CALIFORNIA
ETHNIC MEDIA & AWARDS
One day Symposium • Expo • Awards

Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Sacramento | August 31, 2023
ETHNIC MEDIA SERVICES | CBM | CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA
Honoring Excellence in Journalism Among the State’s Ethnic Media Journalists & News Organizations

Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Sacramento | August 31, 2023
We're so glad you could all make it to this event!

Nearly six months ago, we began planning this event. Our objective was to create a platform for ethnic media to meet with decision-makers in Sacramento to shed light on the critical issues facing journalism and the impact on media outlets, small and large, reaching California's diverse communities. We wanted to build relationships post-COVID with the people working on the state's most pressing problems.

We had two goals for this meeting: First, we wanted to educate decision-makers about the enduring power and resilience of ethnic media at a time when all media are struggling to survive. Despite the challenges facing all media, we had more submissions for the awards than ever before, which judges deemed exceptional in scope and quality.

Second, we wanted to learn more about how decision-makers plan to communicate with our diverse audiences so we can ensure our media sector is included.

As you can see from the roster of esteemed state leaders here today, Sacramento has welcomed us with open arms. We are so grateful to the over 150 ethnic media attendees who have come from all over the state to be here today. Your presence stands as a testament to your commitment.

We're living in a time of great change. We've tested out strategies to build inclusive communications during the 2020 Census and the pandemic, and they worked. We are strengthening ties with grassroots and statewide community-based organizations to confront the rising tide of racist violence and to educate our communities about the climate crisis, among other issues. We know that government agencies and the legislature are committed to making equity a key part of the policies that govern our diverse state.

We understand the difference between fair and equitable inclusion starts with the community's right to know.

Today, we recognize it's on us to close the information gap between government and the governed.

Thank you, Sacramento leaders, for coming to the table and working with us to ensure we continue to have a robust communication infrastructure.

Regina Brown Wilson and Sandy Close
Special congratulations to California Black Media and Ethnic Media Services as they celebrate the hard work and commitment of our Ethnic Media publications across California. The journalism they produce holds our elected officials accountable and provides channels to reach Californians living in some of the hardest-to-reach zip codes in the state.

Bravo on your continued success!

Mr. Hardy Brown,
Publisher Emeritus, Black Voice News
Dear colleagues,

I am honored to once again chair and co-emcee this year's EMS/CBM California Ethnic Media Awards to salute the stellar, but often unrecognized journalism of ethnic media professionals who are chronicling their communities' journey in a constantly evolving America. In this climate of deep divisions, their incisive reporting and perspectives enriched by a global lens, is even more critical.

Close to twenty years ago, I migrated from the Philippines to California and began my journey as a broadcast journalist which included becoming part of the core team that established ABS-CBN International - The Filipino Channel's North America bureau in the aftermath of 9/11, and launch its flagship newscast. I then transitioned as NAM's national media network director, privileged to be working alongside a national pan-ethnic consortium of diverse media organizations.

To all the supporters and our EMS/CBM team who made this year's awards program and celebration possible, my deep gratitude to all of you for your expertise and time. To the winners, honorees and all entrants in this year's awards program, my admiration goes to you, for your commitment to your audiences. It continues to inspire me everyday, to amplify voices in our society that need to be heard.

Your fortitude shines bright through any darkness. Congratulations to all of you, and you have in me, an ally in the field forever!

Respectfully,
Darla Givens
Meteorologist, CBS10 & Co-Emcee
Odette is director of the Maynard 200 journalism fellowship program of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. She is also a diversity communications and media executive. This is primarily through her role as president and founding partner of Global MediaX, a strategic multicultural and international media consultancy group headquartered in the San Francisco Bay Area. Previously, she was a consultant for the Democracy Fund. She is a 2022 Society of Professional Journalists Northern California Board awardee, for her work leading the Maynard 200 fellowship, which the board hailed as "one of the most powerful incubators for journalists of color." She was also a recipient of The 100 Most Influential Filipino Americans - TOFA Awards in 2020.

