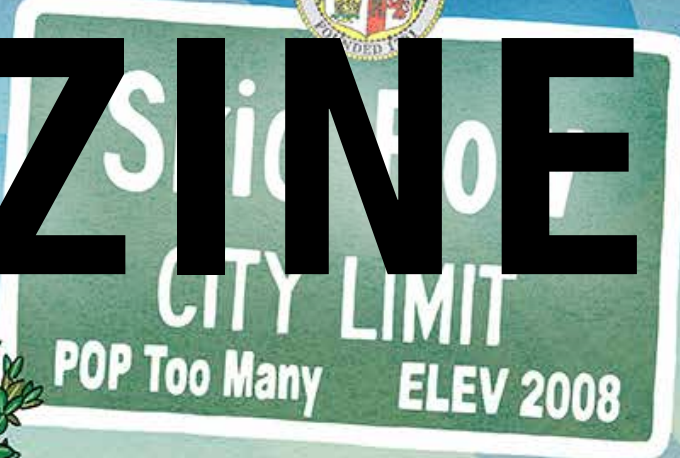




# ARTS ZINE



Art by Audrey Chan for Little Tokyo/Arts District Metro Station



Skid Row Community Represented in Metro E Line Little Tokyo/Arts District Station p.9

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# 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](http://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



WORD FROM A SKID ROW ARTIST

# NATOSHA SMITH



**2023 has been and continues to be a busy and productive year for multi-disciplinary artist and activist Natosha Smith.**

On staff with LACAN, focusing on the Downtown Women's Action Coalition and singing with the Freedom Singers, Natosha has lived in a tent, with Project RoomKey, and anticipates a more stable and user-friendly living situation she can call home in the near future.

With her "Mural Mentor" Crushow Herring, Natosha is part of his team painting murals in Skid Row and throughout Los Angeles.

This past April, Natosha performed spoken word at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Skid Row/Little Tokyo Affordable Housing complex on the former Umeya property on Crocker Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Street.

She is excited about doing a fashion show this October at the Festival For All Skid Row Artists with live models (as opposed to her painted mannequins above).

Her biggest creative expression on the horizon is a 20-minute One Woman Show that is two-thirds finished. She will perform the show as part of an exhibition of her Visual Art works. Stay tuned for dates and location!



## Natosha Smith performs in Los Angeles Poverty Department's "I Fly!—Or How to Keep the Devil Down in the Hole" at REDCAT, 2019

"Hello everyone. These mannequins are my art. One day not so long ago, I was sitting on a street corner curb crying, looking at the remains of my mannequins that I had been working on for months. They were crushed by a car that was hit by a bus and ping-ponged into my storage tent. I sat looking at them, crying with a black eye and the busted lip I received from the so-called 'love of my life' at the time, feeling like nobody, like a failure. Then some people approached me in awe of my work and telling me how beautiful I was. And I saw that my mannequins were still beautiful, in spite of the damage that had been done, just like me. I felt restored, I saw hope. I was reset.

I wrote a poem for them, it goes like this:

Are my eyelashes long enough?  
Does my butt look fat in these jeans?  
My feet hurt but my red bottoms are banging  
My head is hot, my hair is in knots—But my lace front on  
Sweat running down my face like rain.  
Good thing I used the good give so I don't disturb my front lace.  
It's my turn in the rat race  
Too many rats here—I disappear into the crowd—the clone crowds

My god—my tears—who cares  
Do you have a dollar? Do you have a clue? Do you know the rent is due?  
Hallelujah—Holla' Berry—Holla if you hear me  
Oh me, Oh my oh Henry—Oh hell—Hello—Hell is love  
A low down dirty shame  
Little wayne—major pain—I can't stand the rain  
But I wanna go outside—Inside out Jack in the Box  
I've had enough.  
Can somebody please call Kurtis to blow this shit up?

Too tough turns gay  
Too macho is a macho—macho—man  
You might as well join the Village People. At least that way I will survive.

Step back—the man woman hater  
Beat her—Slap her—Throw her in the dirt—2 rib shots because it hurts  
depreciation value—self-worth down by 2

Can somebody please call the zoo and report a traumatic mix up?  
It seems the animals are roaming free and the people are in cages.  
Manipulated arrangements.  
Invasion of the body snatchers has taken my funky town and turned it  
into a little shop of horrors. It's torture—raw like saw—the caged math  
Boys in the hood versus the Walking Dead.  
Can someone please help me escape from Alcatraz!?"

*Band starts playing "Beautiful" by Mariah Carey.*

"I want to say to everyone who has been through tragedy, or lost someone to the hands of another, I say: try tenderness. Don't hurt them like they hurt you. And if you have been a victim: hold your head up, because you are beautiful."

*Natosha and mannequins leave the stage and walk into the audience.*



WORD FROM A SKID ROW ARTIST

# RAY LEWIS

Ase Ashe Drummers from the Heart



### *What was your life like before drumming?*

Life before drumming in 2010, I was labeled chronically homeless and suffering from addiction, and going from in and out to prison.

### *How did you originally hear about and get involved with Street Symphony?*

I first got involved with Street Symphony in 2011. I was a lead organizer with Dignity and Power Now. I commented at many Board of Supervisors meetings on Stop Mass Incarceration movements, organized rallies, as well as helped create and construct the 'Civilian Oversight Committee' which tracks and monitors complaints from the Los Angeles Sheriff Department. At this time, Dignity and Power had a fundraiser where the top donor would be awarded dinner with the three lead organizers with Dignity and Power Now. Vijay was the top donor and I was one of the lead organizers, so we met and had dinner.

### *Where did you learn drumming?*

I learned drumming in 2000 when I was homeless in Venice Beach. A Master Drummer allowed for me to work for him and sell his products and practice drumming. At this time I transitioned or would I say relocated to Skid Row; this is where I started drumming on the street and Mark Anthony from *Dignity and Power Now* asked me to join the organization.

### *How has the concept of "Music as Medicine" been realized in your life?*

Drumming kept me sober by connecting me to a part of me that I had not yet discovered. As much as drumming helped me to stay sober, street drumming also provided me with money for my addiction until 2010 when I decided to clean my act up and become housed in Skid Row Housing Trust, in the Carver apartments.

