

## **Biography of Olivia E. Mitchell**

Ms. Mitchell began her City service in 1974 when she joined the staff of Mayor Tom Bradley. She is currently the Assistant Chief Grants Administrator for the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department. This department was created in August, 2021, through a separation from the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA). This is a position she has held since 2005 when she joined the staff of the previous Community Development Department. During her tenure at the department she has managed community centers, directed research and legislative advocacy and the management information services branch. She is currently the manager of staff overseeing the department's Family Source Systems, Domestic Violence, Child Passenger Safety and federally funded Neighborhood Improvement construction projects including their cash and service payback agreements.

Ms. Mitchell is continually and consistently known for her work with young people. Beginning in 1971, with her work with the District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board, through 1993 with Mayor's Bradley's Youth Advisory Council and serving as the first director of the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families in 1995. She has developed and implemented leadership development programs for the best and brightest youth of our city as well as programs for the disenfranchised including foster and probation youth and gang involved young people. She has directly mentored over 2000 youth and, indirectly, thousands more.

Ms. Mitchell has worked at the program level, administrative level and policy-decision making level to engage youth and to increase the involvement of disenfranchised adults in the decisions affecting their lives; especially government decisions. As important is her commitment to recruit, encourage and mentor staff to provide their best service to an ethnically diverse constituency, especially those living in poverty and without hope.

Her influence reaches across communities to include policy appointments that currently include the County Probation Commission, the California Community Foundation's BLOOM and Thelma Pearl Howard affiliates. Formerly she was also a member of the National Board of the Tavis Smiley Foundation, the YWCA of Greater Los Angeles, the Latino/Black Roundtable, KCET, El Nido Family Centers, United Way Board of Directors, Rosa Parks Sexual Assault Crisis Center, L.A. Philharmonic Advisory Board and others..

We could say that Ms. Mitchell has directly mentored over 2000 young people through the various youth councils and youth programs she has staffed. In truth she has really influenced thousands more. She is most famous to the general public as a mentor to a variety of public officials. One is the mayor of the City of Fontana; others are current and former members of the Los Angeles City Council: Paul Koretz, Tom LaBonge, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, and former Controller Wendy Greuel. Through her other affiliations and works she is also highly respected and admired by Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson, Councilmembers Bernard Parks, Gilbert Cedillo, Curren Price, Jose Huizar, Mike Bonin, and former Council member, and former Mayor Antonio Villaragosa, and former City Council President and now Mayor Eric Garcetti.

She has served five Mayors – all of whom consider her their friend.

1971-74

**District Attorney's Youth Advisory Board**

Programs and projects to bridge gap between youth of South Los Angeles and Criminal Justice system, including responding to renewed Black gang activity

1974-95

**Mayor's Office of Youth Development**

Creation of Youth Advisory Council and multitude of youth engagement and employment programs.

Represent Mayor in a variety of diversity initiatives and projects including ethnic, religious, and area engagements

**1995-2005      Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families**

Creation of new department, volunteer commission, area sub-groups (Neighborhood Networks4Kids), annual data tracking of city services and budgets

**2005-2013      Community Development Department**

Management of 8 Youth and Family Centers, development of a capacity building curriculum for non-profit agencies, representation and continued engagement in youth programs, especially employment programs; emergency preparation department liaison and training coordinator. Oversight of technical services unit.

**2013-2018      Housing +Community Investment Department**

Manager for several units acquired with dissolution of CDD, including the system of community non-profit centers focused on family services, domestic violence funded projects, monitoring of neighborhood loans, leases, and improvement projects funded under the federal Con Plan, Handyworker program and data training and tracking and a State Office of Traffic Safety Program (OTS) providing workshops on child car safety, pedestrian and bicycle safety.

**2018-Current** Manager of six (6) City Commissions:

**Human Relations, Affordable Housing, Transgender Advisory Council, Community Action Board, Commission for Community and Family Services, Commission on the Status of Women.** Continued management of OTS program.