BUILDOUT CALIFORNIA FOUNDERS DAY GALA AND DINNER, LOS ANGELES 2023

By Käto Cooks

The downtown Los Angeles Intercontinental Hotel experienced STELLAR!!! on Thursday, June 1st. That was the day – and night – that BuildOUT California (boc-founders-day.com) showed up and showed out for its Second Annual Founders Day Gala and Dinner. Led by its president, the always elegant Paul Pendergast, of Pendergast Consulting Group, the event celebrated the activists and standard bearers of diversity, inclusion, and belonging in the LGBTQIA+ community. The day began with panel discussions covering the depth and breadth of ALLYship related to construction contracting. The afternoon closed with a VIP Reception and aptly titled Golden Pitches by emerging LGBTQIA+ companies. And, then, there was the Founders Day Awards Gala, which illuminated the event.

Käto Cooks is the California State Coordinator for the American Contract Compliance Association (www.accaweb.org) and the founding executive director of the Construction Contractors Alliance, Inc.

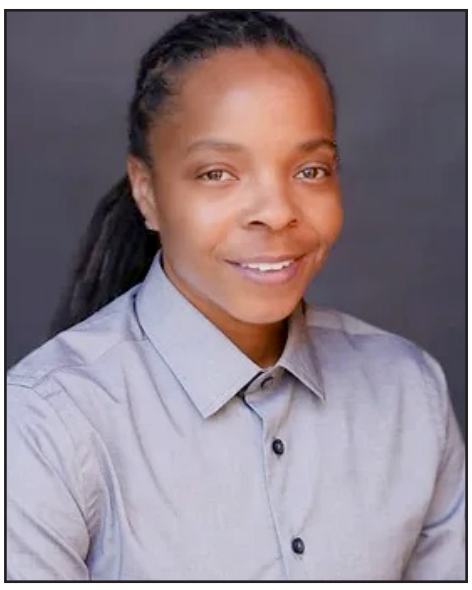
The awardees were:



Patrick Otellini,
Swinerton Builders:
Built Community Impact Award

Patrick Otellini is the National Affordable Housing Director with Swinerton and leads their affordable housing efforts company wide. Prior to joining Swinerton, he served as the Chief Resilience Officer for the City and County of San Francisco under Mayor Edwin Lee and was responsible for the creation and implementation of the city's resilience strategy: Resilient San Francisco – Stronger Today, Stronger Tomorrow. Mr. Otellini, along with his colleagues at Swinerton Builders, have created a national model of LGBT, Minority and Women business utilization on affordable housing projects which was launched with the construction of the fifteen-story OpenHouse project which will provide affordable housing for LGBTQ and Economically Disadvantaged seniors in San Francisco.

He also serves in the current Newsom administration as a member of the California Earthquake Authority Advisory Panel.



Jacqueline Pruitt,
Marvella Steel Placers:
President's Award of Achievement

Marvella Steel Placers was established in February 2016 by President and CEO Jacqueline Pruitt. Ms. Pruitt began her career in early 2009 as an Apprentice Ironworker for Local 416. With the odds against her, she made it her everyday task to learn and implement the skills needed to become a successful field Journeyman Ironworker. In her 3rd year as an apprentice, she was given the chance to be a Lead Ironworker on projects such as; Berth 200 in the Port of Los Angeles, the Automated Container Movers in the Port of Long Beach, freeway lane additions, bridges, abutments, miles of retaining walls and barrier rail on the 91 freeway, and slab on metal decks for the famous Wilshire Grand High-rise.

Shortly after achieving her Journeyman status, she was given the opportunity to be Foreman and built the Hollywood Park Casino on time and under budget.

Jacqueline sits on the L.A. Metro Transportation Business Advisory Council as an alternate for the National Association of Minority Contractors of Southern California. She also sits on the California High-Speed Rail Business Advisory Council as a delegate, representing the Construction Contractors Alliance, Inc., for which she serves as the founding president.

