

\* Your name

\* Email

Street address

\* Neighborhood / Zip

Phone

\* mandatory

List the first three things you would like to offer through the Ballona LETS community. (you can add plenty to this later)

Title	Short description (or type full description online)	Price in B

A little bit about you:

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Your age: \_\_ 10-17; \_\_ 18-65; \_\_ over 65

You may go online and input this information, or you may mail this portion of the form to us by snail mail or email.

**FAQs:**

Q: How much is Ballona bullion worth? An hour? A dollar?  
 A: That's the beauty of a LETS system: you get to decide. Nominally, one unit of Ballona bullion (B) is worth the equivalent of "one hour of your time." If you are trading a bag of homegrown tangerines it will be up to you and your trading partner to decide how many units to exchange.  
 However ... and this is the big "however" ... if the U.S. economic values go crazy with inflation or deflation, the Ballona bullion system will maintain a stable, independent internal valuation. Within our local trading community, we will still be able to afford to trade for the things we need to live.

Q: What about my account balance?  
 A: At any time you may check your account balance or trading activities through our online database. Contrary to the U.S. dollar system, a "good" account balance hovers right around zero. A balance close to zero means you are giving just about as much as you are taking. Sometimes in this process your balance may dip slightly below zero and that's normal and okay.

Q: Are there any fees?  
 A: There is no charge in U.S. dollars. A small monthly account-keeping fee in Ballona bullion is assessed each month. You can easily earn these points back through volunteering: by attending a Ballona LETS potluck, doing business development for Ballona LETS, or exchanging with members.

Q: What area do you cover?  
 A: The Ballona LETS primarily networks businesses and residents in Westchester (90045), Playa del Rey (90293), and Inglewood (90301, 90320), but we'll also include Marina del Rey (90292), Ladera (90056) and Playa Vista (90094). Our primary area includes over 46,000 households (per 2008 statistics from the Internet).

Q: Can I join if I don't live there?  
 A: Anyone may join. However if you live and work far from our local radius, people are more likely to choose closer neighbors with whom to trade. There are many similar networks opening throughout the greater L.A. basin. See our website to find them.

Q: Can I join if I don't have a computer?  
 A: Yes. You can transfer Ballona bullion using a paper form that looks like a check. Come to a LETS event to discuss how the Ballona LETS could work for you.

Q: Is this one of those "community-building" things?  
 A: It sure is! You'll get to know your local neighbors a whole lot better when you're doing business with them. You'll get to know their families, their needs, perhaps their hopes and dreams. The path forward is going to mean a lot more togetherness and interdependence, and the Ballona LETS is yet one more way to build this.

Ballona Local Economic Trading System (LETS)  
 6700 West 83<sup>rd</sup>, Westchester (LA 90045)  
[www. EnviroChangeMakers.org/BallonaLETS.htm](http://www.EnviroChangeMakers.org/BallonaLETS.htm)

"I'm interested!"



# Member Registration

**THE BALLONA  
 LOCAL  
 ECONOMIC  
 TRADING  
 SYSTEM**

*A Community Trading Network  
 where  
 Goods and services  
 can be traded  
 without the need for cash*

*You can get "paid"  
(get Ballona bullion)  
for services you GIVE.*

*You don't need cash  
(use Ballona bullion instead)  
to RECEIVE  
the services you  
desire.*

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 1) MEMBERSHIP** *Think of skills you have, services you could offer, and things you could sell within our community. Complete this registration form or register online.*
- 2) SELECTION** *Browse the offerings of other participants online. See anything you'd like?*
- 3) CONNECTIONS** *Contact the person who is offering what you want. Say hi, get to know them (they're your neighbors), and cut a deal.*
- 4) THAT'S IT!** *Record your transaction one of three ways:*
  - a) enter it online yourself.
  - b) email the Ballona LETS administrator.
  - c) fill out a paper "check" for the transaction and snail-mail or deliver the check to the Ballona LETS office.

#### Need some ideas?

Look over the following list of items that are frequently exchanged in local systems like this. Circle all the things you might like to give or to get from other people.

Animal care: pets, livestock, vacation care, feed, products  
Automotive: maintenance, repairs, parts for car or bicycle  
Children: babysitting, clothing, toys, books  
Clerical: typing, computer data entry, filing, organizing  
Clothing: sewing, alterations, repairs, knitting, crochet, embroidery  
Community: organizing or volunteering with church or community fundraisers, political campaigns, community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups or other community events  
Computer: support, repairs, internet, electronic accessories  
Construction: plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, skilled trades  
Creative: art, crafts, music, film, theater, performances, lessons  
Events: organizing, party planning  
Financial & legal: tax, bookkeeping, paralegal, benefit advocacy  
Fitness & Exercise: yoga, aerobics, weight lifting, sports  
Food: cooking, baking, catering, preserving, canning, jelly making, pickling, homegrown produce  
Garden: maintenance, vacation care, design, installation, tree pruning, plants, tools  
Health: diet & nutrition, doctors, dentists, mental health counseling, massage, chiropractics, herbs, homeopathy, doula, complimentary therapies.  
Household: maintenance, repairs, housecleaning, spring cleaning, windows, handyman, household goods, equipment, products  
Labor: moving, heavy digging, cashier, table waiting, valet, security, and more  
Lessons: music, the arts, gardening, cooking, craftsmanship, and more  
Personal care: beauty services, hair dressing, supplies  
Professional: advertising, promotion, graphic design, writing, editing, translation, and much more  
Rentals: accommodations, storage, vacations  
Seniors: assistance, companionship, computer help, dressing & grooming, errands and transportation, home maintenance  
Transportation: driving a car, van, pickup truck; chauffeur; deliveries; running errands  
And all the other items we haven't thought to list ...

#### Need cash?

You are perfectly welcome to ask for a proportion of the price of an item in U.S. dollars. You will, after all, want to cover any overhead that you had to pay in dollars.

The way it is commonly done is to put in your description: "accept 50% B" which means you expect half the fee in US\$ and will accept half in Ballona bullion.

LETSystems have been in existence for over ten years and the system is being used internationally. Such luminaries as Bill Mollison support it as a working example of a "permaculture economy".

One single mother in the original Canadian LETSystem wrote that she had been able to get all sorts of work done around the house during the recession there in return for cooking home-made frozen lasagna for the local community. The LETSystem enabled her to get many things done that she could otherwise never have afforded. It also allowed her to contribute her skills and feel she was a valued member of the community.

## Ballona LETS Potluck

Meet your neighbors at the next Ballona LETS potluck:

Community Hall of Holy Nativity  
6700 West 83<sup>rd</sup> (Dunbarton and 83<sup>rd</sup>)  
Westchester

- Bring a dish to share (we'll provide real china plates).
- Bring goods or crafts you're offering for sale through the LETSystem.
- Bring friends who are curious about the LETSystem.

Full calendar at  
[www. EnviroChangeMakers.org/BallonaLETS.htm](http://www.EnviroChangeMakers.org/BallonaLETS.htm)

