

Walk the Talk

May 28, 2022



Join the **Los Angeles Poverty Department** for the 2022 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 Skid Row, making a difference in people's lives every day.

WHEN: Saturday, May 28, 2022, 12:00 – 4:00PM

WHERE: The parade route begins at the Spring Street Community Garden, 220 S. Spring St. LA, CA 90012.

SEE PARADE ROUTE INSIDE

This year's honorees are:

Mr. Pancake – organizer and musician
Suzette Shaw – advocate and poet
Unkal Bean – musician and empresario
Chella Coleman – punk band singer, theater maker and activist
Kate Richards-Geller – singer, music therapist and co-director of Urban Voices Project
Crushow Herring – visual artist, rapper and activist
Alisa Orduna – cultural organizer and government consultant
Ray Lewis – drummer and healer

Led by Street Symphony's brass band, BLOW, together with community musicians, the parade makes its way through Skid Row, stopping at eight locations. At each stop the actors of L.A. Poverty Department will do a short performance recounting the story of each honoree at a 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 Dakarai Akil.

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).

COME TOGETHER!

Sunday May 22nd, 2-5pm
at Inner City Arts, 720 Kohler St, Los Angeles, CA 90021
outdoors on the beautiful Inner-City Arts campus

Learn about extraordinary people in Skid Row who are working hard to uplift the community.

2pm to 3pm: participate in visual arts workshops by Piece by Piece and Creative I. The Ase Ashe drummers will energize the art makers –and everyone present- with intricate West African rhythms.

From 3pm-5pm "Come Together" presentations

In the "Come Together," 7 community members will each introduce a person who is doing inspiring work in the community and that person will tell us - in any form they choose (talk, music, film, slide show, workshop, etc.) - about the cool things they are doing in Skid Row.

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

LAPD
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Parade Route

Saturday, May 28 - Noon - 4pm



Sites of 15-minute performances along the parade route.
The parade starts at NOON at the Spring Street Community Garden
220 Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Mr. Pancake
Spring Street Community Garden
220 Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 | 5 Kate Richards-Geller
Union Rescue Mission
545 San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 2 Suzette Shaw
New Genesis Hotel
456 S Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90013 | 6 Crushow Herring
Umea Rice Cake Co
414 Crocker Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 3 Unkal Bean
James M. Wood Community Center
400 E. 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | 7 Alisa Orduna
Skid Row Community ReFresh Spot
544 Towne Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90013 |
| 4 Chella Coleman
(former) Shelter bus stop behind the Midnight Mission
625 San Julian Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | 8 Ray Lewis
General Jeff Memorial Park
808 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021 |

George Herod aka Mr. Pancake: “Plant lives matter!”

Crushow Herring: “Skid Row is like a mother. I had to be here, so the wound could get treated.”

Chella Coleman: “The band’s name is ‘You Guys Suck Like Real Hard. Shut the Fuck Up. Thanks.’ Y’all think I’m joking. It’s our name. I love it.”

Alisa Orduna: “Understand the money, learn how to read a budget. When you come to city hall to protest, make sure you also come to the budget hearing and say that you’re here in support of specific line items.”

1

Mr. PANCAKE



George Herod aka Mr. Pancake is a soldier and a part of most events in Skid Row. He is warm and loving and he blesses people with his singing. Pancake has a song or a smile for everyone he meets – he doesn’t have to know you, even better if you are a stranger. He is one of the bold few who are out in the street waving people into the organic market on Thursdays at LA CAN, dressed as a cucumber and it’s 85 degrees! Pancake also has a religious side to him, and he meets people wherever they are at. You’ll hear “BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE” ringing off the buildings of the Historic Core. Pancake is the guru of Skid Row: a healer and spiritual giant.

2

SUZETTE SHAW



Suzette is a Skid Row resident voice for Black women. The first resident elected as board member for LA Community Providers Coalition (LACPC). Suzette has been continuously active speaking up for women in Skid Row and for Black history in downtown. She has also been very active in creating the “No Place to Go” report. And she’s on many peer mental health committees with Department of Mental Health. It’s time to acknowledge her for her powerful poetry and activism.

