

The South Park Neighborhood Committee Newsletter

*February 2022
Volume 2 Issue 2*



Mission Statement and Vision for South Park Residents Association

February 1, 2022

The South Park Residents Association is a group of South Park residents and stakeholders focused on community building, support for local businesses, and political advocacy. The association represents all residents and stakeholders of South Park. Its leadership includes an elected Board of Directors that represents the diversity of the neighborhood and an executive committee charged with evaluating priorities and managing finances.

The Association creates a forum where neighbors interact, share thoughts and concerns, and take action, thereby fostering a sense of community and a safer environment. In addition, an active local group of constituents will command the attention of elected officials. The focus on residents distinguishes this group from the South Park Business Improvement District; however, the association includes and supports local businesses as part of the neighborhood community.

The Association's action plan:

1. Establish a formal committee, create bylaws, elect Directors, hold regular meetings. The Directors will be comprised of a diverse group of individuals that represent the South Park neighborhood including at least one from each of the following: homeowner, renter, business owner, student, and retiree.
2. Establish subcommittees as follows:
 - A Neighborhood Facilitator Committee to assist with resident needs through resources, connections, and neighborly help.
 - A Communications Committee to create and maintain a media presence utilizing the following platforms:
 - o Facebook
 - o Instagram
 - o Tik Tok
 - o Webpage

- o Online events calendar
- o Monthly newsletter
- A Social Committee to organize and oversee neighborhood events. The committee is directed to engage all members of the community in the design of such activities to reflect diverse interests and increase participation.
- A Political Advocacy Committee to forge relationships with elected officials and other local representatives with the goal of influencing policy and decisions for the betterment of South Park residents.
- A Financial Planning Committee to oversee financial needs and budgets.

Possible revenue sources:

- o SPBID co-hosting funding
- o Membership fees
- o Events
- o Advertising, fees, sponsorships from businesses
- o Private donations

Note: The Association has determined the South Park neighborhood would include all residents and stakeholders within the boundaries of Broadway Avenue to the east, 10 Freeway to the South, 110 Freeway to the west, and 9th Street to the north.



Project and Building Development

EVO and Luma Appeal Project at 1130 South Hope Street

By Marty Goldberg

The Board of Directors of EVO and Luma has filed an appeal regarding the proposed hotel project at 1130 South Hope Street.

On November 17, 2021, the Los Angeles Department of City Planners, “conditionally approved a Site Plan Review for a new 112 guest room hotel with 528 square feet of ground floor retail uses.” The City of LA’s deadline to appeal the revised version of the project was December 2, 2021, and EVO and Luma boards filed such an appeal.

Some of the main objections EVO’s Board cited included the following:

1. The lack of space between the proposed hotel and the adjacent private driveway.
2. Concern of blocking driveway at peak evening hours due to proposed hotel check-ins.
3. Traffic concerns on Hope Street due to guest drop offs and pickups.
4. The height of the proposed hotel building.
5. Access delays and congestion in alleyway due to the proposed hotel deliveries.
6. The limited set back of the proposed property.

Many residents continue to be against this proposed project. An inquiry from EVO and Luma to the developer to purchase the land for their own use was made. The developer quoted a price which the Board felt was about double its market value. Consequently, the Boards have declined pursuit of the property. As additional information becomes available regarding the appeal of the hotel project, an update will be provided.

South Park Community Happenings

Dangerously Low Blood Supply in Los Angeles and the Country

By Debra Shrout

It is time to give blood.

Blood shortages forced the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to shut down one of its trauma centers to new patients for hours in January — a step it had not taken in over three decades, officials at the County Health Department said in an LA Times article.

Dr. Christina Ghaly, Los Angeles County Director of the Health Services Department, said that the critical shortage in blood, combined with surging hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients and staff shortages, could affect how hospitals care for the public “in much more serious ways” than the surge last winter, resulting in canceled surgeries, and delayed care for people in need, according to the LA Times.

The Red Cross declared the first-ever blood shortage on January 11, 2022, amid the Omicron surge. The Red Cross press statement also “asks the country to roll up a sleeve to help ensure people receive the care they need.”

Here is how you can give blood:

- Downtown Los Angeles California Hospital Medical Center has scheduled three upcoming blood drives. The next scheduled blood drive will be Wednesday, April 13, followed by Wednesday, August 3, and Wednesday, November 30, from 7 am to 11:15 am at California Hospital Leavey Building 227 at 1401 South Grand Avenue.

