



## Maggie Hathaway Golf Course Receives Multi-Million Dollar Agreement for Restoration

*The renovated facility will offer an affordable and accessible outlet for the community to play golf and youth development programming.*



Elected officials, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, American Golf, Fore Youth Golf Foundation, and other golf association representatives gathered for the signing of an agreement to upgrade the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course in South Los Angeles.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER  
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, November 2, elected officials, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, American Golf and Fore Youth Golf Foundation signed an agreement to upgrade the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course in South Los Angeles.

California State Senator Steven Bradford, L.A.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell and L.A. City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson joined with city representatives, partners and other organizations to speak about the significance of the project, it's impact on the community and the woman, whom the park was named after.

"From my perspective, this is what equity in action looks like," said Mitchell. "So, I really want to

acknowledge all of our partners in making this happen."

She continued, "And we looked to the community to keep Maggie Hathaway elevated so, I am really proud that on my watch, that we are able to recommit as a county, to this amazing asset and to join with these amazing partners in what will be a phenomenal, phenomenal golf course and learning

experience for community residents, and all will travel here to see it."

"From the council office, the people of the 8th district, the people of Los Angeles, please finish this project — get it done," said Harris-Dawson. "It's very important to our community that we see it through and that all of us are here to celebrate it when it's done {See GOLF COURSE on A-10}

## Eriq La Salle Named Leimert Park Book Fair Ambassador

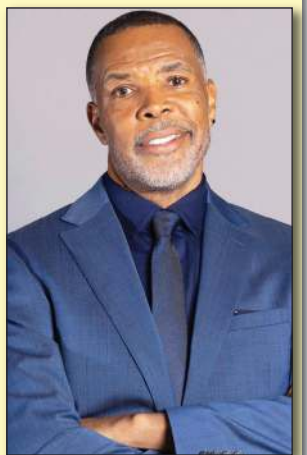
*The actor, writer, director and author will headline the 16th annual fair.*

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD  
Contributing Writer

Eriq La Salle is a venerable Hollywood actor, writer, producer, and director. Early in La Salle's career he was well-known for portraying "Darryl Jenks" in the classic Eddie Murphy comedy movie, "Coming to America." Following "Coming to America," he gained international appeal as "Dr. Peter Benton" on the NBC medical drama, "ER."

In addition to La Salle's numerous acting, directing, and producing credits he is also the author of the books, "Laws of Depravity," and "Laws of Wrath." They are both a part of a series that now includes its third installment, "Laws of Annihilation."

The third book in the series "Laws of Annihilation" will be in the spotlight along with its author Eriq La Salle at the 2023 Leimert Park Village



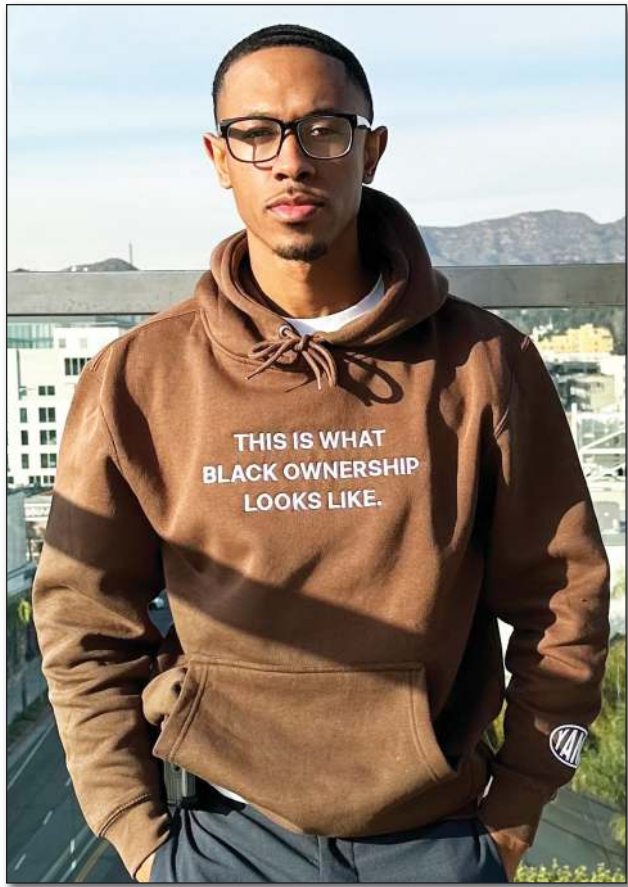
Eriq La Salle

Book Fair on Saturday, November 11th, 11am – 5pm.

