



# VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION



**2021 AMBASSADOR AWARDS  
& SRTA. PANAMA CALIFORNIA**



*Pearl Anniversary*  
*30 years*

Sharing the Culture of Panama with the World

**AUGUST 28, 2021  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA.**

SC LAW celebrates Panama's Bicentennial Anniversary  
and congratulates

**VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION**

for its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of sharing the  
Culture of Panama with the world!



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## Let's Celebrate!!



**Viva Panama Organization**  
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vivapanama.org

### **Gala Committee**

Victor Grimaldo  
Marlene Sánchez  
Maritza Collins

Melissa Shepherd-Williams

Vladimir Anderson  
Hal Laws Landau  
Marta Hansen

Maria Ramona Cano  
Mara Montini  
Harmodio Gray

### **Honorary Committee**

Lic. Gilda García  
Consul

### **Ballet Folklórico**

#### **Viva Panama**

Desiree Robinson  
Guillermo Aguirre  
Jairo Laws  
Katia Shelton  
René Meléndez  
Vielsy Rodríguez  
William Cerrud  
Yhinyer Jackson  
Zaided Robinson



Since the establishing of our organization in 1991, thirty years ago, Viva Panama Organization has been engaged in operations of international exhibitions in convention centers in Los Angeles and San Diego, televised events, conferences about cultural diplomacy, academic programs and events in many elementary/high schools, colleges, and universities; and international cultural exchanges of folklore.

Everything started when members of the Grimaldo family united to create the Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama, a gift of culture to help our children feel proud and identified with their roots living abroad. Later, a group of Panamanians in Los Angeles, joined in this great adventure of sharing the culture of Panama with the world; not only locally in California, where we have visited 80 cities in these 30 years, but also Texas, Nevada, and abroad to Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico, and China. Next year, we will visit France, Monaco and Italy! So, I think we can say, literally, that we have shared our culture with the world.

Since then, the Viva Panama Organization has strived to spread the culture of Panama in California and the world at all levels, and with the best possible quality, accomplishing goals such as establishing the International Week of Panama in the Los Angeles County with the support of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Furthermore, we established the Panamanian International Film Festival in Los Angeles for 5 consecutive years and have supported logistically our national bands' participation in the Rose Parade.

My dreams never stop, and many are still in the making, and some day, with the support of people like you, we will be able to see a float at the Rose Parade promoting our culture and our dear country; and have a Panamanian Cultural Center as another way to honor and perpetuate our culture. Today there is more we can do, and the next hill lies before us. I cannot, personally, think of a better organization and mission to lead the way. I look forward to working with you, as we endeavor in this mission of sharing Panama through its culture and its people.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for all the support that you have so generously given to our organization, for believing in us, which has enabled us to come this far. Remember that all your contributions are tax-deductible. Thanks to The Church of Scientology of the Valley, all our partners, sponsors, emcees, artists, Consulate of Panama, all our Board members and volunteers for your support, kindness and generosity that made this afternoon a beautiful reality. I hope you will continue to grant us your support and guidance hereafter. ¡Qué Viva Panamá!

Dr. Victor Grimaldo  
Founder and CEO.

## Consulate of Panama



CONSULADO GENERAL DE PANAMA  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

28 de Agosto de 2021

El Consulado de Panamá en Los Ángeles de California y con Jurisdicción en la Costa Oeste de Estados Unidos tiene el agrado de felicitar a la **Organización de Viva Panamá** por sus grandes esfuerzos y logros al compartir la rica herencia cultural de Panamá en California y en el mundo entero.



GILDA GARCIA  
Cónsul General



## Mistress of Ceremony



### *Blanca Araceli*

Is an accomplished actress, choreographer, director, producer, and dancer. She lent her voice and character EMCEE, to the 2018 Oscar-winning film Disney/Pixar's "COCO". Her versatility as an artist has allowed her to pursue multiple projects, including significant roles in "ABC The Conners", NBC "Mr. Mayor", "TNT-Animal Kingdom", CBS - S.W.A.T, FX's, "Station 19th", "Cherish the Day, FOX "Party of Five", ABC "Station 19th", "The Bridge, "VEEP", "For the People", "AHS", "Shameless," "Young and Hungry," "East Lost High," "I'm Sorry" and "Southland." Blanca Araceli has also appeared in several films, including HBO "UNIMUNDO 45", "They Call Us Sediciosos", "Cristina," "Feeding Mr. Baldwin," "Road to Juarez," and "East Side Story ", to mention some.

