



Sky's the Limit at Classic Taco Joint

SKY'S GOURMET TACOS NOW OPEN AT 5200 CENTURY BOULEVARD IN THE FORMER BIZZY B'S CAFE

"I hate the word fusion," says Barbara "Sky" Burrell with a smile, sitting at a patio table in a hidden garden behind a row of tidy Pico Boulevard storefronts. "That word doesn't mean anything to me."

Fusion doesn't begin to describe the menu at Sky's Gourmet Tacos, Barbara's nickname-eponymous restaurant that has been serving Mid-City customers for 25 years (it'll be 26 in a week). Despite the name and much of the menu Sky's isn't an upscale restaurant, nor is it really Mexican by any stretch. There's a soul food backbone to the place, with a menu that changes around ribs and lemonade and ground turkey and grilled shrimp, but this isn't a modern soul food spot, either. Sky's is none of the above, and a whole lot more as a result. "I just try to do my own thing," Burrell adds. That sounds about right.

The classic joint has opened its newest location at 5200 Century Boulevard, in the former Bizzy B's

Cafe location.

"Sky has had marinated lobster with shredded lettuce and sassy sauce for a quarter-century"

A Midwestern native whose father is a legendary musician, Burrell spent formative years in and around Chicago. Tacos were far from a staple, but even all those decades ago it was possible to reach into the more Mexican enclaves of the city for a taste of tortilla, meat, and cheese. Rather than fixating on the purity of any one menu item, Burrell found herself drawn to the expansive opportunities that a taco offers. Wes Avila has his sweet potato and feta cheese taco at Guerrilla; Sky has had marinated lobster with shredded lettuce and sassy sauce for a quarter-century.

Burrell's restaurant journey isn't the traditional one by any stretch, and it never even weaves through a traditional commercial kitchen. "I had been an executive with



McDonald's Corporation, but I knew I had to do something else," she says of her time in the late 1980s and early 1990s. "So I quit my job, and I just partied for nine months straight. At the end I knew I needed to find something for me, something different, so I prayed a novena for nine days straight, and at the end I said 'I'm going to do tacos.' But all I had was \$2,000 and a vision."

She opened Sky's Gourmet Tacos on March 5, 1992 and the rest is, well, history. Burrell recently cut the ribbon on a new taco and market space at 5200 Century Boulevard. The opening in February held 200 people, with Burrell in the middle of it all, smiling and shaking hands in a chef's coat she clearly never wears. Appearances aren't everything, attitude is.

The old adage keeps humming true: It's what's inside that counts. That's where authenticity lives. Everything else is just fusion.

Calendar

BOARD MEETINGS:

Tues	May 8	8 – 9:30am	Los Angeles World Airport Administration Bldg. One World Way West
Tues	July 10	8 – 9:30am	Four Points by Sheraton 9750 Airport Boulevard
Tues	September 12	8 – 9:30am	Crowne Plaza LAX 5985 W Century Boulevard

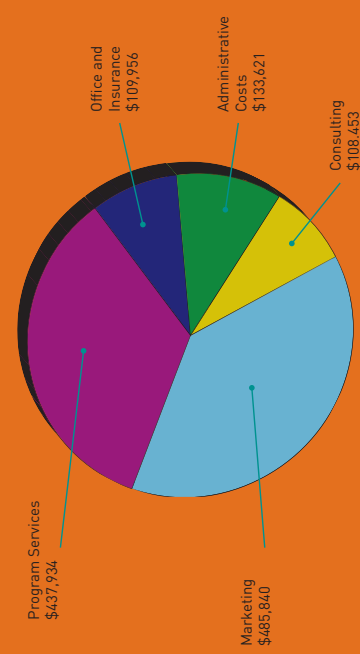
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Marketing Dominates Gateway's Budget

PROPERTY OWNERS GET BANG FOR THEIR BUCK WHEN IT COMES TO AREA SERVICES

Perhaps there is no more vital function for a business improvement district than providing direct services to its members, and when it comes to delivering those kinds of services, Gateway Los Angeles is putting its money where its mouth is. The Gateway PBID dedicated approximately 34% of its \$1.275-million budget to fund direct services to its members, including security, ambassador services, graffiti removal, tree-trimming and maintenance. The Gateway 38% of Gateway's annual budget focused on marketing, including the operation of the Ocean Express shuttle system, which is no longer in operation. Elimination of that effort, which had been losing money, means the 2018 budget allows even more resources available for direct services to Gateway members. The remaining portion of the 2017 budget went to administrative costs (10%), consulting (9%) and office and insurance expenses (9%).