La Salle has been tapped to serve as ambassador of the 16th annual book fair, along with another "E.R." alum actor and author Omar Epps.

La Salle and Epps will also be featured authors. La Salle says he is looking forward to this historic event, meeting fans, signing books, and participating

{See ERIQ LA SALLE on A-11}



YANG VIBE Founder Kevin Shephard wearing a sweatshirt with the message, "This Is What Black Ownership Looks Like."

## YANG VIBE Inspires Customers Through 'Fashionable Motivation'

BY ZON D'AMOUR  
Contributing Writer

At 24 years old, Oakland native Kevin Shephard made history as one of the youngest Black men to have a clothing brand nationally distributed through Foot Locker's "Home Grown" program, which amplifies designers who are shaping the future of streetwear.

Presently, his brand YANG VIBE is available within 32 Foot Lockers across the U.S. in states such as California, Texas, and Philadelphia with plans for expansion forthcoming.

Shephard first developed a passion for fashion while in middle school. He tells the Sentinel that at the

time, "I would put different fabrics on the brim of the hat, and I would take the strap off the back and replace it with a watch strap to make it feel more high-end. I went from that to distressing denim and customizing my jeans because I never saw anything I liked in the mall. When I started doing it for others, people began asking me if I had my own company and that led me to start my own brand." Shephard decided to forgo college to put his all into launching his business.

Amid building YANG which is an acronym for "Young And Naturally Grinding", Kevin became a father. He shares, "Many people say their business is

their "baby" but having my son was my biggest growing point because I'm not choosing one over the other, both are my priority. I'm going to take care of my son and this business is going to create generational wealth."

He adds, "At first, I lost a lot of friendships because it took a lot of resilience and sacrifice to build this business. But I've also been able to heal a lot of relationships now that people have seen what I was striving for and it's a full circle moment."

Speaking of resilience, Shephard shares that working on his first launch with Foot Locker back in 2021 he, "gained ten years of fashion knowledge in like

six months." With his manufacturer being in China, Shephard's initial production costs were more than projected due to the global pandemic but it was a challenge that he overcame, and YANG became one of Foot Locker's top-selling brands when the first collection was released in February 2022.

"Prior to the deal I was doing everything myself from designing to sketching, contacting manufacturers, and shipping the products but this was a different magnitude and it opened my eyes to how big the world is and how beneficial the right partner can be." He added, "You don't have

{See YANG VIBE on A-11}

## Pasadena Businessman and News Publisher Joe C. Hopkins Remembered for His Courage and Leadership

BY SOLOMON O. SMITH  
California Black Media

Last week, the Pasadena community lost a tower-



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ing symbol of leadership and courage, Joe C. Hopkins. A lawyer, activist, publisher, husband and father, Hopkins passed away on Oct. 31 after decades of dedicated service to the community.

Hopkins was a prominent presence in "Dena," the local nickname for the Pasadena/Altadena area. A resident for over 40 years, Hopkins, and his wife Ruthie, are deeply embedded in their local community, establishing meaningful relationships with people from diverse backgrounds. Their influence extended beyond Pasadena, inspiring and shaping California's Black political and social circles in numerous ways.

Hopkins was born in Altus, Oklahoma. He relocated to California in 1967, settling in Altadena in 1969. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Glendale University College of Law and in 1982 he began his legal practice which he later moved to Pasadena in 1986.

Hopkins was a man of conviction who fearlessly defended what he believed in. It was his strength of character and clarity of perspective that made him an effective leader.