For the past 30 years, she also has worked in more than 80 plays in USA, Mexico & Brazil. Since 1996, Ms. Araceli has been the director and choreographer of Tierra Blanca Dance Company in Los Angeles, California. Her passion for children led her to establish the Tierra Blanca Arts Center in 2002, and she has created several programs to help local talent to promote their culture, folk and tradition by bringing quality theatrical performances, including Semblanza, Antorcha Cultural, Cultural Summer Camp, Foro de Arte y Cultura and Danza Escénica. Her motto remains: "Cultural awareness brings better communities."

## Entertainment



### *Elmis Castillo* as **Ermisendo**.

Born in David, Chiriquí, he is actor, comedian, dancer, singer, director, producer, writer and entrepreneur. As an actor, his repertoire is compounded by 11 films, national and international series. Winner of Premio Excelencia from National University of Panama; he wrote and produced of films, "Frozen in Russia" and "Locos al Poder" the country's most-seen among Panamanian films.

Mr. Castillo was nominated among the 20 best actors of 2016 Iberoamerica's Platinum Awards for the film "Salsipuedes" and distinguished by the Viva Panama Organization, as an international actor in Los Angeles, California. This recognition was due to his characters on "Quien TV". He is currently working on his new film production "Sancocho Presidencial" where he is the lead actor, producer, creator and co-writer. This piece displays different happenings during the pandemic, with a sense of humor.

He created the character "Ermisendo", whom he describes as his alter ego to portray the Panamanian countryside man, simple, loquacious, naïve, critical and charismatic. They both have big dreams, but they never forget where they came from and they share a common eagerness to live and desire to work, smile and succeed.

## Bicentennial

# *Panama, 200 years as a Nation*

Panama's history has been shaped by its strategic location between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean. The native Cuevas and Coclé tribes quickly disappeared after the Spanish arrived with their weapons and diseases in the early 16th century. Panama City, on the Pacific coast, thrived as Spain conquered and plundered Peru. Caravans loaded with gold traveled overland across the narrow isthmus of Panama to be loaded on galleons bound for Spain. This wealth attracted pirates; Panama's Caribbean shore was dotted with so many pirate strongholds that shippers chose to sail around Cape Horn.

On August 15, 1519, by **Pedro Arias de Ávila (Pedrarias)**, commissioned by the Spanish Crown to establish a city that was the starting point for the conquest of North and South America, abandoned City of **Santa María la Antigua del Darién**, and moved the capital of Castilla del Oro with all its organizational institutions to the Pacific Ocean's coast and founded **Nuestra Señora de la Asunción de Panamá** (Old Panama City), the first Spanish settlement on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Pedrarias was the first governor of the city and on September 15, 1521, Panama received by royal decree the title of City and Coat of Arms granted by Charles I of Spain.

The city was sacked in 1671 by English pirates, led by **Henry Morgan**, the most famous buccaneer of his time. Two years later (1673), the city was moved a few miles further west, and it is what we know today as "**Casco Antiguo de la Ciudad de Panamá**" (Panama Old Town).



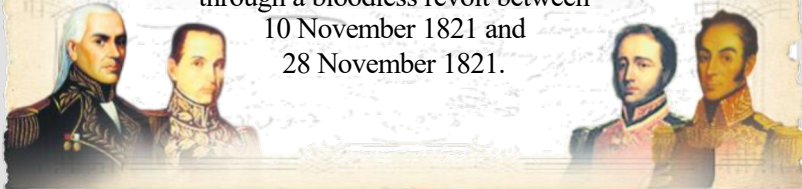
## Bicentennial

### *Bicentennial of Panama's Independence from Spain*



The Isthmus of Panama got transformed from a Spanish colony into a Republican state.

Independence of Panama from Spain was accomplished through a bloodless revolt between 10 November 1821 and 28 November 1821.



Initial attempts to free Panama from Spain came from South American liberators, not Panamanians, who saw Panama as a strategic link, both politically and militarily between South America and the Central American states. As early as 1787, Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda attempted to interest the British in a canal project in Panama to increase trade for Britain, in exchange for military support to bolster South American independence hopes. The attack by Napoleon, who deposed the Spanish monarch in 1807, led to the push for independence throughout South America by Simón Bolívar. Though Bolívar did not set foot in Panama, he advocated for independence, declaring in his 1815 "Letter from Jamaica" that the independence of Panama would lead to commerce opportunities. In 1819 the Scotsman Gregor MacGregor led a failed attempt to free Panama.

