W e’re excited to present you with the 2016 celebration of one of the most dynamic sectors of business today – the Asian business community of greater Los Angeles!

To get an idea of the impact that Asian-owned and managed organizations are making on our business landscape, you need look no further than the many success stories that appear across our pages in the Los Angeles Business Journal. It’s only natural that we feature a spotlight on these fascinating companies with great stories and terrific leaders. Whether they are emerging organizations, large established business institutions, or non-profit organizations, each plays a role in helping to keep the fabric of our collective community strong.

So once again we have scoured through the many great stories of Asian business success in our region to single out some of the most outstanding organizations and leaders who are setting an example that all of us doing business in the region can follow.

The awards ceremony, along with the special supplement we produce within this paper, sharing our honorees’ terrific success stories and contributions to Los Angeles business as a whole, is an event we are particularly proud of. This section you are reading spotlights the very special honorees we celebrated at the 2016 Awards luncheon on Tuesday, July 19th at the Omni Hotel Los Angeles.

This year, a number of extraordinary Gold and Silver honoree organizations were announced – and are profiled in this section, alongside very special honoree distinctions for individuals. We applaud each of our honorees, as well as the wonderful collection of finalists, also detailed in these pages.

We hope you enjoy this special section, which contains some insights on the creative ways in which some of LA’s leading Asian businesses have made prestigious names for themselves.

Special thanks go out this year to our presenting sponsors, California Bank & Trust and Wells Fargo. And again, congratulations to all the great Asian businesses in Los Angeles that play such an integral role in our business community as a whole.

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo
Publisher & CEO

Bravo!
Reed Smith, a proud sponsor of the 2016 Los Angeles Business Journal’s Asian Business Awards, applauds our very own John Iino, Office Managing Partner of our Los Angeles office, who was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his leadership and dedication to promoting diversity in our community.

reedsmith.com
We salute this year’s Asian Business Awards winners.

CB&T is a proud sponsor of Los Angeles Business Journal’s Asian Business Awards 2016. We congratulate all of the nominees and celebrate your achievements. Smart business leadership is essential.

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HONOREES

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $100M+)

PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP

Led by co-Chairs and co-CEOs, Andrew and Peggy Cherng, Panda Restaurant Group has become the world leader in Asian dining experiences. It is the parent company of Panda Inn, Panda Express and Hibachi-San, and through its empowering training programs is dedicated to becoming a world leader in people development as well. Whether through sharing good food with guests or providing opportunities for professional and personal growth with associates, all are embraced in a genuine family environment that is “uniquely Panda.”

The company places a great deal of value on the notion of respect and seeks “win-win” relationships with guests, business partners and the communities it serves.

Panda Restaurant Group also understands that the future of its restaurants can only be as bright as the planet on which they reside, so the company has endeavored to reduce its carbon footprint and use of natural resources through a number of efforts including commercially compostable packaging, oil recycling and energy-efficient buildings whenever and wherever possible.

The family-owned and operated company has always been, and is still run by founders Andrew and Peggy Cherng. Panda currently operates in over 1,800 locations and continues to grow more than 100 new units annually. Andrew and Peggy Cherng are deeply committed to being the world leader in people development, providing growth opportunities for associates professionally and personally at every level. Panda Restaurant Group fosters a genuine family environment with community-building activities including Panda Cares charitable events and athletic pursuits that range from team triathlons to fun runs and Dragon Boat races.

GOLD AWARD

LOOT CRATE, INC.

Loot Crate, founded in late 2012, partners with the largest movie studios, game companies, comic publishers, and general pop culture talent to deliver multiple lines of monthly themed mystery boxes to fans, which it calls Looters, around the world. More than just a branded box of licensed apparel and collectibles, Loot Crate represents and fuels the passion found in fandom for its consumers as well as its partner brands.

Partner Eric Chan came to the company with a strong reputation. Most recently at Mattel, he served as Senior Vice President of Finance and Strategy for all of Mattel’s business units. As the highest-ranking Asian executive at Mattel, he was in charge of looking over a financial and strategic perspective $7 billion of revenues. When he expressed interest to take on a smaller, but fast growing CEO opportunity, Loot Crate jumped on the. At Loot Crate, not only has Chan served the company well from getting a top 4 auditor on board, stabilizing financial back office operations, and helping strategize the future direction of the company, but he has been extremely instrumental in leading the effort on securing the first round of external capital, which will equate to $40 million in total capital raised.

SILVER AWARD

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $100M+)

PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $100M+)

LOOT CRATE, INC.
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $25-$100M)

SHIN-SEN-GUMI RESTAURANTS

More than just offering Japanese food to Americans, Shin-Sen-Gumi believes its mission is to offer this food in the most authentic state possible. In a manner of speaking it could be said that Shin-Sen-Gumi is a representative of Japan, with the Japanese soul on its back and its responsibility is to bring the people of the US, with all their different nationalities and backgrounds, not some imitation of Japanese food but the real deal, and have them appraise it. The restaurants are a fusion of cultures in a true sense, led by the belief that if that fusion is successfully achieved, the relationship between cultures is finally equal. Shin-Sen-Gumi has produced videos for the purpose of showing the correct way to eat Japanese food, adding a heightened level of authenticity to the dining experience.