### *Djembe 4 Healing*



### *Djembe 2 Feel Good*

### *What are some projects that you're working on now and excited to share with the Skid Row community this year?*

I am presently working with Thaddeus. He's producing a play, "Because It's Sunny in L.A. (Especially on Skid Row)" [more info here: <https://www.becauseitssunny.com/>]. The play is an experience that everyone should go and see. I met Thaddeus when we were doing the play "Keep the Devil in the Hole" at the Redcat Theater with the Los Angeles Poverty Department. I will also be performing with the *Ase Ashe Dancers and Drummers from the Heart* at San Julian Park on Thursday, July 13th from 2-3 PM."

## Poems by Ray Lewis

### *Cosmic You*

I am cosmic conscious Starlight  
shining bright to walk the multi-verse  
through all time  
with a cosmic knowing leading me to see  
the stars are lying in the endless sky  
I feel the energy, as it passes by.  
I am part of something greater  
a great cosmic being, a cosmic creator  
I am the light that shines within  
guiding me on my journey  
to begin.  
I am cosmic conscious Starlight  
shining bright, a beacon of hope  
in the darkness of night, I am the energy that pulsates within  
Guiding me, to where I began, to transcend.



### *The Djembe Drum from West Africa*

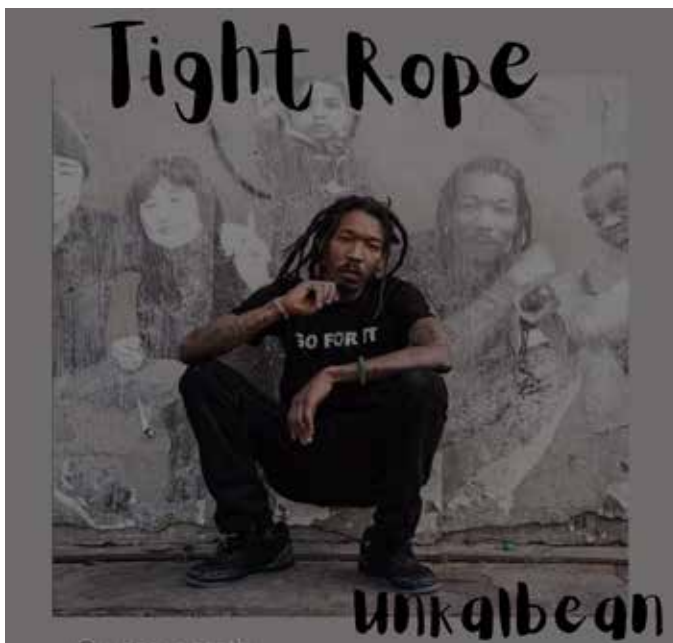
Its Rhythm beats from the Heart of the Nation  
A symbol of unity and celebration  
With every strike you hear a new sensation  
The drum skin stretched tight and right  
waiting for the hand to strike  
Combining animal skin wood and human  
into a sound that can never be tamed  
its beats echoes through all planes  
a call to come dance and sing  
Every strike brings people to stand  
ready to take a chance  
in creating a new land  
The Djembe Drum speaks a language that transcends  
words space and time  
with every beat a story is scribed  
in a new rhyme that will forever shine  
The Djembe Drum of West Africa  
a symbol of a people's pride  
with every strike we come together  
and in the rhythm, we reside.

# Accept, Adapt, and Adjust by Unkal Bean

We are born into a systemic way of living and thinking. We did not create the language in which we speak. Therefore how we define ourselves is based on someone else's definition. Regardless of our ethnicity, we all come from a long tradition of programming that we accept, adapt, and adjust. May we strengthen ourselves to set new mediums or directions and restructure/reprogram ourselves for innovation, self-sufficiency, and strength. Abuse and complacency are the two biggest distractions. Be focused on self, family, and community.

How you fight every day through the turmoil  
first law of nature  
is self preservation  
you must survive  
difficult decisions are made  
sacrifices are made  
in order to provide  
those are your responsibilities

with everyone's self that which we seek as far as the vanities  
they all lose value after you make the purchase  
and the responsibilities become maintenance  
what you have has upkeep.  
So a never ending cycle  
certain things put into place to keep people in place  
we all are born into it  
must accept it  
it's a program



you can fight the program  
but we still having to comply  
accept it, adapt to it, adjust to it  
we all end up doing it

we find ourselves compromising  
beyond our wildest dreams or inner beliefs  
decisions we have made  
that which we have witnessed over the years  
In growing times

Remembering the traditions  
that which has been passed down to new events  
introduction to new environments, new behaviors, new dialect  
adopting

individual view outside of your home  
wanting to be a part of  
try new things for acceptance  
making sure that I can be the influence  
or master manipulator  
Keeping my ears open and one open ears  
The environment Is deciding

What life I have to live  
a witness by vision  
Only can see the truth  
And even one who was blind  
Maybe can feel it before you  
That which is inherited

through lineage  
we embrace so much  
we adapt and adopt  
which is passed down to us

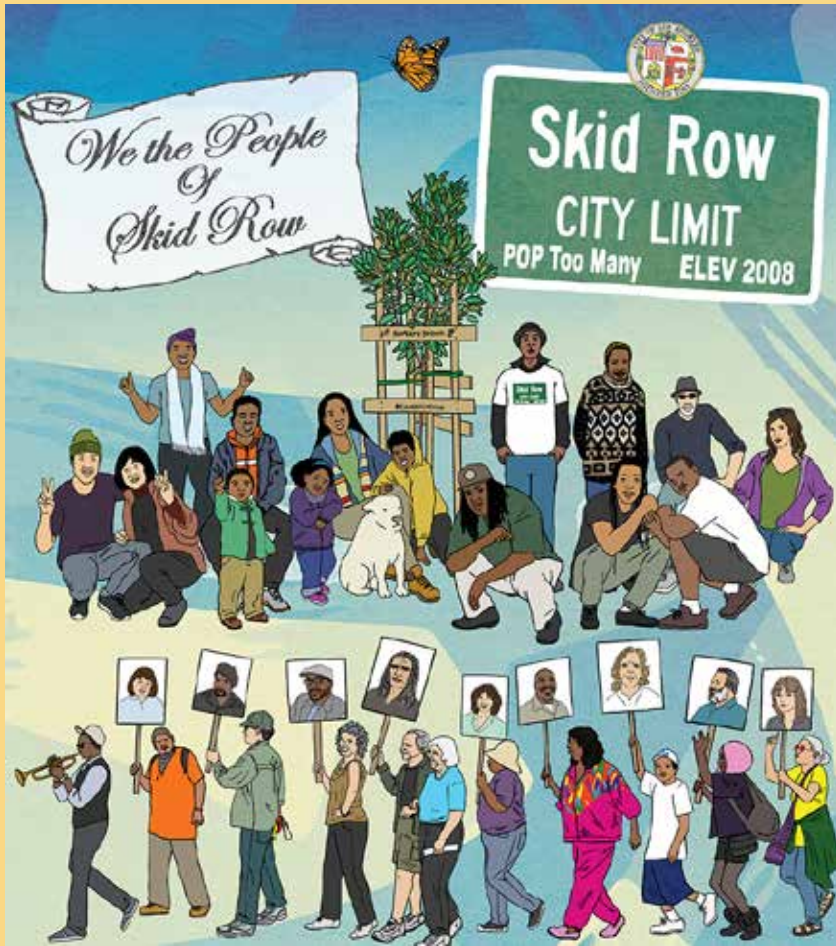
may we not pass down poison  
changing our lives, restructuring our lives  
change the lives of people around us  
by giving the insight any information  
that we might not pass down poison  
that we will not continue the same process  
of how we fight and protest

