



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PINK PARTY TO KICK OFF LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE**

HOSTED BY FAMED DRAG PERFORMER, JEWELS LONG BEACH WITH  
CELEBRITY GUEST, ALEC MAPA FROM ABC'S *UGLY BETTY*

**Long Beach, CA — (April 23, 2009)**— The Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA) will produce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pink Party on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-11PM to kick off Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride, it was announced today by President and Chief Executive Officer, Kraig Kojian.

The event will take place on Pine Avenue, with a stage, live entertainment and a dance floor in the street. Hosted by famed drag performer, Jewels Long Beach, the Pink Party is expected to draw up to 2,000 visitors and residents to the heart of Downtown's entertainment district.

Comedian, Alec Mapa, of ABC's *Ugly Betty* and *Desperate Housewives* will perform live at 8PM, followed by the Long Beach Drag Diva 2009 contest, raffle prizes and a silent auction. Live music will fill the streets with special guest DJs spinning on stage and the newly-installed LED lighting throughout Downtown and along Pine Avenue will turn pink, setting the mood for a truly exceptional evening.

"Pride is one of the biggest events of the year in Downtown Long Beach," said Kojian. "This is an opportunity to introduce thousands of local and regional event-goers to the dining, entertainment and retail offerings of our urban center and to build a connection that we believe will bring visitors back to the area throughout the year."

The Pink Party was founded in 2008 by First District councilmember-elect Robert Garcia, and associates to raise funds for the Center Long Beach's Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment (MYTE) Program. Hundreds of attendees packed Smooth's Sports Grill's rooftop deck to capacity last year and helped to raise nearly \$15,000 for the cause. Proceeds from this year's event will continue to benefit the MYTE Program, which serves Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth between the ages of 13-18.

The Pink Party will take place on Pine Avenue between Broadway and 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-11PM on Friday, May 15. Admission is free, though a voluntary donation of \$10 can be made upon entry.

For more information about the Pink Party and/or the DLBA, please visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org) or call (562) 436-4259.

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**About DLBA:**

The Downtown Long Beach Associates is a non-profit organization operating on behalf of the property owners and tenants of the Business Improvement District. It is dedicated to the management, marketing, security, maintenance, advocacy, and economic and community development of the assessment districts in cooperation with the City of Long Beach and the private sector.