



Los Angeles Poverty Department presents
4 pm. '220 Glimpses of Utopia' Outdoor-Utopian-Movement-Chain
6 pm. 'Glimpses of Utopia: 31- 37'
 a come-together performance event at the Church of the Nazarene, 419 East 6th Street
Friday, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

'220 Glimpses of Utopia' : a utopian-movement-chain on the sidewalks from Skid Row to City Hall.

15 minutes of beautiful movement will quite surprisingly fill the air, expanding everyone's reality, taking the edge off the city at rush hour.

In a series of workshops LAPD asked 220 people from in and outside Skid Row what utopia looks like to them. Through guided improvisation, each group has generated a movement sequence. The resulting creation is a line of movement on the sidewalks that extends the 10 blocks from the heart of Skid Row to City Hall. Every person in the chain has contributed something of their own vision and movement, and because the chain of movement extends unbroken throughout the community, it makes clear that any true Utopian vision includes everyone and excludes no one.

Participants include:

Para los Ninos, Downtown Women's Center, Labor Center MacArthur Park, LA Community Action Network, Transition House, Drama Stage Qumran, LAMP The Village, LAMP The Safe Haven, Saint Vincents Center, Midnight Mission, 'Skid Row 3 on 3' Basketball team, Buddhist Center Cloverdale, Brent Blair with his Boal class at USC, Arianna MacBean and the Oakwood dancers, Tanya Ann Kane-Parry and students at Cal State LA, Gillian McGinty with her intergenerational dance group, John Malpede, Janna Shaddock-Hernandez and Peter Sellars' students from UCLA, the Youth Justice Coalition Free L.A. Charter High School.

Special thanks to Cynthia Lee, Sukha, Laura Fuller, Jan Kain and Ron Allen.



'220 Glimpses of Utopia'
Outdoor Utopian Movement Chain

The route: Starting at the James Wood Community Center, on the corner of 5th and San Julian Street, the chain will go along 5th Street to Main Street - to 4th Street - to Spring Street - to City Hall.



Rehearsing '220 Glimpses of Utopia'

Program Friday, November 16:

4 pm - 4:15 pm: '220 Glimpses of Utopia'
Outdoor Utopian Movement Chain from Skid Row to City Hall.

4:30 pm- 5:30 pm: Reception
Red Dot Gallery
500 S. Spring Street (at 5th Street). Participants and public are invited.

6 pm - 8 pm: 'Glimpses of Utopia: 31- 37'
The Church of the Nazarene / Central City Community Outreach
419 East 6th Street (at San Pedro Street).

THESE EVENTS ARE FREE. AND REQUIRE NO RESERVATIONS

"Glimpses of Utopia" performance events are part of the Skid Row based theater group, Los Angeles Poverty Department's, project UTOPIA/dystopia, which seeks to find out how flesh and blood people living and working downtown envision the future of downtown and what kind of downtown they would like to be a part of.

Glimpses of Utopia: 31 - 37

Church of the Nazarene / Central City Community Outreach

November 16, 6 pm

This presentation is the fifth in a series of *Glimpses of Utopia* events—each a unique event in which 7 or 8, presenters, people living and working in downtown Los Angeles express their vision for the city and Skid Row. It utilizes a community 'come together' strategy conceived by collaborating artist Harrell Fletcher, a 2006 Alpert Award winner. The first event, (*Glimpses 1-7*) took place June 21, 2007, at The National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and the second, (*Glimpses 8-15*) on July 26, at the Red Dot Gallery, *Glimpses of Utopia: 16-23* on September 20 was presented in the Historic Fire Station Old 23, and the last one *Glimpses of Utopia: 24-30* on October 25, at the Red Dot Gallery. These events are part of LAPD's yearlong performance project **UTOPIA / dystopia** which includes series of performances, public art, panels and community conversations.

People invited are asked to do a 10 minute presentation, in any form they see as appropriate, about what they are doing to downtown and how they would like to see the future of downtown evolve. The presentations can be a performance, a demonstration or a lecture. The presentations happen back to back, combining the insight and passion of both inviters and presenters. Taken all together, tonight's presentations become a performance event that provides " **Glimpses of Utopia: 31- 37**"



Shannon will talk about her vision of utopia for all community residents downtown

PRESENTER:

Shannon Murray is currently the Deputy Director of Lamp Community, a housing and social service provider for persons with mental illness in Skid Row. She has been part of the Skid Row Community since 1995 when she completed an internship while working towards her MSW at UCLA. The people in Skid Row amaze her daily with their spirit strength, determination and love. Her vision of a Utopia for downtown is one where ALL community residents are respected and treated equally; included in planning and decision making; and living in safe affordable housing.



