

Cover Art by Joseph Romero p.14

Skid Row Care Campus Mural 4 | Exhibition: Walk the Talk 5 | COVID Hotel Welcomes You to the Future World Tour of LA 16 | Urban Voices Project CoffeHouse! 6 | Piece by Piece: Exhibition & Workshops 8 | Studio 526 Remembrance Tree 12 | Reflections from Within 13 ... and more!

## Contents

- 4 Skid Row Care Campus Mural
- 5 Exhibition: Walk the Talk: 2014-2024
- 6 Urban Voices Project CoffeHouse!
- 8 Piece by Piece: Exhibition and Workshops
- Big Man Bak 12 Studio 526 Remembrance Tree
  - 13 Reflections from Within (Poem)
  - 14 Studio 526 Featured Artist: Joseph Romero
  - 16 COVID Hotel Welcomes You to the Future World Tour of LA

San Julian Park

The Midnight

E7THST

50 Juneteenth Celebration

W 6TH ST

geLA

- 19 Free Movie Nights Schedule at Skid Row History Museum
- 20 Skid Row History Museum Summer Schedule of Programs
- 21 Scratching the Surface: Art Exhibition in September
- 22 From the Archive—What's Going On Upstairs?
- 27 Skid Row Arts Happenings: On-going



# Welcome

...to your *Skid Row Arts Zine*, your way to connect to multiple physical and online offerings of various 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 our programming.

Brought to you by the Skid Row Arts Alliance:

- Los Angeles Poverty Department
- · Piece by Piece
- Urban Voices Project







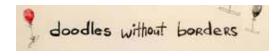
## . . . in partnership with























The Skid Row Care Campus, located at 442 Crocker Street in Skid Row, features a mural by Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), representing 36 early community builders who have influenced both Skid Row's history and its present moment. If not for their sustained efforts and those of many who have followed them, the Skid Row neighborhood would have been bulldozed and rebuilt for other, wealthier people.

The bold and colorful Walk the Talk mural portraits were created by street artist Mr. Brainwash. The portraits are recognizable as they were carried through the streets of Skid Row during the 3 Walk the Talk parades in 2012. Since then, 48 additional people have been chosen for Walk the Talk and honored in biennial performance parades. Each transformative act is also a generative act-giving rise to new initiatives that make the community stronger. The Walk the Talk-Reduct website contains hour-long interviews with each Walk the Talk Honoree and performances distilled from the interviews. It is a valued resource used by researchers, journalists, artists and community members.

For Los Angeles Poverty Department, the Care Campus, created and run by the LA County Department of Health Services' Housing for Health, is the latest example of the long history of community work by and for the people of Skid Row, and as such it is the perfect place for the Walk the Talk mural.

Plans for the Care Campus began as part of the Skid Row Action Plan, an initiative set in motion by Supervisor Hilda Solis in 2022. Over two years, neighborhood residents convened with LA County service providers and other stakeholders to form the Skid Row Action Plan to transform Skid Row and better serve the needs of the people who live there. The Care Campus was one of several recommendations made in the Action Plan. "The community wanted ambassadors hired from the Skid Row community. They wanted case managers hired from the Skid Row community. They wanted economic opportunities for the people on Skid Row. They wanted a lot of things. And for the first time, I think the county delivered on that promise when they built this campus," said Anthony Ruffin, Harm Reduction Specialist, for LA County Department of Health Services, in a panel discussion organized by the Poverty Department.

The Care Campus is offering services as varied as hygiene facilities, case management, wellness activities, community respite beds, healthcare services, an adult residential care facility, and a harm reduction drop-in center—all in a space that is designed to be welcoming for a population that may carry trauma associated with institutional settings, such as traditional medical centers. Art will also be an important offering at the campus. We are looking forward to conducting ongoing theater workshops at the Care Campus.





## **Exhibition** Walk The Talk: 2014–2024

July 10 - August 23, 2025 **Skid Row History Museum & Archive** 



Los Angeles Poverty Department formed in Skid Row in 1985 as a performance group of, for and with residents and workers, and is still making art to strengthen the community and get the real deal out to normalville. Biennially since 2012, "Walk the Talk" has taken to the streets as a performance/parade to honor people who live and work in Skid Row and whose initiatives have made it a place for solving the problems other people have given up on.

"Walk the Talk" is a people's history of Skid Row. Every two years, a new group of honorees is selected. The project includes: a community nominating process, video interviews of honorees, performances created from these interviews and performed at a spot chosen by the honorees in a parade with portraits and a brass band, and the archiving of: all of the above.

We've come to realize that the project, originally envisioned as a one-time event, better fulfills its intent of building community as a recurring event. This exhibition, "Walk the Talk 2014-2024" focuses on the 48 honorees of the past 10 years. In 2014, Brian Dick created the portraits on big banners. In 2016 we carried the paintings by Pairoj Pichetmetakul through the streets, in 2018

**ShowzArt** created the portraits on plywood, in 2020 artist Man One designed the portraits, in 2022 Dakarai Akil created digital collages, and in 2024 they were hand-drawn by Hayk Makhmuryan. The portraits, and LAPD's interview and performance videos, are featured in the "Walk the Talk 2014-2024" exhibition.

Walk the Talk





Join us for Coffeehouse, an inspiring and uplifting musical performance brought to you by the Urban Voices Project (UVP) on Saturday, August 16th at 3:00 PM, at the Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts in Skid Row. This free concert is the result of months of hard work by our UVP choir members, who have been preparing for this special day through weekly vocal lessons and one-on-one coaching. As they take the stage, supported by a professional band, these artists will share their powerful solo performances, each one a testament to their growth and determination. It's an afternoon of heart, soul, and community you won't want to miss.

