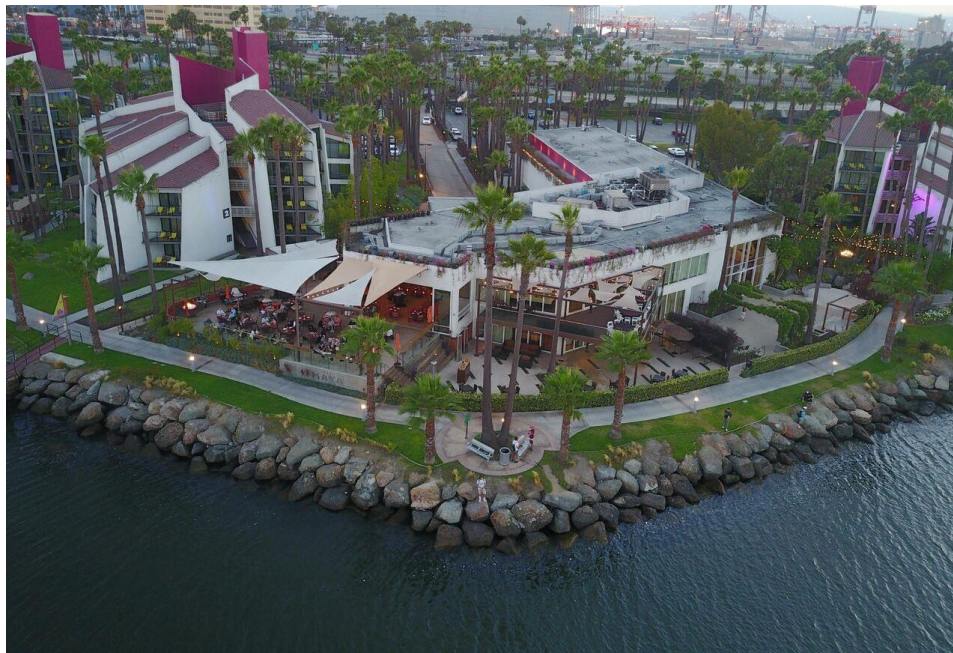




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For Immediate Release

**LONG BEACH HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES THE NOMINEES
FOR ITS THIRD ANNUAL HOSPITALITY AWARDS**



***Winners Will Be Announced on September 18th
at the Awards Dinner Celebration at Hotel Maya***

Long Beach, Calif.— (September 3, 2019)—The Long Beach Hospitality Alliance received nearly 150 nominations for its 3rd annual Hospitality Awards honoring the city's hotels, restaurants, attractions and its workforce.

Last week a panel of judges from the hospitality industry convened and selected 32 finalists. The winners for each of the 11 categories will be announced at the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance Awards on Wednesday, September 18 at Hotel Maya.

"The judges spent a lot of time carefully reading the nominations," said Heather Rozman, Executive Director of the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance. "Each person and place of business

that received a nomination helps to make Long Beach a fantastic destination and experience for the hundreds of thousands of people who come here each year for work and pleasure."

The nominees for this year's awards are (*in no particular order*):

Rising Star Award

- Fernando Veulvas, runner/server at Hilton Long Beach
- Isabella Galarza, VIP coordinator at Hyatt Regency Long Beach
- Ariel Blackburn, catering manager at Hotel Maya

Unsung Hero Award

- Eduardo Alvarez, director of Engineering at The Westin Long Beach
- Joel Magana, maintenance/busboy at Belmont Brewing Company
- Juan Cruz, banquet houseman at Hotel Maya

Beyond the Call of Duty

- Jenifer Jones, front office manager at Hampton Inn & Homewood Suites Long Beach Airport)
- Maria Luisa Lopez, housekeeping supervisor at Long Beach Hilton
- Rudy Lira, head chef at R Bar

Lifetime Achievement

- Martin Howard, owner of Martin Howard CDM
- David Lott and David Hansen, owners of Belmont Brewing Company
- Luis Navarro, owner of Lola's Mexican Cuisine, The Social List, Portuguese Bend Distillery

Community Spirit Award

- Long Beach Symphony
- Hotel Maya CARE Committee
- Aaron Tofani, co-owner of Rance's Chicago Pizza

Outstanding Hotel of the Year

- Long Beach Hilton
- The Westin Long Beach
- Hyatt Regency Long Beach

Outstanding Restaurant of the Year

- Fuego at Hotel Maya
- 555 East
- Pier 76 Fish Grill

Entrepreneur Award

- Aaron Tofani, co-owner of Rance's Chicago Pizza
- Angela Almaguer, owner of Salud Juice
- Steve Massis, owner of The Attic on Broadway and Ashley's on Fourth

Special Event Award

- SteelCraft Long Beach
- Navy Proof at The Westin Long Beach
- Dine Out Long Beach, Restaurant Week 2.0

Housekeeping Award

- Araseli Ailman, public attendant at Hyatt Regency Long Beach
- Hortencia Gutierrez de Molina, room attendant at Long Beach Hilton
- Maria Ramos, room attendant at The Westin Long Beach

Safety Award

- Timothy Ong, chief engineer at Hyatt Centric The Pike
- Matt Ayers, owner of London Boat Rentals

"I'm truly honored to be nominated for the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance's Entrepreneur Award," said Steve Massis, owner of The Attic on Broadway and Ashley's on Fourth. "It was my good fortunate to bring my dreams to reality in my own community. It gives me tremendous satisfaction to know that my guests enjoy the experiences that we have created over these many years in Long Beach, but it is most rewarding to so often welcome back these guests as friends and neighbors."

PSAV is the presenting sponsor for this year's LBHA Hospitality Awards and Regal Wine Co. is providing all the wine for the event.

Individual tickets or tables of 10 for the Long Beach Hospitality Alliance Awards, taking place September 18 at Hotel Maya, can be purchased online at www.lbhaawards.info. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Elizabeth Borsting Public Relations, Inc. at 562.856.9292.

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About Long Beach Hospitality Alliance (LBHA)

LBHA is a member-based coalition working on behalf of hotel and restaurant operators and tourism related services throughout the city of Long Beach. The Long Beach Hospitality Alliance (LBHA) is a business council under the auspices of The Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. The LBHA represents the local hospitality and restaurant industry and serves as a liaison to the greater Long Beach area community which includes but is not limited to: all areas of city, state and federal government; local media; special constituency groups and related tourism entities and organizations. For more information visit: www.lbhospitality.com