

Walk the Talk

Skid Row Visionaries Celebrated

PARADE: April 21, 2018



Photo: Austin Hines

Los Angeles Poverty Department

A PARADE CELEBRATING THE HEROES OF SKID ROW!
Los Angeles Poverty Department Honors the History and Heroes of Skid Row
at 2018 edition of biennial Walk the Talk Parade

WHEN: Saturday, April 21, 2018 11:00AM – 3:00PM

WHERE: Parade route begins at the corner of East 7th Street & Central Avenue.

LOS ANGELES -- Join the performance company **Los Angeles Poverty Department** for the 2018 edition of its biennial **Walk the Talk Parade and Performance** chronicling the ongoing history of Skid Row, celebrating the accomplishments of the Skid Row community, and honoring some of the individuals whose initiatives have made extraordinary contributions to the community of Skid Row, making a difference in people's lives every day.

This year's honorees are:

Tiffany Rose – Founder of My Friends House LA;
Steve Diaz – Deputy Director of Organizing at Los Angeles Community Action Network;
Bobby Buck – Skid Row's video / photographer and founder of The Bobby Buck Show;
Vijay Gupta – Founder of Street Symphony;
Demetra Wilson-Washington – Outreach Minister with Central City Community Outreach;
Andy Bales – Executive Director of the Union Rescue Mission;
Eddie H. – Skid Row advocate, active in creating the ReFresh Spot;
Pastor Cue – Founder of Tha Row- Church Without Walls.



Led by Street Symphony's brass band **The LA Marching Band**, together with community musicians, the parade makes its way through Skid Row, stopping at eight locations in the neighborhood. At each stop the actors of L.A. Poverty Department will do a short performance recounting the story of each honoree at the site they've identified as important to their work.

The audience is encouraged to follow this fun, funky and festive parade, featuring portraits of the honorees by Skid Row artist and muralist **CruShow Herring**. Bring your tambourine, cowbell, laughter and spirit - be a part of the celebration!

ABOUT WALK THE TALK

Walk the Talk celebrates a long process of community engagement that has included performances, exhibitions, public conversations, interviews – 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. Walk the Talk is a peoples' history of the community. LAPD tells the parts of the story that you won't hear elsewhere: the story of the community as told by the community. Walk the Talk supports LAPD's larger social practice methodology, a body of acclaimed work widely acknowledged as "some of the most uncompromising political theater." (Artforum).

ABOUT LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Founded by Artistic Director John Malpede in 1985, Los Angeles Poverty Department is made up of people who make art and live and work in Skid Row. 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.

Skid Row History Museum & Archive
A project of L.A. Poverty Department
250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles CA 90012
open Friday, Thursday, Firday: 2pm to 5pm

LAPD
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Parade Route

Saturday, April 21 - 11am - 3pm



Sites of 10-minute performances along the parade route.
The parade starts at 11am at the corner of 7th street and Central Avenue
1244 7th St., Los Angeles, CA 90021

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Tiffany Rose – My Friends House LA
 1244 7th St., Los Angeles, CA 90021
 corner of 7th Street and Central Avenue</p> <p>2 Steve Diaz - LA CAN
 Los Angeles Community Action Network
 838 E. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021</p> <p>3 Bobby Buck - Gladys Park
 808 E. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021
 corner of 6th Street and Gladys Avenue</p> <p>4 Vijay Gupta – Street Symphony
 Midnight Mission
 601 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014</p> | <p>5 Demetra Wilson-Washington
 The Central City Community Church
 419 E. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014</p> <p>6 Andy Bales – The Union Rescue Mission
 545 S. San Pedro St, Los Angeles, CA 90013</p> <p>7 Eddie H. - The Los Angeles Mission
 303 E. 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013
 corner of E. 5th Street and Wall Street</p> <p>8 Pastor Cue – Tha Row- Church Without Walls
 In front of 435 Wall Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013
 “Giant Trading” at the S/W corner Winston and Wall Street</p> |
|---|--|

Pastor Cue: “I can’t do just church and not do this, because when God said, “I want you to be like Malcolm.” he was calling me to be a prophetic voice. So, we speak truth to power. Because it’s essential. We gotta do it.”

