Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere

Skid Row, Los Angeles May 3-5, 2013

Guess what. Skid Row is a special place. It’s got something heavy to offer. In some ways it does the heavy lifting for all Southern California. And one of those ways is that Skid Row is Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere. Skid Row is where recovery and transformation happen every day and on a huge scale. I’m not talking just about the many professional resources and programs in the neighborhood. No, I’m talking about the 80+ weekly meetings each week in the community, organized by community residents.

Guess what. Getting clean and sober happens in funded programs, but recovery happens in the community, one day at a time. Because so many people living and working in the neighborhood are following the spiritual path of recovery, the neighborhood is full of a sophisticated recovery consciousness. People get clean, they stay in the community, start meetings, work in the neighborhood. In recovery every day, walking down the street they are concrete evidence, living breathing billboards for all to see, that change is for real.

That’s the real deal behind the REEL Recovery Film and Performance Festival – Skid Row Edition, presented by Writers In Treatment and the Los Angeles Poverty Department, featuring 3 days of non-stop FILMS and THEATER, discussion and fellowship: FILMS on recovery made by and from every imaginable angle by filmmakers all over the planet and THEATER by Skid Row’s own Los Angeles Poverty Department. All events are free so there’s no excuse for not being there.

While Writers in Treatment has produced “The REEL Recovery Film Festival” in Hollywood, Santa Monica, New York, Vancouver and Fort Lauderdale, the Skid Row Edition is remarkable in two ways: it’s the first to incorporate live performance along with film and it’s the first time the festival has located in a low income neighborhood. LAPD and Writers in Treatment are hoping and planning to make the Skid Row Edition a yearly event.

Skid Row used to be a place where you couldn’t even buy a newspaper or a donut. Now there’s a whole damn film festival, How ‘bout that?

Los Angeles Poverty Department’s show, Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere, is being created by people who live and work on Skid Row. The performance explores the mind shattering alterations that result in recovery, every day -- right here in Skid Row. We’re suckin’ it up and broadcasting the wisdom of company members and other notable members of Skid Row’s recovery community.

These performances and films could turn your world UPSIDE DOWN. These performances and films could turn your world RIGHT SIDE UP. That’s right. Whether your world is currently upside down or right side up, come on over and EXPERIENCE SOME ART. LA Poverty Department and Writers in Treatment welcome YOU.

- John Malpede

ALL PERFORMANCES & SCREENINGS ARE FREE
Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere

Los Angeles Poverty Department presents
BIGGEST RECOVERY COMMUNITY ANYWHERE

Skin Row is a place where recovery happens. In Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere, movement, story and vision intersect in a sacred and profane meditation on the role of abrupt shifts of consciousness in making community out of chaos.

Friday May 3, 2013
Noon: OPENING RECEPTION
7 pm LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE: BIGGEST RECOVERY COMMUNITY ANYWHERE

POST PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION: Christopher Mack and John Jefferson. Chris Mack is a public health worker with the JWCH clinic on Skid Row. Chris and John Jefferson lead 4 of the 80+ recovery meetings that happen in Skid Row each week. Chris and John call their meetings the "Dynamics of Recovery."

Saturday May 4, 2013
7 pm LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE: BIGGEST RECOVERY COMMUNITY ANYWHERE

POST PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION: John Malpede, director Los Angeles Poverty Department, and Marcos Loffredo. Marcos Loffredo is a recovering addict and the Deputy Director of the Corona Self Help Center Inc. (CSHC) also known as Drogadictos Anónimos (DA) in Queens, New York. For almost 15 years they have offered free recovery services and temporary housing to men and their families who suffer from substance abuse with a voluntary structure that allows the members access to the 12 step recovery program 24 hours a day 7 days a week. As a grassroots organization with its origins in Mexico City DA will celebrate their 30th year anniversary with 34 facilities in the Mexican Republic. The Queens location is the first of two groups in the USA and hopes to collaborate with LAPD next winter, during LAPD’s residency at The Queens Museum.

