Rebuilding the American Dream, Together

20th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Riots
Commemorative Service April 29, 2012

Co-hosted by:
Dear honored guests and partners,

On behalf of the SAIGU Campaign Committee, I am deeply humbled and gratified by your presence at our SAIGU commemoration event today.

Twenty years ago, our city was torn and divided by the Los Angeles Riots that resulted in over 3,600 fires, 2,300 businesses destroyed, 53 lives lost, and over $1 billion in property damage. Today I am grateful that there are many signs of progress that we can point to. In fact, a recent study by Loyola Marymount University shows that nearly 70% of Los Angelinos believe our communities are getting along better than before. This news is to be celebrated!

However, recent events such as the Trayvon Martin case demonstrate that many of the elements that came to divide us still remain below the surface ready to be ignited at any given moment.

As we gather today to commemorate the events and the lives of those that were lost 20 years ago, we also want to mark the progress made over the last 20 years and to reignite our efforts to build trust and deep dialogue amongst our communities.

During the past five months, the SAIGU campaign’s goal has been to promote service, advocacy, inspiration, giving and unity through series of events from prayer breakfasts, economic bus tours, documentary screenings, food festival, art memorial project and days of dialogue. Through the support and mobilization of hundreds of faith and community leaders, we have tasted what it means to come together as a community regardless of our different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds.

Los Angeles is the most diverse city of the United States, which is the most diverse country in the world. We believe that reclaiming the 20th anniversary of a fearsome chapter in our city’s history for the purpose of celebrating unity is a tremendous message for our community, our city and our country.

On behalf of our partner organizations and their thousands of supporters, I thank you for your participation and leadership as we strive towards - Rebuilding the American Dream, Together.

Respectfully,

Hyepin Im
Founder and CEO
Korean Churches for Community Development
Scheduled Program

3:00PM  Registration  Emceed by: Rev. Mark Whitlock & Hyepin Im

3:30PM  Opening Song: “Hand in Hand”/“How Excellent is Your Name”  Crenshaw Elite Choir, directed by Dr. Iris Stevenson

“Rebuilding the American Dream Together” SAIGU Campaign Video  SAIGU Campaign Video presented by California Forward

Welcoming Remarks  Hyepin Im, KCCD President & Founder & SAIGU Campaign Director

Special Remarks  Rev. Young Ik Byun, President of Council of Korean Churches in Southern California

Special Remarks  Rev. Richard Shin, Glory Church of Jesus Christ

Introduction of Dignitaries  Rev. Mark E. Whitlock, Jr., USC Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement

Sponsor Recognitions  Filiberto Gonzalez, Social | Impact Consulting, LLC & Larry Ortega, Community Union

Opening Prayer  Rev. John Jongdai Park, KCCD Co-Chair of the Board

Reflections on the LA Riots: Past & Future  Speaker John Perez of CA Assembly

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:14  Rev. Young Hee Chung, Wilshire United Methodist Church

Sermon “Rebuilding Together”  Pastor Jim Tolle, Iglesia en El Camino

Special Tribute: Edward Lee  Introduction by Jimmy Lee, KCCD Board Chair


Announcement of KCCD Leadership Training Academy

Reflections on the LA Riots: Past & Future  Edward Lee, Associate Director of White House Office of Public Engagement  John Trasvina, Assistant Secretary of Housing & Urban Development  Mike Eng, CA State Assembly Member

Rendition of “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” – CASA 0101

Reflections on the LA Riots: Past & Future – Van Jones

Reflections on the LA Riots: Past & Future – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Special Performance: “Gotta Serve Somebody” – Ann Weldon


“Light of Unity” Ceremony – Terry Hara, Najee Ali, Elected Officials, Eddie Lee’s parents, Emile Mack, and Others

Amazing Grace – Wilshire United Methodist Choir, Directed by Meesun Rebekah Kim

Closing Prayer of Unity – Rev. Cecil Murray, USC Cecil Murray Center for Civic Engagement

Closing Drum Performance – KIWA Cultural Resistance Drummers
Presenters:

**Najee Ali** is Founder & CEO of Project Islamic H.O.P.E, a national civil rights organization. In 2005 Ali was selected by Wave Publications as one of the 25 most Influential Black leaders in Los Angeles, CA. Project Islamic H.O.P.E. is responsible for Malcolm X Way, an intersection in Los Angeles named in memory of the slain human rights leader.

