

THE SKID ROW

Fall 2023

ARTSZINE



Oct. 28–29

Festival for All Skid Row Artists



Sept. 16–Nov. 18

Enough is (Never) Enough: Hard Truths and the People Who Live Them



Dec. 7

The Messiah Project



Dec. 10

Re/Sound Festival: A Community-Wide Celebration & Resource Fair



Dec. 16

A Holiday Called Home

Masthead art: Mural by Crushow p.9

Skid Row Arts Alliance Micro-Grant Projects **4**, Words from Skid Row Artists **6&7** | Skid Row Artistry Shines **8** | Enough is (Never) Enough **10** | Festival for All Skid Row Artists **11** | A Holiday Called Home **14** | Re/Sound Festival **18** ... and so much more!

Table of Contents

4

Skid Row Arts Alliance Micro-Grant Projects

Hauser & Wirth

6

Thinking on your feet, by Ray Lewis

7

The Rebirth: Phoenix from the Fire, by Unkal Bean

8

Skid Row Artistry Shines—Studio 526 Featured in Upcoming Wende Museum Exhibit

10

Enough is (Never) Enough: Hard Truths and the People Who Live Them

11

RESILIENCE Performances

11

LAPD's 14th Annual Festival for All Skid Row Artists

12

General Jeff Mural Project—Skid Row Parks

13

Also happening at the Skid Row History Museum and Archive / Los Angeles Poverty Dept.

14

UVP's "A Holiday Called Home"

16

Have you ever wanted to know how to prepare before a performance?

17

Streeth Symphony's Crossroads Concert

18

Re/Sound Festival: A Community-Wide Celebration & Resource Fair

19

Inspiring Recycled Art

22

LAPD: From the Archives

24

LA Central Library Resources

27

Skid Row Ongoing Calendar

Welcome

...to your **Skid Row Arts Zine**, your way to connect to multiple physical and online offerings of different Skid Row-based arts organizations. The Skid Row Arts Alliance seeks to promote neighborhood-based connectivity through creativity.

Visit the website: skidrowartsalliance.com for links to all our programming. Text (323) 412-9770 for more information.

Brought to you by the Skid Row Arts Alliance:

- Los Angeles Poverty Department
- Piece by Piece
- Street Symphony
- Urban Voices Project



... and additional partners





Skid Row Arts Alliance Micro-Grant Program

In the Summer of 2023, SRAA launched their first micro-grant program funding three established projects supporting the Skid Row community at large and provide professional support and development for four individual Skid Row artists. Below are two of the projects.

Recipient: Sir Oliver

Project: Jamaican Independence Day Festival, August 6, 2023

Held at Skid Row History Museum & Archive

What did it mean for you to get the grant?

“Amazing! What a grant! It helped me out so much. I took half of that money because I do two events a year, put half of it on Jamaican Independence Day and the other half on Bob Marley. We just had Jamaican Independence Day and we were blessed for seven years to have somebody bring us food. But this time we had to supply the food ourselves. So, I took a couple hundred dollars and threw it in the food. I had to buy my banners all over again because I thought they disappeared, but they found them after all.

Oh, I had to buy flags and the cake guy who made an amazing cake and Clancey has all the pictures of all the things and to John and Henriette (and SRAA), thank you for picking Sir Oliver Productions because we never got a grant before, and this helped us out a great deal this year. It’s just too bad that I had to take half of it and put it on one event, another half on the other event and I don’t get paid for none of this stuff. Clancey and Ian don’t get paid and then I decided, I don’t get paid. So all the money went out.

That was my stomach because it’s been a couple of days and I figured that I would put all the money into the event so flags, cakes, food, performers, I had to pay our main act, it was over \$500 I had to use, the rest of the money is going to Bob Marley. I paid for my own plane fare, I’m paying for my hotel tonight and that’s it.

Thank you so much, you know I couldn’t have done this. Don’t forget us next year, please, it’s been a blessing. Thank you to the S-R-A-A, Skid Row Arts Alliance, S-R-A-A, S-R-A-A.”





Recipient: Crushow Herring

Project: Love and Chaos Mural

At 6th Street and Gladys Avenue

“Crushow’s friend Mook Simson, who used to live in Los Angeles but moved to Australia with his family before COVID, designed the mural and called it “Love and Chaos”. He works as a special effects designer for concerts, and he loves to work with old photographs and tweak them. Mook has great respect for our Skid Row community. For this mural he wanted to capture the spirit of Skid Row in the way he has experienced the community: to love in chaos.

In July he came back with his family and connected with Crushow. Mook had never painted a mural before and Crushow taught him how to do it and helped him paint. Crushow also painted the letters: SKID ROW FOREVER.

Mook says about the mural:

“Love and Chaos” is not just a mural, but a narration of the nature of compassion. The centerpiece is an imposing, frog-like monster, its scale dwarfing the skyscrapers beneath. The creature is the embodiment of kindness. Its eyes, orbs of jade, gaze down at the city below with tenderness. In its enormity, the creature stands as a symbol of protection and guardianship. Vibrant colors illuminate the creature, mirroring the multicultural fabric of the city it shelters. It is a metaphor that love, help, and kindness can originate from unexpected sources. The initially



perceived ‘monster’ is actually a benefactor, asserting that assistance doesn’t always align with preconceived judgments.”

Crushow is grateful for the SRAA Micro Grant, with it he could buy all the paint and materials for the mural, and a few meals for the artists as well.

Take a look at this great mural on 6th and Gladys, next to Tyler’s place, stating “SKIDROW FOREVER” WE ARE THE PEOPLE.

Thinking on your feet

by Ray Lewis

Unforgettable experiences in my human; life it's like data, that I collected In this experience, and as I discover the universal truths within, Unveils the dimensions and densities of my soul, the flares of insights, and understanding laws and principles of vibration and light, that govern my every day realizations lead me



to depend on, what I do with what I have, only then I will receive more, this unveiled the outcomes of my intentions, I know I can draw a circle and always draw a bigger circle around the 1st one, knowing this I realize that no matter the mistakes and limitations of the past, a more fulfilling and prosperous life can be sculpted out of the present, within us is the cause of what happened to us, personal fears and inhibitions cause limitations and stagnation in our life, that manifests into stress or worry. Keep at heart that expressing yourself and articulating your personal unique talents and performing under pressure in a moment's time is living in Dynamic Action, and this is the goal, to thrive through life in a state of Unconscious Competent. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

What is it you see before you? I see a spiritual Artist that is struggling with addiction right now, what is it that makes people hate on me and despise me? is it that I do drugs and have profound mystical spiritual experiences and able to translate and talk about these experiences? What is it that I can allow you to say cruel things about

me and I still look at you with compassion and move Om? what is it that I need to look at in my pain and suffering as well in my joy and happiness in my life? and what is it about these energies in me and around me? what is it with me about this rollercoaster of life that I put myself on?

