

Walk the Talk

Skid Row Visionaries Celebrated



Photo: Austin Hines

Los Angeles Poverty Department

PARADE, PERFORMANCE, VISUAL ART, BRASS BAND

WALK THE TALK is the people's history of the community,

LAPD tells the rest of the story, what you don't hear elsewhere: the story of the community as told by the community.

Walk the Talk PARADE: A brass band, **The Paradigm Brass Band** (plus pick up musicians), will blow New Orleans jazz as we travel the route. **Los Angeles Poverty Department** will bring the neighborhood to life with performances along the parade route that pay tribute to neighborhood initiatives of 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'll be holding high unbelievable gorgeous portraits of these hardworking people that have been created by artist, **Pairoj Pichetmetakul**. It's YOU! **Join the parade.** Be part of the New Orleans style 2nd Line. Bring your tambourine, your kazoo, your cowbell, your laughter, your attention. This traveling performance will celebrate the current day vibrancy of Skid Row and will bring the history of the community to life.

WALK THE TALK is a project that combines performance, visual art, music and community conversations about some of the extraordinary people and groups that have made community on Skid Row. Walk the Talk 2016 is the third installment of the Los Angeles Poverty Department's biennial, on-going chronicle of the accomplishments of Skid Row people and their visionary initiatives. Walk the Talk 2016 includes not only a performance parade on May 28, but also two "Come Together" community conversation events, on May 18 and 20, and an exhibition about the 52 Walk The Talk honorees: May 18-July 31 at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive.

May 28: WALK THE TALK parade and performance with Paradigm Brass Band & portraits by Pairoj Pichetmetakul.
Starting at 12 noon
at the corner of East 6th Street and Stanford Avenue (zip 90021)

We'll make 8 stops to tell the stories of those we're honoring. The first stop will be at LA CAN, where LAPD will perform the stories of **General Dogon** and **Becky Dennison**. Then the band will blow, and in Gladys Park LAPD will tell how **A. J.** kept Gladys Park alive after it was orphaned when Governor Brown pulled the plug on the Community Redevelopment Agency. Next stop at the LA Catholic Worker, performing **Carol Sobel** in her fight to keep the City from separating homeless people from their belongings. On San Pedro Street we'll make two stops: at Lamp Community, to tell **Hayk Makhmuryan's** story and next door to hear about outreach worker **Chris Mack** at the Center for Community Health Downtown. Under the big tree in front of the Downtown Women's Center, we'll hear how **Katherine McNenny** was inspired to plant trees in Skid Row. The last stop will be on the west side of Los Angeles Street, between Winston and 4th Street, where community organizer **KevinMichael Key** began to turn his life around.

May 18, and May 20: "Come Together" Community Conversation at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive
Featuring 8 community movers and shakers talking about the work they do and why they do it.

Wednesday, May 18, at 6pm, "Come Together":

Community organizer **Steve Diaz** will speak on Tenant's Rights and Fair Housing issues, **Marc Trotz**, Director of Housing for Health, LA County Department of Health will present about his **C3** outreach/engagement project, and filmmaker and activists **Tony Anthony** and **Andreea Teodorescu** will present their work.

Friday, May 20, at 7pm, "Come Together":

Melvin Ishmael Johnson of **Dramastage Qumran**, visual artist **Lynn Rossi** will show photos from her **Evolution of the Revolution** series, musician **Franc Foster** will present **Music and Art in Recovery** and community architect **Theresa Hwang** will talk about the **Skid Row Design Collective**.

May 18 through July 31: Gallery Exhibition WALK THE TALK at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive

The portraits of all 52 Walk the Talk honorees will be on display. Transcripts and video interviews of the 52 honorees, along with the scenes derived from their interviews will be linked and viewable, thanks to the coding wizardry of Rob Ochshorn.

Skid Row History Museum & Archive
440 S. Broadway, mezzanine level, LA 90013
open Friday through Sunday 2pm to 5pm
Free admission
Parking in adjacent building

LAPD
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

COME TOGETHER!

at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive

440 South Broadway, mezzanine level, Los Angeles, CA 90013

An evening of performances and presentations by people who are making visionary contributions to life in downtown Los Angeles. 2016 Walk The Talk nominees were invited by community members and asked to present their work. The people invited will make 10-minute presentations, in any form they see as appropriate, about what they are doing in Skid Row. The presentations can take the form of a performance, a demonstration or a lecture. The presentations happen back to back, combining the insight and passion of both inviters and presenters. ‘Come Together’ events are based on a randomizing concept for structuring events, conceived by 2006 Alpert Award winning artist Harrell Fletcher, a collaborating artist on Los Angeles Poverty Department’s UTOPIA / dystopia project.