Early in his career in Japan, Shin-Sen-Gumi President Mitsuyasu Shigeta worked part-time in the Hakata located restaurant “Tensuke.” One coworker broke out on his own and opened a restaurant in Hakata called “Shin-Sen-Gumi.” When preparing to open his own restaurant in the U.S., Shigeta studied at this Hakata-based restaurant for two months and in turn, inherited the name “Shin-Sen-Gumi,” a name that he believed would have an impact on Americans.

Like no other Japanese restaurant, since its opening, Shin-Sen-Gumi has been open for business 7 days a week, 365 days a year with no holidays. This was born out of a frustrating experience when Shigeta couldn’t find any restaurants open during the New Year’s holiday. During the New Year’s holiday, Shin-Sen-Gumi offers the traditional preparation of mochi rice cakes with a wooden mallet (a Japanese New Year staple) and serves o-zoni, a traditional soup also containing mochi rice cakes. All of these services have been started to make the customer happy and bring yet another layer of authenticity to the experience.

SINGPOLI GROUP

Under the able leadership of Kin Hui, Singpoli has developed deep roots in Southern California and grown considerably. Singpoli consists of several companies, including Singpoli Capital Corporation, Singpoli Construction, Pacific Design Group and Singpoli Realty. The company also oversees a successful EB-5 investment program, Invest LA.

In Pasadena, Singpoli Capital Corporation acquired and renovated 2 North Lake, a class A office complex and acquired and renovated the historic Constance Hotel and introduced the Dusit Hotel brand to the United States. The hotel has been successfully renovated, revived and returned to its original purpose and exterior appearance. Inside, the hotel mixes historic architecture with contemporary fixtures and 21st century amenities. When complete, the development will also include an office tower at the corner of Lake and Colorado in Pasadena. Singpoli Capital is also currently involved in a significant hotel and residential development project in New York.

Singpoli Construction has also provided tenant improvements for EverTrust Bank in Pasadena and Irvine. It has also built luxury homes in Palermo Estates. Singpoli Realty is a licensed California real estate brokerage company, with a particular focus on commercial investment properties as well as high-end residential homes in the Southern California region.
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $5-$25M)

SGC INTERNATIONAL

Standard Glass Corporation, or SGC International, is a testament to how quality and a full service philosophy for customers can allow a company to grow year after year even during one of the worst economic situations in our lifetime.

SGC International designs and distributes architectural glass for some of the most breath-taking projects. Its glass can be seen in a number of architectural masterpieces, including two fabulous glass structures in Las Vegas – the Encore at the Wynn Hotel and the MGM Signature Hotel.

Since it was founded in 2000, SGC International has grown every single year, including the years of the recession, between 15% - 30%. At the helm of this impressive company is President James Huang, who, prior to immigrating to the United States in 1997, worked for CSG Holding Co. Ltd, China’s leader in the architectural glass industry. As a young, successful executive of CSG, Huang was sent to the United States to start the American division of the company. Landing in Los Angeles, he slowly built the company’s American outpost from scratch. While he always appreciated everything CSG did for him, including the faith they showed in him to send him to the United States, he soon realized his experience and expertise could allow the company to be more successful in America if he took over the operations. After three years, he felt that he had learned enough about the American business way to break out on his own. He arranged to purchase the American division of CSG Holding Co. Ltd from the Chinese parent company and created SGC International Inc. in the year 2000.

Today, SGC International has approximately 200 customers, but with the size of a typical job, not many have needs to use architectural glass more than once. However, in an amazing testament to its customer service and proficiency, more than 25% of SGC’s customers return to use them time and time again.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE $5-$25M)

SEE THE WAY CONSULTING

As the CEO of See the Way Consulting, Panney Wei is a certified life-coach/hypnotherapist-motivational speaker, leading professional development and personal growth seminars at corporations, non-profit organizations, and has mentored countless of young Asian American leaders across the country, focusing on her mission to develop and nurture a future generation of leaders in the Asian Pacific community.

As a media entrepreneur, Wei has worked as an expert TV host and has appeared on countless radio shows nationwide and has worked with OWN, Discovery, NBC, CBS among others, and authored or featured in such publications as Pho for Life, Enchant, Audrey, Jade, Woman International, and Hydrogen, and was the former Feature Editor for ASIAM. In the early part of her professional life, she was a competitive figure skater and worked in finance and business development and event planning for the LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, and other groups before starting her transformational coaching and hypnotherapy business.

Wei is working on her first self-help book on attracting the love of your life, and is featured in the film, Quantum Wisdom, as the host and a featured Master Spiritual Teacher, now available on iTunes. See the Way is making a difference in people’s lives across the nation and our world.
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE < $5M)

IDEAL LEGAL GROUP, INC.

