

Performers

Gregory Holmes "StickShift"
 Patti Berman
 Crushow "the Last Dragon"
 G-NUT
 Angela Cesare "White Chocolate"
 aka James Brown
 Sidewalk Slim aka Temptation Twins & Terry Johnson
 Dramastage Qumran, Melvin Johnson, Lee Shaw
 Black Onyx, King Howard, Don Ovan Johnson
 Twin Skid Row
 Wesley McIngtosh
 Rodney Samuels
 Dallas Rose
 Norman Tate
 Jeffery Jackson
 Tommy Newman & Women of Voices
 John Malpede, Henriëtte Brouwers, Sohrab Mohebbi
 Mark Phillips
 Lorenzo (L. Boogie) Solomon
 Larrissa Pugh "the Sparrow"
 Franc's Melting Pot & Gospel Choir
 Paul McCarthy and The Wicked Saints
 John Gannon
 Jennifer Campbell
 Nicca Niccan
 Charles Porter & UCEPP Youth, Derrick Cooney,
 Tatyana Hart, Maranda Session
 D'Silkie
 The Skid Row Playaz & Big Rob
 Walter Fears
 Ray Lewis
 Rob G. Young
 Joe Holden
 Lisadon "the Flower Child"
 MooMoo
 Hawaiian Mike & Ray Ray
 Stringz & Waslin P.
 Patricia Thornton
 Bobbie Scott
 Lisa
 Michael Edwards
 Christopher Varnado

Isis Rahman
 Young Robb
 William V.
 Gail (Ms. radio) Harris
 Emilio
 Dorothy Hill
 Rico Haydel
 Piro
 Rosa
 Linda Harris
 Carol Shelly
 Reggie "Tight Grip"
 Presidential Smoke
 Kahilf
 JD Clarck
 David V.
 Jose Vandenburg
 Michelle Yvonne Autry
 Steven Fyre
 Daniel Paul
 Unkal Bean
 Kobi Fox
 Patricia Smith
 Gary Browne
 Jeffery Young
 Dante

VISUAL ARTS

Ray Lewis
 OG man
 Michael Blaze & Skid Row Photography Club
 LAMP Fine Arts Project
 Crushow Herring
 Yarn Bombing Los Angeles with Arzu Arda Kosar
 Carol Zou and David Orozco
 Samuel Higgins aka SKIT
 Jermille Gregory
 John Efferson
 Reggie Wilson
 UCEPP Youth
 Giovanni Grant

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. 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. The festival is moving the case for Skid Row culture forward in practice.

The paper is available at: www.artsusa.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading_room/LAPD.pdf

Thank You!

Los Angeles Poverty Department would like to give a big THANK YOU to: Hayk Makhmuryan, Xavier Estrada and his Orchestrada Audio, Vaibhav Shetge, X Ray, UCEPP, LAMP's Fine Arts Project, SRO Housing, Alex Market, the SkidRowPlayaz; OG man, the Waterman, Katie Loughmiller, Matt Mayes, Laura Cherry, Gary John, Gary Lett, AJ, the LAPD production team and All Skid Row Artists who made the Festival a huge success.

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:** 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.

The Festival for All Skid Row Artists is produced by LA Poverty Department with support from the California Arts Council's Creating Public Value program and The James Irvine Foundation. CAC's CPV program is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Festival for All Skid Row Artists



Charles Porter and Derrick Cooney perform at the 3rd Annual Festival for Skid Row Artists.

Rain was forecast

for Saturday Oct. 20 and the 21st, so we quickly went about our preparations for Los Angeles Poverty Department's 3rd Annual Festival for All Skid Row Artists. X-man, Walt, Sean and X-Ray were already there and soon they had the sound system and stage in good shape. We weren't going to let anything dampen our enthusiasm. Gary, the Gladys Park worker who has seen everything, came in a little early so that we could get started right on time. As the park decorations and creativity stations began taking shape, anticipation was building. Some of the residents wanted to volunteer but we had it covered. They were talking about how much fun they had at our last event. It was a good feeling, watching everybody chipping in to make for another "LAPD" kind of happening in our community. This year's Festival really filled the park and the community with a contagious spirit of cooperation.