Coffeehouse is about more than just music-it's about connection, healing, and celebration. The concert highlights the incredible talent of Skid Row artists who have been given the opportunity to shine on stage, reclaim their voice, and showcase their authentic selves. By attending, you become part of a larger movement that empowers local artists and shifts the conversation around Skid Row and its residents. Every note sung and every story shared at Coffeehouse is a step toward breaking down barriers and building a stronger, more inclusive community.

With limited in-person seating, be sure to reserve your spot for this unforgettable event. Enjoy food and drinks from a local community partner, and experience firsthand the life-changing power of music. Come and be a part of this celebration of resilience, hope, and artistry.

## **URBAN VOICES PROJECT: COFFEE HOUSE!**

Bringing together music, mentorship, and creative expression for emerging artists in Skid Row.



## Coffeehouse testimonials

What makes Coffeehouse special and different is the focus on the individual choir members. We get to pick a song and get several weeks of professional training to not only help our voice be as good as can be, but how to use a microphone, how to move around on stage. It's not just singing a song, it's performing, it's presenting, it so it really enables the individual singers to step out into their own creativity rather than just blending with everybody else.

-Tom Grode, Choir Member

## Learn about our vocal coaches!

## Micayla De Ette is a classically trained



vocalist, songwriter, actress, and vocal coach based in Los Angeles. With a B.A. in Music, her voice spans Gospel, Jazz, Pop, Opera, R\&B, and Rock. She has performed with Kelly Clarkson and Aloe Blacc, and appeared

on \*The Kelly Clarkson Show\*. A semifinalist on \*America's Got Talent\* with The Freedom Singers, Micayla leads worship and facilitates Urban Voices Project's Neighborhood Sings programs, bringing music and healing to underserved communities across LA.

## Alexandra Domingo teaches voice at South



Pasadena Arts & Music Academy and maintains a private studio, focusing on vocal health and technique. She co-wrote the vocal technique curriculum at Musicians Institute in Hollywood and taught diction and Latin/Brazilian styles. Alex believes music cultivates joy in community and that everyone is an artist. She helps students embrace mistakes as part

of the learning process, aiming to develop self-discipline and a love for learning at any level and pace.

### Francisco Ruiz is a vocalist, multi-



instrumentalist, and arranger based in LA. He's worked with U2, Ivan Lins, and Luis Enrique, and has performed at major venues including the Walt Disney Concert Hall. A Berklee College of Music graduate, Francisco has been a vocal educator for over 10 years. He's toured with vocal projects and studied with

Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin. Francisco also worked on the Latin Grammy-nominated album \*LA VIDA\* and continues to inspire his students with vocal improvisation.

### **Alison Lewis** has extensive experience as a session



singer, arranger, vocal contractor. and bandleader, with credits on shows like \*Futurama\* and \*What We Do in the Shadows\*. A licensed speech language pathologist, she

combines her expertise in voice science with artistic intuition to cater to each student's needs. Alison has served in multiple roles with Urban Voices Project and is excited to return as a vocal coach for \*Coffeehouse\*, helping artists with their vocal growth and performance preparation.

## **Kenneth "Kayo" Anderson** is a multi-disciplinary



artist and musician based in Los Angeles. After founding the Mosaic Singers in Detroit, Kayo went on to perform worldwide, collaborating with artists like Aretha Franklin and Al Green. In LA, Kayo advocates for housing solutions and builds community through music, currently leading the Peace and Healing Center in

Skid Row. He's deeply committed to using music as a tool for healing and empowerment, working with Urban Voices Project to support Skid Row artists.

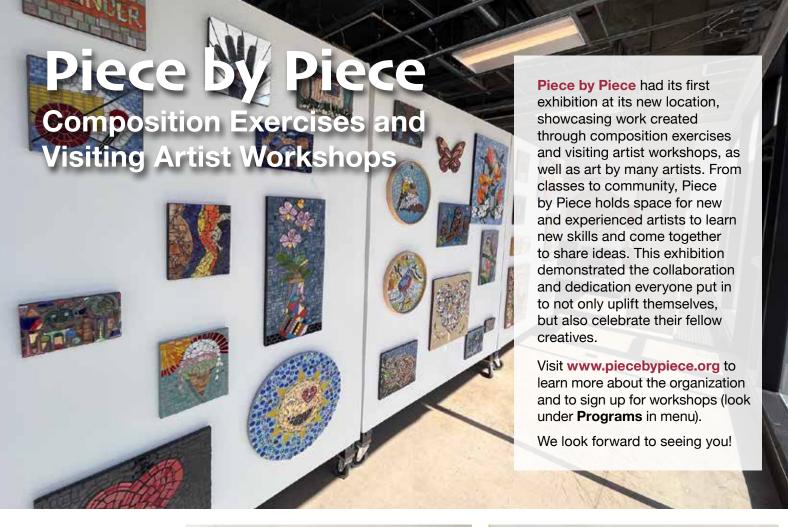
> "For me it's about what our music does for our communities. It helps people understand the various people and situations that have been homeless, are homeless, and are in a community advocating."

> > -Marilyn Irizarry, Urban Voices **Project Singer**

"I've been through alot, but when I get with Urban Voices, it makes me real happy... because this [singing] is what I was born to do."

> -Stephanie Bell Skid Row Artist

"When we started to sing, our lives, our dignity was restored!" -Iron Donato Skid Row Artist











#### Trading Cards (led by Dawn M.)

Piece by Piece artists explored miniature storytelling through mosaic in a special workshop led by instructor Dawn. Inspired by the global tradition of artist trading cards, participants created palm-sized works featuring two distinct areas: one dark space with a single gold tile to represent potential in shadow, and one open space for creative expression. The result was a powerful collection of small, symbolic mosaics that reflect personal stories and come together as a larger portrait of the community.

