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E7THST

The Midnight

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

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

Brought to you by the Skid Row Arts Alliance:

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









. . . and additional partners













Alice Corona is a mixed media artist and the new manager for The People Concern's Studio 526. For over 20 years, Alice has devoted her career to violence prevention, healing arts, and social justice across the greater Los Angeles area.

Early in my career, I began volunteering at a local non-profit for survivors of sexual and domestic violence and I quickly realized that not everyone is responsive to therapy. I took a training at A Window Between Worlds a nonprofit organization dedicated to using art as a healing tool to empower and transform individuals and communities impacted by violence and trauma and I began offering art workshops at Peace Over Violence. The workshops were transformative. Unprocessed trauma gets stored in your body and can show up in really unhealthy ways, but art and self expression is a healthy way to release trauma. When people ask me what kind of art I do, I always call it "healing art".

Art has the ability to inspire, heal and raise awareness. Recently I began leaving touchstones (Glass beads with a message glued on it) throughout my city to bring awareness of the unjust treatment of people of color. A few years ago I started leaving Post-its in unlikely places that shared statistics and facts about domestic violence (see photos on next page). These can sometimes be shocking or difficult reminders, but it's important that we use art to get these powerful messages across.

What I love the most about art is its ability to build resilience, I think that is what attracted me to The People Concerns, Studio 526. To me there is nothing more beautiful than resilience and the artists at Studio 526 are the most resilient people I have ever met. I want them to have all the opportunities they deserve. I want their work to be seen and valued; I want people to know who they are. They are creative, strong, and powerful: they're artists, musicians, actors, and so much more.











The People Concern, 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.

The art studio is open Tuesday through Friday with limited capacity. The music room is open Tuesday

through Thursday, by appointment only. Attending an orientation is required in order to participate in either studio.

To sign up for orientation call or email us at: (213) 488-9559x265 | ACorona@ThePeopleConcern.org or JoshuaCastro@ThePeopleConcern.org.

Studio 526 is located at: 526 San Pedro St. Los Angeles CONCERN



### 13th Annual

## FESTIVAL FOR ALL SKID ROW ARTISTS

Saturday & Sunday, October 29 & 30, 2022, 12-4pm

General Jeff Memorial / Gladys Park (corner of 6th Street and Gladys Avenue



#### The Festival For All Skid Row Artists

is a festival of music, theater, spoken word, performances, visual art with plenty of music, showcasing the diverse range of talents among Skid Row residents. Initiated by Los Angeles Poverty Department in 2010, with support from United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), the festival has become one of the most anticipated grassroots cultural events in Skid Row where typically over 100 Skid Row Artists perform and display their artwork to enthusiastic audiences. You can make your own art at Creativity Stations and learn new skills in workshops throughout the day. LA Poverty

Department interviews Skid Row Artists during the festival, and we document artists work and keep an artists' registry.

Sign up as a Skid Row Artist at the entrance of the park to be entered into the Skid Row Artist Registry, which now counts over 900 artists who have performed at the Festival since the first one in 2010.

If you'd like to perform or exhibit your artwork at the next festival, please contact us!

- email: info@lapovertydept.org
- phone: 213-413 1077 (leave a message and we will call you back)















## **How The Festival Got Started**

Performers: Ashe Ase Drummers, From the Heart and Silkii Harris on piano with Lyrical Storm on guitar

#### Making the Case for Skid Row Culture

In 2009, John Malpede (LA Poverty Department) co-authored a paper with Maria Rosario Jackson (Urban Institute), published by Americans for the Arts, entitled "Making the Case for Skid Row Culture". The paper was the result of convenings with Skid Row resident artists who articulated the obstacles and needs of artists working in Skid Row. The Festival for All Skid Row Artists (2010) and our cultural space the Skid Row History Museum and Archive (in 2014) came into being to expand the art making opportunities for Skid Row residents, and to embody and affirm the community.

