

# WALK the TALK

## 36 SKID ROW VISIONARIES

celebrated with

## 3 DAYS of PARADES

May 26, 27, 28, 2012

Skid Row, Los Angeles



Walk the Talk is no ordinary walk. It's a parade! A brass band, Paradigm Brass, (and pick up musicians), will lead the way through the streets of Skid Row for three afternoons in May. It's a performance! LA Poverty Department will bring the neighborhood to life with performances along the parade route that pay tribute to neighborhood initiatives and 36 men and women whose contributions to the community call for a big, blaring celebration. It's visual art dancing down the street! That's right, we'd be holding high 36 unbelievable gorgeous portraits of these hardworking people, that have been created by bighearted, big brained street artist Mr. Brainwash. It's YOU! Join the parade. Be part of the New Orleans style 2<sup>nd</sup> Line. Bring your tambourine, your kazoo, your cowbell, your laughter, your attention. Put your hands together.

This peripatetic performance will bring the history of the community to life and the 36 portraits are destined for a permanent outdoor site in the community, that will keep this history alive.

Walk the Talk is a celebration of a long process of community engagement that began in 2007, and has included performances, exhibitions, public conversations, interviews, drawing, writing, singing and improvising – with the aim of enlisting community brain power to identify initiatives and people whose actions who have helped weave the social fabric of Skid Row. We began by inviting some of the most widely recognized social visionaries from the neighborhood, who were asked to speak about other people and initiatives that they valued. This input led to the installation of the Skid Row History Museum at

The Box Gallery in 2008, which included more performance and public conversation events to solicit further community input.

At these events, Skid Row residents described the neighborhood's vibrant cultural community and the many organizations and countless dedicated individuals who are not only improving the community, but who are leading the way for how this can be done in other communities. Those we celebrate with Walk the Talk, and commemorate with the Community Portrait Gallery are just a few of these individuals.

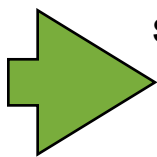
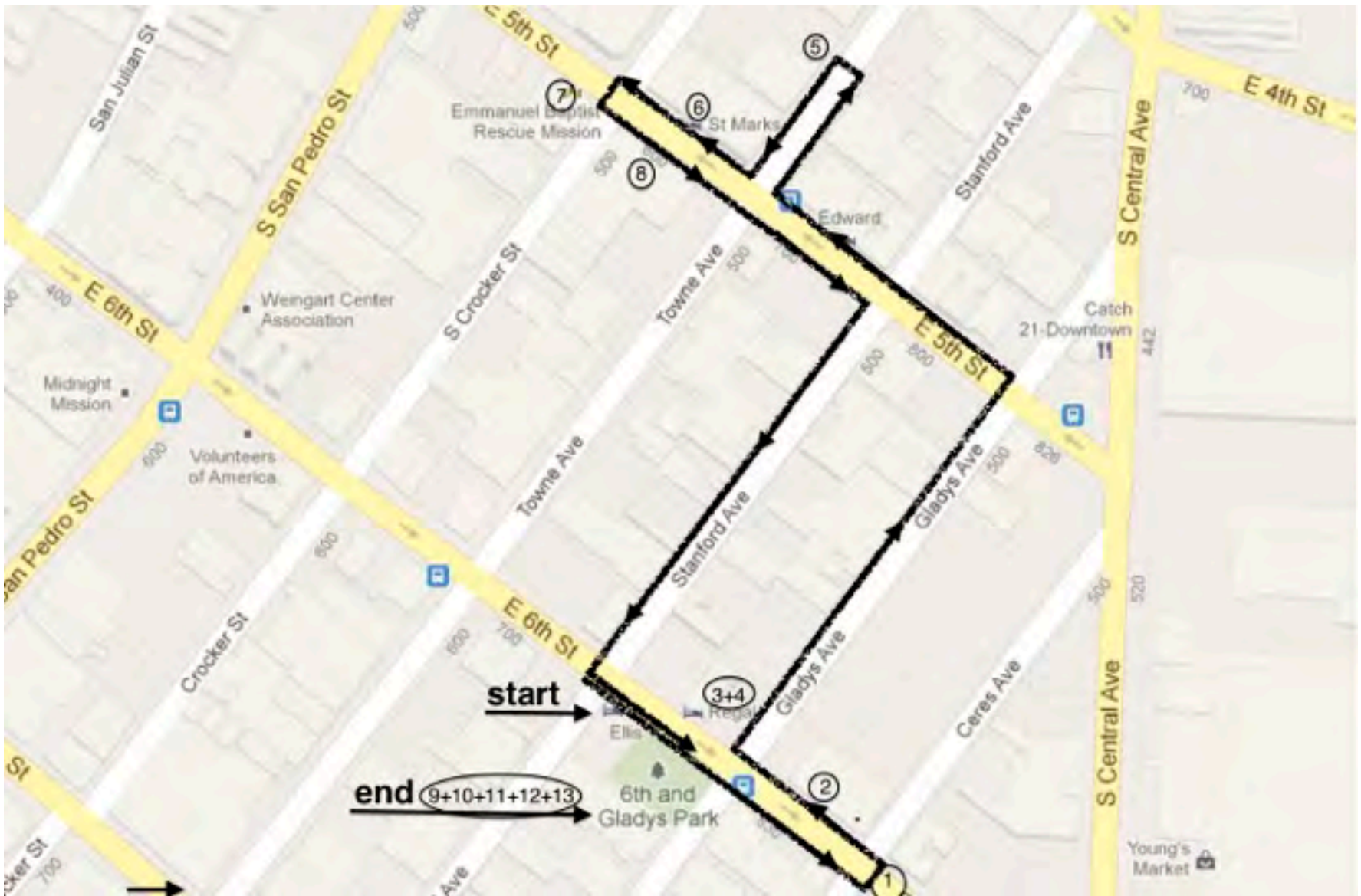
The parade/performance will take place on 3 consecutive afternoons. Each parade will take a different route through Skid Row and tell a dozen neighborhood stories. For instance, on Saturday, May 26 we'll tell 13 stories along the route. One stop will be at Gladys Park, home court of the Skid Row 3 on 3 Basketball League, where we'll tell the story of the league's founder, O.G. Man. One of the stops on the next day's parade will be Los Angeles Street, where in 1979, Rosa Alvarez and Jill Halverson created the first day center and then decent housing for women on Skid Row. On Monday we'll start out on Main Street and end up at the Central City Community Church of the Nazarene on San Pedro St. Those celebrated along the routes will include Tony and Lucy Stallworth who started the joyous Wednesday night Karaoke at the church over a decade ago.