I created this piece in the middle of my addiction it is so true to me that the further away from disharmony the closer you get to harmony, in other words the darker the night will be Manifested in the brightest of days, a couple of days after I created these two pieces, I had a vision of Krishna feet dancing over a Lotus flower, I could not understand this vision for no reason, giving the situation that I was in and the profound self-knowledge and colors that I was getting in my dreams and during my meditation funny thing is... it's for me, know one would get it, you got to achieve your own. Come to your own understanding.

You are Divinely Loved!

The Rebirth: Phoenix from the Fire by Unkal Bean

I've been buried in ash marsh rubble as if existence was at a standstill. Psychologically, confined by life teachings and one's ability and inability to refuse to learn and rise above complacency.

Doubt succumbs, taking a hold. Falling in a bottomless pit of depression, isolation, and anger. In this sunken place I have accepted my reality as all that is before me and nothing else. Many life situations and experiences contributed to the state of mind when I faced a world all alone even with having family. Then to include the judgement of family also causes distance based on condemnation. The Black Sheep casted out. Bearing witness to Poverty, this recession, all sorts of crime, and being victimized. These things have become normalized in everyday life. This is our reality.

I've been in this state for years. Disappointed, reaching out to the people who are supposed to assist and provide services. To help guide me back to civilization, the real world. Promises promised, selling me a dream. Getting my hopes up to be strung along. In this place I am just a number in the head count. Being stepped on, nonexistent. Me programmed to trust and believe this is not abuse. It is abuse in addition to the abuse we inflict on ourselves. This is draining and triggers actions and reactions which keep me, you, them, they sinking deeper.

I've been living in my own isolated world that brings forth fear. The fear of living. I have only known how to exist. I am present, but I'm not here. Lost would be a word to describe it. When will I find myself? When did I lose myself? Will I come back from this? Where did the love go? I have none for myself, so no one has any for me. Day to day masking, veil on face, hiding behind a fake smile. I once exercised courtesy, sincerity, humility, generosity, gratitude, genuineness, compassion, consideration and attentiveness. I felt uninspired to exercise these characteristics based on the place I'm in and that state of mind. That way of living and thinking in this place only leads to more abuse. Finding that I am stuck. No movement, still without the desire to move. No efforts to even take a first step. Losing all hope. There are no thoughts outside of those daily that weigh on your head and shoulders. That day will come when a definite decision will be made.



This day I have to make a conscious concise decision will I continue to just exist or live again.

It's time to live. On this day and moving forward. I have risen from the ashes, the marsh, the rubble. I am no longer in that pit. I've made the decision to live. I no longer just exist; I live. After numerous accounts of disappointments and I am taking the first step to live again. I am optimistic. I know I can make things manifest with application. A foundation has been laid, and on this foundation I will build. I am willed to live and enjoy life. I am making a declaration on this day I am starting a new life which is to be celebrated, valued, appreciated and shared. The one thing I truly recognize is I must put myself first. My mental and physical health. My financial responsibilities and hold myself fully accountable. I will not allow the ills of the world to affect my spirit. I am a human being, but I am no longer being. I am alive, I am living so I must allow myself to live in this life and embrace it and make it all that I can envision.

Forward I go, no time to go in reverse. With gratitude, I am allowed to share the beginning of my new life as the Phoenix coming from the fire. I would like anyone who reads this to share it, and if you are one who feels under that ash, marsh, and rubble, rise up from the fire pit. Make the decision; it is never too late. It is time to live. Thank You.



Skid Row's Artistry Shines: Studio 526 Featured in Upcoming Wende Museum Exhibit

Nestled within the vibrant community of Skid Row, The People Concern's Studio 526 is a haven for local artists, providing a space for self-expression. Notably, artists like Gary Brown have gained recognition through a successful exhibition at The Grove. Now, Studio 526 is preparing for an exciting five-month exhibit at The Wende Museum!

The Wende Museum has meticulously curated ten captivating artworks from nine outstanding Studio 526 artists. These pieces will be showcased at the upcoming exhibition, "Visions of Transcendence: Creating Space in East and West," open to the public from **November 11, 2023, to April 7, 2024.**

"Visions of Transcendence" is a powerful testament to the resilience of individuals who have experienced incarceration or homelessness. The exhibition offers a striking collection of artwork and photography, spanning the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the United States, and Western Europe. It invites viewers to reflect on the parallels and distinctions between these political systems. Despite ideological disparities, these artists have created visionary spaces, resulting in impactful and emotive artwork.

Visit The Wende Museum at 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230. The exhibit runs during their regular hours: Friday–Sunday, 10 AM–5 PM

For more information, visit: wendemuseum.org | ThePeopleConcern.org

Meet the Featured Artists



LAN: *The Window* by Studio 526

Distinguished mixed media collage artist, Lan, vividly portrays urban vitality. His creations intricately blend various materials, capturing the pulsating energy of city life. Lan's distinctive choice to abstract facial features reflects the anonymity often experienced in bustling urban environments. One of his featured works, "The Window by Studio 526," offers a compelling glimpse into the fast-paced, chaotic nature of life outside the studio's window.

STUDIO 526 SCHEDULE

Art Studio: Tues/Thurs/Fri 12:30pm–3:30pm

Music Studio: Tues/Thurs/Fri 8:30am–3:30pm (1.5 hour intervals)

Please note: All new artists must first attend the New Artist Orientation prior to using the studios.

New Artist Orientation: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month @ 1pm

Art Jam: 2nd Friday of every month, 5pm–7pm (open to the public)

Peter Villapudua: *Our Lady*

Self-taught artist Peter Villapudua is celebrated for his unique talent in mixed media and sculpture. Influences from artistic luminaries like Picasso, Matisse, Dali, and Klimt have left a profound mark on his artistic approach. His mixed media masterpieces and thought-provoking sculptures are a testament to his creative genius. "Our Lady" portrays the Virgin Mary wearing a COVID mask, standing on a pile of toilet paper—a poignant reflection of a world gripped by a pandemic.