Wednesday, May 18 at 6PM:



PRESENTER Steven Diaz is LA CAN’s longest tenured employee and his journey from victim, to fair housing organizer, epitomizes our organization’s work. Steve and his mother lived in The Frontier Hotel on 5th Street. They were constantly being illegally evicted every 28 days to keep them from having any tenants’ rights. Steve came to LACAN for help, learned how to oppose, “The 28 Day Shuffle,” and now organizes tenants to assert their rights. Steve will present on Tenant’s Rights and Fair Housing issues.

I selected Steve Diaz because his leadership embodies a journey and desire to build the capacity of others. His “walk” is towards building the transformative power needed to secure all forms of justice.



SELECTOR Pete White is the Founder of Los Angeles Community Action Network, LA CAN, Skid Row’s most prolific Civil Rights organization. He is a Los Angeles native. Pete’s work, reputation, leadership and intellectual strength have created a vehicle for change in the heart of Skid Row LA. His is a clear and powerful advocacy voice for the Human and Civil Rights of all People.



PRESENTER Marc Trotz is the Director of Housing for Health with the County Department of Health Services. In the last two years, the Housing for Health project, based in Skid Row at the Star Apartments, has moved over 800 homeless, multi-diagnosed persons out of County hospital emergency rooms into permanent supportive housing. They did this by utilizing the huge savings resulting from homeless persons no longer frequenting expensive emergency health care. Marc with the support of the DHS Director, Mitch Katz, armed with immense vision and compassion, moved through the normally stodgy, complex county political roadblocks to assure Housing for Health would be implemented. The ambitious goal for 2016 is 1500 additional homeless folks will have a home. Marc does not understand the word “impossible”. Marc launched the C3 outreach/engagement project.

I nominated Marc Trotz because he “walks the talk”. He is a compassionate, authentic, visionary leader, working inside “the system” for real, constructive change.



SELECTOR Mollie Lowery, has worked with homeless persons, prioritizing individuals struggling with serious mental illness, since 1975. Mollie founded and developed Lamp Community in Los Angeles Skid Row (1985-2005). She is a pioneer in developing / operating permanent supportive housing and utilizing harm reduction and housing first strategies. Mollie is currently on staff at Housing Works- a private, non-profit agency utilizing a scattered-site permanent supportive housing model to assist chronically homeless persons to obtain and sustain a home. Mollie provides trainings nationally, on issues regarding homelessness, mental illness, housing first, harm reduction, and permanent supportive housing.



PRESENTER Tony Anthony has been a community advocate in Skid Row for over twenty years. He worked at The Midnight Mission and volunteers in Skid Row with many organizations. Tony’s photo blog Reality Check at www.thetonyreport.blogspot.com has over 700,000 views and is an effort to bring awareness about everyday life in the community. Tony documented the neighborhood dive bar, The King Eddy Saloon, during the last month (before remodeling/new ownership) in his documentary, **The King Eddy Saloon: Drink Them Dry**. He will show an excerpt of a short film about the **Skid Row City Limit Mural**, documenting thousands of residents, community members and volunteers in front of the mural designed by General Jeff. **Andreea Teodorescu** shot a documentary from 2009-2014 about SRO housing. She has worked with George Porter, shooting several videos and a documentary, **Bluesman On The Row**, in 2014. Andreea photographed The King Eddy Saloon in **Regulars**, a book of photos and interviews taken during the last year of the dive bar. The book is online at www.facebook.com/regulars. More of her films and photography can be found at www.micro100production.com.

Tony Anthony and Andrea Teodorescu caught my attention because I saw how dedicated they were by attending every event, and as they were taking pictures and filming, they were interacting with the people in the community. On their Facebook page, “Skid Row Folk” shows the beauty of every member of the community with amazing pictures and empowering stories.

SELECTOR Silvia Hernández With the necessity to have an outlet for my experiences after I became an unhoused person five years ago, I met LAPD, Los Angeles Poverty Department Theater group in Skid Row Downtown, LA and they welcomed me. I learned the art of acting a long time ago in my hometown Monterrey, Mexico and when LAPD gave me the opportunity to participate in the current project of that time “The Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere” I felt at home again.