Read on for the schedule, complete parade routes, and to learn more about who you will find on Skid Row's own Community Portrait Gallery.

-John Malpede

# Parade Route

**Saturday May 26 1 - 4 pm**



**Sites of 10-minute performances along the parade route:**

Start @ 800 East 6th Street, UCEPP

- |   |  |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|
| 1 | 6th Street & Ceres<br><b>Mike Neely / HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>                      | 7  | 5th Street & Crocker<br><b>Robert Chambers / HOMELESS WRITERS COALITION</b> |
| 2 | 6th Street, between Ceres & Gladys<br><b>Tanya Tull / PARA LOS NIÑOS</b>                 | 8  | 5th Street, between Towne & Crocker<br><b>Flo Hawkins / MURAL</b>           |
| 3 | 6th Street & Gladys<br><b>Jeff Dietrich &amp; Catherine Morris / CATHOLIC WORKER</b>     | 9  | Gladys Park<br><b>Nancy Mintie / INNER CITY LAW</b>                         |
| 4 |  | 10 | <b>Harry Rodgers / HOMELESS ORGANIZING TEAM</b>                             |
| 5 | Towne, between 5th & 4th Streets<br><b>Adam Bennion / LOVE CAMP</b>                      | 11 | <b>Officer Rich / DPSS OFFICE</b>   |
| 6 | 5th Street between Towne & Crocker<br><b>Pastor William Campbell / PROJECT OPEN DOOR</b> | 12 | <b>OG Man / OG'S 'NSERVICE</b>  |
|   |  | 13 | <b>Ted Hayes / JUSTICEVILLE</b>   |

**The city was debating a redevelopment plan that basically would have demolished all of Skid Row, got rid of all the affordable housing. We made up our own plan. They could gentrify outside Main Street and we could build our community in the 50 blocks down here.**

**-Jeff Dietrich**

# WHY WE'RE WALKING - WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT



In 1989, **Mike Neely** founded the **Homeless Outreach Program**. The idea: recruit formerly homeless people to help their brethren find their way through the bureaucratic maze of social service programs they're entitled to. The idea held such appeal for the Community Redevelopment Agency and its Chairman Jim Wood because it reminded him of Alcoholics Anonymous, where recovering alcoholics talk to current alcoholics, that CRA/LA funded the innovative program with a \$50,000 grant. From there, HOP grew into an organization with 65 employees, a \$5.5 million

1 budget, providing services in downtown and South Los Angeles at the time of Mike's retirement. Mike is now commissioner of the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).



Painter and author **Flo Hawkins** worked on the mural "What I See Can Be Me" created by SPARC, Social and Public Art Resource Center in 1993. Flo's intent was to inspire with images of positive persons of color. A portrait artist Flo explains: "I chose what I liked. And some of them were Hispanic, some were white, some were black." Her images for the mural include: MC Hammer, Flo Jo, Billy Eckstein and Ray Charles. The mural has since been featured in the new ABC's hit TV series Secret Millionaire with John Ferber & OG Man of 3 on 3 Street ball Leagues of Skid Row. In 2000, Flo Hawkins collaborated with another Skid Row artist to produce the

8 winning entry for the national "We All Count" campaign. The poster was the US census Bureau's official poster to publicize their first ever census count of the nation's homeless.



