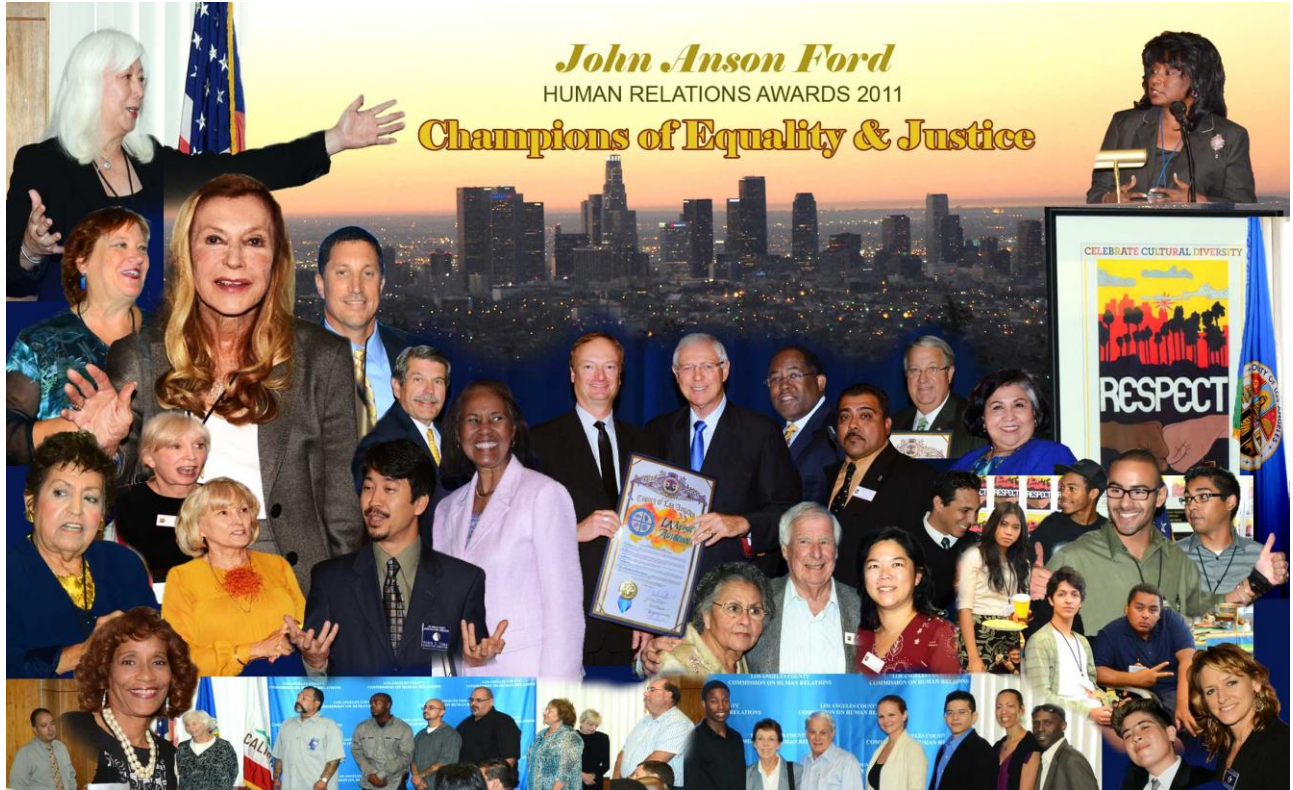


LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HONORS OUTSTANDING HUMAN RELATIONS WORK

2011 JOHN ANSON FORD HUMAN RELATIONS AWARDS



“Champions of Equality and Justice” was the theme of this year’s Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission 2011 John Anson Ford Awards ceremony held on October 11, 2011 at the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors’ meeting.

“The prestigious John Anson Ford awards are annually given by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations and the Board of Supervisors to individuals, organizations and companies that have impacted our communities by promoting positive intergroup relations and preventing hate violence,” said Robin Toma, Executive Director, County of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission.

“This year, three organizations and two individuals were selected by the Human Relations Commission to receive the John Anson Ford Award from their district Supervisors, and one individual was selected for the Countywide Yvonne Braithwaite Burke Courage Award,” said Sergio Paz, the newly elected President of the Human Relations Commission.

“We were delighted that former Supervisor Yvonne Burke joined Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky in presenting the 2011 Yvonne Burke Courage award to Ms. Ramona Ripston, former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union,” Commissioner Paz added. “The Courage Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated courage in protecting the rights of minorities.”

The 2011 John Anson Ford Human Relations Supervisorial District awardees that were honored by the Board of Supervisors are as follows:

- Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District Award recipient: **LA Music Academy and its Founder and President C. Thomas Aylesbury**; and,
- Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District Award recipient: **Jonnie Owens, Pomona Valley Community Leader**; and,
- Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District Award recipient: **Mia F. Yamamoto, Esq.**, civil and human rights activist; and,
- Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District Award recipient: **Covenant House California and its Director of Clinical Services, Daniel Ballin**; and,
- Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District Award recipient: **Toberman Neighborhood Center and its Executive Director Gloria Lockhart**.

Biographies of the John Anson Ford Award recipients are available upon request. Contact Riku Matsuda, Intergroup Relations Specialist, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, at rmatsuda@css.lacounty.gov or (213) 738-2857.