Andy Bales: “I believe that if you say a hurting word to an already hurting person, you are saying a hurting word to God himself.”

Steve Diaz: “And yes, I will say it feels like a calling.”

Demetra Wilson-Washington: “It’s not the dog in the fight , but the fight in the dog.”



Tiffany A. Rose

1

Tiffany A. Rose is the Founder of the My Friend's House Foundation, whose mission is to provide life-sustaining staples to homeless and economically disadvantaged men, women, children and seniors in Los Angeles, regardless of race or religious beliefs; providing encouragement and support for them to become self-sufficient and lead healthy lives. Tiffany founded My Friend's House in 2008 with the help of friends and initially served 75 people. Ten years later, My Friend's House L.A. now includes programs that provide low-to-no-cost access to clothing and personal grooming services, life skills classes and even care for pets, through the River Rose Foundation, in memory of Tiffany Rose's dog "River". Tiffany has been helping others from an early age, inspired by the social outreach work of her grandmother. She volunteers with various missions and outreach ministries in the Los Angeles area. Tiffany can be seen every Wednesday distributing food and clothing on San Pedro St. between 5th and 6th, and almost every day in Skid Row at the offices of My Friends House L.A. on 7th St. and Central Ave.



Demetra Wilson-Washington

5

Demetra Wilson-Washington, aka Lady Dee Dee, is an off-and-on resident of the Skid Row Community since 1986. A Skid Row activist and regular host of "Skid Row TALKZ!", she works with Skid Row's homeless veterans to help them get the services they need and was active in the effort to create a Skid Row Neighborhood Council. Demetra's been an active member of the Central City Community Church for many years where she is an outreach Minister and a member of the church Praise Team. She uses transformational practices to holistically address the needs of the Skid Row community; walking alongside individuals and families to break the cycle of poverty by working towards reconciliation, justice, and renewal. She's been engaged in the programming and realization of activities in Gladys Park and active in United Coalition East Prevention Project for many years. She is a dynamic singer who freely offers her talents to the Skid Row community. She has performed with Tommy Newman's Band and Franc's Melting Pot, singing everything from R&B to jazz and urban soul.



Steve Diaz

2

Steve Diaz is the Deputy Director of Organizing at Los Angeles Community Action Network. A native Angeleno. He started working as a community organizer after attending a tenant meeting organized by L.A. CAN. He was 19 years old and living on Main Street with his parents at the Frontier Hotel, a target of gentrification after the passage of the City's Adaptive Re-Use Ordinance. Steve completed L.A. CAN's community intern program in 2003, joining the staff in 2004. Since then he has worked on many community organizing projects from fighting the practice of the "28 Day Shuffle" to educating and defending the rights of tenants at the Frontier, Roslyn, Alexandria, Huntington and Bristol Hotels. His extensive knowledge and calm demeanor creates forward progress and consensus among his collaborators and concessions from his adversaries. Steve is loved and respected by hundreds of Skid Row residents; he has touched the lives and stabilized the housing of thousands of people.



Andy Bales

6

Reverend Andy Bales is CEO of the Union Rescue Mission. As Mission leader, Reverend Bales has advocated for the development of transitional housing for mothers and their children living in the Mission's downtown facility and in neighboring SRO hotels in and around Skid Row, including The Women's and Children's Transitional Living Facility. His commitment to providing permanent supportive housing for senior women experiencing homelessness led to the development of The Senior Women's Permanent Supportive Housing facility at Hope Gardens Family Center. Andy has had a pivotal role in changing hospital and governmental policies to stop the practice of abandoning homeless patients by "dumping" them on to the streets of Skid Row.