Over 25 years, **Tanya Tull** has developed a number of innovative solutions to the crisis of homelessness. In 1980, she founded **Para los Niños** (For the Children), a nonprofit in Skid Row, which operates family support programs for a primarily immigrant population. In 1983, she co-founded L.A. Family Housing Corporation, which develops emergency, transitional and permanent housing. In 1988, she created A Community of Friends, which develops supportive permanent housing throughout L.A. County for special needs

2 populations. Also in 1988, she founded Beyond Shelter to develop affordable permanent housing for families living in shelters.



When she graduated from UCLA Law School, **Nancy Mintie** wanted to go to a place where people were being exploited without recourse, and be there to represent them. "The poorest among us should have the same access to justice as the richest and most powerful." Nancy Mintie approached the Catholic Worker, and started a legal clinic behind their kitchen at 6th and Gladys. The clinic became the **Inner City Law Center**, which has been serving the most vulnerable individuals and families in the County since 1980. For more than three decades. The Inner City Law Center has helped

9 thousands of Skid Row residents obtain decent housing and government benefits. Inner City Law Center has worked with families throughout Los Angeles living in substandard housing, by taking up the fight and winning habitability cases against slumlords.



In 1970, **Catherine Morris** and **Jeff Dietrich** joined the **Los Angeles Catholic Worker**. The Catholic Worker is a lay Catholic community of men and women, which operates a free soup kitchen, a hospitality house for the homeless, an AIDS ministry, a newspaper and a hospice for the dying. Jeff

3 and Catherine have been active at all levels: from direct service to policy planning to the development of neighborhood amenities for people living in poverty. Their early involvement in the neighborhood has encouraged the involvement of many others, including the founding of Las Familias del Pueblo and Inner City Law Center.



**Harry Rogers** is recognized as one of the first resident organizers in the Skid Row community. Through his actions, he inspired a generation of people in the community to stand up for their own interests. Along with Matt Lyons and others he was a leader of the **Homeless Organizing Team**, a grassroots organization that fought for an upgrade of the living conditions in Skid Row housing, and for welfare reforms to allow more people to be helped and fewer to be denied. The Homeless Organizing Team created the Christmas 1984 Tent City across from City Hall, that succeeded in focusing civic attention on the homeless crisis. Harry Rogers was

10 murdered at 6th and Gladys in 1985.



In January 1987 a group of 80 people living in tents on Towne Avenue, between 4th and 5th streets organized themselves into a commune-type living arrangement with shared cleanup and cooking duties. They called it **Love Camp**, and its success stemmed from the homeless themselves deciding what rules to impose. A Los Angeles native with a college degree who worked as a printer, **Adam Bennion** joined David Bryant as one of the leaders of Love Camp. Love Camp leaders, representatives from Justiceville and others met with the City with hopes of establishing

5 a self-run shelter.



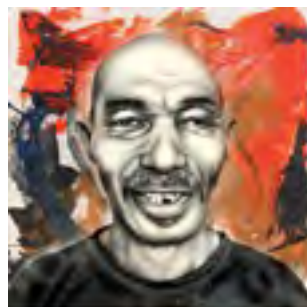
An LA County Police **Officer James Rich** was a guard at the Department of Public Social Services 4th Place office serving Skid Row, from November 26, 1970 until his retirement in June 2010. The six foot six inch Rich, a former UCLA basketball player, was an imposing presence at the **DPSS** office. He was recognized by Department of Social Services staff and clients alike as a "gentle giant" who preferred to use reason and compassion, if at all possible, as his main enforcement tools. One way or another he maintained a safe environment in the office and because he was respected by all he was often able to contribute to

11 resolving differences between workers and clients.



Second Baptist Church, the first African-American Baptist Church in Los Angeles, partnered with Skid Row Housing Trust to purchase and renovate the St. Marks Hotel. Second Baptist and its Pastor William Saxe Epps started **Project Open Door** as a drop-in center for area residents. **Pastor William Monroe Campbell** ran the project, which while informed by a number of academic consultants, became a success because of Campbell's compassion and his ability to listen and shape programs in direct response to the community's needs.

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An L.A. native and artist, Manuel Compito (aka **OG Man**) has devoted his creative energy to spreading a self-help philosophy. His **OG's N Service Association** dedicates itself to uplifting the men and children of Skid Row with events like a Father's Day in the Park celebration of responsible parenting, and a beautification program that brings painted trash cans to the neighborhood which the City's Sanitation Bureau has difficulty maintaining. In 2007 OG Man launched the highly successful 3-on-3 Basketball League at Gladys Park.

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Nicknamed The Pit, the corner of 5th and San Pedro was long known as the nastiest place on Skid Row. There, a mural is inscribed with poetry courtesy of the **Homeless Writers Coalition**. The Coalition was founded in 1988 by Dino Lewis, London Wright, Southern Comfort and others as an outlet for other neighborhood literary talents. **Robert Chambers** served as president of the Coalition for eight years, as the Coalition produced numerous readings, live theater, a CD and a newspaper. Chambers poetry was included in

7 the nationally televised documentary "The United States of Poetry".