**Reverend Young Ik Byun** is the President of the Council of Korean Churches in Southern California. He is the founder and pastor of the West Bethel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles Koreatown. His church’s mission is to reach and serve local and overseas communities, particularly in Southeast Asia. Pastor Byun’s non profit organization, World Cultural Exchange Foundation, has been dedicated to promoting world peace and building future leaders by providing education and health services.

**California Forward** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to bring government closer to the people and move the state in the right direction - forward. We believe empowered local communities are best equipped to solve their own problems, and there is a critical link between many of the problems that threaten our future and our state government, which has become ineffective, unresponsive, and unable to fix itself.

**Controller John Chiang** was first elected in November 2006 to serve as Controller of the State of California, the ninth-largest economy in the world. He was elected to serve a second term in November 2010. Since taking office in January 2007, Controller Chiang took immediate action to make the State’s finances more transparent and accountable to the public and to weed out waste, fraud and abuse of public funds. The Controller’s aggressive audits have identified more than $3 billion in taxpayer dollars that were denied, overpaid, subject to collection, or resulted in revenues, savings and cost avoidance.

**Pastor Younghee Chung** is the current Pastor in charge of Wilshire United Methodist Church. From 2004-2008, he was the pastor in charge of Van Nuys UMC in Los Angeles. From 1998 through 2004, he was the pastor in charge of Olive UMC in Hawaii. He received his Doctor of Ministry from Claremont Theological School, with a major in Christian Spirituality (Doctorial Thesis Theme: Nurturing Spiritual Discipline through Lenten Observance) in May 1998.

**Reverend Norman Copeland** has pastured across the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and worked to rebuild, refurbish and renovate numerous churches across the city, state, and country. He currently serves as the Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles District of the Southern California Conference. Reverend Copeland is the former President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Ministerial Alliance of the Southern California Conference.

**Assemblyman Mike Eng** started his public service in 1987 when the Mayor of Monterey Park appointed him to the Library Board; he eventually went on to serve as City Councilman and Mayor and helped lead the drive to build a landmark new library extension then was elected in 2006 as a California State Assemblyman in his first try for state office and re-elected in 2008 and 2010. Today, Mike serves as Chair of the Assembly Banking & Finance Committee, which has responsibility for California’s banks & credit unions, mortgages and corporate securities laws.

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**Filiberto Gonzalez** is founder and CEO of Social I Impact Consulting, LLC, a full-service consulting firm based in Los Angeles, and committee member of the SAIGU Campaign. Filiberto holds a B.A. from CSU, Northridge, where he was a student leader during his four-year enrollment, and a master of social work degree from USC. In September 2011, The Huffington Post named Filiberto one of “39 Inspiring Men” for his work with nonprofits and in the social good community.
Deputy Chief Terry S. Hara is the Commanding Officer of Personnel and Training Bureau (PTB). As the Commanding Officer of PTB, he is responsible for overseeing the administration of human resources for the Department and the training of police recruits and “in-service training” for both sworn and civilian employees. He is the highest ranking and first Asian American to achieve the rank of Deputy Chief on the LAPD. He was recently honored with the Community Leadership Award by the National Association of Asian American Professionals.

Antonia Hernandez is the President and CEO of California Community Foundation and is a nationally recognized for a career spanning three decades in social action and the nonprofit sector, expertise in philanthropy and a lifelong devotion to underserved communities. Antonia rose to prominence as president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF).

Ms. Hyepin Im is a U.S. Presidential Appointee on the Board of the Corporation for National and Community Service. She is the President and Founder of Korean Churches for Community Development (KCCD), a national nonprofit involved in empowering churches and nonprofits to leverage their resources by building capacity, leadership, and partnerships in economic development and serving as a bridge between the Korean/Asian American community and the greater community at large.

Van Jones is president and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for bottom-up, people-powered innovations to help fix the U.S. economy. Van has a 20-years of track record as a successful, innovative and award-winning social entrepreneur. He is the co-founder of three other, thriving nonprofit organizations: the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Color of Change, and Green For All. He is the author of a New York Times best seller, Rebuilding the Dream, and involved with Move On.org.

Mayor Sukhee Kang was first elected to the Irvine City Council in 2004 and was successfully re-elected in 2006. With his 2008 election, he became the first Korean-American to serve as Mayor of a major U.S. city. He was re-elected as Mayor with more than 64% of the vote in November 2010. Mayor Kang was recently honored for his community leadership and citizenship by the Carnegie Corporation of New York which salutes immigrants who have made significant contributions to the country for its annual “Immigrants: The Pride of America” designation. Born and raised in South Korea, Mayor Kang graduated from the prestigious Korea University majoring in Agricultural Economics. In March of 2011 he received an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Business Administration from Dongseo University in Busan, Korea.