COME TOGETHER!

at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive

440 South Broadway, mezzanine level, Los Angeles, CA 90013


Friday, May 20 at 7PM:




PRESENTER Melvin Ishmael Johnson

I'm proud to present, Melvin, who has been an artistic contributor to the Skid Row Community and to Greater Los Angeles for more than a decade. I first met Mel at a tenant housing organizers' meeting, where I learned he was a Poet and Playwright. That same evening we went to a LAPD, "**Fried Poetry**" workshop where he met his friend and mentor, Ron Allen. The rest is history. He is the founder of **Dramstage-Qumram** community theater group and has developed an anti-violence coping group for veterans. He is a prolific member of the Robey Theater Advanced Playwright Program.

I chose Melvin to be a part of our Come Together series because his poetry and work reflects a thoughtful concern for the issues that impact his community. Melvin Ishmael Johnson and Ms. Earlene Anthony will read Poetry and discuss their ongoing works.




SELECTOR Kevin Michael Key "KevinMichael" has been a member of LAPD for 12 years and a resident of Skid Row for close to 20 years. His LOUD Voice can be heard in many of our recent performances and throughout his community. He calls himself a Skid Row Advocate and his work, with LAPD and UCEPP, both informs and reflects his passion for remaking the community narrative. He plays a big part in Skid Row now being recognized as "The World's Biggest Recovery Community." He has been a clean and sober member of Skid Row since July 12, 2002.




PRESENTER Lynn Rossi was born and raised in Royal Oak Michigan. She began her creative journey as a flutist and while attending Temple University in 1998 she discovered the magic of photography and visual storytelling and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Film and Media Arts. Lynn has lived in Los Angeles since 2004 and Skid Row has been a place of healing, where she has gotten sober and felt a sense of belonging that she had never felt in her whole life. She became involved with Skid Row through Michael Blaze's **Skid Row Photography Club** back in 2009. Lynn's wants to show the world that the spirit of Skid Row is a positive and beautiful thing. She is a proud member of the **Skid Row Artist Collective**. Currently her photography series **Evolution of the Revolution**, which explores the African American experience in America, is on view at the California African American Museum. Lynn will show some highlights of the images she's taken in the community and talk about her photos from the **Evolution of the Revolution** series.

Lynn's visual work with the Civil Rights Movement story as well as the larger African American story is truly innovative and unique.




SELECTOR Tom Grode - I moved downtown four years ago from Santa Monica and I've lived in Skid Row for the past two and a half years. Starting in 2003 I began advocating for Native American issues through being introduced to the Tongva, indigenous people of Los Angeles, and in 2012 I was made an honorary Tongva in a sacred ceremony. Three weeks before he was assassinated, Martin Luther King led a strategy summit for the Poor Peoples Campaign where the decision was made to focus on the Native story first, then the African American story, then the Hispanic story. That strategy collapsed when Dr. King was murdered. As a writer I'm interested in seeing collaborative efforts between the Native story and the African American story.




PRESENTER Franc Foster's presentation will build a buzz for an end of summer concert that Wayne Kramer of **MC5** and **Jail Guitar Doors** has agreed to headline, featuring the best of the best Skid Row Artists in support of **Music and Art in Recovery**. Wayne was incarcerated too, but music helped him liberate his mind and navigate a path to freedom. He has helped Franc plant seeds in the DTLA community with his music. Wayne put two guitars in Franc's hands and that led to the beginning of **Music and Art in Recovery**. Franc thanks the many men and women who have helped him inspire positivism on Skid Row with his "**Franc's Melting Pot**".

I was struck by Franc's intense performance at the 2nd Festival For All Skid Row Artists, and every time when I met him in the streets of Skid Row I felt his urgency to get it right, to get it going and get it growing. And it is! So cool!!



SELECTOR Henriëtte Brouwers is a performer, director, teacher and producer. She has been the Associate Director of the Los Angeles Poverty Department since 2000.



PRESENTER Theresa Hwang is a community-engaged architect based in Los Angeles, CA and founder of **Department of Places**, a civic engagement practice that uses the power of participatory design to strengthen neighborhoods. She has spent over 10 years focused on equitable cultural and community development with multiple groups and campaigns. She started working with the Skid Row community in 2009 as an Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow hosted by the Skid Row Housing Trust. Since then, Theresa has been involved with a wide range of projects including the **Skid Row Design Collective**. The presentation will be about current efforts with the **Skid Row Design Collective** and how we have used design to support and amplify the neighborhood.

I admire Theresa's commitment to this community and her dedicationand forthrightness in staying focussed on issues that directly effect the SkidRo community.