Click here to sign up for a time for the April 13 Blood Drive.

- Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Blood Donor Center
4650 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Click here for more information.

- Keck Medical Center of USC
1500 San Pablo St.
HC2 First Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90033

[Click Here for more](#)

Creating Community in South Park

by Julie Brosterman,
Administrator South Park Insider Facebook Group Page

We (my husband and I) lived in the Mozza triangle at Melrose and Highland for over 8 years. It was a live/work loft. I knew 3 of the 27 neighbors. One of those was a woman who ran a business giving facials. I didn't consider her a friend.

We were determined when we decided to move in late 2018 to find a community. A place where people stopped instead of just waving from afar. A place where you might actually dine with your neighbors or have an impromptu coffee or drink on a sunny afternoon. We chose South Park - or rather it chose us. As soon as we purchased our condo at Elleven, we knew we were home.

There were already some organized activities going on. Many of the owners/residents had lived in our building - or the ones surrounding - for many years. They were warm and friendly. We loved that we could walk around town discovering places to eat, concert halls, Grand Central Market, or our favorite repair shop, Shoe Wiz.

I spend a lot of time on social media, so I raised my hand when someone suggested that we try to grow our South Park community on Facebook. South Park Insider was launched in the late fall of 2021. There were some signs that the pandemic might be receding. Maybe we could also schedule some events to grow the page? Or have a dog parade? Well, it hasn't turned out that way, but we do have a small, loyal following. About 50% of our members check in daily to see what's up.

Although I do most of the posting, Tom Shrou, Laura Novak, Nick Morello, and others occasionally chime in with photos or happenings. I try to post things that I like myself. Mostly about the blossoming restaurant/food scene in #DTLA. WOW! It's really happening, and it's right outside our door. And while this new variant is still keeping us close to home, I think we can do some Zoom cooking classes or Zoom happy hours to keep the human connection going.

Recently, I got a message from a new owner at Luma. "How did you find us?" I asked. "Through a link in our weekly newsletter," he replied. We spent a few minutes on messenger chatting about some of my favorite things. It was fun.

And I realized that's what the group is supposed to be about - FUN. Having fun. Doing fun things. Learning about FUN things that others have discovered while connecting with your neighbors.

Our Facebook Group is not a place to bitch and moan about the daily challenges we have as residents of #DTLA. There are plenty of other places for that. So, if you want to have FUN and see what your neighbors are doing, check us out. And tell a friend.

The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/891916095036454>



South Park INSIDER

member.

Like Reply 1w



↳  Laura Novak replied · 1 Reply



Write an answer...



Julie Brosterman shared a link.



Admin · January 19 at 3:51 PM · 🌐

[#DTLA](#) is back!



THEINFATUATION.COM

The Best Restaurants In Downtown LA - Downtown LA - Los Angeles - The Infatuation

South Park Resident Guy Torry's Documentary Airs on Amazon Prime

By Debra Shrout

South Park's own Guy Torry created and executive produced a three-part docu-series about the beginnings of Phat Tuesdays, that started in 1995 at the world famous Comedy Store in Hollywood. Phat Tuesdays: The Era of Hip Hop Comedy episodes drop on Friday, February 4, on Prime Video in more than 240 countries worldwide.



This is a story about Torry's vision and perseverance to start an all-Black comedy show after the 1992 LA riots. Torry said from 1992-1995 there was a lack of outlets for Black comedians to perform partially because people, including comedians, avoided areas connected with the riots where Black comedians had once performed. This meant Black comedians needed to break into the non-Black performance venues. The world renowned The Comedy Store seemed like the premiere place to perform, but it was not easy to get booked. The comedy clubs in Hollywood were tough for African-Americans to perform in unless they were already a TV or movie star.

Torry was a recent transplant from St. Louis. He labeled himself a nobody, had only been a comedian for 3 years, no money, naïve, and yet he pitches a concept for a Black comedy night at The Comedy Store. He didn't know what he was doing, was running his first business, he is in Hollywood not St. Louis, and he is proposing a project at a world-famous Comedy Store. But his goal and vision was to showcase Black comedians - and to achieve that goal they needed to showcase at The Comedy Store.