Linda Leigh: *Untitled*

Linda, a fervent artist, expresses herself through a diverse range of artistic mediums. Her artwork acts as a gateway to her memories, provoking intense emotional responses from viewers. Despite recently moving away from Skid Row and pursuing a new career as a travel agent, Linda’s devotion to her community remains steadfast. She utilizes her art as a powerful tool to spotlight crucial social issues, champion women’s causes, and advocate for the Skid Row community.

Angel Correa: *Summer Green*

Angel, an abstract artist, uses vibrant acrylic colors to craft bold and captivating images. His latest endeavor involves mosaics, created on canvas, stone, frames, and vases. His creation, titled ‘Summer Green,’ was selected by The Wende Museum for inclusion in the upcoming exhibit.



Rigo Velos: *The Return of the King*



“Duck” Roy Turrentine: *Three Coyotes Have a Dream*



Charles Bado: *The Choir*

The inclusion of artists Charles, Tyler, Rigo, Duck, and Gary in the exhibit underscores the vibrant creative spirit of the Skid Row community. Their diverse works serve as a powerful testament to the resilience, creativity, and depth found within this dynamic neighborhood. This resonates deeply with The Wende Museum’s dedication to fostering transformative change. Furthermore, it mirrors The People Concern’s Studio 526’s belief that equitable access to arts and cultural spaces is not just a luxury, but a fundamental human right for all communities.



Gary Brown: *Nefertiti*



Tyler Sirovy: *Reverent Restitution* (in progress)

Studio 526

The People Concern, 526 San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA 90013
 Alice Corona: ACorona@ThePeopleConcern.org
 Christine: CManley-Martinez@ThePeopleConcern.org
 (213) 488-9559 x 265 | www.thepeopleconcern.org

Enough is (Never) Enough: Hard Truths and the People Who Live Them

September 16–November 18, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 16, 3pm | 250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Skid Row History Museum and Archive is pleased to present an exhibition featuring photographs and text by artist and educator David Blumenkrantz, professor in the Journalism Department at California State University, along with works by four photographers who have lived experience with homelessness: Bobby Buck, Cleta Felix-West, Lelund Hollins and Ian Storm.

This group showing was put together as an expression of a growing frustration with the slow pace of reform and change that leaves the well-being of thousands of Angelenos in a state of limbo, and to an alarming death toll. The latest homeless count reveals a 9% increase in homelessness in LA County and 10% in the city.

Blumenkrantz, who spent several years advocating and documenting the lives of street children and urban slum dwellers in Nairobi, Kenya before returning to the USA, began photographing life on Skid Row back in the 1990s, though the majority of what will be on display here is from his more recent One of Us project, a collection of portraits and interviews with people experiencing homelessness and those working on solutions, and candid street photography created from 2016 to the present. The motivation behind this work was the desire to remove the filter of media interpretation and let the people most closely affected by the crisis have their say.

The photographs by Buck, Felix-West, Hollins, and Storm were made in 2019 as part of the How We See It project, a participatory photography project that encouraged personal expression and creativity, organized by



Blumenkrantz in his role as a professor in the Journalism Department at California State University, Northridge, a project that was derailed by the pandemic. The photographs from both One of Us and How We See It have previously been displayed at the Museum of Social Justice, and in the case of One of Us, at Los Angeles City Hall.

This exhibition is the forerunner of an investigative reporting class, during which the students are spending the semester attempting to investigate and make sense of the Gordian Knot that is our ongoing, festering, and often toxic homelessness crisis.

Exhibition related events

- SEPT. 16, 5-7pm: Exhibition Opening
- OCT. 21, 3pm: Photo Talk featuring Prof. Blumenkrantz and photographers from the How We See It homelessness photo project
- NOV. 11, 3pm: Multimedia student presentations on investigative reports

Performances and Festivals!

RESILIENCE performances

October 1, 3pm at Inner-City Arts
720 Kohler St, Los Angeles, CA 90021

December 10, 11 am–4 pm at VOID Studios
677 Imperial St. in the Arts District, during the
Street Symphony Festival

(Past performances at The Midnight Mission
and the Downtown Women’s Center)

Los Angeles Poverty Department’s new performance Resilience taps into the innate health in everyone and explores activities that we like to do. When we do these activities, we feel competent and confident. They give us pleasure and we feel good about ourselves. Many people spend way too much time lamenting their past—stuck in guilt. Letting go of that, recognizing that what’s past can’t be undone, opens the space to be in the present moment and do the life affirming activities that make you happy. This is explored in LAPD’s performance Resilience.

For these performances LA Poverty Department is collaborating with Street Symphony. Vijay Gupta’s Darshan Piano Trio will be playing music of Robert and Clara Schumann, and their young fierce student Johannes Brahms. “Their work embodies and amplifies the theme of resilience, it is the music of survival, metabolism, transformation.” (says Vijay)



14th FESTIVAL FOR ALL SKID ROW ARTISTS

in General Jeff (Gladys) Park
October 28 and 29 from 12 noon till 4pm



The Festival For All Skid Row Artists is a festival of music, theater, spoken word performances and visual art with plenty of music, showcasing the diverse range of talents among Skid Row residents. Initiated by Los Angeles Poverty Department in 2010, the festival has become one of the most anticipated grassroots cultural events in Skid Row where over 100 Skid Row Artists perform and display their artwork to enthusiastic audiences. LAPD’s Festival for All Skid Row Artists gives audiences a chance to hear what you usually don’t hear about Skid Row: that it is a community rich with talent!

If you’d like to perform, exhibit your artwork, or do a workshop write us an email at:

Email: info@lapovertydept.org

Phone: 213-413.1077 (leave us a message)

Also happening at the Museum and Los Angeles Poverty Dept.

SKID ROW HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Los Angeles Poverty Department

Performance workshops / rehearsals
Each Tuesday from 2–5pm and Thursday from 7–9pm.

We create theater performances from scratch and with creative input from everyone involved. Improvise, write and perform with us. Skid Row's original creative group continues to surprise. We mess around but, we're absolutely serious.