SELECTOR Walter Fears joined LAPD in 2011 and performed in State of Incarceration, Walk the Talk, Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere, HOSPITAL, A (Micro) History of World Economics and Settlement. He is a leading member of the Skid Row Playaz; a percussion group that often performs at community events and is a regular at the Downtown Art Walk. Walter is US army veteran who volunteers to at the VA hospital in Westwood. He is an active member of Skid Row's LA CAN.

Parade Route

Saturday, May 28 - noon - 4 pm



Sites of 10-minute performances along the parade route.
START at noon at United Coalition East Prevention Project’s community room
800 East 6th Street, Los Angeles CA 90021

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 General Dogon
Los Angeles Community Action Network - LACAN
838 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021 | 5 Hayk Makhmuryan
Lamp Community
526 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 2 Becky Dennison
Los Angeles Community Action Network - rooftop garden
838 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021 | 6 Christopher Mack
Center for Community Health Downtown
522 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 3 A.J. Martin
6th and Gladys Park
808 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021 | 7 Katherine McNenny
Downtown Women’s Center
442 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 4 Carol Sobel
Hippie Kitchen
821 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021 | 8 KevinMichael Key
Corner Winston St. & Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90013 |

Hayk Makhmuryan: “Art and creativity is a unique tool for opening dialogues, both within the community and beyond the community.”

Becky Dennison: “Our work preserving the residential hotels and creating the “No Net Loss” policy was probably one of the biggest contributions to housing in Los Angeles over the last decade.”

General Dogon: “We are still fighting to save the city.”

Christopher Mack: “We have to understand freedom as a point of responsibility and accountability.”



General Dogon

1

General Dogon grew up in South Los Angeles and Skid Row, lives in Skid Row today and is a leading community organizer and civil rights activist with Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN). General Dogon has been instrumental in LA CAN's Community watch program that protects Skid Row citizens from harassment by security guards and police. He has conducted countless know your rights trainings with Skid Row residents. He has been equally active in LA CAN's housing campaigns. He's widely respected and admired in the neighborhood. He is also the maker of a number of spectacular one-of-a-kind bikes initially conceived to gain neighborhood attention and assist his organizing efforts. These bikes, designed as vehicles for organizing, function equally well as art objects and in 2015 they were featured in an exhibition "Screaming Two Wheelers" on Dogon's work at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive.



Becky Dennison

2

Becky was for many years the Co-Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN) where she worked alongside low-income and homeless leaders in Downtown and South Los Angeles to promote social and racial justice. Becky made important contributions to LA CAN's housing campaigns that achieved a citywide moratorium on residential hotel conversions and the "No Net Loss" housing policy. Becky was instrumental in founding the Downtown Women's Action Coalition in 2001. DWAC's Downtown Women's Needs Assessment survey conducted triennially since 2001 identifies the current needs and characteristics of women living downtown to assist the community in designing housing and programs appropriate to women's real needs. Becky is excited about LA CAN's new building, the Justice and Wellness Center, complete with rooftop garden. In January 2016 Becky became Executive Director of Venice Community Housing. She continues to work with LA CAN as a board member.



A.J. Martin

3

A. J. Martin has been a fixture in Gladys Park for 20 years. He went from park user to super volunteer, working with the park's SRO Housing staff during regular daytime park hours and helping setting up and break down the legendary Drifters, once a day and twice on Sunday recovery meetings in the park. He became a clean and sober member of the Skid Row recovery community. While owned by the City of Los Angeles, Gladys Park was managed by SRO Housing, Inc. and funded by the Community Redevelopment Agency. When Governor Jerry Brown and the legislature disappeared the CRA, after the 2008 financial meltdown, the park lost its funding. A.J. inherited the keys and has dutifully opened and closed the park everyday, keeping it accessible to Skid Row residents. The community has organized to get toilets back into the park and to create programming for the community. A.J.'s selfless consistent work has made this comeback possible.



Carol Sobel

4

Carol Sobel is a civil rights attorney who's successfully litigated many lawsuits against the City of LA, for their policies that criminalize homeless residents of Skid Row, including the Jones Case in which the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the City's ordinance 4118.d prohibiting sitting or lying on the street constituted cruel and unusual punishment and was unconstitutional. Sobel continues to file and win cases in Skid Row and in Venice that prevent the City from confiscating the belongings of homeless people. In Skid Row and Venice she continues to resist one attempt after another as the City of Los Angeles recycles its brutal and futile policy of confiscation as a magical means of making the "Homeless Problem" disappear. Sobel has worked extensively with Alice Callaghan, The Catholic Worker and LA CAN and hundreds of homeless plaintiffs in these civil rights struggles.



