



VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION



Panama Canal Gala

110 YEARS OF THE PANAMA CANAL OPENING



JUNE 15, 2024
HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITY CENTER, CA.



congratulates

Alison Duarte Busby
Miss Viva Panama 2024

23Fifteen is an agency that is committed to providing high-quality care and support to individuals with intellectual disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

We provide quality care to individuals with intellectual disabilities in Southern California and support in all areas of daily living, such as meal planning and preparation, personal hygiene, medication management, and more.

215 N Marengo Ave, Floor 3,
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855-302-3331

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*Ph Radiant Tower
Panama City
Panamá*

Felicidades

Alison Duarte Busby

Queen

*Panamanian Community
Los Angeles, California*

2024

IB CONSULTING SERVICE INC.

congratulates

Alison Duarte Busby
Miss Viva Panama 2024

Consulting services and management
in the field of developmental disability.

Quality assurance services
for Title 22 and Title 17
facility compliance.

HCBS Final Rules Compliance.

Certified person-centered trainer.

Contact: Ivett Busby
Executive Director
(626) 486-6285



Welcome!

**Viva Panama
Organization**
Long Beach, CA.
(818) 915-2121
vgrimaldo25@gmail.com
vivapanama.org

Gala Committee

- Victor Grimaldo, CEO
- Eva Franceschi, CFO
- Elsa Seibert, COO
- Mabel Perez
- Marta Hansen
- Hal Laws Landau
- Harmodio Gray
- Bruselas Gray
- Nery Aguirre
- Katia Shelton
- Wilfredo Cerrud
- William Cerrud
- Yhinyer Jackson
- Mitzy Williams
- Ana Blanco
- Ivett Busby
- Carlos Busby-Grajales



Victor Grimaldo

Thirty-three years have passed, and they have brought with them memories of those early years when I started to instill in the children of our families, the pride for our country and our culture, and I ended up educating the multicultural community of Southern California and sharing it with the world.

During these years of hard work and with the help of our members and supporters, we have made all the efforts to give the best image of Panama in this country and abroad.

This year, we celebrate 110 years of the Panama Canal Opening, we crown our Queen of Two Oceans, and we recognize distinguished Panamanians with the Ambassador Award and Youth Recognition.

I want to thank our Miss Viva Panama Org. 2023, Elizabeth Tenorio, and her family for all their support in representing Panama with us; also congratulate Alison Duarte-Busby and her family and friends, as Miss Viva Panama Org. 2024, for her will and decision to make a positive impact and inspire others to reach their full potential; to our 2024 Ambassador Ward recipients: Chef Rogelio Squires and Master Dancer Javier Campines; and our young community representatives: Diego & Luis Angel Fula-Coba, and William Cerrud, for their representation in the community. I am pretty sure that they are a great representation of our cultural heritage and country in Los Angeles, CA.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the generous support that our community has given to our organization, and for believing in us.

Victor Grimaldo
CEO and Founder President



Consulado de Panamá

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA



Queridos amigos de la Organización Viva Panamá.

Es un honor y un placer dirigirme a ustedes en esta ocasión tan especial, donde celebramos los 110 años del Canal de Panamá. Esta gala no sólo conmemora una obra maestra de la ingeniería mundial, sino también el espíritu y la tenacidad de todos los panameños.

Quiero agradecer al Dr. Victor Grimaldo por su dedicación a nuestra cultura y por organizar esta magnífica celebración. Su esfuerzo en preservar y promover nuestra historia y tradiciones es verdaderamente invaluable.

¡Felicitaciones por este hito y que continúen los éxitos y las celebraciones! Con los mejores deseos.

GILDA GARCÍA.

Cónsul General de Panamá

Masters of Ceremony



Elizabeth Tenorio

Elizabeth Itzel Tenorio was born in Oxnard, CA, and resides in Oxnard, CA. She recently graduated from Oxnard College with an Arts and Humanities Associates Degree.

She is attending UC Santa Cruz in the fall of 2023 to study Animation and Computer Programming.

Elizabeth is experienced in ballet, tap, modern dance, and hip-hop dance.

She currently works with Hip Hop Mindset and teaches dance at several public elementary schools in Oxnard.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for representing us in 2023, it has been a pleasure working with you; we wish you good luck in your future endeavors.



Víctor Grimaldo

Victor holds a medical degree from the University of Panamá, dedicating his early years to Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, and Investigative Research Medicine in Tropical Infectious Diseases at the Gorgas Memorial Institute (CDC).

Victor trained in HIV Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC), Family Medicine at Stanford University, and Prostate Cancer Primary Care at the Prostate Cancer Research Institute.

He served as Director of the Latino Program for Prostate Cancer Research Institute and Real Men Cook Foundation. Victor has received multiple awards and recognitions for his contribution to the community by educating about prostate cancer, early detection, different treatment options, and prevention among Hispanics in LA.

Victor obtained a Master's degree in Health Administration from A.T. Still University.

He founded Viva Panama Organization, and Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama in 1991. Victor has served as a Board Member of the Latino Museum of History, Art & Culture in Los Angeles; Director of the Multi-Cultural Hispanic American Association; Coordinator & Curator of Panamanian Exhibits at the Museum of Cultural Diversity; Former Vice President of COFECA; Former Vice-President & co-Founder of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce of California; Member of the Folk Dance Federation of California and Council International de la Danse (UNESCO).

