



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**Outstanding Program Participants, Businesses and Training  
Partners Honored by South Bay Workforce Investment Board**

HAWTHORNE – More than 300 community and business partners, government officials and program participants were in attendance for the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (SBWIB) 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet, December 8<sup>th</sup> presented at the spectacular SoFi Stadium and Entertainment Center in Inglewood. COVID 19 safety protocols were enforced.

SBWIB, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Jan Vogel served as master of ceremonies for the event followed by an inspirational message delivered by the Friendship Foundation founder Rabbi Yossi Mintz. Mr. Vogel then briefly highlighted the SBWIB's accomplishments during its nearly 40 years of service to the South Bay region.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were: 35th District State Senator Steven Bradford; Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Jr.; Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles; Carson Mayor Lula Davis-Holmes; Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda; Hawthorne Mayor Pro Tem Olivia Valentine; Redondo Beach Mayor Pro Tem Zein Obagi; Hawthorne Councilmembers Alex Monteiro and David Patterson; Lawndale Councilmembers Sirly Cuevas, Rhonda Hofmann Gorman and Pat Kearney; Gardena Councilmember Mark Henderson; Redondo Beach Councilmember Todd Loewenstein; Torrance Councilmember George Chen; El Camino College President Dr. Brenda Thames; Centinela Valley Union High School District Board members Hugo Rojas II and Dr. Daniel Urrutia; West Basin Water District Board members Gloria D. Gray and Scott Houston; Hawthorne City Manager Vontray Norris; and, Torrance City Manager Aram Chaparyan. Also, in attendance Centinela Valley Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Stephen Nellman.

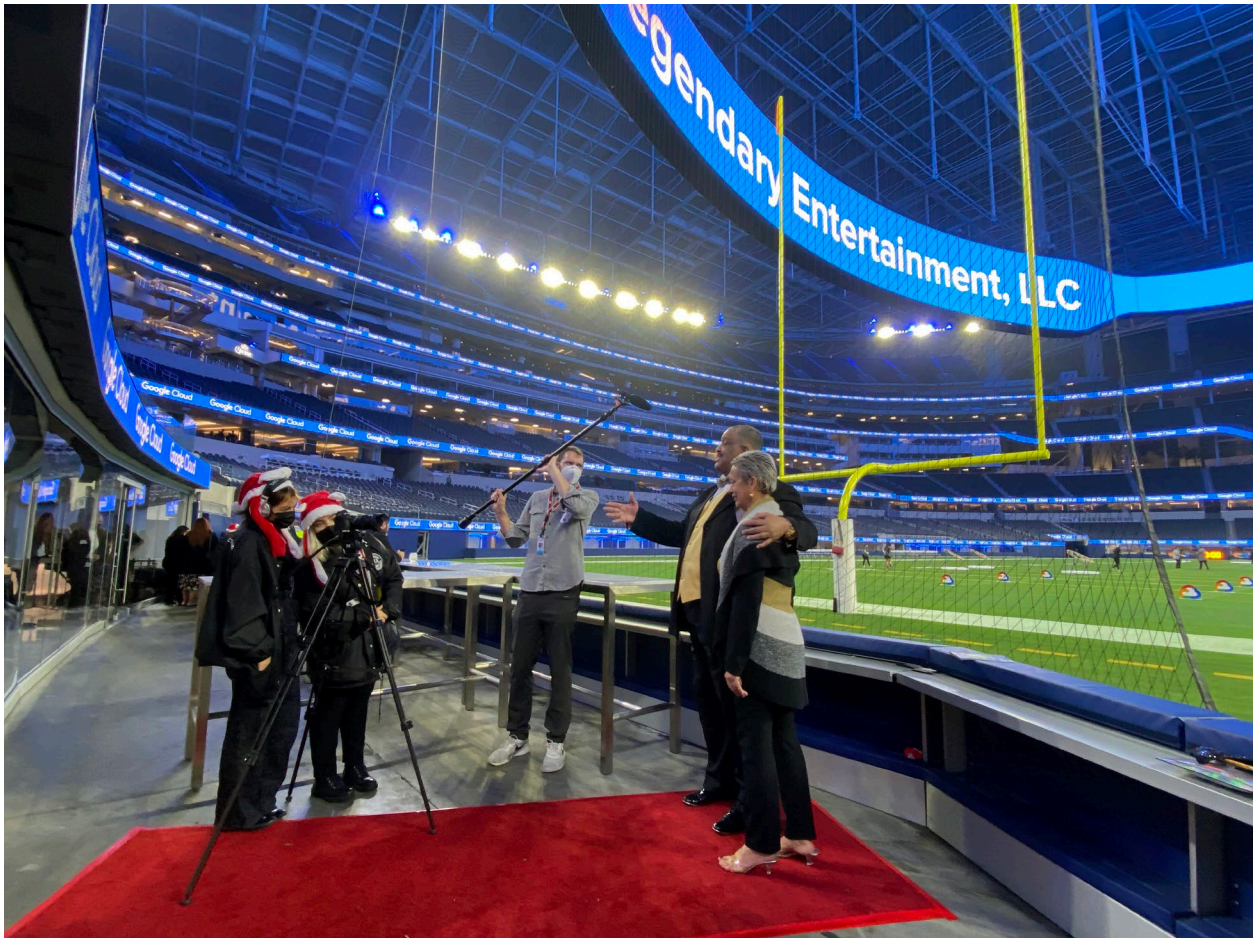
Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Jr., delivered the keynote address and reflected on the positive impact Jan Vogel and the SBWIB have made over the years on the economic vitality of the South Bay region, and most recently, enabling the local workforce to receive more than \$200 million in wages during the construction of the sports and entertainment center in Inglewood.

The top award of the evening was the presentation of the Esther Williams Award of Excellence to Stanley Kroenke, Owner and Chief Executive Officer of Kroenke Sports & Entertainment, and the Los Angeles Rams.

Edwin Gamez, an Aircraft Mechanic in-training and program participant honoree, commented, "I encourage everyone who is interested in a career in aircraft maintenance to take advantage of these free training programs offered by the SBWIB. Thank you for making my dreams come true."

Also, the following businesses were recognized: Burke Williams, SoFi Stadium, Textured Tech, Lisi Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, Cilajet Aviation Grade, Urth Caffe and State Farm.

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**Photo caption:** More than 300 community and business partners, government officials and program participants were in attendance for the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Inc. (SBWIB) 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet, December 8<sup>th</sup> presented at the spectacular SoFi Stadium and Entertainment Center in Inglewood. COVID 19 safety protocols were enforced.