YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

desert COMPOSITE®

JANUARY 2014

Back goes forth
THE STRIP IS JUST THE START FOR CHEF AKIRA BACK

Sorry, gotta go!
ARE SHORT-TERM LEADERS THE FUTURE OF UNLV?
By Steve Sebelius

Choir boy
THE MAN WHO COMPOSED "GODZILLA EATS LAS VEGAS"

influence

OUR LIST OF **39** LAS VEGANS WHO HAVE IT
Some you know, some you should

+**SIG ROGICH** ON HOW TO USE IT

NETWORKING MIXERS FOR YOU // POWER GEAR // INFO-RICH WHO'S-WHO CHARTICLES

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persons *of* influence

39 *Las Vegans who shape our city*

This is not exactly a *power* list, what we've compiled. There are two drawbacks to a power list: One, since you already know who wields power in this city — most do it pretty openly — such a list would tell you little that's new. And two, what is more interesting to us, and, we think, more revealing, is *influence,* which can exist apart from power, is softer, contingent and available to more than just, well, the powerful. And it probably has a lot more to do with how life unfolds down at the human level, where we all live. *Why is there a bar in that location instead of something else,* you might wonder. Or, *Who made that art show possible?* ¶ Of course, the very fluidity of influence makes it tricky to capture. Charting its entirety across the multiple planes of this city would be like playing 20 simultaneous games of 3-D chess. So the 39 people on our first-ever Influence List can only be a modest sample. ¶ We've sorted them into three groups: Public Eye, for those who function with a certain visibility; The Quiet Ones, which identifies people with a sub rosa influence or, in a few cases, public figures we're noting for a different side of their resume; and Arts & Culture. ¶ They're a diverse bunch; their influence operates at various throw weights and stems from any number of sources. Some do their thing in large, socially important spheres, others in small, intimate communities. Together, they reveal a lot about how things get done in Southern Nevada, and the kind of people doing them.

PEOPLE SO INFLUENTIAL WE DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN

Harry Reid
Steve Wynn
Sheldon Adelson
Pat Mulroy
Tony Hsieh
Sig Rogich
Billy Vassiliadis

TOP ROW: JOE W. BROWN, JEN HARNEY, TERRY MURPHY, JULIE MURRAY, REHAN CHOUDHRY. **SECOND ROW:** PATRICK DUFFY, YVANNA CANCELA, JON RALSTON, PAT SKORKOWSKY, MICHELE QUINN. **THIRD ROW:** MAREK BUTE, GINA QUARANTO, MATT COUPER AND J.K. RUSS, ELIZABETH BLAU, JIM ROGERS. **FOURTH ROW:** JEREMY AGUERO, MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, MYRON MARTIN, KRISTEN PETERSON, BRETT SPERRY. **FIFTH ROW:** SIG ROGICH, MICHAEL ROBERSON, JOLENE MANNINA, AURORE GIGUET, TOD STORY. **BOTTOM ROW:** MICHAEL STRATTON, MEL GOODWIN, DON SNYDER.

the quiet ones

Marek Bute
Attorney

Should we need a Pied Piper for altruistic inspiration, look no further than this enthusiastic attorney/mobilizer, who learned at age 3 the power of civil engagement when his emigrated parents in Memphis rallied to free their son from communist Poland. Thirty years later, he's harnessed that collaborative spirit within a disconnected LGBT community as board of trustees president at Aid for AIDS of Nevada. He also convinced his firm, Snell & Wilmer, to serve as pro bono co-counsel for the legal challenge to Nevada's gay marriage ban. And when his own wedding plans were rejected by a Mexican resort, national LGBT bloggers rushed to expose the biased property. — *Mike Prevatt*

JAY BROWN
ATTORNEY

Gaming and liquor licenses and approvals for development plans pit special interests against the public interest or each other. Then municipal officials pick winners. In the decades since Southern Nevada started growing in earnest, perhaps no one has helped rack up victories for his clients in those contests more consistently than attorney and lobbyist Brown. Yes, he famously/infamously partnered with Harry Reid on a lucrative land deal. But while Brown is very close to Reid, he shrewdly contributes heavily to politicians of both parties.

JOE W. BROWN
ATTORNEY, DRONE ADVOCATE

Brown has been discussing drones since before there was a drone discussion. In fact, he's the reason the rest of us are talking about it. A military enthusiast and 30-year participant in Las Vegas' various economic-development efforts, Brown is a thought-leader when it comes to the little guys in the sky. In May 2012, Gov. Sandoval appointed him and dozen or so others, including scientists, engineers and former Air Force officers, to apply to become one of six federal drone test sites, which could create 15,000 jobs and generate $2.5 billion to $8 billion annually. "I've been the guy that's been the liaison between the political side, the educational side and the scientific side," Brown said. — *Kristy Totten*

TERRY MURPHY
PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

The most influential person you never see — that's the word on Murphy, a consultant for businesses and government agencies on a wide range of issues. She has a magic Rolodex — her connections are legendary, accumulated during a career that's included high-ranking positions in Clark County government and an influential homebuilders group. Crucially, she's not generally seen as a cynical manipulator, but rather has a reputation as a straight-shooter, underscored by a record of volunteerism and community involvement. Not only is she president of the Downtown Las Vegas Alliance, she also champions such community groups as Casa de Luz.

JEN HARNEY
ACTIVIST

With three kids and a business/community center to organize, Harney seemed an unlikely person to take on Metro and the DA over sidewalk chalk protests outside the police HQ last summer. But when it came to free speech, she didn't back down. Facing withering media attention, the DA dropped the charges. "An epic win," Harney called it — a timely reminder that you *can* fight the power. She'll keep the art-centric activism going, opening a place for community arts and supply recyling in the Arts District early this year. — *Launce Rake*