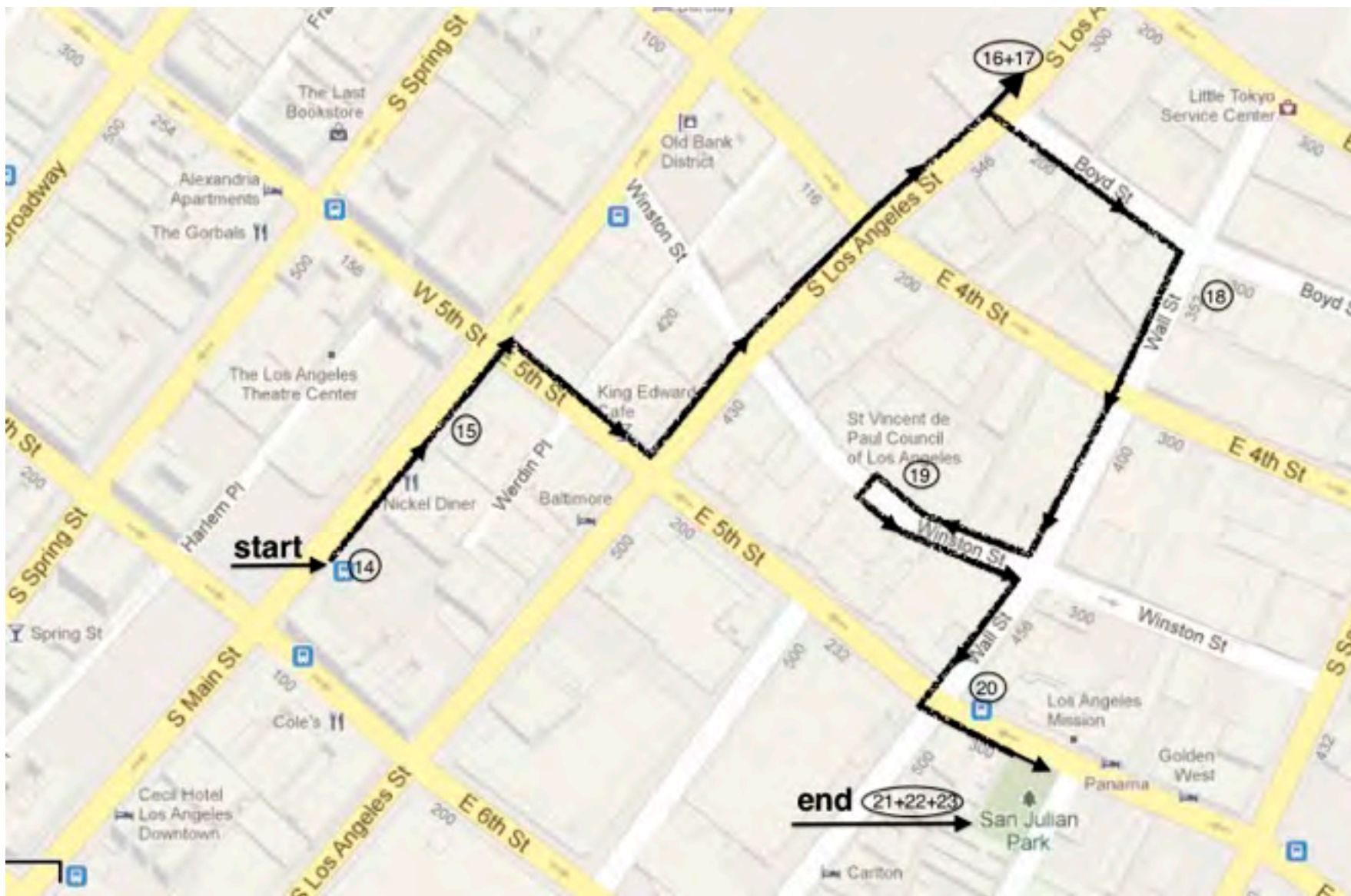


In January 1985, in the playground of the Catholic Worker, arose **Justiceville**, where under the leadership of **Ted Hayes**, a diverse population of 73 men, women and children became a hotbed of activism. Ted moved on to build Dome Village in 1993, where he and former Justiceville residents lobbied the government and businesses, held many demonstrations and succeeded in promoting the idea of transitional communities to help the homeless to help themselves.