Bobby Buck

3

Bobby Buck is Skid Row's resident photographer and videographer. An Arkansas native, he arrived in the Skid Row community homeless, and eventually connected with Operation Face-Lift/Skid Row and the "positive movement". He found housing, turned his life around and since 2010 has been focused on giving back through community service, entrepreneurship training and media advocacy. He is someone that has shown initiative and an ability to bring people together through innovative projects. A self-taught photographer, he illuminates the achievements of Skid Row residents through his pictures and videos. After taking pictures of community events, and distributing them on Facebook and YouTube, he noticed that when others in Skid Row saw pictures of themselves doing positive things on his social media, it boosted their self-esteem. In 2014 he began hosting his own radio broadcast at SkidRow Studios, "The Bobby Buck Show", where he focused on important issues in Skid Row, South LA, and beyond. He hosts a talk show called "Skid Row Talkz".



Eddie H.

7

Eddie H. - Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Eddie came to Los Angeles in 1996, eventually arriving at the L.A. Mission. Ever since he has been an advocate and activist in the community of Skid Row. One of his first efforts was to get a directory of the various initiatives and programs serving the population of Skid Row. He has been involved with a variety of organizations including the United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), The Skid Row Community Coalition, LA Community Action Network, Goodwill and city initiatives such as L.A. Rise. He is a lively and inspiring presence at every meeting, action and community gathering. Most recently he has been active in creating the Skid Row Community ReFresh Spot, a new mobile hygiene center for unsheltered homeless residents of Skid Row located in Gladys Park.



Vijay Gupta

4

Vijay Gupta is a violinist, speaker and advocate for the power of music to change lives. Gupta joined the LA Philharmonic at 19 after completing a Masters in violin performance from the Yale School of Music and a Bachelor's in biology from Marist College. As a 2011 TED Senior Fellow, Gupta founded Street Symphony, a non-profit organization dedicated to placing music at the heart of social justice, engaging communities in greater Los Angeles experiencing homelessness and incarceration through musical performance and dialogue. In 2017, Gupta was awarded the Leonard Bernstein Lifetime Achievement award by the Longy School of Music of Bard College and was named a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. Gupta believes that musical engagement reconnects us to our shared humanity across vast divides, and ultimately impacts social justice.



Pastor Cue

8

Pastor Cue is the founder of The Row "Church Without Walls". A former Virgin Records rapper, Pastor Cue left the music industry in 1994 to begin following God, becoming an evangelist and activist. After serving in ministries and planting churches that took a more traditional approach to practicing Christianity, Cue felt God calling him to the streets, and the seed that would become The Row was planted. Since 2006 he has been ministering to and feeding anyone in the Skid Row community who is hungry for food and the Word of God. Pastor Cue is a strong advocate for the rights of those experiencing homelessness, police accountability and for the dismantling of mass incarceration. A Graduate of the Passing The Mantle program at the University of Southern California, Cue has completed a two-year program at USC'S Institute for Violence prevention. He is also an organizer with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), co-lead organizer of the Black Jewish Justice Alliance. (BJJA) and the "We Will Live" coalition--A Black n Brown Clergy and Community Coalition. Join Pastor Cue at The Row for services at 7:30pm every Friday night, rain or shine, in front of the Giant Trading shop on 435 Wall St. at the corner of Wall St. and Winston St.

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 and continued with our 2014 and 2016 Walk The Talk parade. LAPD's performances/installations "What Fuels Development?" (2014) and "The Back 9" (2016) addressed gentrification and re-zoning of our neighborhood. Our current exhibit at the Skid Row History Museum and Archive, *Zillionaires Against Humanity: Sabotaging the Skid Row Neighborhood Council*, examines the outsized investment and great lengths gone to by downtown powerbrokers, to subvert the sub-division election that would have given the Skid Row Neighborhood its own neighborhood council.

[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 Chambers, 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 Blessingame, Dr. Dennis Bleakley, S.S. Jones, Pete White, Tony Stallworth, Lucy Stallworth, Ted Hayes, Scott Chamberlain.