Find out more and download the study at: www. lapovertydept.org/projects/festival/

LA Poverty Department started as a performance workshop for anyone in Skid Row. LAPD's intention was to strengthen community in Skid Row and through its performances, to get the real deal out to "Normalville"—in other words, represent Skid Row from a resident perspective. That was in 1985.

Now, decades later, LAPD is still making performances, but also exhibitions, Skid Row wide festivals and parades, public conversations and convenings and we have an extensive archive of Skid Row history, with specific attention paid to the history of organizing. Our work is focused on making clear to the world utilizing all our artistic means—that Skid Row is a vital community that cannot be bulldozed nor can its residents be displaced. (continued next page)

















When performers like Mello Bluez and Mark Phillips hit the stage at last year's festival, their presence affirmed the continuity of community. Mello always peppers her improvisational singing with allusions to the Harlem Renaissance and LA's Central Avenue jazz scene. Mark Phillips linked his singing with the history of the neighborhood and the genesis of the festival. And Stephanie Bell and Mike Mahaney, who had admired one another's singing at previous festivals, collaborated to sing gospel together.

Many artists who have performed at the festival for years were eager to be back after we had to move the festival online in 2020 due to COIVD-19: Lyrical Storm, Crushow, Rosa Miller, La Ronda, Unkal Bean, the Cubano Percussion group from the corner of 5th and San Pedro Streets, Robin Hoodloom, DJ Sir Oliver, Urban Voices Project, Street Symphony, Big Mama, Lee Maupin and Silkii. In the days before the Festival a dozen LAPD'ers fanned out through the neighborhood going tent to tent looking for singers, dancers, actors and visual artists. And we found them: the rappers Young Kilo and Ayoo Duce, Divine Being who read a pretty profound text and Kenneth Ross, who brought his abstract paintings on wood from around the block where he had them propped up against a corrugated metal fence on Gladys Avenue near 7th Street.

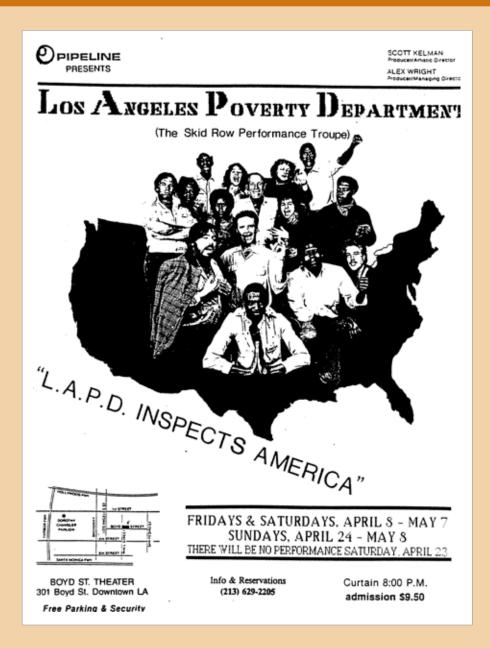
LAPD is back with a full weekend Festival for All Skid Row Artists this year, which gives audiences a chance to hear what you usually don't hear about Skid Row, that it is a community rich with talent!

#### FROM THE ARCHIVE

## **LAPD Inspects America**

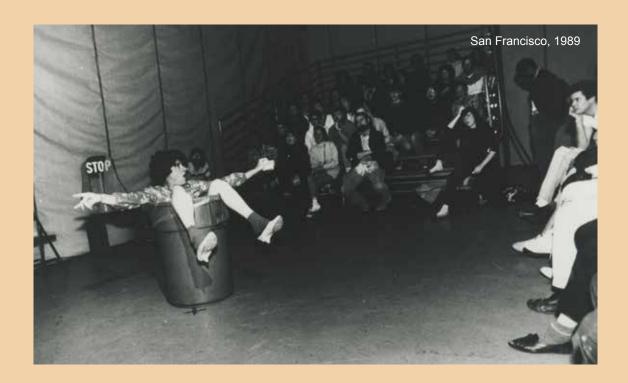
**Los Angeles Poverty Department** started as a performance workshop in October 1985. John Malpede was artist in residence at Inner City Law Center, then on San Pedro Street next to the Weingart, and the workshops were open to anyone in Skid Row. Many of the original workshop members were Skid Row clients of Inner City Law and others were from the just opened LAMP day center on San Julian, where Malpede also did workshops. When the workshop started to have small gigs around town, the members voted and we named ourselves Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD). We were the first ongoing arts group in Skid Row. In 1986 and 1987 we were invited to perform at the Boyd Street Theater (then on the corner of Wall and Boyd). We got good reviews and word was out that we were cool. In 1988 we got invited to the San Francisco Art Institute for a 6-week residency.

