years for The Most Influential Women in Business and Government. In 2017, she was listed in the world's top 10 most Innovative Women in Food and Drink by Fortune's Food & Wine.

Ntsiki has become one of the most recognized names in the world of wine throughout three continents. In addition to her close connection with California, her wine-making philosophy also drew upon earlier experiences of harvest in Tuscany and Bordeaux, where she discovered a close affinity with nature that rekindled her own deep connection with the soil growing up in KwaZulu-Natal.

As a member of the board of directors for the Pinotage Youth Development Academy, she also plays an important role in providing technical training and personal development for young South Africans in the Cape Winelands.

All these outstanding contributions accomplished by Ms. Ntsiki Biyela that have benefited South Africa and the international trade between her country and the global trade community are the reasons she has been selected as WIT-LA's Global Trade Ambassador South Africa 2020.



Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
— LOS ANGELES, 2020

Congratulations, Madame Nguyen Thi Nga!



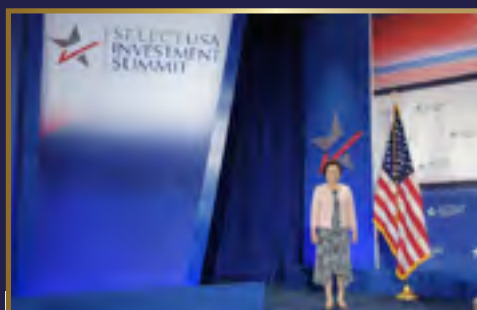
Madame Nguyen Thi Nga and U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel J. Kritenbrink at 25th anniversary of Vietnam-US diplomatic relations event



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc takes photo with BRG Group strategic partners Hilton and Nicklaus Design during official visit



Madame Nguyen Thi Nga and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross at Vietnam Executive Leader Roundtable collectively hosted by BRG Group, U.S. Embassy in Vietnam and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Madame Nguyen Thi Nga in Select USA Investment Summit 2019



Madame Nguyen Thi Nga was Vietnam's first importer of U.S. pork and Chicken - distributed widely throughout Vietnam via the Group's supermarket chain.



BRG Group built the first designated "Sheraton Grand Resort" in Southeast Asia - venue of the 2017 APEC Gala Dinner for 21 World leaders

GLOBAL TRADE AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR VIETNAM

Madame Nguyen Thi Nga

BRG GROUP CHAIRMAN
PERMANENT VICE CHAIRMAN OF SEABANK



Madame Nguyen Thi Nga is Chairman of BRG Group, a leading multi-sector group with 22,000 staff and businesses throughout Vietnam. Over the past 25 years BRG Group has evolved and today is recognized as a leading domestic force in banking, real estate, golf, hospitality, retail, autos, production and commerce.

Madame Nguyen Thi Nga is the Permanent Vice Chairman of Southeast Asia Joint Stock Commercial Bank, domestically known as "SeABank", one of the country's leading and favorite commercial joint stock banks.

Familiar with Vietnam and U.S. relations, Madame Nga has boosted connections between the two countries by creating numerous business opportunities for both nations. She is also a frequent member of Vietnam trade delegations, working closely with VN Government, to seek new business opportunities with leading companies from U.S.A.

The U.S. is a major market for BRG Group with exports totaling hundreds millions of U.S. dollars annually for Vietnamese produce such as cashew nuts, rice, sago, and handmade items. While in Vietnam, BRG Group is a strategic partners with major U.S companies such as Nicklaus Design in golf, Hilton Worldwide and Marriott International in hotel and resort management and Tyson Foods in U.S. food imports.

In all, 10 percent of BRG Group U.S. partners and gross business trade comes from California and who consume the Group's agriculture and handmade products that totals USD millions annually.

To help create more business opportunities, especially related to woman in business, Madame Nga frequently works closely with U.S. Embassy in Vietnam and other agencies to host networking events that connect Vietnamese enterprises with official U.S. delegations. And to further support this cooperation, SeABank has developed financial products with improved credit terms for woman entrepreneurs via

Vietnam Women's Union totaling VND 500 billion / USD25 million.

Madame Nguyen Thi Nga and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross at Vietnam Executive Leader Round table collectively hosted by BRG Group, U.S. Embassy in Vietnam and Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In recognition of Madame Nga's contributions and high achievements in the business community and women entrepreneurs sector, multiple leading organizations have bestowed honors and awards upon her including "Women of Impact 2020" awarded by ASEAN Business Advisory Council, "50 Most Influential Woman In Vietnam" by Forbes Magazine in 2017-2019, and "Top 50 Most Powerful Business Women in Asia" by Forbes Asia Magazine in 2014.

Madame Nguyen Thi Nga has clearly stated her commitment to continued cooperation with U.S. companies in 2021 and beyond, looking to a 'going global' corporate strategy for the Group in efforts to drive better lifestyles in Vietnam and help achieve continued prosperity for the two countries.



