



LA County Department of Economic Opportunity Resource Fair August 2023.

Susan Eschelbach, Jan Pascale, LAC Director Kelly LoBianco, Adriana Cruz, Rosemary Brandenburg, Pam Elyea

Pam Elyea

History For Hire

Business Member

My husband Jim and I have owned History For Hire prop house in North Hollywood for forty years, We started our small business in our apartment in Hollywood, not knowing how to run a prop house but feeling there was an opportunity through the entertainment industry to help people to engage with history through accurate props and set dressing. Ten years after we started our business Robinson Royce, SDSA, invited History For Hire to join the SDSA as business members. History For Hire has been member of the SDSA for thirty years. Regrettably, Robinson is no longer with us, but the sense of purpose he instilled in us, that the SDSA is important and to use our platform for the betterment of our craft is a noble calling.

There are many issues the SDSA must address in the near future. Issues that were not known nor anticipated in 1993 when the SDSA started. It is difficult to run a small non-profit or small business. Rent is too high, and often we feel like there is no acknowledgement nor help from others. Set Decorators do not benefit from having fewer vendors to help them realize their sets. No business in our industry wants to see their competitors go out of business. The loss of a business's inventory, jobs and history is a terrible reality of what lies ahead if we don't get proactive and work together to help each other survive. The SDSA's membership of several

hundred decorators and business members, located all over the world, is a powerful tool to amplify our voices to be heard.

Our SDSA small business vendors need to join with the other 501 c 6 industry non-profits who are currently working towards a government funded Business Interruption Fund to help us pay our overhead when pandemics, strikes and other disasters put a halt to production. The SDSA needs to create a Business Member Emeritus membership level for retired business owners so the SDSA may continue to benefit from their experience and wisdom. Most importantly the SDSA needs ongoing financial and physical support to continue the projects, programs and events that this organization has established over the past thirty years. Continuity and tradition are very important to the reputation and long-term success of any organization.

Thank you for considering me for a position on the SDSA Board of Directors/Business Member. All the candidates for these open positions are great. Whomever you choose will be wonderful. Voting shows you care about the SDSA and respect the work that other board members have done.

-Pam Elyea