3

UNKAL BEAN



Unkal Bean is a rapper extraordinaire! And he’s the empresario at the King Eddie’s open mic evenings. Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Lorenzo Punchello Hollis Unkal Bean Kwansi was blessed to be introduced to music at a young age and has been inspired by all genres of music, releasing his first album in 1998. Focusing on the living dream, Unkal Bean has performed at numerous events and has opened up for some of the biggest names in hip hop. As a member of the Skid Row Community for over 20 years, he has participated in nonprofit events and performed at The First Occupy Skid Row Concert that took place on Skid Row in 2012.

4

CHELLA COLEMAN



Chella is a powerful organizer and artist, who has been participating in liberation work for many years. Chella’s relationship with Skid Row and with people she organizes is characterized by honesty, thoughtfulness, and balanced with attention to her own needs. Over the years she’s had a consistent presence in numerous projects from the Festival for All Skid Row Artists to Stop LA Police Dept Spying Coalition, while also practicing and performing with her band, blocking Sunset Boulevard for a Trans Day of Vengeance concert, or performing on zoom from a small room.

5

KATE RICHARDS-GELLER



Kate Richards is a music therapist, and a big part of Urban Voices. Kate has been phenomenal in her commitment to the people in the community. She first came to Skid Row 6 years ago discovering Urban Voices Project at the Skid Row Artist Festival in Gladys Park. She immediately jumped into the Urban Voices Project program and now functions as the interim Executive Director. She is a leading voice for wellness through the arts. Kate helped hold people together who were afraid and emotionally drained during the pandemic. She is dedicated to helping and healing the Skid Row community, and does it with love, grace, humility, and passion.

6

CRUSHOW HERRING



Crushow is a talented performer, an amazing artist, advocate and athlete, responsible for many murals in Skid Row. He is a great rapper and community activist standing up for the community and doing community work with the Sidewalk Project. He was an unhoused resident for a time and still proudly lives in Skid Row. His art permeates the community. He helped bring Venice Beach Street ballers to collaborate with Skid Row. Most definitely the bomb-est “hood artist” brings cultural liberation to community in rare artist fashion. He’s been decorating the community with portraits of freedom, block by block. Crushow organizes community members and gets jobs for the people.

7

ALISA ORDUNA



Alisa did amazing work as Mayor Garcetti’s Homeless Policy Director from 2016 until 2018. Alisa was the first person in power who had the nerve to listen to the community and do what they asked for: create the ReFreshSpot! The Skid Row ReFresh Spot is an important example what can be achieved when a community led project is supported with City funding. Alisa is a tireless advocate for the spiritual and material conditions of women and all members of the Skid Row community. Alisa is a compassionate heart and bright light of hope and healing. She is a trusted friend of many Skid Row organizations.

8

RAY LEWIS



Ray is the leader of the Ase Ashe drummers. He has been in the community for over a decade and participates in LA CAN actions, is a fellow with Street Symphony, and performed in LA Poverty Department’s performance, “I Fly!” (at REDCAT Theater) and the Festival For All Skid Row Artists since its inception in 2010, where he now leads the festival’s ‘house-band’. He has studied African healing techniques and is Reiki practitioner. And he shares his knowledge as a healer in workshops and at community events.

Come Together

Sunday, May 22

at Inner City Arts

720 Kohler St, L.A., CA 90021

2-3pm **Art workshops** by
Piece by Piece & Creative I
African rhythms by
Ase Ashae Drummers

3-5pm **7 PRESENTATIONS** by
community members doing
inspiring work in Skid Row



A **Come Together** is an evening of performances and presentations by 7 community members who are making visionary contributions to life in Skid Row, Los Angeles. 7 Walk The Talk nominees will each introduce a person they believe is doing inspiring work in the community and that person will tell us --- in any form they choose (talk, music, film, slide show, workshop, etc.) --- about the cool things they are doing in Skid Row. The presentations happen back-to-back, combining the insight and passion of both selectors and presenters.

‘Come Together’ events are based on a randomizing concept for structuring events, conceived by social practice artist Harrell Fletcher.