Bong Hwan Kim was appointed by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in 2007 to serve as the General Manager for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. He is responsible for the overall management of the department, advising policy makers, and building strategic partnerships with community-based stakeholders and public and private institutions. Prior to this, he has led a number of non-profit, community-based organizations involved in a range of social and community development missions including the MultiCultural Collaborative and the Korean Youth and Community Center.

Edward Lee previously led the Office of Public Engagement’s outreach to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community at the White House. He most recently worked as the Youth Outreach Director on the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He is also the founder and co-director of a non-profit film production and community activism organization. Lee grew up in Overland Park, KS, and is a graduate of Harvard University.

Jimmy Lee has become an expert in conducting results-driven communications and outreach campaigns. As principal of PreMPT Communications, he serves as a communications, public affairs and marketing consultant to small and large businesses, corporations and non-profit entities. He currently serves as co-chairman of the board of Korean Churches for Community Development.
Sandra Lee is the President and CEO of ES Advertising, a Los Angeles-based full service advertising agency specializing in the Asian American market. She oversees all departments of the agency to ensure superior agency service. She currently serves as the acting Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Asian American Advertising Federation, an organization comprised of Asian American agency principals, media, advertisers and strategic partners to grow the Asian American Advertising industry and to further professionalism within the industry. She also serves as a board member for Visual Communications, the organization that produces the annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival to raise public awareness of the importance of the Asian American community. In addition, she is a member of NAMIC (National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications) and an executive member of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Emile Mack is the South Division Assistant Chief for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD). He created the LAFD’s 20-year strategic master plan. He has led the Los Angeles region in its preparation for Katrina evacuees bringing together and coordinating numerous LA City, LA County, and non-profit agencies. He was also brought in to direct the LAFD’s emergency medical services efforts during the health care crisis. He has advocated issues at the State level when appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Fire Services. The Mayor of Los Angeles has presented him with the “Spirit of Los Angeles” award.

Reverend Dr. Cecil “Chip” Murray joined the faculty of USC. After retiring from his post as pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME), he was appointed as the John R. Tansey Chair of Christian Ethics in the School of Religion at the University of Southern California. In addition, Rev. Murray was named a Senior Fellow of the Center for Religion and Civic Culture. Murray holds a doctorate from Claremont School of Theology and has many years of experience as a senior statesman in the African American community and in the city of Los Angeles as a whole.

Larry A. Ortega, President and CEO for Community Union, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1993 by Mr. Ortega while he was attending law school at Western State University School of Law, Fullerton, California. Mr. Ortega is founding member of the One Million NIU (New Internet Users) a cohort of Asian, Black, Latino, Charter school, public school leaders coming together to increase Internet access and training in low income communities.

Reverend John Jongdai Park is a senior pastor of Joong Ang Korean Church and a co-chairman of Korean Churches for Community Development. He is a prominent and respected leader in the Korean American community.

Speaker John Pérez was elected in 2008 to represent the 46th Assembly District, comprising the cities of Maywood, Vernon, Huntington Park as well as the community of Boyle Heights, Downtown Los Angeles, unincorporated East Los Angeles and parts of South Los Angeles. In January 2010, he was elected Speaker of the California Assembly and was sworn in as the 68th Speaker on March 1, 2010, and also has served as political director of the California Labor Federation. He was a member of the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency until 2008, when he resigned from the board in order to run for the Assembly.

Reverend Richard Shin is the founder of the Glory Church of Jesus Christ in Los Angeles, California (1999). His church is growing rapidly, and now has 2,500 members. Glory Church provides a multitude of services to the community that is in desperate need of the services. The Church is a great asset to Los Angeles.
Heroes of Hope:

Radio Korea Media Group is the leading Korean multimedia company. In the US, Radio Korea Media Group faithfully serves as a bridge that connects the Korean American community to mainstream America in political, economical, and cultural aspects of daily life. They put their best efforts in sharing information, helping the Korean American community establish a successful life.

When the City of Los Angeles suffered the worst riots in modern history in 1992, Richard Y. Choi, broadcasting for Radio Korea, provided a lifeline of information to the Korean community where lives and businesses were lost. Choi not only informed the Korean American Community with breaking news and updates, but also used his broadcast to help Korean Americans understand the historic perspective and circumstances that led to the civil unrest.