When the Spanish governor left Panama to march on rebellious Ecuadorians, José de Fábrega led a push for independence and rebels in the small town of Villa de Los Santos made the first declaration for independence and the movement quickly spread to the capital. Fearing that Spain would retake the country, the rebels quickly joined the Republic of Gran Colombia. On 10 November 1821, the first call for independence was made in the small provincial town of Villa de los Santos. Called the "Primer Grito de Independencia de la Villa de Los Santos" (Shout for Independence), it ignited rebels throughout the Panamanian countryside. Using bribes to quell resistance from the Spanish troops and garner their desertion, the rebels gained control of Panama City without bloodshed. On November 20, 1821, Fábrega proclaimed Panamanian independence in Panama City. An open meeting was held with merchants, landowners, and elites, who fearing retaliation from Spain and interruption of trade decided to join the Republic of Gran Colombia and drafted the Independence Act of Panama.

## International Week of Panama

# Proclamation of Panama International Week



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.

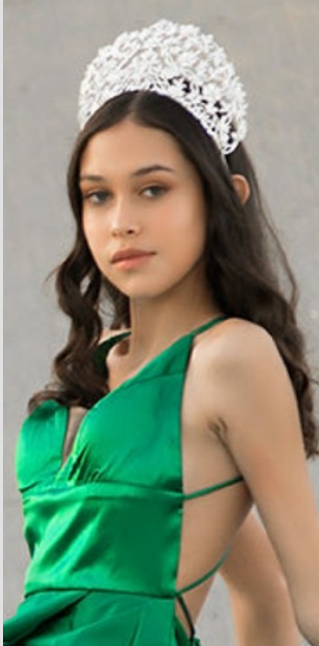
We had the presence of Ing. Dominador Kaiser Bazan, Vice-President of Panama, Lic. Fernando Daly, Consul of Panama in Los Angeles, Eduardo Pineda, representative of Board of Supervisors, Justina Pasek, Miss Universe 2002, and Dr. Victor Grimaldo, President of Viva Panama Organization.

Every year in August, VPO hosts two events to celebrates 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.





## Sta. Panama California



### *Andrea Ayala*

**Srta. Panama California 2021**

Ms. Ayala attends Santa Monica Catholic High School and, in addition to fluency in English and Spanish, she is learning Japanese. Her hobbies are playing volleyball, writing, reading poetry, dancing, exercising, and she considers herself an amateur cook. She aims to become a psychologist, master Japanese and travel to Japan. Some of her talents are acting, modeling, and public speaking. Ms. Ayala is also involved in Church and committed to community service.

Among her interests is also traveling, which has allowed her to visit Mexico and Panama, at least once a year. This has contributed to an upbringing that helped her learn about Panamanian culture and grow to love and appreciate it. She has been awed by the beauty of the country and the happiness of its people yet witnessed firsthand the need of some of the children. As Srta. Panama California 2021, Ms. Ayala plan to save enough money to travel in December 2022 and take gifts to the less fortunate children. This speaks highly of her ongoing engagement in community service.