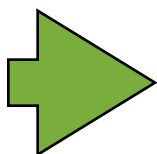
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# Parade Route

**Sunday May 27 1 - 4 pm**



**Sites of 10-minute performances along the parade route:**



Start @ 545 South Main  
LACAN

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 14 | 545 South Main<br><b>Pete White / LA COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK (LACAN)</b>  | 19 | Winston, between Los Angeles & Wall, Saint Vincent de Paul Cardinal Manning Center<br><b>Lillian Calamari / SRO ART WORKSHOP</b> |
| 15 | South Main, between 6 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Streets, Leonide Hotel<br><b>SS Jones / SKID ROW MUSICIANS NETWORK</b> | 20 | Wall & 5th Street<br><b>Mark Holsinger / LOS ANGELES MISSION</b>   |
| 16 | Los Angeles & Boyd<br><b>Rosa Arzola &amp; Jill Halverson / DOWNTOWN WOMEN'S CENTER</b>  | 21 | San Julian Park<br><b>Wendell Blassingame / MOVIES ON THE NICKEL</b>   |
| 17 |  | 22 | <b>Andy Raubeson / SRO INC.</b>  |
| 18 | Boyd & Wall<br><b>Clyde Casey / ANOTHER PLANET</b>   | 23 | <b>Darlene Berry / COCAINE ANONYMOUS (CA) MARATHON</b>   |

**When I arrived down here, there was nothing to do on the weekend. We decided that someone should step up to the plate. So I started Movies on the Nickel.**

**-Wendell Blassingame**

# WHY WE'RE WALKING - WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT



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While working for the Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness **Pete White** saw the need for an organization of people on Skid Row who could themselves articulate and advocate resident's issues and concerns. White founded Los Angeles Community Action Network (**LACAN**) in 1999, to ensure that people living in poverty have voice, power and opinion in the decisions that impact their lives. LA CAN, comprised of neighborhood residents has been a persuasive voice in preserving low income housing downtown, and in ensuring compensation for displaced residents. LA CAN also has a variety of programs focused on individual wellbeing, including, exercise programs, a community roof top garden and the production of community cultural events.



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Reverend I.L. Eldridge established the original **Los Angeles Mission** in 1936, and in 1949 it relocated to 443 South Los Angeles Street, where it operated until January 1992. The non-profit, faith-based organization has for decades served the immediate and long-term needs of countless homeless men and women. Under the direction of **Mark Holsinger**, the Mission opened its 156,000-square-foot facility, at 303 East 5th Street on January 21, 1992. The new facility fulfilled Holzinger's vision of providing not only emergency services but also comprehensive long-term spiritual, educational and vocational opportunities to men and women.



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In 2000, professional blues guitarist, **S.S. Jones** and Bill Edwards, also a musician and at that time a housing manager for SRO Housing, organized the **Skid Row Musicians Network**. Edwards secured a basement rehearsal space for the Network, which offered neighborhood musicians a safe place to gather, rehearse and to keep their equipment. The Network produced monthly free concerts at San Julian Park and the Leonide Hotel, with members performing in exchange for rehearsal space. The Network produced CDs' including "Live at the Leonide" with a dozen participating neighborhood bands. Network bands performed throughout Los Angeles.



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At the James Wood Community Center since 2004, on Saturdays and Sundays from 3 pm until 10 pm, **Wendell Blassingame** has shown movies for free, every week, without fail. With **Movies on the Nickel** Wendell provides a safe haven free of drugs and alcohol where one can learn to respect others and more importantly, oneself. He's also provided free medical cards to community members every Wednesday, enabling them to see a doctor and receive treatment. Wendell is a Skid Row representative on the Downtown Neighborhood Council.



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In 1975, a social worker named **Jill Halverson** met **Rosa Arzola** in the parking lot where she was temporarily living. Jill found Rosa to be a bright, loving, interesting, persevering woman with a keen sense of humor. She

also discovered that Rosa was originally from El Paso, and had cleaned homes and cooked for several families in Los Angeles, until her twenties, when mental illness struck and she ended up hospitalized, and eventually homeless. Jill was so deeply moved by Rosa's situation that she used her life savings to establish the **Downtown Women's Center**.

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An ex-cop from Portland, **Andy Raubeson** came to Skid Row to salvage the single room hotels as housing for the poor. He became the first executive director of the **Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Corporation**, whose first project was the purchase and renovation of the 60 room Florence Hotel in 1984. Andy knew everybody who was living in his hotels, and when he walked through the streets, everybody would yell "Hey Andy!" With a series of subsequent SRO makeovers, clustered around 2 vest pocket parks and the planting of 400 trees on Skid Row sidewalks Raubeson followed his vision that the properties' proximity to one another would form a small community and help humanize Skid Row.



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On the corner of Wall and Boyd Streets, on the site of a former gas station and parking lot, **Clyde Casey** created "**Another Planet**" an outdoor cultural space, where you could find poetry, ping pong, TV, live music and jam sessions by and for people in the community, twenty-four hours a day. The spot also offered community members storage space for their belongings and free clothing. Another Planet flourished for a year, before burning down in a fire in 1989.



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**Darlene Berry** got clean and sober in Skid Row after many years of addiction. She started working for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing Cooperation and became the first female hotel manager and then the manager of the two SRO parks. In that role she assumed responsibility for producing the yearly San Julian Park, Recovery on the Frontline **Cocaine Anonymous Marathon**, started by Mike Dolphin, in 1989, who passed it on to her.



