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Victor Grimaldo,

FOUNDER PRESIDENT & CEO.

I want to take this opportunity thanking all of you who have been involved with Viva Panama Organization for the last 23 years, and encouraging those who haven't, to help us enhancing the Image of Panama in California and USA, by collaborating in the different projects that we have during the year, contributing with the maintenance and the management of Viva Panama Organization, by becoming members, making a donation and referring us with potential sponsors, remembering that your contribution is tax deductible.

Now that we commemorate the Centennial of the Panama Canal, we need your help establishing the Panamanian Cultural Center and with your support, I am sure we can make it together. We invite you to be part of this project of Pride and Love for our Culture.

Let's give Panama a place to be seen, admired and visited at our Panamanian American Cultural Arts Center. Let's give the chance to students from schools from Southern California and the community at large enjoy the beauty, the grace and the history of Panama through our future exhibits.

VPO will have an Exhibit on the History of the Panama Canal Construction in the month of August, 2014, as a commemoration and celebration of the Opening of the Panama that took place on August 15, 1914.

We want to thank all of you from the bottom of our heart in advance for your future involvement with our future Cultural Center. Please continue supporting our future Cultural Center by making your tax deductible donation.



Javiritzel Courtney Garces

SRTA. PANAMA CALIFORNIA 2013 - 2014.

Winning the title of Srta. Panama California is a dream come true. As the daughter of Panamanian parents and born here in the USA, I have always been proud of my Panamanian heritage. I love to spend all of my free time in Panama with friends and family, so much so, that not long ago I obtained dual citizenship. I currently live in the USA with my mother and brother but my heart belongs to my beloved Panama.

My personal qualities, my knowledge about Panama and its culture, my Spanish skills and more important, the pride that I feel for being Panamanian, were the qualities that allowed me to proudly represent Panama in the Srta. Panama California Pageant.

Thank you for your Support!

To Our Partners:

Studio Blush Makeup Crew:

Amira Aranda Owner/Trainer Master Artist.

Oksana Voiko Master Artist.

Nancy Reyes Master Artist.

Shaterry Kelly Artist.

Ivan Sharudo Photographer.

Malibu Design Group: Carlos Cortes.

Jack Rabbit Photo: Mark Chaudhary.

Effectto Art Academy: Jerry Palacios.

Rubio's Studio: Armando Rubio.

La Prensa de Los Angeles:

Gloriana Guillen & Mario Oporto.

Costume Designer: Horacio Prado.

To Our Guest Artist: Julio Hansen

To Our Sponsors:

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Nicole's Family & friends.

Ora's Kitchen.

Viannette Serrano/Century 21 Allstars

To Our Masters of Ceremony:

Carlos Carrasco & Priscilla Walker.

To Our DJ: Jacinto French

To Our VPO & Ballet Folk Members:

Alvaro Gomez.

Aurora Garces.

Ben Hernandez.

Dennis Lara.

Geovana Ayala.

Jaime Torres.

Jairo Laws-Landau.

Jhamil & Patty French.

Liuska Rincon.

Loira Ramos.

Mario Melendez.

Maritza Y. Collins.

Marlene Sanchez.

Marta Hansen.

Nereida Johnson.

Rene Melendez.

Viannette Serrano.

Victor Grimaldo.

Yhinyer Jackson.



Panamanian Cultural Arts Center

Our original Panamanian Cultural Arts Center (PACAC) was created in 1999 started as traveling Exhibits to diverse cultural centers, museums, universities and convention centers, as a response to the need of a more exposure of the Panamanian cultural for the Southern California community and consolidate it with a more comprehensive and high quality expression.

In the past, the center displayed many exhibits but stopped in 2004, now with the exhibit at a local venue from Aug. 15 – Sept 15, 2014, VPO and our community have the need for our own center but to make this dream come true we need the help and contribution of our community.



Now in 2014, when PACAC returns hosting dynamic exhibitions, it will be also programming outreach activities in the community connecting with the culture of Long Beach, Los Angeles and other artistic innovations from the southern California Area.

Exhibitions will feature the work of regional and Panamanian artists and explore the relationship of arts between both countries. Performances of dance, music, spoken word, and poetry will give voice to topics explored in PACAC exhibitions and will take place in a small and intimate setting that will enhance the relationship between audience and performers. Lectures and demonstrations will uncover the creative process and the ways in which the arts connect to the daily lives in both countries.