Hayk Makhmuryan

5

The Lamp Fine Arts program began in 1999. Hayk Makhmuryan became Lamp's Fine Arts program coordinator in 2008. He works as an advocate for strengthening communities through arts. The hallmark of Hayk's tenure as program coordinator is "openness". He has expanded the program from visual arts to include, music and writing. He has brought in numerous artists as volunteers to facilitate workshops. Significantly, he has opened the workshop up to everyone on Skid Row, not just Lamp program participants. He has brought the program into numerous partnerships with organizations large and small, to create opportunity for Lamp artists to exhibit their work. Lamp Arts has joined with Los Angeles Poverty Department to produce 6 annual Festivals for All Skid Row Artists – with the 7th coming up in October. Lamp Fine Arts Program will mount an exhibition of its artists at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive From August 12 through September 18, 2016.



Christopher Mack

6

Christopher Mack is the Lead Community Outreach Worker for the JWCH Institute Skid Row Community Clinic. In that role he's out and about knowing everybody in the community and hooking them up with health services. Chris loves people, he loves to talk and he loves to sing. He figured out long ago that it's the right brain, the creative side of people that finds joy and wonder in the worst situations and brings them through it. His infectious spirit resulted in the creation The Urban Voices Project, an initiative to provide healing through music for homeless and disenfranchised individuals on Skid Row. Composed of artists and performers from the Skid Row neighborhood in Downtown Los Angeles, this project is presented by The Colburn School and Wesley Health Centers (JWCH Institute). The Urban Voices Project: A Skid Row Choir serves as a bridge to the Wesley's health and wellness services for our homeless.



Katherine McNenny

7

In December 2011, Katherine McNenny planted her first 7 trees on her block of San Pedro St. between 4th and 5th Sts. To do that she had to lobby, get on board and coordinate the property owners, Council District 14, the Bureau of Street Services, and TreePeople who managed the plantings. The next year Katherine co-founded Industrial District Green to pursue local area greening projects. Landscape architect Gabrielle Newmark is Katherine's current partner in IDG. Katherine has planted and is busy maintaining trees all over the neighborhood. And she continues to lobby property owners to plant gardens in the Skid Row area. Two drought tolerant gardens have been planted at 3rd and San Pedro St. and another on San Julian St. between 6th and 7th Sts. Katherine is very active in the Skid Row Neighborhood Council formation committee.



KevinMichael Key

8

KevinMichael Key is a well-known presence in Skid Row. His penetrating voice is louder than any siren police or fire. He walks the streets checking the wellbeing of community members. "You doin alright? You doin good?" Wearing a variety of hats he works for the community non-stop. As a community organizer for United Coalition East Prevention Project, he's worked on many campaigns to keep drug dealers and alcohol outlets from overwhelming the community. He was a leader in the fight to keep Skid Row Housing Trust from selling alcohol in their New Genesis Hotel. He's an active member of the Skid Row recovery community, and through his work with Los Angeles Poverty Department has done much to get Skid Row recognized as the Biggest Recovery Community Anywhere. He's long worked with Critical Resistance to ground their prison abolition movement in Skid Row. He's a facilitator for the JWCH Clinic peer-to-peer diabetes program.



About the Skid Row History Museum and Archive:
The Skid Row History Museum & Archive is an exhibition /performing arts space curated by LAPD. It foregrounds the distinctive artistic and historical consciousness of Skid Row, a 40-year-old social experiment and functions as a means for exploring the mechanics of displacement in an age of immense income inequality, by mining a neighborhood’s activist history and amplifying effective community strategies. The space operates as an archive, exhibition, performance and meeting space. Exhibitions focus on grassroots strategies that have preserved the neighborhood from successive threats of gentrification and displacement, to be studied for current adaptation and use. The space is activated by performances, community meetings and Free Movie Nights, addressing gentrification and displacement locally, nationally and globally.



Exhibition: Walk the Talk
Wednesday May 18 through Sunday July 31
Open: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 2-5pm
at the
Skid Row History Museum and Archive
Mezzanine Level
440 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

THE “WALK THE TALK” EXHIBITION features portraits, interviews, transcripts and performance scripts and videos of 52 people who have lived and worked in Skid Row and have been instrumental in creating a neighborhood in which the interests of its low income residents are prioritized and their voices heard.

At a time when Angelinos are living homeless throughout LA County, and government is looking to adequately respond, this archive is an important resource. It features groundbreaking initiatives that have proven transformative because they recognize and employ the humanity, wisdom and creativity of Skid Row residents to solve problems and build community.