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# 30 years of



**1991** – Establishment of Ballet Folklórico Viva Panamá



**1992** – UCLA's Music & Dance on the Grass



**1993** – International Festival of Masks



**1994** – Juguemos en Familia (LA Times)



**1999** – Museum of Cultural Diversity



**2000** – Puerto Rico International Fest



**2001** – Raleigh Studios Movie Promo



**2002** – Nations of San Diego International Fest



**2007** – Semblanza Latinoamericana



**2008** – Desfile de la Hispanidad LA



**2009** – Nova Scotia Canada International Festival



**2010** – Las Vegas Annual World Folk Festival.



**2015** – First Panamanian International Film Festival



**2016** – Silver Anniversary



**2017** – Calle Arriba Las Tablas in Los Angeles



**2018** – China International Folk Dance Festival

# *serving the world!*



**1995** – Celebration USA, Rose Bowl, Pasadena



**1996** – Killen, TX.



**1997** – United Nation's Anniversary Hollywood



**1998** - Fiesta Broadway



**2003** – Panama International Week



**2004** - Central American Independence Parade



**2005** – LA County Supervisors Recognition



**2006** – Rosarito, Mex. International Festival



**2011** – 20<sup>th</sup> VPO Anniversary



**2012** – Hollywood Celebrity International



**2013** – USC Cultural Diplomacy Conference



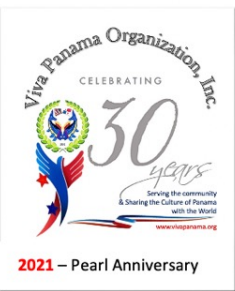
**2014** – Panama at the Rose Parade



**2019** – Hollywood Christmas Parade



**2020** – Afro-Panama Heritage



**2021** – Pearl Anniversary



## 2021 Honoree



### *Hal "Jarito" Laws Landau*

#### **2021 Ambassador Award Recipient – Entertainer/dancer**

Mr. Laws was born and raised in Boquete, Chiriquí, Panama. His parents, Jaro and Lilia were both very avid dancers and instilled in their three children the love of dance, which set the tone for being enrolled into the Ballet Folklórico in Bajo Boquete Elementary school at age of 10 years old.

The family immigrated to the United States and settled in La Crescenta, California, and Jarito, as he's called, attended Crescenta Valley High School and Glendale College earning an AA Degree from Glendale College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from The California State University, Los Angeles.

He participated singing in musical groups such as The A Cappella Choir and Charismatics - the Elite Singers of the Choir; The Glendale College Choir and The Chamber Chorale. He sang in His Holy Redeemer Parish Choir participating in The Papal Choir when the Pope came to LA in 1987. While at Glendale College he was involved in four Glendale Civic Light Opera Productions of "The Music Man", "Hello Dolly", "Fiddler on The Roof"; and "Babes in Toyland". Jarito was trained in singing, dancing, as well as acting in these four productions.

In 1976 Jarito became a dancer in Dick Clark's American Bandstand and ended his dancing career in 1986. However, he continued being in the Annual New Year's Rocking Eve Program until 2009. In addition to dancing on "The New Love Boat"; and "Ally McBeal", he modeled, worked as a Bilingual Tour Guide in Spanish at Universal Studios. In the last 40 years, he has worked at the prestigious Law Firm of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher in Downtown LA.

In 1993 he joined the Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama as a dancer and has been a faithful member for 28 continuous years. He also serves as the Public Relations Officer and official photographer of The Viva Panama Organization.

## 2021 Honoree



### *Chef Jovana Urriola*

#### **2021 Ambassador Award Recipient – International Culinary Field**

Chef Urriola was born and raised in La Chorrera. Before being known as “Jovachef”, she had decided to become an air hostess, a profession she liked very much, in order to invest in her education and thus become a Chef.

The Panama International Hotel School was the springboard for Jovana to work at the Holiday Hotel and later become Chef Argimiro Argüelles’ sous-chef. At her young age, she has excelled in the preparation of typical cuisine dishes, participating at the Nation TV show in Panama “Top Chef” in 2017 and ending as one of the finalists.

Her talent as Chef captivated Hollywood actor Owen Wilson, whom she met during his visit to Panama in 2019, and was hired as his private chef, then moving later to Hollywood. This was not only an opportunity to grow in her career, but also to highlight Panamanian gastronomy internationally, as she reached other celebrities such as Woody Harrelson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Katy Perry, and other stars.

Chef Jovana became interested in preparing traditional Panamanian dishes because she grew up in a family that liked to share in the kitchen and enjoy Creole food. Her specialties are smoked tasajo style, sancocho risotto, dumplings of chorizo tableño topped with pickled saus.

She believes that her career is in a process of evolution where women become stronger, and their numbers are increasing in this field traditionally dominated by males. Chef Jovana believes that in Panama you can make a living in the cuisine field, and hopes that Panama will be placed as one of the Latin American cradles of gastronomy worldwide, but everyone must work to achieve it.

She considers herself an artist that creates based on her intuition, she does not follow the established rules, but she is faithful to the Panamanian products.

She serves as an advisory chef at the Hotel Cubitá (Herrera); and owns the SOO Artisan Kitchen Restaurant. Chef Jovana Urriola wants our gastronomy to be known internationally and is preparing a book where she will talk about food and the people who have contributed to her professional growth.

## 2021 Honoree



*Dr. Eduardo Anguizola* ✝

### **2021 Ambassador Award Recipient – Medicine Field**

Dr. Eduardo Ernesto Anguizola grew up in St. Tomas, province of Chiriquí. His father and uncle were farmers for generations harvesting rice. However, life on the farm was not his as he would come to plant another type of seed wherever he went. Dr. Anguizola decided to be a doctor in 2nd grade and at age 15 joined adult basketball leagues in the nearby city of David. Eventually he went on to play in national teams. During his academic experience in the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, where he received his medical degree, he also joined the basketball team. His love of this sport and medicine would prove to manifest for the rest of his life.