The PACAC will collaborate with other community organizations in the area to ensure that programs resonate to an ever-expanding audience. As a gathering place for educational, aesthetic, and intellectual experiences, PACAC's facilities will be designed to be flexible to accommodate changing needs, and to reflect the latest in technology. It will be an appealing venue for civic, business, and social events. Los Angeles/Long Beach residents, those who commute to the city for work, educators, school districts, families, seniors, and other areas residents will enjoy the PACAC's various activities and will consider the Cultural Center as a vital forum and resource for experiencing the visual and performing arts.

PACAC will be under the umbrella of VPO which established in 1991, incorporated in Aug. 3, 2012, and approved as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization on Nov. 13, 2013. VPO's and PACAC's missions are to present, preserve and promote the many expressions of Panama's culture, such as the music, dance, tradition, literature, painting, arts & crafts, cuisine, and of course, its people. As a non-profit organization, we rely on donations and membership dues to fulfill our mission. Join VPO today and start experiencing the joy of sharing our Culture with the multicultural population of Southern California. Join our membership, newsletter, invitation to members-only events and discounts on advance tickets to public events, airfares, accommodations, tours, all tax deductibles.

For more information visit: www.vivapanama.org/Membership.html



Blain Watson

EDUCATION FIELD HONOREE

Blain Watson was the first in his family to be born in the U.S.; his family immigrated to the U.S. from La Habana, Cuba and Colon, Panama. Blain was raised in San Diego and Los Angeles and attended public schools. He earned a Bachelor degree in Communication Studies and another in Spanish Language & Literature, at the University of San Diego. He earned his Masters of Arts degree in Educational Administration & Policy Studies from CSU Northridge.

Blain began his career in education as a high school English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and community advocate in San Juan, Puerto Rico with Ministry of Education. He returned to California to work for Green Dot Public Schools at Animo Inglewood Charter High School, and served for several years as a Spanish teacher, varsity baseball and football coach, and he advised several student-led clubs. He also served as vice president of Asociacion de Maestros

Unidos, a teacher's union for Green Dot teachers. Later, Blain moved to Quito, Ecuador to teach English at La Escuela Politecnica Nacional, where he also dedicated many hours volunteering at La Fundacion de Desarrollo Social y Cultural Afroecuatoriana, AZUCAR (non-profit organization devoted to promoting Afro-Ecuadorian culture through the empowerment and education of marginalized Black and Indigenous groups in Ecuador and Colombia).

Blain returned to Los Angeles to work at West Adams Prep High School, in South LA, as a school administrator. Shortly after, Blain was recruited by Green Dot Public Schools to join the Principals in Residence program. Eventually he was placed at Locke High School in Watts as principal for 4 years. Currently, he continues to serve students and families in his role as House Principal at Santa Monica High School.

Blain is passionate and advocates for international & urban education, parent empowerment and student leadership in schools. Blain's top priority is inspiring greatness in kids and fostering their awareness of the challenges they will face in school and in life after school. He has been blessed with many gifts in his life, but most importantly, with a beautiful young son and a loving and supportive partner. He believes that the problem with life is not that it's too short, but that we wait way too long to begin it.



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Siannah Collado Boutté

LAW FIELD HONOREE

From Coclé parents, Siannah Collado Boutté was born in San Pedro, California, where she also attended elementary school. At age 12, Siannah then moved to Panama with her mother and finished her high school education at St. Mary's School in Balboa. There she participated in the band, folkloric dance group, and student government. She graduated from St. Mary's as the class Valedictorian in 1998, and then moved back to California to pursue her undergraduate education. Siannah graduated with honors from El Camino College and transferred to her dream school, USC.

At USC, Siannah was the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs for Student Senate and the founding member of the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund and Latino Pre-Law Society. Siannah graduated USC with honors in 2003, obtaining her B.A. in International Relations. She was honored in the University and National Dean's List; National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She obtained her Juris Doctor from Southwestern Law

School and passed California State Bar in 2007. In May 2008, Siannah was hired by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office where she prosecutes a variety of cases, including both misdemeanors and felonies. She was previously assigned to the V.I.P. unit which focuses primarily on crimes involving family violence, murders and sex crimes. During her six years with the office, she has consistently participated in Project LEAD, which is a program designed to teach 5th grade students from inner city schools about the criminal justice system.

Siannah got married to Michael Boutté in Panama and they have plans to soon build their retirement home in Penonomé. She enjoys mentoring, travelling, hosting dinner parties, and going on hikes with their pups Blaze and Lexie.



