



WOMEN IN
LEISURE SERVICES

**GAMMA
CHAPTER**

CHI KAPPA RHO INC

Gamma Gram

Summer 2019

Dear Gamma Gals,

The Professional Connection for Women

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your 2019-2020 President. It is an honor to serve a group of dynamic and ambitious women.

Thank you to our Awards and Installation Banquet Committee: Adrianna Hyta, Taylor Smith, Jessal Salas, Valerie Espinosa and Amanda Bassett (Event Chair). It was an evening filled with delicious food, scholarship winners, awards, amazing raffle prizes, and the installation of the 2019-2020 Board of Directors. My presidential quote for the year is, "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much" by Helen Keller. I believe that together we can thrive, together we can sharpen each other, and together we can build each other up.

This year my hope is that Gamma is playing an active role in the creation of your professional foundation, as it has in mine. Gamma can be a tool to help you grow in your profession, support you as you meet professional challenges, and provide opportunities to develop your toolbox of skills. I ask you, are you fully utilizing the tools that Gamma has to offer or are you leaving the tools in the toolbox to sit and collect dust? Is your foundation as strong as it could be? Most importantly, are you doing your part to help others build upon their foundation? This year will be filled with multiple events, programs, and projects. I challenge you to say yes and choose to be involved. Let us lift each other up and build each other's foundations.

Your 2019-2020 Gamma Board of Directors has been hard at work developing the calendar of events for this coming year. We will be kicking off with the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, August 15 at the Country Gardens Caterers in Santa Ana. Cost is \$18 for members and \$20 for guests. Irma Ramirez, the Special Events Director for Segerstrom Center of the Arts will be presenting "Special Events – What's So Special about 'Em?" Irma Ramirez has worked in the arts advocacy non-profit sector for nearly twenty years. Her events include galas, staged and televised awards presentations, high-end art auctions, concerts, film screenings, and working on Hollywood Bowl opening nights. An arts advocate, Irma was proud to be involved in her community and serve on the Cultural Arts Committee for the City of Costa Mesa, receiving the 'Volunteer of the Year' award in 2018. Plus, we will be reviewing the budget and discussing our goals for the next twelve months. Most importantly, all the 2019-2020 event dates will be released and it is a full line-up of educational, innovative, and inexpensive trainings.

I look forward to meeting and growing with each and every member.

Your 2019-2020 Gamma President,

Ashley Thomas

***"Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller***

Connect with Gamma

2019-2020 Gamma Chapter Board of Directors

President

Ashley Thomas

City of Costa Mesa

714-754-5052

ashley.thomas@costamesaca.gov

Director of Finance

Griselda Lara

City of Chino

909-334-3481

glara@cityofchino.org

Director of Committees

Amanda Bassett

City of Mission Viejo

949-859-4348 ext. 5722

abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org

President - Elect

Shayna Gutierrez

City of Cypress

714-229-6662

sgutierrez@cypressca.org

Director of Publicity

Caitlin Cariaso

City of Lakewood

562-866-9771 ext. 2418

ccariaso@lakewoodcity.org

National Delegate

Ashley Wysocki

City of Rancho Cucamonga

909-477-2760 ext. 2110

ashley.wysocki@cityofrc.us

Vice President

Monica Ortiz

City of Downey

562-904-7227

mortiz@downeyca.org

Secretary

Nancy Hitt

City of Lakewood

562-866-9771 ext. 2404

nhitt@lakewoodcity.org

2018-2019 National Board of Directors

President

Julie Alon

City of El Cajon

619-441-1540

jalon@cityofelcajon.us

Treasurer

Adrianna Hyta

City of Cypress

714-229-6787

ahyta@cypressca.org

Past President

Ann Mosack

City of Monticello

763-271-3268

ann.mosack@ci.monticello.mn.us

Vice President

Christy McBride

City of El Cajon

619-441-1534

cmcbride@cityofelcajon.us

Secretary

Bobbi Nance

Recreation Results LLC

708-620-7448

bobbi@recreationresults.com

WILS National Website

womeninleisureservices.com

Gamma Website

wils-gamma.com

Gamma Instagram

[@wils_gamma](https://www.instagram.com/wils_gamma)



Gamma LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wils-women-in-leisure-services)

Gamma Facebook

[facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter](https://www.facebook.com/WomenInLeisureServicesGammaChapter)



National News

National News

NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

A MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT, ANN MOSACK:

