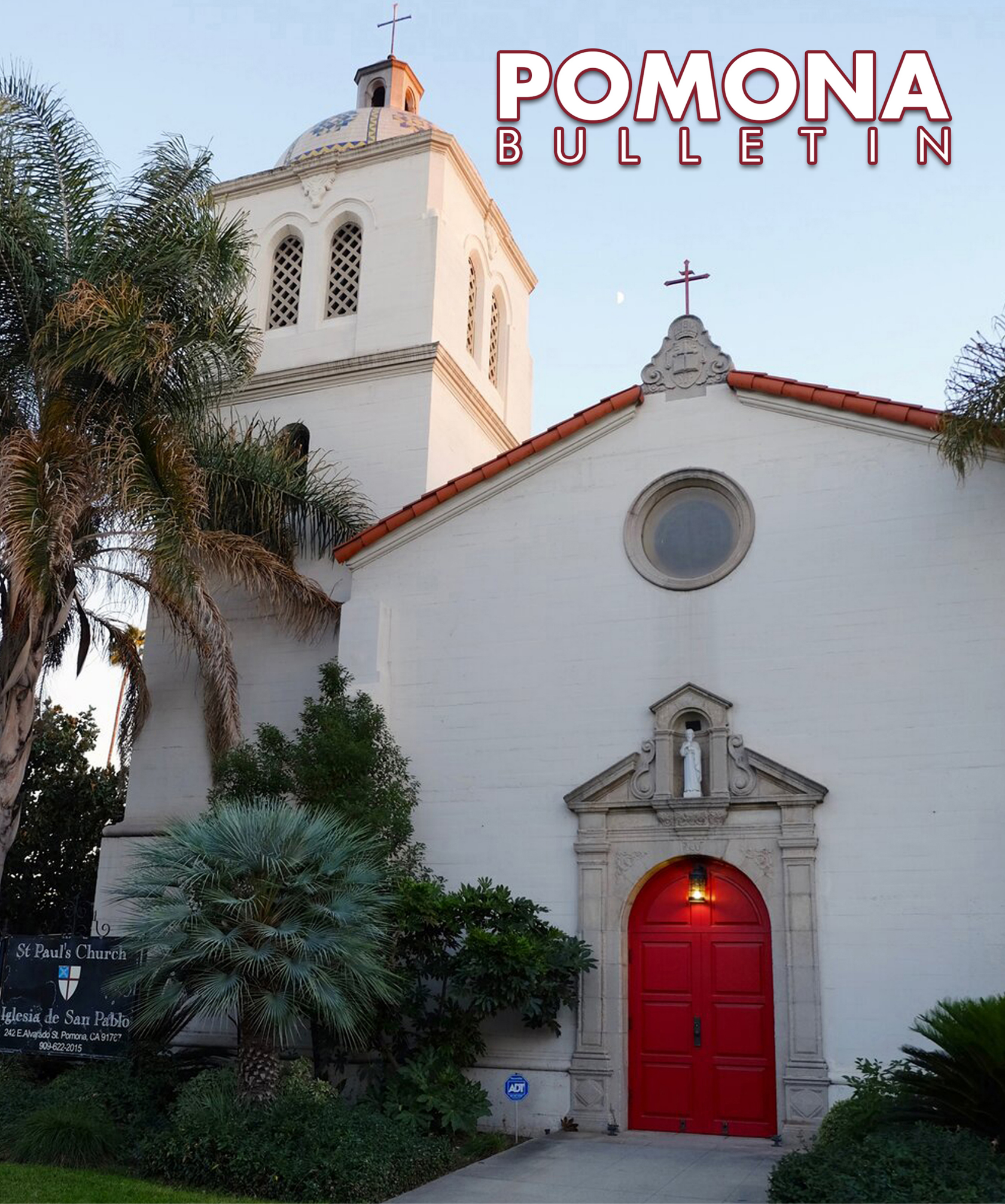


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“MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR”

TOYING AROUND

FOR POMONA RESIDENTS KIRA BUNCH AND EZEQUIEL VILLEGAS, PLAY IS SERIOUS WORK



Firefighter, ballerina, toymaker, astronaut: These are the answers you'll get when you ask a kid what they want to be when they grow up. But how many kids get older and actually realize that dream job? Well, my neighbors, Kira and Ezequiel, are two who made it happen. Ezequiel Villegas, 30, and Kira Bunch, 27, are Pomona residents and successful toy designers.