Giselle Samson

ENTERTAINMENT FIELD HONOREE

She is a proud Panamanian, fashion designer and founder of Kiss the Planet brand, and original cast member of hit TV show "America's Top Model". She has team up with Viva Panama to support the awareness of the Panamanian culture.

Exotic, breath taking, compassionate, talented, indispensable, and surreal are a few of the words that have been used to describe Giselle Samson, by some of the industry's biggest and best icons such as Kimora Lee Simmons, "You were one of my favorites on America's Next Top Model," and the late great Michael Jackson (who went as far as to personally contact her, after seeing her in Stuff Magazine, to be his love interest in one of his upcoming music videos) have expressed their love for this rising star.

At the tender age of three, Giselle was propelled into the wonderful world of the performing arts. She quickly fell in love and began to excel in

numerous areas; dance (emphasis in ballet and jazz), modeling, and acting to name a few. Her strong dedication and diligence has led her to work with Disney, The Tyra Banks Show, Deal or No Deal, America's Next Top Model, Fox Sports Net, The Soul Train Music Awards, and numerous other live and televised events.

When she is not perusing or strengthening her craft, Giselle spends her time working on her clothing line brand "Kiss the Planet," a fun and fresh brand that gives back on a global scale. She has also volunteered for such organizations as Locks of Love and New York Cares. She has donated her time to local churches, non-profit organizations and studios in and around the Los Angeles area, coaching and helping kids pursue their dreams within the arts.



Justine Pasek

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Ukrainian-born Panamanian, daughter of Elizabeth Patiño from Chiriquí, Panama, and Polish Stanislaw Pasek. In 1980, Justine and her mother visited Panama in a very long trip: Poland-Ukraine-Moscow-Canada-Panama to celebrate her first birthday at her maternal grandmother's in Panama Viejo, and later went back to Poland where she was raised until her mother completed her studies in Chemistry and finally the family moved to Panama in 1982. Her grandfather was a marine in World War II and a pilot for the Panama Canal Commission.

Justine is the big sister to Ted and Alvaro, who studied in New Zealand where she also planned to complete her degree in environmental engineering and work for the Smithsonian Research Center. She competed in swimming, basketball and volleyball; she also enjoyed drawing, ballet, tap, salsa and gourmet cooking lessons.

Justine started her modeling career in "La Chica Modelo" contest where she got the title "Best Photography". After graduated from High School, she toured modeling in Los Angeles, Miami, Milan and Asia. She also worked as a model in TV productions, charity events, theater

musicals and fashion shows. After winning Señorita Panama, she worked with Casa Esperanza (organization that helps street kids get off the street and into schools), she has also set up fashion shows for charitable organizations such as the Red Cross, FANLIC (Fundación Amigos de los Niños con Leucemia y Cáncer) & Fundación San Felipe, among others.

At the Miss Universe 2002 in Puerto Rico, she became first-runner up. She was invited to Los Angeles as Grand Marshall of the Central American Independence Parade on Sep. 15, 2002, organized by COFECA (Committee of Central American Festivities). During these festivities, Victor Grimaldo with proud and prophetic words introduced her as our First Central American Miss Universe, and on Sep. 23, 2002, she is crowned by Donald Trump in New York as Miss Universe 2002, when the MU Organization revoked the crown from the reigning titleholder for not fulfilling the duties stipulated in her contract, becoming the first Panamanian Miss Universe.

Described as a woman with "supermodel looks and humble personality who is indicative of the beauty of the new millennium". She championed the cause of HIV/AIDS and established the first HIV/AIDS prevention center in Panama, working with the Global Health Council, the Harvard AIDS Institute, AmFAR, and the Centers for Disease Control's "Act Now" campaign. As a celebrity spokesperson, she worked with the international media to generate a better understanding and acceptance of AIDS/HIV and its prevention, while helping increase awareness, funding and resources for these key organizations. She was appointed FAO Goodwill Ambassador, Ambassador for the promotion of culture and tourism by the Government of Panamá and the Osteoporosis and Metabolic Diseases Foundation in Panamá, promoting the health benefits of proper nutrition.

Many businesses wanted her representation in commercials and her beauty and talent made possible for her to travel extensively through America, Europe and Asia as model for famous photographers in the world. She signed an exclusive contract with Warning Models Management of Beverly Hills, and marketed for Victoria's Secret, Christian Dior, Estee Lauder, L'Oreal, Revlon, Chanel, Neiman Marcus, Valentino, McDonald's, Café Duran and Visa. She was the Ambassador for Christian Dior in Latin American in 2004 and has hosted specials for E! Entertainment Television Latin America and Fashion TV. Misaki, leader among the jewelry companies in Japanese pearls with European designs, appointed as its Ambassador for Latin America. She has being the front page for Vanidades, Ocean Drive, Cosmopolitan, Mujer, and Agenda, among others.