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**Lillian Abel Calamari** is a talented painter who exhibits her work in many galleries each year. She is also an intuitive and remarkable social worker with SRO Housing Corporation. When she started working at SRO in 1992 she initiated **SRO Art Workshop** open to all Skid Row residents. The long-lived workshop initially took place at the Saint Vincent de Paul shelter and later at SRO's James Wood Community Center. The workshop now has a dedicated atelier provided by SRO at the Rivers Apartments. Lillian was a graduate of Ohio University, and attended the Art Institute of Chicago, the Art Students League of New York and the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting & Sculpture. She also attended the Santa Reparata Graphic Art Center and Il Bisonte International School of Graphic Arts in Florence, Italy. Her work has been shown in New York, Los Angeles, Krakow, Poland, and in numerous galleries and exhibitions across the country.

**I picked the first set of tenants in the Regal Hotel. They were my residents. We had a monthly meal, barbequed in Gladys Park, and played music. I never had problems in my building because I got the residents to take ownership.**

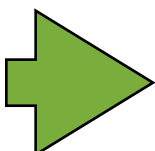
**-Darlene Berry**

# Parade Route

**Monday May 28 1 - 4 pm**



**Sites of 10-minute performances along the parade route:**



Start @ 800 East 6th Street  
UCEPP

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Crocker & 6th Streets  
**Mr. & Mrs Lee / D&D DELI**

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Crocker, between 5th & 6th Streets  
**Redd / VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA**

27

6th Street & San Pedro, (NE corner)  
**Dr. Dennis Bleakley / JOHN WESLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH INSTITUTE (JWCH)**

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6th Street & San Pedro (SW corner)  
**Orlando Ward / MIDNIGHT MISSION**

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San Julian Street, between 6th & 7th Streets  
**Mollie Lowery / LAMP**

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7th Street, between San Julian & Wall  
**Alice Callaghan / LAS FAMILIAS DEL PUEBLO**

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6th Street & San Pedro (NW corner), Central City  
Community Church of the Nazarene  
**Tony & Lucy Stallworth / KARAOKE COFFEE CLUB**

33

**Scott Chamberlain / CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

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**Robert Sundance & Harry Hupp / SUNDANCE CASE**

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**Richard Fulton / 5th STREET DICKS COFFEE COMPANY**

**Pastor Scott said: "Wouldn't it be wonderful outreach to have a community karaoke?" We've been doing this for fourteen years now and we're not going anywhere. This is it. The community loves it.**  
**-Tony Stallworth**

# WHY WE'RE WALKING - WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT



A musician who plays the bamboo flute, Mr. Lee came from Korea to the U.S. 40 years ago, and served on the faculty at UCLA for more than 20 years as a professor in Ethnomusicology, teaching Korean traditional music. Since 1997 when he and his

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wife opened **D+D Deli**, a convenience store on Skid Row, **Mr. and Mrs. Lee** have seen the neighborhood change and clean up. Family pictures rest on the top shelf at the shop. Mr. Lee has said "I love it here because there are so many nice people."

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After becoming an ordained Episcopal priest, **Alice Callahan** started a day center for children of garment center workers, **Las Familias del Pueblo**. Las Familias has dedicated itself to moving families into better and more appropriate housing. Alice has consistently advocated for enforcement of the Single Room Ordinance and the preservation of the SRO housing stock in downtown. Consequently Alice started the non-profit, Skid Row Housing Trust, to renovate and save the single room occupancy low income housing stock. Today, Skid

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Row Housing Trust owns and manages over 20 hotels in the Skid Row area. No longer on the board of Skid Row Housing Trust, Alice continues to run Las Familias and remains committed to preserving low income housing.



A veteran having lived for more than 20 years on Skid Row, including a decade on the corner of 5th and Crocker Street in a cardboard box, **Walter "Redd" Moore** eventually became a member of the recovery community in the late Nineties, when he began his life's work, serving others battling addiction. Redd's strength and presence has inspired other men and women in recovery. As a counselor with **Volunteers of America**, he has helped countless more veterans in need. Currently Redd is a treatment specialist for Behavioral Health Systems.

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The **Karaoke Coffee Club**, begun by **Lucy and Tony Stallworth**, was founded in 1997 on the belief that joy and laughter are as essential to life as food and water. The Club has been hosted for more than a decade at Central City Community

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Outreach, which opens its doors to more than 300 people weekly. The spirited shows feature song and dance and a warm cup of coffee, and allow one's troubles to be forgotten, if only for a moment.

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**Dr. Dennis Bleakley** has seen a great deal in his years as a practitioner of the healing arts at the **John Wesley Community Health Institute (JWCH)** of The Weingart Center, recently renamed the John Wesley Clinic. He feels that if he prevents one person from suffering the ravages of tuberculosis, high-blood pressure and other diet-related and contagious diseases then his years of service will not be in vain. Dr. Bleakley has found a professional home at the clinic, since 2000, because of the clinic's commitment to advancing and providing the highest level of medical care.