#### Tarjetas Coleccionables

Los artistas de Piece by Piece exploraron la narración en miniatura a través del mosaico en un taller especial dirigido por la instructora Dawn. Inspirados por la tradición global de las tarjetas de intercambio artístico, los participantes crearon obras del tamaño de la palma con dos áreas distintas: un espacio oscuro con una sola pieza dorada para representar el potencial en la sombra, y otro espacio abierto para la expresión creativa. El resultado fue una colección poderosa de mosaicos pequeños y simbólicos que reflejan historias personales y se unen como un retrato colectivo de comunidad.



### Portraits in Mosaic (led by Carol S.)

Piece by Piece welcomed visiting artist and educator Carol S for a powerful two-day workshop on mosaic portraiture. Participants explored the core elements of portrait-making-plane, color, value, and composition—beginning with pencil-drawn value maps based on black-and white photocopies of their own faces. Under Carol's guidance, they transformed these maps into vibrant glass mosaics that captured likeness, emotion, and expression.

### Retratos en Mosaico

Piece by Piece dio la bienvenida a la artista y educadora Carol S para un poderoso taller dedos días sobre retratos en mosaico. Los participantes exploraron los elementos fundamentales del retrato-plano, color, valor y composición—comenzando con mapas de valor dibujados a lápiz basados en fotocopias en blanco y negro de sus propios rostros. Bajo la guía de Carol, transformaron estos mapas en mosaicos vibrantes de vidrio que capturaron semejanza, emoción y expresión. (continued next page)

### Mosaic Shoes (led by Julie W.)

In this vibrant and hands-on workshop series, participants explored the art of sculptural mosaics using the unexpected form of a high-heeled shoe as their canvas. Guided by guest artist Julie, the class used water-activated plaster wrap to build mosaic-ready forms by molding it directly over real shoes. Artists then designed and applied mosaic surfaces using personal color palettes and textures, resulting in imaginative, expressive

artworks.

### Zapatos en Mosaico

Piece by Piece dio la bienvenida a la artista y educadora Julie para un poderoso taller de dos días sobre retratos en mosaico. Los participantes exploraron los elementos fundamentales del retrato-plano, color, valor y composición-comenzando con mapas de valor dibujados a lápiz basados en fotocopias en blanco y negro de sus propios rostros. Bajo la guía de Carol, transformaron estos mapas en mosaicos vibrantes de vidrio que capturaron semejanza, emoción y expresión.



#### Steampunk Art Made with Jewelry (led by Bea J.)

With materials donated by Ridwell, Bea J led a creative journey into steampunk jewelry. Participants used broken jewelry, clock parts, gears, and decals to craft wearable art inspired by Victorian sci-fi aesthetics. This workshop celebrated reuse and reinvention, encouraging artists to see beauty and potential in overlooked materials.

#### Steampunk Arte Hecho con Joyeria

Con materiales donados por Ridwell, Bea J guio una aventura creativa en el diseño de joyería steampunk. Los participantes utilizaron joyería rota, engranajes, piezas de reloj y calcomanías para crear arte portátil inspirado en la estética de ciencia ficción victoriana. Este taller celebró la reutilización y la reinvención, animando a los artistas a ver belleza y potencial en los materiales descartados.









## Composition Exercises (led by Dawn M.)

Artists created 4x4-inch mosaics in three unique ways:

- Starting from a single glass or ceramic shard.
- Responding to a one-word prompt.
- Simplifying a design into a clean, compact form.

Small size, big creativity.

### Proyectos Cuatro por Cuatro

Los artistas crearon mosaicos de 4x4 pulgadas de tres formas:

- A partir de un solo fragmento.
- Respondiendo a una palabra clave.
- Simplificando un diseño a su forma esencial.

Pequeños en tamaño, grandes en creatividad.



## The Remembrance Tree -A Living Tribute in Skid Row



by Alice Corona, The People Concern

t the vibrant heart of Skid Row, where voices rise with resilience and the streets carry deep memory, a powerful symbol now stands. The Remembrance Tree. This nine-foot handmade monument, built from papier-mâché and many caring hands, is more than a work of art. It is a sacred space that holds names, stories, and the collective soul of our neighborhood.

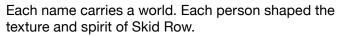
Delicate butterflies rest along its branches, each bearing the name of someone we have lost. In their stillness, we feel presence. In the quiet curve of each wing, we remember joy, struggle, brilliance, and belonging. These butterflies are more than symbols. They are invitations to pause and to feel.

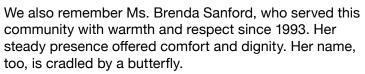
We remember and cherish the unique spirits of those we've lost. Cliff Boulle's laughter and music always filled the air with light. Matt Horns is held with love by so many. We also recall Lee Maupin, especially when a James Brown song plays, remembering how

his electrifying performances always brought the house down. And we honor Sougi Galleon, a gifted artist who mastered countless techniques.

Other names live among the leaves:

- Carol Gerard
- Edwin Fountaine
- Lawrence Jones
- Brian Palmer
- Douglas Leigh-Taylor
- Mama Ruby
- Mary Jacobs
- Lee Maupin





The Remembrance Tree was created by the artists of Studio 526. Many of them know grief intimately. Many have walked through loss and held on to love. This was not simply a collaboration. It was an offering. A way to honor lives that shaped our spaces, our days, and our dreams.

The lead artists were Alice Corona, Peter Villapudua, Autumn Molinere, Jaive Kamson, Angel Correa, Joseph Romero, Salem Harlan, Gerardo Rivas, Gerardo Bardo also known as Prime Minister, Queen Mama Tabia, and Acey. They guided the process with heart, skill, and deep care for every detail.

Even the base of the tree holds meaning. Moss and fungi curl across the roots, symbols of transformation and renewal. What fades from view still nourishes what comes next. What ends can also begin again. The butterflies, light as breath and made by hand, hold more than names. They hold connection. They carry memory forward.