Hopkins once held the position of president of the West Coast Black Publishers Association and was the president emeritus of the San Gabriel Valley Black

Business Association. He founded the

Pasadena/Altadena Black Lawyers Association and headed the Pasadena Black Expo from 1990-1992. He started the Pasadena/Altadena Journal, the first and only Black publication in "the Valley," a region located north of Los Angeles that spans several other San Fernando Valley cities, including Burbank, Studio City, Glendale and Sherman Oaks.

Hopkins' accomplishments have been acknowledged numerous times: He received the Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions in Business from the Altadena NAACP Branch

in 1990, the Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1992 and served as the

Community Grand Marshall of the Pasadena Black History Parade in 2000. In 2006, he was awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressman Adam B. Schiff (D-CA-30). Additionally, he has been honored with numerous special recognitions from various city, state and national organizations.

In 2018, Hopkins and his wife were honored as civil rights pioneers and "Unsung Heroes" by the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC). The



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award was presented by Assemblymember Chris Holden (DPasadena).

In a statement following Hopkins' passing, Holden said, "My life and the lives of many other people are forever changed by the impact of Joe Hopkins and his wife Ruthie.

{See JOE C. HOPKINS on A-10}



{Continued **GOLF COURSE** from A-1}

in development into a new, fabulous facility in the heart of our community.

“So again, thank you all so much for what you have done but, more than that, thank you for what you will do.”

The Foundation is the newly established non-profit to support the renovation, maintenance, and programming at Maggie Hathaway Golf Course. The Fore Youth: 2023 U.S. Open Community Legacy campaign, led by the Southern California Golf Associ-

going to happen here.”

“Now I can go back to the community today and say, ‘it’s going to happen’—it’s here,” said Glen Porter, president of Western States Golf Association.

“We appreciate SCGA, American Golf, we really, really appreciate you guys allowing us to be here as long as we’ve been here and looking forward to going to a different level.

“We’re ready.”

Gil Hanse, the renowned golf course architect, is leading the

Parks & Recreation. “She found golf during the pandemic, and she said this became her safe haven.”

She continued, “We’re so excited because this public, private partnership is going to level us up. And it gives us the wings that I think our community so deserves.

“So, in the spirit of Maggie Hathaway, we’re so excited that our commitment to youth and families is going to deepen because of this public, private partnership.”

“This project is particularly close to our heart, municipal golf, in particular, Junior Golf and municipal golf courses, it’s in our DNA,” said Paul Ballam, senior vice president, head of real estate and AGC Strategy.

“Positive traits that are learned through golf and the camaraderie are invaluable and we know that type of development will continue to benefit the community at large here.”

Bradford shared the



Rendering of the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course renovations.



City Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson shares that he and the community are looking forward to the upgrades to the facility.

ation (SCGA), United States Golf Association (USGA) and the Los Angeles Country Club (LACC), raised \$8M for the project to create a community legacy benefiting underserved and underrepresented youth.

“I’ve been working in golf for 19 years and this is by far the largest collaboration I’ve ever seen,” said SCGA Junior Golf Foundation Executive Director Kevin Gigax.

“Youth development through junior golf is a labor of love for us. We’re really excited about the next iteration of what’s

restoration project. This is in conjunction with the development of resources to expand Southern Area youth programming and SCGA Junior programming and services, which will enhance the facility’s long-standing role as a gathering place in South L.A. The renovated facility will offer an affordable, accessible outlet to play golf and renew impactful youth development programming.

“I think when we were here last, I met a young girl and [her] mother,” said Norma E. Garcia-Gonzalez, director of L.A. County



California State Senator Steven Bradford shares about the history of the Maggie Hathaway Golf Course.

importance of the woman the facility was named after, noting it was her sacrifices and civil rights activities that made golf

facilities open for people of color.

“It’s about honoring the legacy of the individual’s name being on this building, it’s on this golf course and that’s Maggie Hathaway,” said Bradford. “She was an actor, she was a singer, she was blackballed because she refused to play a demeaning role.”