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Beginning as a volunteer with Union Rescue Mission's (URM) Youth Ministry in 1987, **Scott Chamberlain's** relationship with URM has continued in many forms. He soon became the founding pastor of Skid Row's Central City **Church of the Nazarene** and Executive Director of Central City Community Outreach where he fostered a sense of community, accountability and leadership among the Skid Row population from 1988-2003. Scott further partnered to create after-school programs for children, support groups for those struggling with addiction, and outreach programs, including a weekly Karaoke Coffee Club. From 2003-2005, Scott worked as a consultant for New Church Specialties, training pastors.

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After 17 years as an addict, **Orlando Ward** had hit bottom. The former Stanford basketball player, who grew up in Orange County and had at one time led a successful business career, was sitting on a cardboard box in front of St. Vincent's Cardinal Manning Center and began to speak to God. "I thanked him for all that he had shown me: graduating from Stanford, good jobs at Fortune 500 companies, travel to Europe and my family. People would give their right arm to have just a tip of the things that I've had," he recalled. That was his

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turning point and he moved on to become public affairs director for the **Midnight Mission**, which he considers "...more satisfying than anything I did at Xerox or anywhere else I worked, because I represent something that, obviously, I believe. And I've got evidence that it can work." He is currently the Director of Community Affairs for **Volunteers of America Greater Los Angeles**.



**Robert Sundance**, a Sioux Indian from the Rosebud reservation who had been arrested for public drunkenness on Skid Row hundreds of times, sued the city and county, demanding better treatment. The long-standing police practice had been to arrest public

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inebrates, and transport them to jail. When sobered, they were put out on the street and the cycle repeated itself. Sundance had amassed reams of yellow legal pads tracking his experiences while arrested, which he brought to the LA County Superior Court when

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The Center for Law in the Public Interest took his case. After an eight-week trial, **Judge Harry Hupp** ruled that public drunks should be treated the same as anyone else arrested for a misdemeanor, and ruled that alcoholism is a disease, not a crime. He ordered that those arrested for drunkenness should receive a medical screening, a bed and food, and be directed into civil detox instead of jail.



In 1985, **Mollie Lowery**, along with Frank Rice started **Los Angeles Men's Place**, the first day center for homeless men with mental illness, on Downtown L.A.'s San Julian Street. She was the director for 20 years and expanded **LAMP** to include housing and employment opportunities for women as well as men. An oasis for homeless people living with a severe psychiatric illness, by 1990 LAMP had developed and implemented new cutting-edge programs including access to health care, a housing program, and substance abuse

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recovery programs supported by the County. Mollie introduced the "housing first" approach of helping the homeless mentally ill in Los Angeles and she continues this work today. In 2007 Lowery started to serve the mentally ill homeless outside of Skid Row.



Jazz advocate **Richard Fulton** became clean and sober on Skid Row, before opening **5th Street Dick's Coffeehouse** in Leimert Park. He provided opportunities for young musicians to play and older musicians to make a comeback. "You could go to 5th Street Dick's at 2 AM and see Japanese tourists catching a jazz set inside, and outside see white chess players peeking over the shoulders of black chess players," said poet Kamau Daaood, a seminal figure in the Leimert Park arts movement.

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## WALK THE TALK Talks

**February 20: Broken and Shared** LAPD is hosting a reading and talk by Jeff Dietrich of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, about his new book Broken and Shared: Food, Dignity, and the Poor on Los Angeles Skid Row. 7-9 pm @ United Coalition East Prevention Project.

**March 19: Faith On Skid Row / Faith In Skid Row** Pastor Scott Chamberlain and Pastor William Campbell will talk of their pioneering efforts in creating community institutions, Church of the Nazarene and Project Open Door, on Skid Row. 7-9 pm @ Central City Community Church of the Nazarene.

**April 18: Thirty Years of Organizing on Skid Row** A conversation with Nancy Mintie, founder of Inner City Law Center; Gary Blasi, UCLA Law Professor; Pete White, co-founder of LA Community Action Network (LACAN) and You, the audience, about the ongoing struggle of Skid Row residents for social justice. A slide presentation documenting historical grassroots actions will punctuate and animate the discussion. 7-9 pm @ James Wood Community Center.

**May 9: Creative Community - the ARTS on Skid Row** Artists Lillian Abel Calamari, SRO art workshop; OG Man, OG's N Service Association; Robert Chambers, Homeless Writers Coalition; SS Jones, Skid Row Musicians Network; Hayk Makhumuryan, Lamp Community's Fine Arts Program and Bob Bates, Inner City Arts show their work and talk about the history of the rich creative community that exists on Skid Row and where we are today. 7-9 pm @ Inner City Arts.