Originally created as the centerpiece of the "Walk With Me" exhibit at the Skid Row History Museum and Archive, The Remembrance Tree now resides at Studio 526. There, it continues to evolve, inviting community members to visit, reflect, and participate in a living tribute. It remains a space for mourning, remembrance, and healing, planted right in the heart of the neighborhood where these names hold their deepest meaning.

This is more than a memorial. It is a living space for memory, shaped by hands that have endured and

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## Reflections from Within



The Mirror Speaks:

You Are Everything You Judge in

This is probably one of the hardest truths we can come face to face with.

To clearly realize that everything you think, say, do, and feel is only ever happening within you—and nowhere else-can feel both liber-

ating and disorienting. But it's true.

The life you experience that seems to be happening "out there" is actually arising from within you. All that you are returns to you as YOUR "reality" in the exact way you project it—emotionally, physically, verbally, and especially mentally.

Why especially mentally? Because thought is never alone—it is always supported by emotion. Energy in motion. Every one of our intentions carries a vibrational charge. And this energetic charge is what co-creates our experience of reality.

Let's keep in mind that no two people see the world in the same exact way. Each person has their own perspective, and this perspective is rooted in their traumas. They direct the way we think about everything.

It is because of this that emotions are the subtle, ethereal glue of creation—they hold the structure of manifestation together, like scaffolding for the universe, allowing consciousness to witness itself in form, in the created world.

Most of us move through life unaware of the silent influence our emotions have over our reality. Emotions are not just passing feelings—they are living currents of energy that inform every perception, reaction, and decision we make. When we're not conscious of what we're feeling, those emotions still flow... but they do so beneath the surface, shaping our reality without our awareness.

Think of your emotions like the color tint on a pair of glasses. You might not realize you're wearing them, but they filter everything you see. If you're carrying sadness, you might see the world as heavy. If you're unconsciously angry, you might feel like everyone's out to get you.

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overcome. It offers solace, a place to gather, and a powerful message: You are not forgotten.

The Remembrance Tree stands for all who know the ache of absence. It is a promise that the lives honored here remain an essential, living part of Skid Row's fabric. Not left behind, but right here at the centerwhere they have always belonged.

You don't have to be aware of an emotion for it to affect you. Most people aren't walking around thinking, "I'm still carrying childhood grief," or "I'm suppressing fear of being rejected"—but those unprocessed energies still radiate outward. And the universe, ever neutral and responsive, simply mirrors them back through people, situations, and even physical health.

Judgment is a mirror of the unseen Self. When we judge someone, it's often because they've touched something hidden within us—something unresolved or disowned-a trauma. Judgment is not a final truth about another person. It's a reflection of how we relate to that quality within ourselves. The more unaware we are of our emotional pain, the more sharply we judge.

When we're taught to suppress emotions, they don't disappear—they just go underground. Over time, that pressure has to release, and it often does through projection. We see in others what we have not yet made peace with in ourselves. It feels safer to call someone else selfish or angry than to explore those traits within us.

But when we bring awareness to our emotions—when we truly see what we're feeling without judgment or shame something incredible happens: we begin to heal. Triggers become teachers. Judgment transforms into understanding. We reclaim the power we unknowingly gave away, and awareness becomes the Alchemy of Inner Freedom.

Awareness doesn't fix the past. It frees the present.

I want to invite you to see differently. The next time you find yourself judging someone—pause. Take a gentle breath. Ask yourself, "What is this moment showing me about myself?" "What lessons are there for me to learn?" You may be surprised by the honesty that rises to meet you.

Judgment isn't wrong. It's a doorway. It's a signpost. It's an invitation to love a part of yourself you may have forgotten. A part of you that has been neglected for far too long and wants to be acknowledged, appreciated, Loved, and released.

Everything is energy, and as such, it wants to be transmuted into Love, because Love is the nature of creation. It is the seed of transformation.

You are not separate from what you see in others. And the more you allow that truth to take root in your heart, the more peace and clarity you'll begin to feel—not only with others, but with yourself.

Not perfect. Not enlightened. But present, whole, and becoming free.

With Love and service to the awakening within us all. To the Light in every heart-may we rise together-in Love.By Marco, StarSeed



## Featured Artist: Joseph Romero

A Story of Strength, Color, and Unwavering Spirit

By Alice Corona, The People Concern





At Studio 526, we're privileged to be surrounded by artists who carry profound stories in their hands and hearts. This quarter, we shine a light on Joseph Romero, whose presence brings warmth, generosity, and an infectious optimism every single day. His smile is ever-present, his kindness genuine, and he's always ready to lend a hand or eagerly learn something new.

Joseph's artistic journey began in Cuba, long before he could even read. For him, art isn't merely a pastime; it's his fundamental way of processing the world, expressing himself, and finding peace. Early on, he was captivated by the urgency and raw truth-telling in the works of Picasso and Braque. "Art isn't just pretty pictures," Joseph asserts. "It's power. It's protest. It's healing."

In 2010, Joseph arrived in Skid Row. With the vital support of the Midnight Mission and later Studio 526, he began to rebuild a life deeply rooted in creativity. Studio 526 offered him something he had long missed: the essential space to explore and evolve his artistic practice. "This place gave me room to keep going," he reflects. "To try something new. To not wake up the same person every day."

Joseph's paintings are vivid emotional landscapes. Some radiate lightness and playfulness, while others delve into intense, unfiltered expressions. He finds his deepest inspiration in the often-overlooked: a tenacious leaf pushing through a sidewalk crack, the subtle shifts of reflected light, or a forgotten stain on a wall. "That's where art begins for me," he explains, "in the things most people pass by."

He actively seeks feedback, not for praise, but for growth. He listens thoughtfully, internalizes what is useful, and allows it to guide his evolving work. As a result, his art continually deepens, expanding not only his technique but also the power of his unique voice. Within Joseph's creations, you'll discover memory, tenderness, and a quiet yet profound strength. He often asks, with a gentle sincerity, "Is it okay or is it okay?" It's a simple query, yet in his voice, it transforms into a moment of genuine human connection.

