

**JULY-AUGUST
2021**

The **SKID ROW** **ARTS TV GUIDE**

ARTS, CULTURE & COMMUNITY

YOUR SKID ROW ARTS "TV GUIDE" IS YOUR WAY TO CONNECT TO MULTIPLE PHYSICAL AND ONLINE OFFERINGS OF DIFFERENT SKID ROW-BASED ARTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE INTENTION IS TO PROMOTE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIVITY AS BEST AS POSSIBLE IN THE FACE OF COVID-19 AND THE HARDSHIPS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.

WHAT'S THE WORD

WHAT'S THE
WORD FROM A
SKID ROW ARTIST:
LINDA LEIGH!
WHO'S GOT THE
NEXT WORD?
P. 4

NATURE'S MANDALAS

DISCOVER
ART AND
MINDFULNESS
THROUGH THE
NATURE
AROUND YOU.
P. 11

THE NEW COMPASSIONATE DOWNTOWN

LOS ANGELES
POVERTY DEPT.
ARTISTS CREATE
A POWERFUL
PERFORMANCE
AT MOCA
P. 20

CULTURE OF OUR STREETS

MEET WENDELL
BLASSINGAME,
AN ICONIC
MEMBER OF OUR
COMMUNITY!
P. 26

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VISITING FACEBOOK LIVE, ZOOM, OR YOUTUBE.

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CONTENTS



WORD FROM A
SKID ROW ARTIST



URBAN VOICES
PROJECT



PIECE BY PIECE



CREATIVE I



STREET
SYMPHONY



L.A. POVERTY
DEPARTMENT



CULTURE OF
OUR STREETS



STUDIO 526,
UCEPP, & LACAN



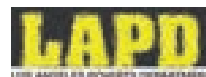
SKID ROW
ARTS MAP

WELCOME

...to Your **Skid Row Arts “TV Guide,”** your way to connect to multiple physical and online offerings of different Skid Row-based arts organizations. The intention is to promote neighborhood-based connectivity as best as possible in the face of COVID-19 and the hardships of social distancing. All Programs are accessible through Facebook Live, Zoom and/or Youtube. Visit **artstvguide.com** for links to all of our online programs.

Brought to you by the
Skid Row Arts Alliance:

Urban Voices PROJECT,
Piece by Piece,
Street Symphony,
Los Angeles Poverty Dept.,
and additional partners



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SKID ROW ARTS TV GUIDE ZINE

03

WORD FROM A SKID ROW ARTIST

Linda Leigh

"I did an art piece on Nina Simone, in 2014 when I was on chemo. It's black print ink and gesso on paper and it turned out great. It actually ripped – and a friend suggested I use the rip, so I wrote lyrics to her songs

along the rip. I love her songs, especially "Tomorrow is My Turn," which I sang at the Urban Voices Coffee House event. Not only was it for myself, but also for those who have come to Skid Row, and that their turn is coming. I wanted to encourage them to move out of their current situation. I want to move out and up to a higher ground. I look for songs with real meaning through which I can encourage the members of Skid Row."



I love all types of materials: mixed media, oils, watercolor, non-traditional materials (such as eggshells, sand, yarn, etc.) and I love learning and experimenting with new mediums. When I was little, we had a black plastic bowl my dad bought which I decided to cover with eggshells and then paint. It turned out so nice that no one noticed it was the familiar black bowl!

My art is one way I love and encourage people. My inspiration comes from things I see in my friends and family. I take lots of pictures of them and their photos; sometimes what they're going through or their meaningful moments inspire me to make art. A teacher at an art class I took told me that my work contained a lot of feelings and encouraged me to keep painting the way I paint because it is authentic. That really gave me confidence in my work.

Once, when my daughter was going through something really difficult, I was inspired to make this work for her called "Prayer Warriors." It represents the strength of women praying to give her strength.

I've been with my daughter during this pandemic and it has really allowed us to enjoy each other and get to know each other better. I saw her grow and start to appreciate the "weird" things that I have been involved with since the 60's such as meditation and yoga. She used to ask me, "why can't you do normal things?" Now she is doing many of those things with me and it feels like we are finally on the same level of consciousness.

I also have some great friendships through the Skid Row community and have gotten to do some very meaningful work with wonderful women. I've been involved with many great organizations in Skid Row. I've been able to engage in so many interesting projects, and in the process, others have recognized and affirmed what I feel called to do by being as authentic as I can in encouraging others to rise in consciousness with me.

I felt I had been prepared by my various spiritual practices to come to this community and engage in whatever work was needed. So I asked God, "What gift do you want me to use to serve?" I saw that there was beauty in this community and that it was a lot more complicated than most people think. I learned to be more compassionate. I was at the Weingart waiting room where I had to sit

