Dear Graduates:

We want to provide you with an important commencement update.

The Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work ceremony has the unique opportunity to be held at the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. We are excited to welcome your families and loved ones to celebrate your accomplishments at this iconic venue, which recently celebrated 100 years.

**Please note that the date and time of the ceremony has NOT changed, just the location.** The ceremony for the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work will be held at **11:00am on Friday, May 10** at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Please read through all the information in this email **carefully** and click the available links. There is important updated information about ticketing, parking, clear bag policy and more. If you have questions or concerns regarding any of the details below, contact Elizabeth Gutierrez, Director of Special Events.

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Coliseum Commencement Ceremonies**
- Plan ahead and know how you are getting to the Coliseum. Use navigation and traffic apps such as **Waze** or **Google Maps**.
- Parking in Exposition Park is complimentary for USC Commencement Ceremony ticketed guests on Friday, May 10.
- Rideshare services are located in Exposition Park's Green Lot. Enter from S. Figueroa St. (right-turn only).
- Guests will enter through **Gates 4 and 23** only.
- Plan to arrive at the Coliseum early. Review **policies**, and be prepared for metal detector screening. Guests MUST be at the gates **no later** than 10:30a.m.
- Graduates and guests may only enter with a bag that adheres to the **USC Clear Bag Policy**.
- **Cameras are permitted**. Balloons, beach balls, confetti and noise making devices will **not** be permitted.
- There is limited shade at the LA Memorial Coliseum. Parasols will be permitted for personal shade. Sunscreen, hats, and protective sun wear are recommended. Please be aware of weather conditions and plan accordingly.
- The Coliseum is cashless. Only credit/debit cards and mobile pay are accepted.
- **Tickets are required** for this event. Please have your ticket ready to scan in your mobile device.

If you have previously **completed the RSVP form** to attend the school’s commencement ceremony, and **still plan** to attend on May 10, 2024, at **11:00 a.m. in The Los Angeles Coliseum**, you **DO NOT** need to let the events office know, but note that you will still need a ticket. If your plans have changed and you **no longer wish to attend the ceremony**, please reply to this email or swevents@usc.edu.

If you did **NOT** previously RSVP and now wish to attend the 11:00 a.m. **ceremony** and **reception** in The Los Angeles Coliseum, please complete the **Ceremony RSVP** form and **Reception RSVP** ASAP. You and any guests must also register for tickets.

Continue visiting the university’s commencement site at **commencement.usc.edu** for updates on security procedures and ticketing.
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Ceremony

10:30am | Guest seating opens Gates 4 and 23 (in designated guest seat only)
9:30am | Graduate line-up, all degree programs, Coliseum field tunnel located at 3960 Bill Robertson Lane (See Map) Graduates must be in regalia.
11:00 am Ceremony, Los Angeles Coliseum
1:00 pm End of Ceremony
1:00 pm Reception, Peristyle and Olympic Plaza at the Coliseum

Ticketing and Safety Measures:
Tickets are required for the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck Ceremony. ALL graduating students attending the school's ceremony at the Coliseum MUST reserve tickets for themselves and for up to 8 named guests through USC Ticket Office My Account. Tickets are free of charge. Once tickets have been reserved and downloaded, they must be distributed to the additional named guests. Graduates must use their USC email address to reserve tickets.

If more than 8 tickets are needed for guests, please use the Additional Ticket Request Form.

View more information on the ticketing process. Please also continue to check the university's ticketing information site for updates on this process.

Tickets are not issued through the individual schools.

Security measures similar to those for attending athletic events at the Coliseum will be in place at the designated entrances. All bags and personal property will be screened.

A clear bag policy will be in effect for any personal property for ALL guests entering campus. A clear 12”x6”x12” bag; or a one-gallon clear storage bag, limit one per person; and a small clutch bag no larger than 6.5”x4.5”. For more information on clear bags, please review the USC Bag Policy

ALLOWED ITEMS
• Personal belongings such as hats, cell phones, wallets, small clutch purses
• Pre-packaged snack food items in a clear bag for personal consumption
• Cameras (sticks, poles and tripods are prohibited)
• Strollers and infant care bags (subject to inspection)
• Refillable water containers (must be empty upon entry)
• Sunscreen and medically necessary items
• Seat cushions without pockets or metal hardware

PROHIBITED ITEMS
All persons and their belongings are subject to metal detector screening and bag inspection prior to entering the Coliseum. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to avoid delays. All prohibited items will not be allowed inside.