Honoring Joseph as our Featured Artist is about more than just the captivating art he creates. It's a tribute to the extraordinary spirit he brings to our studio: his insatiable curiosity, remarkable courage, infectious joy, and unwavering belief in the creative process as a powerful force for growth and healing.

If Joseph's work leaves you with a single message, let it be this: Keep going.









## **Studio 526 @ The People Concern**

526 San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA 90013 Email: ArtsProgram@ThePeopleConcern.org (213) 757-8598 | wwwthepeopleconcern.org

## **STUDIO 526 SCHEDULE**

Art Studio Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 12:30pm-3:30pm

Music Studio Hours (by appointment only): Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 9am-3:30pm (1.5-hour sessions)

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

**New Artist Orientation: Select** Tuesdays and Thursdays

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







n Saturday June 7th Los Angeles Poverty Department concluded (for now) its World Tour of LA County in spectacular fashion performing "The Covid Hotel Welcomes you to the Future", on the roof of The Bendix Building (The Heidi Duckler Studio) in the fashion district. The performance was part of the "This Home, Forever," festival produced by Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE) and curated by Nahui Gracia. The festival included a number of performance artists whose work crossed genres of visual art, music, theater and dance. We were very happy to be included with so many dynamic artists. Our performance was well received—giving us an opportunity to do an elaborate bow (wow). Curator Nahui Garcia, kindly wrote, "Thank you for delivering an amazing performance on Saturday. I didn't get a chance to say goodbye, but I wanted to let you know that people were really impressed by the LAPD and mention many times the timeliness of your work."



LAPD did 12 performances of "The Covid Hotel Welcomes you to the Future", between January and June and we have additional performance opportunities in the works for the fall. Our world tour of LA County took us to the edges of LA County including San Pedro (to the south), Lancaster (to the north), Claremont (to the east), and Santa Monica (to the west). Stay tuned for more performances this coming fall. In the meantime: the performance advocates for the creation of accessible, low barrier medical respite sites to be created in neighborhoods throughout the county. The new Skid Row Care Campus 442 S. Crocker St. is an example of what we're talking about. It is a revelation and the new standard for providing care. If you haven't been there already, you've got to go over and check it out. It's beautiful, and full of caring people enjoying one another.



Join us! Our weekly Theater Workshops will resume in September!

Tuesday, 2-5 pm & Thursday, 6-8 pm. Held at Skid Row History Museum & Archive: 250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles 213-413-1077 | info@lapovertydept.org lapovertydept.org



## Saturday, June 19, was Juneteenth Celebration at the Skid Row History Museum and Archive.

Organized by Sir Oliver Productions, Sir Oliver for many years has been one of Skid Row's top DJs.

The celebration began with Charles Porter, a Community Curator with his previous Museum exhibit COSMOLOGY & COMMUNITY: Networks of Liberation. setting the stage for the celebration with a historic and cultural overview of Juneteenth.

Ptah Ahochi Tehuti Eil, a long-established Skid Row drummer and healer, facilitated the performances throughout the day. And he led the audience through a meditation that focused on breathing in through the nose – out through the mouth, while sustaining vowel tones. Skid Row folks sang, played instruments, shared their stories, encouraged and challenged each other.

DJ The Archivist - the actual Skid Row Museum's archivist - took the turn tables over from Sir Oliver and played revolutionary music behind people's poems, and 80's funk got everyone dancing. Well-known singers Lorraine Morland and Stephanie Bell began the performances. Marco Garay sang and played guitar. Hayk Makhmuryan was there with his Doodles Without Boarders table and invited people to create signs for the protests on cardboard.

Stephanitely Styles of the White House in Skid Row then stepped forward with Skid Row photographer and entrepreneur Bobby Buck. Bobby explained how with Al and the huge amount of online content about Stepanitely, it was possible to create words and music for a new song, "Queen of Skid Row." Now wearing her roller skates, she skated from the back of the Museum to the front as "Queen of Skid Row" played. Bobby Buck then said we needed a song called "Skid Row Is A Community" and AI was happy to create one for us to listen to.

Up next was Leeav Sofer with Urban Voices Project and after inviting choir members up front and passing out songbooks to everyone, we all sang a few songs. There were some puppies with us and so our songs were joined by lots of cute barking (and some pee ©).

The Los Angeles Poverty Department theater group did a scene from a play performed throughout Los Angeles County "The COVID Hotel Welcomes You To The Future" that featured a monologue by Stephanie Bell and singing by Stephanie and Lorraine Morland.

Of course, a celebration needs food, and lots of delicious food was provided by Chef Ede Ravich.





## Free Movie Nights at the Museum-summer 2025

August 1, 7pm: Menashe Directed by Joshua Z Weinstein Run Time: 1 hr 22 min

Menashe follows a kind but hapless grocery store clerk trying to maintain custody



of his son Rieven after his wife, Lea, passes away. Since they live in a tradition-bound culture that requires a mother present in every home, Rieven is supposed to be adopted by the boy's strict, married uncle. Shot in secret entirely within the Hasidic community, performed in Yiddish, and based largely on the real life of its star Lustig Menashe, the film is a strikingly authentic and deeply moving portrait of family, love, connection, and community

August 15, 7pm: Sew Torn (Run Time: 1 hr 36 mins) Directed by Freddy MacDonald

Sew Torn is a new psychological thriller in which Barbara Duggen (Eve Connolly), a mobile seamstress, gets tangled in her own thread after stealing a briefcase from a drug deal gone bad. In an escalating game of cat and mouse, her different choices lead to drastically different outcomes along the way.