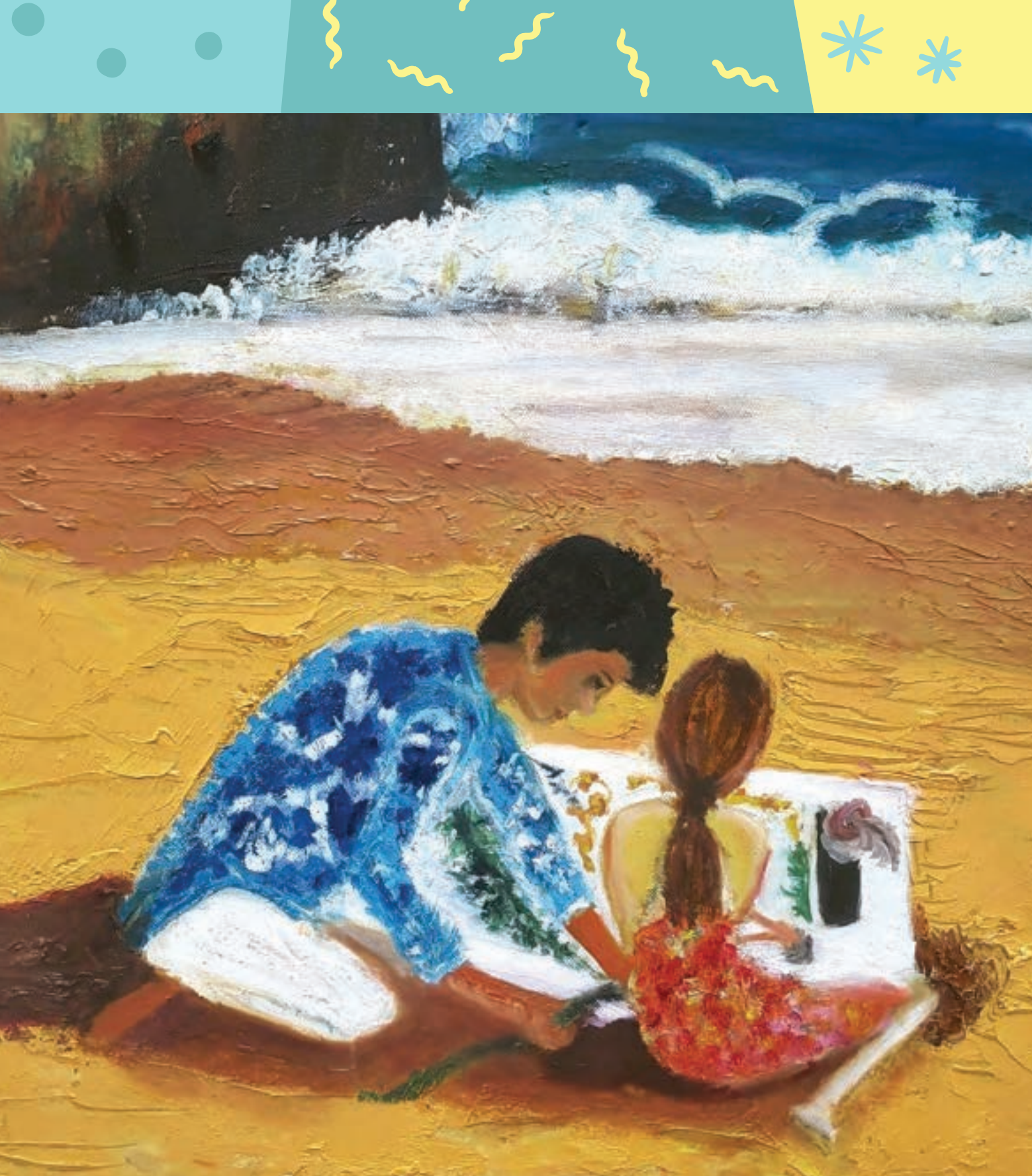


next to this disheveled woman who was ranting and raving. I told myself, you're going to sit next to her and not judge her by how dirty or unhygienic she was, so I sat and started to listen to her. I realized that she was yelling at the people in her past who had hurt her because no one was listening. I started to really listen to more women like her. Then many of the women I met would come to tell me their stories because no one else would listen. I realized many of these traumatized adults grew up as traumatized children who were not protected against the violence done to them, nor was their trauma acknowledged and validated. And like many, they are stuck in their past and don't know how to get out of it. Thankfully, I had loving and strong women like my grandmother who taught me not to let my emotions rule me nor keep me stuck in the past. That has really helped me to keep moving forward.

When I first came to Skid Row seven years ago, I was out with a couple of ladies at Weingart where we heard someone playing Smokey Robinson's music loudly and dancing, having a good time, so we started to dance and have a great time. And I thought, "Oh, you can be happy in Skid Row, and laugh and have joy. I don't have to be down and out because I'm in Skid Row."



"Prayer Warriors"




Have something to say or share?

Submit your "Word from a Skid Row Artist" and have the chance to have a full article be published in the next zine! we're looking for Arts, Culture and Community offerings from YOU! sraa.tvguide@gmail.com

About the painting:

"I met a woman and her daughter at the beach and we ended up making a mandala together. It was such a special experience with strangers that I was inspired to make a painting of that encounter."



www.urbanvoicesproject.org
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URBAN VOICES PROJECT

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.



URBAN VOICES PROJECT, A SKID ROW-BASED CHOIR, PREMIERES “WE SHALL OVERCOME” MUSIC VIDEO ADVOCATING FOR VACCINATIONS AND THE SAFETY FOR BLACK LIVES.

A Los Angeles choir of individuals surviving homelessness performs an original adaptation of a key anthem of the American civil rights movement partnering with local clinics and social services as well as Carrie Mae Weems’ national artist movement, Resist COVID/Take 6!

“WE ARE URBAN VOICES PROJECT, AND WE SING MUSIC THAT HEALS THE SOUL.”

LINDA LEIGH - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, ARTIST AND CHOIR MEMBER OF URBAN VOICES PROJECT

URBAN VOICES PROJECT • MUSIC



The Urban Voices Project Choir (UVP) presents the uplifting voices of Skid Row artists through their new original adaptation of “We Shall Overcome,” including passages from “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. This arrangement is performed in the context of the critical injustices of homelessness in and beyond Los Angeles and the unequal health impacts of this pandemic, understanding that COVID-19 has not been an equal opportunity virus. For Black Americans who continue to struggle for dignity, self-preservation and humanity in a world that doesn’t allow it and to address the misinformation of the COVID vaccine, we sing the message that the COVID-19 vaccine will help us to walk hand in hand again.