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INFORM THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL WILS MEMBERS THAT OUR WILS MEMBERSHIP HAS ELECTED THE FOLLOWING WOMEN TO THE 2019-2020 WOMEN IN LEISURE SERVICES, CHI KAPPA RHO, NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

President
Christy McBride

Vice President
Ashley Wysocki

Secretary
Bobbi Nance

Treasurer
Adrianna Hyta

Past President
(Continuing Presidential Series)
Julie Alon

- Save the date for the **Fall National Luncheon**, hosted by Delta in San Diego on Tuesday, October 1, where the new National Board will be installed!
- The National Board conducts a phone meeting the first Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m. For more information on how to call in to the monthly meetings, or for information on the Fall National Luncheon, please contact National Delegate, [Ashley Wysocki](mailto:Ashley.Wysocki@cityofrc.us) at Ashley.Wysocki@cityofrc.us.

Gamma Events

2019-2020 Gamma Event Schedule



WOMEN IN
LEISURE SERVICES

**GAMMA
CHAPTER**

CHI KAPPA RHO INC

"The Professional Connection for Women"

2019/2020

Annual Business Meeting
August 15

Fall Food For Thought
September 12

National Luncheon - San Diego
October 1

Education Workshop
November 14

Winter Social
January 9

Networking Night
February 26

Spring Food For Thought
April 7

Awards and Installation Banquet
May 14

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller*

Gamma Events

Annual Business Meeting

"The Professional Connection for Women"



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, August 15 · 11:30 am-1:30 pm

**Location: Country Gardens Caterers
719 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701**

"Special Events - What's So Special About 'Em?"

Presentation by Irma Ramirez
Special Events Director,
Segerstrom Center for the Arts



Irma Ramirez has worked in the Arts advocacy non-profit sector for nearly twenty years. Her events include galas, staged and televised awards presentations, high-end art auctions, concerts, film screenings, and working on Hollywood Bowl opening nights. An arts advocate, Irma was proud to be involved in her community and serve on the Cultural Arts Committee for the City of Costa Mesa, receiving the 'Volunteer of the Year' award in 2018.

Members: \$18
Guests: \$20
**No show/cancellations made
after August 9 will be billed**

Checks payable to: Women in Leisure Services
Mail to: City of Cypress
Attn: Lauren Parga
5700 Orange Ave. Cypress, 90630

Meal options: Lemon Herb Chicken or Portabella Mushroom with Julienne Vegetables (vegetarian option)

Meal includes: Rice Pilaf - Grilled Seasonal Vegetables - Green Salad

**RSVP with your meal selection by Thursday, August 8
to Lauren Parga - lparga@cypressca.org - 714-229-6791**

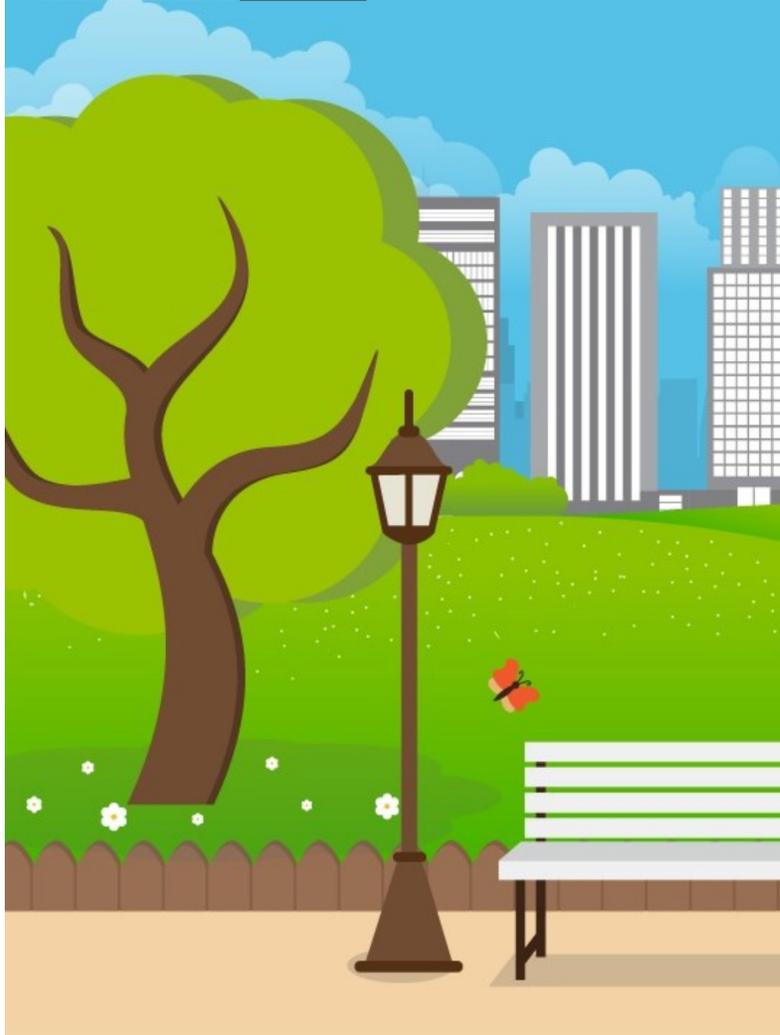
"Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