CHAMBER MAGAZINE FEATURES CENTURY BLVD.
Check out LAX Coastal Chamber's new magazine and its cover story on the exciting things happening in and around the Gateway LA area.

H HOTEL AT LAX PUTS ROBOTS TO WORK
Meet Hannah, the hotel's amazing butler robot, who is taking guests by storm.



Sam First

YELP REVIEWERS AGREE SAM FIRST IS THE HOTTEST NEW SPOT ON THE BOULEVARD

"Flying out of LAX and have an extra hour or two? This place is so cool and chill, and right at the edge of the airport. Great happy hour, great bartenders, and a smooth vibe. Also close to the airport hotels, so leave that boring hotel bar and check out Sam First! Cheers!"

-- Jeff G.

"Looking for a low key place to have a drink? This is a great place! Awesome decor, great drinks and a nice staff. What more do you need?"

-- Eric D.

"Great little Jazz Bar with world class entertainment in the heart of the LAX hotel district. If you are staying over night by LAX this is a must visit Club. No cover and delicious drinks and a great, friendly eclectic crowd."

-- James C.

For info, please visit www.samfirstbar.com

Chamber Magazine Features Gateway LA



“STRAIGHT DOWN CENTURY BOULEVARD’ ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS THE EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN THE GATEWAY AREA

The 2018 LAX Coastal Chamber Magazine features a cover story on the exciting things happening in and around the Gateway LA area.

“Hollywood may have its sign and Santa Monica may have its pier, but there is no doubt that our community is quickly becoming the focus of Los Angeles. From the massive makeover of Los Angeles International Airport to new public transit connections to a wide array of new developments in the area, the Century Boulevard corridor is more than just the gateway to Los Angeles, it is the focal point of the City of Angels.”

The story goes on to feature the airport’s multi-billion-dollar Landside Access Modernization Project or LAMP.

Well underway, the project consists of an Automated People-Mover (APM) system with six stations that will run between the central terminal area and several other project components. It also includes a consolidated rent-a-car facility and two new Intermodal Transportation Facilities as well as public parking and passenger drop-off and pick-up areas.

“The LAMP program is one that will create a world-class experience when traveling to and from the airport,” said LAWA Executive Director Deborah Flint. “This project will ultimately connect our guests to our regional transportation system, and will create many construction jobs, ensuring that the



local workforce is part of building the future of LAX.”

While LAMP projects will improve the experience for travelers, it also presents a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity for businesses surrounding the airport to capitalize on the airport’s drive to modernize.

The article also featured some major upgrades among Gateway-area properties.

“The hotels here are stepping up their game,” said Laurie Hughes, executive director of Gateway Los Angeles, in the piece. “They really have to. After one renovates, the others need to in order to be competitive.”

Hughes, who has been working for LAX improvements for almost two decades, is proud of the way the neighborhood is developing.

“We’ve gone from barbed wire, cargo facilities and nude bars to upscale hotels and places to eat,” she said. “We have 8,000 hotel rooms. What we’ve needed is amenities like restaurants and things for people to do. Now, hotels are putting in restaurants on their first floors.”

The magazine was distributed in March to chamber members and the surrounding community. To get a print copy of the magazine, please call the chamber at (310) 645-5151 or view the entire story online at www.laxcoastal.com



GET READY TO SHRED

May Gateway Shredding Events On Tap

Gateway’s annual shredding event will be held in May at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, May 15

6171 W. Century
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

6033 / 6053 W. Century Blvd.
9 – 11 a.m.

Wednesday, May 16

5901 W. Century
9 – 11 a.m.

Thursday, May 17

5757 / 5777 W. Century Blvd.
9 – 11 a.m.

5200 / 5350 W. Century Blvd.
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

File folders and paper (No need to remove staples, paper clips and binder clips) CD-Roms, Data CDs, DVDs, Microfilm, Microfiche, Credit Cards, Tapes, and Disks.

WHAT YOU CANNOT BRING:

Pendaflex files and 3-Ring Binders

Gateway has partnered with SoCal Shred/Stericycle, a full-service shredding company that provides a full array of shredding services. SoCal Shred’s state-of-the-art mobile shredding trucks destroy confidential documents at 6,000 lbs/hr.