September 5, 7pm: Moonlight Directed by Barry Jenkins Run Time: 1 hr 51 min

**Moonlight** chronicles the life of a young black man while growing up in a rough neighborhood of Miami. At once a vital portrait of contemporary African-American life and an intensely personal and poetic meditation on identity, family, friendship, and love, Moonlight is a groundbreaking piece of cinema that reverberates with deep compassion and universal truths.





September 19, 7pm: Festival for All Skid Row Artists 2024 Filmed and edited by David de Rozas (Run Time: 60 min)

Each last weekend of October, Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) brings artists and grassroots organizations doing transformative work in the neighborhood together at the Festival for All Skid Row Artists. 15 years strong in 2024! This movie showcases excerpts of all 65 performances on the legendary stage, and the visual art and workshops at General Jeff Memorial Park in Skid Row.

October 3, 7pm: Sing Sing (Run Time: 1 hr 47 min)

Directed by Greg Kwedar

Divine G (Colman Domingo), imprisoned at Sing Sing for a crime he didn't commit, finds purpose by acting in a theatre group with other incarcerated men. When a wary outsider joins the group, the men decide to stage their first original comedy, in this stirring true story of resilience, humanity, and the transformative power of art, starring an unforgettable

GETTABLE... A RAGIANT BEACON OF HOPE"

ensemble cast of formerly incarcerated actors.

## Skid Row History Museum & Archive Calendar: Summer/Fall 2025

**EXHIBITIONS:** Open Thu, Fri, Sat, 2-5 pm

July 10 – August 23: The portraits of the honorees of the first Walk the Talk parade / performance were created by Mister Brainwash. You can see all 36 of them at the new Skid Row Care Campus, on 442 Crocker Street (between 4th & 5th Street).

This exhibition shows portraits of the next Walk the Talks. In 2014 Brian Dick created the portraits on big banners, in 2016 we carried the paintings of Pairoj Pichetmetakul through the streets, in 2018 CruShow Herring created the portraits on plywood, in 2020 artist Man One designed the portraits, in 2022 Dakarai Akil created them as collages, and in 2024 they were drawn by Hayk Makhmuryan.

### September 6 - October 25: Scratching the Surface, curated by Hayk Makhmuryan

Recent history of visual art in Skid Row neighborhood—An exhibition that focuses on one cross-section of cultural production: visual art created in the last 30-40 years in our neighborhood. The exhibit will show art kept and preserved by Community Arts Depot, LA Poverty Department, as well as individual resident- and artist collections.

### **MEETINGS**

**Los Angeles Tenants Union-Downtown Local:** Wednesday, 7 pm. Includes a Self-Empowerment Circle facilitated by Max and Hannah.

Skid Row Arts Alliance (SRAA) Community meeting: 2nd Thursday, 11-12:30 pm. Topics vary-workshops, seminars, trainings to support Skid Row artists and wider community.

### **GROUP EVENTS**

Sound Bowls & Tacos with Ptah Ahochi Tehuti Eil: Last Monday, 11 am-1 pm.

Free Movie Night: 1st & 3rd Friday, 7pm. Free movie screenings, Free popcorn, Free coffee and Free conversation. (see page 17)

**Saturday Afternoon Music with Special** Guests: 2nd Saturday, 2-5 pm. The event will include a gathering of mutual aid resources, snacks, conversation & music.

Mutual Aid-Self/Social Therapy (MAST) with Mel Butler: 4th Sunday 2-4 pm

### ON-GOING WORKSHOPS

Documentary Photography Working Group with Kevin: 1st & 3rd Monday, 7–9 pm. Discussion around the history of documentary photography, associated art criticism and pressing aesthetic and political questions posed by ongoing photographic projects. Hosted by the Public School Los Angeles at the Skid Row Museum.

Theater Workshop: Tuesday, 2-5 pm & Thursday, 6-8 pm



Creative Writing Workshop with Ivy Pochoda: 3rd Tuesday, 10:30 am-12pm:

Grief Circle workshop with Megan Daalder: Thursday, 7-9 pm (4 sessions)

July 24: S1—Grief in Service of Solidarity

July 31: S2-Embodiment of Grief

August 7: S3—Play, Gaming, and Imagination

August 14: S4—Expanding Psychobiological Capacity

Film Lover to Filmmaker Class with Adam F. Johns: 1st & 3rd Friday, 3-5 pm. Free class on how to make short films for Skid Row community members, with coffee and snacks

Sock Puppet Workshop with Marilyn Irizarry: Last Friday of the Month, 3-5pm

Open Mic Night with Lorinda Hawkins Smith: Last Friday of the Month, 5-8pm. Whether you're a seasoned performer or a first-timer, this is your chance to shine on stage. Sing, play an instrument, recite poetry, or share a story. Everyone is welcome!



### All events are free.

Check our website for updates on all events or stop by to pick up a hard copy of the calendar with all events, and check out the exhibition!, as well as our extensive video archive: lapovertydept.org

Movie Night Info















## Scratching the Surface: Art Exhibition

Opening Saturday, September 6, 5pm, Skid Row History Museum & Archive, through October, 2025. Curated by Hayk Makhmuryan, in collaboration with Jaiye Kamson and Matt Stewart.

Drawings, paintings, sculptures, murals, an improvised phone booth, banners, photographs, 3D art, 2D art, masks, DIY clothing... The list goes on, with subcategories in each category.

As I sat down to plan the upcoming exhibit showcasing the recent history of visual art in Skid Row neighborhood, just one conversation yielded material to fill five Skid Row museums. And that's with the focus on the last 40 years only. Somewhere in the conversation I noted that "we will be just scratching the surface," so the title for the exhibit was born.

