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Summer Issue 2012



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**Police & Fire Emergencies** 911

**Animal Control**  
Carson Animal Shelter  
(310) 523-9566

**Birth, Death, Marriage Records**  
County Registrar-Recorder  
(562) 462-2137

**Building Permits Building & Safety,**  
(310) 952-1766

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(310) 952-1779  
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(800) 252-9040

**Cable Television**  
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**Chamber of Commerce**  
(310) 217-4590

**City Hall**  
(310) 830-7600

**Code Enforcement**  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1786

**Community Center**  
(310) 835-0212

**Crime Prevention**  
Neighborhood Watch  
(310) 847-7481

**Disaster Preparedness**  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 1603

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Southern California Edison Co., (800) 950-2356

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Southern California Gas Co.  
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Landscape & Buildings  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3500

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Harbor General UCLA Medical Center  
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**Jobs**  
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
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(800) 654-7275

**Parks & Recreation**  
(310) 847-3570

**Post Office**  
Main No., (800) 275-8777

**Sandbags**

Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

**Sewer Clean-up**  
(626) 458-4357

**Senior Services**  
(310) 952-1775  
(310) 835-0212

**Sidewalk Repair**  
Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

**Sheriff's Station**  
(310) 830-1123

**Street Sweeping**  
Street Maintenance  
(310) 952-1700, ext. 3520

**Telephone**  
AT&T  
(310) 515-7979

**Trash Collection**  
Waste Management  
952-1700, ext. 3508  
or (310) 830-7100

**Tree Trimming/ Street Maintenance**  
(310) 847-3520

**Water**

California Water Service Company, (310) 257-1400  
Golden State Water Company (800) 999-4033

**Youth Services**  
(310) 952-1788

## Meetings

Meetings are in City Hall and the Community Center unless otherwise noted, and are open to the public.

**City Council/Redevelopment Agency** 6 p.m.,  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Citywide Advisory Commission  
7 p.m., 2nd Thursday  
(Only when necessary)

Economic Development Commission  
8 a.m., 1st Thursday,  
Community Center

Environmental Commission  
6:30 p.m., 1st Wednesday

Cultural Arts Commission  
6 p.m., 1st Monday  
(only when necessary)

Human Relations Commission  
6:00 p.m., 3rd Wednesday

Parks and Recreation Commission  
6:30 p.m., last Thursday

Planning Commission  
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Tuesday

Public Relations Commission  
12:00 p.m., 4th Tuesday

Public Safety Commission  
6:30 p.m., 3rd Thursday

Public Works Commission  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Monday

Senior Citizen Advisory Commission  
4 p.m., 2nd Monday

Veterans Affairs Commission  
6 p.m., 3rd Monday

Women's Issues Commission  
6 p.m., 4th Monday

Youth Commission  
7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday

Historical Committee  
6:30 p.m., 4th Wednesday

Beautification Committee  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

Utilities Users Tax Oversight Committee  
(only when necessary)

Mobilehome Park Rental Review Board  
6:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Relocation Appeals Board  
(only when necessary)

Community Civic Engagement Board  
6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday

Sister Cities Association  
6:30 p.m., 4th Wednesday

## Elected Officials

Mayor  
**Jim Dear**

Mayor Pro Tem  
**Julie Ruiz-Raber**

Councilmember  
**Elito M. Santarina**

Councilmember  
**Mike A. Gipson**

Councilmember  
**Lula Davis-Holmes**

City Clerk  
**Donesia Gause**

City Treasurer  
**Karen Avilla**

City Manager  
**David C. Biggs**

Editor:  
**Margie Revilla-Garcia**

Graphic Designer:  
**Victor Gastelum**

## The Carson Report

**Is published by the City of Carson**

to provide those who live and work here with information about the city's programs, services, and issues. All questions, comments, and contributing information should be directed to the City of Carson's Public Information Office.

