

# LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Los Angeles California 213.413.1077 lapovertydept.org

## Festival for All Skid Row Artists, December 4th 2010 Gladys Park, Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Poverty Department produced a **festival for all Skid Row artists** on Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 12 – 4 PM in Gladys Park. The ‘Festival for All Skid Row Artists’ was an afternoon of activities that identified artists in all genres who live and work on Skid Row. Neighborhood artists performed or showed their art work. LAPD collected information about the artists, to create an artists’ registry and an archive of their work. We want the world to see that Skid Row is a neighborhood that’s home to many creative people.

This festival encouraged known neighborhood artists to continue their work. It also identified and brought together arts makers who were unknown even in their own Skid Row neighborhood. All participating artists received a pair of yellow shades, with the inscription “Skid Row Artist: menacing cool” imprinted on the left temple. The ‘Festival for All Skid Row Artists’ gave a menacing-cool face to the creative community of Skid Row.

We want to raise up all creative people on Skid Row. **Fill out the coupon on the back of the newspaper**, turn it in at UCEPP, and get your own pair of menacing cool shades that identify you as a Skid Row artist.



Thanks to:

Los Angeles Poverty Department would like to give a big THANK YOU! to our wonderful interns Vera, Sara, Zoey and Anne Maike and to Hayk Makhumuryan from LAMP arts project; Kevin Higa and Sign\*A\*Rama, Santa Monica; Xavier Estrada and his Orchestrada Audio; OG man; UCEPP; SRO Housing; LaCAN; and All Skid Row Artists who made the Festival a huge success.



Jennifer Campell is a LA Poverty Department performer and poet and she made amazing cookies for this festival.



Gary Brown, from LAMP art is standing in front of his work.



We couldn't have done this festival without these two men:  
Left: Xavier Estrada a.k.a X - Man, our sound engineer angel. He brought his amazing music production skills and equipment so that every artist would sound the best possible! Thank you X- Man!  
Right: Kevin Michael Key as the MC of the day!



Thank you Joyce Lightbody for making a real pretty chalk Mandela.



Leilani Sashae, sang. She is a magical soul singer and she gave expression to her multicultural blood using her powerfully *jazzy* voice.

Founder of the LA Poverty Department:  
John Malpede and his partner Henriette Brouwers hard at work to catch all artists on camera!



**James Porter** *'I am created to draw'*

Drawing since the age of four, James can not do anything else but draw. *'When I don't draw, I am not me.'*

But reality comes pushing through the door, and James explains it as living between two worlds; *'The creative world, where I am happy. And the reality, the world of the conscious mind, where I have to deal with people and the daily problems.'*

This is also the reason why he never uses models or draws from the image of the real landscapes. Because then you will have to use the conscious mind, and he just wants to use his creative mind. And take his art to the next level.

Standing next to his beautiful work he says proudly; *'There is no one who draws like me, I am the best coloured pencil artist.'*



**Mariana Valles** *'I want to stimulate the soul'*

Standing next to four of her colourful paintings, Mariana explains what she wants to send out with her art.

*'I don't want people to see my art, I want them to feel it.'*

Her goal in life is to touch people, because *'it might effect them and maybe even make a difference.'*

**Jeremiah Harrell** *'Interpretation is in the eye of the person looking at it.'*

After playing around with art his whole life Jeremiah says it is now time to take it more serious and hopefully eventually make a living out of it. He has already made pieces by assignment, with success. His art ranges from graffiti, to drawing, to painting, to photography. Sometimes he works together with his wife.

His pieces don't have titles, so no interpretation is enforced upon the viewer.



*'I am inspired by my emotion, and by the colourful people I see. I want to be diverse. I don't believe in living inside a box, be one way or another, make art one way or another.'*

**Walter Welerford** *'I want to put a message into my work.'*

Walter picked up art in prison because he didn't want to waste time; *'Art helped me practising for patience, it basically helped me doing my time'*,

Then people started to tell him he had a talent and should do something with that. And so he did. Doing his time, he met some very good artists. *'I still have to learn a lot before I am as good as those guys.'* He laughs.