In 2006, Evie Jeang formed Ideal Legal Group, Inc. in Alhambra, a law firm specializing in workers compensation, immigration, and labor and employment matters. Jeang and her team provide legal counseling to Asian-owned businesses and employers to improve their working environment. She has also dedicated her business to helping families and couples by pioneering the way in international family law, particularly divorce and surrogacy.

With additional offices in New York, San Francisco and San Diego, the firm offers its services in Mandarin, Cantonese and Spanish. At the core of everything they do, from litigation in the courtroom to supporting the community outside of the courtroom, Ideal Legal Group places value in individual, family and child legal rights above all else.

A Taiwanese immigrant herself at the age of 12, Jeang’s true passion lies in providing compassionate legal representation to couples and families who are in the same situation she has personally experienced. She also regularly guides other Asian Americans who wish to start a business through the legal process. Jeang is one of the few attorneys who understands the intricacies of international divorce, which can have severe implications for businesses and their owners. It also requires a deep understanding of other cultures and how those cultures can influence the legal process.

Every year, many startup Asian companies come to America with high hopes of growing or starting their brand. These high hopes are often met with great difficulty, considering there are many cultural and societal barriers that can hinder their success. Jeang regularly counsels these companies and foreign executives on U.S. labor, workers compensation, contract, and intellectual property laws. Her breadth of knowledge and multilingual speaking is an incredible resource to Asian businesses hoping to thrive. With Jeang’s guidance, these companies have a better chance at succeeding in the American markets.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE < $5M)

CONSERVATORY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Founded in 2005 by musician, teacher, wife and mother Shiho Yamamoto, and headquartered in West Los Angeles, with an additional site in Lomita, The Conservatory of Performing Arts (TCOPA) offers individual and group classes in music and dance, along with children’s ballet and hip-hop classes, as well as ballet classes for adults. In addition to Yamamoto, TCOPA is also home to numerous strong teachers who support her instructional ideas. The school owes its success to its roster of well-established teachers who specialize in educating young people to the performing arts. The Conservatory of Performing Arts is the home of the revolutionary ColorSoundation method, developed by Yamamoto.

Teachers at the school believe that there is no better way to set up children ages 3-8 for success in music later in life than by starting them off with the ColorSoundation program. TCOPA also offers private music lessons as well as group music classes for all ages. Whether a student is just getting started or has been playing an instrument for years, the school is designed to improve the skills of a diverse group of students in a fun way. TCOPA’s teachers are professional musicians who have years of experience; catering lesson plans uniquely to fit the goals of each student.

GOLD AWARD

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE < $5M)

GOLD AWARD

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (REVENUE < $5M)

SILVER AWARD
HONOREES

OUTSTANDING ASIAN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

ANDREW & RANDY UCHIDA

Uchida Pipe and Industrial Supply

While working for large pipe companies in the early 90’s, Randy Uchida was urged by his customers to go out on his own and their business would follow. From the beginning, engineers and executives from these major utilities sought Randy out for advice and counsel in the highly technical world of pipe materials and fitting. Being this resource for customers was a vital reason Randy Uchida was able to grow the company to revenues of more than $10 million with just him and a typewriter…until 2012, when Andrew Uchida joined his father. While Andrew grew up around Uchida Pipe, his father was very careful to allow him to pursue his own course, so when he decided to join him in 2012, he knew very little about the industry. Just as Andrew was getting his feet under him, Sempra, following the San Bruno gas explosion, initiated the project to replace / upgrade all of their gas pipes. Whilst vendor upon vendor lined up to bid for a piece of the action, it was clear Sempra needed the expertise of Uchida Pipe to complete this essential job. Orchestrating the bid, winning the business, implementing the project in the ultimate “thrown into the fire moment,” Andrew showed his incredible poise and success as an executive. This was also the moment that all of Uchida Pipe’s customers knew that the transition from father to son would be seamless. In his second full year with the company, 2014, and his first as President and CEO, Andrew Uchida saw the company through a 320% growth!

In a true testament to Randy Uchida’s lifetime accomplishments and his son, Andrew Uchida’s more recent successes, Uchida Pipe has been able to engender corporate loyalty from large companies and maintain the original mission of the business. This father and son “dynamic duo” is the ultimate testament to hard work and collaboration.

GOLD AWARD

OUTSTANDING ASIAN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

DIMPLE THAKKAR

Synhergy

Despite being something of a social media pioneer, when Dimple Thakkar started her own social media agency, a lot of factors and odds were against her. She was young, didn’t seek funding and was starting a business that was virtually unknown in the world of marketing. She started SYNHERGY in her mid-20’s and understood that the only way to earn respect was to know more about her industry than any other competitor. In addition to earning respect from her peers, Thakkar also understood that she had to build a reputation that was worth owning to earn new business and recognition. That meant never failing to deliver on promises while creating values that went above and beyond what is normal for a company. As a result of her hard work and focus, SYNHERGY was nominated top social media agency on Mashable.com within the first year of business.