And Skid Row neighborhood is never in isolation. Skid Row is part of downtown LA, the LA region, Black LA, Indigenous Tovaangar and occupied Turtle Island. Skid Row is diasporan, Mexican, Caribbean, South American, African, East Asian, etc. Skid Row is gueer and trans, is Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, spiritual, humanist, atheist. Skid Row is the largest recovery community. And Skid Row is part of the working class and their struggle for a dignified life for everyone. By showcasing a snippet of the history of creativity and cultural production in Skid Row, the exhibit will contribute to revealing and fortifying its persistent identity as a connection-centering

neighborhood.

The exhibition showcases works by over 50 artists. Here is a small glimpse:



"Welcome to Skid Row" Skid **Row Community** collaboration



"Serenity" by J. M. Newman >



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.

250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles | 213-413-1077 | info@lapovertydept.org | lapovertydept.org



## From the Archive - What's Going On Upstairs?





o you remember VHS? Maybe Betacam, Betamax, 8mm, Hi-8, Digi8, Umatic, and MiniDV? Most people born before the 2010's can recall a time where events like weddings, summer road trips, and "home movies" (the ones that maybe only you, your friends or family watched together), were all recorded on videotape. For nearly 50 years, videotape was the format used to document and televise important historical events around the world.

At the Skid Row History Museum & Archive, we have over 1,000 video tapes in different formats documenting 25 years of LA Poverty Department's performances. That's roughly 50 individual performance projects! They include more than just performances: interviews, panels, workshops, and public events in Skid Row from 1985-2010. Here's the thing—videotape is constantly deteriorating, and videotape players (VCR players, for example) are becoming rare to find in working condition. So, it is a time-sensitive task to preserve LAPD's early video recordings. This is done by "transferring" the content of the video tapes to digital files. It sounds simple in theory, but the process of turning electric analog signals into digital 1s and 0s (otherwise known as digitization) is not straightforward. Errors can occur when digitizing old and possibly damaged videotape on outdated equipment. The right equipment and know-how are needed to get the best quality transfer to preserve the content of the video for years to come.

This is why for the past two years, we have been constructing our audiovisual digitization rack (AV rack) to create high quality transfers of LAPD performances dating back to 1985. With the help of our outstanding interns (Azad Namazie, Franny Alfano, and Ana Lara) and assistance and training from Bay Area Video Coalition, we now have an AV rack in working condition. Franny was key in constructing the AV rack, sourcing video players and parts from eBay, and building the analog-to-digital signal chain.

What's on these videotapes? Notable LAPD performance projects include the "South of the Clouds" monologues which "revealed the interior life of damaged but hopeful and talented

individuals," wrote Linda Burnham in "The Drama Review" (1987). "In one of the evening's most moving pieces, Joe Clark and Kevin Williams reenacted a scene that really happened to one of them.... a drunk at a bus stop had mistaken Williams for his son and Williams had used the opportunity to play out a scene between himself and the



father who had abandoned him as a child."

Another example is "Jupiter 35." Jupiter 35 is about LAPD member, Leroy "Sunshine" Mills, who got thrown out of a fourthfloor window in an abandoned building in Skid Row and ended up in LA County General Hospital with the name "Jupiter 35" on



his chart. "Jupiter 35" is the story of what happened to Sunshine and how we, LAPD, found him and nursed him through his long recuperation. The performance includes flashbacks to his living in an abandoned building and hallucinations while heavily medicated in the hospital. Sunshine sketched out many of the early scenes and the entire cast contributed to developing the script through improvisation as we'd all been present throughout his recuperation, during which Sunshine came to terms with his own vulnerability.

"LAPD Inspects America," a six-vear (1988-1994) living documentary theatre project took place as residencies in 12 cities across the US in which 24 alternating LAPD'ers from Skid Row discovered and expanded upon information about homelessness by

meeting people in the places where they gathered. The tapes that make up this series is a unique record of the diversity of culture and political concerns among homeless people in this period. They are also representative of the experiences of others living and working in Skid Row at that time. These stories expand the ways homelessness and poverty are understood and addressed, while creating new knowledge around the human impacts of social policies for educators, historians, and scholars.

The experiences portrayed in LAPD performances testify to the social and personal impact of root causes and forces that have created and perpetuated poverty and homelessness: social isolation, disenfranchisement, AIDS, mental health issues, domestic and child abuse, mass incarceration, and the criminalization of poverty. So, videotapes are extremely important to preserve through digitization.

- by Zach Rutland, Archivist





### List of performances from 1985-2000:

- South of the Clouds (1986)
- No Stone for Studs Schwartz (1987-1988)
- Jupiter 35 (1989)
- LAPD Inspects America (1988-1994)
- Geronimo (1990)
- A Story About Ants (1990)
- Low Tech Extravaganza (1991)
- · Will they Fare Better or Worse (1998)
- Call Home (1993)
- Change/Exchange Residencies (1993-1996)
- Give up All Your Possessions and Follow Me (1994)
- Buffalo Who? (1994)
- · Temporary Quarters: Hit and Run (1997)
- I Was Sleeping with My Eyes Open (1995)
- I Gave at the Corner (1995)
- My Virtual Reality (1995)
- Jambalaya (1996)
- Bone Story: History of the Body (1996)
- · Still at War (Neverending Battle) (1996)
- Wrapped Up and Buried (1997)
- Taking Back My Place (1997)
- Souvenirs (1997)
- Race (1999)
- Selma Worth (20)

Common video errors can work as cool band names: Electrical Ground Loop Interference, AC Beat, Analog Distortion, Audio Dropout, Bad Audio Splice, the Black Frames, Crash Record, Dihedral Maladjustment, Dirty Head Drum, Dot Crawl, Hum and Buzz, the Missing Frames, Moiré Effect, the Phantom Frames, Pilot Tone, S-Video crosstalk—and the best and most well-known-Sticky Shed Syndrome.



### **MUSIC WITH A MISSION**

Monthly Program at The Midnight Mission every 4th Thursday of the month after lunch services at 2:30PM. Performances are open to the public, and all participants receive opportunities to connect during the programming and resources.