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**Website/E- newsletter subscription:**  
<http://ci.carson.ca.us>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY TREASURER

The City of Carson has established a Fraud Hotline to fight fraud and protect taxpayer's dollars. The Hotline is an option for anyone wishing to anonymously report illegal or unethical activity on the part of the City, its officials, employees, contractors or vendors. The Hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and interpreters are available in 20 different languages.

Calls placed to the Hotline are confidential and handled by a third party vendor. You do not have to give your name and your call is not recorded through the use of recording devices, caller identification equipment or any other means.

The City of Carson has taken a pro-active step against fraud by establishing the Hotline. In the event that you become aware of unethical, illegal or irresponsible activity, don't ignore it. Call the Fraud Hotline toll-free telephone number at 1-877-7 HOT TIP or 1-877-746-8847.

## CITY OF CARSON POSITION STATEMENT

Carson is a vibrant city with a small town atmosphere where relationships are important. This is clearly visible throughout the community, from the stable single family neighborhoods, which make up nearly eighty percent of the city's residences, to the partnership between businesses and volunteer driven agencies which strengthen the city's remarkable social fabric.

The social composition of Carson is California in miniature. It is a city with a balanced ethnic and cultural mix living together in harmony and prosperity.

The community takes pride in the large percentage of Carson students who attend college, many to California State University, Dominguez Hills, a valuable asset to the city.

Carson's strategic position in the heart of the powerful economic engine that is Southern California attracts international corporations which recognize the city's bright future. The city's proximity to the West Coast's two major ports, as well as its intersection by four Southland freeways, makes it a major gateway to the Pacific Rim.

We, the people who live and work in Carson, take pride in our city and will continue to build relationships which ensure that future.

# City Budget Impacted by the Loss of Redevelopment

**U**nfortunately, the State of California has once again reached into the City's pockets to balance its budget which means the City faces some red ink starting July 1st. Effective February 1, 2012, the Carson Redevelopment Agency was dissolved by State action. This impact from the loss of redevelopment alone accounts for approximately \$4.5 million of the estimated \$5.4 million deficit the City faces for the 2012/13 fiscal year in the \$65 million General Fund.

The City's General Fund is our main budget and the one through which we provide most services including law enforcement, parks and recreation programs, public works activities like tree trimming and parks maintenance, and senior services, just to name a few. All of these services are important to our residents and adapting to this "new normal" will take some new thinking and new ways of doing business.

The elimination of redevelopment is perhaps the greatest change in local government finance since Proposition

13 was approved by the voters in 1978. Another way to describe the blow to the community is to compare it to two trees which have grown next to each other for more than 40 years, with one suddenly pulled out by the roots, the remaining tree is damaged and needs time to recover. And, Carson will recover.

However, in the meantime the City will have to balance the 2012/13 General Fund budget through a variety of means. While the City has seen some improvement in revenues after the big downturn during the great recession, these increases are not enough to address higher costs in some areas and the elimination of redevelopment.

The proposed budget being developed for the City Council's consideration will have to be balanced with reductions in expenditures which may impact services and programs and result in the elimination of some vacant and filled staff positions. There may be opportunities to increase some revenues, especially in fee for service programs, in order to partially mitigate the cuts.

Since the City has been prudent and built up some healthy reserves, some non-recurring costs may be funded from these reserves.

Rebuilding from this new lower base will take some time, but the future is bright for Carson. The City benefits from a very diverse tax base and there is some new sales tax generating development on the horizon. City employees are very dedicated and committed to providing outstanding services and have helped get us through tough times in the past. Most importantly, the Mayor and City Council have made decisions in the past to conserve the City's resources so there is a healthy reserve which can help ease the transition to the post-redevelopment world.

During the month of June, and perhaps into early July, there will be opportunities for community input into the budget. The City welcomes your participation and ideas. By working together, Carson can get through this latest challenge to our fiscal well-being and health. ■

## Pet Owners Cautioned Against Coyotes



**C**oyote sightings have recently been reported in Carson, according to the City's Public Safety Department. While no damage or attack has been reported, the City is taking a pro-active approach by providing its residents with useful information on these animals, which are found throughout most of California.