He met his first wife in Mexico and moved to United States to continue his career. He completed his anesthesiology residency at the University of Miami and continued there as a board-certified anesthesiologist. He practiced general anesthesia for nearly two decades and then realized his goal of establishing a pain management practice. After moving extensively with his wife and two children, settled in Southern California. This led to more transitions, as he later met his second wife and fathered two more children, living in Orange County for the past 35 years. These years included a to helping people locally and abroad through medicine and basketball.

Dr Anguizola was a pioneer in the field of Pain Management and a Fellow of the World Institute of Pain and part of an international campaign to make chronic pain relief a human right under international law. During his 45 years practicing, he worked in hospitals in St Louis, Miami, Phoenix, Southern California, and Panama; he saw hundreds of thousands of patients and performed an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 specialized pain procedures, niche procedures, many of which can only be performed by a select number of specialists around the world.

He established the “Instituto Panameño del dolor” and surgery centers in Los Angeles and Orange County. He used basketball and Medicine to help people and represent Panama around the world, helping members of Panamanian teams with no resources to make the trips: If the team needed that person to win, Dr. Anguizola would foot the bill”. He did this for dozens of players for over a decade, who paid back participating in basketball clinics for children living in impoverished rural areas in the provinces around the country and in some of the rougher neighborhoods in Panama City and Colon.

Dr. Anguizola worked until his last day – he always gave to others. He helped Santo Tomas Hospital when it was wrecked by COVID and flooding. Eduardo Anguizola is an exemplary Panamanian, physician, father, and friend, all who knew him were blessed with his giving spirit and contagious smile.

## 2021 Honoree



### *William L. Duguid "Willie Panama"*

#### **2021 Ambassador Award Recipient – International Entertainment Field**

Born and raised in Calidonia, Panama, he studied his elementary at Escuela Don Bosco, middle school at Instituto Don Bosco and his high school at Colegio de Artes y Oficios Melchor Lasso de la Vega with a specialization in graphic arts. William L. Duguid, better known in the music industry as “Willie Panama”; he is an internationally renowned artist, singer, songwriter, musician, & film actor.

Willie Panama, also called “The King of Salsa Rap” or “Sonero Raperero of la Salsa”, combines salsa with Jamaican Rap and the Soneo from the Salsa, giving an original and different touch in the genre of Salsa!

Willie has participated as guest of the best performers in the salsa genre, and the list is endless. He has recorded in 19 musical productions and in more than 10 commercial videos. He has performed in 4 continents and representing la Panamanian culture. Willie has participated from 2003 to 2020, in hundreds of festivals, concerts, interviews, and educational music workshops.

To mention a few festivals, he’s participated in the International Film Festival in Cannes, France; the Salsa Festival at Madison Square Garden in New York, at Lincoln Center in New York; the Centennial of the Republic of Panama --in Holland; in Florida singing the National Anthem of Panama for boxing mogul promoter Don King, as a Maestro at the Jazz Festival in Panama; and for Emilio Estefan at the Miami Performance Series in Miami, Florida.

As a film actor, he has participated in five films: two in Hollywood “Malcolm X” and “Any Given Sunday”) and in three independent ones “Chat”, “Engaging”; and “Celibacy”). He has worked with Oscar-winning actors such as Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Angela Bassett, Ernest Lee Thomas, Bill Bellamy and Jamie Foxx.

Willie has been recognized by the United States Congress, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Mayor of Miami Florida, the Governor of the State of Florida and by the Senator of the State of Florida, on behalf of the Republic of Panama for Ambassadors, Consuls, Mayor and Governor of Panama City and with the highest distinctions by the Canadian Government.

He was grand Marshall of the Hispanic Parade in New York, Grand Marshall of the Ecuadorian Parade in New Jersey and Grand Marshall of Panama in Brooklyn New York parade.

## 2021 Honoree



### *Assemblymember Jose Medina*

#### **2021 Ambassador Award Recipient – Political/Public Service Field**

Assemblymember Jose Medina was elected in November 2012 to represent California's 61st Assembly District (Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris, and Mead Valley). He currently serves as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education. A former educator, he cares deeply about education and works to champion policies that improve the lives of students across the state.