### MUSIC FOR THE SOUL

Every fourth Friday of the month, at 10AM, Street Symphony musicians and Downtown Women's Center residents share meditative musical offerings to convene vulnerable spaces of community and conversation.







## MIDNIGHT STRINGS **WORKSHOP**

This is a 8-10 week committed group of residents, staff, and teaching artists and musicians from Street Symphony. During the residency, a Street Symphony teaching artist will lead participants in group guitar lessons for the cohort of participants. The workshop will explore different genres and styles of guitar playing, and will feature local guest guitars. Next workshop start in Spring/March.

## **OUR MISSION:**

Street Symphony harnesses the convening power of music to invite connection and relationship



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:** First Thursday of each month at 2 PM, in person and on Zoom\*

\*Zoom (Meeting ID 87890708182) link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87890708182 →





For more information on how to get involved and support community prevention and improvement efforts please contact: charlesp@socialmodel.com

Social media: @ucepp smrs



## **Creating Justice LA**

Peace & Healing Center

**Hours of Operation:** 

Monday: 9 am-2 pm

Wednesday: 9 am-3 pm (12pm) Healing Circle Book Club

Thursday: 4 pm-9 pm (6pm) Off The Top **Thursdays** 

Friday: 2 pm-6 pm Freestyle Fridays



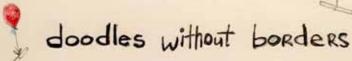
## **The Central Library** offers many free events and classes

Go to https://tinyurl. com/3usdk728 for more information



## 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.



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

## **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 Arts Happenings: On-going

MON TUE **WED** THU **FRI** Sound Bowls & Tacos Virtual Art Inspiration: 11am-Free Beginning Art Studio: 12:30-3:30pm Art Studio: Fridays, 12:30-3:30pm with Ptah Ahochi Tehuti **12pm**, (Zoom Beginning Mosaic: 10am-12pm, Music Studio: 9am-3:30pm Music Studio: Fridays, 9am-3:30pm (1.5-hr. Eil: Last Monday, 11 mosaic workshop with Piece by Piece by Piece): (1.5-hr. sessions by appt.) sessions by appt.) Studio 526, (see p.15) am-1pm. LA Poverty Piece instructor. (See p.8) Learn basic mosaic New Artist Orientation: 1pm. Dept. (see p.20) techniques and be part Select Thursdays, Studio 526 8 Music Wellness Labs: Fridays, 12-1pm, Urban of this welcoming and (see p.15) 0 Voices Project, by Zoom (see p.6) Creative Writing workshop: friendly community! Music Education Labs: 3rd Tuesday, 10:30am-Noon, (see p.8) Film Lover to Film Maker Class: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 1-3pm LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) 8 **Skid Row History Museum 3–5pm,** LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) Urban Voices Project, & Archive Exhibition—"Walk held at Studio 526 (see Neighborhood Sing: the Talk: 2014-2024," July p.6) **2–3:30pm** Urban 10-August 23 (also Fri & Sat) Art Studio: 12:30-3:30pm Free Movie Nights at the Museum: 1st & 3rd 4 Voices Project, Joshua (see p.5) Music Studio: 9am-3:30pm Fridays, 7–9pm, LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) House Clinic, 325 E 7th (1.5- hr. sessions by appt.) 0 0 St. LA (see p.6) **Neighborhood Sing:** New Artist Orientation: 1pm, 7 **Neighborhood Sing:** 4pm on Select Tuesdays. Studio 526 2:30-3:30pm, Urban Voices **MONTHLY FRIDAY EVENTS** Urban Voices Project, (see p.15) Project, held at Central Library. Little Tokyo Library Buskfest: 3rd Friday, 11am-2pm (UVP: 5th & San Meeting Room B, 630 W 5th St, (see p.6) Pedro, p.6, urbanvoicesproject.org) at Flower (see p.6) Music Wellness Labs: 12-1pm, **Documentary** 9 Studio 526 Art Jam: Open Mic, Music and Art, 2nd Urban Voices Proiect, held at Photography Working Central Library, 630 W. 5th at **Friday, 5–7pm** (see p.15) Group: 1st & 3rd Flower. (see p.6) Off the Top Thursdays-Open 4 Mondays, 7-9pm, LA Mic: 6-9pm, Creating Justice Poverty Dept. (see p.20) LA-Peace and Healing Sock Puppet Making Workshop: Last Friday: Center (see p.25) **3–5pm,** LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) 0 Theatre Workshops: 2-5pm. M resumes September, LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) Theatre Workshops: 6-8pm. Open Mic with Lorinda Hawkins Smith: Last **a** resumes in September. LA Friday: 5-7:30pm, LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) Poverty Dept. (see p.20) "How dare you!" community arts table: 4:30-6pm, doodles without borders. SAT/SUN **Skid Row Arts Alliance** General Jeff (Gladys) Park (see Meeting/Workshop: 11am-Saturday Afternoon Music with Special Guests, p.26) 12:30pm, 2nd Thursdays, LA 2nd Saturday, 2-5 pm. LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20) 6 Poverty Dept. (see p.20) 0 **(1)** Mutual Aid Self/Social Therapy (MAST): 4th Sunday, 2-4 pm by Public School Los Angeles, at LA Poverty Dept. (see p.20)

### Location reference from the map on back cover:

- 1 Los Angeles Poverty Department: 250 S. Broadway | 213-413-1077
- 4 Studio 526 at the People Concern: 526 S. San Pedro | 213-413-1077
- 6 General Jeff Memorial Park: 808 E. 6th St. (6th & Gladys)

- **7** Joshua House Clinic: 325 E. 7th St. | 323-741-1887
- 8 Piece by Piece: Call for address, 323-963-3372
- **9** Central Library: 630 W. 5th St. (at Flower) | 213-228-7000
- 11 Creating Justice LA-Peace & Healing Center

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.