Coyotes are medium-sized animals that belong to the dog family. Most adults weigh between 22 and 25 pounds on the average. With large erect ears, slender muzzle and bushy tail, they resemble a small collie dog. In the hotter regions of California,

coyotes are tan-brown in color with streaks of gray. In the more mountainous or humid areas, the color is darker with less brown. The voice of the coyote is quite distinctive, consisting of various howls, high-pitched yaps and occasional dog-like barks.

Coyotes are proficient predators. Its diet consists mainly of mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers, rabbits and carrion. They also eat insects, reptiles, amphibians, fruits, birds and their eggs, and deer fawns. In urban and suburban areas, coyotes commonly take domestic house cats, small dogs, poultry and other domestic animals.

*continued on page 7*

# "The Rock" in Carson



## Carson Gym Produces Olympic Hopeful

Jonathan Hamm - 2011 National Champion and 2011 Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Champion training for his professional debut.

Over the past couple of decades, boxing has slid from a premiere sport to a handful of middle and lightweight big time events per year that appeals to a niche audience. But, in less than four years time, the All American Heavyweights (AAH) operating out of The Rock Gym in Carson have sent five boxers to the nationals and is now sending one boxer to represent the United States in the 2012 Olympic Heavyweight Boxing taking place in London this July that might just bring the sport back on the map in the 21st Century.

From the outside, The Rock Gym is a nondescript industrial building attached to a church. Inside, it's a boxer's paradise, restored by the visionary and former TV executive Michael King who has invested over \$20 million of his own

money into this program that recruits athletes who have played sports, mostly football, at the college level but did not make it professionally. Approximately 800 former collegians have made their way through King's program, with about 5% doing so successfully.

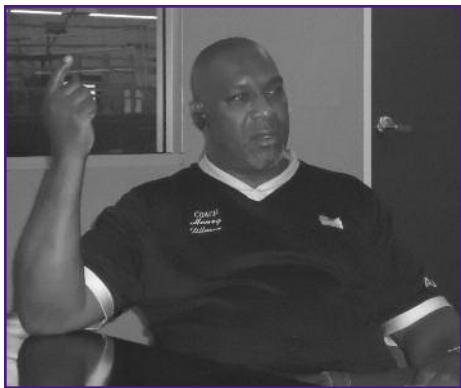
"We're not there yet, but we're off and running," said King in a New York Times interview. "If Dominic wins a gold medal, he's going to be an important professional boxer. One fighter can make this business investment a phenomenal investment," added King.

Dominic Breazeale of Glendale is a former quarterback of Alhambra High, Mt. San Antonio College and Northern Colorado who majored in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He began to lace up

his boxing gloves for the first time less than four years ago, has won the super heavyweight title at the U.S. Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado and is now headed for the Olympics.

Despite a relatively short career in boxing, Breazeale's development as a boxer came rapidly, with much of it being credited to the AAH training program at The Rock Gym. Breazeale's success is proof that the comprehensive training implemented by AAH is working.

"My goal is to bring home the gold medal for the heavyweight division and to go professional and get the heavyweight title. When I came into boxing, I initially wanted to stay in shape and so I can make it back to the NFL Football Games," said



Boxing Trainer and 1984 Heavyweight Boxing Olympic Gold Medalist - Henry Tillman.

Breazeale. "It's hard to believe that I've gotten to where I'm at in such a short time when other guys have been boxing most of their life to get to where I am right now. I've also always been a competitive athlete. I want to be one of the greatest to ever take up the sport of boxing."

Michael King pays for the boxers' tournaments while giving them a state-of-the-art facility, The Rock Gym, to hone their raw skills with over 25,000 square feet of space, three rings, a video capture, full service sports medicine, full service strength and conditioning, full service coaching staff, full service culinary and nutrition and a housing

complex. King's plan is to start off with training amateur boxers that he can mold into Olympians, and then into professionals.

According to Trainer Henry Tillman, these boxers are not guys who boxed since they were little. They are former athletes of other sports that laced up their gloves when AAH recruiters picked them up to start training at their facility.

