



*Serving You, Your Business & Your Community For Over 65 Years*

## **About The Chamber**

The West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit member organization. The purpose of the West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is to promote the commercial, civic, cultural, educational, and industrial interests of the West Los Angeles area so that its businesses, neighborhoods, and citizens shall prosper. It is the primary resource for small and medium-sized firms doing business in West Los Angeles, helping members and associates deal with the ever-changing business climate in the city, state, nation and the world. The Chamber offers a wide range of programs, including seminars, events, networking and referrals.

The Chamber began in 1945 as the "Businessmen's Association of Rancho Park". By 1989, it had grown to serve not only Rancho Park, but also the nearby communities of West Los Angeles, Westwood, Mar Vista and Palms. To reflect this larger geographic area, the Chamber changed its name to the Westside Chamber of Commerce. In 1993, a group of dedicated business leaders formed a new organization, the West L.A. Chamber of Commerce, to serve the specific interests of West Los Angeles, including the Civic Center area and the Sawtelle District. In 1996, the 2 groups merged under the West L.A. Chamber of Commerce name to better promote local business growth and development. In November 2000, Brentwood Area Chamber of Commerce merged with the West L.A. Chamber, further increasing our Chamber's size and strength. The Chamber continued its growth surpassing 1,250 members from all around West Los Angeles and adjoining areas. Our name changed again in 2005 to "Greater West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce" and finally in 2008 we changed to our current name of "West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce."

Today, the West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has members ranging from local "mom and pop" businesses to some of the nations' largest corporate entities, and is growing in both membership and influence. We are men and women that join with other community organizations to roll up our sleeves and do the work of making our area a better place to visit, work, and to live. We do the hard work of community service while our members provide jobs to thousands of employees.

The West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce provides service to a diverse residential population that exceeds 228,000 people. Throughout the day, the business and residential population swells to approximately a half million people. The increase is due to those who either pursue knowledge and skills training at educational and professional institutes, including the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and those who work in or visit the neighborhoods of West Los Angeles. The West Los Angeles Chamber is bordered by the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, and Santa Monica, Los Angeles County and the Pacific Ocean.

The West Los Angeles community consists of diverse people involved in business, charity, civic, clergy, consulate, cultural, educational, entertainment, medical, political, recreational and residential activities. The area has churches, a civic center, the 5th, 10th, and 11th City Council Districts, federal buildings, foreign consulates, hospitals, motion picture studios, major shopping malls, a National Guard Armory, parks, public and private country clubs and golf courses, schools and universities, synagogues, television companies, temples, theaters, and water reservoirs. Although there are many unique locations, Bel-Air, Century City, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Museum of Tolerance, the Skirball Jewish Center, three miles of the Pacific Ocean coastline, 20th Century Fox Studios, the UCLA and Westwood Village are nationally renowned sites that attract numerous visitors.

We are excited about the future of our organization and West Los Angeles. We are growing to meet the needs of our area by creating new committees to foster growth and development. These new committees include networking, tech, marketing, government, and environmental groups, as well as a women's business council.