AbilityFirst has announced that Joseph Brumfield, Joanne Kim, Anita Lawler and Francisco Navarro, M.D., have been selected to serve on AbilityFirst’s board of directors.

Each of the recently appointed board members represents a variety of experiences and professions and share a common goal of supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Brumfield is the vice president of Business Development for HopSkipDrive, a company that provides transportation solutions for schools and families. Brumfield is an alumni of the African American Board Leadership Institute.

Kim is the President and Chief Executive Officer of CBB Bank, a community bank headquartered in Los Angeles’ Koreatown.

Lawler joins AbilityFirst as a community leader and philanthropist with more than 25 years’ experience in the banking industry, the majority of which are in executive management and leadership roles.

Navarro is a board-certified psychiatrist and founder of Mind Health Institute in Pasadena. Navarro is on the faculty at UCLA and provides clinical supervision to Child and Adolescent Psychiatry clinicians in training.

“I am delighted and proud to welcome these seasoned community leaders to the AbilityFirst Board of Directors,” said Lori Gangemi, chief executive officer. “Each individual brings a unique perspective and will directly impact our mission of helping people with disabilities achieve their personal best throughout their lives.”

To find a full list of the AbilityFirst’s board of directors, and to learn more about AbilityFirst programs and services, abilityfirst.org.

Sycamores Spring Gala

the presentation of Sycamores’ Celebrating Children Award, this year being given to state Sen. Anthony J. Portantino and the Capital Group. They are receiving this honor in recognition of their dedication, leadership and commitment to improving the lives of children, families and adults in the Los Angeles community.

Funds raised from this event will help provide critical support to the work Sycamores is doing to address the mental health needs of low-income children, young adults and families – including those who are in foster care or are experiencing homelessness, which has escalated dramatically over the last two years.

This year’s Celebrating Children Spring Gala will be particularly special. In addition to honoring state Sen. Anthony Portantino and the Capital Group, we will be celebrating our organization’s 120th Anniversary of helping children, young adults and families to create a better life,” Sycamores President and CEO Debra Manners said. “We are truly looking forward to being together in person again with our friends and partners in the community,” she added.

The Celebrating Children Spring Gala committee is co-chaired by Pasadena residents Rita Henderson and Jan Emamian. The event is being held on April 16 at the Bel Air Bay Club. The gala will feature a silent auction, live auction and musical entertainment.

“Sycamores has been an important part of the lives of many families in our community,” Henderson said. “This is a wonderful opportunity to come together and support the work Sycamores is doing to help children, young adults and families create a better life.”

To find out more information, please call Shannon Boalt, at sboalt@sycamores.org or (626) 493.7757 for more information.

Contact us for a complimentary equity analysis of your home

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The Pasadena Symphony announces its 95th season with a schedule of seven concerts, marking Oct. 22 through April 29, 2023. The 2022-23 season will be presented under the baton of seven guest conductors serving as artistic partners, each bringing a new and diverse voice to the orchestra’s music. The season opens with a search for a new conductor with passionate staff to work collaboratively in selecting a new Music Director. We have formed a team of music directors, board members and staff to work collaboratively in selecting a conductor with passionate ideas, who inspires the orchestra to perform at the highest technical and artistic level, and who will thrill and amaze audiences of all ages,” CEO Lora Unger said.

“We're looking for our next Music Director to bring a set of skills and values that will shape how we communicate, create and engage the diversity of our community to ensure access for all,” she added. Conductor Victor Panamarenko opens the 2022-23 season on Oct. 22 with Saint-Saëns’ Symphony No. 3 “Carnival” and Piazzolla’s Suite Op. 37, “O” and the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto No. 2 with Colburn young artist Vijay Tendulkar. François López-Ferrer conducts Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade and Elgar’s Cello Concerto with internationally renowned, Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey on Feb. 11. Rebecca Tong takes the podium on March 18 for Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 “Eroica” and Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 5 and the Schubert Violin Concerto with award-winning violinist Maria Lee.

Conductor Joseph Young returns to ring in the holidays with the orchestra’s annual Holiday Candlelight Concert on Dec. 17. Conductor Joseph Young gives the New Year on Jan. 24 with Menotti’s Symphony No. 4 “Italian” and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 26 with Colburn young artist Vijay Tendulkar. François López-Ferrer conducts Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade and Elgar’s Cello Concerto with internationally renowned, Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey on Feb. 11. Rebecca Tong takes the podium on March 18 for Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 “Eroica” and Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 5 and the Schubert Violin Concerto with award-winning violinist Maria Lee.

The season closes April 29 with conductor Jenny Wong returns with Avery Fisher Winner Tai Murray and the Barber Violin Concerto with internationally renowned, Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey on Feb. 11. Rebecca Tong takes the podium on March 18 for Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 “Eroica” and Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 5 and the Schubert Violin Concerto with award-winning violinist Maria Lee.

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The Pasadena Symphony is committed to providing the safest possible setting for the community and requires all concertgoers to be fully vaccinated to attend concerts at Ambassador Auditorium. For the most up to date safety protocols, visit pasadenasymphony-pops.org/symphony-covid-safety/