That we educate  
All masses of people  
unifying neighborhoods kindly  
unifying nationalities kindly  
unifying nations kindly

[unkalbeanentertainment.com](http://unkalbeanentertainment.com) | [@unkalbean](https://twitter.com/unkalbean)



# LA Metro E Line's Little Tokyo/Arts District Station Public Art Celebrates Skid Row Community



The Little Tokyo/Arts District Station along the LA Metro E line held a soft opening on Friday, June 16th for the new murals created by California artist Audrey Chan titled, Will Power Allegory. “The 14 colorful panels [of this project] feature fluid vignettes of people and symbols from L.A.’s Little Tokyo, Arts District, Skid Row, Bronzeville and Gabrielino/Tongva Tribe.”\*

General Jeff asked LA Poverty Department to work with Audrey Chan to design the Metro Mural Panel of the Skid Row Community.

We wanted to show the history of Skid Row and showed the Walk The Talk parade, honoring some of the famous OG’s who build community in Skid Row. Following is the detailed description of the Walk the Talk line (left-right):

- Courtney D. Jones from Paradigm Brass on trumpet
- LA CAN member holding the portrait of Alice Callaghan, founder of Las Familias del Pueblo and Skid Row Housing Trust
- John Malpede (LA Poverty Department) holding the portrait of Harry Rodgers, HOP member and Skid Row activist of the first hour
- Henriëtte Brouwers (LA Poverty Department) holding the portrait of Kevin Michael Key— what more do I need to say?
- Jeff Dietrich and Catherine Morris (LA Catholic Worker) holding the portrait of Robert Sundance, who sued the City and won the famous Sundance Case in which Judge Hupp made it illegal to arrest people for being drunk in public.
- Linda Harris (LA Poverty Department member) holding the portrait of Tanya Tull
- Celestine Williams (LA Poverty Department member) holding the portrait of Officer Rich at the DPSS office—who looked out for Skid Row residents
- Tone Tone Taylor (LA Poverty Department member) holding the portrait of Mollie Lowery, founder of Lamp, now the People Concern
- Michelle (?) (Skid Row resident) holding the portrait of Andy Raubeson, the first director of SRO Housing, Inc.
- Debra Winski (LA Poverty Department member) holding the portrait of Nancy Mintie, founder of Inner City Law Center



\*source: <https://art.metro.net/location/e-line/little-tokyo-arts-district-station-e/>

# COSMOLOGY & COMMUNITY: Networks of Liberation

Skid Row History Museum & Archive

February 18 through September 2, Open: Thu-Sat 2-5 pm

Exhibition centers on the work of Community Curator Charles Porter in collaboration with curatorial staff of Skid Row History Museum & Archive and murals created by Dimitri Kadiev, Joshua Grace, and Ellie Sanchez.

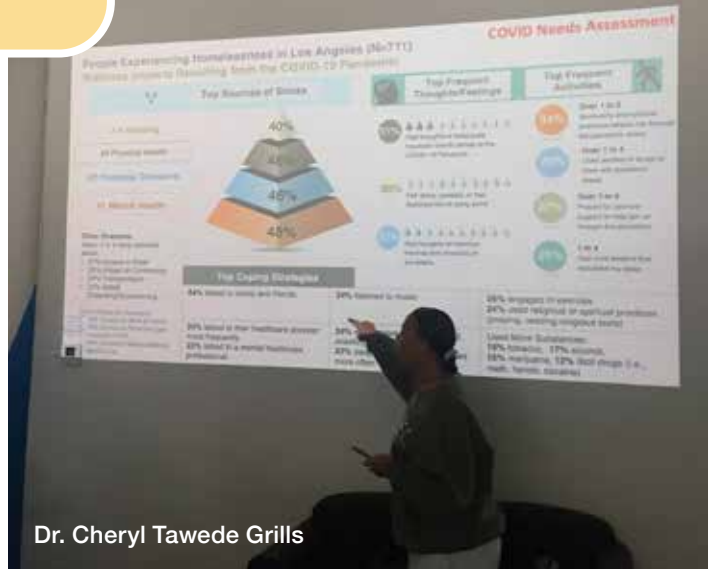
Charles Porter is Project Coordinator for United Coalition East Prevention Project [UCEPP], a community-based drug prevention program in downtown Los Angeles. A hallmark of Charles' work is the use of music, poetry, and the cultural heritage of the African diaspora to engage, educate and mobilize Skid Row community members.



Original poetry on the gallery walls, narrating the components of the exhibition were written by Charles. Five stations document a part of his life and work, and has video, audio, and a notebook of historical and contemporary documents.



Systemic Change in Action: (L-R) Charles Porter, Mary Lee, Lorraine Morland, Dr. Cheryl Tawede Grills



Dr. Cheryl Tawede Grills



Drawing by Hayk Makhmuryan



**On July 7, 7pm, we will focus on Station 4** and screen the movie of UCEPP's Oral History Project followed by a conversation with Skid Row's youth who took part in their program and gave their input in a report that UCEPP published in 2006:

### **Children Left Behind: The Plight of Homeless Students—Their Struggle to Achieve**

In 2003, UCEPP began working with young people eager for the opportunity to change their living circumstances. With the clarity of young minds, these youth chose the name "Youth Coalition X" (with X representing the unknown) to reflect their uncertain future in our community.

