Another year has come and gone, and despite facing many unforeseen challenges, the employees of the Department of General Services can take pride in having provided their utmost in customer service to other Departments during 2002. To celebrate our accomplishments over the course of the past year, General Services’ employees gathered together on December 18, 2002 for a day of food, fun, and fellowship.

The committee members coordinating this Holiday Luncheon worked diligently to establish a pleasant, comfortable atmosphere for all who attended. By all accounts they succeeded, as the celebration was in the true spirit of General Services - both professional and organized with an attendance of nearly 500 persons. Those in attendance mingled with friends and acquaintances, engaged in spirited (but friendly) games of billiards, and generally shared in a good time. There were also plenty of exciting activities and games, with over 100 great prizes awarded.

The Department would like to thank its employees for all that they have done, and continue to do, to bring the citizens of Los Angeles the very best in public services. We are pleased that General Services’ employees were able to enjoy a few, well deserved hours of camaraderie and laughter and look forward to another fantastic year in 2003.

We would be remiss not to recognize the committee members for their efforts in making the Holiday Luncheon such an overwhelming success.

A special “Thank You!” is extended to the following Holiday Party Committee members: Alvin Blain, Committee Chair/Executive Office; Abby Truong, Printing Services; Terra Jones, Parking Services; Dorla Crawford, Supply Services; Eric Robles, Special Events; Manny Melendez, Mailroom; David Haut, Operations Support; Laura Backstrom, Standards; Wes Collier, Fuel Services; Terry Pina, Personnel Services; Michael Stewart, Asset Management; Jeff Mitchell, Construction Forces; Virginia Stocks, Facilities Management; Dave Marshall, Fleet Services; Gail Brown, MIS; Angela De La Rosa, Special Events; and Calvin Huff, Building Maintenance. (Article submitted by Jason Perez, Fleet Services Division)

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
THE CORNER OFFICE

A few months ago we celebrated our Department Holiday Party, and I can not remember an event so well attended. For those of you who attended, I want to thank each of you. For those of you who did not, well there is this year. I want to especially thank the Party Committee who made Alvin Blain look good. Our Committee this year will have quite a challenge ahead of them to meet or exceed last year's event.

Each year I also write of the challenges ahead of us and the constraints imposed by the department budget. This year's challenges are no different, and the budget problems are as severe as any year. However, we are beginning the year with many department honors made possible by the dedication of you the employees. The Department has successfully competed in gaining regional and national recognition for the Historic Renovation of City Hall by the Building Managers Association of both Los Angeles and National. This is quite an award, and it is my understanding that the numeric score we received in the National Competition makes us extremely competitive for the International Award. Well done to all who were involved with that project! But it does not stop there. Our Standards Laboratory was given the highest score awarded for being a Superpave testing site. We are the only laboratory on the West Coast so recognized. But it does not stop there. We are also being evaluated for four productivity awards. The awards are for the Procurement Reengineering Project, Citimax, Air Particulate Traps and for Sanitation Vehicle split packer design. You can say what you want about teamwork, but General Services has shown the way for teamwork and success.

We should all take pride in this Department. We continue to show the way for improvement and have made a significant contribution to the quality of life for the Citizens of Los Angeles.

I wish you all the best for another successful year.

 minimized

Powering the Future – Fuel Cell Powered Vehicles

As part of its continuing effort to play a leading role in the usage of innovative and efficient alternative fuel technologies, the City of Los Angeles is incorporating several experimental fuel cell powered vehicles into its fleet. This project, spearheaded by Mayor James K. Hahn, Deputy Mayor Brian Williams, and the Environmental Affairs Department, has culminated in the leasing of 5 Honda FCX Fuel Cell vehicles for a two-year evaluation period. Hiroyuki Yoshino, President and CEO of the Honda Motor Company, ceremoniously

Presented the first FCX fuel cell vehicle to Mayor Hahn at City Hall on December 2, 2002. Due to their vision and foresight, the City of Los Angeles is the only entity in the nation currently using a fuel cell powered vehicle in a commercial application.

Basically, fuel cells generate electricity by separating fuel (typically hydrogen gas) via a catalyst. Separated protons then flow through a special membrane and combine with oxygen to form water, while electrons flow through other components to create electrical energy. Since they contain no moving parts and operate up to three times more efficiently, fuel cells are of great interest as an alternative to internal combustion engines. The technology is environmentally friendly as well, since the fuel (hydrogen and oxygen) is converted into heat and water, instead of environmentally damaging and unhealthy pollutants.

Jim Bonnville, GSD’s Director of Fleet Services, oversees the program. The lease agreement for these vehicles was set up by Kevin Lee and Larry Smith of Fleet’s Technical Services Section. Richard Coulson of Fleet Services’ Training and Safety Section is working diligently with Honda to provide technical training specific to the FCX for Fleet Services’ employees. As the vehicles are received, Art Flores and Mark Barrera, Fleet Services’ Automotive Dispatchers, will coordinate their assignment.

Fuel cell vehicles show great promise and, given their certification as zero-emission vehicles by the EPA, their performance is remarkable. Making the future even rosier, President George W. Bush has recently committed $1.2 billion in Federal funding to advance this technology, and unveiled a Honda FCX Fuel Cell vehicle in front of the White House sporting the City of Los Angeles’ City seal along with other vehicles. The Department of General Services is proud to be a part of the implementation of this exciting new technology, and will continue to offer the City the most innovative and environmentally friendly services possible.

