

October 18 & 19, 2014

5th Festival For All Skid Row Artists



By Austin Hines --- **The Festival for All Skid Row Artists is getting bigger and better every year.** The community really came together for this two-day art and music festival at Gladys Park that celebrates the artistry of Skid Row residents. Almost two weeks before the festival, the lineup was fully booked; bands were rehearsing for their performances, visual artists were choosing works to display and the crew of LA Poverty Department was ready to produce the 5th annual Festival. On Saturday, Oct. 18th at 1:00pm, festival veteran Gary Brown, a talented artist and musician with Lamp Fine Arts Program, which partners with LAPD each year to organize the event, welcomed the crowd with a serenade from his saxophone and the show began. Gary also performed with Skidroplayaz, a group of Skid Row based percussionists that has acted as the festival's house band for 5 years in a row.

Gary was the first of over 90 performers who would take the stage that weekend, many who have performed year after year. The lineup included many different performance styles: poetry, gospel, hip-hop, rock, rap, reggae and folk to name a few. At times, the park even became a hotbed for drama. Dramastage Qumran, a Skid Row based theater company, performed their work "Nailheads," a play about homelessness in LA. The playwright, Melvin Ishmael Johnson, also helped to compile stories for another play that was being featured at the festival; "If The SHU Fits: Voices from Solitary Confinement," a reading of stories from survivors of solitary confinement, performed by Rev. Sidonie Smith, Craig Walter, Paula Brooks, Sherri Walker and the festival's renowned MC, Kevin Michael Key.

Kevin Michael was especially excited to introduce fellow 12-stepper Abbey Williams an employee for the Weingart Center's re-entry program. Abbey came to the festival to perform her rap, *Recovery Twitch*. "I write drug-free raps," she said in an interview after her performance, "I write music about oppression, and recidivism." Abbey combines her work and artistry into a powerful presentation of experience and skill.

In addition to the many performances, the park was filled with visual artists who were displaying their works. Myka Moon and Marvin Anderson, also with Lamp Fine Arts Program, displayed their artworks and did live easel painting. Myka talked about his work onstage (a new aspect of the event that highlights the visual artists). "I used to be miserable," he said, "painting makes me happy and that's why I do it." He displayed a collage with paintings, drawings, and sketches made at the previous year's festival.

Flo Hawkins also took the stage to speak about her work. Formerly addicted to drugs, homeless and living on the streets of Skid Row, Flo painted part of the mural that still exists on 5th and Crocker Streets. No longer homeless or addicted to drugs, Flo presented her pastel work, a stunningly precise portrait of Al Pacino, aptly named, *Al Pacino*. Flo was introduced to the crowd by Officer Rich who is famous in the Skid Row community for his kindness and canny ability to calm disturbances during his time working at the County Welfare Office. Officer Rich expressed his appreciation for Flo, whom he has known for almost 30 years, and held Al Pacino high up in his arms. After her presentation she proclaimed, "I was able to get off of these streets and you can, too!" Flo spent the rest of the day drawing portraits of people for free and Officer Rich volunteered, picking up whatever tasks needed to be done.

Both Flo Hawkins and Officer Rich have been honorees in *Walk the Talk*, LA Poverty Department's biennial parade/performance that honors Skid Row visionaries and their initiatives. During the festival, an entire section of Gladys Park was dedicated to displaying Walk the Talk artwork. Portraits of the 44 honorees to date, including eight quilted works by artist Brian Dick and a banner with portraits of the original 36 honorees created by LA artist Mr. Brainwash, hung on the back wall of the park. Walk the Talk portraits were accompanied by short bios and festival attendees were able to, not only appreciate the current artistic vibrancy of Skid Row, but also learn about the history of the area and the people who have made positive change on Skid Row, some of whom were right there among the festivities. Other Walk the Talk honorees in attendance at the Festival for All Skid Row Artists included General Jeff, a Skid Row resident and activist responsible for the revitalization of Gladys Park; Manuel "OG" Compito, founder of OG's 'n Service, a grass roots organization that cleaned up the streets of Skid Row (since the city was not doing it); the Founder of Skid Row Photography Club, Michael Blaze, was there taking pictures (unfortunately, his photo printer stopped working so he was not able to print out pictures for people like he had done the year prior); and Charles Porter, poet and culture bearer and a longtime employee of United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), an alcohol and drug prevention program in the neighborhood. Charles performed with Adelene Bertha and DC of the UCEPP Youth Group.

