

2026

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. AWARDS CELEBRATION

Honoring the Legacy, Advancing the Future



Presented by

Los Angeles
Urban League

Lauren O'Hara
VP Business Development
lauren.ohara@laul.org
(323) 621.5306

Friends and Supporters:

As we gather for our **51st Annual Whitney M. Young Jr. Awards Celebration**, we come together to highlight remarkable progress and lay groundwork for challenges ahead. **This year's theme, "Honoring the Legacy, Advancing the Future,"** captures who we are, what we have unapologetically dared to be, and why we must continue to lead the movement.

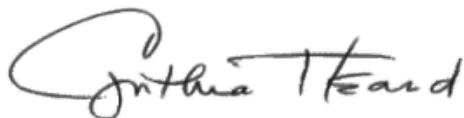
For more than a century the Los Angeles Urban League has stood as a cornerstone of truth, a conduit for possibility. Our cause has endured through every era and every challenge because our mission is rooted in the unwavering belief that communities prosper when systems are fair. When opportunity is shared. When partnerships move with purpose. That **momentum, built by generations of trailblazers, advocates, and everyday Angelenos propels us onward.**

This year, we return to the **Skirball Cultural Center**, a valued partner whose hospitality and shared commitment to understanding, culture and harmony help elevate this celebration. **Together, we honor individuals whose leadership strengthens the fabric of Los Angeles and reflects the best of Whitney M. Young Jr.'s legacy;** courage in the face of inequity, conviction in pursuit of justice, and clarity about work that awaits us ahead.

Our momentum is not abstract, it is actual. **Workforce streams that open doors to living-wage careers. Entrepreneurs acquiring tools, capital, and scalability needed to grow.** Young learners imagining futures once thought out of reach. Advocacy and collective solutions that combat inequities our communities continue to face. The output of the Urban League that spearheads the movement.

Your partnership fuels this progress. Through your generosity, we are able to build programs that do more than meet immediate needs. They strengthen community resilience, create lasting bridges, and embolden the foundation required for generational change. Together we honor the pioneers and groundbreakers who've charted paths before us while advancing a future defined by justice, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in this work, and for helping us advance the next century of Urban League impact.



Cynthia Mitchell-Heard
President & CEO

2026

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. AWARDS



2026

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. AWARDS CELEBRATION

Honoring the Legacy, Advancing the Future



THE LOS ANGELES
URBAN LEAGUE LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Janice Bryant-Howroyd

Founder & CEO, ActOne Group, First
Black woman to build a billion dollar
company in the U.S.

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Skirball Cultural Center



THE WHITNEY M.
YOUNG, JR. AWARD

**Bridgid Coulter
Cheadle**

Founder, Blackbird Collective,
Social Impact Entrepreneur &
Philanthropist



THE JOHN W. MACK
LEGACY AWARD

Michael Weinstein

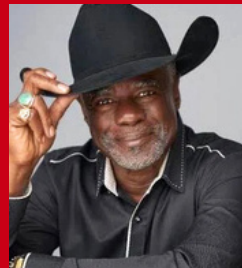
Founder & President AIDS
Healthcare Foundation, Housing
and Health Activist, USAF Veteran



THE LOS ANGELES
URBAN LEAGUE
VISIONARY AWARD

Jo-An Turman

Head of Global Entertainment
Partnerships Habitat for Humanity
International, Dedicated Philanthropist,
and Inner-City Youth Advocate



THE LOS ANGELES
URBAN LEAGUE
TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Glynn Turman

Emmy and Multiple Image Award-
Winning Actor, Director, Cowboy
and Youth Empowerment Advocate



WHITNEY M. YOUNG
JR. AWARDS EVENT
EMCEE

Chris Schauble

News Anchor KTLA 5,
6x Emmy Winner, 6x Golden
Mike Award Winner

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. AWARDS CELEBRATION

2026 AMBASSADORS



DAVID FORD
EVENT CHAIR
LA URBAN LEAGUE BOARD
MEMBER, 2X CANCER SURVIVOR,
AND DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR



KATHY IRELAND
FASHION DESIGNER,
PHILANTHROPIST, ENTREPRENEUR,
FORMER SUPERMODEL



JENIFER LEWIS
ESTEEMED ACTRESS, RECIPIENT
OF LA URBAN LEAGUE VISIONARY
AWARD IN 2025



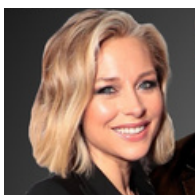
NORM NIXON
2X NBA CHAMP, LA URBAN
LEAGUE JOHN MACK LEGACY
AWARD WINNER IN 2025



GEORGE C. FATHEREE III
ACCLAIMED CIVIL RIGHTS ATTY.,
2025 LA URBAN LEAGUE WHITNEY
M. YOUNG JR. AWARD WINNER



NICOLE HARPER RAWLINS
TOP MCDONALD'S FRANCHISEE,
2025 LA URBAN LEAGUE TRAIL
BLAZER AWARDEE



ANNE SIMONDS
ENTERTAINMENT & TECHNO GURU,
2024 LA URBAN LEAGUE JOHN W.
MACK AWARD WINNER



ANA GUERRERO
ORGANIZATIONAL & POLICY
STRATEGIST, FRACTIONAL
LEADER, EXEC. CONSULTANT



RON FRIERSON
CHAIRMAN, LOS ANGELES ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; FORMER
AMAZON EXECUTIVE

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



MARK CORNWELL
CHAIR



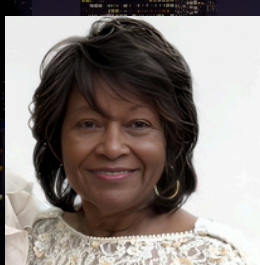
JENNIFER GONRING



STAN WASHINGTON



RICK BARRAGAN



LILLIAN WILSON



NOEL MASSIE

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. AWARDS CELEBRATION

2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD



KEITH DRAKE
Chair



JANENE DRAFTS
Vice Chair



TODD HOLLANDER
Secretary



MICHAEL FERRERA
Treasurer

Board Members

**ANDREA AMBROSE
LOBATO, ESQ.**
FRACTIONAL
GENERAL COUNSEL
FOR AI STARTUPS

RICK BARRAGAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR
JP MORGAN CHASE

CAPRICE BENT WILLARD
VICE PRESIDENT/DIVISIONAL
MERCHANDISE MANAGER
ROSS STORES, INC.

**JANICE BRYANT
HOWROYD**
FOUNDER & CEO
ACT ONE GROUP

MARK CORNWELL
MANAGING DIRECTOR
MARKET DEVELOPMENT
KPMG LLP

OPIO DUPREE
VP GOVERNMENT
& PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MACY'S

MONIQUE EARL
SENIOR MANAGER
ACCENTURE

DAVID FORD
SR. GOV. RELATIONS MGR.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDISON

JENNIFER GONRING
PRINCIPAL & PARTNER

RAPHAEL HENDERSON
PRESIDENT & CEO
HLC

ELLIOT HINDS, ESQ.
PROJECT FINANCE & MA
PARTNER, SHEPPARD
MULLIN

JESSIE KORNBERG, J.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO
SKIRBALL CULTURAL
CENTER

**DHANANJAY
MANTHRIPRAGADA, ESQ.**
PARTNER
GIBSON, DUNN &
CRUTCHER LLP

NOEL MASSIE
U.S. DOMESTIC
OPERATIONS MANAGER,
UPS (RET.)

LENNY MCNEILL
CONSUMER LENDING
EXECUTIVE AND SR.
FINANCIAL MANAGER

GREG PLUMMER
CEO & MANAGING
PARTNER, CONCORD
COLLECTIVE

WALLACE RAWLS
DIRECTOR, SAFETY &
WELLNESS CALGAS
A SEMPRA ENERGY
UTILITY

MARCUS REESE
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER, HEAD OF PUBLIC
AFFAIRS, FIRST AMERICAN
FINANCIAL GROUP

CANDACE ROHR
VP, MARKETING
STRATEGY
CITY NATIONAL BANK

JULIA ROMANO, ESQ.
LITIGATION PARTNER
KING & SPALDING, LLP

KENDALL SIMMONDS
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER
CRESCENT PEAK

STANLEY WASHINGTON
FOUNDER & CEO
PANTHEON BUSINESS
CONSULTING INC.