MOVIE Nights at the Museum

Each 1st and 3rd Friday of the Month at 7pm
FREE Movie Screenings, Free popcorn, Free Coffee & Free Conversation

October 6, 7pm: LIQUOR STORE DREAMS

Directed by So Yun Um | Runtime: 90 min.

Followed by a Q&A with Danny Park from Skid Row People's Market

In *Liquor Store Dreams*, two Korean American children, So Yun Um and Danny Park, of liquor store owners reconcile their own dreams with those of their immigrant parents. Along the way, they confront the complex legacies of LA's racial landscape, including the 1991 murder of Latasha Harlins and the 1992 uprisings sparked by the police beating of Rodney King, while engaged in current struggles for social and economic justice.

Creative Writing Workshop

Every 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30–Noon
Ivy Pochoda is back to get your creative juices flow

OPEN MIC with Lorinda

Every last Friday of the month from 5–7:30pm
A Skid Row Neighborhood party
Snacks - Coffee - Birthdays – Collaboration - Reconnections - Celebration - Open Mic
And Art Table hosted by Creative I and Marilyn Irizarry's sock-puppet making



LAPD LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles
213-413-1077 (Leave a message and we'll call you back!) | info@lapovertydept.org

Founded in 1985, Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) is the first arts group in Skid Row made up of Skid Row residents, housed and un-housed. We make performances, create exhibitions and we have an archive of Skid Row History.

www.lapovertydept.org
www.facebook.com/lapovertydepartment
www.facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum

THE 
**URBAN
VOICES**
PROJECT

Presents:

A Holiday Called Home

**A Skid Row
Community Celebration**

Sat. Dec. 16, 2023

Inner-City Arts, 720 Kohler St.

FREE FOOD - MUSIC- ART



Urban Voices Project, A Skid Row Choir, Hosts The 3rd Annual “A Holiday Called Home” – A Skid Row Community Celebration & A Skid Row Caroling Crawl Event



A holiday musical experience paired with an arts & cultural festival with winter help for the neighbors surviving homelessness is set for the Inner City Arts campus on December 16th during the day. (Exact times to be announced.) Conceptualized, strategized and implemented by Skid Row artists, this is truly a community driven event intended to bring housed and unhoused neighbors together through arts programming.

LOS ANGELES—The Urban Voices Project (UVP), like the rest of Los Angeles, has been on zoom since the Winter of 2020 and recently has gone hybrid in its programming. **“A Holiday Called Home”** was first made public as UVP’s first original, published song in the midst of the pandemic, written by the artists of Skid Row. It was recorded as a music video, featured in the New York Times, and now returns to the spotlight as a Skid Row Community Celebration this coming December 17th.

A Holiday Called Home: a Skid Row Community Celebration happens on the campus of **Inner City Arts Center**, a highly regarded award-winning nonprofit focused on arts activities and personal/ leadership development for teens from poor neighborhoods across Los Angeles. It’s located across the street from the southern boundary of Skid Row.

This event works with Skid Row Arts Alliance partners for visual and mosaic arts activities. Drumming, sound healing and other musical activities provided by Skid Row artists, as well as an Open Mic for the whole community. Beyond other art and food activities, we will also be featuring a Skid Row Artist Gallery and Auction, featuring the local talents.

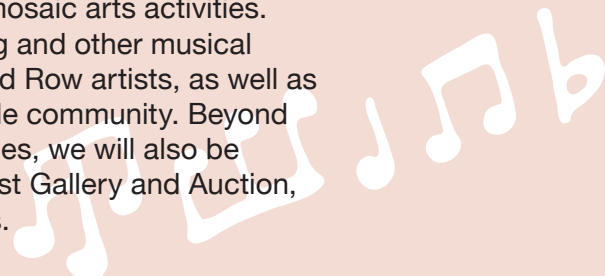
“What Hope Means...

The similarities between the words Hope and Home. Home isn’t always about the place we go back to. It’s about the community we’re part of and The Hope that we find with them.”

- *A Holiday Called Home*, Urban Voices Project single
Scott Clapson, UVP Choir Member & A Holiday Called Home Committee Member

A Holiday Called Home is also a time to gather warm clothing and accessories for folks in Skid Row as we head into Winter. Resources will be handed out during the Community Celebration and also on Christmas Day during UVP’s **Christmas Caroling Crawl**—a flash mob style caroling event through the streets and service provider spaces in the heart of Skid Row involving Skid Row artists and volunteers singing shoulder to shoulder, December 25th, 10 AM to 1 PM.

For more information, please visit our website or contact the UVP team at: info@urbanvoicesproject.org or (323) 741-1887. www.urbanvoicesproject.org



Urban Voices Project has long been a Skid Row community choir, yet offers so much more. UVP provides music education and wellness classes, as well as building community spaces to express voices of humanity.

www.urbanvoicesproject.org
Follow us: [@urbanvoicesproject](https://twitter.com/urbanvoicesproject)
info@urbanvoicesproject.org

Have you ever wanted to know how to prepare before a performance?



Here are tips that are important to remember that all performers use whether you are a beginner or a professional!

- **Practice of course!**
- **Getting as close to a memorized performance as possible:**
 - Lyrics
 - Melody
 - Timing
 - Road Map: Know the order of your timeline and what comes next in the song (verse, chorus, bridge, interlude, etc)
- **Know your audience:**
 - Who are you singing for? How will they relate?
 - Thinking of why you chose your piece. How would you introduce it to an audience?
 - If you know the audience ahead of time, it can inform how you may choose your pieces for your performance.
 - Where will your audience be?
 - Small and intimate spaces—a place where you may be close enough to make eye contact and

where audiences can see smaller facial expressions. This is an environment where you can get into the depths of storytelling.

- Large and vast—a place where you must work to make everyone feel included, including the audience sitting in the back or on the balcony. You may consider larger movements/choreography to be seen and entertaining from farther away.
- **Film yourself performing:**
 - Allow yourself to watch your performance back and give yourself feedback
 - Consider sharing with those close to you to give feedback
- **Are you dressed in a way that makes you feel confident?**
 - Try on your whole outfit earlier in the week
 - Don't dress to impress, dress to express yourself
- **Increase stamina & lung capacity**
 - Try walking or other forms of light exercise while singing.
 - Breathing exercises
- **Foods**
 - Try to stay away from dairy before you sing. Dairy will cause more phlegm and saliva for your vocals to maneuver with.
 - Try to stay away from caffeine before you sing. Caffeine dries out your vocal cords and only attributes to any stagefright or nerves the performers may have.