Global Trade Awards
WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- LOS ANGELES, 2020

Previous Global Trade Award Recipients

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2019

SUSANNE T. STIRLING

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2019

BETTY YOUNG

Global Trade Catalyst of the Year

CRAIG PINKERTON

Guy Fox Special Award

ROBIN GROVE

Innovative Logistics Professional of the Year

AMY GRAT

Global trade Educator of the Year

BRETT TARNET

Innovative Exporter Service Provider of the Year

KOLLYN D. KANZ

WIT-LA Member of the Year

NGUYEN THI BICH HUE

Global Trade Ambassador - VIETNAM

CATHARINA WIDJAJA

Global Trade Ambassador - INDONESIA

DR. DIONNE LASLO-BAKER

Global Trade Ambassador - CANADA

LCEA, CECILIA DEL CARMEN

ORTEGA COVARRUBIAS

Global Trade Ambassador - MEXICO

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2018

COMMISSIONER VALERIA VELASCO

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2018

CYNTHIA TORRES

Global Trade Catalyst of the Year

RICK LORENZEN

Guy Fox Special Award

LISA DE LA FLOR

Innovative Exporter of the Year

SASHA GOODMAN

Innovative Logistics Professional

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

Corporate Member of the Year 2018

MRS. NGUYEN THI BAO HIEN

Global Trade Ambassador - Vietnam

ANNE PATRICIA SUTANTO

Global Trade Ambassador - Indonesia

BARB STEGEMANN

Global Trade Ambassador - Canada

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2017

KRISTIN DECAS

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2017

JASMIN SAKAI-GONZALEZ

Global Trade Catalyst of the Year

DR. NOEL HACEGABA

Guy Fox Special Award

LYNNETTE KEFFER

Innovative Exporter of the Year

KRISTINA MATHEWS

Innovative Importer of the Year

SARAH STROTH

Member of the Year 2017

JANICE McDONALD

Global Trade Ambassador - CANADA

LE HONG THUY TIEN

Global Trade Ambassador - Vietnam

Previous Global Trade Award Recipients

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2016

COMMISSIONER REBECCA F. DYE

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2016

GUY FOX

Guy Fox Special Award

BILLIE R. SULLIVAN

International Trade Catalyst

ROBERT KRIEGER

Member of the Year 2016

KIM NGO

Innovative Exporter of the Year

ROSA HEARN

Innovative Importer of the Year

MME. THAI HUONG

Global Trade Ambassador - VIETNAM

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2015

ANNE MARICICH

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2015

JEAN CORONEL

International Trade Catalyst of the Year

NORMAN W. HARRIS III

Member of the Year 2015

MARYAVIS BOKAL

Innovative Exporter of the Year

KATHY HONG

Innovative Importer of the Year

ANGELA ROSENBACH

Global Trade Ambassador Brazil

REBECCA BRANHAM

Global Trade Ambassador

STELLA POON

Global Trade Ambassador - HONG KONG

NGUYEN THI TUYET MINH

Global Trade Ambassador - VIETNAM

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2014

JULIE ANNE HENNESSY

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2014

FATMA YUCELER

International Trade Catalyst of the Year

ROBERTA YANG

Member of the Year 2014

MEGAN CULLEN

Innovative Exporter of the Year

JANE KIM

Innovative Importer of the Year

TINA TANGALAKIS

Global Trade Ambassador - GHANA

DANG TANH HANG

Global Trade Ambassador - VIETNAM

WIT-LA'S GLOBAL TRADE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2013

SUSAN KOHN ROSS

Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade 2013

RANDAL LONG

Member of the Year 2013

MICHELE MCGOWAN

Innovative Exporter of the Year

YOUNG MEE SHIN

Innovative Importer of the Year

MARLEN MARROQUIN

International Trade Catalyst

JACKIE KIM

Global Trade Ambassador - KOREA

JULIE SMITH-BELTRAN

Global Trade Ambassador - Mexico

KAREN CHEN

Global Trade Ambassador - Taiwan

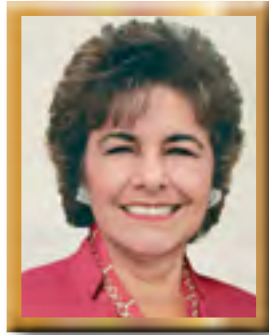
NGUYEN THI CUC

Global Trade Ambassador - Vietnam

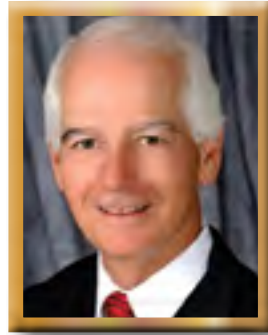
NGUYEN THI DIEN

Global Trade Ambassador - Vietnam

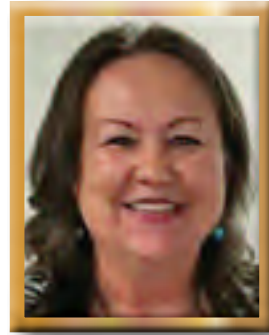
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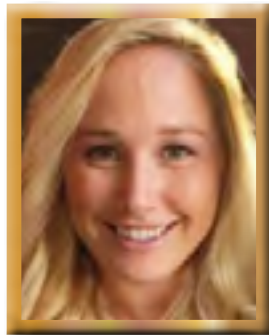
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Commerce



