

EXPANSION & RENOVATION BEGINS!

On June 21, students, BCC students, family members, staff, and organization partners gathered for the official groundbreaking of our Facility Expansion & Renovation Project. The first scoops of dirt were excavated by our current preschoolers who put on hardhats, just like our staff and



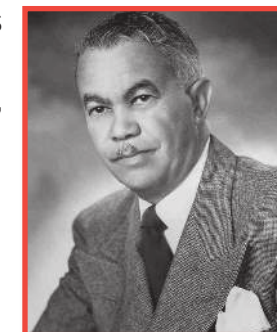
Board Members, including President Alan Boring who gave the welcome address. The groundbreaking marked the official launch of an ambitious \$6.3 million expansion and remodel of our facility that will enable us to increase enrollment in the coming years and make much-needed

upgrades to the facility's infrastructure, including current ADA requirements. We are adding toddler classrooms, an elevator and a new nature-based playground which aligns with current early childhood philosophy. The project is planned to take roughly six months to complete and thanks to careful phased planning our services will continue throughout the process.

We also are pursuing historical cultural monument designation from the city of Los Angeles to preserve the legacy of our building's unique history. In 1948, when BCC began plans for a new and permanent location at 4120 Marathon Street, Dr. Titcomb and the all-female board of directors made the decision to hire Los Angeles architectural icon Paul R. Williams (1894-1980) to design our main building. In a career spanning almost six decades, Williams



designed more than 3,000 buildings and mastered a range of architectural styles. He broke racial barriers, becoming the first African American member and fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in the United States. Our main building is one of the very few school buildings he designed. It also represents his custom of reducing his fee for projects that intersected with his social beliefs.



Lead federal and state funding for the project is coming through the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) whose partnership is enabling us to serve even more students each year at completely no charge. Additional funding is being provided by the Ahmanson Foundation with continued outreach to additional funders to enable us to reach our goal. We anticipate a grand reopening of our renovated facility in early 2024, so stay tuned for future announcements in the coming months!

Please continue to support our program during this critical time so we can maintain our services throughout the construction process!



THE TOM SULLIVAN LEGACY SOCIETY



A PLANNED GIVING
PROGRAM

BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER
LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938



The Tom Sullivan Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have made, or intend to make, an estate-related gift to the Blind Children's Center. When you include us in your estate plan, you leave a legacy of care, support, and light to children with visual impairments and their families.

To learn more, join, or be connected to an expert, please contact Scott Kassel, Director of Development, at (323) 664-2153 or scott@blindchildrenscenter.org or visit our Planned Giving website at

www.LegacyBCC.org

Meet Our New Board Members!



Nolly Davé

Ms. Davé has worked in the not-for-profit healthcare sector for over 20 years, primarily in the US, but also in Canada and in the United Kingdom. She currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer at Cedars-Sinai

Marina del Rey Hospital. Ms. Davé holds a BA (Honors) from the University of Toronto in Canada and an MBA (Healthcare Finance) from Roseman University. She is active in her local community and loves to travel, cook, and hike. She is also an avid Crossfitter.



Paul Michael Schnauffer

Mr. Schnauffer is the owner and CEO of National Bartender's School and Staffing. He runs the country's largest bartender training program as well as a national event staffing agency with locations from South-

ern California to New York. A native of the San Fernando Valley, Paul received an MA in European History before spending ten years as a teacher at the middle school, high school, and junior college level. He also serves as a volunteer at Therapeutic Living Center for the Blind and Board Member at Valley Village for Adults with Developmental Disabilities.



Starr Thompson

Ms. Thompson is a Six Sigma Black Belt in Human Resources and currently serves as the Chief People and Administrative Officer (CPAO) for Nonprofits Insurance Alliance (NIA). In her role, she leads NIA's hu-

man resources strategy, talent acquisition, leadership development, JEDI strategy, organizational design, and cultural development. Previously, Ms. Thompson held positions as Vice President of Human Resources for Fitness Club Manager, Director of Human Resources at The Medical Group Executive Services, and Human Resources Manager at Lemonade Restaurant Group. Ms. Thompson is also on the Board of Directors for Maternal Mental Health Now and actively supports and empowers Black women and girls.

Light the Way

CELEBRATION 2023



On April 27, BCC returned to the LA River Center and Gardens for our 2023 Light the Way Celebration. Actor and entertainer Blake Stadnik of NBC's "This is Us" returned as our host and emcee as we honored longtime supporter and board member Ina Zec. Ina has been actively involved with the BCC since the late 1960s when her own son Igor was a student at the Center.

BCC is now in our 85th year of service thanks to the vision and foresight of the Delta Gamma Fraternity of women whose "Service for Sight" mission made our school a reality. Our keynote speaker, Jenn Stuart Ragusa, Delta Gamma Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman, shared Delta Gamma's impact in her life, and the importance of continuing to support schools like the BCC. The Center's impact was reinforced by Roxana Veta Ramirez who recounted her daughter

Layla's growth and progress during her time at BCC. After four years in our program, Layla is poised to move on to her local kindergarten next year with the academic and social skills to thrive.

Blake and our live band closed the show with a rousing live performance before happy bidders headed home with a treasure trove of auction items. The event was made possible thanks to the lead sponsorship of Larry Meyer, Carole Meyer-Rieth and our friends at the Youssef & Kamel Mawardi Foundation, as well as Board Members Paul Schnauffer of National Bar Staffing, Katherine Griffiths of Tripepi Smith, Jennifer Brown and Scott Schaldenbrand. And a big thank you to our corporate sponsors, William Morris Endeavor (WME) Agency, US Bank, and Meylan Davitt Jain Arevian & Kim, LLC. See you next year!

In Memoriam: Lisa Hansen



With great sadness we announce the passing of Lisa Hansen, a longtime board member, donor, and advocate for the Blind Children's Center. Lisa was first introduced to BCC by her childhood friends Jennifer Brown and Ann Ruth who continue to serve on our Board. Lisa served as Chairman of the Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation for many years, one of California's largest and most influential private foundations. Lisa was always down to earth, humble, and incredibly dedicated to the students and families at BCC. She was generous beyond words and lived by her motto "Kindness Matters," often distributing small items printed with her mantra. Lisa will be missed by so many in the BCC community, but her legacy and memory will not be forgotten.

Each year the Blind Children's Center makes a \$25,000 Research Grant to eliminate juvenile blindness. BCC's Board of Directors has chosen to rename the annual grant the "Lisa D. Hansen Research Grant" to honor Lisa's longstanding commitment to its impact and importance.

To designate a gift in honor of Lisa Hansen or the Lisa D. Hansen Research Grant, please notate on the enclosed gift envelope.