

The League is primarily composed of teams bearing names of the firms they represent in the architecture, engineering, or construction industry. A handful of teams, however, have interesting names unrelated to specific firms. This is a summary of some of those teams.

### **Lumbo Rollers**

The Lumbo Rollers were originally affiliated with Columbus Architects back in the 1980s and 90s. Wade Van Valin, then a young designer at Columbus was tasked with organizing the softball team, naming it, and producing t-shirts. Young Wade enjoyed the playful, somewhat subtle (perhaps not so subtle) reference of "Columbus" to "Colombian" pot (popular in that era), aka "Lumbo," to use the parlance of the time. Years earlier, Wade had completed a product development project (design/fabrication/branding) in his high school home economics class...you guessed it..."The Lumbo Roller"...a joint rolling machine. Hence the birth of a league dynasty.... Also of note, the first shirts featured a smoking "bat"...rendered unmistakably as a joint. They almost cost Wade his job, but now are revered as priceless collector's items.

### **Narwhals**

The ESA Narwhals grew out of one of the original teams of the league, Fisher Friedman Architects. The story is that the softball team got nice new jerseys embroidered with "FFA" shortly before Fisher Friedman Architects dissolved and players left the firm. Being too cheap to buy new jerseys and hats, the softball team rebranded as the **F**earless **F**lying **A**nchovies—eventually shortened to the Anchovies. The longest-tenured Anchovy, Lisa, was also a big fan of Unicorns, often wearing Unicorn-themed gear. As a result, for their final game one season against the "Unicorn Warhammer" team, the Anchovies team all purchased T-shirts with this logo:



When Dave Johnson retired from the team after approximately 35 years, the team decided to commemorate the occasion by graduating to a larger and more fierce sea creature. Since Lisa was in charge...the team became the Narwhals.

## **Ringers**

The team was originally “Levy Design Partners” and somewhere along the line a spouse of an LDP’er recruited her coworkers at Gelfand Partners to bring in an infusion of talent and fun. The partnership led to many successful 0 and 1 win seasons throughout the late 2000s. Unfortunately, sometime during the recession of 2008, many employees/players from both firms disbanded and moved to other offices, opportunities, cities, etc. Getting players each week became difficult. Former captain Nick Morrow would go onto South Park on game days and “ring” as many people as he could to avoid forfeits. It was around that time that the team name was changed to “The Ringers” as an ironic take on the annual standings and because the roster was made up of more former than current LDP’ers. The team still has a handful of new generation LDP’ers as well as architects, landscape architects, and engineers at LDP, DBA, RHAA, Woods Bagot, Lotus Water, Affiliated Engineers, SF Environment, and Hood Thomas.

## **Flying Pigs**

The flying pigs softball team has its roots at BAR Architects. At a company White Elephant party, someone gave away an odd but endearing taxidermied pig-like animal with canine features, which was named “pig dog” and soon became adopted as the softball team mascot. When John Rojas and Jamie Shorten left BAR to join BCV in 1997, naturally pig dog came along for the ride. While at BCV, pig dog was stolen several times by the guys at Arcanum (Tim Chappelle, Anthony Fish, and Kurt Simrock), who would take pig dog to exotic locations around the world, put a blindfold on him, and send polaroid pictures of the poor creature back to Jamie Shorten (the softball coach at the time), asking for some kind of ransom. Pig dog somehow managed to make its way back to Jamie every time until, sometime around 2000 or 2001, pig dog was taken from its prominent perch for the last time and was never returned. Tim Chappelle denies any involvement, and the mystery still remains as to the whereabouts of pig dog and who was responsible. When Kevin **Zeller**, John **Rojas**, and Jamie **Shorten** formed a new firm, ZeRoTen, the softball team followed them and was rebranded the “flying pigs,” paying homage to pig dog while making use of abundant images of flying pigs.

## **North Beach Rockets**

The team was originally called the North Beach Architects because, at the time, the team was mostly architects. The captain’s spouse, Sandy, was tasked with designing a sweatshirt and she decided North Beach Architects was too boring so she used her nickname, “The Rocket,” and from that point on the team was called the North Beach Rockets.

## **Rosebud**

Starting in 1997 as Gicklhorn Lazzarotto Partners, the team changed after Mike Woods stopped working at GLP and for 4 seasons was known as EHDD Architects. After losing key players from EHDD, the team was grandfathered into the league. The captain at the time, Andy McKinney, ran the naming process to replace the EHDD moniker. One of the players at the time, Hamid, suggested Rosebud because it represents “lost youth” and the rest is history.

**Brand X** (disbanded after the 2016 Season)

**Unicorn Warhammer** (disbanded after the 2014 Season) Alcohol was certainly involved in the naming of this team!