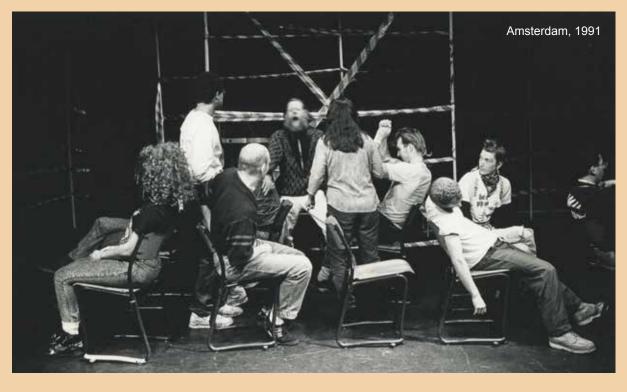
To begin the residency, the complete 12 person cast of "No Stone for Studs Schwartz"—(our long running underground hit here in LA) came to SF for a weekend of performances. After those performances, 6 LAPD'ers stayed in SF for 6 weeks, creating talent shows and workshops with homeless- and SRO hotel residents in SF's Tenderloin District (which is the SF version of LA's Skid Row). The performance that came out of this process, "LAPD Inspects San Francisco" was the first chapter of what turned out to be "LAPD Inspects America", a series of performances made during residencies in skid row neighborhoods of many cities with sites from coast to coast. We made performances, ("did inspections"), with combined casts of LAPD'ers and



local residents in many places, including, Philadelphia, Chicago, Miami, Raleigh, N.C., Houston, Minneapolis, San Jose, San Diego, Helena, Montana, Seattle, Boulder, Colorado—and in the European cities of Amsterdam and London.

In 1990, LAPD was invited by Patrick Scott of Art Against Aids to do a one-week LAPD INSPECTS residency in D.C. culminating in a performance at The Arena Stage. In the one week that we were in D.C. we did workshops at shelters and one local person joined us in making the performance. He was great—and for the performance he borrowed / called himself the name of the rapper





Cool Mo D. Mo D and LAPD'er Ken Gruz created/ improvised a hilarious scene in which Mo D. applies for a job as a Domino's pizza delivery driver. Domino's Pizza did, and continues to, support right wing causes, and as this performance was created in conjunction with Art Against Aids, it hilariously critiques the anti-aids position of Dominos. LAPD Inspects D.C. was videoed and here's a very funny excerpt of the script of this scene. There are no still photos from LAPD Inspects D.C. but here are some very good still photos from other "LAPD Inspects" performances.

To this day, Los Angeles Poverty Department performance workshops are still open to anyone from Skid Row who wants to be involved. Participate in the workshops and be in the performances. Come by the Skid Row History Museum or call or email us to get involved.

#### Excerpt from a scene from LAPD Inspects D.C.

Domino's Rep: Next?

**Mo D:** I think that's me man. I'm here for the job. **Domino's Rep:** Have a seat. My name is Kenny G.

Mo D: Ok, I'm Cool Mo D.

Domino's Rep: Thank you for applying to Domino's. I see you're from Brazil and you have a background in law and media communications and health and business education. That's great. Are you aware this is for a delivery job?

**Mo D:** That's what I've been looking for.

**Domino's Rep:** Any special reason? With a background like yours?

**Mo D:** Well, when you're someone with the background I have, I think that pizza delivery rounds it right off.

**Domino's Rep:** Oh really? Why's that?

Mo D: Well, I've always wanted to do something outside.