Victor is the proud father of William, Adam, and Marie Grimaldo and eleven grandchildren. Currently, he is retired from the Molina Healthcare Disease Management Program.

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Miss Viva Panama

QUEEN OF TWO OCEANS



JUNE 18, 2024
HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITY CENTER, CA.

Miss Viva Panama Organization

2023

Elizabeth Tenorio



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Miss Viva Panama Organization

2024

Alison I. Duarte-Busby



Ms. Alison Ivanett Duarte-Busby was born in Pasadena, California, to Panamanian parents, and attends John Muir High School in the city of Pasadena. She is fluent in English and Spanish. Her hobbies are playing volleyball, softball, makeup, and baking. She aims to obtain a mechanical engineering degree, and she has traveled to Panama.

Some of her talents are math and athlete, modeling, and public speaking. Ms. Duarte is also involved in Student Think Tank PUSD, A&B. She has experience as Homecoming Queen 2023 at her High School in Pasadena.

She is passionate about representing her country with grace, intelligence, and compassion; for these reasons, she believes she can be Viva Panama Organization's image in 2024, as Miss Viva Panama: "Queen of Two Oceans".

As Miss Viva Panama Org. 2024, she hopes to achieve a great representation with the support of her family, circle of friends, and her Panamanian community. She is dedicated to using this platform to make a positive impact and inspire others to reach their full potential.



Panama Canal Opening: 110 years.



Viva Panama Organization, Inc. is thrilled to put together this celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Panama Canal Opening, with its collaborators and volunteers. It's a miracle the Panama Canal was ever completed. Not since the Great Pyramid at Giza five millennia before had the world seen such a vast construction project. Only this time, rather than constructing a monument to royalty, engineers, encouraged by the achievements of the Industrial Revolution, set about cutting an entire continent in two to solve a navigation problem that had challenged mariners for centuries.

Although it goes down as one of the landmark achievements of the 20th century, the idea of joining the Atlantic to the Pacific via the Panama Isthmus had been around for centuries. As early as 1514 Spaniard Vasco Nunez de Balboa had built a 30-mile road in the region.

It wasn't, however, until the late 19th century that construction began. The first modern attempt was headed by Ferdinand de Lesseps on behalf of the French who intended to build a sea-level canal. Disease, disaster, poor financial planning, and lack of geological knowledge caused the French to abandon their efforts, leaving the way open for an American attempt based on a series of locks and dams. After the French 'sea level' attempt, the US project would include locks and dams, rail infrastructure, worker settlements, and adequate healthcare.

The Panama Canal was finished two years ahead of time and formally opened in August 1914, coinciding with the outbreak of the Great War. The American Society of Civil Engineers has named the canal one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

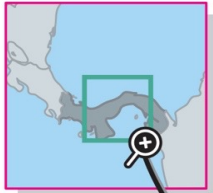
The Panama Canal Expansion program consists of the construction of two sets of locks - one on the Pacific and one on the Atlantic side of the Canal. Each lock has three chambers, and each chamber has three water reutilization basins. The program also entails the widening and deepening of existing navigational channels in Gatun Lake and the deepening of Culebra Cut.

The expansion of the Panama Canal was a massive, US\$5.2 billion project. It started in 2007 and was completed by 2016, which allows the Panama Canal to handle vessels much larger than those that currently transit the waterway, known as Panamax.

SE CONMEMORA LOS 110 AÑOS DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ



El 15 de Agosto de 2024 se conmemora los 110 años del Canal de Panamá, que fue oficialmente inaugurado cuando el vapor Ancón cruzó por primera vez. El canal comenzó a funcionar de manera continua en mayo de 1963 (las 24 horas del día) con la implementación de un nuevo alumbrado fluorescente en el corte Gaillard y en las tres esclusas.



SE INVIERTEN APROXIMADAMENTE **300** MILLONES DE USD AL AÑO EN EQUIPO Y REEMPLAZO DE PIEZAS

TIPOS DE CARGA

» AGRUPACIÓN

Por este canal transita un gran número de mercancía que van desde productos básicos e insumos, hasta bienes manufacturados y de alta tecnología. Los principales productos que utilizan la vía interoceánica se agrupan en:

Granos
Carbón mineral
Minerales y metales
Petróleo y sus derivados
Carga contenerizada

SE NECESITAN UNOS **250** MILLONES DE USD PARA EL MANTENIMIENTO DEL CANAL

PEAJES EN EL CANAL

» ¿QUÉ ES UN PEAJE?

Se define como las tasas que una embarcación debe pagar para cruzar el canal. Son determinados por los parámetros de medición de la embarcación por su capacidad de transporte en los contenedores. Los costos varían dependiendo el tipo de mercado y las condiciones en las que esté la carga.

» VOLÚMEN DE LOS BARCOS

Para acordar el tonelaje neto del canal, se aplica un sistema de arqueo que fue conocido como el Sistema Universal de Arqueo de Buques del Canal de Panamá. Este sistema desarrolla una fórmula matemática para medir el volúmen total del barco.

