



County of Los Angeles
Workforce Development, Aging, and Community Services Department
Commission on Human Relations
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John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards

For more than 60 years the Commission has endeavored to help people replace bias and fear with respect and trust. The insecurity, inequity, and hostility that bias and fear produce are both morally unacceptable and socially destructive. As part of our strategic response, for many years we have supported and called attention to individuals, organizations, and companies who are leaders in transforming prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace.

Named for a long-time human relations leader in Los Angeles County, since 1972 the annual John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards have identified and honored local human relations champions. Each year, nominees for seven awards are considered. Five of the awards are for outstanding human relations projects and programs throughout the County – one for each of the five County Supervisorial Districts. In addition, the John Allen Buggs Leadership Award honors a public official for human relations advocacy and leadership. And, the Yvonne B. Burke Courage Award honors an individual for bold, dauntless action to advance human relations.

Following is a list of 2018 awardees:

John Allen Buggs Leadership Award

Ron Wakabayashi, Regional Director, US Department of Justice Community Relations Service
Mary Louise Longoria, former Commission on Human Relations staff member

Yvonne B. Burke Courage Award

Professor Mario Angel Escobar, mentor and activist

First District

“Through Our Eyes” training, Legacy LA

Second District

The Transgender Health Project, St John’s Well Child and Family Health Center

Third District

“Change the Talk” project, National Council of Jewish Women - LA

Fourth District

Interfaith Cafés, South Coast Interfaith Council

Fifth District

Hate Crime Victim Support Program, Burbank Human Relations Council

For more information about this project, contact Robert Sowell (rsowell@wdacs.lacounty.gov) or Robin Toma (rtoma@wdacs.lacounty.gov).

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