It was truly a community event, a hub for the artists and residents to reconnect and appreciate each other's talents. Artists who performed were given a t-shirt with the words "Skid Row Artists," positioned under a group photo from last year's event. The t-shirts were designed and printed as a donation by the Los Angeles based clothing company, Love Nail Tree. By Sunday evening, prior to the event closing, Gladys Park was packed with artists wearing those tees, a suitable way to distinguish the artists from the spectators.

The festival concluded with a spectacular performance by the LA Playmakers. A group of eleven rhythm and blues musicians, LA Playmakers was formed by lead singer Tommy Newman and keyboardist Joseph Warren with members from their church in Skid Row, The Church of the Nazarene. The LA Playmakers took the stage and rocked a 30-minute set, playing a variety of tunes, including Pharell's, "Because I'm Happy." During the final minutes of the festival, attendees were on their feet, dancing and cheering, an apropos way to celebrate the vibrancy of Skid Row artistry and to conclude the 5th annual Festival for All Skid Row Artists.

5th Festival For All Skid Row Artists

ALL ARTISTS:

- Gary Brown
- Brian Sonia-Wallace
- Lynn Rossi
- Suzette 'Sassy' Shaw
- Linda Harris
- Jack D. Blesoe
- Lee Shult
- Earlean Anthony
- Andrea Ross
- Melvin Ishmael Johnson
- Crushow & Artist
- Laronda Hartfield
- Flo Hawkins
- Elzie Alexander
- Paula Brooks
- Rev. Sidonie Smith
- Craig Ali / Craig Walter
- Dir. Morna Martell
- Sherri Walker
- Abby Williams
- Melzina Smith
- Floyd Lofton
- Unkal Bean
- Elk King / Erin Picella
- Silbii
- Danny "Blacksheep" Singleton
- Rodney (Mamo)
- Lorraine
- Stephanie Bell
- Franc Foster
- Rey Rodriguez
- Kenneth Adams
- Alana Marvin
- Sage Selah
- Randy
- Yvonne Michelle Autry
- Tight Grip
- Donovan Johnson
- King Melek Zacharia
- Dru-Luv / Andrew Bennett
- Paul McCarthy
- Big Rob
- Harry the Fox Richard
- Walter Fears
- William Mayo
- Zary McDonald Brown
- Elvis Mathews
- DC - Derick
- Adelene Bertha
- Quantrell
- Charles Wayne Porter
- Patti Berman
- Norman Curl
- Jo Clark
- Henriette Brouwers
- John Malpede
- Mark Phillips
- Wylie Coyote
- Carol Shelly
- Rudy Pacheco
- Alex Rodriguez
- Kirth Martinez
- Elvio Ditta
- Pam Walls
- JR
- N'diño
- Omar
- Khalif
- Chella Coleman
- Yommy Newman
- Bede Wilson
- Joseph Warren
- Stan Watson
- J.D. Smith
- Edwin Fontaine
- Larry McCrae
- Kenneth Christopher
- Marlene Adderison
- Cece Youngblood
- Cynthia Williams
- Myka Moon
- Larry Cade
- Anthony Johnson
- Vivian Jackson
- Brigitte Chambers
- Marvin Anderson
- Alex Schaefer
- Byron Bradley
- Rosa Miller
- Matt Miyahara
- Christian Najera
- Larry -S. Brennan 2nd
- Walter Pickett
- J - Rizzo
- Shafor
- Keith L. Jackson
- Michael Blaze
- Manuel Compito - aka OG man
- Larry "Dr. Of Art"
- Thomas Green
- Jack Bledsoe "Jako"

By KevinMichael Key --- The Festival has matured into a recurring community commemoration. It's our day in the sun, the day when we can shout out, "I live in Skid Row, and I know something you don't." Perhaps the most refreshing aspect of our "Festival For All Skid Row Artists" is how often Skid Row stakeholders use it as an opportunity to recast the mass media narrative about our lives and our community. The Festival has become a forum for the articulation of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of this community's collective imagination. When we tried speaking truth to power nobody listened, at our Festival we live out a self-evident truth that provides its own authentication. For these 2 days, Skid Row gives more than receives, we're making this thing happen, showering out love for this place and for each other. You won't build family housing? This place ain't fit for children? We'll make spaces for families in our Festival. Alcohol over-saturation, lack of sanitation? We can hold each other accountable and clean up behind ourselves. As Skid Row residents continue to coalesce in our creative space, for the changes they want and need, this Festival takes on added relevance.



