



17TH ANNUAL
CALIFORNIA
HALL OF FAME

MEDIA KIT



CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME BACKGROUND

HIGHLIGHTS

- An official award presented by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom
- Launched in 2006 by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, First Lady Maria Shriver and the California Museum
- Inductees selected for their achievements in nine categories by the Governor and First Partner
- 156 Californians inducted in 16 classes from 2006 to 2023

BACKGROUND

The California Hall of Fame celebrates the Golden State's legends and trailblazers whose achievements have made history and changed the state, the nation and the world. The California Hall of Fame is the California Museum's signature program, supporting its mission of education, and is the premise of on-site and online exhibitions that inspire visitors to make a mark on history.

Inductees are selected by the Governor and First Partner for achievements in the arts, business and labor, entertainment, food and wine, literature, music, public service, science and sports. Criteria for induction require candidates to live in California for five years and to have made achievements benefiting the state, nation and world while inspiring others to pursue their dreams. To date, 156 Californians have been inducted by three California gubernatorial administrations from 2006 to 2023.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Governor and First Partner recognize honorees in an induction ceremony held at the California Museum. The ceremony is attended by inductees of the current class and family members of the posthumous inductees. Guests include past inductees, statewide elected officials and supporters of the California Museum. The event is also webcast live.

Governor Newsom and First Partner Siebel Newsom have chosen to induct two entirely posthumous classes in virtual ceremonies.

AWARD

During the in-person induction ceremony, each inductee or posthumous inductee representative is presented with a "Spirit of California" medal. The beautifully-sculpted medal was designed by the late artist Robert Graham, who was inducted into the California Hall of Fame's 3rd class in 2008. Each gold-plated medal rests on a solid bronze stand and is made by the Robert Graham Studio.

EXHIBITION

The 17th class of inductees will be featured in an artifact exhibition presented by the California Museum. Inductees work closely with the Museum to co-curate their displays, often contributing items from their personal collections. The all-posthumous 14th and 16th classes were inducted virtually and are honored with online exhibits, available at CAHallofFame.org.

PUBLIC NOMINATIONS

The public is encouraged to participate by submitting California Hall of Fame nominations on the California Museum's website.



ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME

The California Hall of Fame celebrates Californians whose achievements have made history and changed the state, the nation and the world. Launched in 2006, the program serves as the California Museum's annual gala and the premise of on-site and online exhibitions inspiring visitors to make a mark on history. Learn more at CAHallofFame.org and follow [#CAHallofFame](https://twitter.com/CAHallofFame) on social media for updates.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Governor Newsom, First Partner Siebel Newsom, and the California Museum Announce the 17th Class of the California Hall of Fame

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom, First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, and the California Museum today announced the 17th class of leaders in science, public service, entertainment, sports, and more into the California Hall of Fame – joining over 150 inspirational Californians previously inducted for embodying the state’s innovative spirit. Induction ceremony details forthcoming.

[Watch Governor Newsom and First Partner Siebel Newsom announce the newest class of the California Hall of Fame](#)

California Hall of Fame 17th Class:

Helene An: Master chef and the Mother of Fusion Cuisine

Willie L. Brown, Jr.: History-making Mayor of San Francisco and Speaker of the California Assembly

Vinton G. Cerf: Renowned computer scientist and a Father of the Internet

Ava DuVernay: Visionary storyteller and award-winning filmmaker

The Go-Go’s: Chart-topping all-female pop punk band

Thelton E. Henderson: Revered federal judge and civil rights leader

Los Lobos: Iconic Chicano rock band

Cheryl Miller: Legendary basketball player and sports broadcaster

Leon E. Panetta: Former U.S. Secretary of Defense and dedicated public servant

Brenda Way: Celebrated artistic director and choreographer

What Governor Newsom said: “The contributions of this newest class of the Hall of Fame will have an impact on California – and the nation – for generations to come. Through their boundless qualities and trailblazing achievements, these visionaries embody the spirit of California and will continue to inspire millions more.”

First Partner Siebel Newsom: “The Governor and I are thrilled to welcome another spectacular group of trailblazers into the California Hall of Fame. With a penchant for challenging the status quo, these individuals wholly reflect the courageous, ambitious, and bold spirit of California, and have made an indelible mark on our state, nation, and world.”

Launched in 2006, the California Hall of Fame honors history-making Californians who embody the state’s spirit of innovation and have changed the state, the nation, and the world. Inductees are selected annually by the Governor and First Partner for achievements in arts, business and labor, entertainment, food and wine, literature, music, public service, science, and sports.

California Museum Board of Trustees Chair Anne Marie Petrie: “We are honored to join the Governor and First Partner in celebrating this extraordinary group of Californians. Their achievements will inspire thousands of Museum visitors in the year ahead to pursue their own California dream.”

For details on the California Hall of Fame or to download media assets, visit the California Museum’s [press center](#).

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HELENE AN

B. 1944

FOOD & WINE

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Longtime Bay Area and Los Angeles restaurateur

ACHIEVEMENTS

Helene An, renowned as the "Mother of Fusion Cuisine," significantly shaped American culinary culture by introducing Vietnamese cooking to the mainstream. A resilient figure who was once a refugee, An has become one of the nation's most celebrated chefs.