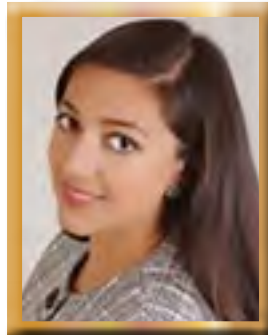
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Rebecca Branham
B&L Group Inc.



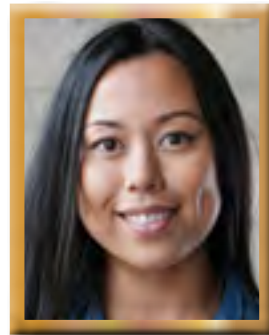
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Development Council



Membership Chair
Nicole Wainwright
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Personnel Services



Co-Chair
Membership/Programs
Anamika Modawal



Secretary
Tress Galzote
World Exchange



*We Thank
all our Guests and
Dignitaries*

*for joining us on this celebratory evening
and supporting our vision
of the Global Trade Awards Gala.
We look forward to seeing all of you
next year.*



THANK YOU, ENTERTAINERS!

Karen Han

Internationally Renowned Erhu Virtuoso



Karen Han is an internationally renowned Erhu virtuoso who has performed with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, The Los Angeles Philharmonic and other prestigious orchestras worldwide. Karen Han's playing may be heard on the soundtracks for the Joy Luck Club, Passion of the Christ, Mulan II, Anna and the King, The Last Emperor and Memoirs of a Geisha. The ancient two-stringed instrument, Erhu, is soulful, expressive of feelings and very close to a woman voice. With Erhu, Karen Han transforms music into love, peace and beauty in life.

To celebrate WIT-LA's 35th anniversary and to congratulate all of the outstanding women being recognized at this special occasion, Karen and her husband Paul have prepared a beautiful piece of Erhu music. For more information about Karen Han, visit www.karenhan.com



Karen Han with her husband Paul Ottosson, a three-time Academy Award® winner who brings exceptional creative talent in sound design to every project, from studio blockbusters to independent films



THANK YOU, ENTERTAINERS!

Hula 'Auana

Hawaiian Hula dancers



ALOHA

Welcome to our Virtual Festival. We hope you enjoy the presentation. In these trying times, Moanalua Gardens Foundation is proud to bring to you, in the safety of your homes, a special program of Hula with Aloha from the historic Queen Emma Summer Palace.



Although we could not gather in person this year, due to the Pandemic, we wanted to keep our annual tradition alive through this virtual presentation of the finest of non-competitive hula honoring Prince Lot Kapuāiwa.

All of us at Moanalua Gardens Foundation invite you to enjoy this inspiring program of Hula with messages of Hope and Aloha.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Stella Poon