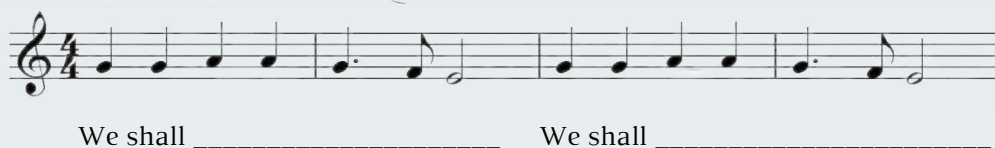
Watch the video here:
youtu.be/hCP7jxXtNXQ

We Shall Overcome, the iconic American Civil Rights anthem, asks us all to dream of a future when we can traverse oppression and struggle. We inhale together with eyes, ears, and hearts open as we "walk hand in hand" towards justice and safety for all Black lives. We also raise our voices against the injustices of homelessness in and beyond our city and the unequal health impacts of this pandemic. We must get vaccinated so we can walk hand in hand again.

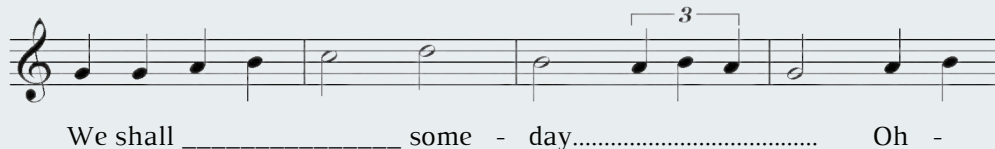
If you were to write your own lyrics for this powerful anthem, what would be your words today?

We Shall Overcome

What would be your hopes for what we can all do together again after the pandemic and with successfully vaccinated neighbors?



Share your lyrics and fill them in the blanks.



Feel free to take a picture and share back with us!



Mark your calendars!

COFFEEHOUSE - JULY 16TH!

Empowering music and solo performances featuring the voices and our community choir.

Sunset Concert - FREE Event



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piece
by
piece

PIECE BY PIECE IS A NONPROFIT MOSAIC ART PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES LOW-INCOME AND FORMERLY HOMELESS PEOPLE FREE MOSAIC ART WORKSHOPS USING RECYCLED MATERIALS TO DEVELOP MARKETABLE SKILLS, SELF-CONFIDENCE, EARNED INCOME AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE.

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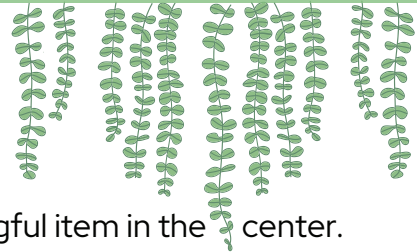
**PIECE BY
PIECE**

Nature Mandalas

A Mandala means circle in Sanskrit. In its simplest form, a mandala is a circular structure with a design that radiates out symmetrically from the center. Crafting nature mandalas can be an excellent way to explore artistic composition and mindfulness through nature. Take some time to go through this meditative process, creating a small piece of art that honors nature and give you a moment to reflect.

Supplies Needed:

Elements from nature,
such as
Leaves, Flowers, Pebbles,
Blades of grass, Acorns,
Twigs, etc.



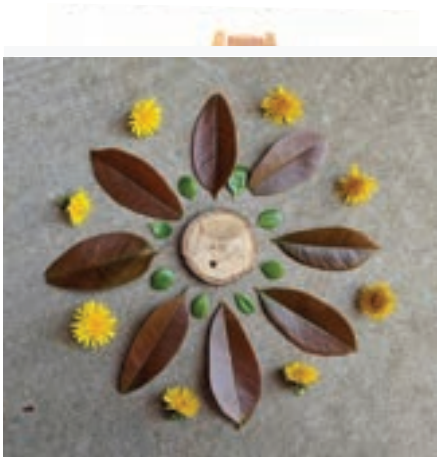
1. Place a meaningful item in the center.