Sunday May 5, 2013
7 pm LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE: BIGGEST RECOVERY COMMUNITY ANYWHERE

POST PERFORMANCE CONVERSATION: Post performance conversation with Los Angeles Poverty Department’s cast.

All performances @ Inner City Arts - Rosenthal Theater, 720 Kohler St (entrance at 7th and Merchant St.) Parking is free on the street and parking will be available at the Inner City Arts parking lot on Kohler Street. Signage will direct you to the lot and from there to the theater entrance on Merchant street.

With contributions by Christopher Mack, John Jefferson, Mission Mike and Sohau Dextine. Light design: Anthony Aguilar Video: Matt Mayes Picture: Michelle Harrel

CAST

Austi Hines: Our reality is simply perception.
Prettie Ronne: Get legally intoxicated by looking at me.
Celestine Williams: Downtown keeps me striving for the best. I’ll always continue to grow.
Adrian Excel: Life is my vice.
John Malpede: This project is healing for me.
Kevin Michael Key: Skid Row gave me a life. I’m now a clean and sober member of the biggest recovery community in the world.
Jennifer Campbell: I lost my mind on Skid Row but thanks to the process recovery I found my mind on Skid Row.
Linda Harris: Every day is a new beginning.
Henriette Brouwers: Skid Row, a place where people grow, it’s keeping me sober!
Silvia Hernandez: There is no joy where there is no life.
Antony Taylor: Dad and Mom I have a solution, it’s a process and know what I don’t have to do it myself “recovery”.
Chas Jackson: Life is what you make it. Reach out to others.
bottom: Walter Fears: One day at a time is a long fucking time.
Sean Gregory: I had no idea what was real! Until I came to Skid Row.
not pictured: Chella Coleman: Freedom through isolation, isolation to sanity.
WRITERS IN TREATMENT presents REEL Recovery Film Festival Skid Row LA Edition

Friday May 3, 2013
Noon: OPENING RECEPTION
1 pm FILM: Lost Angels: Skid Row Is My Home, eight people who have found a way to make a life for themselves in the homeless community. Post-screening discussion with cast and crew.
2:45 pm FILM: No Kidding, Me 2!, Actor Joe Pantoliano’s documentary explores the devastating effects of mental illness, and the stigma that goes with it. Post-screening discussion with Marcos Lofreddo, Deputy Director of the Corona Self Help Center Inc. in Queens, New York.
4:45 pm FILM: Flight, Denzel Washington as Whip, a seasoned pilot who miraculously lands his plane after a mid-air catastrophe. He’s hailed as a hero, until questions arise. Was his alcoholism to blame?

Saturday May 4, 2013
1 pm FILM: When the Saints Go Marching In followed by Drunk in Public, A 17-year chronicle of the life of alcoholic Mark David Allen. Post-screening discussion with Director David Sperling.
3 pm FILM: MacArthur Park, a gritty drama that explores crack addiction, homelessness, and redemption. Post-screening discussion with Director Billy Wirth, Writers Tyrone Atkins and Sheri Sussman, and cast.
5 pm FILM: Life in a Basket, in this documentary homeless people explain just what they carry in their traveling carts and why. Post-screening discussion with Producer Sheri Sussman.

8 pm FILM: Leaving Las Vegas, Ben Sanderson, an alcoholic Hollywood screenwriter arrives in Las Vegas to drink himself to death. @ MOVIES ON THE NICKEL, James Wood Community Center 400 East 5th Street

Sunday May 5, 2013
1 pm FILM: On the Bowery The extraordinary cinema verite depiction of alcoholism on New York’s infamous Skid Row. Post-screening discussion with special guest TBA.
3 pm FILM: Half Nelson An inner-city teacher struggling with crack addiction forms an unlikely bond with a young student who catches him in a compromising position.
5 pm FILM: Bill W. The story of William G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous with Dr. Bob Smith. Post-screening discussion with Director Dan Carracino.

