



Town & Gown  
OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**General Meeting**  
**Town and Gown of USC**  
**January 11, 2022, 12:30 p.m.**  
**General Meeting and Zoom Speaker Series**

**MINUTES**

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**Mission Statement**

Town and Gown of the University of Southern California is a nonprofit philanthropic organization whose purpose is to support USC through scholarships for students, building and campus enhancements, and cultural programs.

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WELCOME

**Hilary Crahan**, CEO and President, welcomed everyone. All attendees were encouraged to enable their video screens so they could enjoy seeing each other. Hilary thanked Ian Chestnut, of IVC Productions, for arranging for the live-streaming with just a week's notice; Lisa Up de Graff, Communications Chair, for using social media to publicize the change of venue; Kari May, Executive Associate, for handling the reservations; and Bonnie Suffridge and Colleen Stroyke, Fifth Vice Presidents, Programs, for their flexibility in changing to a virtual format.

Colleen introduced members of the Board of Directors who made the following announcements.

**Norma Perez**, Governance Committee, introduced today's special guests.

1. VIPs: **Arthur Alba**, Associate Director of Undergraduate Advising at the Leventhal School of Accounting; **Concepcion Barrio**, Associate Professor, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work; **William Holder**, Dean, Leventhal School of Accounting; **Tom McWhorter**, Dean of Financial Aid; **Catherine Quinlan**, Dean of USC Libraries; **Dr. Kelly Sanders**, Associate Professor, Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; **Cheryl Stanovich**, Chief Development Officer, USC School of Pharmacy; **Doris Sung**, Director of Undergraduate Architecture Programs, Associate Professor, USC Architecture; **Pat Tucker**, Executive Director, Black Alumni Association; **Jacob Vogel**, Director, Trojan Marching Band; **Cynthia Wiese**, Special Projects Manager, Trojan Marching Band; **Claude Zachary**, USC Archivist; and **Charles Zukoski**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.
2. The Past Presidents in attendance: **Yvonne Bogdanovich**, **Sally Edwards**, **Carol Fox**, **Linda Givvin**, **Carol Greenhalgh**, **Carol Mollett**, **Alli Solum**, and **Patricia Whitman**

**Bonnie Suffridge**, Fifth Vice President, Programs, spoke about the Alumnae Coordinating Council (ACC) and today's special guests from that organization. Begun in 1961, the ACC celebrated its 60th anniversary last year. It is part of the USC Alumni Association and is composed of 12 women's groups. Representatives from the groups meet regularly to collaborate and hear updates from the university. The 12 groups: (Six Leagues:) **Trojan League of Los Angeles, Trojan League of Orange County, Trojan League of South Bay, Trojan League Associates of the Valley, Trojan League Associates of the Desert, and Trojan League Associates of San Diego County;** (Two Guilds:) **Trojan Guild of Los Angeles and Trojan Guild of Orange County;** and (Four Affinity Groups:) **Trojan Affiliates, Town and Gown of USC, the Intersorority Parents Council, and the Interfraternity Parents Council.**

Past ACC Chairmen in attendance today: **Joann Akerman-Healy, Lorna Reed, Dee Dee Moffat-Brewer, June Teal, Regina Leimbach, Jo Ann Conley, Charlotte Carpenter, Nancy Edelbrock, Elise Ebbert, Diana Jones-Geosano, Barbara Meyers, Donna Gibbs, Marilyn Suazo, Nancy Hoffman, Anne Taves, Stephany Walsh, Sue Schaar, Jody Murdock, Alli Solum, Mary Richardson, Valerie Weiss, Sally Edwards, Michele Engemann, Sara Jane Bettge, Sue McKeever, Melody Nishida, Beth Petak-Aaron, Linda Ball, JoAnne Rogers, Dale Harbour-Day, Jakki Tonkovich, Patti Johnson, Helaine Lopes, D'Arcy Dietrich McLeod, Stephanie Paggi, Susan Cannan, and Meredith Weiss.**

Current ACC Members in attendance today: Chairman **Valerie Gumbiner**, whose ACC theme for this year is "SCixty and Still Fabulous." Presidents of the 12 women's groups: **Karin Newlin**, Trojan League Associates of the Desert; **Cinda Lucas**, Trojan League Associates of San Diego County; **Connie Cashin**, Trojan League Associates of the Valley; **Serena Overhoff**, Trojan League of Los Angeles; **Colette Nagami**, Trojan League of Orange County; **Jackie Sugarman**, Trojan League of South Bay; **Christine Marie Ofiesh**, Trojan Guild of Los Angeles; **Linda Sutherland**, Trojan Guild of Orange County; **Hilary Crahan**, Town and Gown of USC; **Ann Palmer**, Trojan Affiliates; **Alicia Lind**, Intersorority Parents Council; and **Kathleen Devine-Metheny and Polly Paulsen**, Interfraternity Parents Council.

#### GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

**Eddie Etmekjian**, Benefit Chair. The 2022 Benefit will honor the six women who worked with USC to create The Agreement: **Sally Edwards, Carol Fox, Linda Givvin, Carol Greenhalgh, Thelma Orr, and Alli Solum.** Eddie invited everyone to participate in building the new Endowment Fund, which will honor the six women. They are Women of Vision and wonderful examples of volunteer leadership. The Solicitation Form in the Benefit Packet, mailed recently and also on the website, offers ways to support the Benefit financially. She also named ways people could donate their time: join the Hospitality committee, the Vendors committee, the Favors committee, and others. These are all fun ways to get to know the Town and Gown of USC Family better.

**Carol Mollett**, Patrons Chairman. Members should have received the Benefit letter, mailed on January 4. Patrons donations are used solely to fund scholarships; they are an investment in the future. She invited members to visit [townandgownofusc.org](http://townandgownofusc.org) to make their donations.

**Sandy Johnston and Chris Gregg**, Program and Ads Chairmen. They read a poem that encouraged everyone to purchase an ad. The fees are \$250 (Half-page ad), \$500 (Full-page ad), and \$1,000 (Double-page ad). The fees may be shared among friends. Sandy and Chris can help create ads for anyone. Ads may be purchased by families, friends, clubs, businesses, and USC Departments and Schools. The program will be digital, with six hard copies printed for the honorees. Ads purchased by Valentine's Day will be acknowledged in the Benefit invitation. They may be purchased and uploaded onto the T&GUSC website.

**Edie** spoke on behalf of Kathie Johnson and Erica Johnson, the mother-daughter Underwriting Co-Chairs. The Benefit Packet included a page of Sponsorship and Underwriting Opportunities, including Printed Program Books for the Honorees, UBERs for the student workers on the day of the Benefit, Centerpieces, Fashion Show expenses, and more. All donations received by February 14 will be recognized in the Benefit invitation, on the T&GUSC website, and in the digital/printed program.

**Sara Pfirmann**, Opportunity Drawing. She invited contributions of gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100, from any variety of stores, or donations of cash for the same. She also encouraged members to use their contacts to donate experiential gifts for the drawing. The Opportunity page of the Benefit Packet listed many ideas for these gifts. Members may contact Sara for more information. The contributions must be received by February 14; receipts will be provided. Members may also contribute to the Opportunity Drawing by purchasing drawing tickets. More information will be forthcoming on how to purchase tickets. Tickets must be purchased by one week before the Benefit. Winners need not be present.

**Patti Jamgotchian**, Public Relations Chairman. New pages related to the Benefit are now on the T&GUSC website. She introduced a sizzle video that appears on the website, and then gave a brief tour of links on the website to purchase an ad, donate, and more. Tickets sales on the website will start on March 1.

Colleen thanked the Benefit Committee for their hard work and creativity, and then she introduced the Scholarship Vice Presidents.

**Carol Wright and Susie Rhodes**, Second Vice Presidents, Scholarship, said 417 complete scholarship applications were submitted this year. The Scholarship Committee has read them; the next step is the virtual interviews in February. That is an exciting time, she said, when the committee members will meet the applicants and get to know them better. She has enjoyed serving on this committee since she joined it six years ago. The students are compassionate about what they do, and they have a common desire to serve. She also praised the Committee members as "special" and "fantastic." She read quotes from the Committee members, who expressed their excitement about being on the Committee. Scholarships are the mission of this organization. They are why we exist. She welcomed attendees to join this Committee in the future.

**FEATURED SPEAKER:** Grant Kirkpatrick, FAIA, KAA Design Group. Visit their website at <https://kaadesigngroup.com>

**Colleen Stroyke and Bonnie Suffridge**, Fifth Vice Presidents, Programs. Colleen thanked everyone for being flexible with the change of venue of this meeting. Bonnie gave tips on how to ask questions of the speaker via the Chat Room and on the Facebook live feed.