Michael Hubman -- Water Core:
On June 16th, 2006, I drove up to the corner of San Pedro and 6th Street with a gallon of water in one hand and some cups in the other, walked up to some homeless people, walked up to some people that I didn't even know and said hi -- thirsty? Like a drink? And that started eight years of service.



JR has been making music for ten years now. He started rapping in the eighth grade.
"I sing, I rap, I produce. I make music. -- I'm a rapper and a musician and an artist. I'm very creative and I love what I'm doing. -- I don't have to be rich and wealthy to be someone. -- You've got to do something to be something."



Unkal Bean:
"Hello world... broad casting live from Gladys Park. -- I bring the same thing I bring to the community every day: love and respect. I do everything -- I do music, I do poetry, I'm a writer. I direct. I compose music. My relationship with the community is it's like family."



Franc Foster:
"We're **Franc's Melting Pot** -- we're the ones that melted the rest of these people. I run a program called Music and Arts Recovery. What we do is, we teach music. We put instruments in the hands of those disenfranchised that haven't played in a while so they can get their chops back, then put em in bands and put them in positions to play."



Thomas Green: "I'm a visual artist. I've been drawing and painting. I also was an entertainer. In my youth I was a dancer, professional dancer. -- Well today has been really good. A lot of people have gone through all of my pages of paintings and drawings and a lot of it is based on African men and African workers. They've been really very receptive to them. In fact I brought this pile of business cards. They are almost all gone."



Crushow: "I'm going to bring some of my rap talents. I'm an artist by trade. My whole thing is figuring out new ways to express myself. I try to figure out many ways to express my movement and my purpose. The best way I've figured out is through art. Art is a bridge between lifestyles to bring people together, and the more we can come together, the more conversation we have, the more change we'll have."



Earlean Anthony, Melvin Ishmael Johnson, Andrea Ross, Lee Shult

Dramastage-Qumran is a non-profit recovery theater company based out of Skid Row whose objective is to utilize community theater to reduce violence found in the individual, home, school and community. The company operates both adult and young peoples workshops, as well as a workshop for veterans at The Vortex. They are based on the Community Theater Model and the NESONA Model, which is a non-violent conflict resolution group. Melvin: "I started off working with LAPD with John and Henriette -- started right here -- did our first workshop at UCEPP called *Surviving the Nickel*. We've been in existence about eight years." "We try to amplify what's really happening down here in the community, just like LAPD." said Andrea Ross "We tell the stories that come up out of the community that are relevant to the community, by the community, for the community."

At this year's Festival, Dramastage-Qumran's Melvin Johnson, Earlean Anthony, Lee Shult and Andrea Ross presented *Nail Heads*. The script was written based on stories from a Skid Row workshop. *Nail Heads* was originally performed at USC in partnership with the Compassionate Response to Poverty and Homelessness Group. Melvin: "They collected 80,000 nails to symbolize the number of homeless in the county of Los Angeles. They asked us to write the script for the play and once they collected the nails they donated them to Habitat for Humanity." Lee: "We had the chance to take *Nail Heads* to the Staples Center and perform after a Clippers Game -- I think that was 2010."

What is Qumran? Qumran is a plateau in the Middle East known as the hiding place of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Just as those scrolls uncovered stories that had been buried, Dramastage Qumran gives voice to the Skid Row community.



Myka Moon has lived in the Skid Row community for about two and a half years. He was homeless, but managed to get housing last month with the help of Lamp. He is now an active participant in the Lamp Arts Community where he spends much of his time painting, learning and helping other artists as a volunteer. Moon says art has played a critical role in helping him survive and recover.

"The art project at Lamp kept me sane," said Moon. "I had a point when everything was stolen out of my tent while I was in it and I went crazy. I was actually forced by my case-worker to continue the art project. Before I knew it I was in poetry classes, photo classes, art classes. I found myself calming down. I found myself more open to what was around me. I have PTSD and anxiety, and I'm introverted. I didn't like other people. Now look at me."