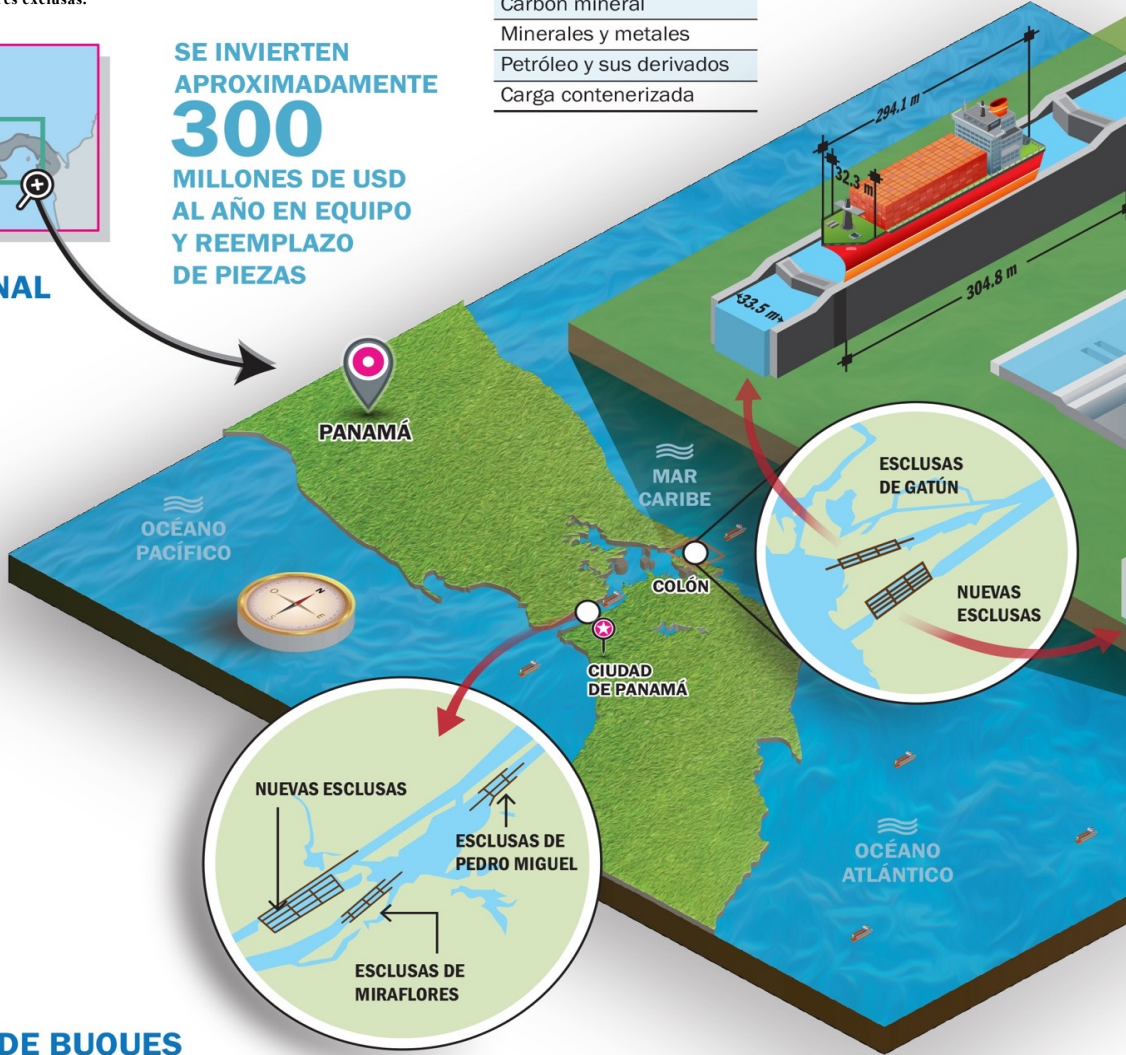
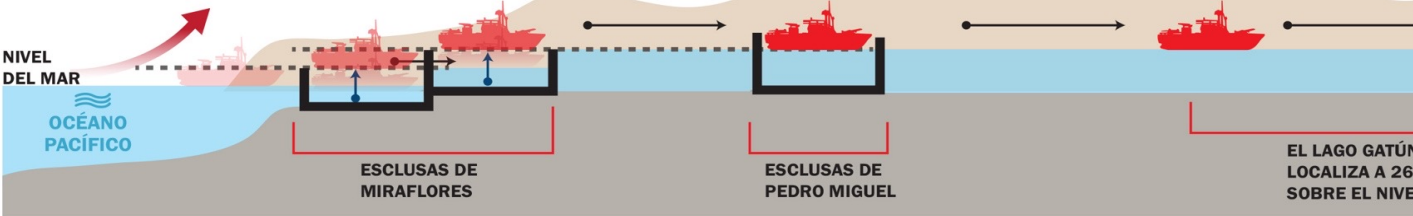
» CLASIFICACIÓN DE PEAJES

Portacontenedores
Carga General
Carga Refrigerada
Graneleros Secos
Tanqueros
Porta-Vehículos
Pasajeros
Otros

ASÍ ES EL CRUCE DE BUQUES EN EL CANAL DE PANAMÁ

» ENTRADA

A la entrada del canal, las esclusas se encargan de subir el nivel del agua hasta la altura correspondiente para permitir el avance del barco.

