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City of Lafayette recognized for excellence in financial reporting

For the seventh consecutive year, the city of Lafayette received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.

The Government Finance Officers Association is an organization that represents public finance officials throughout the United States

and Canada; its mission is to enhance and promote the professional management of governmental financial resources by identifying, developing, and advancing fiscal strategies, policies, and practices for the public benefit.

The Excellence in Financial Reporting Program was designed to encourage local governments to go

beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles, while promoting the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government

and its management.

Special recognition goes to administrative staff: Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson, Assistant Administrative Services Director Jennifer Wakeman, Accountant Robin Townley, and Accounting Assistant Debbie Janke. – J. Wake

Tom Stack awarded Lafayette's 2023 Business Person of the Year



Tom Stack at the 2022 Art & Wine Festival

Photo provided

By Jennifer Wake

When someone is awarded the distinction of Business Person of the Year, it's obvious they're successful in business. Tom Stack is no exception.

Starting by selling T-shirts out of a backpack in the parking lots of Grateful Dead concerts, Stack turned that endeavor into a thriving worldwide distribution operation and ended up working directly with the Grateful Dead as its VP of Licensing and Merchandising. Stack also worked across the table with Carlos Santana as his primary licensee and represented the estates of Jerry Gar-

cia, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley and Janis Joplin. Stack then moved into the real estate game, becoming a top salesperson for Coldwell Banker Realty and as of this year, notching 17 years in the business. But it was Stack's involvement in Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre that set him apart from other nominees, since two of the main criteria for the BPOY award are that their work enhances the quality of life in Lafayette and brings the community together.

In 2009, then executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson, approached Stack and suggested he join Town Hall The-

atre's board. THT was looking at closing for good, especially following a sprinkler mishap, known as the April Fool's flood, when fire sprinklers went off, dumping 800 gallons of water upstairs and flooding the entire downstairs. The theater had to be shut, de-molded and repaired. "I came on in the fall," Stack said. "They were in dire straits and needed revenue; I like to generate revenue."

Stack, who had watched Bill Graham in action at his concert events and had an obvious love of music (with his wife, Kiki, who is in two bands, also with music connections), decided that producing concerts at Town Hall between various theater productions could be a great way to generate income and introduce new patrons to THT. Stack began producing concerts in January, March, May, September, and November, about eight or nine shows a year, with all the proceeds going to THT.

"I fearlessly fundraise," Stack said. "That was really the goal – see if I could cross pollinate this thing. As emcee, from the stage, I would plug the productions and would ask for specific items for the house and the stage like lobby furniture, stage sound and lighting. Truthfully, it was about building community and generating revenue."

Much like when he walked the parking lots selling T-shirts, Stack hit the streets, concert tickets in hand, determined to fill the venue and raise the much-needed funds for the theater. "I just went to people I knew. It

was a person-to-person thing," Stack said. Soon, the concerts generated their own buzz and sold out each time. Then Stack and his wife, Kiki, began producing the Lafayette Community Music Festival. "It was modeled after Neil Young's Bridge School with acoustic guitars, banjos, mandolins, and dobros," Stack explained. "Kiki would call all her musician friends and they would donate their time. That was her brainchild, her creation."

Unfortunately, when the pandemic hit, all in-person concerts stopped and Stack decided to leave the board in July of 2020. But the music has continued at outdoor venues, like those at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival and the Rock the Plaza Summer Concert Series, where Stack serves as emcee.

Tom and Kiki will continue their backyard amphitheatre acoustic performances for 45-50 clients, friends and neighbors as they "sit outside to enjoy music in a glorious natural setting."

"I like to bring people together, build little communities in the moment," Stack said.

Stack will be honored on Friday, Feb. 3 during a special dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. To register, visit <https://lafayettechamber.org/bpoy>. The evening will include the State of the City Address by Mayor Carl Anduri and the introduction of the Lafayette Chamber's 2023 Board of Directors.

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It's Village. Of Course.

Reporter Wanted

Lamorinda Weekly is looking for a

Lafayette City Reporter:

Required Qualifications:

Excellent writing and communication skills. Ethical and professional. Live or work in or near the Lamorinda area and have the ability to write balanced, researched, well-structured articles. Prior journalism experience desired, but not required. Understanding of AP Style is a plus. Compensation is made on a per article basis.

Join the Lamorinda Weekly team

- Do you want to learn about important happenings in the community?
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Please send your resume and writing sample to wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977



Lamorinda Weekly is an independent Newspaper owned by Andy and Wendy Schack with the vision to bring news and interesting stories to the communities of Lamorinda. Since the start of this paper in 2007 our team members have enjoyed a strong engagement with members of their community, the pleasure of meeting many interesting people and the satisfaction of bringing balanced and well researched news to all.