Phat Tuesdays was a big success over 10 years and launched a plethora of black comedians to the national stage. Comedians who are household names now such as; Nick Cannon, Katt Williams, Chris Tucker, Cedric The Entertainer, Tiffany Haddish, and many more. Phat Tuesdays attracted rising stars of all kinds whom also appear in this 3-part docuseries. Such as: Anthony Anderson, Tichina Arnold, Nick Cannon, Dave Chappelle, Snoop Dogg, Cedric the Entertainer, Tiffany Haddish, Steve Harvey, Lil Rel Howery, Regina King, Jo Koy, Luenell, Flame Monroe, Jay Pharoah, Craig Robinson, JB Smoove, Chris Tucker, and Kym Whitley.

Interestingly Torry didn't realize how big Phat Tuesdays was until he started working on the documentary. He said, "at the time I was the creator, host, and producer of Phat Tuesdays, and I still had my acting career along with touring. I was just doing my job and happy to see Black people having a good time and booking jobs at Phat Tuesdays. I didn't think about success."

Years later stepping back to document Phat Tuesdays, that was when Torry realized just how successful his venture had been. Tuesday night was bringing in the most money for The Comedy Store in the 90's. The audience was filled with stars like Magic Johnson. Producers and agents were in the audience and making deals. Networking was now more than a few NBA players hooking up budding comedians with their sources. And for the Black comedians, there were no restrictions on the material they used at Phat Tuesdays, so they were not reluctant to open up and be themselves. The only rule Torry had was no rape jokes.

The documentary series includes interviews with many of the above-named comedians and footage that has not been aired before. Torry was quoted in a recent media interview as saying, "I can't wait for the world to experience the story of Phat Tuesdays. It was more than a night of laughter—it was a movement." The success of Phat Tuesdays started other nights for Black comedians in other clubs in other cities. When clubs saw how much money was coming in, they added their own Black comedy night. Comedy chains like The Improv and their sister clubs and The Funnybone were the first to jump on that gravy train, said Torry. Comedy clubs as far away as London, Dallas, Cleveland, Toronto all had their own "Urban Night" with names such as Freaky Monday's and Laugh Factory's Chocolate Sundaes to name two, and each was the biggest night of the week for the club.

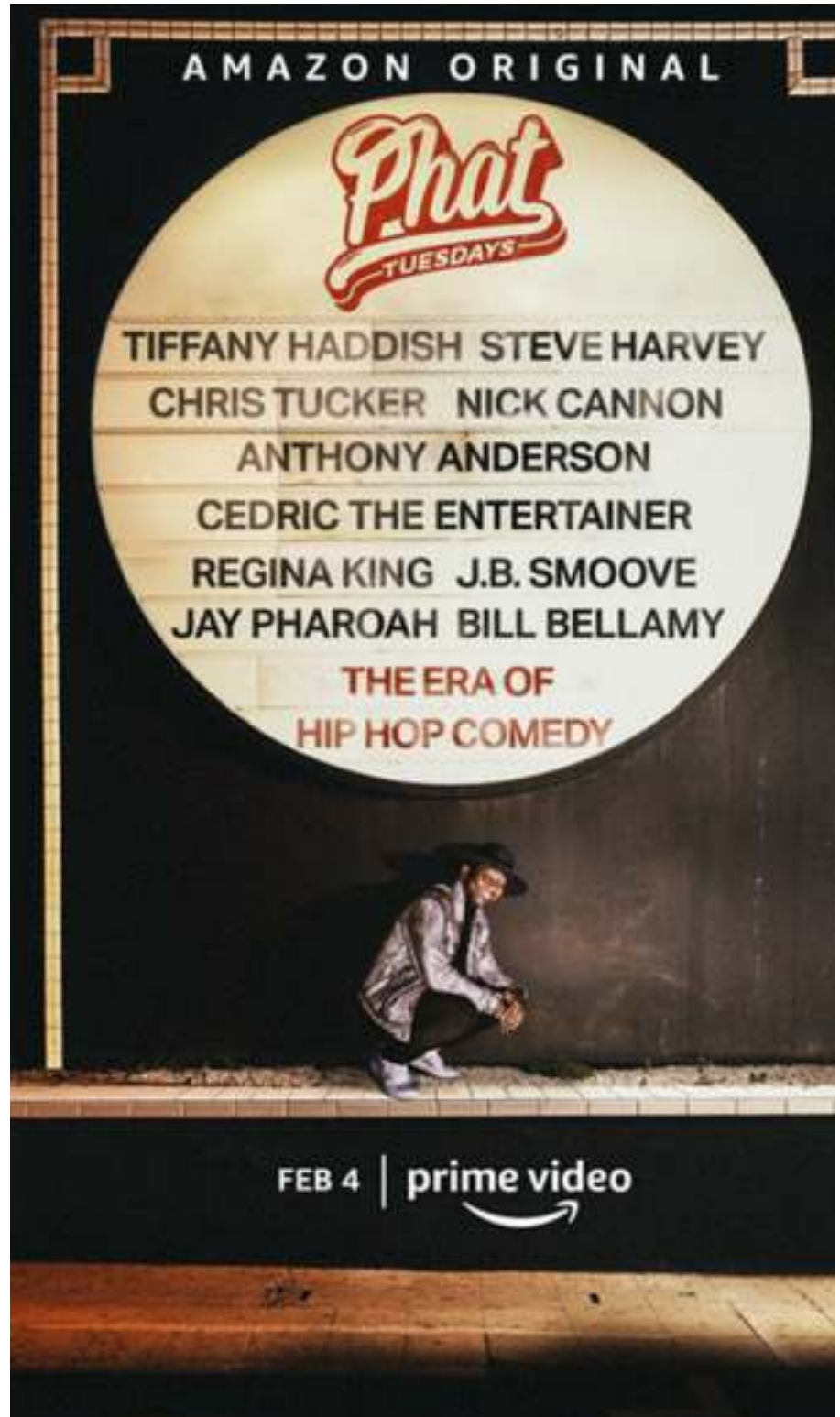
Torry started working on the documentary of Phat Tuesdays 13 years ago researching, writing down stories, conducting pre-interviews, but he had other work to focus on as well which slowed the process. During that time period, Torry was an original on Kings of Comedy, Def Jam Comedy, and the movies American History X and LIFE to name a few.

