What is the Catalyst Award?
Passionate, driven, and community-centered people are the driving force in our work at CHC. These people are the catalyst for impact, innovation, and partnership. To commemorate our 25th Anniversary, we created an award that honors a person that has personally been a force in uplifting CHC’s work.

On September 28th, we will present the first “Catalyst Award” to Gwendolyn Flynn, CHC’s former Policy Director of 17 years for her relentless pursuit of uplifting CHC and South LA from behind-the-scenes and at the forefront of our work together.

Who is Gwendolyn Flynn?
Newly retired Community and Government Relations Consultant. Former Built Environment Policy Director with Community Health Councils, a community-based, non-profit health policy education, research, and systems change organization in Los Angeles, California.

While with Community Health Councils, Flynn directed strategies to create policies that transform the infrastructure of South Los Angeles to be more conducive to healthful lifestyles as a means to reduce diet-related chronic disease like diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Using urban planning and land use management tools, her work in collaboration with community stakeholders brought about unprecedented controls on new free standing fast food restaurants in South Los Angeles, regulation of oil drilling in the Baldwin Hills/Inglewood oil field, and led to the incorporation of Health as an element of the General Plan, the first for the City of Los Angeles. Working in conjunction with other non-profit organizations and stakeholders, Flynn promoted policies to increase farmers’ markets, community gardens, and urban agriculture.

She studied nutrition and health as part of her Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York at Empire College. She has served on a number of Boards and Committees focused on the food system and health promotion. Flynn currently serves as a founding member of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

Flynn is co-founder of SECONDS, a surplus prepared food recovery and distribution non-profit. She is a mother, grandmother and lifelong home cook. She is author of the culinary memoir, *Age-Defying, Soul Inspired Plant-Based Cooking.*

https://gwendolyn-flynn.squarespace.com