The exhibition features people who have been recognized in Los Angeles Poverty Department’s biennial Walk the Talk parade of 2012, 2014 and 2016.

The show is curated by LAPD and designed by LAPD in collaboration with Robert M. Ochshorn. Ochshorn is a researcher at the Communications Design Group (San Francisco), where he designs media interfaces for extending human perceptive and expressive capabilities. Ochshorn is an on-going collaborator with the Skid Row History Museum & Archive, having designed the museum’s inaugural exhibition “Blue Book / Silver Book” in 2015. Ochshorn will build on the architecture developed for the “WALK THE TALK” exhibition to organize and make accessible the entire collection of the Skid Row History Museum & Archive.

For the “WALK THE TALK” exhibition, Ochshorn has written software that allows instant and parallel navigation of hour-long interviews from transcript to video and back again of these 52 historically significant Skid Row figures. This archive will also be searchable by subject (e.g., “Gladys Park”, “Jan Perry”, “Department of Social Services”, “Skid Row musicians” etc.) The “WALK THE TALK” exhibition allows for non-linear, digitally reconfigured navigation through the content --- activated by each visitor --- a mechanism for each visitor to experience the exhibition uniquely.



THE CAST OF WALK THE TALK

- Stephanie Bell:** When God spoke to KevinMichael he said, “You say you believe in me, why don’t you ask me?” – I believe there is a future for everyone, God Bless.
- Henriëtte Brouwers:** This parade is - Come Together, right now!
- Jennifer Campbell:** I have learned camaraderie, how to live together, how we laugh together and how we have grown together.
- Christina Collier:** “Can I sing for like 45 minutes?”
- Adrian Excel:** Skid Row can show you so much.
- Walter Fears:** Giving voice to the voiceless, strength to the weak, and pride to the community!! Skid Row’s own LAPD!!!
- Tom Grode:** Interview to transcript to first edit to complete script to creative chaos.
- Linda Harris:** In life we all need to be part of something, a place of belonging.
- Silvia Hernandez:** Hey, man, your art is “Social Practice” – Once a day and twice on Sunday.
- Chas Jackson:** Today is the first day for the rest of my life!
- KevinMichael Key:** Being a Skid Row Artist with Our LAPD puts more glut in my strut, more glide in my stride – more pep in my step.
- John Malpede:** Walk the Talk: I walk all day and have more energy at the end than when I started.
- Lee Maupin:** I’m back and still crazy and still loving every bit of it.
- Anthony Taylor:** Perspective: Live, Give, Community, Humans helping Humans.
- Jen Wilson:** “Shark!!!”
- Sherri Walker:** By every means continue to dream.

THANK you to

.. all our pals and partners who have worked to make Walk the Talk happen. And that includes the LA Poverty Department production staff. The “parade monitors” and volunteers and interns: Danny Park, Marlene Herrera, Kim Welsch, Alyssa Dominguez, Marina Peterson, Christopher Rivas and Helki Frantzen. Visual artist Pairoj Pichetmetakul, Paradigm Brass Band and pick-up musicians. A BIG thanks to Lamp Art Project and the Skid Row Design Collective for bringing their float to the parade. And a specail thanks to Eddie Kim and the **Alex Market** and **Love Nail Tree** for supporting Walk the Talk!

Why Walk the Talk:

In 1976, an amazing, enlightened moment of LA city governance occurred when a zoning plan was put in place that preserved the biggest stash of low income housing in Los Angeles County -- in other words, instead of bringing in the wrecking balls, it preserved the Skid Row neighborhood. In the nearly 50 years since then, most of that housing has been taken out of slum lord hands and is now owned by non-profits who have renovated existing buildings and created new ones. Other non-profits and social services have located there. And importantly, the long-term permanent residents of the neighborhood have made mighty contributions toward preserving the neighborhood and making it livable. It was Skid Row residents who got City Council to enact a moratorium on hotel conversion, during the height of the early 2000's real estate bubble feeding frenzy. It was Skid Row residents who started providing trashcans and cleaning up the streets, when the city wouldn't. It was a Skid Row resident that got the Parks Department to reinvest in Gladys Park. Right now, its Skid Row residents working to form a Skid Row Neighborhood Council that can adequately represent the needs and interests of Skid Row residents.

Right now, there are dueling narratives about who comprises the "downtown community," new residents claim that they are creating community downtown, but, often without understanding the accomplishments of the long term Skid Row residents. Walk the Talk is intended to highlight these achievements while fostering an understanding of how Skid Row people and institutions contribute to the wellbeing of the entire city. As the site of many groundbreaking solutions to intractable social problems, Skid Row is a valuable social incubator for communities everywhere.