(Article submitted by Jason Perez, Fleet Services)
GSD EMPLOYEES HONORED BY MAYOR HAHN

Thirteen employees of GSD’s Supply Services Division were honored by Mayor Hahn for their efforts in the Mayor’s “30-60-90-Day” Timely Vendor Payment Action Plan Initiative. This city-wide initiative, announced by the Mayor and Controller Laura Chick in November 2001, called upon all City departments to ensure that vendors are paid within 30 days of the City’s receipt of each invoice.

The Initiative followed an analysis conducted by the Mayor’s office, which found that more than 22,000 invoices were outstanding as of July 2001. Late payments can jeopardize strong relationships with City vendors and result in the loss of discounts, which many vendors provide for timely payments.

The Supply Services Quality and Process Management staff joined forces with the Mayor’s LA OPS Office staff to identify and resolve issues, which were causing delays in the payment process. Once issues were resolved, the Payment Services staff led by Bea Padiangan diligently worked to process payment documents.

Meanwhile, the SMS Training Staff’s Susan Liem and Jeff La Dou developed a User Certification Program which all City staff using SMS was required to complete. The backlog of invoices was to be cleared within 90 days and the new, ongoing policy called for vendors to be paid within 30 days.

Results of the Mayor’s Initiative were significant. Between November 2001 and November 2002, invoices processed rose from 13,000 to 18,644. Dollars saved on vendor discounts for timely payments jumped from 0 to $3.05 million during this period, while the percent of discounts taken increased from 50% to 92%.

GSD Supply Services employees honored by the Mayor during ceremonies in the City Council Chambers were: Ising Quirante, Mieu-Linh Falkenstein, Linda Perez, Rhonda Hatter, Mildred Jacla, Sylvia Tran and Charito Go of the Payment Services Section; Debbie Ramos, Vicki Papalian, Kimberly Reddix and David Haut of the Quality and Process Management Section; Tom Kasowski of the Automotive Commodity Section, and Jimmy Newsom of Construction Forces Division.

City Hall Wins BOMA Regional Historical Building of the Year Award

After winning the local Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) of Greater Los Angeles 2002 Office Building of the Year Award (TOBY) in the Historical Building competition, the Los Angeles City Hall has also won the Western Regional U.S. BOMA TOBY Award in the Historical Building category.

Unlike the local competition, which consisted of a walk-through inspection of the building by a team of judges and a short presentation, the regional contest was much more intensive. It required the preparation and submittal of a portfolio depicting the building’s merits and virtues in a variety of areas that included such items as: building standards, typical floor/site plans, community impact, tenant/employee relations, emergency evacuation procedures, building accessibility, energy conservation systems and procedures, training for building maintenance personnel, a building description and a variety of photographs.

General Services’ Building Maintenance Division, in partnership with the City’s Project Restore, put together a team to meet the deadline for portfolio submittal by January 5, 2003. With holidays and end-of-year vacations to contend with, the monumental task of gathering information, editing and revising text, taking quality photographs and finishing the portfolio on time became a daunting challenge for the team. In spite of the odds, team members Carlos Portillo, George Becker, Raul Macias, Sam Alloway and Kevin Jew (Project Restore) completed the portfolio by the required deadline.

On January 26, 2003, Kevin Jew received a call from Washington DC informing him that the City’s portfolio not only won the Historical Building category—but it received a score of 96.6 points out of a possible 100—making it the highest scored portfolio of all entries! As evidenced by this win, hard work, team effort and a winning attitude prevailed once again.

Congratulations to the BOMA team that worked so hard and refused to settle for a mediocre performance! Thanks to the Custodial, Security, MIS, Central Duplicating, and other GSD divisions, as well as the clerical and graphics support staff that helped with this project.

Having won the Western Regional contest, LA City Hall now has the opportunity to compete at the International level, which will be held in June 2003. Good luck to the BOMA team!

(Article submitted by Carlos Portillo, Bldg Mtn.)

BOMA Project Team Members (from L to R): Kevin Jew, George Becker, Carlos Portillo, Sam Alloway, and Raul Macias.
WELCOME to our new or returning employees:

CONGRATULATIONS to employees who have promoted within GSD: Armando Alba, Celso Arreola, Eduardo Bran, Amy Collina, Martin Cortez, Teresita De Vera, Michael Divita, Linda Duong, Brian Gonzalez, Huma Gul, Daniel Herrera, Richard Humanic, Raymond Ingal, Arthur Leyva, Paul Mahony, Michael Maliniak, Donato Mariano, Francisco Meza, John Okray, Beatriz Padiangan, Jason Perez, Alan Peshek, Daniel Ramirez, Mark Roussel, Edward Schack, John Scott, Franklyn Sugiyama, Angelica Villanueva.

BEST WISHES to those employees who have recently retired: Memo De Aynes, Pabo Martinez, Charles Moore, James Orphey, and Solomon Solomon.

ATTENTION RETIRED EMPLOYEES: If you have recently moved, please provide us with your new mailing address so we can continue sending you the “Outlook”. Please send your new mailing address to:

Employee Development & Training Center
111 East First Street, City Hall South,
Room 309, Los Angeles, CA 90012
or email us at:
Avasquez@GSD.LACity.org

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Rosetta Davenport Landou, Editor,
FAX: 213-847-0214 or
EMAIL: RDLandou@GSD.Lacity.org
All comments are welcomed!