2. Arrange other elements in a circular pattern, starting near the center and working outwards.

3. Your mandala can be as big or as small as you'd like to make it. Pieces can be set closely together or further apart.

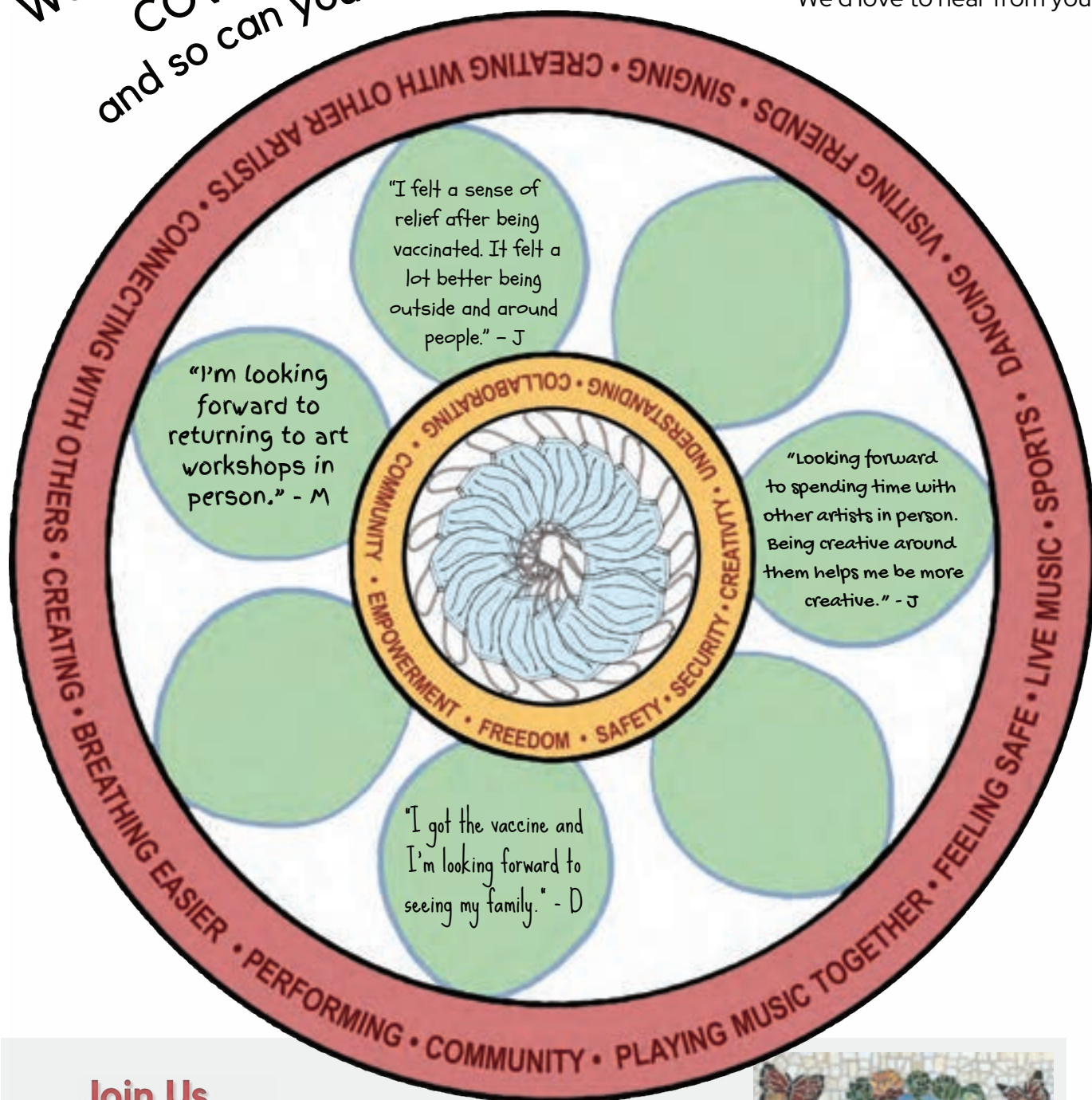
4. Nature mandalas are temporary art and are for you to enjoy. Take a photo to remember it.

Leave it behind for Mother Nature and others to enjoy.



We're Conquering
COVID,
and so can you!

Getting the vaccine is a step forward to empowering yourself and your community to move past this pandemic. What are you looking forward to doing? How do you feel after getting the vaccine? Fill in any or all of the remaining petals of the mandala here and send us your thoughts at info@piecebypiece.org. We'd love to hear from you!



Join Us

RSVP to receive a free
mosaic kit and link to online mosaic tutorial:

email info@piecebypiece.org or call (213) 459-1420
or visit <https://www.piecebypiece.org/mosaickitonline>





www.creativeispace.org

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Email: creative.i.cas@gmail.com

CREATIVE I

The vision of CREATIVE I Community Arts Space is to support and nurture the existing thriving arts community in the Skid Row neighborhood by providing a platform for its residents to be vehicles of joy and hope to their community.

The mission of CREATIVE I is to provide an accessible, safe, and multidisciplinary art and community space that empowers artists in the Skid Row Neighborhood to fulfill their artistic and personal goals. We believe it is an absolute necessity that the existing artistic community of Skid Row has regular access to more arts and cultural spaces which nurture the creative spirit and allow the community to thrive. We aim to foster the development of community-rooted arts programs grounded in a culture of non-judgment, collaborative encouragement, respect, positivity, innovation, and freedom of creativity.

We provide art workshops at various locations and events within Skid Row neighborhood.



Here's *Your* Road Map to Freedom and Hope

Create your road map to help you take control of your day and stay focused!
Post it somewhere visible!

What are your road blocks to avoid or remove today?
Write or draw below.

What are you hopeful for?

What positive things can you do, and what truths can you focus on today?
Write or draw below.



STREET SYMPHONY

www.streetsymphony.org

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STREET SYMPHONY

MUSIC



THE POWER OF THE POEM

Iron is a 2020-21 Voice Fellow with Street Symphony's Daniel Chaney Fellows Program. His second-year project involves using his skills as a poet, artist, singer, and all-around inspirational speaker and entertainer as tools to inspire and uplift the members of the Skid Row Community, his chosen family. He hopes his journey toward his decision to receive the vaccination (to protect both himself and his fellow community members) will encourage others to be vaccinated as well. Here's to all of us staying healthy so we can make more art together! – *Street Symphony*

I Opened My Eyes Wide & Realized I Must Trust

As I went down to the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
Why, oh why, am I so damn afraid
I asked, Good Lord, show me the way
Out of this fearful, most tearful, cage

I'm afraid to be vaccinated
What if I get sick, recuperation
Will not at all be easy for me
I'll fall ill, I won't break free

I have been beaten, brutalized
Blamed & shamed, for years
What materialized
Was tears
Fears

I became the "Elephant Man"
Was laughed at, verbally brutalized
Smacked on the bus, doors opened, I ran
I've had 5 facial surgeries in 1 year, realized
I was to have a permanent facial deformity
I'm battling an extreme case of PTSD

My therapist makes me leave
Any situation where verbal abuse
Is used to blame, shame, and cause me grief
It is a real mental illness, yet it is still confused

As misbehavior, being childish, rudeness
Most don't understand, each episode
Sends those like me into darkness
To fall into empty, isolation mode

