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**DOWNTOWN LONG BEACH ALLIANCE WELCOMES  
NEW FINANCE AND PLACEMAKING MANAGERS**

**(Long Beach, CA – October 8, 2020)** The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) is proud to welcome two new Department Managers to its team of dedicated staff: David Hughes, Finance Manager, and Stephanie Gonzalez, Placemaking Manager. Both are filling vacancies for existing positions.

“Our mission includes protecting stakeholder priorities by ensuring that the organization is operating effectively and responsibly, and that we are maintaining an appealing and user-friendly atmosphere in Downtown,” DLBA President & CEO Kraig Kojian said. “David and Stephanie bring valuable experience and expertise to our team. I am pleased to welcome them and look forward to their contributions to the organization and our Downtown community.”

The newest addition to DLBA is Hughes, who recently moved to Long Beach from Denver, Colorado. Hughes brings more than 10 years of financial management experience to the DLBA. Most recently, he served as Senior Budget and Legislative Analyst for various municipal agencies in Denver, including the Department of Public Health and Environment, the Office of the Clerk and Recorder and Elections, the Office of Human Resources, and others. In this capacity, Hughes oversaw a diverse portfolio totaling \$182 million and was the primary resource for budget matters, regulations, and ordinance policy directives.

“I’m excited to start this new chapter at DLBA and make meaningful contributions to my new hometown,” Hughes said. “I look forward to being a part of the important work that lies ahead for the organization.”

Prior to his role in Denver’s municipal agencies, Hughes held top financial executive and management roles for the Denver-based nonprofits the Trailhead Institute and the SE Trauma Institute. His experience includes annual budget management, contract and grant accounting, financial planning, payroll management, tax filings, and more. He holds a Master of Science in Financial Accounting from the University of Davenport (MI) and a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Phoenix University (AZ).

Also somewhat new to DLBA is Stephanie Gonzalez, who joined the team as Placemaking Manager in late September. Gonzalez is a familiar face within DLBA, having served as the Placemaking Intern during the early months of the pandemic. During her internship, she became familiarized with the Placemaking Department’s inner workings and contributed to ongoing efforts and COVID-19 relief initiatives. In addition to cataloguing Downtown’s streetscape elements with a fine-toothed comb, Gonzalez assisted with public space activation projects and outreach to the business community during the first weeks of the economic shutdown.

“It’s great to be on board at DLBA and to take on the role of Placemaking Manager,” Gonzalez said. “I look forward to working alongside our community partners to keep Downtown’s public realm attractive, safe, and functional for the benefit of its residents, visitors, and businesses. Placemaking is playing an important role in the recovery of our local economy.”

Prior to her role as an Intern at DLBA, Gonzalez gained project management experience at Bigger Dot, a printing firm in Los Angeles, where she oversaw printing projects such as signage, tickets, and mailings for major Los Angeles organizations. Gonzalez also previously served as an intern for USAID Geocenter/Youthmappers, where she worked on GIS mapping to catalogue open streets and address international development challenges such as food and water shortages. Gonzalez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Planning from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interpersonal & Organizational Communication from California State University, Long Beach.

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**About the Downtown Long Beach Alliance:** DLBA is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous Downtown. By balancing the interests of the residents, as well as businesses, the DLBA creates tangible progress by way of vested interest and solidified partnerships across local, municipal, and commercial lines. For additional information, visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org), follow on Facebook @downtownlongbeach, and follow on Twitter and Instagram @DLBA.