What do YOU do in preparation for a performance? Take time to think about other rituals and habits you have and write them down. Make an intentional practice of your preparation and don't forget to have fun at the same time!

This list has been compiled and brought to you by members of the Urban Voices Project performance choir. Urban Voices Project has multiple opportunities to perform from beginners to pros. Consider joining us!

STREET SYMPHONY PRESENTS, CROSSROADS CONCERT SERIES



SEE YOURSELF: STORIES OF RESILIENCE

STREET  SYMPHONY

Sunday, Oct 1st | 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
@ The Rosenthal Theatre of Inner City Arts
720 Kohler St, Los Angeles, CA 90021

RESERVE
YOUR FREE
SEAT TODAY!

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



www.bit.ly_3Ha7zha



Directed by Vijay Gupta

“All beings tremble before violence. All fear death. All love life. See yourself in others. Then whom can you hurt? What harm can you do?”
- The Dhammapada

Darshan Trio (Dominic Cheli, piano; Vijay Gupta, violin; Yoshika Masuda, cello) will interweave Resilience, a performance by Los Angeles Poverty Department, performing a series of monologs centered around themes of resilience.

Darshan means “view, sight, vision: a beholding of a sacred object, as well as the sacred within. Another way of seeing, and being seen.”

Street Symphony is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and relies on your tax deductible contribution to bring the catalytic power of music to communities across Los Angeles. Visit our website to learn more about Street Symphony



STREET  SYMPHONY

WWW.STREETSYMPHONY.ORG

re/sound ²⁰²³ FESTIVAL

Re/Sound Festival: A Community-Wide Celebration & Resource Fair

Sunday, December 10, 2023, 11am–4pm.
Programs throughout the day.

VOID Studios (677 Imperial St. DTLA)

The Re/Sound Festival is Street Symphony’s celebration of the Skid Row community’s resilience, stories, and artistry—the resonance of joy: in Skid Row, art and music is not entertainment—it is a lifeline, of hope and dignity, a re-sounding joyful celebration. This event marks the launch of our inaugural annual music festival, uniting Angelenos from all walks of life to revel in the enchantment of music and community. Beyond being a free public musical event, the Re/Sound Festival presents a profound opportunity to forge enduring connections and bridge communities through the universal language of music.

Re/Sound Festival is the culmination of our commitment to monthly programs in Skid Row, featuring multi-genre performances from world-class Mariachi, Jazz, and West-African drumming groups, and a modern adaptation of George Frideric Handel’s oratorio “Messiah” showcasing stories, new musical works, and performances by members of the Skid Row community alongside internationally acclaimed musicians from the LA Philharmonic and LA Master Chorale, as well as student musicians from the Colburn School and University of Southern California.

All Street Symphony programs are free and open to the public. From organizations providing resources for mental and physical health, community partners hosting a range of activities which serve the Skid Row community, arts organizations and vendors sharing their works, food trucks serving hot meals, the festival welcomes all for a full day of celebration.

Street Symphony is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that utilizes music to create opportunities of human connection to homeless and incarcerated communities through workshops, events, and one-on-one musical instruction. These musical programs are held at Skid Row clinics, homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing agencies, and LA County jails.

The Messiah Project: December 7, 2–3:30pm

Since 2015, The Messiah Project reflects and honors the history of Handel’s Messiah as a work of resilience—written in 1741, and performances during the composer’s life were dedicated to social causes, such as providing relief for incarcerated debtors and orphaned children. Using Handel’s work as the frame for a 90-minute concert event, Street Symphony’s Messiah Project is a modern adaptation of the classic work: presented in the gymnasium of TMM, Messiah Project features professional musicians from the LA Philharmonic and Master Chorale, students from the Colburn School and University of Southern California, and community musicians from Skid Row ensembles.

Women’s Voices is a 12-week songwriting workshop at Downtown Women’s Center with a committed group of DWC residents, staff, and SS teaching artists and musicians. During the residency, SS teaching artists lead participants in lyric and melody writing to create an original song written by the residents of DWC. Additionally, participants discuss what inspires them and curate a concert of music based on themes of their choice. After six weeks of songwriting workshops and two weeks of combined rehearsals, an all-female musical ensemble from Street Symphony presents a cumulative concert, focusing on music by women composers, and the performance will be capped by the songwriters at DWC performing their original song.



www.streetsymphony.org
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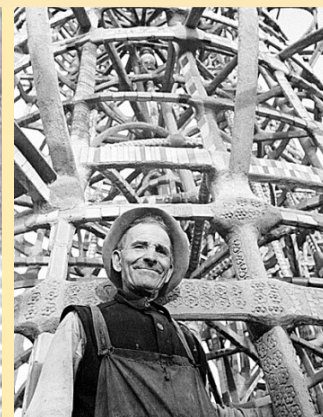
Inspiring Recycled Art



At Piece by Piece, we focus on recycled art, making use of discarded ceramics, scrap glass, metals, and natural materials. Using found objects in art has been around for centuries. Those of us who have creativity in our souls can find art in most anything: a blank wall, a broken plate, even a pile of Autumn leaves. By using broken plates and other ceramics, artists infuse bits of history, texture and color into their work. Common objects are seen in new ways. The past is honored and the present embraced. In mosaic, the style is called *pique assiette*—a term meaning “stolen plate” or “scavenger”. It is named after Raymond Isidore, who collected objects on his way home from work and mosaicked his entire home, both inside and out. Here a few renowned creative projects using recycled materials, including Raymond and other artists around the world. Through the use of often discarded or rejected objects, they have created legendary installations.

La Maison de Picassiette

In Chartres, France, Raymond Isidore began his journey into mosaic in 1935 when on his way home from being a grave sweeper, he came across a piece of broken pottery. He collected more...and more...and even more, and was inspired to try his hand at mosaic. He started with a few murals on the walls of his home, eventually covering not only the exterior of his home, but the interior as well. He covered the floor, the walls, the stove, chairs, the bed, even his ceiling. He believed that one person’s trash is another’s treasure and when asked what his inspiration was, said: “I, who have never known how to draw in my life, I do not understand how, yet I arrived at such a result.” His house still stands to this day as a national monument.