Our Skid Row artists really showed up and showed out. They have come to recognize the importance of having this Festival in Skid Row, not only as a way for them to display their talents, but also as a means to find inspiration and to get to know new people or deepen their relationships. Again this year the Skid Row Playaz formed our amazing 'house band' supporting many artists on stage. Crushow "the Last Dragon" and G-NUT improvised an amazing rap that got everybody on their feet during the open mike section. Jeffery Jackson literally walked his whole drum set to the park and had us all dancing and stamping the ground with him. OG-man exhibited the whole series of paintings he made for the 'Peace in the Hood' coloring book. Yarn Bombing Los Angeles brought their 'Wishing Tree' and 'Urban Letters' project, where people could spell out short phrases with knit letters on the fence. Many people used the creativity stations to make art right on the spot and there were many children who had a great time doing that too! Twin Skid Row - who performed another amazing text by the way! - brought his son Ali to the stage and was happy being a father and watch his son paint. We saw Black Onyx have an impromptu audition right there in the park. Artists and friends recorded their performances and Skid Row Photography Club members, TeleMundo and students from Biola University and USC came to report about the festival. This year, with the help of Alex Market, we were able to give lunch bags and T shirts to all the performers. Linda and Celestine signed up 65 new artists for our Skid Row Artist registry, which now counts more than 450 artists living in Skid Row. We filmed and photographed all artworks and performances and will make a DVD with highlights. Jennifer and Sohrab interviewed most artists and you can read some of those interviews in the following pages.

Skid Row's artists and talents carried the ball and UCEPP - LAMP's Fine Arts Program - SRO Housing - Orchestrada Audio - AMITY Foundation - The Weingart - Alex Market - OG'n Service - DLANC - the Office of José Huizar - Central City Community Church of The Nazarene - Esther Taylor and artists from outside Skid Row, like 'Paul McCarthy and the Wicked Saints' and Mark Phillips, found ways to contribute to make this Festival unforgettable. The Festival even attracted some people from other parts of Downtown who were happy to have discovered the talents of Skid Row. The home team hit a home run. And, oh yeah, it never rained that whole weekend...

Get Ready for the Next Festival!

The 4th Festival for All Skid Row Artists is already planned: October (Sat. & Sun.) 19 & 20, 2013

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

Telephone: 213.413.1077
 Email: info@lapovertydept.org
 Web: www.lapovertydept.org

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Find LAPD On: [f](#) [You](#) [t](#) /lapovertydepartment

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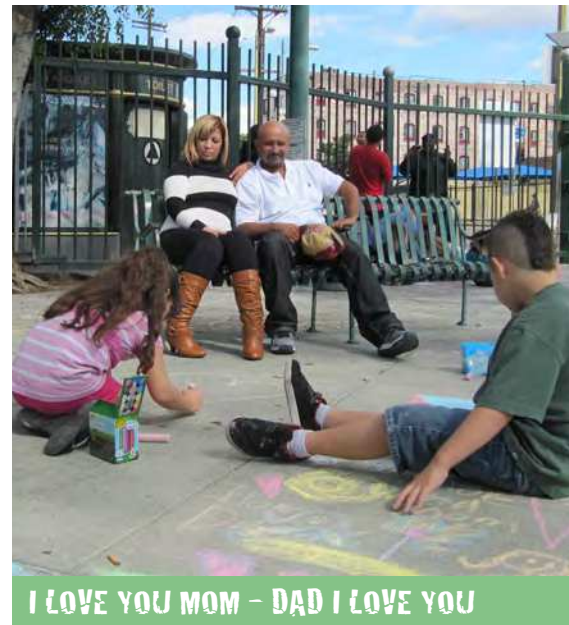
MEET THE ARTISTS



OG Man - Visual Artist



Crushow "the Last Dragon"



I LOVE YOU MOM - DAD I LOVE YOU



Skid Row Playaz



Franc's Melting Pot & Gospel Choir



G-Nut - Hip Hop Artist

LAPD: What is your name? Tell us about yourself.

GN: My name is G-Nut, representing Knockout Teeth Records and I played two songs today, one was called Fire the Ball and the other one is called Kind of the Jungle. Fire the Ball pretty much tells everybody how my life went from a kid growing up, how I had to go through tribulations and jail, prisons, probation, parole, before I could actually have things in life. And Kind of the Jungle is a song that I wrote for my niece and nephew and it pretty much spilled over to all the kids in the world. Spreading this message about how I want them to grow up without being misguided. You don't have to do ecstasy, or heroin, you don't have to do drugs to fit in, you don't have to be everybody else. You can be who you are and still be an important person.

LAPD: What do you think about the neighborhood here?

GN: This is what it is, its pretty much Skid Row. So this is the place where everybody is accepted where nobody else would accept them. If your family won't accept you, Skid Row will accept you, if you can't go nowhere to get something to eat, you come to Skid Row. This is where every body comes when they have nothing and no one.

LAPD: What do you have to say to our readers?

GN: These are the words I've ever spoken. I lost my bag today, I lost my CD, I was not supposed to perform today because I lost everything on the way here. But luckily the DJ brought extra CD's so I was actually able to perform. So these are my words everybody: no matter how bad it gets, even when it seems like its over with, do not give up because you still have a chance.



Gary Browne - Musician/Visual Artist

LAPD: What does the festival mean to you?