All screenings @ Inner City Arts - Rosenthal Theater, 720 Kohler St (entrance at 7th and Merchant St.) unless otherwise stated.
Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere

**EVENTS**

**Oct. 3, 7pm @ UCEPP:** film screening *My name is Bill W.*

**Oct. 17, 6:30pm @ Weingarten:** film screening *Finding Normal*

**Oct. 13, 5pm @ Movies on the Nickel:** film screening *Gridlock'd*

**Nov. 3, 3-5pm @ The Last Bookstore:** Launch of the Indie Shelves

**Nov. 11, 3-5pm @ The Last Bookstore:** Conversation with Darlene Berry, aka "Ms. Fullbro" from Skid Row, a woman in recovery for 25 years who got clean and sober in our community. Her story is a work produced by LA writers and publishers by devoting shelf space to independent books. LAPD curated a bookshelf with Skid Row based writers about recovery. (See Recovery Reading List, right, for titles.)

**Jan. 26, noon @ corner 6th and Main street:** Happy Birthday Recovery

**Feb. 6, 6-8pm @ AMITY:** film screening and discussion *The Death of an Addict*

All of the above events were produced in collaboration with OTIS College of Art and Design's Public Practice Graduate Students.

**March 21, 1-3pm:** James Wood Center: film screening and discussion *Unguarded* Panel & Talk with Darlene Berry, aka "Ms. Fullbro" from Skid Row, a woman in recovery for 25 years who got clean and sober in our community. Her first job was on the Broadway crew working for Chrysalis and later she became Director of Parks for SRO. Her 1st home group meeting was The Skid Row Drifters AA. And Big Wes, a well-known long-term member of the NA way of life. For decades he lived in darkness on the same Skid Row streets where he now serves as a beacon of light. Wes lets everyone he comes in contact with know that Skid Row is the frontline of his recovery journey.

**April 4, 2-4pm:** Lamp Community Space: film screening and discussion *No Kidding, Mo 2!!*

**April 20, 8:30-10pm:** *A Program of Shorts, Songs and Comedy* film screening and discussion, hosted by The Drifters in Gladys Park.

**Recovery Reading List**

*Sundance, the Robert Sundance Story* by Robert Sundance

This powerful book demonstrates that one man can change the system. Robert Sundance (1927-1993), a Lakota from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, was introduced to alcohol at an early age. After spending nearly 25 years on skid rows across the American West, Sundance decided to reform the system that incarcerated homeless street alcoholics. His efforts led to radical reform of the treatment of public inebriates and helped create the process of alcoholic rehabilitation.

*Bridge to Shore* by Michael Dolphin

Michael Dolphin grew up in Harlem, NYC in the '60s, and after a near mandatory stint as a heroin addict in his early years, this 12 step workbook book reflects his 25 years of recovery. The workbook is based upon practical application of "The Big Book of Alcoholic Anonymous," garnered from Mike's personal recovery journey and years of experience helping others. It is designed to help treatment professionals and addicts navigate the difficult but miraculous road "to happy destiny."

*SOT* by Flo Hawkins

The first attempt by author and artist Flo Hawkins, to tell her personal story. Born during the Great Depression into a poor Chicago family, she details an early childhood that eventually leads her to a life in the fast lane. Numerous failed attempts at meaningful relationships finally lead her to seek solace in her love for art and writing. A journey through good times as well as bad, from the edge of despair toward the freedom of spiritual awakening, she invites readers to "Be Courageous."

*Alcoholics Anonymous-The Big Book*

This essential recovery text has served as a lifeline to millions worldwide. First published in 1939, Alcoholics Anonymous sets forth cornerstone concepts for recovery from alcoholism and tells the stories of men and women who have overcome the disease. The most widely used resource for millions of individuals in recovery, this book includes original text describing the A.A. program and philosophy, as well as dozens of personal stories that reflect the growing and diverse recovery community.