1st row from left to right:

1. Richard Fulton, (AKA) 5th St Dick

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.

2. + 3. Catherine Morris and Jeff Dietrich

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 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.

4. Officer James Rich

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 resolving differences between workers and clients.

5. Robert Chambers

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 Robert Chambers, Dino Lewis, London Wright, Southern Comfort and others as an outlet for other neighborhood literary talent. 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 the nationally televised documentary "The United States of Poetry".

6 + 7. Rosa Arzola and Jill Halverson

In 1975, a social worker named Jill Halverson met Rose Arzola in the parking lot where she was temporarily living. Jill found Rose to be a bright, loving, interesting, persevering woman with a keen sense of humor. She also discovered that Rose 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 Rose's situation that she used her life savings to establish the Downtown Women's Center.

8. Walter (Redd) Moore

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, Redd 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.

9. Mark Holsinger

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 Holsinger's vision of providing not only emergency services but also comprehensive long-term spiritual, educational and vocational opportunities to men and women.

2nd row from left to right:

10. Pastor William Monroe Campbell

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.

11. Harry Rodgers

Skid Row resident Harry Rogers organized members of the community to stand up for their own interests. He was a consistent presence in the Homeless Organizing Team, a grass roots 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. Harry Rogers was murdered at 6th and Gladys in 1985.

12. Darlene Berry

Darlene 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.

13. + 14. Mr. and Mrs. Lee

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 wife opened D+D Deli, a convenience store on Skid Row, they 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."

15. Andy Raubeson

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.

16. Orlando Ward

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 turning point and he moved on to become public affairs director for the Midnight Mission, which he now considers the best job in the world. "It's 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."

17. Nancy Mintie

"The poorest among us should have the same access to justice as the richest and most powerful." This is the belief of Nancy Mintie, the founder of Inner City Law Center, which has been serving the most vulnerable individuals and families in Los Angeles County since 1980. Inner City Law Center has helped hundreds of immigrant families living in substandard housing, by taking up the fight and winning habitability cases against slumlords.

18. Clyde Casey

On the corner of Wall and Boyd Streets, on the site of a former gas station and parking lot, Clyde 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 storage for belongings and free clothing. Another Planet flourished for a year, before burning down in a fire in 1989.

3rd row from left to right:

19. Adam Bennion

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 became one of the leaders of Love Camp. Love Camp leaders, representatives from Justiceville and others met with the City with hopes of establishing a self-run shelter.

20. Tanya Tull

For more than 25 years, Tanya Tull has played a significant role in the development of innovative solutions to the crisis of homelessness, both in Los Angeles and nationwide. In 1980, she founded Para los Niños (For the Children), a nonprofit agency located in L.A.'s Skid Row, which operates family support programs for a primarily immigrant population. In 1983, in response to the increasing number of homeless families on LA's streets, she co-founded L.A. Family Housing Corporation, which develops emergency, transitional and permanent housing. Since 1988, her work has focused primarily on the development of new methodologies to promote systemic change. That year, she created A Community of Friends, which develops supportive permanent housing throughout L.A. County for the chronically mentally ill and other special needs populations. Also in 1988, she founded Beyond Shelter, to develop affordable permanent housing for families living in shelters. In 1996, Dr. Tull served on the U.S. National Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Housing Conference and serves on special advisory groups for the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, all based in Washington, D.C. In Los Angeles she chairs the LA City/County Coordinating Council on Homeless Families.

21. Mike Neely

In 1989, Mike Neely founded the Homeless Outreach Program, with the idea of recruiting 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 decided to fund the innovative program. From that initial \$50,000 grant HOP grew into an organization with 65 employees, a \$5,500,000 budget, providing services in downtown and South Los Angeles at the time of Mike Neely's retirement. Mike is currently a commissioner of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

22. Florence Hawkins

Painter and author Flo Hawkins worked on the skid row 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 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.