UCEPP and the youth of Skid Row gathered data that conveyed their attitudes and experiences as homeless youth. The Toxic Playground Report, released in November 2005, summarizes key findings and shows that these youth are not runaways. The majority of them live with their parents and attend school. Most have resisted drug use and other negative factors so commonplace in our community.

Relocating these vulnerable youth from our community to shelters in remote areas or separating them from their families and placing them in foster care will not salvage their lives. Experience has shown that long-term strategies together with community-based solutions that engage and connect families to needed resources can prevent youth from falling through the cracks.

*Most of the time, i feel i don't got nothing. the president and the congress passed the no child left behind act but they didn't just leave us behind, they hid us, and they're acting like they don't see us.*

—Franklin Arburtha, 14, a resident of skid row



Systemic policy failures, not student shortcomings, have restricted access to education by impoverished students, particularly students of color. Homeless children without supplies and uniforms become socially segregated and experience a lack of acceptance that eventually results in academic failure.

*It's hard to be motivated about school when you live on skid row. You look around and you think, what's the point of trying to do better? there are plenty of people who did go to school and had jobs and they ended up there. i can go to school, go to college and the same thing could happen to me, i could end up here again.*

—Roshawn Cornett, 18, a resident of skid row

### **Homeless Students' Experience within LAUSD**

This document attempts to convey a first-hand account of homeless students' treatment by the Los Angeles Unified School District ("LAUSD"). Shamefully, it was the homeless youth themselves who brought the inequities of their education to the forefront and began public debate on this issue. Their work was the impetus for the LAUSD's "Access for All Resolution," which earmarked monies for additional staff to assist with the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance Act. Ultimately LAUSD created a City-wide office, protocols, and resources to assist homeless youth.

# Also happening at the Museum

## SKID ROW HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



**PERFORMANCE: *Resilience*, Saturday, July 8, 2pm** (See info on next page)

### EXHIBITIONS

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 2-5pm

#### BLUE BOOK – GREEN PAPER

In 1976, community activists presented the Blue Book and laid out a plan to save the housing in Skid Row ---and to protect it from development. Now, there's a sequel to the Blue Book Plan: the Green Paper. Come see the Blue Book come to life and get yourself a copy of the Green Paper.



<https://www.lapovertydept.org/blue-book-green-paper/>

#### THE WORLD RESPONDS TO THE WALK THE TALK ARCHIVE

Walk the Talk honors people who've lived and worked in Skid Row and whose contributions to the neighborhood have made it a place for solving the problems that other people have given up on. Artists, scholars and others generated video responses that share what they've learned from engaging with the words and ideas of the 76 people celebrated on the website.



#### 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

#### 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 Hayk

And guest co-host Silkiie  
Last Friday of the month from 5-7:30pm  
A Skid Row Neighborhood party  
Snacks - Coffee - Birthdays - Collaboration  
- Reconnections - Celebration - Open Mic



**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](mailto: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](http://www.lapovertydept.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lapovertydepartment](https://www.facebook.com/lapovertydepartment)  
[www.facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum](https://www.facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum)

**Festival for All Skid Row Artists: October 28 & 29,**  
General Jeff Park (formerly Glaydys Park)

# Resilience

Saturday, July 8 at 2pm  
At Skid Row History Museum & Archive

Come see 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.



RESILIENCE performed at Heal, Hear, Here at the LA Historic park, May 20, 2023

# Summer Movies

All film screenings are at 7pm @ Skid Row History Museum & Archive

## July 7: *Skid Row Youth*

(Info on page 11)

**Q&A** with Charles Porter and grown-up Skid Row youth Adelene Bertha and D.C.

## July 21: *Manzanar, Diverted—When Water Becomes Dust*

Directed by Ann Kaneko  
Run time: 60 min.

Three communities share histories of forced removal—Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at the Manzanar WWII concentration camp, Native Americans who were forced from these lands, and ranchers turned environmentalists. How do they come together in the present moment to defend their land and water from Los Angeles?

## August 4: *Riotville, USA*

Directed by Sierra Pettengill  
Run time: 1:31min.

**Q&A** with Stop LAPD Spying Coalition  
Riotville, a fictional town built by the US military. Using all archival footage, the film explores the militarization of the police and creates a counter-narrative to the nation’s reaction to the uprisings of the late ‘60s.

## August 18: *Reimagining Safety*

Directed by Matthew Solomon  
Run time: 83 min.

**Q&A** with director Matthew Solomon



Film still from *Reimagining Safety*

Worldwide protests following the 2020 murder of George Floyd included calls to defund or abolish the police. In this film 10 experts discuss how policing, and incarceration create more harm than good, why the system persists, and what changes can be made to make everyone safe..

## September 1: *Chasing Coral*

Directed by Jeff Orlowski  
Run time: 93 min.

A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why corals are vanishing at an unprecedented rate.

## September 15: *Healing Justice*

Directed by Shakti Butler  
Run time: 1:07min.

“Healing Justice” explores the causes and consequences of the current North American justice system and its effect on marginalized communities. It addresses the school-to-prison pipeline, the need for comprehensive criminal justice reform, and the importance of healing and restorative practices.

## October 6: *Liquor Store Dreams* (featuring Danny Park and the Skid Row Peoples Market)

Directed by So Yun Um  
Run time: 60 min.

**Q&A** with Danny Park

Liquor store dreams is an intimate portrait of two Korean American children of liquor store owners who set out to bridge generational divides with their immigrant parents in Los Angeles.



Film still from *Liquor Store Dreams*

# UPDATE: Skid Row Now & 2040

After several years of hard and focused work, Mayor Karen Bass on May 8th signed off on DTLA 2040 - the now updated Downtown Community Plan (serious Skid Row high five action).

HOWEVER, last minute changes to the Plan happened at City Council and we are very unhappy with the process and currently figuring out how unhappy we are with the content.

**The Ix1 zone**—also called the affordable housing only zone – has now become an 80% affordable and 20% market rate housing zone. We expect that it still means that no market rate housing will be built there.

