



Public Works

Story by Enrique C. Zaldivar, Public Works/Sanitation; Photos by Jose Lozano, Public Works

Goodbye, Cora

Cora Jackson-Fossett, Club Member, retires after a great City career of 36 years.

Two retirement parties were required to say goodbye to longtime City employee and Club Member Cora Jackson-Fossett, who retired after 36 years of City service as the Public Affairs Director, Public Works.

On Jan. 29, friends, coworkers and family attended a morning ceremony in the Board of Public Works Roybal Session Room, and then an evening retirement reception in the City Hall Rotunda.

As the Public Affairs Director for Public Works, Cora directed 14 staff in the development and implementation of strategic corporate communications programs.

Under her leadership, the Public Works Public Affairs Office has been the recipient of nine industry awards for its outstanding, creative and effective communications programs. In addition, Jackson-Fossett has received five Los Angeles Emmy nominations for producing videos/DVDs about Public Works activities and operations.

Also, she serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Professional Managers Association, the bargaining unit representing the City's top-level employees and was president from 2006 to 2012 of the Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel, the official representative for City employees of African-American heritage.

In 2010, Jackson-Fossett was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Public Works Association as Director — Public Works Management and Leadership. She is the first African American woman to serve on the National Board of the 28,000-member organization.

Jackson-Fossett was featured in the publication, *Who's Who in Black Los Angeles* for three consecutive years. In 2008, she was recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as one of LA's most successful women and in 2009, she was inducted into the National Association of University Women's Hall of Fame.

A member of Brookins Community A.M.E. Church since 1987, Jackson-Fossett serves as a Sunday school teacher, chairs the Public Relations Commission, and is a member of the Steward Board. In addition, she is the Religion Editor for the Los Angeles Sentinel newspaper, the largest African American weekly paper on the West Coast.

Jackson-Fossett earned a Bachelor's degree from Indiana University and completed graduate courses at Columbia College in Chicago. Also, she holds certificates in marketing management and standardized emergency management.

She previously served as Principal Public Relations Representative for Los Angeles International Airport, and newsletter editor and public affairs specialist at the Gary, Ind., Chicago and Long Beach postal facilities.

Cora, for all you have done to keep the Club connected to events at Public Works and the LAABP, we say thanks, and we wish you a great retirement.