Gamma Events

Fall Food for Thought - Save the Date



GRANTS
AVAILABLE FOR
THIS EVENT!
To apply, visit:
wils-gamma.com



Save the Date

“How Recreation Helps CIP Projects and Beyond”

Facility Tour Included

Thursday, Sept. 12, 2019

8:30am - 10:30am

City of Costa Mesa

Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Ave, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

*“Alone we can do little, together we
can do so much.” - Helen Keller*

www.wils-gamma.com

Gamma Committees

Get Involved and Join a Committee!

Committee members are still needed for all upcoming Gamma events and for the following year round committees:

Scholarship and Grant Committee
Fundraising Committee

*If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the
Director of Committees, **Amanda Bassett** at abassett@cityofmissionviejo.org.*

Gamma Events

Awards and Installation - Recap

The Awards and Installation Banquet was held on Thursday, May 16, at the Cypress Community Center. The 2019-2020 Gamma Board was installed, scholarship and award winners were announced, and our guests enjoyed a delicious meal! As always, it was a great night to socialize with our peers and friends, and recognize the hard work of our sponsors, members and supporters.



Thank you to everyone who made the 2018-2019 Gamma year a success!

Gamma Awards

2018-2019 Award Winners

Nancy Hitt – Helen Green Memorial Citation

Nancy Hitt joined Gamma in 2003 and immediately became involved with the Gamma Chapter. Throughout her membership, she has served on the board twice, served on twenty different committees, and has received two Service Awards. Most impressive, though, is her work on this year's committees. As Committee Coordinator, she served as the liaison for the board and the event committee chairs. She was responsible for overseeing the chairs of five Gamma events this year, which included, Fall Food for Thought, Fall Workshop, Winter Social, Networking Night and Spring Food for Thought. She seamlessly managed to communicate the needs of the board with the committee chairs. She juggled preparing



for multiple events and ensuring all aspects were in place and ready to go on time. This year, the newest Gamma event, Networking Night, involved six committee chairs overseeing three locations. With her leadership and understanding of the event, she was able to step into a lead role at the Long Beach location with a last minute absence of a committee chair. This is a direct example of her commitment and dedication to the Women in Leisure Services organization. **Congratulations Nancy!**

Jessal Salas – Rookie of the Year Award



In Jessal's first year of membership, she has already enthusiastically immersed herself in the organization, serving on the Fall Food for Thought and Awards and Installation committees. When asked about her work, a Committee Chair said: "She did a fabulous job with the flyer and working the check in table for the event. She was present at the meeting, shared ideas, and provided support through the whole process." Another Committee Chair had these words to say: "She has been great! She has provided feedback on decisions pertaining to the event, she volunteered to head up the fundraising portion, along with getting all the raffle supplies and soliciting donations. She has been a great asset to the event committee!" Jessal currently works for the City of Downey as an Activity Specialist and will soon be starting as a full time

Recreation Specialist with the City of South Pasadena. **Congratulations Jessal!**

Gamma Awards

2018-2019 Award Winners

Caitlin Cariaso – Service Award

Caitlin served on several committees after becoming a member in 2013. Upon joining the board at their meetings this year, she immediately began working diligently to make her mark on the organization. She worked tirelessly to create the Gamma Gram, soliciting information from other board members and pulling everything together to make one cohesive document. She had to learn how to work with the website and how to write code, which she has mastered. She also is always in need of photos for all of these promotional efforts, so she has attended almost every event, and if she was unable to attend, she asked another member to take photos for her, ensuring that the year of Gamma has been well documented photographically. Without this Gamma Gal and her co-chair, Gamma would not have the social media presence that we have. Working hard to research relevant meme's, podcasts, articles, and books to share with followers. She is always one step a head and takes the initiative to get things going and keep things running. Her passion and enthusiasm for WILS and the profession is evident in everything she does! **Congratulations Caitlin!**