*LAPD Archive*

Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) is made up of people who make art, live and work on Skid Row. LAPD tells the rest of the story; what you don't hear elsewhere. We create change by telling the story of the community in a way that supports the initiatives of community residents, leaving the narrative of the neighborhood in the hands of neighborhood people. LAPD works to generate this narrative and to supplant narratives that perpetuate stereotypes used to keep the neighborhood people down or to justify displacement of the community. We work to create recognition of the community and its values. This collection of photos and texts, taken from the LAPD archive is an overview of the works created with the Skid Row community since our founding in 1985.

*Manuscript of “Imagined Enemies, Endless Wars: AGENTS & ASSETS conversations On the War on Drugs and drug policy reform 2001-2005”* LAPD's performance Agents & Assets explored a controversial incident arising from a series of newspaper articles alleging drug dealing into Los Angeles by Contra connected Nicaraguans, done with the knowledge and silence of their CIA supporters. At this point, allegations of CIA complicity in the drug trade are indisputably true, though it's still not of general knowledge. Agents & Assets has been performed throughout the US with cast members from recovery programs in Los Angeles, Detroit, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York City. Imagined Enemies, includes, the text of Agents & Assets, (which is taken entirely from a Congressional Hearing) and 200 pages of community conversations, and interviews with recovery program participants and managers, drug policy reformers, historians, and investigative journalists. This inclusive dialogue ranges from insights into the recovery process to documentation of the damage that the War on Drugs policy has caused communities in the US and beyond. The many voices of Imagined Enemies articulate a clear case for policy reform.

*Video: Walk the Talk*

**Talk 5:** Conversation & Performance: Creating a Recovery Community on Skid Row May 16, 2012, Volunteers of America Rotary House, Los Angeles, CA

Conversation with Darlene Berry, the first female hotel manager for SRO Housing Corporation, following manager of the two SRO parks and producer of the yearly San Julian Park, Recovery on the Frontline Cocaine Anonymous Marathon. Redd Moore, drug treatment councilor for Behavioral Health Systems, and Orlando Ward, Volunteers of America and Midnight Mission executive staff member. All three panelists have lived in the Skid Row community.
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. This study found that culture comes from the ground up in Skid Row and is often initiated by residents and resident driven initiatives.

LIVING, WORKING AND MAKING ART ON SKID ROW: clockwise from top left: Clyde Casey, Darlene Berry, O.G. Man and S.S. Jones. Illustrations by Mr. Brainwash.

Congratulations to the Los Angeles Poverty Department and the REEL Recovery Film Festival for their service to the downtown community. And for supporting creativity in the recovery process.

LIVING, WORKING AND MAKING ART ON SKID ROW: clockwise from top left: Clyde Casey, Darlene Berry, O.G. Man and S.S. Jones. Illustrations by Mr. Brainwash.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT AND THE REEL RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY. AND FOR SUPPORTING CREATIVITY IN THE RECOVERY PROCESS.

Show this coupon to the waiter and receive 10% off for groups less than 10 people or 15% off for groups more than 15 people. 1 coupon per table. Not valid with other promotions.

Portofino is happy to support the Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere.

Portofino
CUCINA ITALIANA

Show this coupon to the waiter and receive 10% off for groups less than 10 people or 15% off for groups more than 15 people. 1 coupon per table. Not valid with other promotions.
Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere

**Share! The Self-Help and Recovery Exchange**
A meeting place for over 35 self-help, recovery and 12-step meetings.
425 S Broadway
Upstairs
TURN RIGHT GO FORWARD
Open CA Meeting
Speaker / Participation
Thursday 7:30 pm