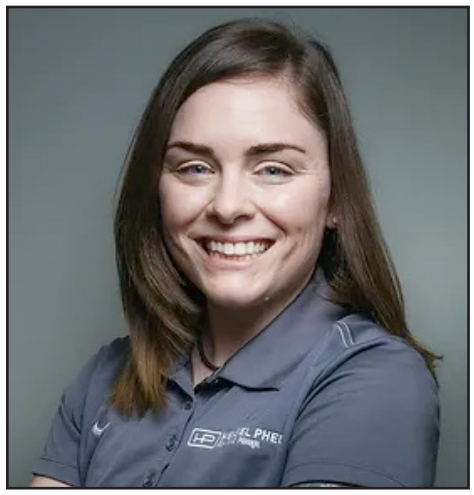


Mischa Haramia,
Henderson Engineers: Groundbreakers Award

Mischa Haramia has over 35 years of experience in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction industry, focusing for the last 23 years on entertainment and sporting venues. During that time, she is fortunate enough to have worked on a number of iconic venues, such as SoFi Stadium and YouTube Theater. In her current role at Henderson Engineers as Entertainment Practice Director, she uses her love of live music to help bring these venues to life and create an experience that won't be forgotten. In addition to performing arts and concert venues, she also works on esports, experiential/movie theaters, casinos, amusement parks, and production studios, bringing a variety of project types to her portfolio.

With a passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Mischa stays involved with many industry and community organizations. Through speaking, presenting, advocating, and volunteering, she hopes to spread awareness of the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all facets of life. In her spare time, she enjoys running, painting, and exploring the mountains, beach or California's many wineries.

More pictures from the BuildOUT Gala Dinner & Awards Event can be viewed in the link below
https://photos.letsmakeamemory.com/2023/Buildout-California-Founders-Day-2023/n-4VzqbQ/



Kabri Lehrman Schmid,
Hensel Phelps: Built Community Impact Award

Kabri Lehrman Schmid has a 16-year career portfolio showcasing her depth of skill across all project phases on highly-phased, active campus projects totaling over $1.9B work in place. She is valued by clients and trade partners as a talented controller of building strategy and an attentive coordinator of construction teams - outcomes rooted in the mutually beneficial relationships she maintains. Recognized as one of ENR's 2023 Top 20 Under 40 national honorees and Construction Business Owner's 2019 Outstanding Women in Construction, Kabri is also the recipient of AGC of Washington's 2022 inaugural Rising Star award, and Washington Women in Trades' 2019 Workplace Leader Award.



Dixon Lu,
MAD Architects: Built Community Impact Award

Dixon is Associate Partner at MAD Architects' Los Angeles Office. This is Dixon's second stint with MAD, having acted as Head of Operations for their Beijing office from 2008 to 2011. Dixon helped to conceptualize and organize the firm's installation in partnership with Olafur Eliasson, "Feelings are Facts" at UCCA. Since returning to MAD in 2014, Dixon has project managed the firm's first US Project, Gardenhouse, a mixed-use complex with luxury condominiums in Beverly Hills. He is the Los Angeles office's leader, managing operations, projects, and overall strategy for MAD in North and South America.

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Paul Pendergast, founder and president, BuildOUT California, out front.

Photo Credit: Adrian Ong Photography



Some of the VIP members of the Construction Contractors Alliance contingent L to R: Donesha Jackson, MBA (California High Speed Rail Authority/SOS Labor Compliance Services); Trena Lawson (Trena Lawson Group); Gloria J. Davis, MA (Girls Club of Los Angeles); Regina Bolton (Construction Contractors Alliance); Kato Cooks (Construction Contractors Alliance); Aubrey Williams (Construction Contractors Alliance); Alexis Eklund, Mark Eklund (Eklund Fencing and Gates). Photo Credit: Adrian Ong Photography



Jacqueline Pruitt, President's Award of Achievement recipient, speaking at the podium after accepting her award.

Photo Credit: Adrian Ong Photography



McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
Photo Credit: Adrian Ong Photography



SKANSKA
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