Domino's Rep: Outside. You like outside work?

**Mo D:** That's right.

Domino's Rep: Mr. Mo D, are you unemployed right now?

Mo D: Well, I was trying to hide the fact.

Domino's Rep: And how did you attempt to do that?

Mo D: I didn't want to mention it.

Domino's Rep: Well, Mr. Mo D. do you have any experience in the delivery area? Have you ever delivered before?

Mo D: I used to run some packages.

Domino's Rep: You used to run some packages, okay. Do you have any experience with pizza at all?

**Mo D:** Not really.

**Domino's Rep:** No? But, you went to college.

Mo D: Well, I tried to.

Domino's Rep: You tried to go to college—for

how many years? Mo D: About 15.

Domino's Rep: 15 years? You must have had pizza. You must have had pizza parties?

Mo D: Right.

Domino's Rep: How often did you have pizza

parties?



Mo D: Me personally? Once a year.

Domino's Rep: Once a year. How about not you

personally, but in a group?

**Mo D:** Well, at least once a week.

Domino's Rep: Okay. Once a week, 50 weeks a year, 50, 15, I mean, you must have had 750 pizza parties, Mr. Mo D.!

Mo D: Right, right.

Domino's Rep: And how did the pizza get to the party?

**Mo D:** Well, there was a guy, there were girls, there were men and ladies, and they just brought it to the house.

**Domino's Rep:** Right, right. You call for the pizza. You were hungry, Mr. Mo D. You're a college student. You're probably strung out on drugs. It's late at night. You get the munchies. You're hungry. You want your pizza. You call them on the phone. How long does it take to get there?

Mo D: Oh, an hour and a half.

Domino's Rep: Exactly! How does that make you feel Mr. Mo D?

Mo D: Disgusting.

Domino's Rep: DISGUSTING! Exactly! You're hungry. You want your pizza! You want your pizza now and it doesn't get there for an hour and a half!

Mo D: Right!

Domino's Rep: Okay. Here at Domino's how long

does it take?

Mo D: 30 minutes.

Domino's Rep: 30 minutes. It takes 30 minutes.

OK, now hold that thought. Mo D: Right. 30 minutes.

**Domino's Rep:** As you know, here at Domino's we have an image to sustain. All of our deliverers are clean. They've been tested for HIV AIDS. Okay. We deliver this pizza box to the public. Someone comes to the door and they touch this box. It's a white box! It's a blue box! Most important—It's a clean box! We want our people clean. We've been tested, okay? Now I want you to come back at 2:30 today, for your first test. We're gonna' test you. You're looking good Mo D. You have a future here at Domino's.

Mo D: Thank You, I'll be back.

(Six Months Later)

Domino's Rep: Mr. Mo D., as you recall 6 months ago you applied here at Domino's and you tested negative. Now, you're back 6 months later. And again, you've tested and again you tested negative. Very good. And you've stated that you've had no high-risk activities in the last 6 months. Right? You've abstained from all IV drug use, and any, uh, fornication. Is that True?

Mo D: That's right.

Domino's Rep: Okay, Mr. Mo D., how did you

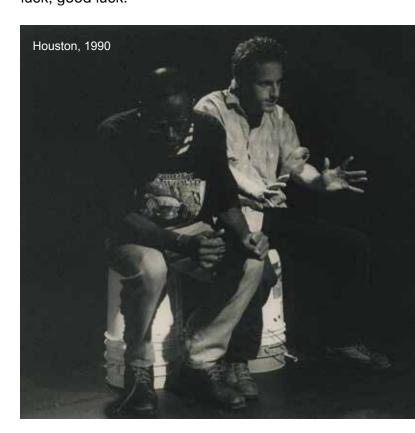
satisfy yourself in the last 6 months?

Mo D: Pizza.

**Domino's Rep:** Okay, any sexual, uh you know....?

Mo D: Pizza!

Domino's Rep: Well Mo D, I'm glad to have you aboard! Okay, listen, for your first delivery. You've got a delivery to Capitol Hill. 12 pizzas to Mr. Barney Frank. Get it there in 30 minutes! Good luck, good luck.