Four years ago, Torry took his Phat Tuesdays work to his agent at Innovative Artists, and that was the starting point of working to make the documentary happen. Torry called on an up-and-coming filmmaker, Bishop Moore, to help direct and film the pre-interviews for the pre-



sensation that they would shop around. Torry chose fellow St. Louisan Reggie Hudlin as his director for the documentary once it sold to Amazon Studios. Among his vast body of work, Hudlin had directed the 90's movies Boomerang and House Party, executive produced the recent documentary The Black Godfather, was a producer for Django Unchained, co-produced the 88th Academy Awards and the last 2 Emmy Award shows. Phat Tuesdays: The Era of Hip Hop Comedy is produced by Amazon Studios, Original Productions (Jeff Hasler), Phat Tuesdays Production (Guy Torry), and Grammmnet Productions (Kelsey Grammer, Jordan McMahon, and Tom Russo).

As for the future of comedy and Black comedy, Torry believes we are at a crossroads. Amazing talent can now film on their iPhone and generate an online audience. But Torry wants to preserve live stand-up comedy. Stage time, building up a live act with no retakes or do-overs - there's nothing like a live performance. "I don't want to lose the human factor," said Torry.



In Memorium Bus Stop Bench to be Dedicated to South Park Resident By Marty Goldberg

I am sad to inform the residents of South Park that Pierre Henry, mostly residing at the bus stop bench on Flower Street near Olympic, passed away on January 8, 2022. A sign and memorial have been created at that space by Carrie H. Allen, who appears to be his guardian angel. According to the message, Allen has been providing Henry two hot meals a day for the past 9 years. I know others have also supported and felt a kinship to Pierre Henry.

During my walks around South Park, I would often see Henry quietly sitting or sleeping on the bus stop bench on Flower Street, and he would also move to a bench on Olympic and Hope Street. Sometimes he would carry his blanket with him on his walks down Grand Avenue. We recognized each other, and sometimes he would not acknowledge my simple greeting or minimal gift, and sometimes he would flash me an approving smile. He was always pleasant and kept to himself. I know I will miss seeing Henry around our neighborhood.

I want to recognize Carrie H. Allen, for being the kind soul she is. I know nothing about Allen but for the dedication letter she posted at Henry's "bench home" and her intentions to dedicate it to Henry.

There may be a lot of challenges living in DTLA, but there are some incredibly generous and caring individuals in our neighborhood that deserve more recognition and appreciation.