SYNHERGY has now been in business for almost seven years and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce awarded it the Small Business of the Year Award in 2013. Because of her success as a young entrepreneur, Thakkar spends a lot of her time volunteering and speaking to up-and-coming young entrepreneurs, with a focus on women.

SILVER AWARD
NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR
FIVE ACRES

Originally founded in downtown LA as an orphanage, Five Acres’ initial mission was simply to provide safety to children who had no home. In time, the mission expanded to also focus on the well being of its clients and caring for the mental and emotional health of children who were increasingly coming to Five Acres as a result of abuse or neglect. Having grown to an agency caring for nearly 8,500 children and family members annually across five counties, Five Acres now strives for permanency — a permanent, loving home — for all those in its care.

Upon graduating with her masters in Clinical Psychology from Cal State Northridge in 1999, Chanel Boutakidis joined Five Acres, which quickly became Boutakidis’ career. She dramatically rose from Case Manager to Therapist to Clinical Supervising Therapist to Program Director to Senior Program Director in only five years.

As she rose to her current role as CEO, Boutakidis had a clear plan, both internally and externally, to influence the system of care for thousands of at-risk children in Los Angeles. She knew she needed to start making successful changes at Five Acres and turn the organization into a model of efficiency and professionalism and, only then, could she utilize Five Acres 100+ year legacy, as well as their extensive data, to take the lead in changing the system statewide and taking Five Acres to new levels of excellence.

These three pillars; safety, well-being and permanency provide the framework for all of Five Acres’ current programs and they will guide its steps in the future as the organization continues seeking even more effective means of caring for children and families in crisis. For over 128 years now, Five Acres has been committed to preserving successful childcare programs and developing innovative services for children and families in crisis.

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR
FUTURE STUDIO

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Amy Inouye and a band of her fellow art lovers, on October 17, 2007, the legendary statue known as Chicken Boy was installed on the rooftop of Future Studio Design & Gallery on Historic Route 66 (Figueroa Street) in Highland Park.

Three days after Inouye moved to Los Angeles, she discovered Chicken Boy. He was then the sign for the restaurant that gave him his name. He stood atop a three-story building on Broadway, downtown. Lending itself to the diverse and funky personality of LA, Chicken Boy was built of dimensionally stable fiberglass and stood 22-feet tall. As the years rolled by, he remained an oddly comforting constant in Inouye’s (and many others’) life. One evening in 1984, she drove by and the restaurant was boarded up. She took down the number of the realtors and called them to find out what would be the statue’s fate. Impending construction work on the building meant the statue was going to come down. Inouye rescued the statue but struggled for 23 years to find a home where it could be appreciated as a cultural symbol of LA.

Enter Future Studio Gallery, along with its Chicken Boy Souvenir Shop, with all proceeds going towards Chicken Boy maintenance.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JOHN M. IINO
Reed Smith LLP

John Iino is the Managing Partner of Reed Smith’s Los Angeles office and the Global Co-Chair of the firm’s Japan Business Team. Six years ago, Iino became the first Asian American to serve on the firm’s Executive Committee and its Senior Management Team. Previously, for several years, he led the global Business & Finance Department, which now has an annual revenue of more than half a billion dollars. Overall, he and his contributions have made a significant mark in helping Reed Smith become the global firm it is today.

To his leadership roles, Iino brings a unique multicultural perspective. He has led U.S., Asian, Canadian, and multinational companies in a full spectrum of corporate, financial, and cross-border commercial transactions. As a senior executive, practice group leader, and personal mentor to rising stars, he has also traveled the world, building relationships with attorneys and clients in each of the firm’s 26 offices. In his travels across the U.S., Europe, and Asia, Iino became increasingly aware of how well positioned Los Angeles is to play a leading role in the rapidly globalizing economy.

Iino and his team provide legal representation and counsel to the national and international businesses and industries that have fueled the LA basin’s historic and continued growth. Over the last four years as Los Angeles Office Managing Partner, Iino has expanded his office’s impact and influence by building on an expanding presence in Asia, which now includes more than 150 attorneys in Beijing, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Shanghai, and Singapore. He has also leveraged the firm’s key industry expertise in financial services, entertainment and media, life sciences and pharmaceuticals, energy and natural resources, and manufacturing. For his clients in Asia, there is little Iino has not handled in terms of major cross-border transactions.
There were so many excellent candidates for the Asian Business Awards, we couldn’t let some of these honorable nominees slip by without recognition. Congratulations to each of the following final organizations, listed below in alphabetical order:

The1stMovement
As CEO of The1stMovement, Ming Chan has received a number of accolades from business publications and has led the agency to three offices worldwide. The1stMovement has in fact been recognized as one of the top digital agencies in the world by SoDA (Society of Digital Agencies). A Silicon Valley software engineer by trade, Chan was the recipient of the prestigious Primetime Emmy award in “Technical Excellence in Interactive TV,” and has architected many digital solutions for some of the world’s most renowned brands and worked for TRW/Acclaim, AKQA, and eHarmony as Technical Leads/Directors before founding The1stMovement in 2006.