You can watch the full performance and all other LAPD Inspects America performances at the archive. Skid Row History Museum and Archive 250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles



## 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.

JOIN US! Theater Workshops Open to Everyone:

Tuesday afternoon: 2–5pm; Thursday evening: 7–9pm at the Skid Row History & Archive Museum:

Address: 250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles

Telephone: 213-413-1077 (Leave us a message and

we'll call you back!)

Email: info@lapovertydept.org Website: www.lapovertydept.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lapovertydepartment

www.facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum







## PIECE BY PIECE







## Free Mosaic Workshops



### Join our Community of Artists

Head to www.piecebypiece.org to sign up for weekly workshops—both virtual and in person.

Or call (213) 459-1420

Learn mosaic art for fun and opportunities to earn income.





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

Email info@piecebypiece.org to learn more.

## Neighborhood Sing! Join us every Wednesday at 2pm





**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.

Connect with us!
www.urbanvoicesproject.org
Follow us:@urbanvoicesproject
Email:info@urbanvoicesproject.org



#### On-going programs throughout the community

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

#### **Drumming in the Parks**

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



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

"The rhythms of the drum are the heartbeat and universal language we speak to become one." - Raymond Lewis. Ase Ashe Drummers

#### **Crossroads Concert Series**

We are presenting unique performances for the skid row community at the Roshenthal Theatre at Inner-City Arts at 707 Kohler St.





#### **Block Party**

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

#### The Messiah Project @ Midnight Mission: **December 2, 2022, 2pm**

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

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

www.streetsymphony.org Follow us: @streetsymph Email: info@streetsymphony.org

#### Murais in the Skid Row Neighborhood



\*This murap map of Skid Row was part of the exhibition at the Skid Row History museum "State of the ART Skid Row" in 2018.

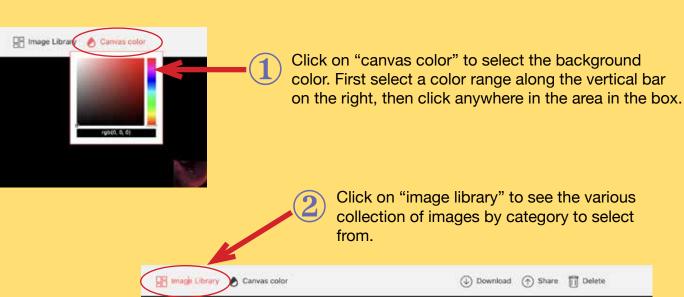
### Collage Creator by Dakarai Akil

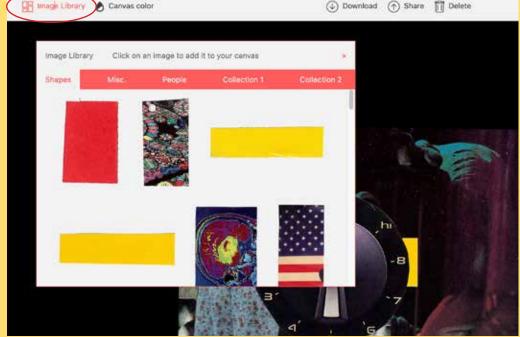
#### Create your own collage art online at: collagecreator.dakaraiart.com