Born during the early days of the Indochina War, An's childhood was marked by alternating periods of privilege and hardship. Raised in Hanoi from 1948 to 1955 as the daughter of a high-ranking imperial official, her household had three dedicated chefs—French, Chinese and Vietnamese—who profoundly influenced her cooking style.

The eruption of the Vietnam War in 1955 led her family to seek refuge in Da Lat until 1963, when she married Danny An, a South Vietnamese Air Force pilot from a prominent industrialist family. But with the fall of Saigon in 1975, Danny went missing in combat. Fleeing with her three children, An later reunited with him in the Philippines and they came to San Francisco. There, the family expanded with two more daughters, bringing the total to five: Hannah, Elizabeth, Monique, Jacqueline and Catherine.

Adapting to their new life, An worked as an accountant by day and by night cooked at the family's restaurant, a small Italian deli that her mother-in-law had purchased on a whim in 1971. An played a pivotal role in converting it into a Vietnamese restaurant named Thanh Long, achieving acclaim as the first Vietnamese restaurant in San Francisco. Thanh Long initially struggled, with Americans hesitant to embrace traditional Vietnamese cooking. Recognizing this, An introduced fusion elements (French, Vietnamese, Chinese) from her childhood, creating familiar yet exotic dishes such as her signature AN's Famous Garlic Noodles™. This success led to the opening of Crustacean San Francisco in 1991, marking the initial foray of Euro-Vietnamese cuisine into the culinary world of the United States. Six years later, Crustacean Beverly Hills was born, solidifying An's title as the "Mother of Fusion Cuisine."

Not just a chef but a pioneer, An is a culinary icon whose enterprise encompasses six popular U.S. restaurants, a catering division and three international establishments, with the first slated to open in March 2024, and the highly anticipated new Crustacean San Francisco opening in spring 2024. An was recognized by the Smithsonian Institute in 2007 and 2019 for her contributions to introducing Vietnamese cuisine to mainstream America, and in November 2022 she was inducted into the Asian Hall of Fame. In 2016, she published "An: To Eat," featuring 100 renowned recipes and her culinary journey. An's legacy also lives on through her daughters, who remain involved in the family business.

I AM CALIFORNIA



I AM CALIFORNIA

WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.

B. 1934

PUBLIC SERVICE

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Longtime California politician and resident

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two-term mayor of San Francisco and legendary speaker of the California State Assembly, Willie L. Brown, Jr. is widely regarded as the most influential African American politician of the late 20th century. During four decades at the center of California politics, government and civic life, he worked with every California governor from Edmund G. "Pat" Brown to Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Raised in segregated Mineola, Texas, Brown first became interested in government while attending San Francisco State College, where he participated in campus politics and in the San Francisco chapter of the NAACP. After earning a degree in political science, he went to Hastings law school, where he was elected president of his class. Few African American attorneys practiced in San Francisco at the time, and Brown made a name for himself by taking on cases others dismissed as hopeless.

Elected to the Assembly in 1964, Brown played an important role in the California Democratic Party throughout the 1960s and into the '70s. He made his first impact on the national stage in 1972, when he electrified delegates to the Democratic National Convention with a fiery speech delivered during a credentials fight.

From civil rights to education reform, tax policy, economic development, health care, international trade, domestic partnerships and affirmative action, Brown left his mark on virtually every aspect of politics and public policy in California. From 1980 to 1995 he exercised unprecedented power in the legislature as the longest-serving speaker of the Assembly in state history. Then, as mayor of San Francisco, he refurbished and rebuilt the nation's busiest transit system, pioneered the use of bond measures to build affordable housing, created a model juvenile justice system and paved the way for a second campus of the University of California, San Francisco, to anchor the city's position as a center for the burgeoning field of biotechnology.

After leaving office in 2004, Brown wrote a regular newspaper column for the San Francisco Chronicle, hosted a daily radio program and became a frequent commentator on the national cable news network MSNBC. He shared the lessons of his life—in and out of politics—in his 2008 autobiography "Basic Brown." Today, Brown heads the Willie L. Brown, Jr., Institute on Politics and Public Service, where this acknowledged master of the art of politics shares his knowledge and skills with a new generation of California leaders.

