



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

CARA DIMASSA
STAFF WRITER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cara Mia DiMassa is a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, covering Downtown Los Angeles. In that capacity, she's spent the last three years the area's transformation and travails. Stories she has written about downtown have included several pieces exposing the practice of "dumping" people onto the streets of Skid Row; the story of a temporary parking structure near the Civic Center that has endured for nearly four decades; and, recently, the chronicle of opening an upscale restaurant near the corner of Fifth and Main.

A 1993 cum laude graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, DiMassa began her career in journalism as a researcher for columnist Robert Scheer.

She joined the staff of the Los Angeles Times in 1996, working as an assistant editor in The Times' Book Review section before becoming a reporter for the California section in Sept., 2001. In addition to Downtown Los Angeles, she has covered the Los Angeles Unified School District and the San Gabriel Valley for The Times.

DiMassa was awarded a Times Mirror Innovation Award for her role as a member of the committee of Times employees who started the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books in 1996. In addition, she was part of the Metro news staff that won a 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for coverage of the Southern California wildfires.

She lives in Altadena, California with her husband, Shawn Nelson, a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and their two daughters.