I'm a 64 year old, disabled
32 year long term survivor
Of AIDS, my doctors labeled
Me incurable, I'd never see the age of 34

I'm resistant to 26 HIV medications
Each time they said, there is no more
I became a Guinea pig, with tolerations
Opening new medications, opening new doors
So many more will survive, but the ramifications

Of 32 years of destructive medications
Left me with a multitude of hallucinations
Yet the physical side effects are realizations
I have wasting syndrome, extreme neuropathy
Diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol
Osteoporosis, a weak immune system
Night sweats, and paralyzation
In my hands and feet, if I don't
Shake like a damn earthquake
Everything drops
And I flop
Down
Down
Down

My medications
Are \$40,000
Each year
With fear

I will again be sent into darkness
It not only snuffs out my awesomeness
It cause excruciating pain, restless sleep
Nightmares, crying fits where all I do is weep

It is not healthy, nor recommended not to fight
For what mental physicians consider is right
To be honest about my physicality's
Limitations & mental disability
Overcoming my PTSD

It's not worth the risk
What if I get really sick
Then I opened my eyes wide
Took a deep breath, looked inside, & realized

I haven't only just survived
I now actually thrive
My art is very much alive
My songs, poetry
My humanity
Keeps many
Truthful
Hopeful

I've apologized to myself quite enough
Times have been tough, life is rough
But I must do what's right for others
I'm on the front lines
I'll protect my sisters, brothers

As the Buddha said, the tears
You've shed over lifetimes are greater than fears
It's time to ask not what you need to do to fix
Things, but what you stand to gain if I dismiss

This constant hardening of my heart's fear
I did my research, I can't get COVID-19
From my vaccinations, no more tears
I got vaccinated, no pain, it was seen
As encouragement, motivation
For 6 others to get vaccinated
Where I currently work
No one went berserk

Now at 64
I'm motivating more
And more, and more
To lose fears
Shed tears

All of us are getting vaccinations
This has become our journey
The cure is our destination
Let us all do for others
What we wish others
Will do for us
Trust

We must
Get vaccinated
So we don't contaminate
What we may have, to those we love
Let us all rise, high, faithfully above
With Hope, Compassion & Love

- Much love, Iron Donato

se experiences
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to encapsulate
feelings you'd
now the global
ver you want!)

gh Poetry!

[illegible]

STREET SYMPHONY • MUSIC

L.A. POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) creates performances and multidisciplinary artworks that connect the experience of people living in poverty to the social forces that shape their lives and communities. LAPD's works express the realities, hopes, dreams and rights of people who live and work in L.A.'s Skid Row.



213-413-1077

(Leave us a message
and we'll call you back!)

Email: info@lapovertydept.org

Website: www.lapovertydept.org

FB: www.facebook.com/lapovertydepartment

And: www.facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum



More information at:
artstvguide.com/programs

Interested in theatre and performance? JOIN US!

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.

Everybody is welcome to join our rehearsals and visit us at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive at 250 S. Broadway.

FROM THE ARCHIVE...

Online Archive designed/hosted by
@robochshorn and @reduct.video

Check it out! : rts.rocks/walkthetalk

Our WALK the TALK Archive is available online, celebrating SKID ROW VISIONARIES with interviews, performances, scripts, portraits, and commentary. The website highlights initiatives by 68 people living and working in Skid Row, whose works from 1970 until today have contributed to building the Skid Row neighborhood through active civic engagement and profound, visionary initiatives. These initiatives, and the many community members who've worked on them, have ensured the survival of Skid Row, Los Angeles — a low-income residential neighborhood, the site of many indispensable social services, and the place where recovery happens. Without their efforts, Skid Row would have been bulldozed long ago and all its residents displaced with nowhere to go, and the services dismantled.



On May 14 and 15, LAPD Poverty Department premiered a new performance at the Center for Contemporary Art at MOCA Commissioned by The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) for WE RISE 2021

Downtown LA has long been marketed as a night-life destination. Los Angeles Poverty Department's "The New Compassionate Downtown," dares to imagine alternative marketing that draws people to Downtown who value the wisdom and compassionate practice exemplified by Skid Row residents and workers. The performance is set at a meeting of The New Compassionate Downtown, a diverse group of people living and working in all parts of Downtown who embrace building a community of compassion.

The performance promises that as a participant in The New Compassionate Downtown, "...you can live guilt and resentment free. No longer will the subterranean guilt of ignoring privilege haunt you and through psychological displacement manifest itself as anger." The performance cuts from the meeting to scenes that concretely explore compassion, in action, as life unfolds daily.

Work on the performance began pre-pandemic and explored themes that have gained resonance in the past year. The performance was staged in a socially distant manner by a cast of eleven Los Angeles Poverty Department performers and a very small, invited audience on The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA's outdoor plaza and it was live streamed on YouTube. "The New Compassionate Downtown," was devised in LA Poverty Department workshops live (pre-pandemic) and then on Zoom. All the cast members have contributed to the script.

You can still watch it here:
youtu.be/jl4tl_7FBr0

The cast of the New Compassionate Downtown is Stephanie Bell, Iron Donato, Tom Grode, Leyla Martinez, Lee Maupin, Lorraine Morland, Clarence Powell, Dianne Prozeller, Anthony "ToneTone" Taylor, Maya Waterman. The performance is directed by John Malpede & Henriëtte Brouwers.

As with many LAPD projects, the performance is a central element of a multidisciplinary project that includes a visual arts component developed by



collaborator Robby Herbst and a series of public conversations. Known for his idiosyncratic artworks and publications, including his socio-economic-psychological mappings of life in Los Angeles, Herbst is creating a new "guide", Compassion and Self-Deception; A Guide To Los Angeles' Moral Crisis. The print project will be published by LAPD and Herbst's Llano del Rio Collective and begin distribution in the next months.