The following items are NOT ALLOWED:

• Bags, Backpacaks or Purses which do not meet Clear Bag policy guidelines. Hard or Soft Coolers, Baskets, Packages or Containers.
• Alcoholic Beverages, Bottles or Cans.
• Illegal Drugs and Weapons including Firearms, Knives, Explosives, Fireworks, Flares, Lighters and Laser Pointers.
• Professional Cameras (lenses longer than 3”) and Camera Equipment, Selfie-Sticks, Tripods and Video or Audio Recording Equipment.
• Banners, Signs, Flags, Sticks, Poles, Inflatables, Frisbees, Balls, and Unsliced Fruits or Vegetables.
• Umbrellas, Balloons, Skateboards and Folding or Beach Chairs.
• Musical instruments or noisemaking devices.
• Pets (Service Animals are allowed).
• USC is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited in any area of the campus.

Please do not conceal items. Have all items clearly visible inside an approved bag. All bags must meet Clear Bag policy guidelines and are subject to inspection upon entry.

Graduate Entrance, Line-up, and Seating for 11:00am Ceremony
Graduates will enter via the Coliseum field tunnel located at 3960 Bill Robertson Lane. This entrance is strictly for graduates. Graduates are required to wear academic regalia in order to participate in the ceremony. All graduates and guests will enter through metal detector screening. Please have large metal items and cell phones in a clear bag or out of your pockets before entering. Do not remove smaller items such as wallets, keys, coins, or belts.

Each degree program will have their own line up for procession. Once through security, locate the sign in the Coliseum field tunnel displaying your degree. Graduates can choose who they walk and sit with at the ceremony. If you would like to sit with specific fellow graduates in your degree program, you should stand together in the line-up for procession for your degree (single file, not side-by-side). Once you have processed in and are seated in the section assigned for your degree, you cannot change seats.

You will be walking on various surfaces: grass, concrete, stairs, and ramps. Be sure to wear shoes that are safe, comfortable, and appropriate for this ceremonious occasion.

You will be given an envelope, at check-in containing a name card to fill out which will be used by the announcer to call your name when you walk across the stage. Please complete this card as soon as you are seated. Bring the card with you when you go up to the stage and hand it to the announcer at the podium when it is your turn to walk.

You will be guided back to your seat after receiving your diploma. Please plan to stay for the entire ceremony (estimated to last 2 hours) to celebrate your fellow graduates receive their diploma.

Coliseum Access and Parking
You and all guests should allow more time to park, go through security, get seated and ensure you arrive for the lineup for the ceremony procession on time.

Parking in Exposition Park is complimentary for USC Commencement Ceremony ticketed guests on Friday, May 10. Please have your guest ticket or grad pass ready to show the parking attendant when you enter Exposition Park. Overnight parking or tailgating is not permitted.

• To park in the Blue Structure - Enter from S. Figueroa St. and Exposition Park Dr./39th St. MAP
• To park at the Green, Pink, or Yellow Lots - Enter from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd and South Hoover St.

Rideshare services can drop-off and pick-up in Exposition Park's Green Lot (south of BMO Stadium). Access for rideshare services is from S. Figueroa St. (right turn only).

Graduate Reception
For all graduates and guests who have registered to attend the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work ceremony on May 10, a reception will immediately follow the end of the ceremony at the Peristyle and Olympic Plaza at the Coliseum, a short distance from ceremony. It will include light refreshments, a photo op for graduates, and an opportunity to visit with faculty, staff, and fellow graduates.

Diplomas
Diplomas are mailed to graduates by the university approximately three weeks following the commencement ceremonies. All questions or concerns regarding diplomas (i.e., name adjustments, mailing address, etc.) should be directed to the Office of Academic Records and Registrar. Individual schools do not manage anything related to diploma production or distribution.

Children at Ceremony
Children of graduates are welcome at the ceremony and will require a ticket (Children under 2 years of age do not need a ticket to attend.) These tickets are free of charge. They must be seated with family members or friends in the guest seating area. Children may not sit with graduates in the designated graduate seating area. Also, for reasons of safety and policy, children and babies-in-arms may not accompany graduates when they walk across the stage. Please ensure there is someone able to care for your child in the guest area for the entire ceremony.

Guest Seating
All seating is general admission, on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10:30a.m. There are no reserved seats for guests in the Coliseum. Please remind your guests they are not allowed to be seated in the graduate section; they must sit in the section designate for guests.

Professional Photography
GradImages will take photos of every graduate. Image proofs are emailed within 24-48 hours of the ceremony. You can also Register with GradImages to receive a 20% discount on any photographs you order after commencement.

Live Stream
The ceremony will be live streamed on the school’s YouTube Channel. It will remain available for later viewing.