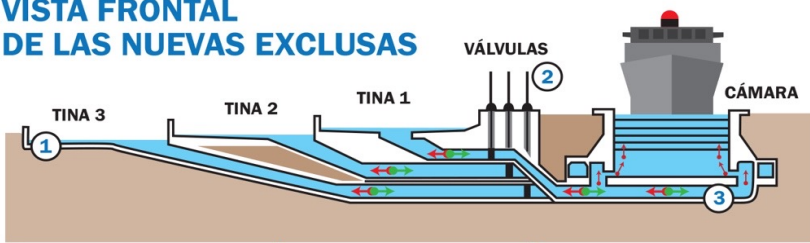


vivapanama.org.



XINHUA
MESA GRÁFICA EN ESPAÑOL
AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS

VISTA FRONTAL DE LAS NUEVAS EXCLUSAS



1 TINAS

El agua de las tinas se transfiere a la cámara mediante gravedad y viceversa.

2 VÁLVULAS

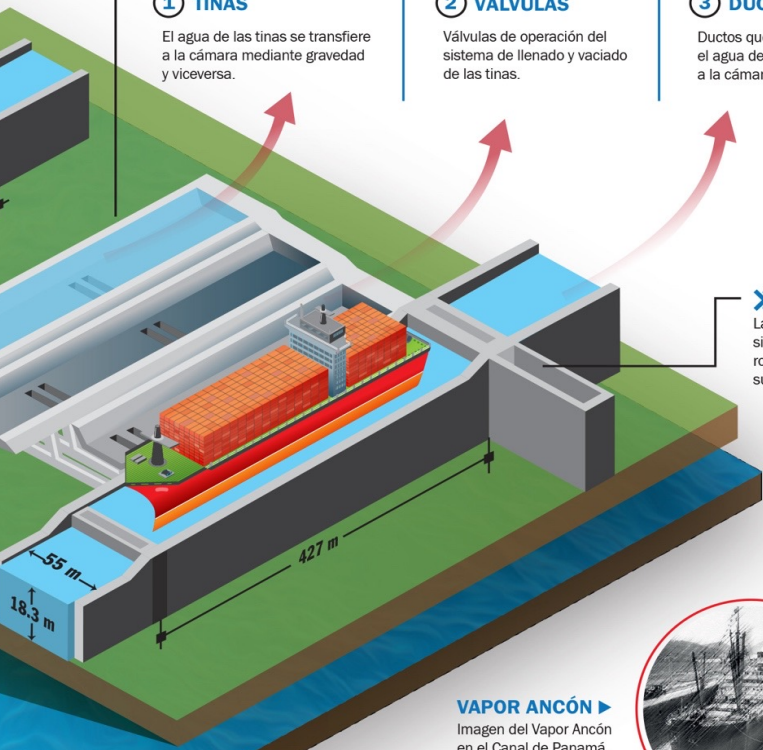
Válvulas de operación del sistema de llenado y vaciado de las tinas.

3 DUCTOS

Ductos que llevan el agua de las tinas a la cámara y de regreso.

COMPUERTAS

Las esclusas usarán un sistema de compuertas rodantes que facilitarán su mantenimiento.

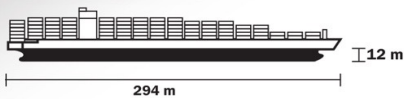


VAPOR ANCÓN

Imagen del Vapor Ancón en el Canal de Panamá.



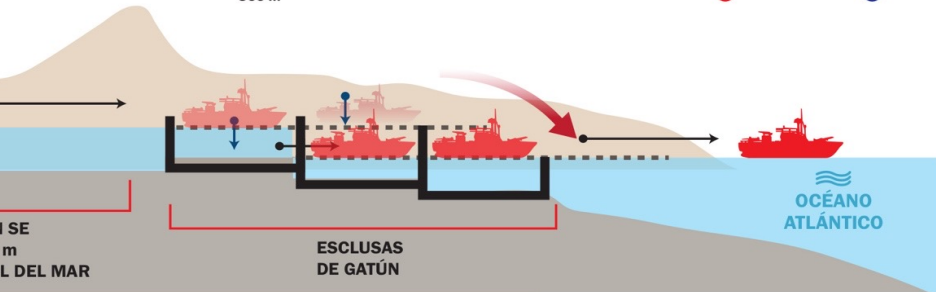
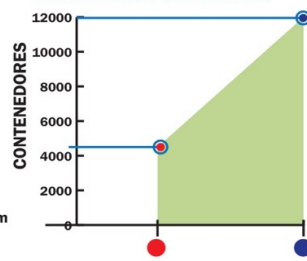
PANAMAX



POST-PANAMAX



CAPACIDAD DE CARGA



SE
m
L DEL MAR

ESCLUSAS DE GATÚN

OCEANO ATLÁNTICO

HISTORIA DEL CANAL DE PANAMÁ

1880: Una empresa francesa hace el primer intento por construir el Canal de Panamá.

1902: Tras el fracaso de la empresa francesa, Estados Unidos de América mediante la firma de la ley "Spooner" decretada por el presidente Theodore Roosevelt, acuerda la reanudación de la construcción del Canal del Panamá.