Public conversations will address not just the creation of housing but importantly, the creation of agency for all city residents to envision and determine their futures. The public conversations will continue throughout the summer and fall of 2021. Stay tuned for updates about the public conversations!

The first conversation, "Creating the Compassionate City," took place on May 6th with arts and social change practitioners Karen Mack, Charles Porter and Jeremy Liu. Karen Mack is the founding director of LA Commons. LA Commons leverages art and cultural approaches to create positive change. Charles Porter has worked for 20-plus years in Skid Row with United Coalition East Prevention Project to challenge systemic conditions and social disparities that threaten a healthy environment. Jeremy Liu, artist and social impact strategist, is the Senior Fellow for Arts, Culture and Equitable Development at PolicyLink.





SYSTEMS OF EXCHANGE

March 27 – April 25, 2021

A multimedia exhibition
curated by @elizabethpreger

LAPD was invited along with four other arts groups to exhibit work in the windows of Art Center Downtown @ the corner of 4th and Main St. This exhibition showcased how people created webs of support when doing things together.

THE

LOS ANGELES

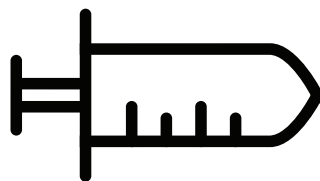
POVERTY DEPARTMENT IS EXHIBITING:

- Posters from our Festival for All Skid Row Artists
- Movie excerpts from the Walk the Talk archive:
app.reduct.video/lapd/walk-the-talk
- Pictures from our early performances: "Talent Show on 'Thieves Corner' (5th and Wall)" in 1985 and "No Stone for Studs Schwartz" in 1987.
- And a Lion-mask from the exhibition
"Nick Paul & Diane Prozeller"
made by Nick Paul, 2020



Featured groups:
KCHUNG (@kchungradio),
Los Angeles Poverty Department
(@lapovertydepartment), The
Collective (@thecollectiveLA99),
Auntie Sewing Squad
(@auntiesewing), and Love's
Remedies (@loves_remedies)
Organized by Elizabeth Preger
(@elizabethpreger) and
newspaper design by
Lusí-Andrés Ajonjolí
(@fem_earth_cardinal).
Thank you @artcenteredu
@artcenterexhibitions
and @crsvalentime!

WHY I GOT MY COVID-19 VACCINATION



LAPD has been doing open mic events on Zoom with zAmya Theater (in Minneapolis). Last month, we did the first one that had a theme. Artists from each group shared about the subject: Why I got the Vaccine. Robert, from zAmya, MC'd the meeting.

Robert (zAmya): How many people here have had at least one vaccination? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 80% of us. That's a great number. If this was the numbers everywhere, we'd be out of this pandemic by the end of the year. Everybody would be vaccinated. Everybody would be safer.

Lorraine (LA Poverty Department): So many people have passed away. My heart is in pain. Just for that. This earthquake has shaken us all up and we are in so much fear. But if we stand together, I do believe that we will overcome this, matter of fact.

For me, I am a senior citizen - and I take my senior citizenship in pride. I didn't get to 65 for nothing. One day at a time. And the Lord blessed me. So, they said get that shot. Believe it or not, the doctors called me and told me I could come get one. They said, "You have to get two. One now and another in a month." I thought about it. He was nice enough to call me.

And I'm hearing all these people, that's black folks, like me, saying, "I'm not getting that shot. I'm not getting no shot." I didn't hear much white folks talking about it, or Asian people. But I did hear blacks. And you know what? I'm black, so I was listening.

But I had to think about my future. I actually want to live some more years. I feel if the shot's going to help me, I'm going to call Access Transportation to come take me for my first

shot. I was scared and trembling like everybody else from hearing all that negative stuff. But I knew I was doing the right thing. I got in line. So many senior citizens were there, like we was having a party. I said, "Will you give me a nice-looking person that makes me smile?" The man said, "Of course; go over there to number nine". I went there and they was so kind to me. I had my camera up. She said, "Oh, you can't take a picture." I said, "But why not? You've got cameras all over this place taking a picture of me. I want to take a picture of me". She said, "Okay". She stuck the needle in me. She said, "Now how you feel?" I said, "Fine. Thank you." She said, "You'll have to go sit up there for 15 minutes." I had my music with me. I put my earphones on and I was dancing. Everybody was looking at me, that lady is crazy as hell. But I'm having a good time and one man almost got up dancing too.

So, I want to encourage everybody to do the right thing. Think about your future. If you're only living for the day, then don't do nothing. But if you're trying to live for tomorrow, go ahead and get that shot. I guarantee you, you won't regret it.

Robert: The thing that struck me is that I miss my friends. I miss my family. And in order for me to feel safe and them to feel safe, we have to get these shots. There's no other way around it. I mean, 600,000 people dead? Come on. When I

get that second shot and I wait those two weeks, then I can be around my friends. I'll tell you what, you're going to see somebody doing backflips, jumping, anything I can do. I mean, I miss the comradery. I miss just being out there with the people we work with. That's what I miss the most - engaging with people. And the only way to do that is go out there and get that shot. It takes two seconds to be done with it. Just do it. That's all I can say. Thanks.

Clarence (LA Poverty Department): I've already had part one of my vaccine. It was a no brainer for me. I'm in LA, but I always go home to Chicago. And I haven't been able to go home since March. My son is in Washington, DC. He's engaged. He's going to have kids. And I want to get to see my grandkids. My grandmother used to say, when you're born, your days are numbered and your bounds are set. Meaning, when it's your time, it's your time. But I figure that if I get this vaccine, it ain't going to be COVID that takes me out of here. So, for me, it was a total no-brainer, a total no-brainer to get this vaccine.