GW: It means a lot to me, because when I first hit Skid Row people where sleeping everywhere, there was nothing to do, nowhere to go and listen to other people from the streets perform. And people didn't know that there were a lot of talents that were homeless and unfortunately I am one of those people that had this challenge. I think this organization has helped a lot of people. I feel great to be a part of what you are doing down here and glad to be with you guys.

LAPD: Do you have anything to say to our readers in Skid Row?

GW: I would like to say to people to stay strong and don't give up and keep going.



Unkal Bean - Hip Hop Artist

LAPD: What words of wisdom you have for the community?

UB: We all make decisions, and based on our decisions we have to live with the consequences behind them. So make more conscious decisions. So us as a collective need to make more responsible decisions and the individuals also need to make more responsible decisions.



Twin Skid Row & his son Ali - Poet

LAPD: How long have you been a poet?

TSR: About twenty five-thirty years.

LAPD: What words you have to say to our readers in Skid Row?

TSR: Introspection, soul searching, embracing the reality that denial is the number one addiction, not drugs, not sex, but denial. Once we embrace that reality we are on the path to recovery.

LAPD: What do you think of this festival?

TSR: I've been here every year for LAPD's festival and I think LAPD is a community savior, LAPD has shown the people of Skid Row what no one in society has shown them and that is that we're humans, and we're loved.



Rodney Samuels - Poet

LAPD: Rodney how long you've been on Skid Row?

RS: I have been homeless all my life. I was raised in the foster care system, and I came down here when I was 18. Been coming back and forth. I'm 43 now, and turn 44 in February. I write gospel songs. My first book is coming out, if not by the end of this year, early next year.



Big Rob & and the Skid Row Playaz

LAPD: Can you tell us a bit about the Obama song you just performed?

BR: Well we used to get together in the evenings to play drums and we were talking about the brother becoming the president and feeling proud about it and just started singing about it and the lyrics just came together like a puzzle.



Charles Porter and the UCEPP Youth

LAPD: Can you introduce the band that you just performed with? Is this part of the Teens Program at UCEPP?

CP: Yes, I work at United Coalition East Prevention Project, and we have a youth leadership development program and so some of our young leaders came out today. Not everybody performs music or dance, some write poetry and make visual art and they also came out today to support the program. Every year we try to participate in the Festival, today we did some hip-hop pieces and I encouraged them to use their creativity to send a message. The work we did today has messages about different themes, such as community, responsibility and accountability. I want to let them know that as a leader, you develop your own unique strengths and talents and you use them to impact the community and try to change what you don't like in our community. But also everyone has their unique talents and ability and you need to do what you're supposed to be doing and that helps other people.



Reggie "Tight Grip" - Musician

LAPD: Tell us about some of the goals that you have and have accomplished.

RTG: I started off as a bass player, now I play several different instruments. Originally I wanted to write the songs and have other artists perform them, but I couldn't find anyone to perform them. So I started performing my own songs. I would like to work with other artists on different music, even on the songs that I didn't write. Maybe I can produce it, or co-produce it and make it better. There's talent here in Skid Row and all we got to do is discover the talent blow the dust off a little bit and get it going. Shows like this would be nice if we could have them even more often.



Patti Berman - Singer

LAPD: Patti, how long have you been singing?

PB: 53 years.

LAPD: Patti thanks so much for coming out and for that beautiful song, "Cabaret"!

PB: Isn't that a great song?! Even though the story is so bad, it makes you feel so good. I was on the road for 17 years with my own band. My first band was The Closer Ties, and then it was Patti and Frank and then Girlfriends. Musicians are very fickle. Unfortunately Franck had a problem with alcohol and we didn't last all that long because of it, but I've been doing this since I was twelve.

What did you think of the festival?



"I love it. This is my second time. It gives you something to do to occupy your mind. To show that even though people are homeless there still is a lot of talent down here. That they are not people who just came out of nowhere. I've been on the streets since I was 12 years old, and I'm still alive. I think I did pretty good, I put myself in high school." - **Carol Shelly**



"I love this, I will come out here anytime you guys ask me. I love the spirit. It reminds me of New Orleans, a great spirit of community, everybody is here just jamming and beating the rhythms and putting their art out. It reminds me of home." - **Paul McCarthy**



"Its nice, nice rappers and I'm like, WOW, you know what I'm saying? I got to compete with them! I really enjoyed how the whole festival is going." - **Derrick Cooney**



"It's a very positive thing for the neighborhood, it's an outlet here... you get to come and socialize and express yourself. For this to be here, it gives a chance to come out here and do something other than the things they do everyday." - **Reggie Wilson**



This is my second year and I think its fantastic, its fabulous, the works that come down here, the paintings that are on display, its absolutely wonderful! - **Mark Phillips**