LILLIAN WILSON
PRESIDENT
LOS ANGELES URBAN
LEAGUE GUILD



TRANSFORMATIONAL NAMING PARTNERSHIPS

Make bold impact through high-visibility, multi-year investments that demonstrate enduring commitment to opportunity and equity.

The Los Angeles Urban League offers custom, exclusive naming partnerships beginning at \$200,000, designed to elevate your brand while advancing generational change.

Partnership Benefits

Prominent co-branding, media and press inclusion, annual impact reporting, speaking opportunities at major events, headline logo placement in quarterly e-newsletter, podcast interview with the CEO, program cohort naming rights, YouTube channel end-screen visibility, pop-up event banner recognition and curated executive engagement.

Flagship Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Whitney M. Young Jr. Awards: Celebrating more than 50 years of civic leadership and community impact**

Sponsorship Levels: \$10,000 – \$250,000

Benefits: VIP tables, stage recognition, branded content, red carpet, televised visibility.
- State of Black LA: Driving data solutions and dialogue to advance equity**

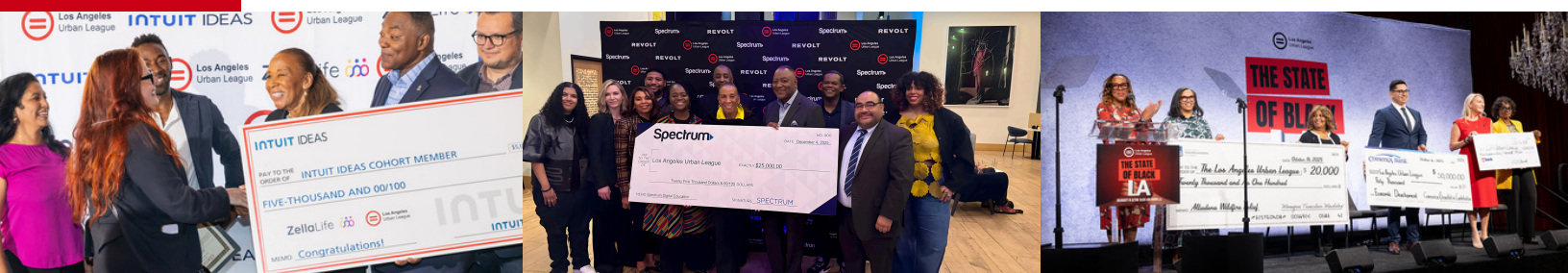
Sponsorship Levels: \$5,000 – \$100,000

Benefits: Speaking opportunities, media exposure, branded digital content.
- Career Fair, Workforce Summits, Events and Year-Round Engagement:**

Sponsorship Levels: \$5,000 – \$50,000

Programmatic opportunities that connect your brand to economic mobility and community impact.

Benefits: Employer activations, branded pathways, corporate volunteer engagement, meaningful engagement with diverse talent.



LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE IMPACT PILLARS PROVEN PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY



OUR PILLARS. YOUR IMPACT. A UNIFIED ECOSYSTEM TRANSFORMING LOS ANGELES.



Workforce Development: Building Talent Pipelines That Deliver Results

We equip job seekers with industry-aligned training, career navigation, and access to high-growth, living-wage pathways across healthcare, construction, AI, tech-skilling, and union apprenticeships.

Education: Preparing the Next Generation for College, Careers and Leadership

Through Project Ready, Biz Camp, STEM programs, school partnerships, and academic readiness supports, we strengthen student success from high school through postsecondary transitions.



Entrepreneurship: Fueling Small Business Growth & Economic Mobility

We accelerate emerging and established entrepreneurs through capital readiness, coaching, technical assistance, and access to capital via partnerships with Intuit, Goldman Sachs, the MBDA, and more.

Advocacy and Systems Change: Advancing Equity at Scale

Through the State of Black LA and year-round civic engagement, we impact policy, public research, and narrative change that strengthens democracy and uplifts the voices of Black, Brown and underserved communities.



WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. AWARDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$250,000 | TITLE SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Exclusive Title Recognition at all signature events | 2026 Awards Celebration, State of Black LA, Career Fairs, Workforce Summits & Year-Round Engagement: "Presented by [Your Name]" on all event materials and signage, including digital platforms and press releases.

VIP Engagement: Private, pre-event VIP cocktail reception with honorees, keynote speakers, and celebrity guests for up to 20 guests.