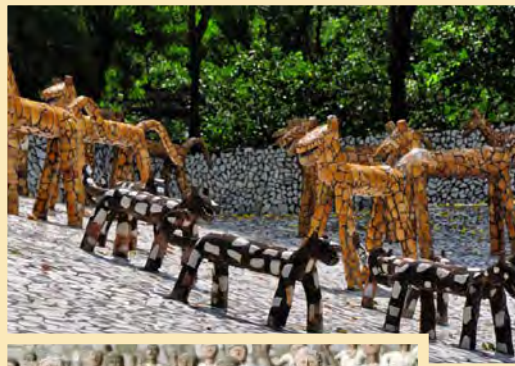


Watts Towers

Simon Rodia, an Italian immigrant, came to Los Angeles and began a monumental project of building the Watts Towers from 1921 until 1954. It took him 30 years to complete. He created an intricate collection of towers out of rebar and other metals, and infused bits of broken pottery, shells, rocks and glass into the sides. When asked why he built the Watts Towers, Simon Rodia replied, "I had it in my mind to do something big and did it." In 1955, after some health issues, he left the lot to neighbors and never looked back. He felt he'd completed his creative journey. The site has now become a major cultural icon in Los Angeles and has an incredible arts center and gallery.

The Rock Garden of Chandigarh

In 1957, Indian government official turned artist Nek Chand created this incredible sculpture garden, made almost entirely of discarded ceramics and other found materials. He also used scrap glass, metal, sinks, electric waste, and broken pipes. His vision was to create his own version of kingdom of Sukrani. This massive project was not authorized, but Chand kept it hidden for 18 years because it was on a land conservancy space as a buffer to the forest. By the time it was discovered, it spanned over 12 acres. Although it was almost demolished, the public rallied to save it and in 1976, it became a public space. The winding walkway with a myriad of waterfalls and sculptures is maintained by The Rock Garden Society and has become an international destination.





Philadelphia's Magic Gardens

Artist Isaiah Zagar has spent decades creating incredible spaces using discarded ceramics, glass and mirror. He began his creative journey by cleaning two adjacent lots near a property he purchased and proceeded to mosaic his own walls as well as the fence, which led to adding mosaic to parts of the abandoned lots. When the owner threatened to destroy the project if Isaiah did not purchase the property, he started raising funds and eventually founded the nonprofit Philadelphia's Magic Gardens and did purchase the lots. He has been building magical worlds in abandoned and other spaces ever since, becoming a cultural icon and a beloved contributor to the vibrant arts community in the city.



It's inspiring to see artists using whatever they find to make incredible art. At Piece by Piece, we use all sorts of materials from broken ceramics to glass to stones to metal. We take inspiration from those who have forged ahead of us, following their creative spirits. We find new in the old, and enjoy putting in little surprises for viewers. Our team of artists have become very creative, inspired daily by things they see in everyday life. Come on by and break a plate with us.

Join our community!

Piece by Piece is a nonprofit mosaic art program and social enterprise, offering free workshops and training to residents of Skid Row, South Los Angeles, and beyond. Classes are open, welcoming, and a safe space to be creative. Opportunities to earn income through the sale of individual work, or to contribute to public art, are available.

Get info or register at:
www.piecebypiece.org or call (213) 459-1420

About making the performance

From 1988 to 1995 LAPD created around 20 performances from scratch working with homeless people in different communities: Chicago, London, San Francisco, Helena Montana—lots of places. Usually, 6 LAPD'ers would travel, and we'd recruit 6 to 10 local people to work with us, to make a performance that articulated peoples' concerns and local conditions. In 1994 LAPD traveled to Raleigh North Carolina and with people who were homeless in Raleigh, we made the performance LAPD Inspects Raleigh. At the time, a gang had just been arrested for keeping people on farms, harvesting fruits and vegetables, while being told they owed money for the meals and bunk house beds, and that they could not leave until they repaid their debt. This kind of indentured peonage is common in the history of mahogany plantations in Mexico a hundred years ago, for example. It is also illegal and has been for decades. In Raleigh the gang was recruiting homeless people from Moore Square in downtown Raleigh. They would offer people drink and drugs to get in their van and come to their farm. By the time they arrived they already owed the gang for the alcohol and drugs they'd consumed. And so, their debt servitude began. Moore Square, a central square relied on by homeless people, was in 1994 also being "revitalized", that is gentrified, and the new business owners on the square were lobbying the city to crack down on and arrest homeless people to get them out of the area. These 2 themes came together in our (fictionalized) script.



LAPD Inspects Raleigh – excerpt from the script:

SCENE: *Orville, (the boss of the forced labor ring) watches the Raleigh City Council meeting on the TV where a Moore Square restaurant owner is speaking in favor of arresting homeless people.*

Cosmo Topper, Moore Square bar and hotel owner: I would like to thank the members of the city council for allowing us the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Cosmo Topper. I run a small hotel and bar near the Moore Square Park District. I'm also the president of the Small Businessmen's Association. We're here today to urge you to keep the amendment that penalizes aggressive panhandling.

Case in point, last Tuesday, a gentleman entered my bar hotel, obviously intoxicated, I believe schizophrenic, high on some kind of illicit drug, blaspheming, copulating in the streets, came into my bar, swearing and cursing, frightening my customers. At this moment, I tried to placate the individual. Sir, sir, sir. Sir, you.

In a flashback a disruptive person enters and gets up in his face.

Cosmo: Why are you messing with the customers in here?

Disruptive Person: Well, what you got to do about it? Give me five dollars.

Cosmo's restaurant manager, John, comes up and grabs the disrupter and hustles him out the door: "You can't be doing that. You've got to go."

Disruptive Person: Get your hands off me.

Restaurant manager John: And don't ever come back."

End flashback –return to CITY COUNCIL:

Cosmo: I called the police. 47 minutes later, the policemen arrived. I informed one of the policemen that I would like to press charges. The

policeman politely informed me that it was impossible to press charges, because under the statutes, the man must be on the premises when the policemen arrive. Perhaps I should invite him in to stay in one of my rooms, introduce him to my friends, serve him a cup of coffee or something.

SCENE: Raleigh homeless person in Moore Park:

Mimosa: I had a business with a friend. Some friend, he stole all the money. I couldn't pay my rent. Next thing I know, I got kicked out, evicted? I ended up on the street. That's how it all happened. Then I heard about this Blue Van Gang. One day I was sitting in the park, chilling.