I first met Kira, Ezequiel, and Kira's parents at a neighborhood holiday gathering I hosted. Neighbors were invited to bring treats, and Kira arrived in an adorably festive holiday dress and matching hair bow, with a gorgeous tray of French macarons she had just finished making herself. As she handed them off and I complimented how gorgeous they looked, she said, "It was my first time making them! Everyone told me, 'No one gets a foot on their macarons their first try' And I said, 'You WATCH me get a freakin' foot on my macarons on the first try.'" I decided I wanted to get to know someone who bakes with such confidence and gusto.

Kira and Ezequiel's home, which I had the pleasure of visiting on a chilly February afternoon, is a two-story early 20th century craftsman beauty, originally purchased in the early 1970s by Kira's late paternal grandparents. In 2018, Bunch and Villegas began the journey of transitioning the home from her grandparents' former space to a "forever home" for the couple. The rehab involved restoring, updating, and personalizing every space in the home, from the remodeled kitchen to the special design choices reflecting their personal style. (Luxurious forest green living room walls set against dark stained wood paneling? YES PLEASE.) After a year and half of living in chaos, mess, passed deadlines, and paint swatch decisions, Kira and Ezequiel were newlyweds and oh-so-ready to begin their life as residents of Pomona.

One look inside the property, and you'll know that creativity is the sun around which Kira and Ezequiel's solar system revolves. Color, life, fascinating art, unique figurines, and even bones (yes, real, artistic bones) adorn their space. The back room of the first floor is Ezequiel's design space, where giant computer screens, multiple 3D printers and myriad incredible-looking figurines and models occupy every nook and cranny of the room. It looks like a place where imagination thrives.

Upstairs in a front-facing, window-lined room that lends the mood of a lux tree house, you enter Kira's workspace. It is a veritable explosion of pink, purple, and rainbow with girly color and art dripping from every solitary inch of the room. And don't get me wrong, it is a PERFECTLY organized and systematic explosion - from the sewing nook with a spectrum of thread displayed on the wall, to a three-foot ribbon holding dozens of hairbows - Kira's signature accessory. It is a feast of artfully arranged dolls, toys, and pretty things in every single direction. My long-buried 10-year-old heart sprang alive and squealed the moment I walked inside. Then, when Kira handed me a gift: a Polly Pocket "Compact" toy she personally designed and recently had found for sale in the wild, I threw all the propriety of the interview out the window, jumped up and down and hugged her. What can I say? I'm a grown woman who used to be a young girl who absolutely ADORED Polly Pocket... **To read the rest of this amazing story visit our website at www.pomonabulletin.com**



**WRITTEN BY:
MIRIAM BERNARD**

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A close-up photograph of a silver knight chess piece and a gold king chess piece resting on a \$100 bill. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the bill and other chess pieces.

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“MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR”

EPISODE 2

FOR POMONA RESIDENTS AYANNA LISTENBEE AND ROBERT ANDERSON



On the corner of Columbia Avenue and Towne in Pomona stands a sage green Victorian house with snow white trim. If miniaturized, it would be a dollhouse every little girl would dream of playing with. The residence is two stories, with a cozy porch, tropical-colored lantana bushes in the yard, and sunny, west-facing windows, letting afternoon light stream in and traipse across more-than-century-old wood floors. Since 2001, the owners of this Pomona gem are Ayanna Listenbee and Robert Anderson.

I sat with Ayanna and Robert on a frigid (by California’s standards) Tuesday afternoon in February 2022, as late-afternoon winter sun poured into the living area where we’d gathered. I’d batched a cocktail for us, and we poured it out as we sat around their beautifully designed dining room table. Despite their telling me they’re in the middle of many changes to their home, as I gazed around the space, every detail announced “purposeful” and “peaceful”. It looks like a place one can sit and simply “be”, which is a vibe I glean regularly from Ayanna’s mindful and thought-provoking Instagram presence.