Prime Brand Exposure:

- 2 minute branded support video shown during Awards program
- On-stage speaking opportunity (2 minutes)
- Logo placement on Step-and-Repeat/Press Wall
- Dedicated branded content posted on our social media channels (pre, during, and post-event)

Audience Reach:

- Full-page, inside front cover ad in the Souvenir Journal
- Premier vignette seating and experience for 20 guests
- Prominent logo placement on our Partner and Event webpages with a direct link to your corporate site

Media Coverage: Featured in our Quarterly Newsletter and acknowledgment across key media channels, including press releases.

\$150,000 | PREMIER SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Prominent Sponsor Recognition at Awards, and (choice of) State of Black LA or Career Fairs, Workforce Summits & Year-Round Engagement: Listed as a Premier Sponsor in promotional digital and print materials.

Enhanced VIP Experience: Access to a VIP reception for 20 guests with honorees and celebrities.

High Visibility:

- 1-2 minute branded support video played during Awards program or pre event
- Logo on Step-and-Repeat/Press Wall
- Full-page, back cover ad in Souvenir Journal

Audience Reach:

- Premier vignette seating and experience for 20 guests
- Logo placement on our Partner and Event webpage

Digital and Media Acknowledgment:

- Dedicated mentions on our social media channels
- Feature in Quarterly newsletter

WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. AWARDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$100,000 | VISIONARY SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Exclusive Branding Opportunities: Recognition as Visionary Sponsor in program and event materials.
VIP Connections: Access to VIP reception for 10 guests to meet honorees and celebrities.

Visibility Package:

- Logo placement on Step-and-Repeat/Press Wall
- Premium two-page ad in the Souvenir Journal

Audience Engagement:

- Seating for 10 guests
- Logo listed on our Partner and Event webpage

Social and Digital Highlights:

- Exclusive feature in our social media campaign

\$75,000 | CHAIRMAN SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Prime Sponsor Recognition: Featured in all event-related digital and print materials.
VIP Access: Includes VIP reception for 10 guests with honorees and celebrity guests.

High Visibility:

- Logo on Step-and-Repeat/Press Wall
- Full-page, color ad in the Souvenir Journal

Audience Reach:

- Seating for 10 guests
- Logo on our Event webpage

Social Media Visibility: Dedicated posts on our social media platforms.

\$50,000 | PRESIDENT SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

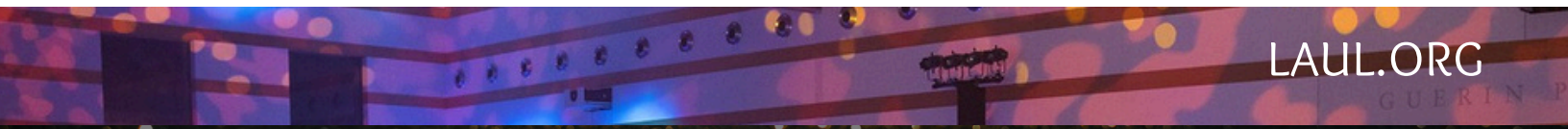
Featured Recognition: Acknowledgment as a President Sponsor in event program and select digital materials.
Exclusive Access: Access to VIP reception for 6 guests.

Visibility:

- Full-page color ad in Souvenir Journal
- Logo listed on our Event webpage

Audience Engagement:

- Seating for 10 guests
- Dedicated social media mention



WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. AWARDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$25,000 | JUSTICE SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Sponsor Recognition: Acknowledged in the event program as a Justice Sponsor.
VIP Networking: Access to VIP reception for 4 guests.

Audience Reach:

- Full-page color ad in the Souvenir Journal
- Logo listed on our Event webpage
- Seating for 10 guests

\$10,000 | PARTNER SPONSOR

Your Benefits & Impact:

Community Recognition: Named in the event program in Partner Sponsor List.

