
Taste of
SELA
Banquet
Celebrating the diversity, culture &
community of Southeast Los Angeles
Friday, November 13, 2026
6:00 PM–9:00 PM
South Gate Municipal Auditorium

3rd Annual Taste of SELA



A Welcome from the Incoming President

It is with tremendous pride and heartfelt gratitude that we welcome you to another edition of the Taste of SELA Banquet!

What began as an opportunity to bring our communities together through food, culture, and fellowship has grown into something much more meaningful. Building on the success of our first two events, Taste of SELA is becoming a tradition—one that celebrates the rich diversity, incredible talent, and strong community spirit that make Southeast Los Angeles such a special place.

Our neighborhoods are home to a remarkable blend of cultures and culinary traditions, from the bold flavors of Mexican and Central American kitchens to soulful Southern classics and the many unique flavors that reflect the stories of our families and communities. Every restaurant, every dish, and every gathering represents a piece of who we are. Food has always been more than nourishment; it is a connection to our heritage, our identity, our memories, and one another.

As this event continues to grow, so does its purpose. Taste of SELA is about recognizing the small businesses, local entrepreneurs, community leaders, and everyday individuals who help make our neighborhoods thrive. It is about creating opportunities to connect, building lasting partnerships, and strengthening the bonds between the communities we proudly call home.

Most importantly, it is about giving back. Through the work of the Southeast Los Angeles Kiwanis Club, we remain committed to supporting our youth, serving our neighbors, and creating opportunities that will make a lasting difference for generations to come.

Thank you to our participating restaurants, sponsors, community partners, volunteers, and everyone who has helped make Taste of SELA what it is today. Your continued support has helped turn an idea into a celebration that we hope will be enjoyed for many years to come.

May this year's gathering remind us that our greatest strength is our diversity, our greatest asset is our community, and our brightest future is one we build together.

With warm regards,
JUAN PEREZ
President SELA Kiwanis
2026-2027

Kiwanis
CLUB OF SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES
KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
SELA Strong

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

JOSHUA BARRON
MAYOR, CITY OF SOUTH GATE
6:30 P.M.

FOOD TASTINGS

SELA EATERIES

OUTGOING PRESIDENT REMARKS

MARIO BELTRAN
OUTGOING PRESIDENT, SELA KIWANIS
7:15 P.M.

INSTALATION OF THE BOARD

ARMANDO VELAZQUEZ
TRUSTEE, KIWANIS REGION 13
7:25 P.M.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

JUAN PEREZ
PRESIDENT, SELA KIWANIS
7:35 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS

JUAN PEREZ
PRESIDENT, SELA KIWANIS
7:45 P.M.

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Rice Street
Bell Gardens

Wood's Deli
Huntington Park

Teriyaki House
South Gate

Buena Mesa
South Gate

La Pasta
Lynwood

The Butcher Carniceria
Commerce

Sabrocito Pupuseria
South Gate

Sierra Mexican Café
South Gate

Leña Ardiendo
Cudahy

Vere's Cakery
South Gate

Brown Soul Brewery
South Gate

The Little Cake Bakery
Commerce

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THANK YOU!!!