23. Robert Sundance

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 inebriates, and transport them to jail. When sobered, they were put out on the street and the cycle repeated itself. During his sober periods, he'd amassed reams of yellow legal pads tracking his experiences while arrested, which he brought to the Los Angeles County Superior Court when The Center for Law in the Public Interest took his case. Based on his testimony, and Judge Hupp's ruling, intoxicated people were no longer taken to jail, but to treatment centers.

24. Judge Harry Hupp

In 1975, Judge Harry L. Hupp presided over a landmark case, Sundance vs. Municipal Court that changed how those arrested for public drunkenness were treated in Los Angeles. After an eight-week trial, Hupp ruled that public drunks on Skid Row should be treated the same as anyone else arrested for a misdemeanor. In his opinion, Hupp 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. Respected as a legal scholar, Hupp was a valuable resource for new judges. He was named to the Superior Court by then-Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1972 was appointed to the U.S. District Court bench by then-President Reagan in 1984.

25. Alice Callahan

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 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.

26. Manuel Compito (aka OG Man)

An L.A. native and artist, 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.

27. Lillian Abel Calamari

Lillian Abel Calamari is a talented painter who exhibits her work in many gallery shows 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 an 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. Currently the workshop 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. Exhibitions have been in New York, N.Y.; Los Angeles, CA; Krakow, Poland; as well as numerous Galleries and Exhibitions across the country.

4th row from left to right:

28. Mollie Lowery

In 1985, Mollie Lowery, along with Frank Rice started LAMP Communities as a safe drop-in center on Downtown L.A.'s San Julian Street. 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 recovery programs supported by the County. Today LAMP achieves one of the highest success rates in the nation for ending homelessness.

29. Wendell Blassingame

At the James Wood Community Center since 2004, on Saturdays and Sundays from 3 PM until 10 PM, Wendell 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.

30. Dr. Dennis Bleakley

Dr. Dennis Bleakley has seen a great deal in his years as a practitioner of the healing arts at the JWCH Clinic 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.

31. S.S. Jones

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.

32. Pete White

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 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.

33. + 34. Lucy and Tony Stallworth

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 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.

35. Ted Hayes

In January 1985, in the playground of the Catholic Worker, arose Justiceville, where under the leadership of Ted Hayes, a diverse population of more than 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.

36. Scott Chamberlain

Beginning as a volunteer with Union Rescue Mission's (URM) Youth Ministry in 1987, Scott'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.



Clancy Imislund

The last day that Clancy Imislund drank, he was kicked out of the Midnight Mission for being drunk and hostile; that was in 1958. Sixteen years later, Clancy was working in Beverly Hills as the marketing director for Security World Publishing when his friend told him that the director of the Midnight Mission had died and they were looking for someone to take his place. Well, when they threw Clancy out of the mission, he said, "I'll come back and get you!" So, in 1974 he took the job as the director of the Midnight Mission. After 40 years of service, Clancy continues to come to work everyday. He retired as the director when he was 75; now he's 86 and he still works in fundraising and public relations. Clancy Imislund is a legend in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous. He has helped numerous people with their addiction. He has 55 years sober.



Captain Duffy

Firehouse 9 rarely fights fires, but they are one of the busiest stations in the nation. Located at 7th and San Julian, in Skid Row, Number 9's paramedic ambulance averages about 15 calls within a 24-hour period. For the last eleven years, Captain Walter Duffy has been the captain at Number 9. Duffy grew up in South Central Los Angeles, graduated from UCLA and became a lifeguard before joining the LAFD. Captain Duffy is looking forward to a new chapter in his life. Next year he will retire after 35 years of service.



Joan Sotiros

Social Worker Joan Sotiros was the director at St. Vincent De Paul Cardinal Manning Center, a homeless shelter in Skid Row. Prior to becoming director in 1993, Joan ran a residential treatment program for disturbed and delinquent kids in Southern Colorado. At St. Vincent's, Joan was determined to create a warm, understanding environment. She redecorated the facility and implemented her one rule philosophy, respect yourself and respect others. After 19 years of service to the Skid Row community, Joan Sotiros retired in October of 2012.