**May 16: Creating a Recovery Community on Skid Row** A conversation with Darlene Berry, who started Recovery on the Frontline with Mike Dolphin; Redd, drug treatment counselor; Orlando Ward, VOA and Midnight Mission executive staff member and You, the audience, about recovery and the creation of the Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere on Skid Row. 7-9 pm @ VOA Rotary House.

**May 23: Creating Community on Skid Row** A preview of the performance Walk the Talk and a conversation about empowering Skid Row with Mike Neely, founder Homeless Outreach Program; Mollie Lowery, founder LAMP and General Jeff, Issues and Solutions. 7-9 pm @ The Last Bookstore, 453 S. Spring Street, corner 5th and Spring Street.



LAPD (from left to right)

**John Malpede:** Skid Row neighborhood, every day, Skid Row neighborhood, parade parade.

**Austin Hines:** Walk The Talk - The seed was planted, time to water Another Planet.

**Bradley Spann:** Is an L.A. based actor/writer and this is his first outing with L.A.P.D. He is grateful to all of L.A.P.D. for their kindness and great experience.

**KevinMichael Key:** Before Skid Row, I already knew how to talk the talk, now I got a brand new me, and I can Walk da Talk.

**Ibrahim Saba:** My respect to all of you who brought life and dignity through struggles above managing levels in Skid Row.

**Henriëtte Brouwers:** Hearing 36 Skid Row veterans talk has moved me deeply, moves me to keep on walking.

**Linda Harris:** I love knowing that there are people that are still here making a difference, 1st come 1st serve > they came here first and they are still serving.

**Carmen Vega:** an actor and poet performer receptive to improving the craft via actual live performances hence W the T! (know what I mean ; )

**Celestine Williams:** An actress: singer enthusiastically partaking of all things creative to share with the world.

**Anthony Taylor:** YES!! I can change the world... and it starts with me.

**Jennifer Campbell:** Education, Respiration, Revitalization, Emancipation, Restoration + Representation that I want Immulazation and WALK THE TALK like my forefathers that are represented here, for your pleasure.

**Chas Jackson:** Life is too short not to enjoy it. I invite all to step in my shoes and enjoy "Walk the Talk", a lively and informative project.

**Walter Fears:** Some are called not only to leave the status quo, but to ready themselves for radical commitment and change of heart, soul, mind and strength; by living a life of restoration, consolation to those who suffer.

**Jose VandenBurg** (not pictured): My only alliance is to change.

**Samyrha Saba** (not pictured): Honored and blessed to work with and learn about one of the most oppressed communities today.



about

### MR. BRAINWASH

Mr. Brainwash is, along with Shepard Fairey and Banksy, one of the most recognized street artists in the world. He has also gained a huge amount of recognition for his gallery shows in Los Angeles, New York, Europe and Asia. As a street artist he has had ongoing interaction with people who live on the margins and an education in compassion and understanding.



about

### PARADIGM BRASS

Paradigm Brass is a new model of brass band, playing a hybrid of styles, designed to create a distinct sound and reach a broader range of listeners... AND KEEP THEM DANCING!! From church stages to nightclub scenes, Paradigm brings Bach to the bars and groove to the concert halls. The players will include: Marc Bolin on sousaphone; Courtney Jones, Jon Bradley and Roy Wiegand, trumpet; Erm Navarro, trombone; Rich Firman, baritone sax; Tim Ganard, bass drum.

about

### LOS ANGELES

### POVERTY DEPARTMENT

**LAPD's 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.

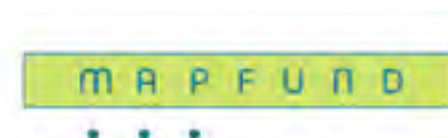
**LAPD's VISION:** LAPD makes artistic work to change the narrative about Skid Row and people living in poverty. In doing so, LAPD aims to create a community of compassion, change individual lives and inspire the next generation of artists.

**LAPD's HISTORY:** 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.

### Enormous

### THANKS TO...

... all our pals and partners who have worked to make Walk the Talk happen. And that includes the LA Poverty Department production staff. Cal State LA Interns: Imelda Romero, Ida Tran, Rogelio Mendez, Rosalinda del Rio, Michelle Blas, Delia Caperon, Mike Willard, Luisana Villalba, Lorena Hernandez, Jessica Calderon, Jason Chingburanakit, Viviana Fernandez, Karen Cervantes, Cristina Pardo, Steven Mota, Sharon Zhu, Jessica Calderon. LAPDers: Carmen Vega, Jimmie Johnson, Sohrab Mohebbi, Mariella Saba, Patrick Paul, Ben Barge. Music: Paradigm Brass, pick-up musicians: Dave Muller, Kenny and Rudy of Church of the Nazarene Praise Band (Joseph Warren, director). Community partners and hosts for the Walk the Talk Talks and rehearsals: United Coalition East Prevention Project, Central City Community Church of the Nazarene, SRO, Inc., LA Inner City Arts, VOA Rotary House, The Last Bookstore.



Enriching Lives