City Planning has been told to “report back” in sixty days to City Council on how these last-minute changes fit with everything else. That’s what is on the horizon.

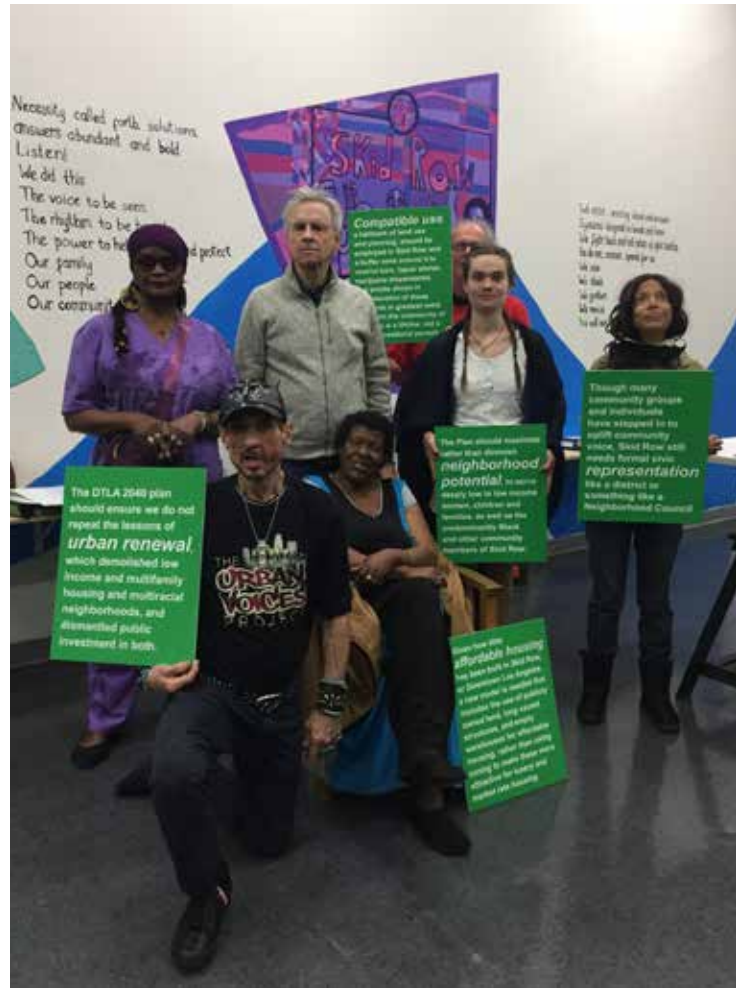
CD14 proposed amendments that make it possible to build pet stores and beauty salons in the Ix1 zone. It’s important that Skid Rowdians monitor the process.

In the meantime, two Talking Points are still talking...

- Establish a Skid Row district council for self-representation by residents (housed and unhoused) and workers within the historical Skid Row boundaries.
- Advocate for elements of DTLA 2040 that foster a healthy and sustainable Skid Row neighborhood.

## Haven't read the Green Paper yet?

Go to the SRN&2040 page on our website or get your hard copy at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive.



# Peace & Healing Center Opens to Serve the Skid Row Community

Operated by Creating Justice Los Angeles



On May 26th, 2023, the NEW Peace and Healing Center opened on E. 5th St near Los Angeles. The Center brings together many local organizations committed to our community and “the move of LOVE on skid row.” The Center is home to the Hip Hop Smoothie Shop, a co-op venture started by Creating Justice LA, and Skid Row Coffee, a delicious staple in the skid row activism community. Additionally, they are partnering with incredible black and AAPI led organizations: Polos Pantry, Eayikes, The Row LA-The Church Without Walls, and Skid Row People’s Market to provide a wide breadth of services including:

- Venue for all arts disciplines that will be shepherded and curated by Development and Artistic Director (and Minister of Music at the Row), Kayo.
- Free and low cost food options for community.
- Music classes, a community based recovery choir and band, art classes and an artistic fellowship.
- A wide but focused range of programming featuring a variety of healing practices including Reiki and Yoga, economic and environmental healing, innovative entrepreneurship opportunities and more.

This is one of nine Peace and Healing Centers in Los Angeles through the Los Angeles Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Equity Department.

Visit the Peace & Healing Center at:  
116 E 5th St, Los Angeles, 9 am–1 pm daily  
Follow CJLA on Instagram: @CreatingJusticeLA

Partnering organizations



# The C'mon Sing! Summer Series is here!



## Announcing “C'mon Sing”: The Ultimate Summer Series Event!

Get ready to unleash your inner artist and join us for an unforgettable musical extravaganza! Join us on Friday, July 16, 11am-2pm for the second part of our 3-part Summer Series event. Open mics will be organized by Skid Row's community of talented artists and in partnership with Urban Voices Project.

If you missed our July date, please save the date for our culminating event of our summer series, August 27th.

For this culmination, teams made up of Skid Row musicians and community partners will assemble half a dozen different musical pods strategically placed in high foot-traffic public spaces in each neighborhood in downtown LA, lifting participants up through soulful music. We'll be joined by many other choirs of our greater community including the Los Angeles Master Chorale!

“The C'mon, Sing! Festival will help bridge communities and build solidarity through the healing power of music,” says Bibi Rosalia, choir member and UVP board member. The opportunity to take their voices and songs beyond Skid Row to other downtown neighborhoods with a different socio-economic makeup will ignite the healing power of music in neighbors and residents, whether they are housed or unhoused, organizers believe.

Whether you consider yourself a great singer or simply someone who enjoys music, “C'mon Sing” welcomes everyone, regardless of your singing skills. This is the perfect platform for you to express yourself, find your voice, embrace the magic of singing, and experience the incredible sense of empowerment that music brings!

Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for future dates as we continue to bring you the transformative experience of “C'mon Sing” throughout the summer! Together, we'll create a space where everyone is embraced, encouraged, and empowered to find their unique voice and share it with the world.

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering or being a musician for these events! Email us at [info@urbanvoicesproject.org](mailto:info@urbanvoicesproject.org) with the subject: C'mon Sing!

Let's fill the streets of Skid Row with songs that uplift our spirits and remind us of the resilience and strength within our community. Help us spread the word! Invite your friends and neighbors, and let's make this a celebration of community, healing, and the pure joy of music. We can't wait to see you there!