Thank you, Carrie H. Allen, for giving dignity and a better life for at least one person.

R.I.P. Pierre



South Park Scene

Bossa Nova Brazilian Cuisine Expands to Our South Park Neighborhood

By Marty Goldberg



Building on its success in Hollywood, West Hollywood, West Los Angeles, and the South Bay, Bossa Nova, established in 1983, opened its newest restaurant location at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and Olive Street in late December 2021.

Recently I sat down with Matt Stroher, Director of Operations for Bossa Nova. Matt has worked for Bossa Nova for 6 years and advised that the restaurant has been cultivating customers living in DTLA for 10-15 years through their other locations. Matt and his team “were so excited when the retail space opened below The Olympic by Windsor Apartments.” They felt South Park was an ideal location with its proximity to Staples Center (now Crypto.com Arena), the diversity of the residents, and its sense of community. Matt added, “Compared to other areas in DTLA, they felt South Park was more advanced and better organized.”

Matt explained that Bossa Nova offers a Brazilian twist to all its meals. They offer a varied list of menu items including pizza, pasta, sandwiches, grilled chicken, seabass, pulled pork, Brazilian Paella, Super Bowls, Signature Burger, and vegan options. Matt is from Brazil and told me that his favorite dishes include:

Appetizers: Garlic Shrimp with yucca flour (Cameroao a Brasileira), and Coxinha Chicken (with cheese inside a fried breaded dough), and Cheese Bread (Pao de Queijo)

Sandwich: Skirt Steak (Churrasquinho no poa)

Entrees: Salmon with passion fruit sauce (Salmao Gelhado) and Barbeque meat (Churrasco).

It all sounded so exotic, delicious, and the smells and relaxed atmosphere stimulated me to enjoy lunch there the following day. I ordered the grilled chicken with lemon and garlic. The plate included fried yucca, rice, and salsa. It was everything I could have hoped for. Being as I had to write this article, I felt I would save imbibing in the caipirinha and caipiros-



ka Brazilian cocktails for another visit.

The restaurant seats about 100 people inside and 20-25 outside. They offer catering and of course take out. Bossa Nova is family owned and bakes their own breads and pastries. They have a full bar that I am told serve unique and excellent tasting drinks that might persuade you to walk home. If you have a small or large group, Matt said they “will make it happen.” They aim to accommodate



the customers so that they go home full and happy. He added that they are here to contribute and be part of this community. True to his word, they are embarking on a 10% discount voucher for residents of DTLA, obtainable at South Park Resident buildings. If your building does not yet have the vouchers, please have them contact Matt at mstroher@bossafood.com.

Bem vinda and Saude to Bossa Nova! Welcome and Cheers to Bossa Nova!

South Park Committee Members:

Marty Goldberg, Board Member, Concerto and Elleven
Kevin Sharkey, Board Member, EVO
Michael Ourieff, Board Member, Luma
John Nilsson, Board Member, Ten50
Chris Diaz, Manager, Aven
Candice Warren, Manager, 916 Georgia
Marcus Hamm, Property Manager, Axis on 12
Luke Banham, General Manager, Circa L.A.
Noah Vanaman, Business Manager, City Lights on Fig
Joydawn Jackson, General Manager, Concerto Lofts
Niki Frazier, General Manager, Elleven Lofts
Luc Sasseville, General Manager, EVO South
Priscilla Naiman, Manager, Flower Streets Lofts/Grand Lofts
Francis Langlois, General Manager, Luma Lofts
Tracy Robinson, General Manager, Market Lofts
Ariana Ojeda, Community Manager, Olive Lofts
Carrie Spain, General Manager, Ritz Carlton Residences
Monica Heredia, General Manager, Ten50

Newsletter and Media Sub-Committee:

Marty Goldberg, John Nilsson, Debra Shrout, Julie Brosterman, and
Virginia Wexman
Photography and Production: John Nilsson

Ad Hoc Committee to the South Park Neighborhood Committee:

Carmela Fuccio Aksalic, SP Business Owner
Wendy Brugette, SP Homeowner
Marty Goldberg, SP Homeowner
Priscilla Naiman, SP owner and SP Business Owner
Michael Ourieff, SP Homeowner
John Nilsson, SP Homeowner
Lauren Pyles, SP Resident
Debra Shrout, SP Resident
Virginia Wexman, SP Homeowner
Cristina Ward, SP Business owner