A respected broadcast journalist, Odette’s career spans 20-plus years in the United States and the Philippines. Previously, at New America Media (NAM), she was the national media network director, television and radio news anchor/executive producer, as well as chair and co-emcee of the NAM Ethnic Media Awards. She hosted and produced NAM’s weekly segment on 91.7 FM KALW in the Bay Area, the TV show “New America Now” and its monthly TV news magazine on Comcast Hometown Network (CHN) with the same program name. She was also an alternate anchor and segment producer for ‘Upside’ on Comcast Channel 104.

She was a regular commentator and featured panelist on KQED TV and radio programs in San Francisco including “This Week in Northern California” with legendary news anchor Belva Davis and KQED-FM’s “Pacific Time.”

In the 9/11 aftermath, Odette led the core group that launched the U.S. news bureau of The Filipino

Odette Alcazaren-Keeley
Director, Maynard 200 at Maynard Institute for Journalism Education & Co-Emcee
11:00 – 1:00 PM | Registration Open (Magnolia Foyer)

11:00 – 12:45 PM | Lunch & Opening Session: THE POWER OF ETHNIC MEDIA | LUNCH & OPENING SESSION: The Power of Ethnic Media: Welcome by California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D; US Census Director Robert L. Santos will open the conference with a luncheon address on the power of ethnic media. Presentation of Communications Champion Awards. MC: Darla Givens, Meteorologist, CBS10. (Magnolia Ballroom)

1:00 – 2:00 PM | Plenary Session 1: Building Inclusive Communications: New Strategies for Messaging by State Agencies: Join leaders in the Administration who are tackling some of the state’s most pressing issues and their plans of ensuring all communities are informed and connected to the process. Discussion moderated by ethnic media leaders. (Maple Ballroom, 3rd Fl)
Speakers:
- Maricela Rodriguez, Senior Advisor for Civic Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, Office of the Governor.
- Michelle Baass, Director, Department of Health Care Services
- Susan DeMarois, Director, California Department of Aging.
Moderator: Diana Ding, Ding Ding TV

2:00 – 2:15 PM | Chat & Snack (Maple Foyer)

2:15 – 3:15 PM | Plenary Session 2: Building California Infrastructure with Equity Leading the Way: Learn how the Government Services Administration coordinates infrastructure planning across the State, including expanding broadband access, and works to ensure an equity lens. Discussion moderated by ethnic media leaders. (Maple Ballroom, 3rd Fl)
Speakers:
- Secretary Amy Tong, Government Operations
- Secretary Toks Omishakin, California State Transportation Agency
Moderator: Larry Lee, Publisher of Sacramento Observer
3:00 – 3:15 PM | Coffee Break (Magnolia Foyer)

3:15 – 4:30 PM | Plenary Session 3: Building Stronger Communities Together: CBOs and Ethnic Media have joined forces to combat inter-ethnic violence. Learn about partnerships, strategies and tactics to address hate crimes and build relationships across racial/ethnic lines. Ethnic media reporters and CBO leaders who will share examples of collaborative projects from El Cajon to Half Moon Bay. (Magnolia Ballroom)

Speakers
- Becky Monroe, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, California Civil Rights Department
- Marcela Ruiz, Director, Office of Equity, California Department of Social Services

CBO's
- Helen Zia, Director, The Vincent Chin Institute, writer/journalist and activist
- Rick Callender, President, CA / Hawaii State Conference of the NAACP
- Tuyen Nguyen, Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Valley
- Tazheen Nizam, ED of CAIR, San Diego

Moderator: Martha Askenazi, Owner & Publisher, San Fernando Valley Sun

4:30 – 5:30 PM | REPORTER'S ROUNDTABLE: Breaking silence about community taboos. Moderator: Jenna Lane, Blue Shield of California Foundation. (Alder 1)

5:00 – 6:30 PM | EXPO AND AWARDS RECEPTION: Reception to honor leading publishers and organizations. Reception to honor leading publishers and organizations connecting communities to information and power. (Magnolia Ballroom Foyer and Terrace)

6:30 – 8:00 PM | AWARDS CEREMONY: Celebrating outstanding journalism in print, online, broadcast. (Magnolia Ballroom)
Yurina Melara
California Department of Public Health
Myth Busters Fellowships