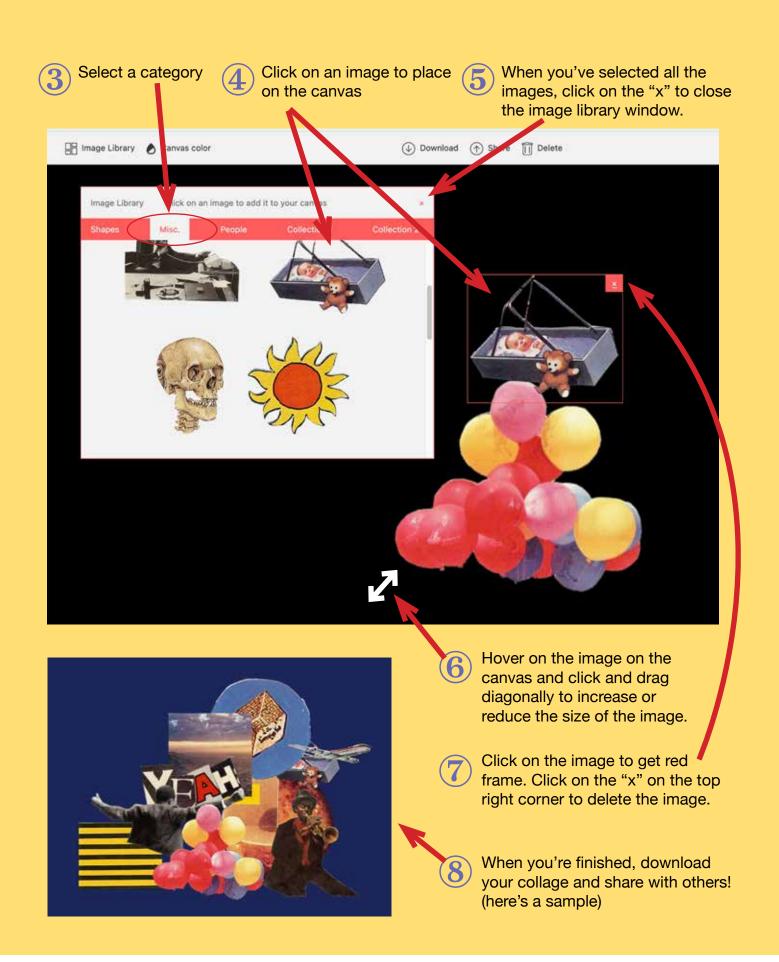
"My collage creator was made to add an extra element to my website to bring people in and include them in my world. The process of collaging is very therapeutic for me so it's something I like to share with others. My friend's at Problem Library based in San Francisco came up with the idea as website building is something they specialize in. They presented the concept to me and I was instantly on board with it. It's used as a tool to connect and share my

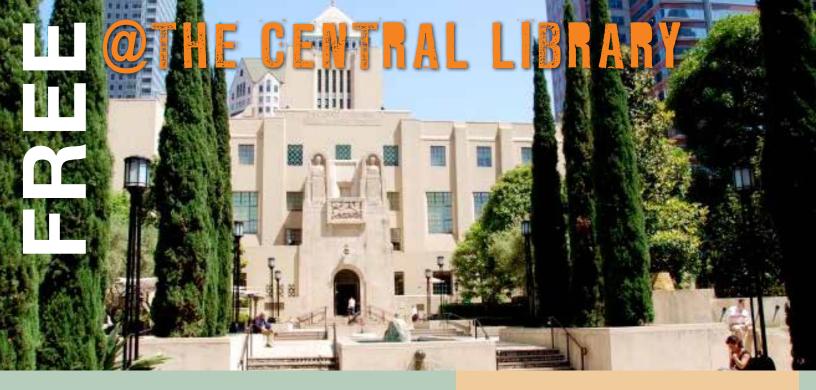
work with people but also a way to bring people into my website to see what else I have to offer.

Tips: focus on what you're passionate about, not what you think others will like or resonate with. People can feel when you're just trying to sell them something as opposed to trying to share a piece of you. They'll appreciate you sharing yourself through your art more than anything else." – D.A.









#### The Source @ Central Library

Dates: October 25 & November 29, 2022

Time: 12:30-3:00 pm

The Source is a convenient one-stop shop of services and resources for community members experiencing homelessness, life instability, or who are low income.

#### **Monday Night Chess**

Mondays at 5:30-7pm

Location: Art, Music & Recreation Department

Join us for a casual game of chess; all ages and skills welcome. Board and pieces provided, no registration needed.

#### **Weekly Art Circle**

Days: Wednesdays at noon

Location: Online

Take some time for your creative pursuits with fellow art-makers in this virtual studio hour. Bring whatever creative project you're working on, or if you need an art prompt we will provide one. To sign up, please contact the library at 213-228-7225.