I was like, I was really sweating. I was like, honey, I'm going to make some money. They're going to pull us up in a blue van. He offered me a job working out of town in an orchard field, picking apples. I said, "How much does it pay?" Twenty-five cents a bushel. Twenty-five cents a bushel. My mind started calculating. I can make some money. I was like, if I take four bushels a minute, make a dollar a minute, I'd be making 60. He was like, okay, sounds good. I tried. It takes six hours to get to the orchard field where we're going to work at.

First thing I remember, I got out that van. I look around. There's apple trees everywhere. We're... pick all these apples. Not in my lifetime we ain't going to be able to pick them all. Then the bushel bag is larger than I had anticipated. My mind starts recalculating. Maybe two bushels a minute. Fifty cents a minute. We're picking apples. Dude hollers, "Hey, y'all got to get up in the tree and pick the apples from the top." All right, one bushel a minute. We're down there picking apples, picking apples. I'm tired. Muscles aching. Body's tired.

Other dudes just throwing apples in there. They've been doing this crap all their life. They just picking them up there. I finally get my bag out there. Get a do with my stuff and my time card. He punches one hole in my time card. I make \$1.25 the entire day. I pick five bushels. I ain't made no money. No money. No money.

SCENE - Gang in Van

Orville: I'm gonna take advantage of this whole Moore Square situation. I'm gonna go talk to a man about some business. They got enough people down here who needs to work.

They enter Cosmo Topper's bar: Cosmo is behind the bar.

Orville: (to Cosmo) Look Mo, I know you don't know me. I saw you the other day on television. That problem you was talking about? I know how to take care of things like that. I don't have no homeless problems where I'm at.

Cosmo: What are you, from Bel Aire or somewhere like that? The homeless problem's everywhere.

Orville: Yeah, it might be everywhere, but I know how to handle it. You understand? Besides that, I've seen from your business, you can use me in more ways than one. You need any type of produce?

Como: How we set on produce, John? Celery, rye, peanuts?

John: I think we're all right.

Orville: Look man, I can save you a lot of money on produce. Besides that, I'll clean up your steps for you. You know what I'm saying?



Cosmo: Dishwasher cleans up the steps every morning. No problem.

Orville: That's not what I mean, Cosmo. If you want to talk to me by yourself, I can get you interested in something.

Cosmo leads Orville to his office.

Orville: Cosmo. Cosmo, you look like you got a pretty nice business here. Now, look. I can give you some nice produce prices. You understand where I'm coming from?

Cosmo: Look, all I really need is some celery. You give me a decent deal on some celery and maybe we'll talk about it.

Orville: Look, Cosmo. You can't do a little shit with me. You got a problem. You know what I'm saying, Cosmo? I can take care of all that for you. I come down here every ten days. I bring you some produce. I take back a couple of people with me. You understand where I'm coming from? I can start with your front door first.

Cosmo: What do you mean, take back a couple of people? What are you talking about?

Orville: Man, I'll take them damn homeless people with me. I'll put them out on my farm. I'll work the hell out of them.

Cosmo: You're going to get a drug addict to work. A schizophrenic to work. An alcoholic, you're going to get to pick tomatoes. That'll be the day. You know what?

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Creators in Residence

October 16, 2022 through Summer 2024
Central Library, First Floor Galleries

For the inaugural cohort of the Creators in Residence, the Central Library has engaged two uniquely creative and thoughtful individuals: **Kwasi Boyd-Bouldin**, a photographer, and **River Garza**, an interdisciplinary visual artist. Both Creators have engaged profoundly, and meaningfully applied their unique artistic lenses to exploring LAPL's citywide network of buildings and transformative services. They have created new bodies of work that expand how we understand our libraries' history and present role. The inaugural residencies culminated in a Showcase event on October 16, 2022, and a coinciding exhibition opening in the First Floor Galleries at Central Library. The launch event featured both Creators in conversation, a printmaking workshop led by River Garza, and a signing of Kwasi Boyd-Bouldin's limited edition zines and posters. The current exhibit will be on view until summer 2023. Find out more at: <https://www.lapl.org/events/exhibits/creators-residence>



Join the Octavia Lab for free access to high-tech tools!

Octavia Butler was an award winning science fiction writer who broke new ground in a male dominated field. Her legacy lives on in Central Library's **Octavia Lab: Creativity Within Reach** which offers high tech tools for artists free of charge. Under the heading of Design Computers, Equipment, and Studio, the Lab services include 3D Printing, Laser Cutter, Epson Large Format Printer, and a Green Screen Backdrop. In the Studio are Video and Audio programs including Final Cut Pro and Garageband. The Lab is open Monday through Saturday afternoons and Staff at the front desk are there to help. Workshops are offered to help you use the large range of equipment. Go to lapl.org/labs.

Tech2go For more information, scan the QR code below.

Check Out Computer Bundles From the Library

Tech2go Computer Bundles come equipped with a Chromebook device and an internet hotspot for long-term use. Computer bundles are available to adults with a library card in good standing. All patrons must sign a Mobile Device User Agreement upon checkout at a library location.

Tech2go Computer Bundles can be checked out at any of the listed locations. To check availability and place a hold, choose your preferred pick up location from the drop down menu on this web page. Bundles must be picked up at the designated location and cannot be transferred to another branch for pickup.



The Central Library offers many free events and classes

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/3usdk728> for more information on current and future free exhibits, events, workshops and many other helpful resources at this branch.





UNITED COALITION EAST PREVENTION PROJECT

Established in 1996, United Coalition East Prevention Project is located at 804 E. 6th St. in Skid Row. We specialize in alcohol and other drug prevention and community mobilization to support a healthy and vibrant Skid Row neighborhood. We meet monthly to discuss prevention initiatives and community-driven programming at our local Skid Row parks.

UCEPP Monthly Coalition Meeting: Third Thursday of each month at 2 PM

*Zoom meeting link/ID <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87890708182> (Meeting ID 87890708182)



For more information on how to get involved and support community prevention and improvement efforts please contact:

jaerc@socialmodel.com

charlesp@socialmodel.com

Social media: @ucepp_smrs



LA CAN

The mission of **LA CAN** is to help people dealing with poverty create & discover opportunities, while serving as a vehicle to ensure they have voice, power & opinion in the decisions that are directly affecting them.