VINTON G. CERF

B. 1943 SCIENCE

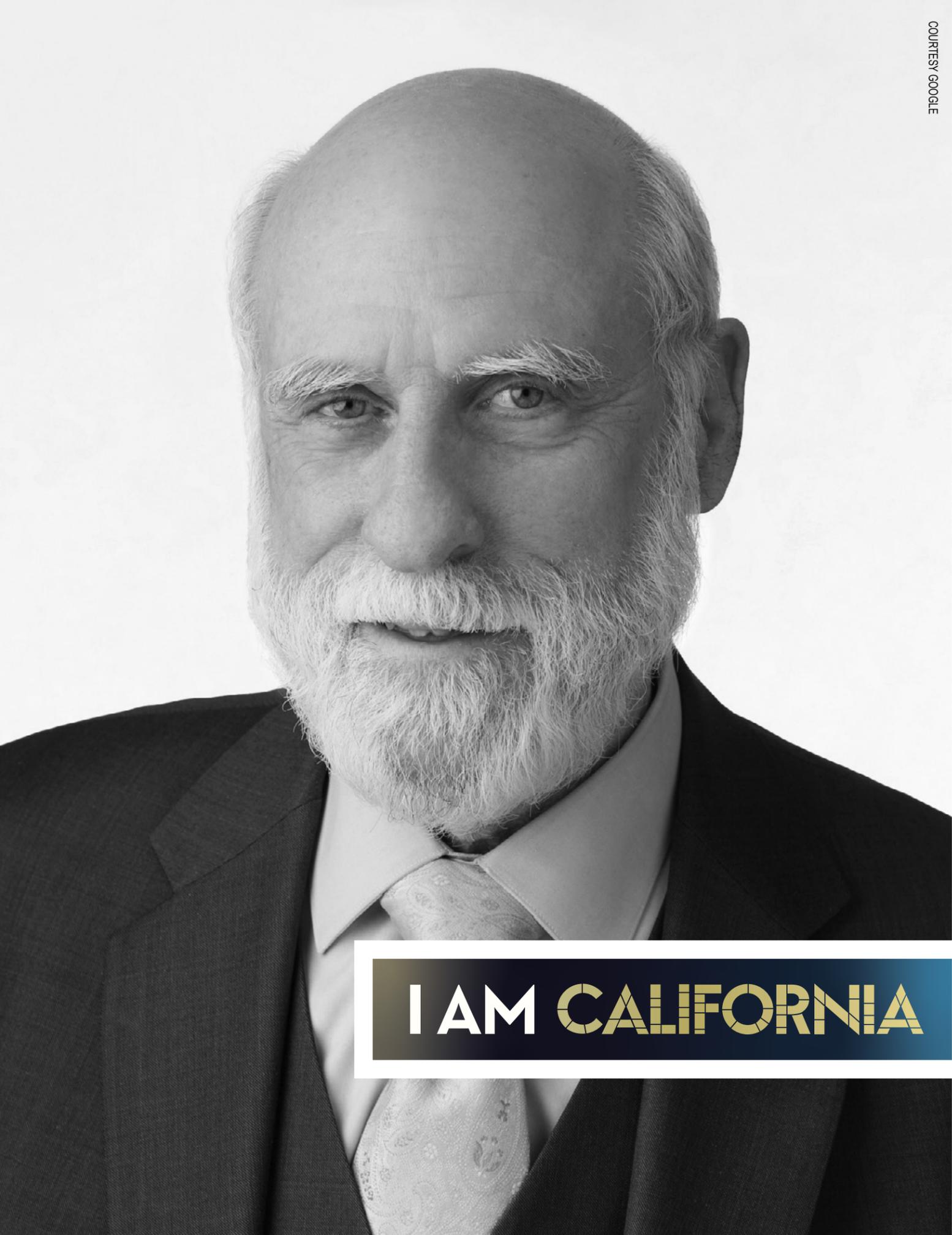
CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Stanford University and UCLA graduate and executive of Silicon Valley-based company

ACHIEVEMENTS

Vinton G. Cerf is vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google. He is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet. He has served in executive positions at ICANN, the Internet Society, MCI, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. A former Stanford Professor and former member of the U.S. National Science Board, he is also the past President of the Association for Computing Machinery and serves in advisory capacities at NIST, DOE, NSF, US Navy, JPL and NRO. He earned his B.S. in mathematics at Stanford and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science at UCLA. He is a member of both the U.S. National Academies of Science and Engineering, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and the Worshipful Company of Stationers.

Cerf is a recipient of numerous awards for his work, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the U.S. National Medal of Technology, the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, the Prince of Asturias Award, the Japan Prize, the Charles Stark Draper award, the ACM Turing Award, the Marconi Prize and Marconi Lifetime Achievement Award, the IEEE Medal of Honor, the Legion d'Honneur, the VinFutures Grand Prize and the Franklin Medal. He is a Foreign Member of the British Royal Society and Swedish Academy of Engineering and holds 29 honorary degrees.



I AM CALIFORNIA

AVA DUVERNAY

B. 1972

ENTERTAINMENT

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Lifelong Los Angeles resident

ACHIEVEMENTS

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay's feature work includes the Academy Award-winning historical drama "Selma"; the Academy Award-nominated criminal justice documentary "13th"; the Sundance Best Director Award win for her micro-budgeted romance "Middle of Nowhere"; and Disney's "A Wrinkle In Time," which made her the highest-grossing Black woman director in American box office history. In 2019, her four-part television series "When They See Us" was honored with 16 Emmy nominations. DuVernay's critically acclaimed TV series "Queen Sugar" is the longest-running Black family drama series by a Black woman creator in American television history.

DuVernay amplifies films by people of color and women of all kinds through her nonprofit narrative change collective ARRAY, which is the winner of the Peabody Institutional Award. The filmmaker sits on the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences representing the director's branch. She is a vice president of the Directors Guild of America and an advisory board member of the American Film Institute. DuVernay has previously served on the juries of Cannes Film Festival and Mumbai Film Festival. She is based in Los Angeles.

I AM CALIFORNIA

THE GO-GO'S

FORMED 1978 MUSIC

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Launched in Los Angeles

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Go-Go's are an iconic rock band that emerged from the sun-soaked landscapes of Southern California, shaping the sound of an era and breaking down gender barriers in the music business.

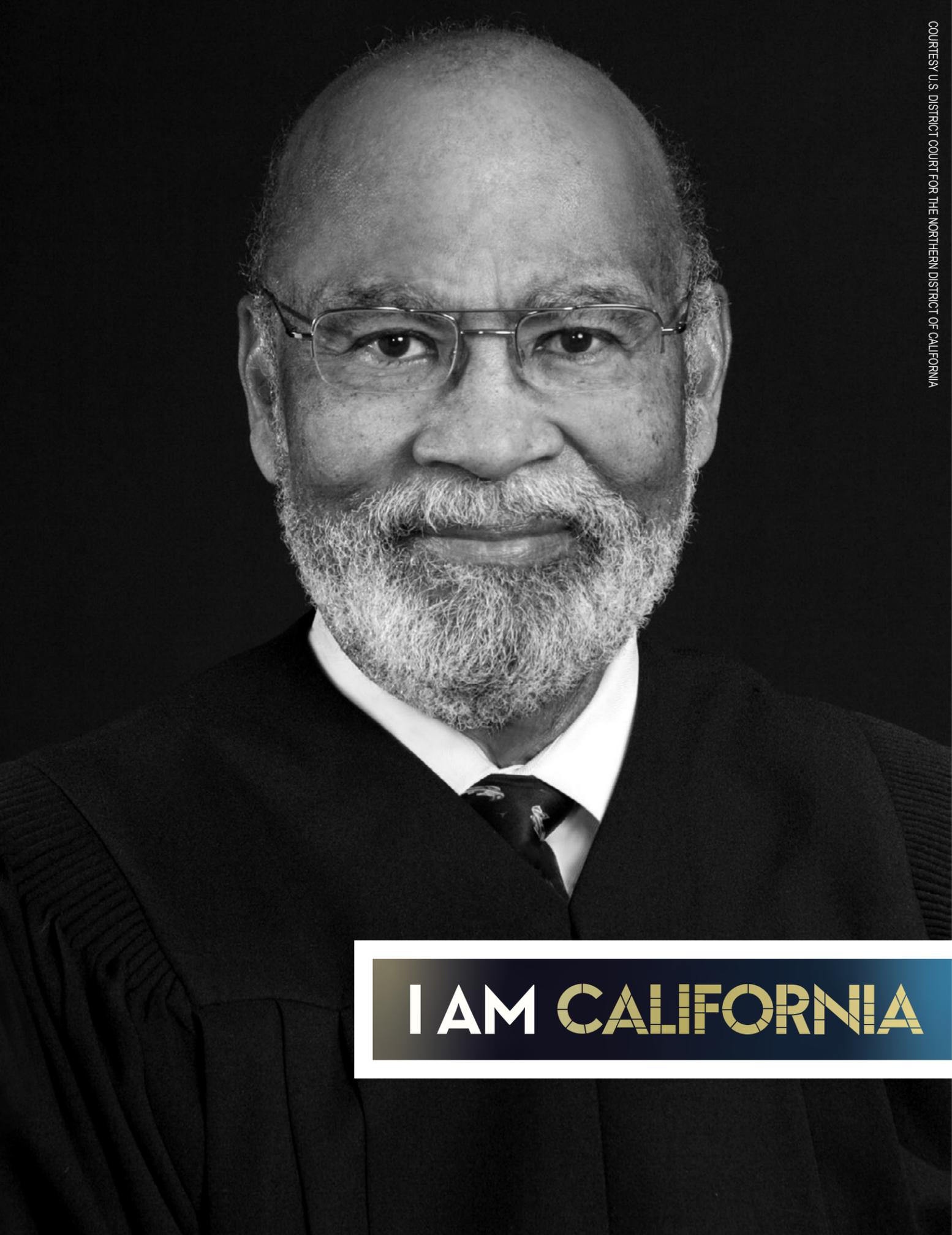
Formed out of the Los Angeles punk scene by lead singer Belinda Carlisle and guitarist Jane Wiedlin, the Hollywood punkettes quickly recruited lead guitarist Charlotte Caffey. Solidifying their lineup with the rhythm section of drummer Gina Schock and bassist Kathy Valentine, the band's energetic club shows and catchy songs propelled them to the forefront of the city's vibrant music scene. Despite their popularity, the male-dominated record industry refused to see the young women's potential. Signed to legendary IRS Records in 1981, the Go-Go's proved their doubters wrong with their debut album, "Beauty and the Beat." Fueled by the hits "Our Lips Are Sealed" and "We Got the Beat," a fledgling MTV and non-stop touring, the band and their music were embraced by audiences around the world.

The Go-Go's became the first—and still, to date, only—all-female band to top the Billboard charts. Writing their own songs, playing their instruments and persistently believing in their right to be heard, these young women not only captured the hearts of music lovers; they represented possibility and self-determination. Singing sunny melodies with weighty lyrics evoking dreams, thrills, loss, love and female empowerment, the Go-Go's evoked the essence of California cool. With follow up albums "Vacation" (1982) and "Talk Show" (1984) and hit songs "Vacation" and "Head Over Heels," the Go-Go's continued their trailblazing course, helping define the punk-pop genre. Their influence on generations of female musicians and countless bands is immeasurable.

After a mid-80's breakup, the Go-Go's returned in 1990 to continue their career. A new full-length album, "God Bless the Go-Go's," was released in 2000 and a new charting single, "Club Zero," in 2020. Their legions of loyal fans have kept them prominent with honors including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, induction into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame and a permanent place in the Greek Theater Rock Walk. Rolling Stone recently named "Our Lips Are Sealed" the 7th best song of the 1980s and ranked "Vacation" No. 9 on its list of best summer songs of all time. In 2018, the Go-Go's songs became the inspiration for a Broadway musical, "Head Over Heels." A full-length documentary, "The Go-Go's," premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2020. The accolades culminated in 2021 when the Go-Go's were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, delivering a triumphant performance before their fans and peers broadcast on HBO.



I AM CALIFORNIA



COURTESY U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

I AM CALIFORNIA

THELTON E. HENDERSON

B. 1933

PUBLIC SERVICE

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Longtime Bay Area resident

ACHIEVEMENTS

Judge Thelton E. Henderson is a world-renowned federal judge whose commitment to advancing civil rights spans six decades and three continents. He was the first African American lawyer assigned to field service in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division, where he worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As the second African American federal judge in the Northern District of California and its first African American chief judge, he authored groundbreaking civil rights decisions.

Born in Louisiana, Judge Henderson left the Jim Crow South with his mother and grandmother for Los Angeles. He excelled academically and athletically, becoming one of the first African Americans to earn a football scholarship to UC Berkeley. After serving in the Army, he returned as one of two African Americans at Berkeley Law. He graduated in 1962 and joined the DOJ.

At the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Judge Henderson was posted in the Deep South to gather information on voter suppression and monitor opposition to Dr. King’s peaceful demonstrations. After Henderson loaned Dr. King his rental car for a Selma rally, Alabama Governor George Wallace inaccurately told the press that a “high ranking” DOJ official had driven Dr. King to Selma. Rather than worsen a public relations problem for the Kennedy Administration, Henderson resigned.

Returning to California, Judge Henderson helped establish, and directed, one of the first federally funded legal aid offices in the U.S. He was appointed Assistant Dean of Stanford Law School and launched its pioneering minority admissions program, which was replicated nationwide.

In 1980, Judge Henderson was appointed to the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of California. His courageous decisions included declaring prison overcrowding unconstitutional; placing the California prison system under monitoring to prevent cruel and unusual punishment; ruling for the first time in U.S. history that gays and lesbians are entitled to equal protection; declaring unconstitutional a law that eliminated affirmative action; and upholding environmental protections. He has advocated for civil rights globally, helping develop strategies to end apartheid.

After retiring from the court in 2017, Henderson taught at Berkeley Law, where the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice advances his vision for a better world. Among his many awards are the American Bar Association’s Thurgood Marshall Award, the California State Bar Bernard Witkin Medal and UC Berkeley’s 2008 Alumnus of the Year Award. At over 90 years strong, Judge Henderson remains a beacon for democracy, liberty and equality.

LOS LOBOS

FORMED 1973 MUSIC

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Launched in Los Angeles

ACHIEVEMENTS

One of music's most prolific bands, Los Lobos has defined the East Los Angeles sonic landscape for half a century. During that time, the band has played over 100 shows per year and recorded 17 studio albums, seven live LPs, three compilations, two EPs, two DVDs and over 40 guest recordings. Their uniquely melded Chicano rock music has sold millions of records and inspired a global fan base.

Forming in 1973, David Hidalgo, Louie Pérez, Jr., Cesar Rosas and Conrad Lozano earned their stripes playing revved-up versions of Mexican folk music in restaurants and at parties. The band tapped into L.A.'s burgeoning punk and college rock scenes in the 1980s, sharing bills with bands such as the Circle Jerks, Public Image Ltd. and the Blasters, whose saxophonist, Steve Berlin, would eventually join Los Lobos in 1984. The band quickly enjoyed critical success, winning a Grammy for its 1983 EP "...And a Time to Dance." A year later, the group released its major-label debut and college rock sensation "How Will the Wolf Survive?," helping them tie with Bruce Springsteen as Rolling Stone's Artist of the Year.

With the release of the Ritchie Valens biopic "La Bamba" (1987), Los Lobos' cover of Valens' signature song topped the U.S. and U.K. charts and shot them to international fame. Rather than capitalize on its commercial success, the band took an artistic turn with "La Pistola y El Corazón" (1988), a Grammy-winning tribute to Tejano and mariachi music. In 1992 the group recorded the acclaimed album "Kiko."

Proud Chicanos and cultural ambassadors, Los Lobos has penned some of the most literate and important music of their time, transforming the hard cries from the East L.A. barrio into songs of hope. The band's music embodies the cultural melting pot of the U.S., blending styles including son jarocho, norteño, folk, country, soul, rock 'n' roll and punk to create a sound greater than the sum of its parts.

Los Lobos has earned four Grammy Awards, an Austin City Limits Hall of Fame induction, the ALMA Ritchie Valens Pioneer Award, NEA and Hispanic Heritage Foundation Honors, Congressional recognitions and countless "Keys to the City" and "Los Lobos Day" celebrations. The group has continued to deliver daring and diverse albums, unexpected side trips like an album of Disney songs in 2009 and countless contributions to tribute albums and film soundtracks. Los Lobos' love letter to the city of Los Angeles, "Native Sons" (2021), returned the band to the Grammy winner's circle with Best Americana Album of 2022. In 2023, Los Lobos celebrated its 50th anniversary as a band with its founding members still intact, a rare and impressive feat.



I AM CALIFORNIA



BY ALICIA BERBER

CHERYL MILLER

B. 1964
SPORTS

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Born and raised in Riverside; lifelong California resident

ACHIEVEMENTS

Olympic gold medalist, head coach, sportscaster and one of the top five women’s collegiate basketball players in NCAA history, Cheryl Miller is a basketball legend who helped popularize and elevate the women’s game.

A starting player throughout high school, Miller became the first athlete—male or female—named to the Parade All-America high school team for four straight years and set California records for points in a single game (105), points in a single season (1,156) and career points (3,405). On January 26, 1982, she became the first woman to dunk a basketball in organized play.

Still the most highly recruited male or female player ever, Miller chose the University of Southern California. There she became a four-time All-American and led the Trojans to a 112-20 record and to the NCAA title in 1983 and 1984. The back-to-back titles were an NCAA first, and she was tournament MVP both years. She won the Naismith Trophy and the Broderick Award as the nation’s best woman basketball player three times, shared the 1984 Honda Broderick Cup as the outstanding college athlete in any sport and was the Wade Trophy winner in 1985. With 3,018 points—at a time when there was no three-point line—and 1,534 rebounds scored over 128 games, she ranks 14th among the NCAA’s all-time leading scorers and still holds USC records for points, rebounds, field goals, free throws, steals and games played. In 1986, she became the first player whose jersey was retired by the university.

In the international arena, Miller led the U.S. women’s basketball team to a gold medal in the 1983 Pan American Games and to another gold in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. In 1986, she added a gold medal at the Goodwill Games in Moscow as the U.S. team broke the Soviet Union’s 152-game winning streak.

When knee injuries cut her professional career short, Miller turned to coaching, including as head coach for USC, Cal State LA and the WNBA Phoenix Mercury, where she also served as general manager, becoming the first person to serve in both capacities in the history of the professional leagues. She also served as a basketball analyst and commentator for ABC, ESPN, TBS and TNT. In November 1996, she became the first female analyst to call a nationally televised NBA game.

Miller’s recognition includes induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame and the FIBA Hall of Fame.

I AM CALIFORNIA



I AM CALIFORNIA

LEON E. PANETTA

B. 1938 **PUBLIC SERVICE**

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Born and raised in Monterey; Former U.S. Representative and resident of the Central Coast

ACHIEVEMENTS

Unanimously confirmed in 2011 by the U.S. Senate as the 23rd Secretary of Defense, Leon E. Panetta has had a 50-year career in public service at the highest levels of government. As Secretary of Defense, he established a new defense strategy and expanded service opportunities for women and others regardless of race, creed, color or gender. As Director of the CIA, he successfully led the operation that brought Osama bin Laden to justice.

Secretary Panetta began his public service career in 1964 as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, receiving the Army Commendation Medal, and then served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Tom Kuchel. In 1969, he was appointed Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where he was responsible for enforcing equal education laws.

Elected to Congress in 1976, Secretary Panetta represented the California Central Coast district for 16 years and created the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In 1993, he was sworn in as Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for the Clinton administration and later was appointed White House chief of staff, working to achieve a balanced federal budget.

In 1997, Secretary Panetta returned to his home town of Monterey to establish and co-direct The Panetta Institute for Public Policy, a non-partisan, not-for-profit study center that seeks to inspire men and women to lives of public service.

He chronicles his life in public service in his best-selling memoir, "Worthy Fights," which was published by Penguin Press in the fall of 2014.



I AM CALIFORNIA

BRENDA WAY

B. 1942

ARTS

CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

- Longtime Bay Area resident

ACHIEVEMENTS

Brenda Way is the founder and artistic director of professional dance company ODC/Dance and creator of the ODC Theater and ODC Dance Commons, community performance and training venues in San Francisco's Mission District. Through her dance company, school and theater, Way has inspired audiences, cultivated artists, engaged community and fostered diversity and inclusion through dance.