## The Central Library offers many free events and classes

Go to **lapl.org/events** for more information on current and future free exhibits, events workshops and many other helpful resources.

Tech Thursdays (Drop-in tech help)
Thursdays at 4pm
Carson Center for New Technologies

Bring your own device (smartphone, laptop, tablet) to Tech Thursdays, where staff can assist with basic issues such as how to download an e-book or send an email with an attachment.

This program is intended to provide basic technology assistance. If staff are unable to assist you with your specific issue, they will try to point you to resources that can help. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis at these drop-in sessions.

For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento.

#### 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 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.





Established in 1998. United Coalition East Prevention Project is located at 804 E 6th St in Skid Row. We specialize in Abuse Recovery, Addiction Counseling, Drug & Alcohol Addictions, ADC, Chemical Abuse, Compulsions, Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Habit Control and Substance Abuse Counseling.

- UCEPP Monthly Meeting: Third Thursday, 2 PM
- Skid Row Parks Meetings: First Thursday, 2PM
- The Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition Meeting: First Thursday, 6PM

For information on how to join these projects and meetings, please contact: charlesp@socialmodel.com / zelennec@socialmodel.com



#### Join our Facebook group:

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/308265560150699/about

Uniting Social Model's (SMRS) prevention work in Skid Row (UCEPP) and Boyle Heights (CCERP). This is forum to connect and update coalition members as well as celebrate our collective efforts to improve the neighborhoods we serve.





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

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

More info: www.cangress.org



Look for arts activities happening throughout the community.

SAVE THE DATE! December 17th—Save the Date, A Holiday Called Home (UVP)

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE SKIDROWARTSALLIANCE.COM

to theatre, visual arts and much more.

Each program uses the arts to nourish wellness,
community and connectivity.

Share your experience and ideas for the next Zine!

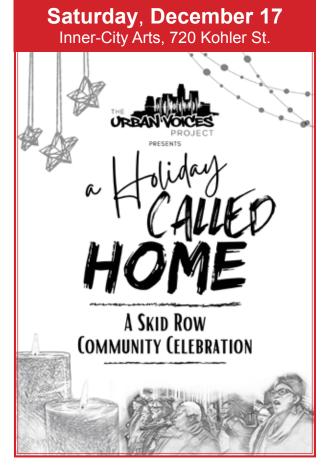
Reach us at sraa.tvguide@gmail.com or (323) 412-9770

## Skid Row Happenings: On-going

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1–2pm (Zoom) Music Education Lab (Urban Voices Project): Build performance skills and techniques whether you are an industry professional or a seasoned shower singer! (see p.20)	8:30–11:30am (October & December); 12:30–3:30pm Studio 526: art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see p.5) 2–5pm Theatre Workshops for Everyone (LA Povert Dept.) (see p.13)	12pm (Zoom) Weekly Art Circle (LA Centra Library): virtual art studio hour with other art makers. RSVP required. https://forms.gle/tkXCmBzEqmh21xq96  12:30pm Mosaic Wellness (Piece by Piece): Arts wellness from creative journaling to mosaic inspirations and techniques (see p.17)  1:30–2:30pm (10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 12/7, 12/21) Studio 526: art studio orientation–reservation required. (see p.5 for info.)  2pm Neighborhood Sing (Urban Voices Project): Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see p.18)	8:30–11:30am (November & December); 12:30–3:30pm Studio 526: art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see p.5)  5–6pm Culture Hour (LACAN) Join the Freedom Singers from LACAN on Facebook Live (p.25)  7–9pm Theatre Workshops for Everyone (LA Povert Dept.) (see p.13)	11am Family Sing (Urban Voices Project): A class that encourages families and pre- school children to explore the world of music. (see p.20)  12:30–3:30pm Studio 526: art workshops and open art studio open to public, (see p. 5)  1–2pm (Zoom) Music Wellness Lab (Urban Voices Project): Practical ways to use music to create change in the mind and body. (see p.20)		

## SAVE THE DATES!





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.