Colleen introduced the day's speaker, **Grant Kirkpatrick, FAIA**, and Founding Partner of KAA Design Group. Forty years ago, Grant was a freshman on campus, and in 1988 formed his own architectural firm, KAA Design. He's won numerous awards and has been featured in many publications. His speciality is custom homes; he's had many high-profile clients. In his work, he likes to promote the Southern California lifestyle and blend interior and exterior environments. He is passionate about design, and he approaches it holistically. He also is dedicated to giving back to the community, including serving as Board Chair for a nonprofit program called *ArtworxLA*. At USC, he has served on the Architectural Guild Board, and he serves currently as Co-Chair of the Architecture School Board of Councilors. Last year, he received the USC Architectural Guild Distinguished Alumni Award. Grant loves what he does, which now includes designing outdoor furniture and developing a vineyard in Central California. He married his USC sweetheart, Shaya; they have three grown children.

**Grant** opened his talk by sharing good news: *we are living in the greatest period of human history*. Despite the daily negative news, he believes we are living in a modern day Renaissance. Examples of how the world is thriving: hunger is being eradicated, water is better, countries are giving equal rights, women worldwide have the vote, etc. We don't hear about those things because good news is boring! The world has made great progress.

A third generation Californian, Grant was born in Long Beach and graduated from USC. He was in the Architectural School, whose many prestigious alumni, including Frank Gehry, have had a big impact on Los Angeles. This impact includes the Citizen Architect program, which creates ways to fight homelessness and more.

As a youth, Grant was introduced to architecture through the Case Study Houses program. Launched in 1945, this program commissioned 20 of the best architects (11 were at USC as students or professors) to design model homes for the post-war housing boom. The homes were mostly in Southern California. The houses inspired Grant because of their connections to their surroundings, their timelessness, and their innovation.

He likened the innovation of Los Angeles, of the Case Study Houses, to the breakthrough progress and innovation of the Renaissance. For example, whereas homes prior to the CS Houses were made mostly of plaster, the CS Houses used metal frames for open walls and windows. This new use of steel in residential structures allowed for a revolutionary openness. The CS Houses inspired Grant to study architecture. He liked that the Houses connected to their surroundings, they were timeless heirloom, and they reflected thinking outside of the box.

A visit to a Tuscany winery, with its respect of the land, inspired Grant's approach to designing homes. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that Grant also is a vintner. He was reminded of Tuscany in the rolling hills of his own winery in Paso Robles. DaVinci, he told the audience, made wine. DaVinci was a productive man with diverse interests; perhaps it was another no-surprise that Grant has a special interest in that man of the Renaissance, who was indeed a *polymath*.

Grant spoke about other inventive (and mostly) Californians: USC's Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, Charles and Ray Eames, Kobe Brant ("another polymath"), Elon Musk, the Cal Tech students who almost blew themselves up and eventually became JPL, and the creators of the Internet.

He also mentioned former USC President Steven Sample, whom he called an insightful leader, another polymath. Sample urged people to stay vigilante against herd mentality; to read the classics, from the Bible to the Quran, to Don Quixote; and to understand the "source," which would help to understand modernity.

"Things are not perfect today," Grant said, "but we should be aware of the modern Renaissance. USC is paralleling the New Renaissance in the arts, entertainment, sports. Smell the Roses. In other words, Fight On."

A Q&A period followed, facilitated by Colleen Stroyke, Bonnie Suffridge, and Bianca Patterson. Topics included the Case Studies Houses; Grant's music background (and his cover band) and how the arts influence his design work; his favorite project: probably the Balance Hill house, though it is hard to select one's favorite "kid"; and his winery, William Robert Wines.

William Robert Wines: <https://williamrobertwines.com>. It is a boutique winery in Paso Robles; they produce about 500 cases/year, mostly Bordeaux and Syrah wines. They first planted in 2010, started producing wines in 2015, and now they are ready to start their wine club. He is particularly interested in supporting nonprofits with this winery.

Colleen thanked Grant for his enlightening presentation, and the audience for being flexible and attending the meeting on Zoom today.

### CLOSING BUSINESS

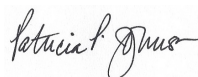
Bonnie invited everyone to attend the next meeting, on February 1, 2022, on Zoom. The featured speaker will be Pinchas Cohen, M.D., Professor of Gerontology, Medicine & Biological Sciences Dean, USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. His topic: "Healthy Aging Strategies." Invitations will go out later this week.

**Janyce Teasley and Kate Farlow**, Hospitality Co-Chairs, announced the Opportunity Drawing results. There were three prizes: 1) a \$250 Amex gift certificate (winner: Lisa Up de Graff), 2) another \$250 Amex gift certificate (winner: Wilma Pinder), and 3) Traveler Bag of Goodies (donor: JoAnne Asman) with a \$50 gift card (donor: Kate Farlow) (winner: Lindsay Lytle).

The next General Meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 1, 2022, on Zoom.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45p.m..

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia P. Johnson, Town and Gown of USC Secretary, 2020-2022