Guest Access:

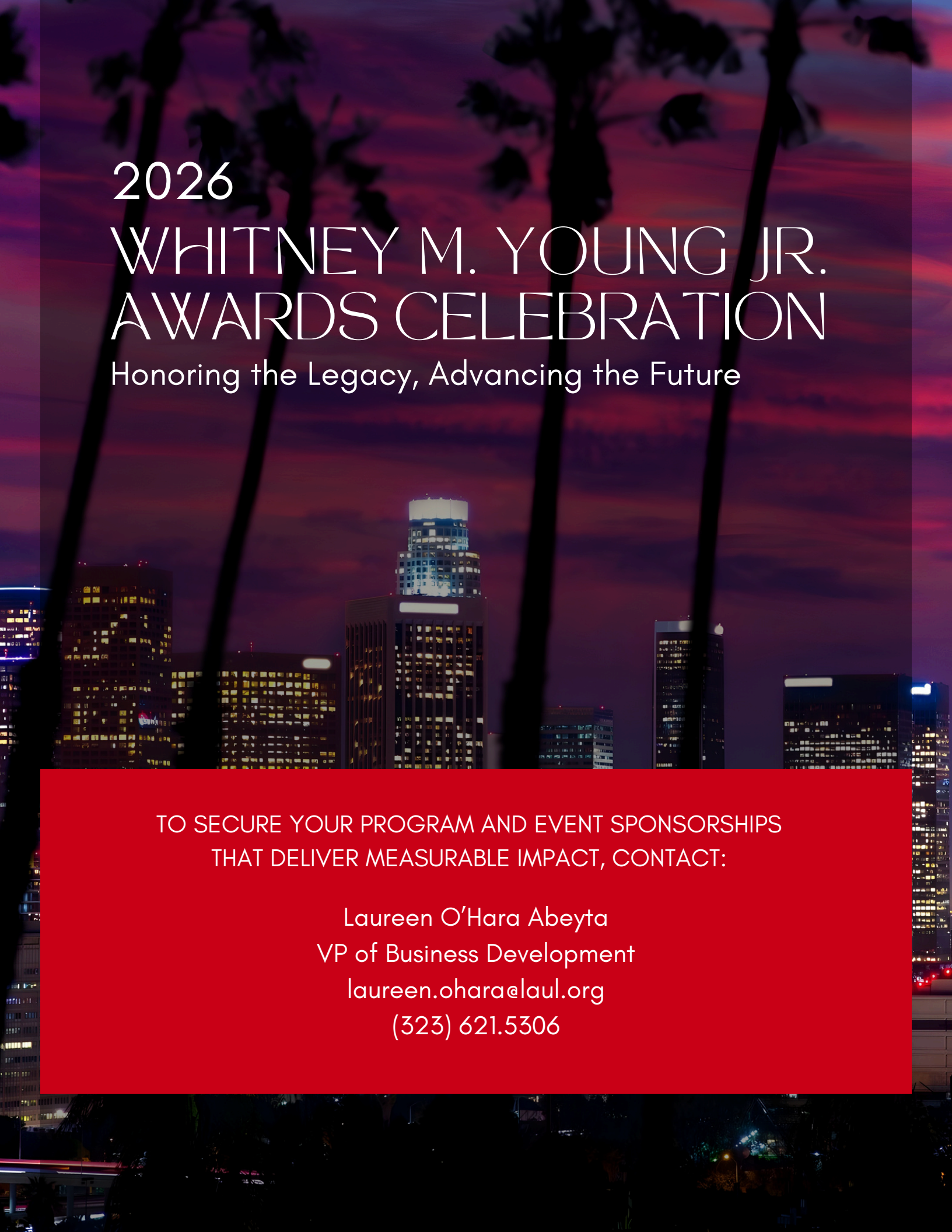
- Seating for 10 guests
- Half-page ad in the Souvenir Journal

SOUVENIR BOOK ADDITIONAL ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

- Full Double Page Color Ad: \$3,500 (17" x 11")
- Full Page Color Ad: \$2,500 (8.5" x 11")
- Half Page Color Ad: \$1,500 (7.5" x 4.75")

Note: High-resolution files should be in PDF or PNG format.
Ad deadline is May 21, 2026. Email ads to
sponsorship@laul.org





2026

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. AWARDS CELEBRATION

Honoring the Legacy, Advancing the Future

TO SECURE YOUR PROGRAM AND EVENT SPONSORSHIPS
THAT DELIVER MEASURABLE IMPACT, CONTACT:

Laureen O'Hara Abeyta
VP of Business Development
laureen.ohara@laul.org
(323) 621.5306