Way began studying dance as a young girl at the School of American Ballet and Ballet Arts in New York City under legendary choreographer George Balanchine. She helped create an inter-arts department at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in the late 1960s and launched ODC there in 1971 before relocating to the Bay Area in 1976.

Over the last 45 years, Way has choreographed more than 85 pieces for numerous institutions, including commissions for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Oakland Ballet, Equal Justice Society, San Francisco Girls Chorus and Cal Performances. Her work "Investigating Grace" was named an American Masterpiece by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2011.

Way is a national spokesperson for dance, has been published widely and has received numerous awards, including Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for both choreography and sustained achievement. She is a 2000 recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and has enjoyed 40 years of support from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2009, Way was the first choreographer to be a Resident of the Arts at the American Academy in Rome, and in 2012 she received the Helen Crocker Russell Award for Community Leadership from the San Francisco Foundation.

Known nationally for entrepreneurial savvy, ODC was the first modern dance company in the United States to own its home facility, the ODC Theater, built in 1979 and expanded in 2010. In September 2005, ODC also opened the ODC Dance Commons, which houses ODC/Dance, ODC School, administrative offices and the Healthy Dancers' Clinic.

In 2009 ODC/Dance was selected by the Brooklyn Academy of Music to tour Way's work internationally through the U.S. State Department's inaugural DanceMotion USA tour. Way recently added filmmaking to her list of accomplishments with "Walk on Air," "Sleeping Beauty" and the feature-length "Up for Air/Decameron," all brought to the screen during the pandemic. Way holds a Ph.D. in aesthetics and is the mother of four children.

CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1ST CLASS (2006)

César Chávez
Walt Disney
Amelia Earhart
Clint Eastwood
Frank Gehry
Hearst family
David Ho
Billie Jean King
John Muir
Packard family
Ronald Reagan
Sally Ride
Alice Walker

2ND CLASS (2007)

Ansel Adams
Milton Berle
Steve Jobs
Willie Mays
Robert Mondavi
Rita Moreno
Jackie Robinson
Jonas Salk
John Steinbeck
Elizabeth Taylor
Earl Warren
John Wayne
Tiger Woods

3RD CLASS (2008)

Dave Brubeck
Jane Fonda
Theodor "Dr. Seuss"
Geisel
Robert Graham
Quincy Jones
Jack Lalanne
Dorothea Lange
Julia Morgan
Jack Nicholson
Linus Pauling
Leland Stanford
Alice Waters

4TH CLASS (2009)

Carol Burnett
Andrew Grove
Hiram Johnson
Rafer Johnson
Henry J. Kaiser
Joan Kroc
George Lucas
John Madden
Harvey Milk
Fritz Scholder
Danielle Steel
Joe Weider
Chuck Yeager

5TH CLASS (2010)

Edmund G. "Pat" Brown
James Cameron
John Doerr
A. P. Giannini
Merle Haggard
Anne Lamott
George Shultz
Kevin Starr
Levi Strauss
Barbra Streisand
Wayne Thiebaud
Betty White
Serena Williams
Mark Zuckerberg

6TH CLASS (2011)

Buzz Aldrin
The Beach Boys
Elizabeth Blackburn
Gregory Boyle
Doris & Donald Fisher
Magic Johnson
Ed Roberts
Carlos Santana
Amy Tan
Roger Traynor

7TH CLASS (2013)

Gregory Bateson
Warren Beatty
Charles & Ray Eames
Dolores Huerta
Ishi
Joe Montana
Warner Brothers

8TH CLASS (2014)

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Charlotta Bass
Joan Didion
Francis Ford Coppola
Fred Ross
Stephen Schneider
Mimi Silbert
Andre "Dr. Dre" Young
& Jimmy Iovine

9TH CLASS (2015)

Robert Downey, Jr.
David Hockney
Lester Holt
Bruce Lee
Ellen Ochoa
Buck Owens
Charles M. Schulz
Kristi Yamaguchi

10TH CLASS (2016)

Isabel Allende
Harrison Ford
Tony Gwynn
Corita Kent
William J. Perry
Maria Shriver
Russ Solomon
George Takei

11TH CLASS (2017)

Lucille Ball
Susan Desmond-Hellmann
Mabel McKay
Mario J. Molina
Jim Plunkett
Gary Snyder
Steven Spielberg
Michael Tilson Thomas
Warren Winiarski

12TH CLASS (2018)

Joan Baez
Arlene Blum
Belva Davis
Thomas Keller
Ed Lee
Nancy McFadden
Robert Redford
Fernando Valenzuela

13TH CLASS (2019)

Maya Angelou
RuPaul Andre Charles
Brandi Chastain
France A. Cordova
Tony Hawk
Jeanne Wakatsuki
Houston
James M. Lawson, Jr.
George Lopez
Wolfgang Puck
Helen M. Turley

14TH CLASS (2021)

Ruth Asawa
Jerry Garcia
Larry Itliong
Phyllis Lyon &
Del Martin
Ritchie Valens

15TH CLASS (2022)

Lynda Carter
Roy Choi
Steven Chu
Peggy Fleming
Arlie Russell Hochschild
Alonzo King
Barbara Morgan
Megan Rapinoe
Linda Ronstadt
Ed Ruscha
Los Tigres del Norte

16TH CLASS (2023)

Carrie Fisher
Maggie Gee
Etta James
José Julio Sarria
Vin Scully
Shirley Temple Black
Archie Williams



CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME FAQs

What are the criteria for induction into the California Hall of Fame?