Mr. Choi immigrated to the United States of America in 1973, is now President of Radio Korea and heads up a well-regarded information network. He continues to broadcast daily on Radio Korea on its morning news show and continues to encourage members of the Korean speaking community to become better citizens by giving them the courage and tools to achieve the American Dream. Mr. Choi is an outstanding broadcaster and humanitarian who have been the eyes, ears, and voice for the Korean American community. He is a dedicated and passionate broadcaster, who co-founded Radio Korea USA in 1989.

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Edward James Olmos (Axford) has achieved extraordinary success as an actor, producer and humanitarian. The Tony, Emmy and Academy Award® Nominated actor, is probably best known to young audiences for his work on the SYFY television series “Battlestar Galatica” as Admiral William Adama. Although the series kept the actor busy during its run from 2003 through 2009, it didn’t stop him from directing the HBO movie “Walkout” in 2007, for which he earned a DGA Nomination in the Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Movies for Television category. Olmos’ passion for the arts grows every year, but he never forgets to give back to the communities that support him with their dedication and support. He is an international advocate, spokesman, and humanitarian working with organizations such as Thank You Ocean, Project Hope Foundation, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, The Boy’s and Girl’s Club of America, The River Keepers, Dr. Andros’ Diabetic Foot Global Conference and he speaks up to 150 times a year in schools, universities, and corporations.

Bobby Green. As a twenty-nine year-old African American truck driver, Bobby found himself at that flashpoint of the riots. From the comforts of his living room, he watched Reginald Denny get pulled from his pick-up truck and pummeled with bricks. Green says, “God told me to get up and told me to help that man... I jumped in my truck and took off.” Near the intersection of Florence and Normandie, Green found Denny struggling to drive his truck in an attempt to save himself. But Denny was on the brink of losing consciousness. Green took over at the wheel and drove Denny to a hospital; paramedics who attended to Denny said he came very close to death. Green had saved Denny’s life. Though his heroism was praised across the country, the accolades did not remove memories of the horrors he experienced that day. Today, Bobby Green still has nightmares. He moved out of the city nearly 20 years ago and consciously makes few trips to Los Angeles saying, “It was a scary feeling. I thought the world was ending. It made me sad to see my neighborhood in flames.” Twenty years later, Green is cautiously optimistic that the city of Los Angeles is united and immune from the kind of violence that once brought the city to its knees.

Stewart Kwoh is the President and Exective Director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). Mr. Kwoh has carried out tremendous work to advance the interests of the Asian-American community, including frequent advocacy for the Korean-American community. One of Mr. Kwoh’s noted accomplishments within the Korean-American community, was the work he carried out after the riots. Working in conjunction with a pro-bono law firm, Mr. Kwoh filed suit against ten insurance agencies that did not pay Korean-American merchants for damages. Mr. Kwoh was ultimately able to win a settlement of $1 million for the merchants. Through APALC, Mr. Kwoh also formed a victim-relief effort called Asian Pacific Americans for a New LA. The organization worked to help ensure those who were devastated by the riots would have access to food, clothing and information on loans. APALC also worked with Bank of American (BOFA) to promote a $25 million grants and loan program after the riots. APALC has consistently utilized a variety of resource to work with local churches, and other non-profit organizations toward securing changes in preexisting socio-economic policies. Outside of APALC, Mr. Kwoh has also co-edited a book titled Untold Civil Rights Stories: Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice.

Edward Song Lee was the only Korean fatality during the Los Angeles Riots. On the second night of the riots, Edward was caught in the unrest at the intersection of 3rd and Hobart. Lee and his friends had initially arrived on the scene to provide assistance to the local owners of a noodle shop.

Bishop Edward R. Turner is the Senior Field Deputy and Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Executive Multi-Faith Clergy Council. As a community leader, his work has addressed the societal ills which have plagued the South Los Angeles and surrounding area for the past twenty years. He has been instrumental in helping to bridge the racial gap between African-American and the Latino community. In addition, he has brought together religious leaders, multi-faith groups, and members of law enforcement to serve for the betterment of mankind. In response to the civil unrest of 1992, which occurred several blocks away from his place of worship (and the future home of the H.O.P.E. for Life Foundation), Bishop Turner has galvanized community support for African-American and Latino Conferences, literary awareness, summits on gang violence, and the annual Community Day and Multi-Faith Prayer Breakfast. His dedication to his work has proven to be a benefit for all those who reside in the County of Los Angeles.

In memory of:

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Ann Weldon is a singer, actress, and a political activist. A TIME Magazine article referred to Ms. Weldon as “...the tall cinnamon skinned girl has a voice like velvet-soft rich and shimmering. Her tunes are chosen with care and treated with respect.” She has dazzled audiences worldwide: Australia, Hawaii, Japan, Germany, Amsterdam, Paris, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

CASA 0101 THEATER will present a 10-minute performance of selections from Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992. The piece contains extracts of a play written by Anna Deavere Smith. Chastity Dotson will be performing all of the characters, and Corky Dominguez directing. CASA 0101, Inc. is a non-profit 501©3 that was founded by Josefina Lopez, the author of Real Women Have Curves. The company, which is based out of Boyle Heights, is dedicated to providing vital arts, cultural, and educational programs in theater, digital filmmaking, art and dance. The theatre company believes that they are helping to nurture the future storytellers of Los Angeles, who will someday transform the world.

Crenshaw Elite Choir is a non-profit organization based upon the principle of Shared Experiences and Common Ground™. Under the direction of Professor Iris Stevenson, the choir has been considered “Ambassadors of Goodwill”. The choir believes in creating a “classroom without walls”. Music with an international flavor and intercontinental travel is emphasized as the exploration of Common Ground through worldwide learning ensues. Global exchanges are actively pursued, greatly encouraged, and anxiously anticipated as the prospective classroom setting unfolds. We are multi-generational, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and based on a family concept. Music brings our world together!

KIWA’s Cultural Resistance Drummers are an integral part of the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance. Founded in 1992, KIWA is a multiracial worker center dedicated to community organizing and advocacy in support of the rights of low-wage immigrant workers, tenants, and all people. We seek to create a beautiful, livable neighborhood, city, and world. One important part of this is being able to explore our cultural traditions and, together, create new cultural forms that reflect our multiethnic community. KIWA’s Cultural Resistance Drummers bring rhythm and energy to KIWA and ally events locally and nationally.

Love-in-Music is a Los Angeles based non-profit organization that was founded in May 2007, for voluntary music service programs that reach out to the musically needy children of low-income families in our multi-ethnic community with free musical instruments as well as free lessons once a week. LM volunteers consist of music faculty, professional performers, college and high school students within the community.

The vision of Wilshire United Methodist Church choir is to bring praise that overflows of God’s presence, to share life by loving others, and to become disciples of Christ through the Word and the holy spirit. The choir is a small community that strives to fulfill Jesus’ world mission.
CA Fwd is a proud sponsor of SAIGU.

We encourage communities to come together and work as one to elicit positive change.

CA Fwd believes that accountability and transparency can make California better and is working every day to fix California.

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The energy of community starts within each one of us. Since 1867, Southern California Gas Company has been proud to partner with the communities where we live and work. We support organizations that take pride in civic involvement in our diverse communities to help enhance the quality of life for us all.

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The men and women of ROSE HILLS® stand with the SAIGU committee as it remembers the Los Angeles riots. We are proud to serve and be a part of the strong, diverse Los Angeles community.
Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council 
Commemorates the 20th Anniversary 
of the L.A. Riots

Wells Fargo 
congratulates KCCD for their efforts in bringing unity in the community
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Reverend Daniel Stevenson, African Methodist Episcopalian Church – Presiding Elder of Savannah, Georgia
Reverend Jim Bob Park, Oriental Mission Church
Reverend Jim Tolle, La Iglesia En El Camino Church on the Way
Reverend John Jongdai Park, Korean Churches for Community Development
Reverend Norman Copeland, African Methodist Episcopalian Church-Presiding Elder of So Cal
Reverend Wallace Williams, Artesia City Church and Community Development Center
Reverend Young Ik Byun, The Council of Korean Churches in Southern California
Shakeel Syed, Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice
Sharon Ngai, Radiance International

Mariko Kahn, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Mark Masaoka, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council
Marvin Lee, Sprint Nextel
Mimi Song, CA State Commissioner
Paula Daniels, Office of Mayor Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles
Phillip Roh, Radio Seoul/Opera California
Rafael Gonzalez, Office of Mayor Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles
Robert Rubin, Crenshaw Christian Center, Vermont Village CDC
Roy Choi, Kollaboration
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Sam Kang, Greenlining Institute
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Stewart Kwoh, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Sweet Alice Harris, Parent of Watts
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