Esther (zAmya): I was vaccinated when I was a child. But when I had children, I chose not to have them vaccinated. When I was a child, we lived in a time when polio was still rampant. It was there. It was a real thing. TB was a real thing. But at the time that my children were born, the world felt really safe. And like many people, I didn't trust vaccinations. So, my children who are grown adults - in their thirties- have just gotten the first vaccination of their lives - which is the COVID vaccination. And that's great. They couldn't believe I was getting it. They were like, "You're getting it?!" And I was like, of course I'm getting it because we're living in the middle of a pandemic. That's why we're getting it.

Henriette (LA Poverty Department): I got my vaccination - on the one morning that it rained

cats and dogs - at the Midnight Mission. It was worth getting soaked, though. If you want to get it, they're also giving vaccinations at the ReFresh Spot and at the JWCH clinic.

Lee Maupin (LA Poverty Department):

Yesterday, I went and took me a shot. You know, there are two things I do not do: that is take shots and eat vegetarian food. Henriette called me and asked me, did I want to do it? Actually, I didn't want to do it. But I got to admit that I was thinking about doing it a little bit. Once in a while I'll be sitting there in my bed - cause I do a lot of staying at home for the coronavirus - and I would be thinking, "One of these days I'm gonna catch him. I have to do it."

So, I went over here to San Julian park. They were doing the "one and done shots". I decided to go over there because I wasn't going to take two of them. And I was scared. Looking at them damn red buckets with them, damn broken needles in it, I was scared. And they be trying to explain to you about how the shot don't hurt. They ain't the one taking the needle, so of course it ain't going to hurt him. I expected it to hurt a little bit. I really didn't feel it. I was still scared y'all. I tripped him out, the man didn't have no compassion, kept saying, "Don't move. Don't move. Don't move, man." I said, "Wait a minute, dude. I get my ass up there and I don't take this s***. I've always been scared of needles. As long as I live."

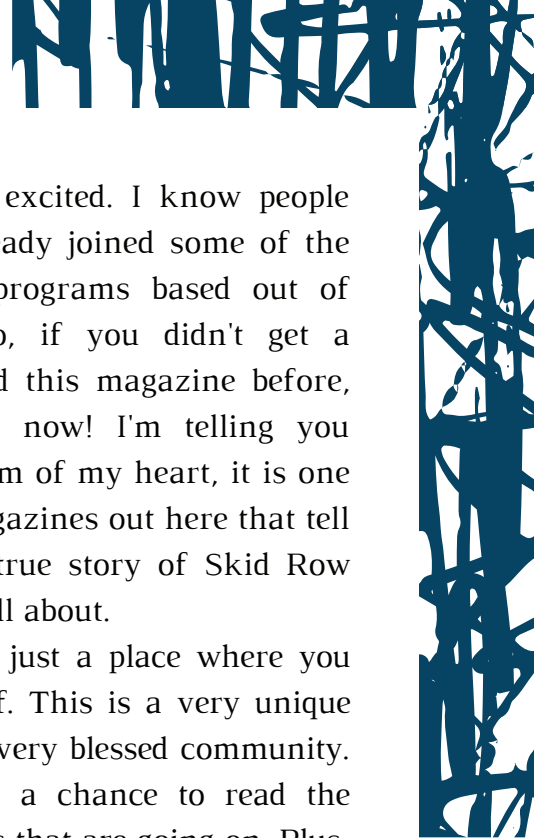
I guess I am happy that I did it because about an hour after I got home, I got to feeling better than I was, and that's for real. And when I woke up this morning, I was feeling good. I got to make me some breakfast, cook me some bacon and sausage and ate it. And so yeah. I gotta be able to be cool. So, it let me know that, Yeah, y'all should go and get you a shot if you're brave enough. I know everybody is braver than me. So go on down there and get one wherever you can. I don't give people any advice that I wouldn't do myself.



CULTURE OF OUR STREETS • COMMUNITY

CULTURE OF OUR STREETS

"My name is Wendell Blessingame. I have been sitting in St. Julian Park for about 22 years, Monday through Friday. I don't get paid for it. I do outreach. I want to be a beacon of light and hope for individuals that are here in Skid Row, who are in the process of getting housing, or getting a paper for SSI, or getting unemployment papers out, or need help to get an ID – whatever they need to be a productive member of society. When I was addicted to alcohol years ago, I made a commitment to the man above that if he'd take this desire from my mouth, I'd never drink again, but I'd be a servant. And ever since then, I've been serving.



I am a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Council executive board. I provide movies on Saturdays and Sundays at the James Wood Community Center from five to 11, unless it rains. If it rains I seat them all the way over to six o'clock in the morning. I partner with different agencies, like Skid Row Fashion. We are now handing out masks, socks, underwear, and t-shirts every Saturday at St. Julian park at 12 o'clock.

One of the greatest enjoyments throughout the years of trying to make this a community, not a wayside, is the opportunity to receive this Arts TV Guide. This Skid Row zine not only tells you what's going on in the area of Skid Row, but it also showcases some talented individuals. And we have an awful lot of individuals with talent like that.

I've passed out this magazine for the last four months. And I've gotten a lot of feedback. They're learning new information on what is actually going on in this area. They didn't even know they have a choir. They didn't know they have the opportunity to do poetry writing. They didn't know that there are places that are available to them.

And they are excited. I know people who have already joined some of the various arts programs based out of Skid Row. So, if you didn't get a chance to read this magazine before, you can start now! I'm telling you from the bottom of my heart, it is one of the best magazines out here that tell you the real, true story of Skid Row and what it's all about.