Chris Holbein
RS-E
Vaccinate All58 Media Campaign

California State Library
Stop the Hate Ethnic Media Campaign

LaGrant Communications
Super Hero COVID Vaccination Campaign

Brian Ferguson
CalOES & Listos
Ethnic Media Campaigns

Connie Nakano
California Department of Aging
Protecting Older Adults in the Pandemic

Chinese for Affirmative Action
for spearheading
Stop the Hate Ethnic Media Campaign

Manjusha Kulkarni
Stop AAPI Hate
Spearheading Ethnic Media Campaign

Cynthia Choi & Vincent Pan
Stop AAPI Hate
Spearheading Ethnic Media Campaign
All Media Entrants & Nominees

Al Enteshar
Alianza Metropolitan News
Asian American Media Inc.
Asian Journal
Beyond Borders Gazette
Black Catholic Messenger
Black Voice News
Boyle Heights Beat
Cafe Con Leche Radio
Carib Press
ChicoSol
East Palo Alto Today
El Informador Del Valle
El Nuevo Sol
El Popular
El Tecolote
El Timpano & Latino USA
Hispanic LA
Hispanic Lifestyle
Hmong Daily News
Hyundai News USA
Impulso Newspaper
India Currents
Indian Voices
Info Media Distribution
Inglewood Today
Inland Empire Community Newspapers (El Chicano, Rialto Record, Colton Courier)
Inland Valley News
Kiosko News
Korea Daily Los Angeles
La Nueva Voz
La Opinion
LAPost/ AACYF
Little Saigon TV
Lo Nuestro TV
Los Angeles Blade
Los Angeles Standard Newspaper
Mission Local
Myanmar Gazette
News for Chinese
News From Native California
NguoiViet Daily News/
Saigonho News
Observer Group Newspapers of Southern California Inc.
ONME News/ The ONME Network
Our Weekly Newspaper Los Angeles Peninsula 360 Press
Philippines News Today
Positively Filipino
Radio Balaam
Radio TNT
Communication/Media Services
Sacramento Observer
San Bernardino American News
San Fernando Valley Sun/
El Sol Newspapers
San Francisco Public Press
SBS International, Inc.
Showbiz India TV
Siliconeer Ventures, Inc.
Sing Tao Chinese Radio
Sing Tao Daily
Sing Tao TV
Sinovision
Sky Link TV
Slavic Sacramento
The Immigrant Magazine Inc.
UNE US News Express
US News Express 新闻速递
Usknews
Vida en el Valle
Westside Story Newspaper
World Journal
www.rajiwrites.com
YTV America
Twenty-five distinguished writers, journalists, communication specialists and academics from across California will serve as judges in this year's California Ethnic Media Awards, sponsored by Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 31 at the Kimpton-Sawyer Hotel in downtown Sacramento concluding a day-long symposium on building inclusive communications across the state.

“We are honored to have such a diverse panel of judges with cultural and linguistic fluency play this very important role,” said co-chair Regina Brown Wilson, Executive Director of California Black Media. "Judging entries for outstanding reporting from over 100 in-language and English language news outlets is no small task -- you’re reading breaking news, feature reports, commentaries, explanatory analyses, about issues and events largely missed in general market media but deeply relevant to local communities."

"The opportunity to recognize outstanding journalism in the ethnic media sector generated such enthusiasm, it was inspiring," added co-chair Sandy Close, Director of Ethnic Media Services. "The judges know we're not just selecting winners, we’re recognizing all the dedicated reporters and content producers who are keeping their audiences informed against enormous odds impacting the media landscape."

Jose Luis Benavides
Professor at the Department of Journalism, Cal State Northridge

Maeve Elise Brown
Executive Director and Founder, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates

Jon Christensen
Assistant Adjunct Professor at UCLA Institute of Environment and Sustainability, and Founder of Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies (LENS)

Diana Ding
Founder and CEO of Ding Ding TV and Founder and president of Silicon Valley Innovation Channel.