Tillman himself, was an Olympic Gold Medalist in 1984 whose pride and joy is to build future U.S. champions.

"It gives me an opportunity to be involved in boxing at that upper echelon level and travel with the guys. It's a beautiful thing to do what you love and still get paid to do it. It's really not a job to me. I can do this everyday all day," said Tillman.

Boxer Jonathan Hamm was recruited by AAH at the age of 24. He played for the Football Team New Orleans Saints in 2007. His boxing accomplishments include 2011 National Champion, 2011 Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Champion and 2012 Olympic Reload Trials #2 Seed.

Like Breazeale, Hamm never picked up a boxing glove until he was recruited by AAH to train at their facility.

"I watched boxing every now and then. As a child, my family would get together to watch the Evander Holyfield fights," said Hamm. "This is the toughest sport I've ever played in my life. Boxing is a lifestyle. You have to be focused on it 24/7."



Director of The Rock Gym, Paul Cain and Novice Gold Medalist and Open Gold Mexigames USA medalist, George Faavae.



U.S. Representative to the 2012 Olympic Games, Heavy Weight Boxing - Dominic Breazeale.

Even with the challenges of training harder than he's ever had in his life, Hamm still feels that he has a goal to meet.

"My ultimate goal is to be the Heavy-weight Champion of the world and to take care of my family and to give to charity," said Hamm.

While Breazeale is the first big time fighter that AAH has produced, more boxers will be hitting the scene in the near future like 25-year old amateur boxer George Faavae from Torrance who has already won the Novice Gold Medal Ringside, Novice Gold Medal Desert Showdown, and the Open Gold Mexigame USA.

It may take a few more years before heavyweight division comes back to the red carpet, but if Michael King's plans work, heavyweight will be back on top.

The Rock Gym is located at 415 W. Torrance Boulevard in Carson. The gym is open and free to the public Monday thru Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For additional information, please call (310) 538-5333. ■

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER LOS ANGELES PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO CARSON RESIDENTS

## Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (HFH GLA) has partnered with cities and communities for over twenty years. HFH GLA builds simple, sustainable and affordable homes in partnership with hardworking, low-income families and individuals. Due to a challenged economy, HFH GLA has expanded their rehabilitation program to transform foreclosed properties into homeownership opportunities for low and very low income families. This strategy, using federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) I and II funds, helping families realize their dream of homeownership through responsible lending, alleviating strain caused by foreclosed properties, and creating a positive and immediate impact.

For more information, please log on to [www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org) or call (310) 323-4663, ext. 118 or e-mail [sbautista@habitatala.org](mailto:sbautista@habitatala.org) for the following:

- Information about NSP
- An Eligibility Questionnaire
- A list of NSP trained lenders
- Information regarding upcoming orientations

## A Brush with Kindness Program

HFH GLA launched the program A Brush with Kindness to provide exterior home repairs free of charge to qualifying low-income homeowners. Repairs include, but are not limited to, painting, landscaping, and other minor repairs.

Interested homeowners must be able to demonstrate:

- Proof of ownership and residency in the Greater Los Angeles region
- Financial need: This program is for low-income households earning less than 80% of area median income

A Brush with Kindness is a partnership that also relies on homeowners involvement. If selected to partner with A Brush with Kindness, homeowners must be willing to:

- Be on site and willing to work in various capacities everyday the volunteers are there
- Must stay in home after repairs for at least 3 years
- Sign a covenant that demonstrates their understanding of partnership



Homes are selected throughout the year and are based on family circumstances, condition of the home and financial qualification.

For more information or to submit an application, log on to [www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org) and click on "A Brush With Kindness" or call (310) 323-4663, Renne Sanchez ext. 144 to receive one by mail.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the heart of HFH GLA. The homes are built almost entirely by volunteers, both skilled and unskilled. For the ReStore program, volunteers organize and move merchandise on to the sales floor and assist customers. Other volunteers can help in the HFH GLA office, at events and in other ways. For more information, log on to [www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org). ■

## Free Admission to LACMA from June 24-July 1

**A**s a special thank you to many communities through which the 340-ton boulder traveled through on its historic journey, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is offering free admission to residents of select zip codes from along the route for the entire week of June 24-July 1. With proof of residence, such as dri-

ver's license, Carson residents with zip codes 90745 and 90810 will be granted free admission to LACMA's galleries.