PRESENTER Sir Oliver Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Sir Oliver is a DJ and event producer who mixes reggae from Jamaica and beyond, Latin salsa, and modern hip-hop - all on his impressive vinyl collection. He has been actively involved in LA’s Skid Row community for 7 years and organized the first Bob Marley Day and Jamaican Independence Day festival in Skid Row in 2016. In 2017, thanks to Sir Oliver’s efforts, Mayor Eric Garcetti officially recognized Feb 6th in the City of Los Angeles as Bob Marley Day, stating “In remembrance of the legendary musician Bob Marley, I encourage the residents of this city on this day to also practice gratitude in the face of whatever inconvenience they may face and strive toward peace with their fellow human beings.” Sir Oliver holds multiple community events and festivals each year that integrate art, live performance, DJ sets, special guests, spoken word, delicious free food and more. His work brings Los Angeles together and celebrates the power of community through music.

Sir Oliver will be spinning tunes.

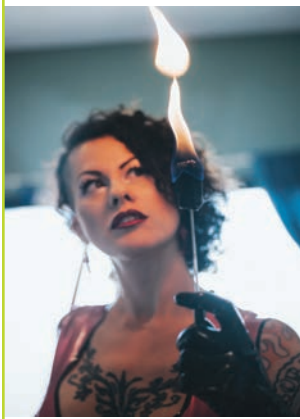
SELECTOR Clancey Cornell Clancey is a mental health professional, memory worker, and advocate for the arts. Since 2015, she has mobilized arts-centered non-profit efforts in Los Angeles and collaborated with grassroots initiatives advocating for more access to community arts spaces. Clancey connected with the Los Angeles Poverty Department in 2015 and works on archival projects in their Skid Row History Museum and Archive. Clancey met Sir Oliver while volunteering at Studio 526 and has worked with him putting on community events ever since. Clancey has recently received a Master’s of Social Work with a focus on Adult Mental Health and Wellness. She provides group and individual therapy for individuals living with co-occurring psychiatric and substance use challenges.



SELECTOR Evans Clark Evans is the Operational Manager of the ReFresh Spot. Evans is a longtime employee of Homeless Health Care. He stands out by putting into action the philosophy of the ReRefresh Spot: treating everyone in the most welcoming and best possible way. Evans is a complete ambassador to the community.

Evans Clark will talk about the history of the ReRefresh Spot from the very first day till today.

SELECTOR 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, a choir composed of artists and performers from the Skid Row neighborhood in Downtown Los Angeles that provides healing through music.



SELECTOR Soma Snakeoil Soma is Executive Director of The Sidewalk Project, a street-based harm reduction organization with chapters in 5 cities, including a mobile SSP in Skid Row. She is an artist, activist, Dominatrix, and playwright. Soma’s passion for the houseless community comes from lived experience as a long-term former People Who Use Drugs (PWUD), being unhoused, and almost 18 years of the spectrum of sex work, including survival sex. Sidewalk Project is a project-based arts organization that exists to create community and wellness for those who live outdoors. Soma believes in the vital importance of racial justice, decriminalization of sex work and drug use, empowerment of the street community, especially women and the LGBTQ community, and confronting stigma, as part of working with boots directly on the ground to remove barriers for the unhoused community.

Soma Snakeoil will do a short talk about the Sidewalk Project and a NARCAN training with supplies for the group.

SELECTOR Henriëtte Brouwers Henriëtte is the Associate Director of Los Angeles Poverty Departement. She is a performer, director, teacher and produces many of LAPD’s projects, calling Skid Row home since 2000.





PRESENTER Deacon Alexander Deacon is both a Communist and encourages the use of Robert's Rules of Orders - yes, that is unusual. Deacon has experienced the life of a Skid Row Resident. He slept in his van, spent time at Union Rescue Mission, and now lives at the Star Apartments. For many years you've been able to find Deacon at Gladys Park (now General Jeff Park) playing Chess. One of the OG's of the Black Panthers of Los Angeles, Deacon played a major role in creating a Neighborhood Council for South Central. He led the Bylaws Subcommittee for the Skid Row Neighborhood Council Formation Committee and for the past several weeks he's been hard at work on Bylaws for the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition.

Deacon Alexander will do a dramatic reading of the By-laws for the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition.

