

GROW THE GAME SOCCER CLINIC SERIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROW THE GAME OF SOCCER YOUTH CLINIC USES THE SPOTLIGHT OF FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PLAYERS

More than 150 local youth participated in Grow the Game of Soccer Youth Clinic, a community legacy program of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee in collaboration with the Play Equity Fund, on February 28, 2026, at Cal State LA.

LOS ANGELES (February 28, 2026) – The Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee, in collaboration with the Play Equity Fund, Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC), and Angel City Football Club, hosted a *Grow the Game of Soccer Youth Clinic* on February 28, 2026, at Cal State LA. The free clinic gave more than 150 youth, ages 6–12, the opportunity to build confidence and develop their skills on the pitch while fostering a lifelong love of the game. As we approach 100 days to go until FIFA World Cup™, the clinic series is leveraging the spotlight of the largest single-sport event to bring together Los Angeles’ professional soccer clubs and local stakeholders to elevate skills, inspire passion, and expand access to the sport across the region.

“We are thrilled that today’s youth clinic is bringing together the Play Equity Fund, LAFC and Angel City Football Club to help elevate skills, build confidence, and spark a lifelong passion for the game for all the kids participating,” said **Kathryn Schloessman, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC) and CEO of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee**. “As we approach 100 days to go, we are proud that the Grow the Game of Soccer series is using the spotlight of the World Cup to inspire the next generation of soccer players right here in Los Angeles. A big thank you to our LASEC Foundational Partners, who are making events like today possible.

“The Grow the Game of Soccer Clinic continued expanding the legacy of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ across the region as we increase access and create new opportunities with our partners,” said **Renata Simril, President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation, and President of the Play Equity Fund**. “We are using the bright spotlight of the World Cup to build connections, grow the skills of young players, and deepen their love for the game. The impact will be felt long after the final World Cup match is played this summer.”

Full Media Toolkit:

<https://lasec.box.com/s/j9ofltvyq8e6fgm9dattnfdaf7yqamw2>

Video B-Roll:

Footage sound bites from Kathryn Schloessman, Renata Simril, and b-roll from the February 28th event at Cal State LA.

Photos:



Kathryn Schloessman, President & CEO of the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission and CEO of the Los Angeles World Cup 2026 Host Committee; Renata Simril, President & CEO of the LA84 Foundation, and President of the Play Equity Fund; LASEC Foundational Partner Kaiser Permanente Wellness Expert, Andy Gallardo; Participants in the Grow the Game of Soccer Youth Clinic



Grow the Game of Soccer Youth Clinic Coaching Staff from LAFC and Angel City FC



Grow the Game of Soccer Youth Clinic Participants

To learn more about the Los Angeles World Cup Host Committee’s community engagement plans, 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 Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission

The Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission (LASEC) is a non-profit organization officially designated to attract, secure and support high-profile sports and entertainment events in Los Angeles and serves as the lead for the [Los Angeles World Cup 2026](#) and [Super Bowl LXI](#) Host Committees. LASEC connects local businesses and communities with these major events to create lasting economic, cultural, and social impact for the region. For more information, visit: LASEC.net

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