Shelly Myers – Service Award



Shelly is a long time member of WILS, joining in 2002. In her years of membership, she has served on numerous committees such as Bosses' Day, Casino Night, Winter Social, and as Bylaws chair. For each of these committees, she has taken an active role, volunteering to host events, make giveaways, spend countless hours pouring over policy to ensure accuracy, create event flyers, sell raffle tickets, handle event check-in, and more! One of the Board Members she worked with stated: "She is positive and plays a supportive role for the board and all members."

For the past two years, Shelly has served as the Finance Chair, coordinating mid-year and end of year financial reviews for the chapter, embracing the change

in record keeping procedures, while still keeping the Gamma tradition of transparency, accuracy, and conservative financial decisions in mind. She has pushed the treasurer and board to move forward in creating policy and procedures to allow for credit card payments. **Congratulations Shelly!**

Gamma Awards

2018-2019 Award Winners

Ashley Thomas – Service Award

Ashley has been a member of Gamma since 2014 and has hit the ground running ever since. She has served on six committees and served two years on the Board of Directors. This Gamma Gal has worked an endless amount of hours to set forth multiple new ideas for events to keep Gamma relevant. She has worked relentlessly over the course of the year to network and engage with recreation professionals, all while promoting Gamma and the value of membership. She worked hard to ensure that events had chairs and co-chairs outside of board members, engaging more participation from our membership. Her efforts to reach out and encourage prospective members to learn more about Gamma, and her support for outreach booths at other trainings in our boundaries helped us achieve a 12% growth in overall membership this year, which included over 20 new Gamma Chapter Members.

When asked about her service to Gamma, a fellow board member said:

“It takes guts and heart to change event line-ups to keep them fresh and she has accomplished this with excellence.”

Another board member said:

“I do not think I have witnessed another Gamma President set goals and accomplish them in a way that she has. Her tenacity to see her vision come to light through the board and committee chairs is remarkable. The passion, drive, and focus she possesses will take her far in her career and has set Gamma on a course to continue to provide our members with excellent programs, events, and networking opportunities.” **Congratulations Ashley!**



Gamma Scholarships

2018-2019 Scholarship Recipients

Madison Letterman – Gamma Scholarship

Madison currently attends Orange Coast College where she is majoring in Environmental Science and Biology. While attending school full-time, Madison works for the City of Costa Mesa as a Recreation Leader III. Madison assists with educational outreach, field research, and other projects for Costa Mesa's Fairview Park. Madison is a member of the Orange Coast College Food Riders Club which provides food donations via bicycle to local food pantries that serve those in need. This scholarship will assist Madison with tuition costs. She is also looking forward to being involved with women who want to have a positive impact in the community as a new WILS Gamma member. **Congratulations Madison!**



Noel Shultz – Gamma Scholarship



Noel currently attends Saddleback College full-time and is pursuing her degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies. Noel works for the City of Mission Viejo as a Senior Community Services Leader where she serves as a manager on duty and assists with planning events and operating the front desk. Noel is a member of the Saddleback College Business Club and Irvine Valley Drama Club. This scholarship will assist Noel with costs for school and allow her to network with strong women in leadership roles in the Recreation Field. **Congratulations Noel!**

Hannah Tamaddon – Gamma Scholarship

Hannah recently graduated from UCI and will be the first member in her family to earn their master's degree. Hannah earned her master's in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics. Hannah currently works for the City of Laguna Niguel as a Senior Recreation Leader where she assists in planning and developing new programs and events for seniors. Hannah is a member of CPRS District 10 and the UCI Alumni Association where she works as a Student Programs Assistant. This scholarship will assist Hannah with educational costs. **Congratulations Hannah!**



Gamma Scholarships

2018-2019 Scholarship Recipients

Kimberly Tom – Gamma Scholarship



Kimberly graduated from CSULB with her bachelor's degree in Recreation Therapy this past June. Kimberly works for the Long Beach Unified School District as a job coach where she helps students with disabilities to perform tasks in a professional work setting. Additionally, Kim also interns with the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Long Beach where she plans and leads recreational therapy activities for blind veterans. Kim is a member of the Cal State Long Beach Recreation Society and Modern Collegiate Dance Team. This scholarship will assist Kim in kicking off her career by providing financial assistance to pay for her state and national certification in Recreational Therapy. **Congratulations Kimberly!**