SELECTOR:

Manuel Compito (OG Man) is a local artist in Skid Row. Once an "artist in residence" of the LAMP Art Project, he is noted for "ghetto encaustics" and such art pieces as "4th Street" and "Ghost 2." He's an author, actor, and associate producer. While art of various media continue to be his passion, OG Man believes in "community involvement and being of service." He is a founding member and the Official spokesperson for OG's N Service Association. OG Man is also the founder of the 'Skid Row 3 on 3' Basketball team.



Redd will speak to his vision for a new Skid Row.

PRESENTER:

Walter Moore (Redd) has been a member of skid row for over 20 years and a member of the downtown recovery community for over a decade. His life's work revolves around being of service to members of the fellowship and he currently is employed as a counselor for veterans in need. His vanity plate reads: "DYE4NA."



SELECTOR:

Kevin Michael Key After using illegal drugs for over 40 years, "Kevinmichael," as he is known in the recovery rooms, has been a clean and sober member of the Skid Row recovery community for the last five years.

PRESENTER:

15 MORE GLIMPSES

"220 Glimpses of Utopia" participants in the audience will be asked to step up to the microphone and talk for one minute about their experience of that afternoon.

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PRESENTER

Molly Rysman is the Director of Special Projects for Skid Row Housing Trust, a nonprofit developer, which operates more than 1200 units of permanent supportive housing for very low income, homeless and disabled persons. Molly coordinates systems integration and oversees the Trust's collaborative projects. She holds a Masters in Urban Planning from 'UCLA. She's worked in public policy and community advocacy for more than ten years, ranging from programs for survivors of domestic violence to affordable housing solutions. Before joining the Trust, Molly served as the Housing and Homelessness Deputy to LA City Council President Eric Garcetti.

Molly will speak about her work for the Trust.



SELECTOR

Becky Dennison is a member and Director of LA CAN, building power among low-income residents of downtown to demand equity and justice. LA CAN is also a member of the Downtown Women's Action Coalition which works to improve conditions for women living downtown and to prevent and end violence against women.



PRESENTER

Al Sabo "I lived the good life until 2002 when a major illness led to a six month coma. Having lost everything I was forced to live on a fixed income, and since Skid Row was the only place I could afford, I made LA my home. Once there, I was faced with losing my new-found home to gentrification. Rather than giving up hope, I decided to fight back. I joined LA CAN and have been actively fighting City Hall, racist policies, developers and the out-of-control para-military LAPD. Before becoming an activist, I never understood the depth of injustices that the poor, homeless, mentally ill and addicts face each and every day of their lives. I will fight this battle for the betterment of all, 'til the day I die."

Al will talk about his work as an activist.

SELECTOR

"Baby" Steve Diaz is a resident organizer with LACAN for five years. Steve's experience at the Frontier Hotel, after the City Attorney's office filed an injunction targeting community members while overlooking the wrongs of the corrupt landlord, spurred him to a life of activism.



PRESENTER

Jan Williamson is the Executive Director of the 18th Street Arts Center. She joined 18th Street in 1995 as the General Manager and from 1996 to 2006, she was Co-Executive Director. She's led the effort to purchase the property, design its Residency and Arts Education programs, and is leading an expansion effort. Jan consults on professional development for individual artists and nonprofits. She holds a certification from Stanford's Graduate School of Business, Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders and a Bachelor's in Fine Art from UC Santa Cruz. She serves on the Artist Live-Work Task force for the Santa Monica City Arts Commission.

Jan will talk about her work at the Arts Center

SELECTOR

John Malpede is a theater director and actor. He founded the Los Angeles Poverty Department in 1985. From 1985 through 1989, he worked on Skid Row as an outreach paralegal with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.