1903: En enero, comienzan los preparativos del Tratado Herrán-Hay, enfocado al derecho de la construcción del canal de Panamá por EEUU. En agosto, el Tratado de Herrán-Hay es rechazado por el Congreso de Colombia. En noviembre, es proclamada la independencia de Panamá con Colombia. La nueva república es reconocida por el Congreso de EEUU. Se firma el Tratado Hay-Bunau Vanilla. EEUU obtienen la autorización para continuar con la construcción del canal.

1904: Reapertura de las obras del Canal de Panamá por EEUU. Se crea la Comisión Istmica del Canal para su construcción.

1913: Culmina la construcción del Canal de Panamá. Deja de existir la Comisión Istmica del Canal. Surge la Zona del Canal como una nueva entidad administradora.

1914: FUE INAUGURADO OFICIALMENTE EL 15 DE AGOSTO.

El inicio de las operaciones del canal se dio con el paso del vapor Ancón.

1964: En el mes de enero, policías estadounidenses lanzan misiles contra manifestantes que intentan atravesar el cerco del canal a la fuerza.

1977: Se firma en septiembre el tratado Torrijos-Carter, el cual retribuyó la soberanía de la Zona del Canal de EEUU a Panamá.

1999: La Comisión del Canal de Panamá deja de existir e inicia la administración a través de la Autoridad del Canal de Panamá.

2005: Se adjudica un nuevo sistema de arque para embarcaciones.

2006: En abril se da a conocer una propuesta de ampliación a través de la construcción de un tercer juego de esclusas. Para el mes de octubre se aprueba el referéndum de la propuesta de ampliación.

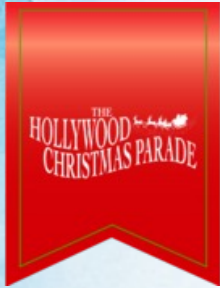
2007: Dan inicio los trabajos de ampliación en el Cerro Paraíso durante el mes de septiembre.

2009: Se concede el contrato principal del programa de ampliación al Consorcio Grupo Unidos por el Canal durante el mes de julio.

2016: El 26 de junio, se inauguró un tercer carril de tránsito de buques en el Canal de Panamá lo cual aumentó la capacidad tanto en cantidad como en dimensiones.

vivapanama.org.

Panama at the Hollywood Christmas Parade



Viva Panama Organization has always been proud of the richness of Panamanian culture through its music, dances, and the warmth and vibrancy of our people within the multicultural community of Southern California and the world for the last 33 years with southern California and the world.

Viva Panama Organization, created in 1991 and following its slogan of “sharing the culture of Panama with the world”, maintains a top-notch line by representing and promoting Panama and its culture abroad through the Annual Hollywood Christmas Parade.

The parade is hosted by Erik Estrada, Laura McKenzie, Dean Cain, and Montel Williams, with special co-host Elizabeth Stanton. The parade premieres a two-hour special on The CW Network at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT, and also aired on the Hallmark Channel and American Forces Network, to more than one million American servicemen and women worldwide.

The event is presented and produced by Associated Television International, in association with The City of Los Angeles. A true Hollywood yearly tradition, the parade attracts more than one million in attendance each year, with larger-than-life inflatable character balloons, award-winning bands, colorful equestrians, ornate floats, popular characters/novelties, and celebrity-filled cars.



vivapanama.org

Entertainment

Julio Hanson



Julio Hanson (SAG-AFTRA) has been an entertainer and an educator in Los Angeles, California for more than 25 years. Julio has dedicated years to bridging his African-American and Panamanian cultures to the global community through the study and performance of music, theatre, dance, and multiple languages, as Principal at the Loyola Village Fine and Performing Arts Magnet School in the **Los Angeles Unified School District** and a member of the **Robey Theatre Company**.

Julio has performed with Grammy-recognized artists **Toni Braxton, Prince, Kelis, and La Ley**, to name a few; also appeared in movies such as *Angels and Demons*, and *American Carol*. Lead television actor for Mun2/ Telemundo production of *RPM Miami*.

Lead stage actor for Robey Theatre Company selected to perform for the National Black Theatre Festival; also, a lead actor in *Paquito's Christmas* under the direction of award-winning director Luis Avalos.

Julio became a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at UCLA where he obtained a Bachelor of Political Sciences with an emphasis in International Relations.

Julio also obtained a Bilingual Teaching Credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills, a Master of Education and Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Doctorate in Education from Pepperdine University researching the Power of Artistic Activism.

In 1905, Thomas Allen composed a melody called "Low Bridge", used in the Warner Brothers cartoon series "**Animaniacs**". Julio will open our Gala tonight with this Broadway-type musical Panama Canal, as we commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Opening of the Panama Canal.



A Celebration of Life

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Ricardo D. Sánchez

07/10/1941 – 03/12/2024



Ricardo was born on 7/10/1941, in the city of David, Chiriquí; he was going to be 83 this coming July. Since I can remember, my brother who was 18 months older than me, was always my eyes, my bodyguard and protector. Ricardo was always there for all of us: Mercedes (his mother), Marta Lina (his sister), Geni (his niece), and Bruce (his nephew).

He came to Los Angeles in June 1962 and his first full-time job was with Sheet Metal Company, as a welder, where he worked for 49 ½ years until he retired.

He was a happy person always telling jokes and when he met someone the first things, he would ask them were: where are you from and what is your astrological sign; even though he did not know much about astrological signs!!! Just to make conversation...