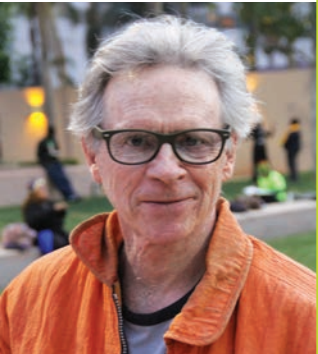
SELECTOR Tom Grode Tom has performed with LAPD in 'What Fuels Development?' (2016), 'Walk the Talk' (since 2016), 'The Back 9' (2017), 'I Fly! or How to Keep The Devil Down in the Hole' (2019) and 'The New Compassionate Downtown' (2021). For 'The Back 9', Tom enjoyed watching folks play miniature golf as a docent in the Skid Row History Museum and Archive. For the LAArt Show this past January, Tom curated an exhibit titled Recognizing Skid Row As A Neighborhood: Skid Row Cooling Resources with the Skid Row History Museum and Archive (LAPD) as Cultural Partner and Urban Voice Project as Artistic Partner. He is an active participant in different Skid Row initiatives/coalitions including Skid Row Now and 2040 and the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition.



PRESENTER Monique Alvarado Monique Alvarado currently serves as the Organizational Development Project Manager of the Los Angeles Mission where she helps to support projects within organizational development, communications, content creation, capacity building and community advocacy within Skid Row and Los Angeles. Throughout her career she has worked in advocacy, communications, direct care and program coordination within the homelessness, foster care, and human services sectors. As a person with intersectional lived experience, she has passionately organized and volunteered in the nonprofit sector around homelessness, youth development, neurodiversity, activism, diversity and inclusion, and mental health in Los Angeles and Boston. She is a firm believer that these experiences contribute to her superpower of empathy and a worldview built on kindness.

Monique Alvarado will present on the new work of the LA Mission, specifically the Mission's vision for the Dignity by Design campaign, working with Race to Feed. She'll also share about her work, utilizing creative arts and digital media to shine the light on what is happening in Homelessness in LA.

SELECTOR John Malpede John is the Founding Artistic Director of Los Angeles Poverty Department. John Malpede directs, performs and engineers multi-event arts projects that have theatrical, installation, public art and education components.



PRESENTER Linda Leigh Linda has always been a champion for women and women's rights. She's also an artist who creates beauty in the community through her work. She's got the can-do spirit, when she has an idea or an assignment she jumps in and gets it done. Linda is a mother, a mentor, and a guide to many Skid Row community members. She is involved in a many of community groups and organizations including the Downtown Women's Center, LA CAN and Studio 526. Linda's engagement elevates the spiritual and material conditions (and creative spirits!) of women and all members of Skid Row community. Linda does/performs sacred ceremonies.

Linda Leigh will be reading a poem and tell a story about her journey with the Skid Row community.

SELECTOR Danny Park Danny is a second-generation Korean American store owner of the Skid Row People's Market, a grocery shop focusing on healthy food and equitable labor. He's the co-founder of Skid Row Coffee, a social enterprise cafe in the downtown central library. Danny is a cultural worker and meditation practitioner.



PRESENTER Anthony Ruffin Anthony has been working in the field of social services for over 19 years. During this time, he has participated in the piloting and implementation of new programs in Los Angeles targeting the most vulnerable and at-risk homeless persons living on the streets or in hospitals in Los Angeles. Specific programs include the pilot FUSE programs, SIF, and Hollywood Top 14 and Skid Row projects. Prior to working with The Department of Mental Health, Anthony served as an Outreach Specialist throughout the County of Los Angeles with homeless service providers serving SPAs 2, 4, 5 and 6. He has extensive experience working with some of the most challenging underserved populations in Los Angeles including those experiencing chronic homelessness.

Anthony Ruffin will talk about his work in Skid Row with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health COVID_19 Isolation sites.

SELECTOR Dr. Jennifer Sudarsky Park Jennifer is a Family Practitioner in Los Angeles who specializes in caring for people experiencing homelessness. After retiring from private practice, she began to work in public health which has culminated in running the Los Angeles County Department of Health COVID-19 Isolation sites. Her current role as Medical Director is to oversee both medical and psychiatric care of patients at multiple sites and facilitate communication between the three LA County health departments: LAPH, LADMH, LADHS. As a fierce advocate for families and vulnerable individuals navigating healthcare, she consults regularly for new and emerging practices as well as philanthropists committed to improving access for vulnerable populations.



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 Skid Row residents that got the Parks Department to reinvest in Gladys Park. Skid Row residents envisioned the ReFresh Spot.

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.

LA Poverty Department began chronicling the social history of Skid Row with its 2002 month-long installation, "Is there History on Skid Row?" at 112 Winston Street. 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, 2016, 2018 and 2020 Walk the Talk parades.