Ryan Morais – Past President Scholarship

Ryan currently attends Cal Baptist University where she is pursuing her master's degree in organizational leadership. Ryan works for the City of Chino as a Community Services Coordinator where she oversees programming for sports, teens, case management, and enrichment activities. Kim is a member of CPRS and is the Vice President for CPRS District 11. This scholarship will assist Ryan with completing her master's degree and also to show her daughter that you can be successful in anything you put your mind to. **Congratulations Ryan!**



Gaelin White – Dolores Thompson Scholarship



Gaelin currently attends California State University Fullerton where she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Communication. In addition to going to school, Gaelin also works part-time for the City of Mission Viejo as the Department Assistant. Her job duties include accounts payable and receivable, budget management, event planning and support, responding to donation inquiries, preparing monthly commission reports and more. Gaelin is a member of WILS Gamma and has recently served as the Co-Chair for Food for Thought. This scholarship will assist Gaelin to complete her bachelor's degree by helping her

financially with items such as tuition and books. Gaelin's passion is to continuously seek improvement and provide equal opportunities to the public to reach a higher quality of living through engaging recreation activities and events. **Congratulations Gaelin!**

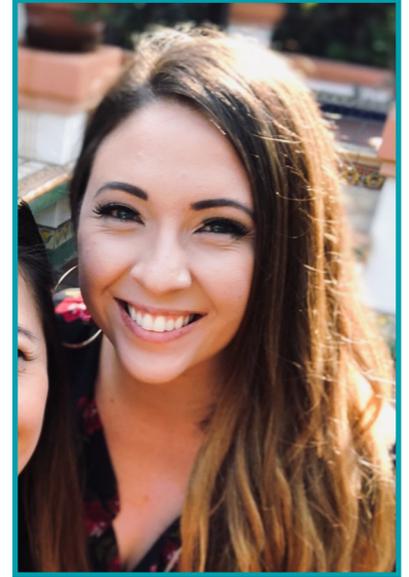
Gamma News

Names in the News



Congratulations to **Alyssa Rico** who is starting her new position with the City of Whittier as a Community Services Supervisor!

HIP HIP HOORAY



Congratulations to **Courtney Wysocki** who is starting a new position with the City of Lake Forest as a Senior Recreation Supervisor!



Congratulations to **Robin Metz** who is retiring after 23 years of service with the City of Riverside!



Congratulations to **Ashley Blair** who is starting a new position as the Community Services Director at First Residential Service - Ladera Ranch!



Congratulations to **Jessal Salas** who is starting a new position with the City of South Pasadena!

If you have exciting news you would like to share with the Gamma Chapter, email Caitlin Cariaso at ccariaso@lakewoodcity.org

Gamma News

Gamma Birthdays



August Birthdays

Lauren Clark	8/2
Pearl Raya	8/6
Erica Green	8/11
Caryn Kawamoto	8/11
Gina Bonilla	8/12
Valarie Frost	8/13
Susan Jones	8/15
Lisa Litzinger	8/15
Nettie Nielsen	8/19
Lauren Patterson	8/20
Valerie Espinoza	8/27
Catherine Schad	8/28
Nancy Beard	8/28
Alta Duke	8/31

September Birthdays

Brittany Pulkrabek	9/5
Nancy Matthews	9/8
Brianna Moore	9/14
Andrea Terry	9/14
Jessica Ochoa	9/15
Roberta White	9/15
Tatiana Costa	9/16
Courtney Wysocki	9/16
Jessal Salas	9/20
Marjorie McDonald	9/21
Stephanie Gallegos	9/22
Annie Sumioka	9/22
Susan Leto	9/24
Janet Grabowski	9/28
Wendy Cant	9/29

October Birthdays

Eileen De Leon	10/2
Tracee Davis	10/4
Marnie Smith	10/8
Noemi Lopez	10/10
Heather Sayers	10/16
Shayna Gutierrez	10/17
Danielle Borenstein	10/21
Shaunna Hunter	10/25
Michelle Pritchard	10/25
Karen Plantz	10/26
Elta Braga	10/26
Bonnie Kehoe	10/27
Lois DeLano	10/30
Betty Perez	10/30
Kitty Rudometkin	10/31

Happy Birthday!

Gamma T-Shirts



Women in Leisure Services Gamma T-Shirts Coming Soon!