Since its arrival to LACMA over a month ago, the Levitated Mass created by artist Michael Heizer, will open to the public on Sunday, June 24, 11

a.m. in a dedication ceremony with Michael Govan, board co-chair Terry Semel, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, and neighborhoods from all over Southern California.

Following the ceremony, guests can take part in Andell Family Sunday art-making activities, or step into LACMA's

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# RAIN GARDENS – improving water quality one garden at a time



**W**hether it's planted with wild flowers, your favorite plants or simply decorative rocks, a rain garden in your yard can be your contribution to improving the quality of water. A rain garden is an attractive shallow depression in your yard designed to capture rain water that would otherwise runoff from your roof or other impervious surface, and allow it to slowly filter into the ground. Compared to a lawn, a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground.

Why are rain gardens so important? Rain water runoff from developed areas increases flooding and carries pollutants from streets, parking lots and even lawns into local streams, lakes and the ocean.

Polluted water leads to costly municipal improvements in treatment structures. Rain gardens reduce runoff and are simple and inexpensive way to make a big change.

Rain gardens are more than just a beauty mark; collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits by:

- Increasing the amount of rain water that filters into the ground which recharges local and regional aquifers;
- Helping protect communities from flooding and drainage problems;
- Helping protect streams, lakes and the ocean from pollutants carried by urban stormwater- lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids that leak from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas; and
- Providing valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and many beneficial insects.

A rain garden is inexpensive and easy to build and requires very little maintenance. And, it would be a great family project for this summer. Go on-line and get more information about rain gardens and find out

for yourself. You can also visit the City of Carson's Corporate Yard facility at 2390 E. Dominguez Street to see a large rain garden made with decorative rocks.

Now is a great time to build your rain garden. If you would like assistance designing or building your rain garden, or have a question, please call the City's Storm Water Quality Programs Manager at (310) 847-3529 or e-mail her at [pelkins@carson.ca.us](mailto:pelkins@carson.ca.us). Once you build your rain garden, we'd like to know about it. Take photos before, during and after. Have fun with it and share your photos with us. Your rain garden could be selected for a special award!

If you don't have room to build a rain garden, you may have room for a rain barrel. Rain barrels are another excellent way to reduce runoff and re-use your rain water. Through a grant from Keep America Beautiful Inc., the City's affiliate, Keep Carson Beautiful, has a limited number of rain barrels to give away. You can submit an on-line application for a rain barrel at the City's website. If you are not selected this time, don't worry. There will be more grants and more rain barrels. ■

## Pet Owners Cautioned... Coyotes

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Coyotes have also been known to attack humans. During the time of year when adult coyotes are caring for their young (May-September), they can be very aggressive when their young are threatened. Domestic dogs are especially vulnerable to attack during this time. Extra precautions should be taken by residents to protect valued domestic cats or small dogs.

Coyotes are attracted to urban/suburban areas by the easy accessibility of food, water and shelter. Reducing or eliminating the availability of these elements will often encourage coyotes to leave. Garbage can lids should be secured at all times or

garbage stored indoors. Pets should be fed during daylight hours and all pet food removed before dark. Water bowls should be emptied and not left out after dark.

Ripe fruits and vegetables should be covered at night or the garden/fruit trees enclosed by a coyote-proof fence to prevent access by hungry coyotes. Fences that are constructed should be at least 5½ feet tall. All fences should have some sort of galvanized wire apron securely attached to the bottom of the fence. Coyotes are very adept diggers and prefer to dig under fences rather than jump them. Brush and vegetation should also be cleared from backyard and adjacent areas to eliminate habitat for prey, which could attract coyotes, and landscaping should be

pruned on a regular basis.