24HR HomeCare
24HR HomeCare has grown from one office in 2008 to 13 offices nationwide. Under the leadership of founder Ryan Iwamoto, the company now has 11 offices throughout California, and just this past year, it expanded out-of-state, to Texas and Arizona. The company employs over 1,000 home care aides and has provided over 10,000,000 hours of care to the community. As COO, Iwamoto has forged key partnerships with Los Angeles Hospital systems such as UCLA Health, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, the Alzheimer’s Association, Jewish Family Services, and Kaiser Permanente, giving 24HR HomeCare the opportunity to provide its services to an ever-expanding audience.

Advancing Women Executives (AWE)
Advancing Women Executives (AWE) is the premier business service for the advancement of corporate executive women, supported by women and men. AWE members have the common goal of partnering, supporting, and promoting each other. Membership in AWE is by invitation only and is company-sponsored. Senior executives working at the Vice President level and above are eligible. AWE is a service professional-free membership and adheres to a strict policy against marketing or commercial activity. Meiko Takayama, the Founder and CEO of AWE, created the organization when she recognized that there needed to be a paradigm shift in corporate America in order to increase membership in AWE.

American Chung Nam Group Holdings, Inc.
20 years ago, the United States alone generated more than 47 million tons of paper and packaging material a year, creating massive amounts of paper headed for landfills all across the country. ACNG’s founders, Yoon Cheung and Ming Chung Liu, saw this as an opportunity. They recognized that the enormous amount of paper, instead of merely being dumped into landfills, could be a resource for paper mills that convert recycled paper into packaging materials and other paper products around the world. They began business as America Chung Nam, which started out as a small player in the recovered paper market, it quickly grew into a billion-dollar global organization.

Amity Law Group
Jennifer Fu is the Managing Partner of Amity Law Group. Fu focuses her practice in the areas of estate planning, immigration and general business law. Fu counsels her clients on matters involving trust administration, preparation of an estate plan in order to maximize estate and gift tax exemptions including the drafting of living trusts and testamentary living trusts. Fu is also experienced with variety of employment based immigrant and non-immigrant petitions. She is fluent in English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Taiwanese.

Asian American Real Estate Association (AREAA)
The Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) is a nonprofit professional trade organization dedicated to promoting sustainable home ownership opportunities in Asian American communities by creating a powerful national voice for housing and real estate professionals that serve this dynamic market. The Los Angeles chapter is led by chapter president Young Ahn, AREAA’s membership represents a broad array of real estate, mortgage and housing-related professionals that serve the diverse Asian American market. AREAA is the only trade association dedicated to representing the interests of the Asian real estate market nationwide.

Beimar
James Wen made an impact early on in the skate and surf apparel industries with his innovative screen printing. Now, his company Beimar is fast becoming known for its fabric. Beimar garments are softer, fit better and are more comfortable, which means customers want to wear them again and again. Beimar uses only the highest-grade yarn, a 100% cotton, semi-combed variety that is notably softer than competition’s.

BYD
Steffs Li is the president of BYD Motors, the world’s largest electric vehicle manufacturing company, dedicated to creating safer and more environmentally friendly technology. Specializing in battery technologies, its green mission to “solve the whole problem” has made it industry pioneers and leaders in several high-tech sectors including high-efficiency automobiles, electrified public transportation, environmentally-friendly energy storage, affordable solar power and information technology and original design manufacturing (ODM) services. BYD and all of their shareholders, including investor Warren Buffett, see these environmentally and economically forward products as the way of the future.

Coker Tire Company
Since 1958, Coker Tire Company has supplied automotive enthusiasts with the right tires and wheels for their collector vehicles and their everyday drivers. The company has grown in leaps and bounds since its early beginnings as a B.F. Goodrich tire dealership, and now, Led by President and COO Wadie Kawsouz, Coker Tire is the world’s largest manufacturer of specialty tires and wheels for collector vehicles. Popular products include whitewall tires, redlines and white letter tires, available in bias ply and radial construction.

The Continuum Engineering
The Continuum Engineering was named a finalist for this year’s Asian Business Awards thanks to the unique and highly specialized work of Tarun Ghosh, a senior structural analyst, on the major structures and supports to the World Trade Center. The company focuses on developing customer-centric designs and provides those designs at competitive prices, which is achieved through EdgeMine’s certification for launch and on-orbit environments. Other tasks involve troubleshooting, problem solving, and liaison with clients and vendors.

Edgemine, Inc.
With Kevin Kang in a leadership role as CEO, Edgemine has become a total women’s fashion company which has been constantly growing since its beginning as a small shop in downtown Los Angeles in 1994. The company focuses on developing customer-centric designs and provides those designs at competitive prices, which is achieved through Edgemine’s global network.

Enplug
Enplug is a Los Angeles based start-up that is a unique example of a young and diverse company. Both the company and it’s founding team exhibit a rare example of diversity in the tech industry – in this case due to the fact that three key executives - including the CEO and CTO - are women and two of these women are Asian Americans. The founding team includes two Asian American women as well. Enplug has fast become an important member of West LA’s “Silicon Beach” start-up community – working closely with organizations such as the Mayor’s office to help transform Los Angeles into a tech hub of the world.