He had a lot of female cousins whom he would take to parties and had a dance with each of them to show them around; so, the boys could see how good they danced!!!

Ricardo, dear brother, I will not say goodbye, I will only say until next time, I will miss you a lot!! Your sister will always have you in her heart!!!

Marta Lina Hansen.

My uncle was a man who always had a good story or joke and a laugh to brighten your days, even if you were a stranger, he would find a way to put a smile on your face. He was my uncle.

My uncle loved to watch tennis with me even though he never knew how the scoring worked. He would get to Costco early every weekend and call me to ask me what I needed. He was my uncle.

My uncle loved his flip phone. I would hear him in his room talking to people. There was never a reason, he just wanted to see how everyone was doing. He was my uncle.

My uncle was a humble, kind, and sensitive man with a quiet strength. He loved my fur babies as if they were his own. He loved to have Casi sit with him during dinner, a game of Viuda. He loved being my dog sitter. He was my uncle.

My uncle was not only consistent with lotto tickets going to the centro, but he was consistent with his generosity and caring. He was my ever-present father figure. He was my uncle.

I am proud to tell the world that Ricardo Daniel Sanchez was my uncle, and he is now my guardian angel. **Genevieve M. Fowler.**



vivapanama.org.

A Celebration of Life

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Kerima Malek



1940-2024

With love we say goodbye to our beloved
Keri, who today, May 31, rested in the
arms of Our Lord

*"Your presence we miss, your memories we
treasure, Loving you always,
Forgetting you never"*

Rest in peace

A Celebration of Life



In loving memory of



Patricia Williams

Our beloved mother & grandma

1936-2024

*We love you
and
miss you always*



Entertainment

Elemento Dance Academy



Experience the magic of Bachata at Elemento Dance Academy's Performance Team practice!

Step into our studio and immerse yourself in the captivating world of Latin dance. Led by our skilled instructors, these sessions blend technique refinement with creative choreography, ensuring an enriching experience for dancers of all levels.

Join our tight-knit community as we hone our moves, synchronize steps, and ignite the stage with passion and precision. Whether you're new to Bachata or a seasoned pro, Elemento Dance Academy's Performance Team practice promises an exhilarating journey of growth, camaraderie, and unforgettable performances.

Come dance with us and let's elevate our Bachata game together!

2024 Ambassador Award



Viva Panama Organization (VPO) always proud of its Culture and its People, annually recognizes the Ambassador Award to high-profile Panamanians for their professional achievements and for enhancing and promoting Panama's image, in the community, Panama, the USA, and abroad

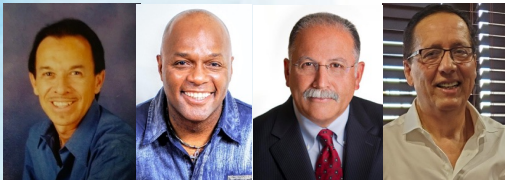
Every year, the Viva Panama Organization hosts a themed annual fundraiser gala in support of cultural arts and education and celebrates its pride in its culture and its people. The event also serves to recognize

Ambassador Awards

Every year, the Viva Panama Organization hosts a themed annual fundraiser gala in support of cultural arts and education and celebrates its pride in its culture and people. The event also serves to recognize high-profile Panamanians for their professional achievements and contributions to the community in Panama, USA, and in the world, by honoring them with the Ambassador Award.

Some honorees include Miss Universe 2002 - **Justine Pasek**; legendary Hall of Fame jockey - **Laffit Pincay Jr.**; Honorable Judge of Sacramento Superior Court - **Raoul Thorbourne**; HIV Preventative Vaccine Researcher - **Dr. Adán Ríos**; inventor of the diabetic band-aid- **Dr. Guillermo Ameer**; psychotherapist and author – **Melissa Shepherd-Williams**; first female Panama Canal Captain - **Vilma Romero**; former President of Newport Beach Police – **Vladimir Anderson**; pediatric urologist - **Dr. Leon Smith**; NASA scientists - **Dr. Erika Podest** and **Dr. Luis Rabelo**; and Assemblymember - **Hon. Jose Medina** among others.

2021



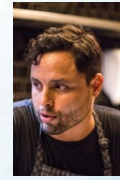
Jairo Laws Willie Panama Hon. Jose Medina. Dr. E. Anguizola†

2022



Alex Vega. Ligia Grenald House of Panama

2023



José Carles

2019



Amy Serrano Lesbia Ross Anselmo Collins Marisol Ramirez Raul Romero

2018



Dr. Adan Rios Marlene Sanchez

2017



Dr. Gmo Ameer Elmis Castillo Julio Hanson Nikki Campbell Horacio Prado

2016



Jorge Ameer Dr. Luis Rabelo Patricia De León Vlad Anderson

2015



Angela Ortiz Erika Podest Melissa Shepherd Ct. Vilma Romero Laffit Pincay

2014



Blain Watson Giselle Samson Siannah Collado Justine Pasek

2013



Maritza Collins Vielka McFarlane Dr. Leon Smith

2012



Anayansi Prado Vicky Greco Omar Alberto Meche Acevedo Demetrio Korsi Raoul Thorbourne

2024 Ambassador Award



Rogelio Squires

Originally from Paraiso and Rio Abajo in Panama. His grandfather, Alfred Barnett, was a Jamaican Chef who worked for the Panama Canal for 30 years and continued cooking in Panama after his retirement.