In 2014, we decided to start The Skid Row History Museum & Archive, for the same reason we started Walk the Talk: as a bulwark against the displacement of Skid Row. The materials assembled in the archive, including the interviews with each Walk the Talk honoree, are enormously powerful in setting the record straight and preventing misrepresentations of history and current events. The entire collection of Walk the Talk, including interviews and performances on each of the 76 honorees is available on our dedicated Walk the Talk website.

[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



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

TOP ROW Richard Fulton became clean and sober on Skid Row, before opening "5th Street Dick's Coffeehouse" in Leimert Park, Catherine Morris & Jeff Dietrich joined the Los Angeles Catholic Worker in 1970, Officer James Rich LA County Police Officer James Rich was a guard at the Department of Public Social Services 4th Place office serving Skid Row, Robert Chambers Co-founded The Homeless Writers Coalition in 1988, Rosa Arzola & Jill Halverson Rosa inspired Jill to establish the Downtown Women's Center, in 1975, Walter "Redd" Moore was a veteran who lived in Skid Row, including a decade in a cardboard box. Redd spend the last decade of his life a recovery counselor, Mark Holsinger under his direction, the LA Mission opened its 156,000-square-foot facility, at 303 East 5th Street on January 21, 1992.

SECOND ROW Pastor William Monroe Campbell with the Second Baptist Church, started Project Open Door as a drop-in center for area residents at the St. Marks Hotel, Harry Rogers was a Skid Row resident and organizer with the Homeless Organizing Team, Darlene Berry was the first female hotel manager and then the manager of the two SRO parks for Single Room Occupancy Housing Cooperation, Ms. Lee & Mr. Lee opened D+D Deli, a convenience store in Skid Row in 1997. Mr. Lee was a professor in Ethnomusicology, teaching Korean traditional music, Andy Raubeson was the first executive director of the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Corporation in 1984, Orlando Ward, former addict and Stanford basketball player, became the public affairs director for the Midnight Mission, Nancy Mintie founded Inner City Law Center in 1980, Clyde Casey created "Another Planet" an outdoor cultural space for people in the community, twenty-four hours a day on the corner of Wall and Boyd Streets, the site of a former gas station, in 1988.

THIRD ROW Adam Bennion became one of the leaders of Love Camp in 1987, Tanya Tull founded Para los Niños in 1980, she co-founded L.A. Family Housing Corporation (1983) and A Community of Friends and Beyond Shelter (1988), Mike Neely a Vietnam vet, founded the Homeless Outreach Program in 1989, Flo Hawkins a painter and portraitist, worked on the Skid Row mural "What I See Can Be Me" on 5th street, created by SPARC, Social and Public Art Resource Center in 1993, Robert Sundance a Sioux Indian from the Rosebud reservation, sued the city and county, demanding better treatment for intoxicated people & 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 in 1975. In his opinion, Hupp ruled that alcoholism is a disease, not a crime, Alice Callaghan an ordained Episcopal priest, started a day center for children of garment center workers, Las Familias del Pueblo. In 1989 Alice founded the non-profit, Skid Row Housing Trust, Manuel Compito (aka OGMAN) a L.A. native and artist, founded OG's N Service Association that is dedicated to uplifting the men and children of Skid Row, and a beautification program that brings painted trash cans to the neighborhood. In 2007 OG Man launched the 3-on-3 Basketball League at Gladys Park, Lillian Abel Calamari a talented painter and remarkable social worker with SRO Housing Corporation, initiated an art workshop open to all Skid Row residents in 1992.

FOURTH ROW Mollie Lowery started Lamp Communities as a safe drop-in center on Downtown L.A.'s San Julian Street in 1985, Wendell Blassingame has shown free movies "Movies on the Nickel" at the James Wood Community Center every weekend since 2004, Dr. Dennis Bleakley found a professional home in 2000 at the John Wesley Clinic of The Weingart Center, S.S. Jones a professional blues guitarist, organized the Skid Row Musicians Network in the Leonide Hotel with hotel mamager Bill Edwards in 2000, Pete White co-founded Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN) in 1999, Tony Stallworth & Lucy Stallworth founded the Karaoke Coffee Club in 1997, which opens its doors to more than 300 people weekly, hosted at Central City Community Outreach, Ted Hayes started Justiceville in January 1985, in the playground of the Catholic Worker and opened Dome Village in 1993, Scott Chamberlain in 1987, Scott 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.