LAPD began chronicling the social history of Skid Row with its 2002 month-long installation, "Is there History on Skid Row?" at 112 Winston Street (corner of Main) and again in 2007, with our performance project UTOPIA/dystopia, which engaged people from all parts of downtown, asking them to envision their ideal future for LA. This was followed by our 2008 gallery exhibition "The Skid Row History Museum" at The Box Gallery. Our chronicling of the neighborhood's achievements continued with our first Walk the Talk parade and conversations in 2012. Much of the material from these projects was on view this spring 2016 in a retrospective gallery exhibition on the history of LAPD's work at The Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena and previously at New York City's Queens Museum in 2014.

[T]he collective acts as curator and archivist of their neighborhood. Homeless communities are barely acknowledged by most institutions, much less thought to have histories and textured pasts. The LAPD turns that generalization on its head, pointing to the area's 'amazing community assets.' --- Ryan Wong ARTslant (2014)



WALK THE TALK 2012 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY MR. BRAINWASH - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Top row: Richard Fulton, Catherine Morris, Jeff Dietrich, Officer James Rich, Robert Chaimbers, Rosa Arzola, Jill Halverson, Walter "Redd" Moore, Mark Holsinger
Second Row: Pastor William Monroe Campbell, Harry Rogers, Darlene Berry, Ms. Lee, Mr. Lee, Andy Raubeson, Orlando Ward, Nancy Mintie, Clyde Casey
Third Row: Adam Bennion, Tanya Tull, Mike Neely, Flo Hawkins, Robert Sundance, Judge Harry Hupp, Alice Callahan, Manuel Compito (aka OGMan), Lillian Abel Calamari
Bottom Row: Mollie Lowery, Wendell Blassingame, Dr. Dennis Bleakley, S.S. Jones, Pete White, Tony Stallworth, Lucy Stallworth, Ted Hayes, Scott Chamberlain.



WALK THE TALK 2014 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY BRIAN DICK - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Charles Porter Zelenne Cardenas Clancy Imislund Captain Duffy Michale Blaze Joan Sotiros Dr. Mongo General Jeff

The important people included in the "WALK THE TALK" exhibition are: **2012:** Alice Callaghan (founder Las Familias Del Pueblo and Skid Row Housing Trust), Tanya Tull (founder Para Los Ninos), Andy Raubeson (first executive director of SRO Housing inc.), SS Jones (founder Skid Row Musicians Network), Nancy Mintie (founder Inner City Law), Flo Hawkins (Skid Row muralist), Mark Holzinger (first director of the Los Angeles Mission), Pete White (founder Los Angeles Community Action Network), Mollie Lowery (founder LAMP Community), Manuel Compito (founder OG's In Service and the Skid Row 3 on 3 Basketball League), Jeff Dietrich & Catherine Morris (The Catholic Worker), Clyde Casey (artist and founder of Another Planet), Ted Hayes (founder of Justiceville and Dome Village), Mike Neely (founder Homeless Outreach Program), Adam Bennion (one of the leaders of Love Camp), Pastor William Campbell (Project Open Door), Robert Chambers (former president of the Homeless Writers Coalition), Harry Rodgers (organizer Homeless Organizing Team, 1983-5), Officer Rich (LA County Police officer at D.P.S.S. office from 1970 to 2010), Rosa Arzola & Jill Halverson (inspired and founded the Downtown Women Center), Lillian Calamari (founded pioneering art studio workshop while working at SRO Housing), Wendell Blassingame (started Movies on the Nickle), Darlene Berry (SRO's first female hotel manager, ran Cocaine Anonymous Marathon), Mr. & Mrs. Lee (owners of the D & D DELI), Walter "Redd" Moore (drug counsellor at the VOA Rotary House), Dr. Dennis Bleakley (physician JWCH Clinic), Orlando Ward (former director of public relations Midnite Mission), Pastor Tony & Lucy Stallworth (co- founders Karaoke Coffee Club Central City Community Church of the Nazarene), Scott Chamberlain (founding Pastor Church of the Nazarene), Robert Sundance & Judge Harry Hupp (plaintiff and Judge in the Sundance Case), Richard Fulton (founder 5th Street Dick's Coffee Company), **2014:** Joan Sotiros (long time director of St. Vincent DePaul Center), Clancy Imislund (former director of the Midnite Mission), Dr. Mongo (poet), General Jeff (Skid Row advocate, Issues and Solutions), Zelenne Carnedas and Charles Porter (United Coalition East Prevention Project), Michael Blaze (founder Skid Row Photography Club and Unified Fathers for Life), Captain Duffy (captain of Skid Row Firehouse 9), **2016:** Carol Sobel (civil rights attorney), Becky Dennison (former co-director Los Angeles Community Network and currently director Venice Community Housing), General Dogon (organizer Los Angeles Community Network), A. J. Martin (volunteer responsible for maintaining community access to Gladys Park and volunteer for The Drifters recovery meetings in Gladys Park), Hayk Makhmuryan (director LAMP Arts Program) Christopher Mack (outreach worker at the JWCH Center for Community Health Downtown), Katherine McNenny (co-founder Industrial District Green), KevinMichael Key (Community organizer).