The bench along one side of the dining table had a backrest draped with a throw blanket of Ayanna’s own design - the exact hand-dyed vintage indigo denim pattern as the poncho I received as a Christmas present from my husband, something I begged for after falling in love with it months earlier through the social media presence and website of Ayanna’s company, Ayanna Listenbee Collection. Despite living six houses down from me, I’ve gotten to know Ayanna namely through her impeccable brand. She crafts handbags, vintage denim, and other luxury life goods that have made their way to my wish lists for several consecutive years. She happens to be my neighbor, but she’s a designer whose wares strike my “freak out” excitement nerve on the regular.

During her student days, Ayanna was busy preparing to graduate with an English degree from Clark Atlanta University, when her gut spoke up and she made an “about face” toward a passion of hers. During her first semester, she became a fashion design major, and in doing so, felt a piece of her heart “click” into place. Soon after that, she transferred to LA’s Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM), where her life-long love of design was really able to thrive. Before long, she had secured a position with the company that designed Liz Claiborne’s swimwear division, and she also worked for the Ann Klein label. As her design prowess flourished and her own voice became clearer, she launched the Ayanna Listenbee Collection.

One visit to her website or Instagram page, and you’ll be salivating over thoughtfully and astutely designed leather bags, clutches, lifestyle goods, and in the past few years, her line of vintage indigo denim, every single piece of which makes my Bohemian California heart sing. Ayanna Listenbee Collection operated out of Pasadena for a time, but now Ayanna works right from her home studio in Pomona, which lends itself well to homeschooling her high-school-aged son, Retson, 16, and daughter, Nadiya, 15. A self-proclaimed introvert, Ayanna states the homeschooling and designing from the comfort of home suit her perfectly, and she can get lost for hours in her work... **To read the rest of this amazing story visit our website at www.pomonabulliton.com**