2014: Zelenne Cardenas and Charles Porter (United Coalition East Prevention Project), Clancy Imislund (former director of the Midnite Mission, Captain Duffy (captain of Skid Row Firehouse 9), Michael Blaze (founder Skid Row Photography Club and Unified Fathers for Life), Joan Sotiros (long time director of St. Vincent DePaul Manning Center), Dr. Mongo (poet), General Jeff (Skid Row advocate, Issues and Solutions). Portraits designed by Brian Dick.



Zelenne Cardenas

Zelenne Cardenas grew up in East Los Angeles. She attended UCLA, earning a degree in sociology and ethnic studies. In 1996, while working for Social Model Recovery Program, Inc., she began UCEPP, which focuses on preventative solutions to alcohol and drug issues in Skid Row. The premise: drugs are not the problem, but rather an environment that invites people to use drugs and alcohol is the problem. UCEPP works to change the environment by building community. Today, Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc. functions as UCEPP's parent organization, and as its director of prevention Services, Zelenne spearheads many projects, giving a voice to the community, meeting people where they are and advocating for the possibility of change.

Charles Porter

Charles Porter was born in a rural black community in Southern New Jersey, Bushtown Village, which has been home to free blacks since the 1700's. He studied Political Science and African American History at Howard University, Washington DC. Coming out of college, Charles was interested in how people organize and create society—create community. In 1999, Charles began working at United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP). Over the past 15 years, he has worked diligently to advocate for the poor, create community in the Skid Row area and instill a sense of pride in the residents by creating classes, workshops and presentations for youth and adults in the community to learn about their heritage and culture.



Michael Blaze

"In the late 90's, I made up my mind, made a deal with god, that he would help at least one human being a day, absolutely for free. That was my deal to get off of drugs, and I don't use drugs." Michael Blaze focused on keeping his promise by creating programs to help the residents of Skid Row. He formed Unified Fathers for Life, a fathering program that reunites families, one father at a time. Blaze created the Skid Row Photography Club, a photo group for the people of the community.

He has given away numerous digital cameras to the residents he works with and organized viewings of their works in downtown galleries. He has 150 films about Skid Row and is always with camera in-hand. Blaze's current project is Veterans in Photography. "My vision is to be able to give a camera to every veteran I meet and invite them to come in," he said. Veterans in Photography takes place at 800 E. 6th St., Fridays from 10am to Noon.



Dr. Mongo

Dr. Mongo was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He is a poet, author and former teacher. He has a doctorate in comparative philosophy from Case Western Reserve University and taught literacy 1 and 2 at Cleveland Community College before coming to Skid Row in the 1960's. Since then, Mongo has organized numerous poetry reading series at diverse sites, including: Little Tokyo Pizza, The 5th Estate and The Whole, to name a few. He is the author of two books, *The First Prescription* and *The Last Prescription*. Dr. Mongo was honored to be poet laureate of the Los Angeles Community Action Network.



General Jeff

General Jeff is a Skid Row activist. He's a first generation West Coast rapper. In 2006, after unsuccessful attempts to end gang violence where he grew up in South Central, Jeff packed up and moved himself and his activism efforts to Skid Row. He knew that to help the community, he would have to learn the community. He found that people were busy talking about Skid Row's problems, but not about the solutions. Later that year, he created Issues and Solutions,

the vehicle for his activism. One of his first projects was the Gladys Park Improvement Project.



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.

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Becky Dennison

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.

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2016: General Dogon (organizer Los Angeles Community Network), Becky Dennison (former co-director Los Angeles Community Network and currently director Venice Community Housing), A. J. Martin (volunteer responsible for community access to Gladys Park and for The Drifters recovery meetings in Gladys Park), Carol Sobel (civil rights attorney), 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). Portraits designed by Pairoj Pichetmetakul.



A. J. Martin

A.J. 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 melt down, 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.

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Carol Sobel

Carol 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

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

Chris 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.