He is most influenced by the unwritten recipes of his grandfather, Chef Rogelio brings history to life on his plates, fusing Caribbean and Latin tradition with his artistry. Favorite dishes include the Sancocho, Patacón, Yuca Frita, and Jerk Chicken. As an Afro-Latino, he felt the need to share his country's food and culture with the masses.

Chef Rogelio Squires migrated permanently to California at age 11. He began testing foods on friends and family out of fun. People

He began testing foods on friends and family out of fun. People responded so well to his desserts and meals, that he and his wife Mercedes, launched Caribbean Soul Kitchen LA in 2020 intending to provide Californians with both a culinary and cultural experience.



CARIBBEAN SOUL
KITCHEN LA
"COME TASTE
PANAMANIAN FOOD"

**WERE OPEN
PATIO
DINING**

5354 Wilshire Blvd
Take out 323-847-1333

Try our Cauliflower,
Jerk Shrimp & Chicken
Oxtails, Curry &
Fried Fish

**WE
ARE
OPEN**

vivapanama.org.

Youth Recognition



William A. Cerrud-Franceschi

Born in the city of David, Chiriquí, on March 19 (Day of the patron saint, San José). He immigrated with his family to Los Angeles in 2017.

William is a lover of sports, especially basketball. He has competed in Club Basketball with the Nikos Long Beach Team and currently, he is part of the Long Beach Young Elite team. He joined as a freshman his high school basketball team, Woodrow Wilson High School, in Long Beach.

William has been a member of Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama since 2020.



Youth Recognitions.



Diego Alexander Fula-Coba.

Diego Alexander Fula Coba was born on February 13, 2012, in Long Beach, CA.

He belongs to Keller Middle School and has participated in several sports such as flag football, track, soccer, and cross-country sports, but his passion is soccer, he belongs to the Long Beach Sharks.

Diego is a recent member of the Ballet Folklorico Viva Panama, and he is eager to be a part of and represent his roots.



February 25, 2024, was a great date, we covered the finals of **La Liga JR YSL** and the match between LA Galaxy.

Any difference for us?... not even one. We took pictures of the greatest player of all time, **Diego Alexander Fula Coba**.

Any difference? No, because in **#lasportstoday**, our priority is everyone. No one else gives you the greatest coverage in Southern California. Count on us!



Youth Recognitions.



Luis A. Fula-Coba.

Luis Angel Fula-Coba was born on June 3, 2010, in Long Beach, CA.

He belongs to Keller Middle School; he loves to participate in different sports: flag, soccer, basketball, and track, but his passion is basketball, and he is a member of the Young Elite of Long Beach.

She is a member of the Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá, where he has participated in several events.



2024 Ambassador Award



Javier Campines

Javier Campines is a multiple World Champion in Salsa ON1, Salsa ON2, Bachata Classic, and Bachata Cabaret.

His training background includes Jazz, Tango, Salsa, Bachata, Afro-Cuban, and all Latin rhythms. His dance training began in Panama where he competed and participated in many world congresses and learned different styles in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and in New York before settling in Los Angeles.

As a dancer he has performed alongside: Marc Anthony, Tom Cruise, El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Oscar de Leon, Grupo Niche, Sonora Poncena, Rey Ruiz, Grupo Aventura, Andy Montanez, Roberto Roena, Jose Alberto “El Canario”, Jhony Rivera, Pedro Brull, Tito Nieves, Gilberto Santa Rosa and more.

As a choreographer and teacher, he is known for “making champions”. His work and coaching have resulted in many students and professionals achieving championship titles in solo, couples, and team divisions. Currently, he is the co-owner of Elemento Dance Academy located in Culver City, California alongside his wife Kiki D Amanno.



vivapanama.org

Entertainment

Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá.



Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama has been sharing the culture of Panama for the last 33 years in Southern California, in elementary and secondary schools, universities, cultural centers, local and international festivals, and in exhibitions at convention centers.

Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá was created in 1991 and under the general direction of Victor Grimaldo, choreographic coordination of Elsa Seibert, and administrative coordination of Eva Franceschi, this folkloric ballet has performed in more than 95 cities in California; it has been to Las Vegas and Texas. Internationally, it has been to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, China, Monaco, France, and Italy.

Our dance company is made up of talented individuals from diverse professional fields who enjoy sharing their culture through music and dance and preserving the originality and authenticity in the rhythms and movements of traditional dances, bringing forth the true spirit of the Panamanian people.

Dancers: Mabel P. Mosquera, Eva Franceschi, Yhinyer Jackson, Elsa Arenas-Seibert, Víctor Grimaldo, Jairo Laws-Landau, Diego Fula-Coba, Luis Angel Fula-Coba, William Cerrud-Franceschi (as in the picture above); and our new dancers: Ana Blanco-Landau and Carlos Busby-Grajales (not in the picture) .



International Week of Panama

in Los Angeles County



On August 12, 2003, during the Celebration of Panama's Centennial and under the initiative of Viva Panama Organization's President and his collaborators, a motion to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors was placed suggesting the **Proclamation of International Week of Panama in Los Angeles**, which was declared by the Chair of the board, Ms. Yvonne Burke, as a commemoration of Panama's Centennial and the Foundation of the Old Panama City on August 15, 1519.