He continued, “She was



“From my perspective, this is what equity in action looks like,” said, L.A. Supervisor Holly Mitchell as she signs an agreement towards improvements at Maggie Hathaway Golf Course.

we’re going to really invest in this golf course, we need to make sure we invest in the legacy and the memory of what Maggie Hathaway stood for, and that was inclusion, that was in equity, that was balanced, that’s who she was.

“Joe Lewis played here, a lot of folks probably didn’t know that Charlie Siford practiced here, Tiger Woods practiced here, and it’s mainly because of Maggie Hathaway making sure that it was available.

“It’s a great reinvest-

ment, but we also have to honor the person who fought so hard to make sure facilities like this were available to people of color.”

According to officials, a community engagement plan will be implemented by Los Angeles County, American Golf and the Fore Youth Golf Foundation. A project manager will also be hired to prepare full construction plans from the initial designs.

For more information, please visit [foreyouth.org](http://foreyouth.org)

{Continued **JOE C. HOPKINS** from A-1}

I will miss Joe’s fearless leadership and unrelenting dedication to community.”

Hopkins’ personal achievements were substantial, and their enduring impact makes his loss deeply felt by the greater Pasadena community.



Joe C. Hopkins Esq.

Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank) recalls being inspired by Hopkins’ writing in his book, “I will not Apologize,” a collection of his opinion pieces many consider to be the core of his beliefs.

After reading his book

Portantino had to meet the man behind the “no nonsense” words. Hopkins was not easily impressed and quizzed Portantino about whether he read his book. They bonded over that conversation and their mutual desire to create a bridge between higher education in California and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Together, they encouraged leaders and educators from UCLA to establish the Summer Institute for Emerging Managers and Leaders in 2012.

The program’s purpose is to “increase the diversity of graduate students enrolled in the UC business schools. The program continues to diversify leadership in California graduate schools.

“We connected on a friendship level and continued to talk policy and as the world changed, we kept talking to each other,” said Portantino. “The community has lost a special person, a great dad and a tremendous leader.”

Condolences have been

extended to the family from the mayor of Pasadena, Victor Gordo, and other community leaders offering comfort during their time of bereavement.

Hopkins’ son, Yusef Olaitan-Hopkins, remembers his father as more than a political leader, entrepreneur or civil rights leader. He cherishes intimate memories of his father as a caring parent, selflessly dedicated to his family and community. According to Olaitan-Hopkins, the family is overwhelmed by the community’s expression of sympathy.

Hopkins, according to his son, was always ready to defend others with his knowledge of the law, leadership or his presence.

“One of the things my dad used to say was ‘find a good fight and get into it,’” said Yusef. “He was going to do this on his own terms.”

Hopkins’ legacy extends beyond the publications, books, and organizations he started and led. It endures through the loving family he leaves



Joe C. Hopkins at a press conference, taking questions from reporters after a police abuse case in Inglewood, CA.



Assemblymember Chris Holden, right, honors Joe and Ruthie Hopkins at the state capitol for the MLK celebration on January 12, 2018. Also on hand are Asm. Brian Dhale and Asm. Ian Calderon.



Joe and Ruthie Hopkins spoke to a bystander while protesting the Pasadena Playhouse for not advertising in the only Black newspaper in Pasadena.

behind, including his granddaughter Ife Olaitan, a social worker, therapist and the mother of his only great-grandchild. For Olaitan it was a privilege to grow up knowing her grandfather and having him get to know his great-granddaughter. She recalls

how her grandparents inspired her to follow her own path and do “what’s right,” something she is passing down to her child.

“He was always on the side of fighting for what was right and what was just,” said Olaitan. “He was a man with a stance, and he

loved a good fight.”

Hopkins is survived by his wife Ruthie, three sons: Yusef, Omar, and Jamal, as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Messages of condolence to the Hopkins family can be sent to [pasadena-journalweb@gmail.com](mailto:pasadena-journalweb@gmail.com).