That's right, we have some new Gamma swag coming your way!

Shirts will be available at the Annual Business Meeting and at upcoming events.

Price: \$20

A variety of sizes in ladies fit and unisex will be available for purchase.

Gamma News

Grant Program

WILS GRANTS AVAILABLE!

EDUCATIONAL TRAININGS

Want to become a WILS member? Already a member and need financial support to attend an educational training offered by WILS? We are proud to offer a grant program to help women grow professionally within the Recreation and Leisure Services field. For more information on how to apply, please visit:

wils-gamma.com

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
FOR 2019-2020**

NEW MEMBERSHIPS



WOMEN IN LEISURE SERVICES GAMMA CHAPTER
CHI KAPPA RHO INC

WILS Wednesday Emails

WILS Gamma is now using Mail Chimp as our email platform to inform and educate our members!

Over the last month we have made the switch to using Mail Chimp. Mail Chimp is a secure website, and emails from Mail Chimp are safe to open. When you receive a WILS Wednesday email it should show the email as coming from our Secretary, Nancy Hitt.

If you haven't been receiving the WILS Wednesday emails, please check your spam folder.

If you are having problems receiving the emails contact Secretary, [Nancy Hitt at nhitt@lakewoodcity.org](mailto:nhitt@lakewoodcity.org).



MailChimp

Gamma News

New Gamma Gal

Annie Sumioka, Recreation Specialist - City of Costa Mesa

What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation or Leisure Services?

I sort of fell into the field of Recreation. I was looking for a new job after being let go, when my old supervisor who was working with the City of Costa Mesa convinced me to apply for a job. I have been working for the city ever since.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

If I had a super power it would be to stop time. I always have so much to do and not enough time to complete it.

What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is either cooking or line dancing. I love to do both and am good at both.

What is one word that describes you?

Perseverance

What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?

I'm excited to learn more information, get new opportunities, and meet new people in the field of Recreation.



New Gamma Gal

Courtney Wysocki, Senior Recreation Supervisor - City of Lake Forest

What made you decide to go into the field of Recreation or Leisure Services?

After my senior year of high school basketball, my parents told me that I needed to get a job. Being a typical 17 year old I really had no idea where to start looking. My high school basketball coach was a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Corona so I asked him about potential job opportunities. He let me know that there were some Recreation Leader positions open. I applied for the position, not really knowing if it was something that I would like, but I received an interview shortly after and the rest is history!

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

If I could have any super power I would love to be able to read a dog's mind.

What is your hidden talent?

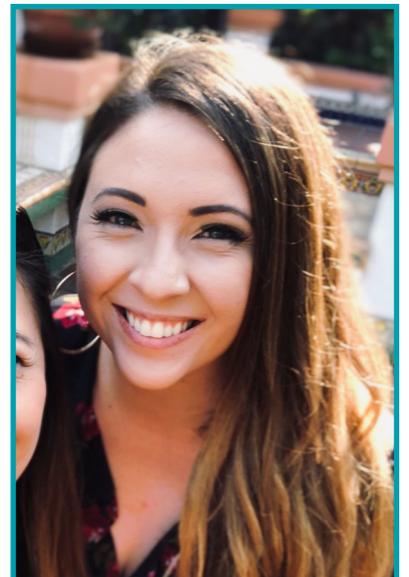
My hidden talent is making balloon pillars and arches for events.

What is one word that describes you?

Creative

What are you looking forward to as a new WILS member?

As a new WILS member I am looking forward to the connections, friendships, networking opportunities and getting involved more with women that have just as much passion as I do in recreation and leisure services.



Gamma Sponsors

The Gamma Board thanks our 2018-2019 Corporate Sponsors

Dave Bang Associates, Inc.

Musco Lighting

Nuvis Landscape Architecture

PerfectMind

Richard Fisher Associates

RJM Design Group

The benefits provided by Gamma's sponsors are endless! Gamma Sponsors provide valuable funds which make it possible to provide quality programs, scholarships, and more, all while providing valuable resources for Gamma members and their agencies. Several of our sponsors are also active Gamma members. We encourage you to use the Sponsors section of Gamma's website as a resource; each of our sponsors would be happy to answer any questions you may have about upcoming projects or purchases for your agency.



Perfect**Mind**

ATTRACT . CONNECT . KEEP



We Make It Happen®



If you are interested in being a 2019-2020 Gamma Sponsor, please contact Shayna Gutierrez at sgutierrez@cypressca.org