Induction into the California Hall of Fame requires candidates to meet the following criteria:

- Have lived in California for five years;
- Have transcended the boundaries of their field to make lasting contributions to the state, nation and world; and
- Achieved accomplishments that inspire people to pursue their own dreams.

Who selects inductees?

Inductees are selected by the Governor and First Partner of California.

What are the nine fields or categories of achievement?

Inductees are selected for achievements in nine categories: Arts, Business and Labor, Entertainment, Food and Wine, Literature, Music, Public Service, Science and Sports.

What award is given to inductees?

During the induction ceremony, the 17th class and representatives of the posthumous 16th class will be presented with the "Spirit of California" medal designed by the late artist Robert Graham, who was inducted into the third class in 2008.

Can I submit a nomination?

Nominations are accepted online at CaliforniaMuseum.org/California-Hall-of-Fame/Nominations.

When will the 17th class be inducted?

The California Hall of Fame 17th class will be inducted in-person at the California Museum in February. The ceremony will be streamed live on the California Museum's YouTube channel.

How can I attend the 17th Annual California Hall of Fame?

Members of the public are invited to watch the 17th California Hall of Fame Induction hosted by Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom on the Museum's YouTube channel. The event will be held in-person with a ceremony for invited guests and red carpet arrivals.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM FACT SHEET

HIGHLIGHTS

- Home of the official California Hall of Fame launched with former First Lady Maria Shriver in 2006
- 35,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space covering more than 10,000 years of California's history, arts and culture
- Sacramento's only museum to win the American Alliance of Museum's Excellence in Exhibition award (2013)
- As featured in The New York Times' "36 Hours in Sacramento" and Travel Channel's "Mysteries at the Museum"

BACKGROUND

Opened in 1998, the California Museum was conceived by former California Secretary of State March Fong Eu to be the public showplace of the California State Archives. Initially called the Golden State Museum, the institution is a nonprofit organization operating through an agreement with the Secretary of State. The organization was renamed the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts in 2004 when it began a partnership with former First Lady Maria Shriver to develop programming emphasizing women, underrepresented people and chapters of history often left out of traditional museum narratives. Known by its shorter name today, the California Museum continues to focus on the history and contributions of marginalized people while celebrating the state's rich history, arts, culture and diversity.

In 2012, the Museum began updating its signature exhibitions with technology-driven experiences to augment visitor engagement. The first interactive installation, "Health Happens Here," launched in 2013, making the California Museum Sacramento's only institution to win the American

Alliance of Museum's Excellence in Exhibition award for Messaging and Engagement. To date, four more immersive long-term exhibitions have followed, including the "Unity Center" launched in 2017; "Gold Mountain: Chinese Californian Stories" and "Women Inspire: California Women Changing Our World" launched in 2020; and "Uprooted: An American Story" launched in 2023.

The Museum also continues collaboration with the Governor and First Partner to develop its exhibitions and public programs. In 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom became Honorary Chairs of the Museum's Board, bringing their appreciation of museums and California's history and diversity to their roles. They are actively engaged in the California Hall of Fame, which is an official award from the Governor of California and serves as the Museum's annual gala. The First Partner also regularly works with the Museum to produce projects spotlighting women's achievements and the ongoing fight for equality.

FAST FACTS & FIGURES

6 PART-TIME STAFF

75% INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP YOY (SINCE 2022)

13 FULL-TIME STAFF

33,000 SOCIAL MEDIA & EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS

23 BOARD MEMBERS

60,000 FIELD TRIP VISITORS ON AVERAGE

86 DOCENTS & VOLUNTEERS

100,000 ANNUAL VISITORS ON AVERAGE

MEDIA ASSETS



HELENE AN

Courtesy Da Lat Rose



WILLIE BROWN

By Liz Hafalia
San Francisco Chronicle



VINTON G. CERF

Courtesy Google



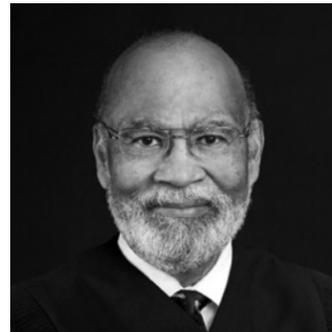
AVA DUVERNAY

Courtesy ARRAY



THE GO-GO'S

By Arnold Niemanis



THELTON E. HENDERSON

Courtesy U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of California



LOS LOBOS

By Piero F. Gimiti
Courtesy Los Lobos



CHERYL MILLER

By Alicia Berber



LEON PANETTA

Courtesy the Panetta Institute



BRENDA WAY

Courtesy ODC Dance



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MEDIA ASSETS

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For questions or assistance, contact the California Museum at museuminfo@californiamuseum.org.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

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