Two years ago he also started to make t-shirts, by hand with brushes and fabric markers. He believes there should always be a message in his art, whether its t-shirts or drawings.

*'With a message you can reach people.'* so Walter says.

**Tommy Newman** a.k.a 'cold thing'

Together with guitar player 'Young Blood' and bass player 'Money' he forms the music group *'Faith'*. Tommy had the idea of getting a band together, and so they did, in May 2010. They are a new band, and getting better at working together every time, learning each others moves and tricks...to feel each other *'We want to make the perfect atmosphere'*

Tommy has also produced a gospel CD *'In His Hands'*. Writing, producing and singing all the music himself.



**Emery Lawbos**

This painter is known for painting from photographs of famous people or pictures he finds interesting for various reasons. In school he was the best of his art class, and he was even the teachers assistant. After an incident in school he was labeled as 'the bad guy' and went from shelter to shelter. *'My life was taken away'* he states while painting in Gladys Park.

Now he is totally dedicated to art, as a member of the LAMP art project. Besides painting from photographs he sometimes changes to painting desolate landscapes *'but only when I need a break from the photographs.'*





### Lance Walker a.k.a 'Laugh a Lot'

This truckdriver is called 'Laugh a Lot' for his everlasting smile and his strength as a stand – up comedian. *'I just want to entertain'* he says smiling. He performs everywhere; The Laugh Factory, the streets, parties. For anyone; *'I performed for the real deal prison audience'*

Besides performing as a comedian he also writes songs for others about the 'spiritual stuff' as he describes it.

Interesting fact: he had a role as a doorman in the "Nadine in Dateland" movie.



### Donald Reece, 'the flower man'

This fifty-two year - old drummer came from Texas in 1985. He has drummed with the "Witness of the Heart" group for over twenty years. He started making ribbon flowers for sale thirteen years ago; *'I was tired of being a starving artist, so a friend told me how to make these.'* Donald doesn't just make flowers, he can do anything: from paintings to leathercraft, from carving wood to making t- shirts.



### Gus Komas 'Everybody should get together and help'

Gus grew up on the streets of Chicago and spent the last twenty years living on the streets of the West Coast. He found his inspiration for his acoustic guitar music in God and his holy spirit. *'God saved my life.'*

He writes about life as he knows it. His song 'The city of humanity' is about the American government, 'One Soul' is about Skid Row.

Gus wants people to come together and help the ones that need it, because *'Its all about the love!'*

A special thanks to the **Skid Row Players** who drummed through the whole festival, supporting others and making the atmosphere.

Thank you: Walter, Billy, Blue, Big Rob, Ray, Larry Doc, Cordelia



### About LAPD

Los Angeles Poverty Department, founded in 1985, is made up of people who make art and live on Skid Row, Los Angeles. LAPD's mission: create work that connects experience of people living in poverty to the social forces that shape their lives and communities. LAPD makes performance, installation, movement, public art and public conversation events. LAPD makes projects that express the realities, hopes, dreams and rights of people in poverty.

The Skid Row Arts Fest is produced by LA Poverty Department with support from the California Arts Council's Creating Public Value program. CAC's CPV program is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

### About Making a Case for Skid Row Culture

Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts, released **"Making a Case for Skid Row Culture: Findings from a Collaborative Inquiry by the Los Angeles Poverty Department and the Urban Institute"**. This study by John Malpede (Los Angeles Poverty Department) and Mario Rosario Jackson (Urban Institute) documents the role of arts and culture in Skid Row. The paper is available at [www.artsusa.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading\\_room/LAPD.pdf](http://www.artsusa.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading_room/LAPD.pdf)

This study found that culture comes from the ground up in Skid Row and is often initiated by residents and resident driven initiatives. This festival is undertaken to recognize these people and initiatives and to stimulate a new way of envisioning and talking about this neighborhood.