California Fish and Game regulations prohibit the relocation of coyotes without written permission from the Department. More information on coyotes is available on the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control at <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/coyote.asp>.

United States Department of Agriculture [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife\\_damage/content/printable\\_version/coyote\\_Dec2011.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/wildlife_damage/content/printable_version/coyote_Dec2011.pdf)

State of California Department of Fish and Game <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/docs/coyoteposter.pdf> ■

# Carsonites Write A Book About Hawaiians In Los Angeles



The authors (from left - right):

Former Carson Councilmember Lorelie Santonil Olaes, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo, Cheryl Villareal Roberts, Elizabeth "Nani" Nihipali, and Christian Hanz Lozada.

For coauthors Elizabeth "Nani" Nihipali, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo, Christian Hanz Lozada, Cheryl Villareal Roberts, and Lorelie Santonil Olaes, what started out as a project of ohana (family) of the Nihipalis turned into a bigger project in the form of a book talking about a bigger set of ohana, the Native Hawaiians in Los Angeles – a vibrant history and continuing story of ohana related by blood and ohana related by love.

Based on the 2009 American Community Survey, there are more Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in California than in Hawaii. Co-author and Carson resident, Elizabeth "Nani" Nihipali, is one of the few Hawaiians who can trace her Hawaiian lineage on both paternal and maternal side back to the indigenous Hawaiian people.

"We initially wanted to create a family tree and/or a scrapbook of her (Nani) family's history so that her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren would have an idea of her family's past and their impact on the mainland," said co-author Cheryl Roberts.

Former Carson Councilmember Lorelie Olaes also felt the same as Roberts. "I felt that this (book) might be an opportunity to honor some of the people and families whom we had befriended and learned to admire and respect over the years. We knew we had to reach out beyond the families that we knew personally," said Olaes.

This is what led Roberts and Olaes to collaborate with the other two authors, Lessa Pelayo and

husband, Christian Lozada who had deep family connections in the Hawaiian community. Pelayo is a librarian and Lozada is a lecturer at several colleges/universities teaching English and Writing.

"We needed to combine our skills and our network of connections within the Hawaiian community in order to flesh out the beautiful and complicated history and influence of the Hawaiian community in Los Angeles," said Olaes.

For Pelayo and Lozada, this book was a launching point about the diaspora of Hawaiian culture in Los Angeles – a story of a modern Hawaii told.

"Too often I feel that depiction of Hawaii rest too much on stereotype after contact. There are the transformative years between contact and annexation where the system of government, religion, and lifestyle radically changed. Hawaiians recognized early on that changes were coming and they had to change quickly. That same foresight can be seen in so much of the community the Pelayos

helped found," explained Lozada. Lozada further explained that since it is rare to find pure blood Hawaiians with 50% or more blood quantum, the authors agreed that it would be better to broaden the scope to locals (people born in Hawaii) and the Hawaiian at heart (people who have been touched by Hawaiians where they live the culture despite never living or visiting the islands).

All authors agree that the beauty of the book is that it is deliberately a combination of individual stories, supported by pictures, that led into the bigger picture of the influence of Hawaiian community to the Los Angeles area. It creates a sense of pride of Hawaiian culture within the Hawaiian communities.

"Being a Carsonite, I found that our book, like the Hawaiian community, reaches out to everyone growing up in a multicultural society and shares a universal theme, "Respect yourself, respect others, use your talents, and build strong and caring communities", said Olaes. ■

## LACMA

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galleries. To see the qualifying zip codes that can benefit from this free admission offer, please log on to <http://lacma.org/art/exhibition/levitated-mass>.

The Levitated Mass was originally conceived in 1968 but not realized until 2012. It is composed of a 456-foot-long concrete slot, over which is placed on a 340-ton granite megalith. Levitated Mass speaks to the expanse of art history from ancient traditions of creating artworks from megalithic stone to modern forms of abstract geometries and cutting-edge feats of engineering. ■