PARADIGM BRASS BAND will head the parade

Trumpet - Mike Cottone, Mike Bolgar, Tenor Sax - Rich Firman,
Bone - Alvin Starks, Bari Sax - Max Kim, Tuba - Dan Weinstein,
Bass drum - Marc Bolin, Snare drum - John Montgomery.



Pairoj Pichetmetakul portraits

“I have been painting homeless for 3 years already. Your community has been helping homeless for a long time and I want to be one of yours.”

Pairoj is a former Buddhist monk who takes inspiration from Chinese scroll paintings, Pairoj paints his subjects on 10-foot-wide by 150-foot-long rolls of canvas.

LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

LAPD’s MISSION: Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) creates performances and multidisciplinary artworks that connect the experience of people living in poverty to the social forces that shape their lives and communities. LAPD’s works express the realities, hopes, dreams and rights of people who live and work in L.A.’s Skid Row.

“The Back Nine”

An Exhibition in The Works for January 2017: **The Back Nine**. LAPD and artist Rosten Woo will install a playable miniature golf course at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive. The mini-golf course will illuminate zoning policy in Los Angeles. New zoning code is being written and the city will implement it downtown LA first. It could put the Skid Row neighborhood in jeopardy. LAPD is monitoring these developments and will create a performance about the promise / danger of re-zoning. The performance will take place on the Mini-golf course.

Upcoming Events ---- All Events Are Free

WALK THE TALK - COME TOGETHER:

- May 18: 6pm @ Skid Row History Museum & Archive
PRESENTERS: Steve Diaz, Marc Trotz, Tony Anthony and Andrea Theodoresku.
- May 20 and 26: 7pm @ Skid Row History Museum & Archive
PRESENTERS: Melvin Johnson, Lynn Rossi, Franc Foster and Theresa Hwang.

MAY 28: NOON - 4PM: PARADE / PERFORMANCE

LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT PERFORMS:

Chasing Monsters from Under the Bed

“Chasing Monsters” explores recovery from mental illness and homelessness at a time when thousands of homeless, mentally ill people are abandoned, feared and threatened by aggressive policing.

At: UC Riverside, Saturday June 4 at 7pm at The Culver Center - FREE

And at: The Hammer Museum, Tuesday June 7th at 7pm - FREE

EXHIBITIONS AT THE SKID ROW HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE:

Exhibition open: Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2-5pm.

• “Walk the Talk”

May 18, 2016 through July 30, 2016
The exhibition includes portraits and video interviews of 52 visionaries from Skid Row. Software allows navigation of the exhibition by person or by subject.

• “Artists from the Lamp Art Project”

August 12, 2016 through September 18, 2016

FREE MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM:

- **June 10, 2016, 7pm**
“Pay It No Mind” Transgender Film Night.
Conversation facilitated by Chella Coleman, transgender activist and performer.
- **June 24, 2016, 7:30pm**
“Flow” Post film discussion about the contamination of water supplies with Thelmy Perez - LA Human Right to Housing Collective Coordinator.
- **July 8, 2016, 7pm**
“The House I Live In” A film about the US’ role as the world’s largest jailer.
Discussion facilitated by KevinMichael Key of LA Poverty Dept. and Critical Resistance.
- **July 22, 2016, 7:30pm**
“The Real Deal” A documentary on Los Angeles Poverty Department including conversation with the film’s Director Tom Jones.
- **August 12, 2016, 7pm**
“Kill the Messenger” & excerpt of Los Angeles Poverty Department’s “Agents & Assets” a performance project addressing the devastation of communities by the “war on drugs”.

FESTIVAL FOR ALL SKID ROW ARTISTS:

October 22 & 23, 2016

Call or write us!
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