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

Zelenne Carnedas, in 1996, while working for Social Model Recovery Program, Inc., she began United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP), which focuses on preventative solutions to alcohol and drug issues in Skid Row; **Charles Porter**, since 1999 when he started working with UCEPP, he has created community in Skid Row and instilled 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; **Clancy Imislund** was kicked out of the Midnight Mission for being drunk and hostile in 1958. In 1974, now sober, he took the job as the director of the Midnight Mission and stayed for 40 years; **Captain Duffy** captain of Skid Row Firehouse 9 for eleven years, one of the busiest stations in the nation, located at 7th and San Julian, in Skid Row; **Michael Blaze** founded the Skid Row Photography Club and Unified Fathers for Life and Veterans in Photography; **Joan Sotiros** long time director of St. Vincent DePaul Manning Center. After 19 years of service to the Skid Row community, Joan Sotiros retired in October of 2012; **Dr. Mongo** a poet, author and former teacher, came to Skid Row in the 1960’s and has organized numerous poetry reading series at diverse sites; **General Jeff**, a first generation West Coast rapper, Jeff moved himself and his activism efforts to Skid Row in 2006 and started Issues and Solutions.



WALK THE TALK 2016 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY PAIROJ PICHETMETAKUL - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

General Dogon, lives in Skid Row today and is a leading community organizer and civil rights activist with Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN); **Becky Dennison**, as co-director of Los Angeles Community Network Beckey made important contributions to LA CAN’s housing campaigns that achieved a city-wide moratorium on residential hotel conversions and the “No Net Loss” housing policy.; **A. J. Martin**, was for several years the volunteer responsible for community access to Gladys Park and for The Drifters recovery meetings in Gladys Park; **Carol Sobel** is the civil rights attorney who successfully litigated many lawsuits against the City of LA, 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 was unconstitutional; **Hayk Makhmuryan**, was Lamp (now Studio 526) Fine Arts program coordinator from 2008- 2021. He is an advocate for strengthening communities through arts.; **Christopher Mack** is the Lead Community Outreach Worker for the JWCH Institute Skid Row Community Clinic and co-founder of Urban Voices Project.; **Katherine McNenny**, co-founder, Industrial District Green. In December 2011 she planted her first 7 trees on her block of San Pedro St. between 4th and 5th Streets.; **KevinMichael Key**, Community organizer, wearing a variety of hats he worked for the community non-stop. KevinMichael died in 2016.



WALK THE TALK 2018 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY CRUSHOW HERRING - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Tiffany Rose founded My Friends House LA in 2008, its programs 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”; **Steve Diaz**, 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. He joined the staff in 2004 of LACAN and is now Deputy Director of Organizing; **Bobby Buck** is Skid Row’s video / photographer. He founded the The Bobby Buck Show in 2014; **Vijay Gupta** is a violinist, speaker and the founder of Street Symphony in 2011 a non-profit organization dedicated to placing music at the heart of social justice, engaging communities experiencing homelessness and incarceration through musical performance and dialogue; **Demetra Wilson-Washington**, aka Lady Dee Dee, has been a resident of Skid Row since 1986. She is a dynamic singer who freely offers her talents to the Skid Row community. She is the outreach Minister with Central City Community Outreach; **Andy Bales** is Executive Director of the Union Rescue Mission; **Eddie H.** Skid Row advocate was active in creating the ReFresh Spot; **Pastor Cue**, a former Virgin Records rapper left the music industry in 1994, becoming an evangelist and activist. He is the founder of Tha Row- Church Without Walls.