ForensiGroup, Inc.
Started as a construction consulting resource group in 1991, ForensiGroup has been led by President and CEO Mercy T. Steenwyk into its current role as an industry leader in the expert and consulting services industry. ForensiGroup selects only the most qualified of highly credentialed experts and consultants based on an extensive screening process, ensuring that our clients are matched with the right expert, consultant, or expert witness for each case, maximizing the potential for a successful outcome to each case or project. By utilizing these standards, we have established ourselves with a history of success by meeting the needs of complex litigation and consulting projects across the country.

Innovate Marketing Group
Led by its founder and CEO, Amanda Ma, Innovate Marketing Group is a full service experiential and production agency specializing in creating experiences that connect brands with people. It has become a one-stop shop solution from concept to execution, IMG prides itself on specialized design, flawless execution, and an unparalleled client experience. The company began in 2014 with a simple experiment, “What would happen if each event was flawlessly designed, inspiring, positively ‘wow,’ and designed with goals in mind, whether they be to increase employee morale, increase membership, increase brand awareness, turn attend- ed events into advocates, etc.

International Vitamin Corporation
Steven Dai, President and CEO of International Vitamin Corporation (IVC), is a prominent member of a business group that holds high standards to create and sell his business. Dai’s creative vision was to develop a nutritional supplements company that was vertically integrated, right back to the raw materials. To do this, he would have to develop a global bridge to directly obtain the raw materials for localized manufacturing and distribution. If successful, quality would be high, timing and availability would improve and costs would be reduced. Determined, Dai Continued on page 38
set out to make this innovative vision a reality. Since then, IVC has been growing leaps and bounds.

LASERFICHE
Thomas Phelps serves as CIO for Laserfiche, which since 1987 has produced Laserfiche Enterprise Content Management software—a system that has been trusted by more than 35,000 organizations worldwide to manage, secure and share information. As a privately-held company, Laserfiche develops solutions for capture, workflow, forms, e-signatures and case management that help organizations drive business value—and make timely, informed decisions. Along with winning industry awards, Laserfiche has also set the industry standard with a Department of Defense 5015.2-certified records management solution.

THE LAW OFFICES OF GRACE A. LOU
The Law Offices of Grace A. Lou is a law firm founded seven years ago by its principal and namesake, attorney Grace A. Lou. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Lou’s practice assists Los Angeles area clients in both business and trusts & estates matters.

LUMENSOURCE LLC
Lumensource’s founder and general manager, Jeffrey Lumen, was born of Taiwanese parents who immigrated to the Philippines when he was young. Growing up fascinated by unique technology, Lumen made his move as an entrepreneur during a period where LED technology was in its early beginnings. Lumen felt this risky emerging market could be his turning point. Starting from scratch and from the very bottom, Lumensource eventually made its mark on a single “diode idea”—sustainable artisan lighting. Today Lumensource is a full-service LED company with LED design integration specialties coupled with quality production to suit various needs.

M2K GROUP
First Vice President/Senior Portfolio Manager with the Wealth Management division at Morgan Stanley in Downtown Los Angeles, Kerry Moy’s grandfather owned Hoe Kow Chinese restaurant in Downtown Chicago which stayed open for over 40 years. As a principal/partner with The M2K Group, the company develops, operates and currently owns 19 restaurants in its portfolio. Of the 19, six of them are in heart of Downtown Los Angeles. The M2K Group recently partnered up with the Anschutz Entertainment Group AEG and The Singpoli Group to bring the new Triple 8 China Bar n Grill at LA Live near the Staples Center.

MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips is a finalist in this year’s Asian Business awards because of the tireless efforts of Diana Iorlano, who is an exemplary executive who is also philanthropic within her community. In spring of 2015, she raised over $110,000 and became The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Woman of the Year, and this year, she served on the Leadership Committee and recruited two candidates, both who raised over $50,000 for LLS’s mission. Her colleagues report that she is strong, impactful, kind, generous, and inspiring.

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RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
MILK & EGGS

May Chu has a leadership role with Milk & Eggs—an online food marketplace with the goal of connecting people to amazing farmers and food makers. Membership and delivery are free and orders can be changed anytime. Customers sign up for subscriptions of milk, eggs, dairy, meats, vegetables, and fruits on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. All food is fresh and locally acquired. The company’s short logistics cycle enables viable and tree-ripened foods to be brought from the farm to customers’ doors within 48 hours. The goal is to have the shortest distance between you and your food so you can enjoy the true natural intended.

NEW YORK LIFE

New York Life has been named a finalist this year for the Asian Business Awards due to the exemplary work and reputation of Charles Tran, who serves as a Partner at New York Life’s Glendale Office. Not only is Tran a leader as a top partner of the Fortune 100 company; he is also an icon in the Asian community in Greater Los Angeles. His leadership and success in the company constantly draws other leaders across the country to reach out to him to learn how he achieved his success. Under Tran’s stewardship, the Glendale office has become a model for the other offices around the country.