For more Info: (714) SHRED-911



ULI Technical Panel Envisions Future

EXPERTS FROM THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE WORKED WITH GATEWAY LA TO PAINT A PICTURE OF THE AREA’S FUTURE

With a host of new development happening in and around the Gateway Los Angeles area, PBID members are poised to take advantage of everything from the new people-mover system that will connect travelers between the airport and the city’s expanding public transit system to the new NFL stadium being built in Inglewood.

“We are working hard to make sure the positive implications of these exciting new infrastructure improvements benefit the hotels, office buildings and parking operators we represent,” said Gateway President Charles Bassett. “It is certainly an exciting time for our area, and we look forward to seeing this new vision for Los Angeles take shape.”

A big part of that vision will include improvements along Century Boulevard, itself.

Recently, a team of experts from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) visited the Gateway area and conducted a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) to help the area envision what can be done to take advantage of this changing face of this area of Los Angeles.

The panel concluded that the Gateway area is the core of an area-wide commercial ecosystem and expressed a number of opportunities for improving the area and making it work better with airport improvements, the new NFL stadium just a stone’s throw away and ever-changing hotel, retail and office market.

The panel pointed out that existing LAWA and rental car lots throughout the area present opportunities for new, Silicon Beach-type creative office space as they are decommissioned to consolidate lots in a single, large facility.

Experts also said the hotel market will continue to improve, so thought should be given to where new hotel sites could be located. Of course, the panel also suggested that Gateway invest in adding new place-making amenities to improve its brand and experience.

“We look forward to taking on this challenge because it means creating a better Gateway for visitors and for our members,” said Executive Director Laurie Hughes.

How One Hotel Company Is Wowing Planners With Robots

BY LORI TENNY OF MEETINGS TODAY

If you think robots take the personal touch out of an interaction, think again.

Hotel robots are popping up left and right, and Interstate Hotels and Resorts is eliciting quite the warm and fuzzy reactions when making special deliveries with this latest technology.

The company, which manages more than 480 properties and counting worldwide, is deploying robots in some unique ways to seal the deal on group business, make a memorable impression during events and provide the overall wow factor for guests, your attendees included.

“In the 35 years I have been working in the hotel industry, it’s probably one of the biggest guest satisfiers and points of differentiation,” said Michael D’Amadio, regional general manager of four Interstate properties in the Los Angeles area that are using robots developed by Savioke, a startup in Silicon Valley.

Two versions of Hannah, the Relay Robot, operate at the H Hotel at LAX, part of Hilton’s Curio Collection, which opened in October 2017 as a dual-branded property, with a Hilton occupying the upper floors and a Homewood Suites occupying the lower floors. H Hotel features 168 guest rooms, meeting space and a roof deck that is also available for events.

Meanwhile, the Embassy Suites by Hilton LAX North, Residence Inn by Marriott LAX and Residence Inn by Marriott Beverly Hills feature three Relay Robots: Winne, Wally and Beverly, respectively.

The hotel robots have won over guests, including meeting attendees, with deliveries of



everything from additional towels and toiletries to coffee, snacks and small meals, among other items.

“Guests are always taking selfies with the robots and posting on social media and review sites like TripAdvisor,” D’Amadio said. “To get people so passionate about something nowadays to actually go on a review site and talk about it is not easy.” Hotel Robots Can Also Assist at Meetings and Events

Meanwhile, the robots have a starring role when it comes to site inspections. When meeting planners are touring the property, the robots are programmed to come to the guest room.

When the phone rings, the planner is told the call is for them. As the planner picks up the phone, the robot introduces itself and says it’s at the door with their items.

When the planner opens the door to see Wally or one of the other robots opening the glove box with items, it’s always a fun surprise for them, according to D’Amadio.

“We’ve had the robot deliver everything from cupcakes sprinkled with the company logo for Virgin

America to the contract we’d like the planner to sign,” he said. “And we’ve won the group business because of the robots. At the end of the day, when a planner is looking for the differentiators after the basics are met, this has been a big one. At first they are very inquisitive, then it’s just a big wow when they figure it out.”

The robots have also been used for events to deliver things such as champagne and flutes for a group toast in addition to other items, and the possibilities are endless, D’Amadio said. As an added perk, they can be programmed to deliver amenity gifts to attendees in their rooms depending on the group size.

Interstate will soon implement Savioke’s Relay Robots at other hotels, including a robot named Rose at the boutique Hotel Trio, opening spring 2018 in the Wine Country town of Healdsburg, California.

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