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Las Patronas 76th Annual Jewel Ball: The South Seas

LA JOLLA, CA – Las Patronas held its 76th Annual Jewel Ball at the beautiful La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club on August 20, 2022. Since 1946, guests have attended the Jewel Ball for an exceptionally fun evening of delicious cuisine, electrifying entertainment, and unforgettable design. The black-tie tradition is the culmination of a year-long fundraising effort by Las Patronas members in support of the San Diego nonprofit community.

Las Patronas Jewel Ball Chair **Megan Cox**, Co-Chairs **Mio Hood** and **Joleen Guckian**, and President **Tina Boynton** greeted guests with "La Orana," the melodic Tahitian words of welcome, as they entered the island landscape of lush tropical foliage and colorful flowers. Once in the courtyard, guests sipped tropical cocktails while strolling through an island garden bursting with florals and birdsong. Just beyond, the sound of drums and Tahitian dancers drew guests to a poolside oasis offering mouthwatering appetizers and small bites. Premier auction items, featuring a wide array of thrilling options, including jewelry, art, dining, luxury services, and worldwide adventures, were on display.

The smooth hum of a Conch shell beckoned guests to dinner in the ballroom for an enchanted evening under a canopy of stars, Polynesian lanterns, and twinkling lights. Decadent table de cor featured Tahitian flowers and tropical plants, ocean-colored fabric napkins, raffia napkin rings, and monstera leaves. Sea breezes and flickering lantern light added movement and magic to the night. Tiki-themed bars with whimsical pops of mid-century Polynesian design, tucked away in the corners of the ballroom, offered additional beverage service. As guests dined on delicious Pacific Island cuisine, the music of **Wayne Foster Entertainment** provided energy and excitement, setting the tone for the rest of the evening.

Behind the Scenes Catering and Events provided a delectable dinner, including an island-inspired salad with baby greens, fresh papaya, ahi tuna, and a citrus vinaigrette. Diamond Circle and Crown Jewel guests enjoyed butter-poached lobster tail and a savory cheese course with touches of island

fruits and nuts. The entre e included soy-glazed braised short rib, garlic prawns, and jackfruit crab cake with ginger-roasted shiitake mushrooms and baby Bok choy, garnished with edible flowers. The meal concluded with a sophisticated dessert of almond milk panna cotta, sweet dragon fruit, and toasted coconut cookie dipped in chocolate.

As guests dined and danced, they may not have realized that only four days previously, the outdoor ballroom was three tennis courts at **The La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club**. The all-volunteer membership of Las Patronas spent more than a year planning, and countless hours building event de cor, guided by the creative vision of Design Chairs **Ingrid de Alba de Salazar**, **Irene McCann**, **Jill Peters**, and **Michelle Parker**.

"At the heart of Polynesian culture is a spirit that flows through everything and brings life, love, sharing, beauty, and goodness for the benefit of others to our universe. The members of Las Patronas have been working for more than a year to bring forth the same spirit for the benefit of so many deserving nonprofits across San Diego County," said Jewel Ball Chair **Megan Cox**.

Las Patronas announced that proceeds from Jewel Ball 2022, **The South Seas**, will fund critically needed capital items for seven nonprofit Major Beneficiaries, each receiving more than \$20,000, as well as an estimated 45 to 50 additional Minor Beneficiaries, each receiving \$20,000 or less in the upcoming Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 grant cycles.

"The generosity of our sponsors, donors, and vendors makes it possible for the members of Las Patronas to continue fulfilling our mission to support San Diego County nonprofit organizations," said Las Patronas President **Tina Boynton**. "The Jewel Ball is a celebration of another successful year of fundraising."

Las Patronas is a committed group of volunteers who fundraise to provide grants for critically needed capital items to nonprofit organizations throughout San Diego County.

Since our inception, in 1946, we have awarded more than \$26 Million dollars in grants to over a thousand different charitable institutions in our community. All funds raised by Las Patronas stay in San Diego County and are distributed among many deserving small and large nonprofit organizations.

Major Beneficiaries of Jewel Ball 2022, The South Seas

Alpha Project for the Homeless

Stake-bed truck to expand employment opportunities for homeless individuals

American Red Cross

Community emergency vehicle to ensure rapid support services in times of crisis

Burn Institute

Vehicle to support expansion of community programs and events

Feeding San Diego

Box truck to expand distribution of food throughout the county

Forever Balboa Park

Vehicle to support maintenance and preservation of Balboa Park's historic gardens

Old Globe Theatre

Two vehicles to assist production staff with procurement and delivery

San Diego Humane Society

Humane law enforcement vehicle to protect animals and people

For more information about Las Patronas, please visit http://laspatronas.org

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