ADD YOURSELF, SIGN UP AS A SKID ROW ARTIST

LIST OF SKID ROW ARTISTS SO FAR

Name	Art	Art Location	Info / Quotes
Abi Abraham	Singer		Midnight Mission
Abu	Singer		
Adela Palacios	Visual artist		"I like Islands and people"
Adrian Tumage	Performer (acts, sings)	LA Poverty Department	
Alejandro Gonzalez	Singer		
Alven Wilson	Visual artist		
Andrea Ross	Singer and poet		Spoken word artist, writer, song writer Pre-school Visual Aide Specialist
Angel	Singer		
Anthony E. Stallworth	Singer and Karaoke		
Anthony Taylor	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Ari Kaden	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Austin Hines	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Baby	Harmonica player		
Barbara	Singer		
Be Bruce	Singer/ Writer		
Beo Tibanli	Singer		
Bernard Harris	Singer		He's from Europe, speaks German.
Big Mac	Poet: "Floetry" = rap and poetry		
Bobbie Scott	Performer		
Bobby May	Singer		
Brother Joseph	Singer and music Minister		Music Minister Church of Nazarene
Carl Bunker	Visual artist	LAMP Art project	
Carmen Vega	Performer and poet		
Celestine Williams	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Charles Jackson	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Charles Porter	Singer and Poet	UCEPP	
Children	Singer	Central City Community Church	
Chris Sykes	Visual artist and poetry		
Cordelia Quinn	Drummer player	Parks	Every now and then I have to play the drums, release tension, follow the rhythm
Cornelius	"Predestined" Music Group		
Crushon Herring	Visual artist Muralist, Graffiti,	Skate shop at 7th Street and Melrose	Slam ball
Danny Meza	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Daren Wise	Crafts artist (glass, steel)	Studios friend in Downtown	
Darlene Altemeier	Visual artist (oil painting)	LAMP Art project	
Dave Martin	Photographer	Printers Hotel	Prefers to make films, has equipment to shoot films (a still camera)
David Alston	Performer and singer, minister		
David D. Childress	Singer		
Deborah Anderson	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Dee	Singer		
Derius	Conga player		
Diana Johnson	Singer and poet	Central City Community Church	Works with Coach Ron
Doc	Congas and drums		
Donald Reece	Drummer and visual artist aka	LACAN	"I was tired of being a starving artist"
Donno	Drummer, percussionist:		
Douglas Leightaylor	Singer		
Dr. Mongo	poet		
Earlean Anthony	Performer, director	Dramastage Qumran	
Eiko Yoshii	Painter	LAMP Art project	Japanese background and wants to act.
Emery Lambus	Painter (pastel, draw, wood...)	Lamp project	Wrote a book of poetry
Ernest Green	Visual artist	VOA	
Fraasie	Poet and visual artist.		
Franchie Joy	Performer (comedian)	Dramastage Qumran	Music video on domestic violence
Gary Anderson	Performer and singer (Hip Hop)		
Gerry Brown	Drums player and painter	LAMP Art project, Baptist Church:	Plays and rehearsals at the Church and on Union, normally on Saturdays.
Gerry Vandes	Singer		
Grace Astisdal	Singer gospel and artist		
Gus Komas	Singer and acoustic guitar player	VOA	mission.
Hewdy Foote	Poet (reggae band and style)	LA and Skid Row	
Hyleen Burt	Guitar player		
Isaac Clay	Performer and singer	Dramastage Qumran	
James Brown	Dancer and singer (karaoke)	LAMP Art project	Find him there or ask for James Brown
James Graham	Singer		
James Porter	Visual artist	LACAN	"I don't draw, I am not me"
Jay	Painter		
Jennifer Campbell	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Jeremiah Harrell	Visual artist and photographer		"Interpretation is in the eye of the one looking at it"
Jerry Dj Syco	DJ		has his own mini stereo set
Jesse Buenrostro	Performer	LAMP, LA Poverty Department	
Jimmie Johnson	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Jon (John) Nash	Singer		
Jonathan James Brown	Singer and poet	Karaoke at the CCC Church	
Julius	Actor	Dramastage Qumran	