## UVP *Song of the Season*

Introducing, Urban Voices Project's song of the month! This season, the UVP choir members have been practicing the song, "**This is Me**" from *The Greatest Showman*. This song speaks of the importance of standing up for yourself, being proud of who you are, accepting all of yourself and insecurities.

To listen to this song, go to:-->  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw>



Sing along with the choir at our next **Neighborhood Sing on Wednesdays** at 2pm! Go to <https://urbanvoicesproject.org/programs/neighborhood-sing> for more information.



## UVP *Wellness Exercise*

### *The Butterfly Hug*



Are you feeling the effects of increased anxiety and stress? Here's a very beneficial and simple exercise you can do right now to help: the Butterfly Hug.

1. Cross your hands across your chest, with your middle fingers resting on your collarbones
2. Raise your elbows to create your butterfly wings
3. Slowly tap hands on your chest, alternating left and right
4. While tapping, breathe in through your nose and exhale through your nose until you start to feel some relief.

**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](http://www.urbanvoicesproject.org)  
 Follow us: @urbanvoicesproject  
 info@urbanvoicesproject.org

# A Look Back at our Silver Star Mosaic Project...



**Piece by Piece** created a unique project for veterans' housing on Western Blvd. in South Los Angeles called the Silver Star several years back.

The 10-foot by 20-foot modular project was inspired by the namesake of the building, the Silver Star, which is the third highest honor for valor in combat. The journey a veteran takes is often abstract, leading in different directions with a gamut of emotions and experiences, often jarring and leaving a lifelong impact. Not every path is clear, not every direction defined.

The design chosen alludes to the complexities of maneuvering both in the combat field and in the efforts to return to a sense of normalcy. Their

acts of valor—in any form -- are acknowledged in this piece through the vibrancy of colorful tile. The basic geometric shapes reveal the outlines of a star, encouraging the viewer to look deeper, and appreciate the bravery and courage of veterans. Residents of the Silver Star also worked on the project.

We are grateful to those who have served in the military in any capacity. Piece by Piece supports a number of veteran artists within our program. Many find that creativity helps in the healing process and provides a way to process individual thoughts and emotions. At Piece by Piece, everyone is welcome, no matter your level of artistic experience or status.

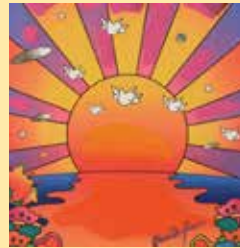
# PxP artists and their favorite inspirational artists



## Renae

**Lisa Frank** ...Her work is vivid, colorful and loves animals, like me.

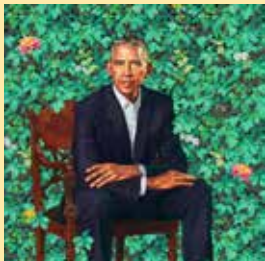
*...Su trabajo es vívido, colorido y ama a los animales, como yo.*



## James

**Peter Max** ...The flow of his work is inspirational

*...El flujo de su trabajo es inspirador.*



## Vicki

**Kehinde Wiley** ...He had designed his pieces in a way that was very mosaic-like. I was thinking about how to design mosaics in the way he designed his portraits after visiting his gallery.

*...Había diseñado sus piezas de una manera muy parecida a un mosaico. Estaba pensando en cómo diseñar mosaicos en la forma en que él diseñaba sus retratos después de visitar su galería.*



## June

**Ai Wei Wei** ...Thinking about his materials and historical references are interesting and inspiring.

*...Pensar en sus materiales y referencias históricas es interesante e inspirador.*



## Cliff

**Pablo Picasso and Jim Steranko** (cover artist of Captain America comic books)

...I love the way their style is and how their style changed as their careers and themselves changed.

*...Me encanta cómo es su estilo y cómo cambió su estilo a medida que cambiaron sus carreras y ellos mismos.*



## Kim

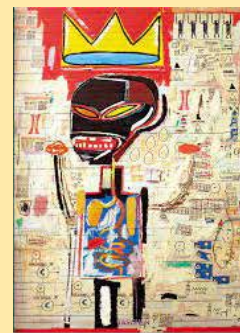
**Andy Warhol** ...I like his colors and ideas

*...me gustan sus colores e ideas*

**Jean-Michel Basquiat**

...His art was out there and inspiring. He made art look cool.

*...Su arte estaba ahí fuera y era inspirador. Hizo que el arte se viera genial.*



## Jose

**Vincent Van Gogh** ...The first artist who inspires me is Vicente Van Gogh because his colors are very striking and his brushstrokes are very harmonious.

*...El primer artista que me inspira es Vicente Van Gogh porque sus colores son muy llamativos y sus pinceladas tienen mucha armonía.*

**Vassily Kandinsky** ...The second is Kandinsky for his way of working with geometric shapes that inspire me in my own art to play and create a diversity of shapes, textures and implement other materials such as wire or metals.

*...El segundo es Kandinsky por su manera de trabajar las formas geométricas que me inspiran en mi propio arte a jugar y crear una diversidad de formas, texturas e implementar otros materiales como alambre o metals*



## 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](http://www.piecebypiece.org)  
Or call (213) 459-1420



## On-going programs throughout the community

Check our website and social media for specific information and join us!

### Drumming in the Parks

Drumming events build community connections. Cultural exchange drives individuals to feel a sense of belonging and a connection with themselves. Public, accessible events like these *Rhythm at the Refresh* are the roots



for building relationships, establishing comrade that flourishes with community growth. Vibrations are the catalyst which brings people together.

#### Drumming in the Park: July 13, 2pm, San Julian Park

“The rhythms of the drum are the heartbeat and universal language we speak to become one.”

– Raymond Lewis, Ase Ashe Drummers

### Block Party

Presented Annually since 2019, Street Symphony has partnered with The Midnight Mission to host its “Block Party”, an open air music festival presented in the heart of Skid Row. “Block Party” features a festival line-up of professional Los Angeles based ensembles, as well as Skid Row community artists, and features a diverse range of musical traditions, from Mariachi, Reggae, Rock and Roll, Afro-Cuban, Traditional West African Drumming, Jazz, and Classical. In addition to the musical performances, “Block Party” includes a lunch service for around 2000 individuals, and hosts Skid Row community provider and arts agency pop ups.