**Big Book on Broadway**
Open AA Meeting
Tuesday 7:30 pm

**Grand Hope Park**
ON THE STEPS
Open AA Meeting
In the Park
Sunday 8:15 am

**6th and Gladys Park**
DRIFTERS PARTICIPATION
Open AA Meeting
Every Day 7:30 pm and Sunday at 9 am

**Groundwork Coffee Company**
GROUNDWORKS
Open AA Meeting
Downstairs
203 S Main St.
Monday - Saturday 7:15 am

**Home Boy Bakery**
130 W Bruno Street (enter at Alameda St)
HOME BOY SPEAKER MEETING
Open AA Meeting
Tuesday 11:30 am

**Angelus Plaza**
255 S Hill Street, 3rd Floor
BIG BOOK STUDY
Open AA Meeting
Monday 12 pm

**James Wood Center**
400 E 5th St
SIMPLY RECOVER
Open NA Meeting
Speaker/Participation
Monday 7 pm

**El Despertar**
Open NA Meeting
Participation/Spanish
Monday 7:30 pm

**To the Curb and Back**
Open NA Meeting
Participation/Spanish
Tuesday 6:30 pm

**Discovery Recovery**
Open NA Meeting
Participation / Speaker

**Question and Answer**
Open AA Meeting
Tuesday 12 pm

**Step Study**
Open AA Meeting
Wednesday 12 pm

**As Bill Sees It**
Open AA Meeting
Thursday 12 pm

**Speaker Meeting**
Open AA Meeting
Friday 12 pm

**Ellis Hotel**
804 E 6th Street
REGAL WARRIORS
Open AA Meeting
in the Hall
Tuesday 7 pm

**Dewey Hotel**
721 S Main St
WELCOME HOME
Open AA Meeting
Thursday 12 pm

**The Next Step**
Open NA Meeting
Speaker / Participation
Friday 7 pm

**John Ferraro Building**
111 N Hope St
Conference Room A-18
CIVIC CENTER
PARTICIPATION
Open AA Meeting
Thursday 4:30 pm

**Getting Sober**
Open AA Meeting
Friday 12 pm

**Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center**
Services for veterans, including a Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Program
351 E. Temple St.

**Los Angeles Mission**
Urban Training Institute, 2-year holistic rehabilitation/education program. Annie Douglas Center for Women: 12-month rehabilitation program for women.
303 E. 5th St.

**Los Angeles Baptist Rescue Mission**
Christian Discipleship Program
60-day minimum, up to a year
530 E. 5th St

**Union Rescue Mission**
Life Transformation Program
545 S. San Pedro St.

**Golden West**
Part of the SRO Housing Corporation, Golden West provides transitional housing and supportive services to individuals with mental illness and substance abuse disorders.
417 E. 9th St

**Southern Hotel**
Drug and alcohol-free living community.
412 E 10th St.

**Rainbow Apartments**
643 S. San Pedro St.
Part of Skid Row Housing Trust 87 Shelter Plus Care subordinated units

**IMPACT Los Angeles Drug Court**
Recovery services for people arrested on drug charges, particularly possession.
333 S Central Ave

**High Noon**
Open NA Meeting
Tuesday 12 Noon

**New High**
Open NA Meeting
Speaker / Participation
Thursday 12 Noon

**Little Tokyo Service Center**
231 E. 3rd St., Suite G106

**Angelus Inn**
A drug- and alcohol-free hotel community.
518 S San Julian St.

**Lamp Community**
Permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with severe mental illness.
526 S. San Pedro St.

**Acceptance**
Closed AA Meeting
Tuesday 7 pm

**Downtown Women's Center**
Permanent supportive housing to homeless or extremely low-income women.
442 S. San Pedro St.

**Marshall House**
Transitional housing, case management services, food services, support groups, 12-step meetings, money management, job education, and job referrals.
529 San Julian St.