He wanted to be an artist by the time he was nine-years-old, but his parents weren't supportive. "My family told me that an artist is homeless, they're burdens on society, and that I would never make it in life...drugs, welfare, the whole nine yards. They proceeded to trash my art supplies," said Moon. "At that point it was always pencils and paper and anything that was small enough to hide in a binder." Moon never pursued art, but wound up homeless anyways. When he found Lamp, he said he wrote his parents a letter. "I said: 'You told me this is what an artist was. I managed to accomplish it with no art in my life, so sorry, but I am going to be an artist.' I've been happier ever since. Art is healing. It gives you more room within yourself so you don't have to hold it all."

Two creativity stations were dedicated to re-imagining and re-designing our Skid Row Community: architect with Skid Row Housing Trust Theresa Hwang, Saul and Areol's station **Our Skid Row** and visual artist Faith Purvey's **Build It Up!**

Don suggested and sculpted a 'green energy recharge station' ---> to be put on many corners. These stations will send wifi signals, charge any devices with free, solar energy. He also suggested self automated portable hydroponics. This idea is inspired by Tesla.



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Danny Singleton loves playing flute with the SkidRoPlayaz. When he first started playing 36 years ago, Danny didn't even own a flute. He would borrow his sisters and go play alone in his car in the streets of New Jersey. It wasn't until his family took a trip to Germany (his father was in the army), that Danny really fell in love with the idea of becoming a flautist. "I heard something with my earphones on the plane — it was flute, like a jazz flute solo — and that's when I got my inspiration," said Singleton. "It sounded so good. That's what got me. I swore I heard angels outside the plane! A few months later, in 1979, I bought my first flute ever." Danny has lived in the Skid Row Community for 20 years. He is a part of the music ministry team at the Central City Community Church of the Nazarene where he has been playing for the last seven years.



Abbye Williams works at Weingart Center at their AB-109 re-entry program which started in 2012 for people coming out of the penal system. It's a supervised, one-year probation that helps individuals find housing and employment. "It can be an uphill battle," said Williams. "I think that the system is designed to keep people down. I think it's hard for people coming out of prison: we want them to get a job, but the system makes it very difficult to get employment. We want them to be responsible, but we make it difficult for them to have responsibility."

"I write Drug-Free raps, music about oppression and recidivism. I came to the festival to share one of my songs called the *Recovery Twitch*. I too am a recovering alcoholic and an addict. And now I work in the field. I am a firm believer that the arts can help rehabilitate people. We have a society of people - a population of people - that are very artistic and very talented. A lot of talent comes out of the people that stay with us [at Weingart]. So if they have an outlet -- something like this festival where they can show their talents, I think it does help to rehabilitate them."



Jo Clark was a professional, internationally-touring dancer for 20 years with the Natasha Hall dance company. Her home bases were in Las Vegas, San Francisco and New York, but she's been around the world. Her second favorite place to perform is in the Cayman Islands. **But the first?** "Skid Row." "These are real people -- they're going to let you know exactly how you are," she said. "It seems like I am getting better now than I was when I was a professional because these are the critics -- these are the people."

While Clark has danced all sorts of styles, she is most well known as a Michael Jackson impersonator. "I mimic him from head to toe, from inside out," she said. "I'm a big fan of his of course -- he was my idol from day one. I remember seeing him in New York at NASSAU Coliseum in 1979. I was so excited. We were in the 7th row and he came to a part of the stage where it was just he and I -- he actually gave me eye contact. He actually closed his eyes and put his hands on me -- and to me -- he gave me a part of himself. Ever since then I've followed him. Its like he gave me a piece of him and it has never gone away. He's more in me now that he's gone than he ever was before. His spirit lives on in me because I love him that much." Clark hopes her dancing can inspire others. "If I can do something like this, maybe its an inspiration to somebody else who might want to get up and do something different and totally out of the ordinary," Clark said. "Everyday life inspires me -- you never know when you are going to get inspiration."

The hospital, envisioned by **Chicago** and sculpted by **Cassandra**, "will inspire you to heal" and features surfing and other ocean imagery and animals.



Rudy Pacheco sounds a little like Bob Dylan when he sings. He has played guitar at the Festival for three years in a row. "I'm a soloist I play guitar, I make up my own songs. I sang a song today related to a poem that I found 40 years ago that I used to sing over in Venice Beach when it was really packed with a bunch of hippies. -- its kind of graphic you might say, its called *Miss Heroin*. Its realistic, it's truthful of what drugs or alcohol can take you to. But there is one that is ready to call it if you're ready to surrender. Doing the twelve-step program helps me do all that. Things have really changed in my life and I love it. -- I got my voucher to move out of here, but I'm not sure I even want to go anywhere, or at least not that far, because you know Skid Row's got a lot of good, loving people, man, that are just in bondage. They just need a whole lot of lovin'."