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Katherine McNenny

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

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.

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The LA Marching Band is honored and excited to be joining the parade this year! We understand and value the efforts of the LA Poverty Department in their fight against homelessness in Los Angeles. We are proud to do our part in bringing awareness to something that effects so many.

The LA Marching Band is a collection of LA and OC based professional musicians who have a passion for marching and pep bands. We have been able to provide sports teams, corporations and private events with fun and entertaining music with a marching flair (complete with feather plumes!). We have roughly 60 musicians within our collective who play everything from snare and bass drums to sousaphones and piccolos. We work hard to bring fun to marching band!

About Street Symphony

As a community of professional musicians committed to engaging communities affected by homelessness and incarceration, Street Symphony is a grassroots organization which performs regular concert programs in county jails and in Skid Row. Street Symphony also offers high level music training to aspiring musicians living in disenfranchised communities. At Street Symphony, we know that when people find their creative and expressive voices, they become advocates for themselves. For disenfranchised communities experiencing homelessness and poverty - as well as for ensembles of world-class musicians - Street Symphony gives us a way to understand who we are as people, as artists, and as citizens



Portraits by CruShow

Artist Crushow Herring, aka Showzart, was born in Kansas City, MO. He attributes his passion for community and making a difference to his mother, Sherita J. Herring of the Kreative Images Foundation. He credits his father, Gerrie E. Herring, also an artist, with his illustrative abilities. Making art from the streets of Skid Row to the board rooms of City Hall, Crushow has been instrumental in fighting for equal rights for everyone, and creating programs and services that aid not only the disenfranchised, but create opportunities for all races, religions and nationalities. He consistently generates collaborations with fellow artists to fulfill the objective of community empowerment. His work celebrates community accomplishments while expressing a consciousness that stimulates positive action for collaborative change.

EXHIBITION = MARCH 9 THROUGH JUNE 30

ZILLIONAIRES AGAINST HUMANITY: SABOTAGING THE SKID ROW NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HILLARY CLINTON TO ASK "WHAT HAPPENED?" YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RUSSIAN TO SUBVERT AN ELECTION. WHEN THERE'S MONEY TO BE MADE. THIS EXHIBITION EXAMINES THROUGH CARTOONS, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, DOCUMENTS AND EPHEMERA, THE OUTSIZED INVESTMENT AND GREAT LENGTHS GONE TO BY DOWNTOWN POWERBROKERS, TO SUBVERT THE SUB-DIVISION ELECTION THAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE SKID ROW NEIGHBORHOOD ITS OWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL.



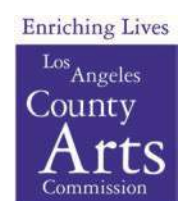
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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS City of Los Angeles



WALK THE TALK CAST



Stephanie Bell



Henriëtte Brouwers



Christina Collier



Walter Fears



Tom Grode



Chas Jackson



Jamaya Kapri



John Malpede



Lee Maupin



Anthony Taylor



Jen Wilson



Robert Smith

THANK you

...to all our pals and partners who have worked to make Walk the Talk happen. And that includes the L.A. Poverty Department production staff. The "parade monitors" and volunteers: Andy Horwitz, Daniel Park, Clancey Cornell, Bob Stefan, Randy Howell, Robin Hoodloom, Mary Clare Stevens, MR. D. "DC" White, Stefanie España, Jovita Cardenas, Ximena Cortez, Kristen Webb, Amber Lantz, Lamar Profit and Kaleb Havens with the L.A. Catholic Worker for lending us the shopping carts, United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP) for making their community space available, videographers Helki Frantzen and Clayton Karush, photographers Monica Nouwens and Michael Grey, Visual artist CruShow Herring, Street Symphony and LA Marching Band and all the musicians who participated!

Call or write us!

Los Angeles Poverty Department
PO Box 26190
Los Angeles, CA 90026
213.413.1077
info@lapovertydept.org

Find LAPD online:

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