LA CAN's Arts and Culture committee features incredible artists from in and around the LA area, all of whom have a deep passion for community and social justice. Our artists are diverse, creative and represent a broad swath of arts achievement in our community! Visual and performing arts, theatre and many music genres serve as the backdrop for these amazing creations.

More info: www.cangress.org



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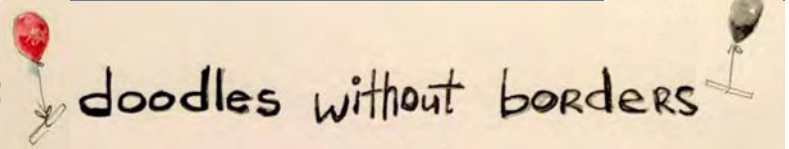
2nd Friday of
every Month
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526 San Pedro St,
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Space is limited!



THEPEOPLECONCERN

For info or reservations, e-mail:
ACorona@ThePeopleConcern.org
CManley-Martinez@ThePeopleConcern.org



doodles without borders (dwb) is committed to equitable access to arts, cultural, and social spaces as a fundamental human right and collective responsibility.

Connect with Hayk and dwb events:
doodleswithoutborders.com | [@doodleswithoutborders](https://www.instagram.com/doodleswithoutborders)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE SKIDROWARTSALLIANCE.COM

Explore a variety of inspiring programs from music to theater, visual arts and much more. Each program uses the arts to nourish wellness, community and connectivity.

Share your experience and ideas for the next Zine!
Reach us at info@skidrowartsalliance.com

Skid Row Happenings: On-going

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>1–2pm (Zoom) Music Education Lab (Urban Voices Project): Build performance skills and techniques whether you are an industry professional or a seasoned shower singer! (see p.15)</p>	<p>11am–12pm Virtual Art Inspiration (Zoom beginning mosaic workshop with Piece by Piece instructor): Register online at www.piecebypiece.org (see p.21)</p> <p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30pm–3:30pm Music Studio: 8:30am–3:30pm (1.5-hr. intervals by appt.) New artist orientation 1pm, on 2nd or 4th Tuesday (see p.9)</p> <p>2–5pm Theatre Workshops (LA Poverty Dept.) (see p.13)</p>	<p>10am–12pm Free Beginning Mosaic (Piece by Piece): Learn basic mosaic techniques and be part of this welcoming and friendly community! (see p.21)</p> <p>2pm Neighborhood Sing (Urban Voices Project): Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see p.15)</p>	<p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30pm–3:30pm Music Studio: 8:30am–3:30pm (1.5-hr. intervals by appt.) (see p.9)</p> <p>2–5pm: LAPD Exhibition—Enough is (Never) Enough, open (Thu–Sat. See p.10)</p> <p>5–6pm Culture Hour (LACAN) Join the Freedom Singers from LACAN on Facebook Live (see p.25)</p> <p>7–9pm Theatre Workshops (LA Poverty Dept., (see p.13)</p> <p>3:30–5pm (resumes 11/2) doodles without borders “How dare you!” community arts table, General Jeff (Gladys) Park (see ad below)</p>	<p>11am Family Sing (Urban Voices Project): A class that encourages families and pre-school children to explore the world of music. (see p.15)</p> <p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30pm– 3:30pm Music Studio: 8:30am–3:30pm (1.5- hr. intervals by appt.) (see p.9)</p> <p>1–2pm (Zoom) Music Wellness Lab (Urban Voices Project): Practical ways to use music to create change in the mind and body. (see p.15)</p>
				<p>MONTHLY FRIDAY EVENTS</p>
				<p>2–3pm (4th Friday) World Dance Workshop, Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see ad below)</p> <p>5 pm–7 pm (2nd Friday) Studio 526 Art Jam: Open Mic, Music and Art (see p.8)</p> <p>Monthly at LA Poverty Dept. (see p.13):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Thursday, 10:30am–Noon Creative Writing workshop • 1st & 3rd Fridays, 7–9pm Free Movie Nights at the Museum • Last Friday: 5–7:30pm Open Mic with Lorinda



JOIN US!

- OCT 1:** Crossroads Concert (p. 17)
- OCT 6:** Movie Night at the Museum—Liquor Store Dreams (p. 13)
- OCT 28 & 29:** Festival For All Skid Row Artists (p. 11)
- DEC. 10:** Re/Sound Festival: A Community-Wide Celebration & Resource Fair (p. 18)
- DEC. 16:** A Holiday Called Home & Christmas Caroling Crawl (p. 14)

LOS ANGELES CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTERS

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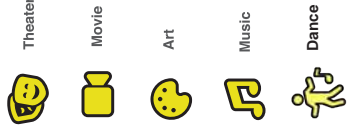
WITH INSTRUCTOR AUBRE HILL

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OPEN TO STAFF, PATIENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Skid Row is a dynamic and powerful arts community. Anywhere on the streets of Skid Row, creativity is happening. This map will show you where to untap the artist inside you.

SKID ROW ARTS MAP



- 1** **Skid Row History Museum & Archive and Los Angeles Poverty Department**
Monthly Open Mics and Movie Nights, Exhibitions and Forums
250 S. Broadway | 213-413-1077
www.lapovertydept.org
- 2** **Central City Community Church of the Nazarene**
419 E. 6th St. | 213-689-1766
- 3** **The Midnight Mission**
419 E. 6th St. | 213-689-1766
- 4** **Studio 526 (Art & Music studio)**
419 E. 6th St. | 213-689-1766
- 5** **Urban Voices Project**
419 E. 6th St. | 213-689-1766
www.urbanvoicesproject.org
- 6** **"Movies in the Park" and "Drumming in the Park"**
 - **San Julian Park**
312 E. 5th St. (5th & San Julian)
 - **General Jeff Memorial Park** (formerly Gladys Park)
808 E. 6th St. (6th & Gladys)
- 7** **Joshua House Clinic**
UVP Singalong, World Dance Workshops
325 E. 7th St, Los Angeles
- 8** **Piece by Piece**
Call for address: 323-963-3372
www.piecebypiece.org



Refresh Spot Bus Stops Metro Station Landmarks

Designed and Produced by Sebin Song and Xivi Huang of the USC Roski School of Art and Design. Supported by USC Arts in Action, part of USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative.