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Contact: Steve Brener, BZA, 818-398-8039; Arlene Guzman, BZA, 415-517-5470
Jason Krutzsch: Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee, 626-428-1685

THE LOS ANGELES WORLD CUP 2026 HOST COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF 26 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AS PART OF ‘ONE YEAR TO GO’ CELEBRATION

In addition to honoring the 26 Champions for creating lasting impact through soccer, the celebration includes a festive kick-off event and opening sales of L.A. Host City World Cup merchandise.

LOS ANGELES (June 11, 2025) – As Los Angeles celebrates One Year To Go to hosting eight FIFA World Cup 26™ matches, including the U.S. Men’s National Team opener, the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee and the Play Equity Fund are proud to announce the 26 Community Champions, a group of local nonprofit organizations that are using soccer to empower, uplift, and drive meaningful change throughout the Los Angeles region.

The 26 selected organizations collectively serve more than 17,000 Angelenos annually across the county and the soccer ecosystem, from youth and school-based programs, and adaptive and inclusive programs for people with disabilities, to adult and community-led organizations.

The selection of the 26 Community Champions is the first initiative in a series of legacy programs, designed to use the spotlight of the world’s largest single-sport event to create lasting, meaningful impact across the Los Angeles region. Under the theme “Celebrate the Extraordinary,” these initiatives will elevate and engage Angelenos by growing the game of soccer, inspiring future sports professionals, and beautifying neighborhoods.

The 26 Community Champions are:

[LA SCORES \(America SCORES LA\)](#)
[AYSO Region 69: Pacific Palisades / Brentwood / Topanga](#)
[AYSO Palmdale Region 393](#)
[Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach](#)
[Boys and Girls Club of West San Gabriel and Eastside](#)
[Boys and Girls Club of Whittier – Pico Rivera](#)
[California State Soccer Association - South \(Cal South\)](#)
[City of Burbank Parks and Recreation](#)
[City of Pasadena Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department](#)
[Downtown LA Soccer Club](#)
[FC Premier](#)
[Football for Her](#)
[Nicks Kids](#)

[Girls Athletic Leadership Schools Los Angeles](#)

[Home Field Advantage](#)

[KEEN LA](#)

[Terasaki Budokan - A Project of Little Tokyo Service Center](#)

[Los Angeles Parks Foundation](#)

[Lynwood Partners Education Foundation](#)

[Salesian Family Youth Center](#)

[Special Needs Network, Inc.](#)

[Special Olympics Southern California](#)

[The Los Angeles City College Foundation](#)

[Tudela Futbol Club of Los Angeles](#)

[U.S. Association of Blind Athletes \(USABA\)](#)

[West Hollywood Soccer Club](#)

“The Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee is honored to announce the 26 Community Champions as part of our One Year To Go celebration,” said **Kathryn Schloessman, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission and Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host City Manager**. “Their dedication to creating lasting positive change exemplifies the true legacy of the FIFA World Cup in Los Angeles. These transformative legacy programs are made possible thanks to the unwavering support of our Host City Supporters, ChampionLA donors, and the Play Equity Fund.”

The 26 Community Champions were selected for the profound impact they are making in underserved neighborhoods and communities facing challenges, including those recovering from the recent LA wildfires. Each of the selected organizations will receive a \$26,000 grant award, a professionally produced marketing video showcasing the organization, and public recognition of their work in the lead up to FIFA World Cup 26™.

“These 26 Community Champions are driving meaningful change through soccer, using the game as a powerful tool to uplift and unite their communities,” said **Renata Simril, President of the Play Equity Fund**. “Together with the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee, the LA84 Foundation, and the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission, we’re committed to making sure the benefits of hosting the World Cup extend far beyond the final whistle. The One Year To Go Celebration marks the beginning of a lasting legacy — one that builds connections, expands access, and opens doors for future generations across our region.”

The 26 Community Champions will be recognized tonight alongside celebrities, soccer stars, and supporters at a special One Year to Go celebration event on the historic Fox Studio lot. The event will honor the LA region’s rich FIFA World Cup history, from the glory of 1994 to the enduring legacy we are building for 2026 and will include a special “One Year To Glory” live show with Men in Blazers, hosted by Roger Bennett and featuring guests Cobi Jones, Brandi Chastain, Jason Sudeikis, Brendan Hunt and Coach Jim Harbaugh. The show will be recorded and released as a podcast episode.

Additionally, for the first time, fans can now purchase the official Los Angeles Host City merchandise by visiting store.fifa.com.

Los Angeles is gearing up to welcome the world for eight FIFA World Cup 26™ matches at SoFi Stadium and 39-days of fan engagement across the Los Angeles region. For more information on FIFA World Cup

26™ Los Angeles and to learn more about the Host Committee’s community legacy initiatives, please visit losangelesfwc26.com.

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About the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee

The Los Angeles World Cup Host Committee was established to deliver a premier FIFA World Cup 26™ experience and drive lasting social, cultural, and economic impact for the region. We serve as the liaison between FIFA and the Los Angeles region to harness opportunities surrounding the tournament to elevate our community. The Host Committee is co-chaired by LAFC Co-President Larry Freedman and former U.S. Men’s National Team player Chris Klein, and is led by the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC). It also includes the Los Angeles Rams, SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park, Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), and LA Galaxy. For more information, visit losangelesfwc26.com.

About the Play Equity Fund

The Play Equity Fund was established by the LA84 Foundation as a 501(c)3 public charity, and it removes barriers to ensure all children have access to the transformative power of sport and play. The Play Equity Fund supports the sports-based youth development ecosystem for greater impact, raises awareness of inequities and develops partnerships to advocate for sustainable solutions to ensure all children have pathways through sport for lifelong well-being. Visit playequityfund.org and follow @playequityfund.

THANK YOU TO OUR HOST CITY SUPPORTERS