WALK THE TALK 2020 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY MAN ONE - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Coach Ron Crockett, a basketball coach, came to Skid Row in 2008 and got involved with the Funky Trashcan Campaign. He ran the Fun Zone Reading Club for kids at the Huntington Hotel (2008-2011), and is a leader of the Skid Row Brigade, monitoring the City’s Covid-19 deployed port-o-potties and hand washing stations, and the announcer for the Skid Row Three on Three Street Basketball League; **Danny Park**, a Korean American who grew up in Skid Row where his parents owned the Best Market on the corner of 5th and San Pedro & **Andrew Kang** was introduced to Skid Row by his mother where she is a member of The Row’s Church Without Walls. Together Danny and Andrew became the social entrepreneurs of Skid Row Coffee and The Skid Row Peoples Market; **Gary Blasi**, a public interest lawyer, co-founded The Legal Aid Foundations’ Eviction Defense Center in 1983. In 1985, he formed the Homeless Litigation Team; **Angelia “Big Mama” Harper**, grass roots advocate, started “Love is the Key” providing foot care and home cooked meals to Skid Row residents. **Stephanie Arnold Williams** is an informal multi-service provider, operating from “The White House,” her large solar powered tent on the corner of 5th and San Pedro Streets.; **Leeav Sofer** is a professional musician and Co-Founding Director of Urban Voices Choir; **Leslie Croom** was a community organizer, a passionate and articulate Skid Row Advocate committed to promoting health, wellness, recovery. Starting in 2000, she worked for the VOA Drop-In Center on San Julian Street and later joined the staff at UCEPP. She died in 2019.



BLOW Band

BLOW is a Los Angeles-based brass band that mixes retro with modern, and jazz with pop. Together since 2020, we met through playing at various ensembles at USC, Long Beach, and Disneyland. We transform pop songs everyone knows and loves into something unique, with a few originals tossed in. We've got volume, power, and energy - the three best tenets of putting on a great show!



Portraits by Dakarai Akil

Dakarai Akil is a Los Angeles based collage artist and illustrator from Cleveland, OH. Primarily working in collage and design, he has self-published three art books that catalog works created between 2014-2016, 2016-2019, 2019-2021. He has participated in countless group and solo exhibits over the span of 10 years and has had work published in The New York Times, Wired Magazine, Readers Digest and several more. Dakarai's collages are small windows into the worlds of black surrealism & afrofuturism. Each piece tells its own story that is entirely up to the viewer to create based on their own observations. When creating these collages Dakarai focuses on color, shape and composition to tell a story or to give the viewer a unique feeling.

WALK THE TALK CAST



Stephanie Bell



Iron Donato



Sullivan Braun-Slavin



Tom Grode



Keith Johnson



Henriëtte Brouwers



John Malpede



Leyla Martinez



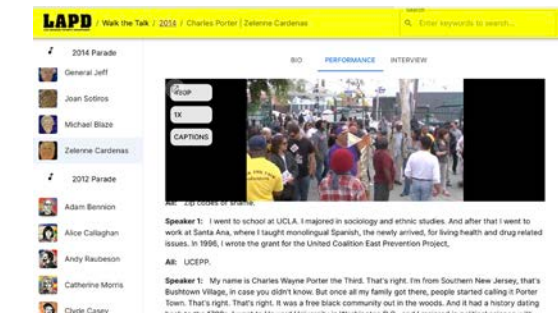
Lee Maupin



Lorraine Morland



Diane Prozeller



WALK THE TALK WEBSITE

The website provides on-line access to the 76 and counting people whose real-world accomplishments ---from 1970 until today, have been celebrated in Walk the Talk from 2012-2022. The website, created by artist / technologist Rob Ochshorn and his company Reduct, includes hour-long video interviews and transcripts of the interviews, for each honoree as well as videos and scripts of the scenes distilled from the interviews and performed by Los Angeles Poverty Department in each Walk the Talk performance / parade.

The website also features reflections and commentaries by scholars, artists, community members, activists, journalists and others on what they've discovered and appreciated in the archive. All project materials are part of the Walk the talk collection and are available at our Skid Row History Museum & Archive.

The Walk The Talk 2020 book contains the scripts of the 2020 performances, distilled from our interviews with the honorees. Along with the scripts is the map of the parade route we were imagining before the pandemic forced us to do the parade on Zoom. But you can walk the route and read each performance text at the place it was meant to be performed. A place chosen by each honoree.



Los Angeles Poverty Department's Walk The Talk is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and funding provided by the special interest license plate featuring the image of Snoopy, with permission and support from Peanuts Worldwide (Section 5169 of the Vehicle Code) for the Museum Grant Program under the California Cultural and Historical Endowment.

Newspaper Layout: Henriëtte Brouwers
Photographers: Henriëtte Brouwers & Austin Hines, Monica Nouwens, and others.



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