Justine relinquished her crown to Dominican Republic's Amelia Vega in the 2003 in Panama. Justine works as an independent Fund-Raising Professional in the Greater Los Angeles Area, nation and worldwide. She got married in the summer of 2009 and currently resides in the United States with her husband and her 2 year old daughter. To this day, she is highly regarded by the Miss Universe Organization as one of the best titleholders in recent years and continues collaborating with different foundations such as Orphaned Starfish and the Caribbean Child Foundation.

Julio Hanson - Jahchild

GUEST ARTIST



A rare creative force that all artists aspire to be, Jahchild is truly and undeniably a talented singer, songwriter, actor and dancer. Early on in his music career, Jahchild recognized that his ability to create could only come from above. Jahchild began singing in church where his classically-trained father played piano and organ, and his mother, an operatic coloratura, sang. Jahchild traveled to Israel to sing with the International Children's Choir, and later toured with major recording artists such as Toni Braxton, Keith Washington, Mint Condition, Chante Moore, Shanice Wilson, Howard Hewett, Yolanda Adams, Edwin Hawkins, Dottie Peoples, and others. He also recorded for the popular Grammy-awarded Chilean band, La Ley, Grammy-nominated American Singer/Songwriter Kelis, and Latvian recording artist, Little Gunnar.

Focusing on his own life experiences, his Latin & African American cultures, his experience with many languages, Jahchild offers the listener a freshly infused vocal interpretation of love, heartache, and sex appeal.

Jahchild believes that a true artist is well-rounded in many creative genres. Jahchild has appeared in the feature film, "American Carol", directed by David Zucker (Naked Gun, Airplane) and landed a principal role as a Portuguese speaking reporter in "Angels and Demons" (the Prequel to the DaVinci Code) under the direction of Ron Howard, produced by Brian Grazer. He is also proud to have been nominated for Best Musical Director at the NAACP awards for the acclaimed play, "Hattie McDaniels", at the Long Beach Playhouse in California.

Jahchild performed for the release of Nelson Mandela and the reception of Bishop Desmond Tutu and currently joins efforts with Habitat for Humanity-Global Village Ethiopia and the Black-Aids Institute.

Horacio Prado

FANTASY COSTUME DESIGNER

Horacio Prado is well known by his fantasy designs for Calle Arriba de Las Tablas for the last 20 years which has given him the chance to do fashion.

His design "Princess Zaraf" dressed Justine Pasek in the Miss Universe 2002 and his design "Zaracundé" dressed Stephanie De Roux in the Miss Universe 2003.

Today, he is one of the most respected and talented designers of Panama. He designed the crown for Miss Panama Miss Universe,



manufactured by the prestigious house Swarovski in New York, with a value of 25,000 dollars.

Horacio is an expert in designing floats for Calle Arriba de las Tablas, Parade of the Lights in San Jose, Costa Rica, every year. His successful collection "Roots" with the French Embassy in Panama brought him to Los Angeles, during the celebration of the Panama Centennial in 2003. Since then, Horacio participates as a volunteer decorating floats at the Rose Parade, also has participated in the Fashion Week in Panamá and international level. Viva Panama Organization is honored each year by having Horacio as its Official Designer for the costumes of the Opening of Srta. Panama California. His 2014 design is inspired by the French Influence at the time of the Panama Canal Construction.

Srta. Panama California 2014

PARTICIPANTS



Masters of Ceremony



Carlos Carrasco

Panamanian.
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theater and a Master's Degree from University of Illinois, Ph.D. in Acting at Wayne State Univ. Film & Theater Actor, Director, Producer. Movies: Double Take, Speed, Blood In.. Blood Out, Spanglish, Star Trek, CSI, Deep Space 9, Spanish voice of Jack In The Box for twelve years.



Priscilla Walker

Former Srta. Panama California 2012-2013. Panamanian descend. Student of Communications. She works for Redbull and with children with Autism. Passionate for acting and modeling.

Panel of Judges



Justine Pasek

Panamanian.
International Model, TV Presenter, Independent Fund-Raising Professional. Miss Universe 2002. FAO Goodwill Ambassador, Ambassador for Christian Dior & L'Oreal in Latin American. Celebrity spokesperson for HIV/AIDS Osteoporosis and Metabolic Disease, Orphaned Starfish and the Caribbean Child Foundation.



