

For Immediate Release

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Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles (SEE-LA) -- the largest mission-driven operator of farmers' markets in Southern California and a leader in nutrition education and improving food access -- has announced the appointment of four members to its Board of Directors.

"These additional Directors bring a wealth of legal affairs, economic development, and food world expertise to SEE-LA," said John Tomko, Board Chair, "They have joined at a particularly exciting moment of growth and change for this essential organization in the movement to build sustainable food systems in Southern California."

Newly appointed members of the SEE-LA Board of Directors:

- Danielle M. Forbes is currently Counsel for the Writers Guild of America West, Inc. where, for over 20 years, she has strategically represented both the Writers Guild and television and screen writers against major networks and studios in the enforcement of the Guild's collective bargaining agreement. Danielle has consulted and served on the board for several local and international organizations and is a founding member of Black Women for Wellness. Danielle received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center is also a graduate of UC Berkeley.
- Breanna Hawkins is a Health Equity Strategist for the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, a network of eight local health departments. Breanna previously served as Policy Director for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council (LAFPC), where she led strategic policy campaigns, leadership development programs and research initiatives for a diverse network of over 400 organizations and individuals. Breanna graduated magna cum laude from the University of Southern California and obtained a Masters of Urban Planning. She is currently working on a PhD in Urban Planning. In 2018, Breanna was recognized by the UC Berkeley Food Institute as one of 20 Emerging Food System Leaders in California.
- Lina O'Connor serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Tender Greens. She began her career in the restaurant industry working as the Assistant Controller at the original Spago in Hollywood and served as an Assistant General Manager at Chinois on Main in Santa Monica. Lina worked for several years in the hotel industry as an Area Revenue Manager in Silicon Valley for Marriott International. Lina holds a BS in Business Administration from California State University, Northridge and a Masters degree in Management of Hospitality from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration.
- Jesse Torres is Partner and Chief Strategy Officer of the Biltmore Group and formerly Deputy Director, Small Business Advocate in the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. Jesse has also served as regional director of the Los Angeles

Small Business Development Center Network at Long Beach City College, director of alumni relations at Pepperdine University, and regional director at Orange County and Inland Empire Small Business Development Center Network. Jesse earned an MBA from Pepperdine University and a BA from UCLA.

Founded in 1996, SEE-LA operates six certified farmers' markets, including three in South Los Angeles as well as the Hollywood Farmers' Market, the largest in Los Angeles. Our markets are a primary venue for nutrition assistance programs in Los Angeles County — SNAP/CalFresh, WIC, and Market Match. Last year SEE-LA markets doubled the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for more than 18,000 low-income families in L.A. County. SEE-LA's nutrition education programs provide hundreds of free bilingual cooking demonstration classes in South L.A. as well as teach more than 50,000 children in Title I LAUSD schools every year about local agriculture and the importance of eating fresh fruits and vegetables. SEE-LA connects low-income Angelenos to fresh, affordable produce, supports hundreds of California family farms and local small businesses, and builds sustainable food systems.

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