Pacheco says he's in awe of how many talented people live on Skid Row. "Who knows where they could have been if someone had supported them when their talent first came out. A lot of us didn't quite have that support, or maybe we didn't have the courage or confidence. I think there's a lot of us here is Skid Row that are beginning to let loose that gift that's in us - whether it's acting, writing, drawing, singing - whatever it is: God don't make no junk. We're all gifted to do something in this world. That's our purpose here."



Lynn Rossi is not homeless, nor does she live on Skid Row. Yet, she says she is absolutely a member of the Skid Row Community - Skid Row changed her life. "Skid Row has been a healing place for me -- it helped me recover from many obstacles in my own life and it has been a holy ground for me in terms of being able to express myself. -- Its the first time I've ever really felt acceptance of myself from a whole community, so it really changed my life in a lot of ways." Rossi found Skid Row in 2009 when she was introduced to Michael Blaze of the Skid Row Photography Club. She started taking pictures of the basketball games in Gladys Park. She's felt at home ever since. "A lot of people don't know what Skid Row's about -- they just think its homeless shelters and people living on the street. They don't really understand that this is a community. By having these festivals, it really opens up people to the diaspora and variety of creativity that is here."

This year, Rossi brought a new series of photographs to the festival that tries to recreate the spirit of moments in African American history. "I take lessons in history and put a modern twist on them to encapsulate the spirit of the movement," Rossi said. "Sure there's a lot of wonderful pictures from the civil rights movement, there's pictures from slavery times. But what I'm really trying to do is capture the spirit and the energy of that movement that you never see in history books. I want people to look at my photographs and say, what does that mean? I want people to question what they see. I want my photographs to not just be something to look at, but something to educate. That's why it's called *Evolution of the Revolution*, because you've got to keep evolving, not revolving."



Walter Fears plays a drum with the *Skidroplayaz*. The Playaz formed in 2009 when a group of homeless men, mostly drummers, started jamming together in a drum circle on the street. They have been the house band of the festival since the beginning in 2010. "We kept getting harassed by the police. When we originally started playing, they felt it was just noise," said Fears. "But the community kind of came behind us to say to them -- these guys are good for the community, they're not selling drugs, they're not drinking. This is the one thing that we have that's positive, we'd like you to stop harassing them." The trouble escalated, to the point that police illegally seized some of the player's drums. After settling a lawsuit out of court, the players got their drums back. While it was troublesome, Walter says the trial ultimately brought the group closer together. "It really made us, as a group, more a family," said Fears. "Eventually as time went by, they [police] saw that we were not contributing to the things that make this community ill." Since then, many of the Playaz have found housing. "We have a rehearsal space now. We have several gigs throughout the year, and we're in the process of doing some studio work."

Walter says for him personally, the band has helped him grow. "I suffered a severe physical trauma in 2003 and because of all the prescribed medications and the physical therapy, I was out there. I was lost. It was through me getting into the arts, painting, drumming, that I gradually filled that void...that whole that was there in my life. When that void was filled, I had nothing but this expression...it comes out in my music, it comes out in my performances, it comes out in my paintings. It was healing for me, and it still is today."

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Skid Row's history and the many people that helped build our community.

There's always a smiling face behind the counter of *The Alex Market*: Eddie. Eddie was born in Korea and he has worked in the Skid Row community for almost 13 years. He worked at the market and he bought the store. He's seen Skid Row change for the better.

Errol was homeless on Skid Row 12 years ago and used to buy beer at Alex's Market, now he works 30 hours a week as uniformed security. Errol moved to Los Angeles from Jamaica with dreads and a heavy drinking habit, but when he found crack cocaine, his life took a dive for the worst. He hit bottom on Skid Row and checked into the Midnight Mission's recovery program. There he found sobriety and a new beginning. He participated in the Mission's security guard training program. When he graduated, Eddie hired him at the market. "Everybody deserves to get a second chance, you know?" said Eddie. "We have hired many recovering people. It's hard to recover. I know that. I take the risk and give them a chance." It doesn't always work out. "I've been hurt many times," said Eddie. "They promise to be sober and then they disappear and in four days they come up crazy again. It hurts my business, but still I keep trying. If they are in recovery, if they come on time, I will work with them. Why not?"