Erick Solares

Guatemalan.
UCLA graduated Attorney with a Juris Doctor degree from USD. Former President, Executive Director and Legal Advisor of various non-profit organizations; President Elect of the Mexican American Bar Association and Deputy Attorney IV with the Legal Division of the California Depart. of Transportation.



Amira Aranda

Licensed esthetician & cosmetologist, owner of Studio Blush Makeup School Corporation. Leading CMA Instructor, Certified Makeup Artist and Hair artist in the film, fashion, music and entertainment industry in Hollywood, Middle East and Japan industries. First Place Award for Success & Enhancement for Disneyland and Walt Disney Production, Fantasy Hair Cut and Hair Stylist.



Estela Orozco

Mexican.
Exclusive professional makeup artist for Miss Panamerican International. She has participated as artist and judge in multiple beauty pagents. Representative of the Chenice of Beverly Hills.

Karla Hernandez



Height: 5'5
 Place of Birth: David, Chiriqui
 Eye: Brown - Hair: Dark brown
 High School: Warren high school
 College/University degree: Associates in Liberal Arts
 Occupation: Medical assistant
 Language: Spanish-English
 Countries travelled: Panama
 Hobbies: Nail art, reading, hiking, outdoor activities
 Ambitions: Nursing school, volunteering with Doctors without Borders, traveling the world.
 Talents : Nail art, arts & crafts, patient care.
 Public Speech : Managers for Wisin & Yandel fan club
 Community Involvement : Volunteer with military personnel as a member of the Young Marines. Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity building a home. Participant in various marathons for Cancer research.
 Father: Panamanian.
 Mother: Panamanian.



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Dancer of Ballet Folklórico Viva Panama, Treasurer of Viva Panama Organization



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Kimberly Alvey


Height: 5'6".
 Place of Birth: Pasadena, CA.
 Eye: Hazel brown. Hair color: Brown.
 High School: John Muir High
 Education: Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts/Bakery.
 Occupation: Cashier.
 Language: English and Spanish.
 Countries travelled : Panama.
 Hobbies: Singing and reading
 Ambitions: Broadway singer & famous bread maker.
 Talents: Singing.
 Public Speech: YWCA.
 Community Involvement: Baked desserts at a homeless shelter.
 Father: Panamanian.
 Mother: Mexican.



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Congratulations Kimberly,
 from Abuelito & Abuelita in Panama
 and your California family,
 for participating in
 Miss Panama California 2014
 Best wishes!
 You make us proud!

Nicole Fisher

Height: 5'7".
 Place of Birth: Panama City, Panama.
 Eye color: Brown. Hair color: Black.
 High School: Hoover High School, Fresno.
 Education: Pursuing a Masters Degree.
 Occupation: Deputy Probation Officer.
 Language: English/Spanish.
 Countries travelled: Panama and USA.
 Hobbies: Dancing, traveling, Zumba.
 Ambitions: Work as a Federal Probation Officer.
 Talents: Salsa and Bachata dancing
 Public Speech: Former President of Sigma Omega Nu,
 Latina Sorority.
 Community Involvement: American Legion Auxiliary,
 California National Guard Family Support Assistant.
 Participated in: Kids Day, Susan G Komen for the Cure,
 March of Dimes Mudd Volleyball, 100,000 Homes
 Campaign..
 Father: Panamanian
 Mother: Panamanian



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"We are so proud of you, Nicole! Wishing you the best of luck from all your family and friends!"

Victoria Lopez

Height: 5'3"
Place of Birth: Los Angeles, CA.
Eye & Hair color: Light brown.
High School: Animo Inglewood Charter High School.
Education: Pursuing her Criminal Justice degree.
Occupation: Customer Service Representative.
Language: English and Spanish.
Countries travelled: USA.
Hobbies: Shopping, dancing
Ambitions: Traveling.
Talents: Drawing.
Community Involvement: enjoy participating with the Panamanian community with her father Jhamil and her grandmother Ora and their involvement with the Panamanian cuisine.
Father: Panamanian
Mother: Honduran



Ora's Kitchen



ORIGINAL PANAMANIAN CUISINE



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all of the contestants of the
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MALIBU
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GROUP

Viva Panama Organization, Inc.

COMMEMORATING THE PANAMA CANAL CENTENNIAL
PRESENTS

Srta. Panama California 2014

"WHERE BEAUTY MEETS CULTURE"

JAVIRITZEL COURTNEY GARCES, SRTA. PANAMA CALIFORNIA 2013 - 2014

