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TBAC Chairman Robert Weir, center, takes helm of small business advocacy group at recognition reception held Thursday. In attendance and networking are, clockwise from center left, Diana Ho, Los Angeles Community College District; Kellie Irving, Metro; Jin Chon, Business Resource Group; Joe Hernandez, DEOD Manager; Tashia Smith, Contract Compliance Manager, and Sharon Evans, Business Resource Group.



PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON

## Small Business Network Installs New Officers

- The Transportation Business Advisory Council is a group of business organizations that advocate on behalf of greater participation of small business in the Metro contract process.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Dec. 3, 2004) The Transportation Business Advisory Council (TBAC) installed a new board of executive officers at a reception hosted by Metro's Small Business Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) on Thursday.

Dedicated to strengthening the network of small business organizations who advocate for contracting opportunities at Metro and other public agencies, the officers will serve a two-year term in 2005 and 2006.

The new officers represent a powerhouse of diversity in the small business community.



Oath of Office: Assistant MTA Board Secretary Sharon Sterling, at right, swears in new TBAC officers, from left, Lucia Tam, Bill Yang, Gladys Hurtado, Barbara Sullivan, and Chairman Robert Weir. PHOTO: SLAWOMIR KORTAS

Businessman Robert Weir, elected chairman, is an officer of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce. Other officers are Vice-chairwoman Barbara Sullivan, a representative of the National Association of Women Business Owners; Secretary Lucia Tam, the Chinese-American Construction Professionals; Parliamentarian Gladys Hurtado, the Latin Business Association, and financial officer William Yang, the Asian-American Architects and Engineers.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by the department's contract compliance officer Tashai Smith, who voiced the department's commitment to Metro's working partner relationship with small business.

Smith saluted the efforts of the outgoing officers, chaired by Marsha Brown of the Women's Transportation Coalition. "Their outstanding leadership inspired many of the advances made in public contracting," she said.

During their tenure, TBAC members authored the White Paper, which provided recommendations to Metro on how to assist the certified small business community.

On behalf of DEOD's Deputy Executive Officer Linda Wright, Smith acknowledged: "TBAC's strong network has provided a contracting 'safety net' that increases opportunities for certified small businesses to secure contracts at Metro and other public contracting agencies. They have brought many new and fresh ideas to the table for remedy of legitimate concerns that have impeded contracting success in the past."



Outgoing executive board members receive resolutions of commendation from Metro staff. From left, holding resolutions, are 2002-2004 officers Robert Weir, Maria Molina-Solano, Lucia Tam, outgoing Chairwoman Marsha Brown and Bill Yang. Metro staff, background from left, are Lucille Coleman, Joe Hernandez, Tashai Smith, Administration Executive Officer Don Ott and Kellie Irving.

PHOTO: SLAWOMIR KORTAS

The TBAC council is a group of business organizations that advocate on behalf of greater participation of small business in the Metro contract process. The TBAC organization also helps Metro meet or exceed participation goals for MTA contracts, said Smith.

Currently, 14 organizations, including the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Filipino American Society of Architects and Engineers, Latin Business Association and the National Association of Women Business Owners, head a large membership of small businesses and entrepreneurs.