This is not just a place where you drop people off. This is a very unique community, a very blessed community. And you'll get a chance to read the different things that are going on. Plus, they have a calendar in here that tells you exactly what time you can get in and join.

One more thing: Vaccinations are a necessity. We don't know when the end of COVID-19 is, but we do know that we have an opportunity to cure it. So, every adult should take one. Get the vaccine and wake up and realize that you're not only protecting yourself, but you're protecting your family, your friends, your children, your neighbors. As long as you wear a mask and you get that shot, you have an opportunity to make a change in our city. We need it."



Facebook.com/Studio526LA

Call us: (213) 488-9559x256

Email: hmakhmuryan@thepeopleconcern.org

STUDIO 526 IS A CREATIVE STUDIO PLATFORM IN LA'S SKID ROW NEIGHBORHOOD, ROOTED IN THE CONVICTION THAT EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ARTS AND CULTURAL SPACES IS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT, ESSENTIAL FOR EVERYONE.

STUDIO IS OPEN 12-4:30PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY WITH LIMITED CAPACITY DURING COVID. RSVP REQUIRED. VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC ROOM SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT; STOP BY TO SIGN UP FOR A SPOT!

NEW ARTISTS: STOP BY OR CONTACT US TO SIGN UP FOR AN ORIENTATION FIRST.
LOCATION: 526 SAN PEDRO ST, SKID ROW, CA 90013



UNITED COALITION EAST PREVENTION PROJECT

UCEPP MONTHLY MEETING
(3RD THURSDAY @2PM)

SKID ROW PARKS MEETINGS
(1ST THURSDAY@2PM)

THE SKID ROW COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT COALITION MEETING
(1ST THURSDAY @6 PM)

FOR INFO ON HOW TO JOIN,
PLEASE CONTACT:

CHARLESP@SOCIALMODEL.COM
ZELENNEC@SOCIALMODEL.COM



Los Angeles Community Action Network



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.

PROGRAMS

Culture Hour Thursdays 5pm on LACAN facebook page must be noted separately, because this weekly event is a Skid Row and regional housing, racial, and social justice update, call to action, and a powerful music & arts fix rolled into one!

cangress.org

Email: **KayoA@cangress.org** - Phone: **213-228-0024**

[youtube.com/channel/UCQ3j85cxuTzfMvlzjVBWn4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ3j85cxuTzfMvlzjVBWn4A)

[facebook.com/lacanetwork/](https://www.facebook.com/lacanetwork/)

GET INVOLVED!

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition : this powerful human rights group is bringing arts into their work, front & center.

Check out their weekly zoom webinars from their main page, and definitely check out their "Not a moment in time..." zine project, and consider getting involved!

STOPLAPDSPYING.ORG

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US
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1244 E. 7th St. Los Angeles, CA
www.MyFriendsHouseLA.org

Curious about our website?

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ARTSTVGUIDE.COM

Remember, give us a call if you need any support accessing our classes.

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

WE ARE WORKING HARD TO HELP GET YOU ONLINE TO JOIN THESE PROGRAMS.

If you are struggling with the following:

- you are without an internet-abled device
- have no access to a sufficient internet signal
- need general tech training or support to access our classes

PLEASE REACH OUT AND LET US KNOW IN DETAIL YOUR SITUATION
AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP GET YOU SET UP FOR ONLINE ACCESS!

Share with us your experience and ideas for the next zine!

REACH US AT
SRAA.TVGUIDE@GMAIL.COM
OR **(323) 412-9770**

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



-  Theater
-  Movie
-  Art
-  Music

- 1** Skid Row History Museum and The Los Angeles Poverty Department
250 S Broadway
(213) 413-1077
- 2** Open Mic Night with Unkl Bear (King Eddy Saloon)
151 E 5th St.
- 3** Piece by Piece (Star Apartments)
240 E 6th St.
(323) 963-3372
- 4** Movies on the Nickel (James Wood Community Center)
400 E 5th St.
(213) 229-9602
- 5** Central City Community Church of the Nazarene
419 E 6th St.
(213) 689-1766
- 6** The Midnight Mission
601 S San Pedro St. Dining Room
(213) 624-6058
- 7** Studio 526
526 S San Pedro St.
(213) 486-8658 extension 265
- 8** Urban Voices Project (Wesley Health Center)
522 S San Pedro St.
(323) 216-4719
- 9** Movies in the Park (Gladys Park or San Julian Park)
808 E 6th St. (Gladys)
312 E 6th St. (San Julian)
- 10** The Art Workshop (River Apartments)
1242 E 7th St.

Fold along the line and tear



OUR ONLINE CALENDAR

Submit your art and get published in our next zine!

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
11:00 AM					11:00AM: FAMILY SING A class that encourages families and pre-school children to explore the world of music.
12:00 PM			12:30PM: MOSAIC WELLNESS Arts wellness from creative journaling to mosaic inspirations and techniques.		1PM: MUSIC WELLNESS LAB Practical ways to use music to create change in the mind and body.
1:00 PM	1PM: MUSIC EDUCATION LAB Build performance skills and techniques whether you are an industry professional or a seasoned shower singer!				
2:00 PM					
3:00 PM					
4:00 PM			4PM: NEIGHBORHOOD SING A musical community jam experience where you will be heard, find wellness, and connect.		
5:00 PM				5PM: CULTURE HOUR Join Kayo Anderson and the Freedom Singers from LACAN on Facebook Live!	
6:00 PM					
7:00 PM					
8:00 PM					

ARTSTVGUIDE.COM

ALL PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND AT
THE WEBSITE **ARTSTVGUIDE.COM**
CHECK IT OUT OR TEXT US AT
(323) 412-9770