Mr. Medina's eagerness to assist students beyond the classroom motivated him to pursue public office and has served as a school board member on the Jurupa Unified School District Board of Education and completed three successful terms on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees.

During his first term in the Assembly, Mr. Medina led the effort to ensure the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine received \$15 million in ongoing funds through the state budget, to train students for crucial jobs in the healthcare industry. In 2018, Mr. Medina also secured \$9.7 million to support the development of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, and Industry of the Riverside Art Museum, which will reside in the city of Riverside and be a permanent home for Cheech Marin's collection of Chicano Art.

During his Legislature time, he has recognized the unique and beneficial relationship between the United States and Panama. In 2014, he introduced House Resolution 44, where the California State Assembly, celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Panama Canal and the 495<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Panama City. Furthermore, he has been part of the delegations of Members of the California State Legislature to Panama at the invitation of former Panama City Mayor, Jose Blandon for the opening of the expansion of the Panama Canal.

Assemblymember Medina is the proud son of Panamanian immigrants and a graduate of Cristobal High School in the Panama Canal Zone. He is a UC Riverside alumnus, with a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies, and a Master's degree in History. He has two adult children and two grandchildren. He currently resides in Riverside with his wife, Linda.



## Entertainment



*Willie Panama  
and Orchestra*

“The King of Salsa Rap”  
“Sonero Raperero of la Salsa”



*Ballet Folklorico Viva Panamá*

“Ballet Folklorico Viva Panamá” was created in 1991 under the direction of Victor Grimaldo, and it has toured extensively over the 30 years of life. Travel domestically includes 80 cities and, internationally, to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, China and getting ready for Monaco, France and Italy, next year.



*Grupo Alma Panameña*

Folkloric dance expresses the life and spirit of a people through its movement and music. This type of dance reflects the traditions, cultures and beliefs of people in a particular region.

Alma Panameña embodies all of this. They are a group of proud professional Panamanian women with the desire to cultivate their countries traditions and culture, expressing this through their dances from different regions.



*American Bandstand Alumni Dancers*

Mark Starr, Margarita Reyna, Karin Santiago and Hal Laws Landau performed at the nation TV show “Dick Clark’s American Bandstand” in the 70’s and 80’s!! They keep their Disco dancing throughout their 40-year friendship, performing at many clubs for the past 18 Years.

Tonight, they will perform a showcase of dances that impacted the world between 1975 and 1979.

International Week of Panama

*Ambassador Award*

Every year, Viva Panama Organization hosts a themed annual fundraiser gala in support of cultural arts and education and celebrates its pride for 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 Jovana Urriola Willie Panama Hon. Jose Medina. Dr. E. Anguizola†

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 DeLeón Vlad Anderson

2015



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

2014



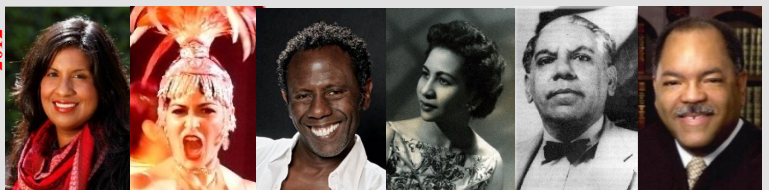
Blain Watson Giselle Samson Siannah Collado Justine Pasek

2013



Maritza Collins Vielka McFarlane Dr. Leon Smith

2012



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

## International Week of Panama

# Panamanian Film Festival in Los Angeles

Films from Panama & the Americas Festival (FFPAF) formerly known as 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's aim was to serve as a platform to provide exposure to filmmakers, facilitating 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.



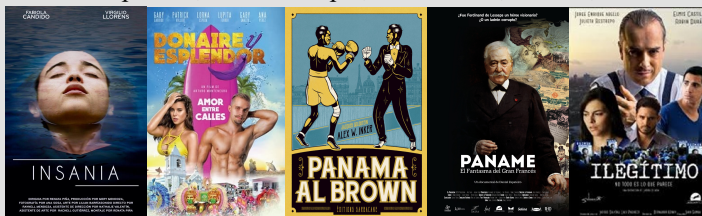
**2015:** Heroe Transparente, Caja 25, Let Me Finish, Reinas, Chance.



**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

*Congratulations*

VIVA PANAMA ORGANIZATION INC.



CELEBRATING

*30 Years*

PEARL ANNIVERSARY

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



ASSEMBLY MEMBER

**Jose Medina**

DISTRICT 61