### Crossroads Concert Series

Street Symphony is excited to welcome you to our 2023 Public Concert series featuring performances by a master chorale of musicians. These performances are originally performed within the Skid Row Community and now we are bringing them to you. These unique nights of music bring timeless classical pieces to the public after being informed and transformed by playing the same pieces in the Skid Row Community. It is a chance to not only hear the music, but to be part of a deeper understanding and listening experience.

Next Crossroads Concerts will be in the Fall. Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated.

### The Messiah Project in December

Since 2015, Street Symphony has partnered with The Midnight Mission to host its annual “Messiah Project,” a celebration of the resilience and stories of the Skid Row community. Centered around Handel’s beloved Messiah, The Messiah Project reflects and honors the history of the Messiah as a work of resilience. Handel’s Messiah was 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.

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.

[www.streetsymphony.org](http://www.streetsymphony.org)  
Follow us: @streetsymph  
Email: [info@streetsymphony.org](mailto:info@streetsymphony.org)

# Skid Row Cooling Resources

As a result of ongoing advocacy to provide temporary cooling stations throughout the Skid Row community, the City has funded and set up several Cooling Resource stations with tented seating areas, water, some snacks, and periodic misting during the hot summer months since 2021.

Thanks to the support of Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles (HHLA), Creative I, an arts advocacy group, hosted an art station at the Cooling Station across from the Refresh Spot. Patrons of the Cooling Station were invited to make signs about the Cooling Stations and the Refresh Spot to post throughout the neighborhood. Other art activities offered included decorating wooden fans to keep as their own personal cooling resource.

In late June, *Summer Pop Up Exhibit—Art and Advocacy* was held at Skid Row History Museum and Archive, from Wednesday June 28 to Saturday, July 1, to showcase some of the community signs and fans that were created at art stations from 2021-2022.

Advocacy began this past February to expand the summer services for Skid Row Cooling Resources 2023.



“Call Home” was based on the premise, which I’d (John M) come upon as a statistic that most homeless people had not spoken to a family member or loved one in over a year. As part of building the show, and as part of our recruiting process, we put a phone and phone booth out on San Pedro Street in front of Inner-City Law Center, (ICLC) where we rehearsed and offered free phone calls—



anywhere in the world—to anyone passing by who wanted to call a loved one. Nancy Mintie, Director of ICLC, picked up the tab for the phone calls. This was a fantastic event in its own right and engendered a lot of good will and just plain happiness in the neighborhood. Calls were confidential, we made no effort to find out the content of anyone’s call. Sometimes people felt like sharing what had happened with their phone call, just because they wanted to. During this period (Fall, ‘91) we began working on the show “Call Home”.

The show dealt with peoples’ relationship, to family and loved ones and in developing the show we spent a lot of time doing visualizations and playing as children, to evoke memories, feelings and further memories. However, at the time there were two very serious situations involving people in our group, loved ones in the LAPD, and we were preoccupied with dealing with these situations, emotionally and practically. Tragically, group member Lyn Tars, was found dead in her Skid Row hotel room. We spent the months of September and October trying to find out the circumstances of her death, (which were slowly revealed to us), and attempting to take responsibility for putting her body to rest (which we were frustrated in doing because we were not family members). A second serious situation existed in the group: Michael Lee was a witness for the prosecution in a murder trial. The victim was a woman who’d lived in the room next to his in another downtown hotel. Michael was terrified that the defendant’s homies would come looking for him, to kill him. At the same time the public defender in the case had resorted to calling other people in LAPD, me included,

looking for someone who would say Michael was mental, in order to discredit his testimony. When I spoke with the public defender, I just kept repeating that, when Michael told me about having seen the murder, he was very upset, and I believed him. This was not what the P.D. wanted to hear.

Michael’s situation,

Lyn’s death, as well as the childhood memories all, became the themes and multiple story lines of the show, which also included a live call home during the show. An emergent theme of the show was the veracity of memory, in both legal and personal contexts. At the opening of the show, most members of the cast are on stage playing with can-and-string telephones. One of the can telephones rings and on the other end of the phone from the “playing child” is the Public Defender, who proceeds to ask, “Do you know Michael Lee? Is he given to exaggeration, fantasy, and distortion of the truth?” For most of the show a courtroom is convened. The characters in the courtroom drama (the defense lawyer and the defendant), periodically step forward, as themselves— i.e., as LAPD members, to deliver monologs about their emotional reactions to Lyn’s death and successive revelations about its circumstances. Throughout a woman’s body lying on the floor, in the middle of the courtroom.

“Call Home” performances:

- 1991: La Boca
- 1992: Beyond Baroque, Los Angeles
- 1993: The LA Festival—The Vision Theater, Leimert Park
- 1993: Inner City Law Center, Los Angeles

There was no performance at ICLC. ICLC was where we rehearsed and created the performance—and where we created a phone booth on San Pedro Street in front of the ICLC office. We offered free phone calls for anyone to call a loved one with whom they were out of touch.

# Call Home (1991, excerpt)



## Scene 6: Second court room, first cross examination of Michael Lee by Public Defender

PD: Your honor, I motion that this case be dismissed under lack of service of proper venue and...under rule 12 of the CJC.

Judge: Denied.

PD: Your Honor. The DA told the witness to point to the defendant.

Judge: Denied.

PD: I withdraw the question.

PD: Mr. Lee does this application look familiar to you sir.

ML: Yes. It is.

PD: Is that your application to be a witness at this trial.

DA: Your Honor, I object. He's not...

Judge: Sustained.

PD: Mr Lee, do you get SSI?

ML: Yes.

PD: Why do you get SSI Mr. Lee?

ML: For physical reasons.

PD: For physical reasons, Mr. Lee?

ML: A little emotional.

PD: A little emotional, Mr. Lee? Isn't it true...

ML: All right. I get it because I'm manic depressive.

PD: Manic depressive. Mr. Lee, had you stayed up all night the night of the murder?

LEE: Yes.

PD Drinking coffee Mr. Lee?

ML: No just socializing with friends.

PD: Did you drink coffee, Mr. Lee?

ML: Yes. I always drink coffee.

PD: With lots of sugar Mr. Lee?

DA: Your Honor I object. These details are completely irrelevant. He's badgering the witness.

Judge: Sustained.

District Attorney (Ak): I'd like to Call Judy Gershon to the stage please.

Judge: Miss Gershon to the stage, please.