**Grounded in Groundworks**
Open AA Meeting
700 W Olympic Boulevard
Downstairs
Monday - Saturday 7:15 am and Sunday at 9 am

**Weingart Center**
Residential and walk-in programs, resources, and support.
556 S San Pedro St

**Groundwork Coffee**
351 E. Temple St.

**Wellness Center**
1201 S. Hill St.

**The Midnight Mission**
12-Step Drug & Alcohol Recovery Program
601 S San Pedro St
OPEN AA MEETING
Wednesday and Friday 7 pm

**The Midnight Mission**
12-Step Drug & Alcohol Recovery Program
601 S San Pedro St
OPEN AA MEETING
Wednesday and Friday 7 pm

**La CADA**
Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, an open-door, outpatient clinic
470 E 3rd St
CAME TO BELIEVE
Open CA Meeting
Speaker / Participation
Wednesday 7 pm

**John Ferraro Building**
111 N Hope St
Conference Room A-18
CIVIC CENTER
PARTICIPATION
Open AA Meeting
Thursday 4:30 pm

**Getting Sober**
Open AA Meeting
Friday 12 pm

**Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center**
Services for veterans, including a Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Program
351 E. Temple St.

**Downtown Mental Health Center**
Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Day Treatment, Full Service Partnership, Life Support, Medication Support, Mental Health Services, Psychological Testing, Wellness Center
529 Maple Ave

**Frank Rice Access Center**
Programs for those with severe mental illnesses, or anyone in need of a meal and a shower.
627 San Julian St.

**JWCH Center for Community Health**
Health clinic primarily for homeless individuals.
522 S San Pedro St.

**Emmanuel Baptist Rescue Mission**
Christian Discipleship Program
60-day minimum, up to a year
530 E. 5th St

**Los Angeles Baptist Rescue Mission**
Christian Discipleship Program
60-day minimum, up to a year
530 E. 5th St

**Union Rescue Mission**
Life Transformation Program
545 S. San Pedro St.

**Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center**
Services for veterans, including a Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill Program
351 E. Temple St.

**Downtown Mental Health Center**
Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Day Treatment, Full Service Partnership, Life Support, Medication Support, Mental Health Services, Psychological Testing, Wellness Center
529 Maple Ave

**Frank Rice Access Center**
Programs for those with severe mental illnesses, or anyone in need of a meal and a shower.
627 San Julian St.

**JWCH Center for Community Health**
Health clinic primarily for homeless individuals.
522 S San Pedro St.
Social Model Recovery Systems &
UCEPP (United Coalition East Prevention Project)

THANKS

Los Angeles Poverty Department &
REEL Recovery Film Festival
for bringing educational & culturally enriching programs
to our Community!

UCEPP is a program of Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc.
SocialModel.com

The Alex Market

Congratulates and supports Los Angeles Poverty Department, UCEPP and all the people who make Skid Row LA...

...the Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere!!!
about Los Angeles Poverty Department

MISSION
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.

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.

HISTORY
Los Angeles Poverty Department has been working in Los Angeles' Skid Row since 1985, doing free performance workshops and making art. LAPD was the first theater for and by homeless people in the nation and the first arts program of any kind for homeless people in Los Angeles. The original goals, still among current goals of the project, are to create community on Skid Row and to employ the voices of the people who live on Skid Row to communicate the experience of living there to the larger community of Los Angeles and to the nation.

about Writers In Treatment

MISSION
Writers In Treatment helps men and women in the writing industry suffering from drug addiction, alcoholism and other self-destructive behaviors get treatment for their disease. We produce educational and cultural events that celebrate recovery, reduce the stigma of addiction and anonymity of recovery.

VISION
Rebuilding one’s life need not be a solitary effort. We provide the treatment and support individuals need to take their first step toward recovery. We believe it’s important for people in recovery, those on the cusp, and the general public to have entertaining and culturally stimulating events that inspire enthusiasm for clean and sober living.

ABOUT US
Writers In Treatment is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization grounded in recovery and the arts. W.I.T.'s primary purpose is to save lives by providing scholarships for treatment as the best first-step solution for addiction. We also offer referrals to local and national treatment providers. Our program is funded by individual contributions and sponsored events.