**WRITTEN BY:
MIRIAM BERNARD**

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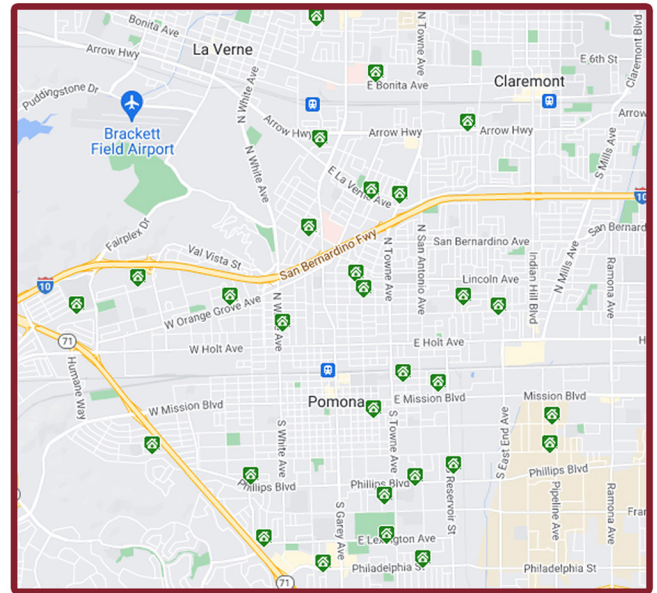
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St#	St Name	City	Area	SLC	L/C Price	\$/Sqft	Br/Ba	Sqft	YrBuilt	LSqft/Ac	DOM/CDG
1454 S	Reservoir ST	POM	687	PRO	\$525,000	\$549.16	2/1,0,0,0	956/A	1925/ASR	16,381/0.37	23/23
623 E	8th ST	POM	687	STD	\$528,000	\$687.50	2/1,0,0,0	768/A	1925/ASR	4,789/0.1099	34/124
887 E	3rd ST	POM	687	STD	\$539,000	\$471.98	3/2,0,0,0	1142/A	1910/ASR	6,570/0.1508	90/90
4065 E	9th ST	POM	687	STD	\$549,000	\$610.00	2/1,0,0,0	900/A	1947/ASR	10,010/0.2298	57/57
566	Laurel AVE	POM	687	STD	\$550,000	\$419.21	3/1,0,0,0	1312/A	1905/PUB	7,680/0.1763	30/30
1646	Hacienda PL	POM	687	STD	\$565,000	\$735.68	2/1,0,0,0	768/A	1949/ASR	5,729/0.1315	71/71
2510	Cottonwood PL	POM	687	STD	\$570,000	\$526.32	3/1,0,0,0	1083/A	1959/ASR	8,478/0.1946	7/7
2184	Avalon AVE	POM	687	STD	\$585,000	\$487.50	4/2,0,0,0	1200/A	1955/ASR	9,438/0.2167	19/19
866	Loranne AVE	POM	687	STD	\$597,700	\$436.92	4/2,0,0,0	1368/A	1952/APP	6,744/0.1548	7/7
4051 E	Grand AVE	POM	687	STD	\$600,000	\$600.00	3/1,0,0,0	1000/A	1946/ASR	8,820/0.2025	52/52
2113	Gambier DR	POM	687	STD	\$605,000	\$497.53	4/1,0,0,0	1216/A	1957/ASR	7,545/0.1732	84/84
2496	Lennox ST	POM	687	STD	\$620,000	\$415.83	4/2,0,0,0	1491/A	1958/PUB	7,449/0.171	99/99
2115	Ramsey WAY	POM	687	STD,TRUS	\$625,000	\$455.21	3/1,0,1,0	1373/E	1956/ASR	6,161/0.1414	14/14
1132 E	4th ST	POM	687	STD	\$634,000	\$293.52	3/2,0,0,0	2160/A	1948/EST	5,851/0.1343	43/140
1127 W	Phillips BLVD	POM	687	STD	\$635,000	\$290.35	4/2,0,0,0	2187/A	1948/ASR	5,710/0.1311	84/84
738	Fairfax LN	POM	687	STD	\$639,000	\$346.15	5/3,0,0,0	1846/A	1963/ASR	7,556/0.1735	83/83
220	Carv LN	POM	687	STD	\$649,000	\$503.88	3/2,0,0,0	1288/A	1953/ASR	7,307/0.1677	10/10
412 E	Columbia AVE	POM	687	STD	\$649,000	\$482.17	3/1,0,0,0	1346/A	1923/SEE	7,371/0.1692	13/13
462 E	La Verne AVE	POM	687	STD	\$649,900	\$359.46	4/2,0,0,0	1808/A	1961/PUB	7,905/0.1815	7/7
1277	Mindo DR	POM	687	STD	\$655,000	\$395.77	5/3,0,0,0	1655/E	1953/ASR	6,785/0.1558	8/56
1509	Evans AVE	POM	687	STD	\$669,000	\$330.53	5/2,0,1,0	2024/A	1997/ASR	4,692/0.1077	1/1
385 E	Bonita AVE	POM	687	STD	\$675,000	\$442.33	3/2,0,0,0	1526/P	1952	6,144/0.14	10/10
1742	Wright ST	POM	687	STD	\$679,900	\$589.17	3/1,0,0,0	1154/A	1947/OTH	6,071/0.1394	96/96
3460	Coral WAY	POM	687	STD	\$725,000	\$479.81	3/2,0,1,0	1511/A	1997/OTH	5,140/0.118	57/57
909	Werly DR	POM	687	STD	\$735,990	\$367.81	3/2,0,1,0	2001/B	2022/BLD	2,961/0.068	13/13
977	Rodeo RD	POM	687	STD	\$818,888	\$404.99	4/3,0,0,0	2022/A	2020/PUB	2,300/0.0528	15/54
706	Leather Oak LN	POM	687	STD	\$819,000	\$308.94	5/3,0,1,0	2651/P	2015/PUB	4,995/0.1147	67/67
3114	Dawnview AVE	POM	687	STD	\$824,900	\$465.78	4/2,0,0,0	1771/A	1965/PUB	12,222/0.2806	20/20
366	Lincoln AVE	POM	687	STD	\$919,000	\$287.28	4/2,0,0,0	3199/P	1911	10,311/0.23	9/9
1609	Elwood ST	POM	687	STD	\$1,200,000	\$405.82	3/2,0,0,0	2957/A	1948/ASR	39,343/0.9032	37/37
992	Philadelphia ST	POM	699	STD	\$539,900	\$481.62	2/1,0,0,0	1121/A	1947/PUB	7,304/0.1677	80/80



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