Anh Do
Community Engagement Editor, the Los Angeles Times, veteran reporter for Nguoi Viet
Julian Do  
Co-Director, Ethnic Media Services

Allison Engel  
Author, Playwright, and Journalist

Louis Freedberg  
Journalist and former Executive Director of EdSource

Jon Funabiki  
Professor of Journalism, San Francisco State University,  
Founder of Renaissance Journalism, and former Program Officer with the Ford Foundation

Tanu Henry  
Managing Editor of California Black Media, and veteran Communications Specialist

George Koo  
Business Advisor, Cross-Cultural Communicator, and Writer for Asian Week

Lila LaHood  
Publisher for Public Press

Jongwon Lee  
Veteran Journalist and Editor with Korean News Media, member of the State Bar of Georgia, and Contributing Editor of Ethnic Media Services

Nina Li  
Stanford Center for Asian Research and Education (CARE), Stanford University School of Medicine

Ruben Martinez  
Journalist, author and musician, Professor of English, and Fletcher Jones Chair in Literature & Writing at Loyola Marymount University

Mary Jo McConahay  
Veteran Journalist for the National Catholic Reporter, and Author most recently of Playing God: American Catholic Bishops and the Far Right

Amanda Mei Kim  
Author, former Communications Director for Blue Shield Foundation of California

Debra Nakatomi  
Founder and President for Nakatomi PR

Kayla Olvera Hilario  
Department of Labor, Division of Indian and Native American Programs, former Tribal Affairs Specialist with the California Census

Jaya Padmanabhan  
Veteran Journalist and Fiction Writer, Contributing Editor for Ethnic Media Services

Richard Rodriguez  
Author and Essayist

Peter Schurmann  
Journalist and former Communications Consultant for Earth Innovation, Web Editor for Ethnic Media Services

Jacqueline Stenson  
Director of Projects at USC Center for Health Journal
Alianza Metropolitan
Bakersfield News Observer
Beyond Borders
CNPA
DVTF PASIFIKA MEDIA NETWORK
FAC
Hispanic Lifestyle
Impulso
Inland Valley News
Kiosko News
Korea Daily
Pace News
FilAm Post
Sac Cultural Hub Media Foundation
Sacramento Observer
Siliconeer / Printamp
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Radio B’alam - Mayan Voices
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Latino Times
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Southern California Gas Company

California News Publishers Association

Blue Shield of California

PG&E

McDonald’s

Toni Rembe

The Rock Foundation

California Newspaper Publishers Association

Office of Community Partnerships & Strategic Communications (OCPSC)
The Office of Community Partnerships Strategic Communications would like to congratulate all the participants of the 2023 California Ethnic Media Awards. Thank you for including your voices in the discourse of our diverse state.
Empowering progress through inclusion.

At BMO, our purpose is to boldly grow the good in business and life. That means doing our part to create a more equitable and inclusive society. We’re proud to be working together with organizations across California to reach zero barriers to inclusion.

Learn more about our $40 billion commitment to the communities we serve at bmo.com/empower

BMO Harris Bank N.A. Member FDIC
The California Wellness Foundation would like to congratulate the winners of the 2023 California Ethnic Media Awards!
Blue Shield of California Foundation is proud to support Ethnic Media Services and the 2023 California Ethnic Media Conference Awards & Expo.

Blue Shield of California Foundation supports lasting and equitable solutions to make California the healthiest state and end domestic violence.

Promoting the Highest Ideals, Ethics and Traditions of Journalism For 135 Years

- Protects the News Media Business
- Enhances First Amendment Freedoms
- Ensures the Public’s Right to Know
- Recognizes Publishing Excellence and Journalistic Achievement
- Legal Help Line
- Advertising Services

Celebrating Excellence

PG&E proudly supports EMS & CBM and congratulates all the winners of the 2023 California Ethnic Media Awards.
SoCalGas recognizes diversity and celebrates our unity. We congratulate Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media on their 2023 California Ethnic Media Symposium, Expo & Awards. Ethnic Media Services shows that embracing different cultures, traditions and perspectives moves us all forward together.

Congratulations to this year’s awardees on your achievement

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LOVE HEALS

UNITY INSPIRES

COMMUNITY

STOP THE HATE.

SPREAD THE LOVE.

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