Cap & Gown Rentals
WALK-UP CAP & GOWN RENTAL AND PICK-UP: For customers wishing to rent a cap with tassel, gown, and hood in person, there is in-person distribution beginning May 6, 2024, on the USC Bookstore Patio.
COLISEUM: A designated section to get Regaia and Leis will be outside the tunnel area where students are going to enter. Leis and bookstore gear will inside the concourse area.
1. May 6th - May 9th: 8:30am - 7:00pm
2. Commencement Day, May 10th 6:30am - 9:00am
3. Please visit the regalia rental page for more information.
4. Rental return bins will be located throughout campus and at the USC Bookstore on commencement day and after.

Weather Advisory
A friendly reminder there is limited shade at the LA Memorial Coliseum. Parasols will be permitted for personal shade. Sunscreen, hats, and protective sun wear are recommended. Please be aware of weather conditions and plan accordingly. The ceremony is expected to last up to 2 hours. Wear light clothing, bring sunblock, and stay hydrated. Complementary water will be offered at concession stands.

Concessions
Individual waters will be offered complementary at concession stands. Concessions will be available for purchase.

The USC Bookstore will also have locations inside the venue near Tunnels 4, 9, 19 and 21 for a variety of items.

Accessibility and Accommodations
ACCESSIBLE SEATING
The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum can accommodate patrons in wheelchairs or with restricted mobility. The Coliseum features multiple areas at street level that do not require ramps or lifts to access. Situated at a midpoint between field level and the uppermost rows of the Coliseum, these areas can be accessed directly through accessible tunnels, which lead into the seating area of the Coliseum. These locations are situated around most of the circumference of the venue.

People with mobility disabilities who require accessible seating because of their disability will be provided tickets for accessible seats. People with disabilities who do not require the specific features of accessible seating but merely have a preference for them are not entitled to accessible seats. Seating in these designated sections will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis, based on availability. ADA tickets can be obtained at our Guest Services booths located inside Gate 4 at Section 109, or inside Gate 23. For assistance or more information, please contact the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at lamcinfo@usc.edu.

For guests that need additional assistance reaching upper-level seats in the Coliseum, escalators are located adjacent to Tunnels 11, and 19. An additional service elevator is located at Tunnel 9 for access to the Upper Concourse.

ACCESSIBLE DROP-OFF AND PICK UP
Drop-off and pick-up for guests with disabilities should be made Exposition Park Drive after entering from South Figueroa at W. 39th Street. Please be aware drop-off and/or pick-up may be difficult due to heavy traffic and congestion. Due to traffic patterns leaving the park, pick-up in this area may be delayed until traffic can accommodate for access. Please be patient and follow direction of parking staff.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING
ADA accessible parking is available in Exposition Park's Pink Lot, Blue Structure and Green Lot. Marked ADA spaces may not be reserved in advance are subject to availability based on arrival.
ACCESSIBLE ENTRY
Gates 4 and 23 have a designated priority accessible entry lane. Additional assistance will be located at each gate.

CLOSED CAPTIONING
The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum provides closed captioning services. The service provides text of all public address announcements during the event. You can access the service from your browser on any smart phone or mobile device. Data rates may apply. To access the service from your mobile device go to www.CaptionedText.com and enter Confirmation: 2650 (for English) at the top of the page. If you need assistance during an event, please text to (213) 263-4007. Data rates may apply.

HEARING AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
Assistive listening devices for fans with hearing or visual impairments are available for checkout at Customer Service located in the Coliseum West Administration Building across from Tunnel 11.

SERVICE ANIMALS
Service animals are welcome inside the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Service animals must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animals safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler’s control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). If you intend to bring a service animal to the building, please notify your ticket representative at the time of purchase so that an aisle seat may be reserved for you if available. An animal relief area is provided at Gate 33 in the Olympic Plaza. Guests with service animals are responsible for cleaning up after their animals and for their appropriate behavior toward other guests and Coliseum personnel at all times. A failure to do may result in the animal’s removal from the stadium. The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal.

WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTS
The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is proud to provide assistance inside the stadium for guests with special needs. This service is free and can be requested through Guest Services. Disabled assistance is available upon request at all entry gates. To minimize your wait, we suggest that you make arrangements prior to the event you are attending by calling 213-747-7111 or email lamcinfo@usc.edu. During event hours, please call or text 213 263-4007. So that we may assist multiple guests, please be aware that our staff will not remain with you during the event, and you are not allowed to remain in the wheelchair during the event. In addition, the Coliseum does not rent wheelchairs or crutches.

If you indicated on your RSVP form that you or your guests required accommodations at the ceremony, we have reached out to you individually during April to ensure that your needs are met, including reserved seating, receiving your degree on stage and entrances to the park.

Looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024!

Vassilios Papadopoulos, D. Pharm., Ph.D.
Interim Dean, USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Elizabeth Gutierrez
Director of Special Events, Office of Advancement