PRESENTER

"Coach" Ron Crockett is a one year community resident. "I ended up on Skid Row due to the loss of a job. I like the community of Skid Row. My last job was community improvement and youth job development. I see a major need here with trash clean up and community beautification. Ron is developing a Clean Sweep Program. "I want to have an immediate impact," says Ron.

Ron will talk about his community beautification work.

SELECTOR

Lorinda Hawkins's TV credits include *Strong Medicine*, the *Wayans Bros*, and *Living Single*. She is most proud of her children's programs Her own company performed bubble shows for disadvantaged youth called Bubble Trouble/Effervesce. To God be all the glory.





ABOUT The Church of the Nazarene / Central City Community Outreach:

Los Angeles' central city - Skid Row - has been declared as America's largest service-dependent ghetto. In the midst of this area of rescue missions, one-room welfare hotels, poverty, homelessness, and discarded lives, are up to 20,000 people. The needs are diverse ranging from mental illness and drug addiction to chronic unemployment and little or no education. Lost in this sad scene are hundreds of children who often repeat the cycles of poverty and dependency that they see modeled every day.

Established in 1988 as a 501 (c) (3) ministry, Central City Community Outreach has been making a difference in hundreds of lives through weekly support groups, community outreach programs, one-on-one leadership development, and the ONLY after school program for the at-risk children and youth in the unique area.

ABOUT LAPD's UTOPIA / dystopia

One person's utopia is another's dystopia. In the past 40 years, civic policy in Los Angeles has generated the twin towers of utopia and dystopia: Bunker Hill, the redeveloped high rise financial center; and below it, Skid Row. The current real estate boom is generating new social policy, including the possible displacement of the majority population of poor people living in the area.

LAPD is a community based theater in the heart of Los Angeles' Skid Row area; an area which has the largest concentration of truly affordable housing for very low-income residents and also the largest concentration of services for homeless people in Los Angeles County. The area also has a highly developed drug recovery culture, which includes free recovery programs. Skid Row is the home of numerous AA, NA and CA groups.

What is the future vision for downtown Los Angeles? A powerful urban core that will dominate the city in the future is taking shape. But, what shape? Is the desired "new urban lifestyle" an upscale monoculture, or, is the vitality of city life essentially about a dynamic cultural, racial and economic mix?

LAPD's **UTOPIA / dystopia** will engage long standing and new area residents to inform and broaden the public discourse, and use performance, public art, conversations, and convenings to articulate grassroots visions of the city's future.

UTOPIA / dystopia will result in performances at THE REDCAT THEATER, corner 2nd and Hope Street, Thursday Dec. 6 - Saturday Dec. 8 at 8:30 pm and Sunday Dec. 9, 3 pm.

"For this LAPD, the weapons are words... explored by actors who have seen policies turned into street-level experience." -- Los Angeles Times

"... the Los Angeles Poverty Department, (is) a truly unique part of the Southern California theater scene." --- James Taylor, Theater Talk, KCRW-FM

"The Los Angeles Poverty Department has become one of the country's most outspoken and profound Theater troupes." --- Natalie Haddad, REAL DETROIT

"The Los Angeles Poverty Department, despite the homeless status of many of its members, has thrived for years from its downtown outpost and continues to offer theater that's often stunning in its honesty and lacking in pretension." --- C. Monaghan, LA Weekly



About The Los Angeles Poverty Department:

LAPD 's mission is to create performance work that connects lived experience to the social forces that shape the lives and communities of people living in poverty. The Poverty Department is committed to creating high-quality, challenging performance works that express the realities, hopes and dreams of people who live and work on Los Angeles' Skid Row. LAPD is dedicated to building community and to the artistic and personal development of its members. Since 1985 LAPD has offered performance workshops that are free and open to the Skid Row community. The workshops take place at a variety of sites, with the in-kind support of a variety of community partners which have included: SRO Housing Corporation, St. Vincent's Cardinal Manning Center, Inner-City Law Center, United Coalition East Prevention Project, LA Community Action Network and Central City Community Outreach.

LAPD's **UTOPIA / dystopia** project is supported, in part, by: LA County Arts Commission; The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; The National Endowment for the Arts -Theater; the California Arts Council's Creating Public Value program; The MAP Fund, a program of Creative Capital, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts Institute for Community Development and the Arts. Additional funders of LAPD include The Nathan Cumming Foundation .