Julius Mc Clenon	Performer (beats, comedy and	Anywhere (street, Main, Pinehouse)	I make beads and comedy
Keth Washington	Bass player		
KevinMichael Key	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Khalif	Hip hop and Rap singer	Skid Row collective	
L-Boogie	Poet		Published book
Lance Walker	Performer Stand-up comedy	Everywhere	"Don't smoke crack"
Larry Doc Williams	Drums and Conca player	Skid Row	
Lauri	Painter	LAMP Art project	
Lawrance	drummer		Long time
Lelani Sashae Zackery	Hip hop singer and neosoul artist.	Music group "Ensemble"	Anderson, Ray and Pope.
Lenore Ramoz	Crafts artist (beads, silver,		
Linda Evans	Performer (acts/sings)		
Linda Harris	Performer	LAMP, on the street, churches, gospel group, LA Poverty Dept., parks, film and soloist...	
Lonnie Ray Shepherd aka	Singer		
Lorinda Hawkins	Performer		
Lulu Anderson	Performer	Dramastage Qumran	
Manuel Compito aka OGma	Visual artist	LAMP Art project	
Marcus Hytche	Artist (Solar electric materials)	All over	
Mariana Valles	Painter	LAMP Art project	"I want people not to see, but to fee"
Maricruz Infante	Visual artist	LAMP Art project	
Mary Barnes	Singer, dancer, songwriter		civil rights, moral activist
Mary Davis	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Melvin Ho	Painter	SRO Art Studio (Lilian Calamari)	
Melvin Johnson	Performer, director, poet	Dramastage Qumran	
Michelle Autry	Performer, Poet, piano player	group "Ensemble"	Everything you do will come back to you. Just be the best you can be.
Mike Balakuri	Singer		
Money	Bass player		
Mozen Robbes	Dancer and Tatto artist		
Omar	Bongo player		
Oriando Johnson	Singer, painter		
Oscar Harvey	musician		
Pamela Walls	Performer (acts, sings)	LACAN, LA Mission, sings Gospel at	
Queen Mama Tabia	Poet (Dramatic enunciation,	Earth	"Soy lo que soy, donde quiera estoy. 'pa lante siempre nunca 'pa tras!"
Randall Williams	Writer and producer Hip hop and	Looking for a studio	
Ray	drummer		Sundays in MLK Park with African dancers and drummers: 38th Street Weston
Ricardo Porter	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Ricci Sharpe	drummer		Hopi, Apache.
Robert Chambers	Actor and poet		Founded Homeless Writers Coalition
Robyn Cunningham	Visual artist (drawing)	UCEPP Photo/Film Club	Does event coordinating
Ron Crockett (Coach Ron)	Model car, reading sports		Skid Row "Chuck Hearn" Look forward to reaching the Skid Row Community for
Ron Taylor	musician		
Ronald Walker	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Rose Gibson	Performer (Comedy)		
Rosemary	drummer		
Sammy Wynn	Performer (sings/dances)		
Sandra Komegay	Performer	LAMP	
shabazz	Singer		
Shanantae Duncan	Singer	Music group "Positive Light	Music about Skid Row stories
Skid Row Players	drummers	St Julian Park Mon. to Fri.	"Bringing back the drums" "The Drums are back"
SS Jones	musician		founder Skid Row Musicians Network
Sylvio Teixeira	Visual artist (cartoons, paintings)		
Thing	Singer, Songwriter, Drummer		"In his hand"
Trupocalis	Performer		
Twin	Poet and songwriter	Gladys Park	
Vanessa Hill	Performer		
Vera Soares	Performer	LA Poverty Department	
Walter Welerford	Painter	Skid Row gallery, LACAN	"I didn't want to waist time in prison. I want to add a messgae to it"
Willis Boyd	Singer "Positive Light Ministries"	places	
Yahveen Israel	Pianist and song writer	Music group "Ensemble"	
Young Blood	Guitar player		
Young Lee	Painter		

GET YOUR OWN PAIR OF MENACING COOL SHADES

Register as a Skid Row artist.

Fill out the coupon and send to:  
Los Angeles Poverty Department  
PO Box 26190  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

or

put the coupon in the  
Skid Row Artists Box  
at UCEPP  
800 East 6th street

email: [info@lapovertydept.org](mailto:info@lapovertydept.org)  
facebook: LosAngeles PovertyDept

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