

News from the Institute for Local Government

January 2020

A Message From ILG's Executive Director

Greetings from ILG!

This month marks my first anniversary as the CEO & Executive Director of ILG. As I reflect on the past year and our many successes, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to work with local leaders throughout California on so many critical issues affecting cities, counties and special districts.

2019 was a pivotal year for ILG. We accomplished a number of important organizational objectives, including a strategic planning effort, addition of new board members and a staffing realignment.

We also spearheaded some exciting programmatic efforts. We've included our 2019 Annual Report in this issue so you can see a snapshot of some of the important initiatives we led.



2020 marks our 65th anniversary and we're excited to commemorate this milestone by implementing our new strategic plan and unveiling some new lines of work to help local agencies navigate the growing complexity they face. We plan to expand offerings in our core areas of Leadership & Governance and Public Engagement, and we'll be developing additional ILG trainings and resources around Disaster Preparedness, Housing and Organic Waste Recycling.

There are lots of exciting new projects on the horizon. We're grateful for your engagement in 2019 and can't wait to see what 2020 has in store!

With fondness from everyone at ILG,

Erica L. Manuel
CEO & Executive Director

2019: A Year in Review

2019 was a year of exciting growth and transition. We welcomed a new executive director and embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process all while helping local government leaders navigate complex issues ranging from affordable housing to disaster preparedness to climate change.

A few highlights include:

- Launching the [BOOST Pilot Program](#) to help 12 under-resourced communities create a framework for sustainable community planning that is customized and tailored to each community's specific needs;
- Hosting 41 trainings, webinars and conference sessions, reaching over 3,500 local officials and staff;
- Celebrating 12 cities and counties with [Beacon Awards](#) who collectively reduced their carbon emissions by more than 900,000 metric tons, equivalent to removing more than 190,000 cars from the road;



- Launching a [Housing and Public Engagement Toolkit](#) to help California local governments establish more trust and transparency by collaborating with and engaging their residents on housing-related issues;
- Convening state and local leaders to increase collaboration on disaster preparedness; and
- Helping local governments recruit and maintain a talented workforce by connecting over 500 youth to diverse local government career opportunities.

[Read the full report here.](#)

2020 Vision

In November, ILG's Board unanimously approved a 3-year strategic roadmap, which includes some ambitious initiatives to achieve the ILG mission to empower local government leaders and deliver real-world expertise to help them navigate complex issues, increase their capacity, and build trust in their communities.

We plan to do that by focusing on our four main pillars:

- Leadership & Governance
- Public Engagement
- Sustainable & Resilient Communities
- Civics Education & Workforce

To achieve the goals set forth in our strategic plan and position ILG for its next phase of growth, we are happy to announce that:



Melissa Kuehne has been promoted to Program Manager and will be leading our Leadership & Governance pillar and spearheading any emerging issues, like homelessness.



Christal Love Lazard will continue to lead our Public Engagement & Sustainability efforts.



Randi Kay Stephens has been promoted to Program Manager and will continue to lead and grow our Civics Education & Workforce pillar.



Karalee Browne has been promoted to Director and will be supporting the strategic vision and oversight for all the ILG pillars. Her primary workload will continue to be sustainability-focused and she'll lead our growing resiliency initiatives like housing and disaster preparedness.

These organizational adjustments will help ensure that ILG has adequate capacity in each one of its programmatic pillars and the flexibility to address some of the new and evolving issues that local leaders now face.

We're Hiring!



We're currently recruiting for an **Associate Program Manager or Program Manager**. We're looking for a fun and dynamic individual who exemplifies our values, can wear many hats, is a team player and a quick learner. ILG's projects and initiatives are constantly evolving, but the primary duties will include leading work in our **Public Engagement and Sustainability** pillars. The ideal candidate will have considerable project management experience, strong subject matter expertise in sustainability or public engagement, at least some local government expertise, and excellent communication skills. [Find out more here.](#)

Funding Opportunity: Local Early Action Planning Grants

The [California Department of Housing and Community Development \(HCD\)](#) recently announced the release of the [Local Early Action Planning \(LEAP\) Grants Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) for approximately \$119 million to help cities and counties plan for additional housing in their communities. The grants can be used for activities including:

- Rezoning and encouraging development by updating planning documents and zoning ordinances, such as General Plans, community plans, specific plans, implementation of sustainable communities' strategies, and local coastal programs
- Establishing housing incentive zones or other area-based housing incentives beyond State Density Bonus Law such as a workforce housing opportunity zone
- Performing infrastructure planning, including for sewers, water systems, transit, roads, or other public facilities necessary to support new housing and new residents;
- Establishing pre-approved architectural and site plans
- Revamping local planning processes to speed up housing production
- Developing or improving an accessory dwelling unit ordinance
- Zoning for by-right supportive housing

See the [NOFA](#) for a full list of eligible activities.

Applications are due **July 1, 2020**. Technical assistance is coming soon - stay tuned for information on workshops and webinars.

News from Our Partners



Davenport Institute Professional Certificate

On February 7-9, ILG collaboration partner the Davenport Institute will host their next Professional Certificate in Advanced Local Engagement training. Topics include: Facilitating Difficult Conversations, Technology in Public Engagement & more.

[Read more](#)
publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu



USC PRICE EXED FORUM FOR LOCAL LEADERS
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT
February 21-22
2020
February 21 | 1:00pm - 5:00pm
February 22 | 8:00am - 4:00pm
Palm Springs, CA
Invited Guests:
Hon. Ben Allen, J.D.
California Senator, Chair of Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Hon. Judy Mitchell, J.D.
Council Member, City of Rolling Hills Estates
Board Member, California Air Resources Board (CARB)
and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
USC Price Faculty
USC Price Executive Education Forum

USC Sustainability Summit

On February 21-22, ILG partner SoCal Edison will be sponsoring the USC Executive Education Forum for Local Leaders session on Sustainability. Key topics will include: Climate Adaptation, Environmental Leadership, Transportation and more.

[Read more](#)
sites.usc.edu

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