NEXGEN WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Who do young entrepreneurs and business owners in their 30s and 40s turn to for unbiased professional advice when their assets may not meet the minimum of many “old school” wealth management firms? Who can they trust? That is the motivation behind Andrew Chou’s decision to found NexGen Wealth Management. He wanted to create a wealth management firm from the ground up to serve the needs of young, ambitious, and successful business owners. To do so, he has assembled a team of highly qualified advisors, including attorneys, CPAs, bankers, etc. to serve his clients personal, and business financial needs.

NU-SET LOCK

Nu-Set Lock started out with a desk and file cabinet. That was over 40 years ago in its Hong Kong office. It’s a family business, and when the family immigrated to Los Angeles in the 1990s, it maintained close ties to business partners in Hong Kong and China. These long-term partners are the basis of the Nu-Set family today, with a staff that has grown along with the Nu-Set campa based in El Monte. The business has grown to the point that it needed to establish a network of logistic points and authorized distribution offices so the company can extend its services to international customers.

ORBI GROUP

A media entrepreneur and film producer, Peter Shiao is currently the founder and CEO of Orbi Media Group, a company with offices in Los Angeles and Beijing, focused on producing, financing and marketing films and online games with transformational themes that unite the international and Chinese markets.

ORCIXI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

Dr. Ziegfried Young is an example of what it means to devote one’s life to educating and empowering others in both mainstream and Asian-American communities. Through Dr. Young’s work as president of Orcixi Internation Corporation (a garment exporting and importing company) and his philanthropic donations/establishment of the Ziegfried and Wendie Young Endowed Scholarship (designated to support majority students pursuing a graduate degree in education or psychology), he has consistently demonstrated that he is fully committed to enhancing the field of education by providing young people with access to valuable educational resources aimed at enhancing their academic pursuits.

PACIFIC REALTY SERVICE

Since 2005, Pacific Realty Service, Inc. has provided residential and commercial real estate transactional and advisory services, which include sourcing investment opportunities, equity and debt, financial modeling, due diligence for business, risk analysis, business plans, projection, financial and business reporting, cost and expense reductions for minorities, especially for the South Asian community. Over the years, Pacific Realty Service Inc. has assisted South Asian home and small business owners by providing necessary classes free of any fees or charge. Another major milestone for Pacific Realty Service was that it acted as a major sponsor for the First Bangladesh Day Parade in 2007 and has remained a sponsor in subsequent years.

PROSKY

Crystal Huang, founder of ProSky, is a rising star in the high tech startup world. She is determined to lead the charge in the HR Tech industry and her company’s fast growth is proof of her capabilities.

RAYTHEON, SPACE AND AIRBORNE SYSTEMS

Raytheon is a finalist for the Asian Business Awards this year thanks to the work of Dr. Shireya Gandha. Through Dr. Gandha’s work as an electrical engineer/Senior Manager at Raytheon for the last 13 years, writer of the Amazing Adventures of Alex the Crocodile picture books, math educator, devoted family man and professor at Pepperdine’s Graduate School of Education and Psychology, he has shown time and time again that he is fully committed to enhancing the field of education by providing young people with access to valuable educational resources aimed at improving their overall understanding of life’s important lessons.

ROYCE WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Flora Tsang is one of the founders that oversees Royce Weddings & Events, a full-service event and venue management and consulting company. Royce Weddings & Events offers complete event planning and management services, programming and production, entertainment and special event coordination, high-quality activities, and event promotion. Its services are available throughout the Greater Los Angeles region to help companies, organizations, families, and event venues present highly effective events. Tsang and her team pride themselves on attention to detail and a creative approach to quality event presentation.

SPOKES

Founded in 2006 by a group of Stanford graduates, including Harrison Tang, Spokes has grown to nearly 100 team members with offices based in Pasadena’s historic old town neighborhood. Essentially a “people search engine,” Spokes makes it easier than ever to help reanimate friends and family, browse celebrities, and discover information about your online footprint, by simply searching a name, email, phone or username. Spokes is a leading people search platform using proprietary technology to organize information into comprehensive yet easy-to-understand online profiles.

ST. CLOUD CAPITAL

Led by Managing Partner, Benjamin Horn, St. Cloud Capital is a Los Angeles-based private investment firm founded in 2001 to provide growth capital to the lower middle market (companies with annual revenues between $10 million and $125 million) throughout the United States. St. Cloud has made 53 portfolio investments in companies across a wide range of industries and in every layer of the capital structure, including senior secured debt, subordinated debt, and preferred and common equity.

TRI-NET TECHNOLOGIES

A family business led by a dynamic father-son trio, Tri-Net Technologies (TNT) is a company that has always stayed a step ahead of the competition. TNT was originally founded by Thomas Chung, the patriarch of the family, a forward thinking entrepreneur with a knack for seeing opportunities before others. Led now by his sons, Robert Chung, a Wharton MBA graduate who is reenergying the organizational side of the company to prepare it for the rapidly changing technology environment, and Eric Chung, a graduate of Boston University who is changed with growing company revenues through sales and increased distribution channels, the company is poised for continued exponential growth.