Errol has now been sober and employed at the market for more than five years. "He's completely recovered," said Eddie. "He doesn't drink or smoke anymore. None of that. He's working 5 or 6 days a week now."

Errol lives within walking distance from the market and says he loves it. It helps him remember where he came from. "I'm really happy," Errol said. "Life is much better now." Errol just returned from a trip home to visit his family in Jamaica, they had a great time. It's the first time he's been home in 20 years. He didn't want the family to see what his life had become, now clean and sober he can go home again. "Life is good," he said, before returning to the back corner of the market to keep stocking the shelves. "He's a hard-working man now," said Eddie, like a proud brother. They joke around and laugh like family. "We have a great relationship," said Errol.

Eddie hopes he can help other people like Errol in the community. He dreams of starting a scholarship program in partnership with UCEPP and LAPD to assist people who could use a little help getting back on their feet. Alex Market has been a continuing supporter of LAPD and UCEPP. The market provided donations for the *Festival for All Skid Row Artists* over the past years. The story of *The Alex Market*, Eddie and Errol, represent the part of Skid Row that more often than not gets overlooked. It's called community.

about Los Angeles Poverty Department

LAPD's MISSION: 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.

LAPD's VISION: LAPD makes artistic work to change the narrative about Skid Row and people living in poverty. In doing so, LAPD aims to create a community of compassion, change individual lives and inspire the next generation of artists.

LAPD's HISTORY: The Los Angeles Poverty Department has been working in LA's Skid Row since 1985, hosting free performance workshops and creating art. LAPD was the first theater company run for and by homeless people in the nation, as well as the first arts program of any kind for homeless people in Los Angeles. Our original goals remain the same: to create community on Skid Row and to amplify the voices of the people who live on Skid Row, in order to share the lived experience of our company and community members with the larger city of Los Angeles and the nation.



Enormous THANKS TO...

... our expanding group of community partners: **Lamp Arts Project**, **UCEPP**, **Amity Foundation's** yearly volunteers, the **LA Mission's** volunteers and **Union Rescue Mission** helped again with supplies and **LA CAN** surveyed Black Men & Boys. **Alex Market** paid for our lunches, **Council District 14** provided tables and chairs, **4Feeds4** provided delicious meals for 300 folks on Saturday, **Love Nail Tree** printed our tshirts, which were provided at cost by Jacob at the **Fabric Planet**, Michael Hubman alias **Waterman** celebrated his 8 year anniversary with us and Gladys Park chiefs A.J., Chicago, Ron Smith and our **volunteers** Debora Hermele, Gabriella Syom, Alexander Thimsporr, Thanh Duc Mao, Gabriela Maria Aguilar, David Riccardo Bonilla, Magda Wittig, Harout Dermendjian, Melad Jamal, George Ma, Elizabeth Gordon, Lan Chen, Matt, Kieth Jackson, Nicholas Maccarone, Nia Fairweather, Danielle Charbonneau and Unoriode Otojarer I. Coach Ron, OG man and volunteers, providing housing and food on the spot! **And the artists who set up camp at the creativity stations:** Kenny "Boog" Sanchez who lead poetry writing workshops based on hip-hop lyrics, Mindy Look making jewelry from recycled materials, Matt Miyahara managing the Paper Maché station, Jen Hofer writing personal letters and poems for anyone who needed one, Laronva Hartfield braiding beautiful flowers in your hair, **The Big Draw LA** and the people who invited us to re-imagine our neighborhood: Theresa Hwang, Saul, Areol from *Our Skid Row* and Faith Purvey who *Build It Up!* Our filmcrew: Helki Frantzen and the whole LAPD crew and staff who made it all happen.

Get Ready for Los Angeles Poverty Department's 6th ANNUAL Festival for All Skid Row Artists Coming up Saturday & Sunday October 17 & 18, 2015

The Festival is 2 afternoons of non-stop performances created and performed by Skid Row talents. We're talking about performance of all kinds: music, dance, more music, spoken word, theater and yes even more music. Skid Row visual artists will display their work and we'll have visual arts workshops going on, so anyone can make some work on the spot. If you want to perform or exhibit your work, contact us anytime between now and October and get a spot at the festival.



Call or write us!

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