General Manager, Taiwan
Hong Kong Trade Development council

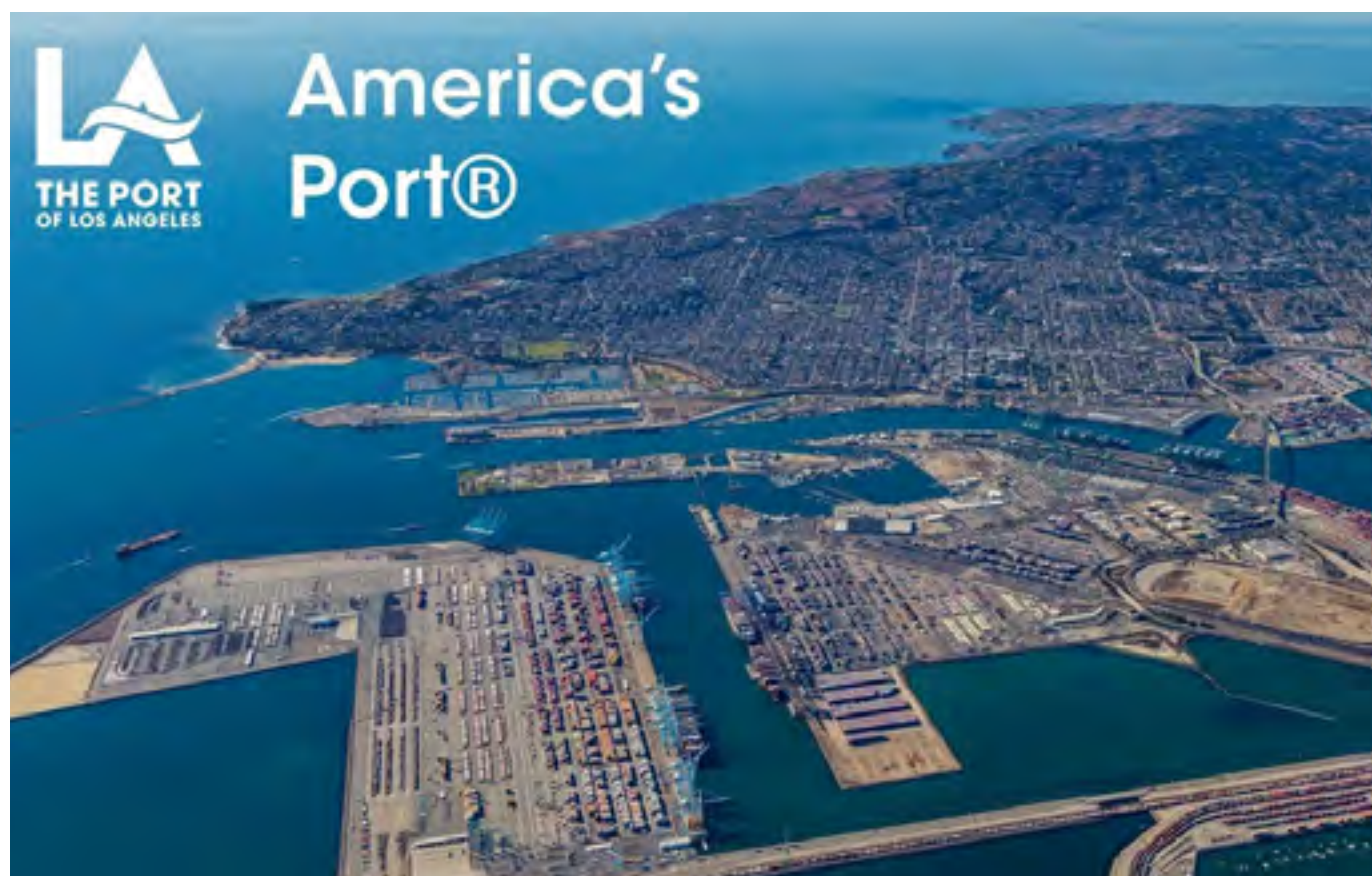
Stella Poon was awarded by WIT-LA as the Global Trade Ambassador - Hong Kong in 2015 with her achievement in promoting trade between the United States and Hong Kong. From Taiwan, she extended her warmest congratulations to the Global Trade Ambassadors as well as other honorees in 2020 with her "Joy to the World".



THANK YOU

Global Trade Awards Gala

GOLD SPONSOR



THANK YOU

Global Trade Awards Gala

GOLD SPONSOR



THANK YOU

Global Trade Awards Gala

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Valued Partners

Congratulations from the Port of Long Beach to all the Women in International Trade – Los Angeles 2020 Global Trade Award honorees. And thank you to WIT-LA for your commitment to supporting women in trade.



THANK YOU

Global Trade Awards Gala

SILVER SPONSOR



THANK YOU

Global Trade Awards Gala

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Clarins at Nordstrom Santa Anita



Hong Kong Trade Development Council



Port of Los Angeles



Port of Long Beach



SKINN Cosmetics



Tak Shing Hong



THISAI Logistics

Program Booklet designed by Kathryn Yoder

Kathryn is an award-winning graphic designer based in Phoenix, with more than 15 years' experience helping grow companies through print and internet advertising, and has created graphic designs of Programs, e-blasts, flyer, brochures, and banners for WIT-LA for over 8 years. <https://landscape-tapestries.pixels.com/>



When you are a member of WIT-LA, you are a member of OWIT, our umbrella organization. There is a far reaching global network with member chapters on every continent on the globe.

Every year, there is an OWIT conference. Last year, it was held in Tampa, Florida and this year, due to the pandemic, it was held virtually.

United around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.

Our growing network continues to provide a collective forum to support education, to facilitate information exchange and to promote networking. In pursuing these goals, OWIT strives to provide a rewarding volunteer environment, to stay at the forefront of trade and technological developments, and to build partnerships and alliances with peer organizations and associations.

Newest chapters in Zimbabwe and Nigeria!



WIT-LA PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL TRADE



*When written in Chinese,
the word 'crisis' is composed of
two characters -
one represents danger,
the other represents
opportunity.*

John F. Kennedy





*Virtually
Celebrating*