## Scene 7: Second LAPD Monolog

Well, it had been about two weeks after we'd found out that Lyn was murdered or had a heart-attack or O.D.ed. And we were sitting together in the Inner City Law office like a bunch of little squirrels with our little nuts in our cheeks. Little nuts of information in our cheeks about why and when and who and where and how. Questions that were never going to be answered.

I called the coroner's that morning. And the woman said, "Yes Gwendolyn Peters is here." And I wanted to say, "Can I talk to her please?" But she wasn't there. Just her body was there. But it wasn't her body. It was just the property of the LA County morgue for 30 days.

And the room was very quiet and angry and pale and yellow and pissy and angry. And I don't think we knew one another in that moment at all. And then the winds of the whys and whys and the hows and the winds and the whys and whys. Fuck why, why, why, how, how, why, why here, why... started up again. And overhead the whole time there seemed to be a Goodyear blimp passing over us, flashing an electric ad for family, family, family, family, family. ...

# FREE @ THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

Scan this code to go to the Central Library's events page.



## Creators in Residence

October 16 through Summer 2023  
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>



**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 following locations. To check availability and place a hold, choose your preferred pick up location from the drop down menu below. 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.

## 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](https://www.lapl.org/labs).







## 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](mailto:jaerc@socialmodel.com)  
[charlesp@socialmodel.com](mailto:charlesp@socialmodel.com)

Social media: @ucepp\_smrs

Visit the art installation by Charles Porter currently on exhibit at Skid Row History Museum & Archive  
250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. **More info on page 10.**



## 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](http://www.cangress.org)



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[www.MyFriendsHouseLA.org](http://www.MyFriendsHouseLA.org)

**SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2023**

*LAPD's Annual Festival For All Skid Row Artists @General Jeff Park*

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE [SKIDROWARTSALLIANCE.COM](http://SKIDROWARTSALLIANCE.COM)

Explore a variety of inspiring programs from music to theatre, 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](mailto:info@skidrowartsalliance.com)

# Skid Row Happenings: On-going

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p><b>1–2pm (Zoom) Music Education Lab</b> (Urban Voices Project): Build performance skills and techniques whether you are an industry professional or a seasoned shower singer! (see p.17)</p>	<p><b>11am-12pm Virtual Art Inspiration</b> (Zoom beginning mosaic workshop with Piece by Piece instructor): Register online at <a href="http://www.piecebypiece.org">www.piecebypiece.org</a> (see p.19)</p> <p><b>12:30–3:30pm Studio 526:</b> art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see ad below)</p> <p><b>1pm, 2nd &amp; 4th Tues Studio 526:</b> required orientation for new artists (see ad below)</p> <p><b>2–5pm Theatre Workshops for Everyone</b> (LA Povert Dept.) (see p.12)</p>	<p><b>10am-12pm Free Beginning Mosaic</b> (Piece by Piece): Learn basic mosaic techniques and be part of this welcoming and friendly community! (see p.19)</p> <p><b>2pm Neighborhood Sing</b> (Urban Voices Project): Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see p.17)</p> <p><b>5:30–7pm doodles without borders</b> “How dare you!” community arts table, General Jeff (Gladys) Park (see ad below)</p>	<p><b>10:30am–Noon 3rd Thursday</b> Creative Writing workshop (see p.8)</p> <p><b>12:30–3:30pm Studio 526:</b> art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see ad below)</p> <p><b>2–5pm:</b> LAPD Exhibition open (Thu–Sat. See p.12)</p> <p><b>5–6pm Culture Hour</b> (LACAN) Join the Freedom Singers from LACAN on Facebook Live (see p.25)</p> <p><b>7–9pm Theatre Workshops for Everyone</b> (LA Poverty Dept., (see p.12)</p>	<p><b>11am Family Sing</b> (Urban Voices Project): A class that encourages families and pre-school children to explore the world of music. (see p.17)</p> <p><b>12:30–3:30pm Studio 526:</b> art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see ad below)</p> <p><b>1–2pm (Zoom) Music Wellness Lab</b> (Urban Voices Project): Practical ways to use music to create change in the mind and body. (see p.17)</p> <p><b>2–3pm (monthly: 4th Friday) World Dance Workshop</b>, Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see ad below)</p> <p><b>Monthly at LAPD</b> (see p.12):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1st &amp; 3rd Fridays, 7–9pm</b> Free Movie Nights at the Museum</li> <li>• <b>Last Friday: 5–7:30pm</b> Open Mic with Hayk &amp; Silkiie</li> </ul>

LOS ANGELES CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTERS

WELLNESS WARRIORS PRESENT

## World Dance Classes

DANCE - COMMUNITY - MUSIC

LOCATION: 3RD FLOOR WELLNESS ROOM IN JOSHUA HOUSE

**4TH FRIDAY 7/28, 8/25, 9/22** | **DROP-IN BETWEEN 2 PM - 3 PM**

WITH INSTRUCTOR AUBRE HILL

**JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH A VAST ARRAY OF DANCES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE FROM INDIA TO EGYPT, CUBA TO ARGENTINA, AND MORE. THIS CLASS IS FOR ALL BODIES, GENDERS, AND AGES. IT IS TIME TO DANCE!**

OPEN TO STAFF, PATIENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



**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](http://doodleswithoutborders.com) | [@doodleswithoutborders](https://twitter.com/doodleswithoutborders)



Discover **STUDIO 526** by The People Concern, a vibrant community of creative artists and musicians.

We strongly advocate for and provide access to art, music, and cultural spaces for the Skid Row community.

Art Studio Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 12:30–3:30pm  
Music Room Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 9am–2:30pm (1.5 hour increments)

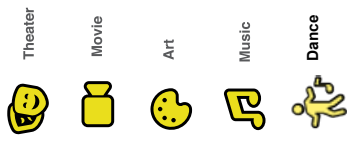
New participants in our art or music program must attend the **mandatory orientation session**. Sessions take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 1pm. **Reserve your spot by contacting us at: 213-488-9559 ext 265 or email us at [acorona@thepeopleconcern.org](mailto:acorona@thepeopleconcern.org) or [Cmanley-Martinez@thepeopleconcern.org](mailto:Cmanley-Martinez@thepeopleconcern.org).**

**Visit us at:** STUDIO 526  
526 San Pedro St., Los Angeles



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 and The 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.