UNITED NATIONS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This year, the United Nations’ Association of the USA was a partner with Rotary in developing, presenting at, and supporting the Rotary World Peace Conference 2016. The mission of the Rotary World Peace Conference 2016 is to bring together experts with solutions (blueprints for success) to major issues that are occurring in our personal lives, homes, schools, businesses and communities, not just in Southern California, but also around the world. The event, which took place in January, featured leaders from health care, academia, government, public safety, religions, business, and communities to meet together to share the solutions presented by experts.

VANANA HOME HEALTH SERVICES

Led by Alan De Leon and Amabel Nugo-De Leon, Vanana Home Health Services delivers a full suite of high quality and professional healthcare services, from home health care to rehabilitation to over 100,000 patients in the Southern California area. The company takes great pride in its passion for providing excellent patient care and its years of experience in the field. Vanana’s home health care services are administered with the supervision of a physician and approved Plan of Care (POC) and Goals given to each patient under the program.

VIRTELABLE SCREENING / CAREGIVER CHECKS

Virtuatable Screening is one the first background screening companies with a focus of bringing background screening services to the Asian American and other ethnic communities. Virtuatable offers a critical service to employers by helping them verify the truthfulness in candidates’ resumes through education and employment verifications and checking for prior criminal history that may expose the company to fraud or pose a risk to employees and customers of the company. Virtuatable has also been highly innovative and launched Careychecks.com last year. This division helps protect children and vulnerable populations by providing high-quality background checks and drug tests to families to conduct diligence on nannies, tutors and caregivers.

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THE VISUAL MASTER
The Visual Master is a cinematography and photography firm located in the heart of San Gabriel Valley. For over five years, the Visual Master has provided event cinematography and photography to a wide range of clients. The firm was co-founded by Thomas Chan, whose vision was to build a business that would combine the cinematic expertise his team had developed with the filmic and creative techniques they believed a smaller firm could create – bringing videography and photography to a different level for clients. The Visual Master strives to provide event cinematography and photography services from a client’s point of view, which is what differentiates them from other firms.

XIAO YING WANG, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST
Xiao Ying Wang, a Marriage Family Therapist (MFT) from the South Bay, has been working with children, adolescents, adults and families for the last 16 years. Her areas of expertise include counseling therapy on depression, anxiety, stress, grief, ADHD, parenting, anger, relationships, and teen issues. Through her practice, she has made significant impacts on many individual, teens, parents and families (particularly new immigrant families). Her bright attitude and positive energy helped family and parents overcome the challenges in raising children, particularly when they are facing the complexity of adolescents, multi-cultural family dynamics, and mental health issues.

WING HOP FUNG INC.
Born from generations of herbal and tea knowledge, Wing Hop Fung means "Together Forever Prosper." With tireless efforts of the Wong family finding a foothold in America as refugees to the US in the late 70’s, the family created Wing Hop Fung to help the ever-growing Asian American population feel more at ease by providing the necessities of the homeland. A trusted brand since 1985, Wing Hop Fung is the premier retailer of Chinese herbs, teas, ginseng, Asian delicacies, housewares, and fine wine and spirits. The company’s cultural expertise has enabled it to become a shopping Mecca for the Asian consumer, as well as those interested in Asian cultural products.

WU & ASSOCIATES
Wu & Associates is an intellectual property and global consulting firm specializing in multi-national corporations and business ventures. Wu and Associates partners with clients from private, public, and non-profit sectors around the world to provide intellectual property, management consulting, crisis management, strategic communication, public relations, and legal counsel. Wu & Associates was founded over 20 years ago by David Wu. At the time it was just an international patent firm specializing in helping foreign businesses and individuals patent their inventions in the United States. Under the leadership and management skills of David Wu’s daughter, Anna Wu, she has grown the company to seven offices globally in the US and Asia.

YAMIBUY
Established in March 2013 in City of Industry, Yamibuy is a leading e-commerce site in North America for Asian-Americans, carrying a wide variety of Asian snacks, beauty products, health supplements and home appliances. Yamibuy was founded by Alex Zhou, who, while studying in Kansas, experienced the inconvenience of driving two hours to reach the closest Asian market. Yamibuy now has 30,000 thousand registered users and has built a loyal fan base in each of the states in the United States.

YO SAN UNIVERSITY
Currently led by its President, Louis Green, Yo San University was founded by brothers Dr. Daoshing Ni and Dr. Mao Shing Ni, who named the University after their grandfather, Master Yo-San Ni, a healer and teacher in the Taoist tradition. YSU was established to promote standards of educational excellence in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine; and to establish a program in this country that fosters the medicine’s Taoist roots. The University now has 200 students from around the globe in its Master’s and Doctoral degree programs. The Yo San University Community Clinic also provides residents of the West L.A. area with affordable acupuncturist and TCM.