We had the presence of Ing. Dominador Kaiser Bazan, Vice-President of Panama, Lic. Fernando Daly, Consul of Panama in Los Angeles, Eduardo Pineda, representative of the Board of Supervisors, Justina Pasek, Miss Universe 2002, and Dr. Victor Grimaldo, President of Viva Panama Organization.

Every year in August, VPO hosts two events to celebrate the International Week of Panama in Los Angeles: **Ambassador Awards & Film Festival Opening Night Event** recognizing high-profile Panamanians with the *Ambassador Awards* for their professional achievements and contributions to the community in Panama, USA, and/or worldwide.



vivapanama.org

Panamanian Film Festival

In Los Angeles County

The Panamanian International Film Festival in Los Angeles serves as a platform to promote and expose the harvest of Panamanian & Latin-American was founded and launched as one of VPO's projects.

This festival aimed to serve as a platform to provide exposure to filmmakers, facilitating and promoting the networking between participating countries and the industry in Hollywood. The hope is to stimulate the development of film projects between Panama, Latin America & USA.

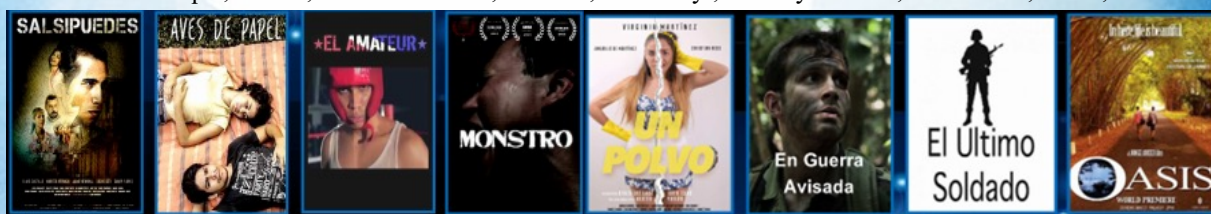
FFPA is held during the celebration of the International Week of Panama in Los Angeles County and its Opening Gala is done in conjunction with VPO's Annual Ambassador Award Gala Night and the actual Film festival at the Egyptian Theater in Hollywood.



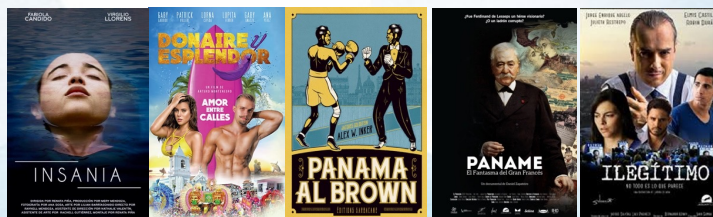
2015: Heroe Transparente, Caja 25, Let Me Finish, Reinas, Chance.



2016: El Cheque, Kenke, A Time to Love, Medusa, Red Vinyl, Melody for Ella, Zachrisson, Padre, Istmo.



2017: Salsipuedes, Aves de Papel, El Amateur, Mostro, El Último Soldado, Un Polvo, En Guerra Avisada, Oasis



2018: Insania, Donaire y Esplendor, Panama Al Brown, Paname, Ilegitimo

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Flights are subject to restrictions, government approvals and changes.
 *Flights starting April 2024.
 **Flights starting June 2024.



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Sumérgete en el interior de las cenotes de aguas refrescantes. Conecta con este paraíso de la Riviera Maya a partir del 26 de junio 2024 en uno de los 4 vuelos semanales a través del Hub de las Américas® en Panamá.

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Florianópolis, Brasil

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Copa Airlines

Silent Auction



Four-piece set of paintings, resembling the flag of Panama.
Starting at \$80.



Three-piece set of purses.
Starting at \$50.



4.7-liter pot.
Starting at \$45.

Silent Auction



#4

Three-piece set of Perfume Jimmy Choo for men.
Starting at \$80.

#6

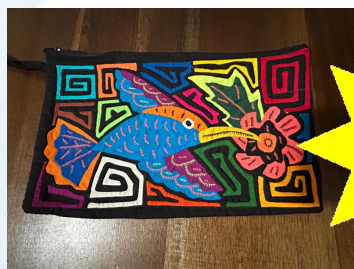


Tea cozy is a cover for teapots to keep the tea warm; handmade in Panama.
Starting at \$20.



#5

Kuna Mola designed a bathing suit – small size.
Starting at \$60.



#7

Kuna Mola designed (a small purse). **Starting at \$25.**



#8

Kuna Mola designed (a small purse). **Starting at \$30.**

Silent Auction



#9

This is called a 2-in-one hot pot grill. It is mainly used by people of Asian descent (mostly Chinese). It's a family-style grill cooking.

Starting at \$60.



#10

This is a sleep mattress queen size bed. Could be used in-door or out-door. It comes with a motor for easy air inflation (pump). Accommodate 2 people comfortably or perhaps 3 small kids.

Starting at \$50.



#11

Two round-trip tickets to/from Panama via COPA.

Starting at \$650.

There are blackout dates.



Viva Panama Organization.

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