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TOP STORY

## Celebrating Creativity: All Skid Row Artists rocks the park

By LA Downtown News Staff

Oct 22, 2023



Crushow Herring performs at the 2022 Festival for All Skid Row Artists.

Julian Lozano/Contributor

The Los Angeles Poverty Department is encouraging the public to help it celebrate local artists' works during its 14th annual Festival for All Skid Row Artists from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, and Sunday, Oct. 29.

Presented by the Los Angeles Poverty Department, the festival is two days of live music and performance, visual art and participatory art workshops, showcasing the diverse range of talents among Skid Row residents.

Taking place in General Jeff Memorial Park / Gladys Park (corner of Sixth Street and Gladys Avenue), the festival is a grassroots cultural event where over 150 Skid Row artists perform or display their artwork to enthusiastic audiences.

Many artists are preparing their acts and works of art, and thanks to extensive street outreach, many people will get onstage for the first time and get in the mix of Skid Row artistic culture.

Festival attendees are invited to participate in a range of artist facilitated workshops. Visual arts workshops will be offered by Studio 526, Creative I, Piece by Piece, Doodles Without Borders, Coach Ron and Michele Lorusso. Jen Hofer will write poetry on demand, and there will be a woodworking workshop by Would Works.

Automata, a collective of Los Angeles puppeteers, will lead a workshop to build a house for Little Amal — the 12-foot pupped of a Syrian refugee child. Little Amal (a project of Handspring theater, Cape Town, South Africa) is traveling the world looking for a home. The Los Angeles Poverty Department is working with Automata and the Institute of Contemporary Art, and on Nov. 2 LAPD performers will parade with Little Amal, ending in General Jeff / Gladys Party — and offer her a home in the affordable-housing-only zone proposed in the city's new Downtown Community Plan.

Community groups will be there to encourage engagement and advance the quality of life in the Skid Row community. Skid Row Now & 2040, a coalition of community members and groups, will be there to share its vision for a Skid Row future without displacement. LA County Department of Mental Health staff will be there to get input in its emerging Skid Row Action Plan.

Los Angeles Poverty Department celebrates and preserves the rich artistic heritage of Skid Row and beginning with the first festival in 2009 has generated a registry of Skid Row artists, which now numbers more than 900.

Los Angeles Poverty Department is a theater company comprised primarily of low-income and homeless people living in Los Angeles' Skid Row.

Founded in 1985, the organization creates performances and multidisciplinary artworks that connect the experience of people living in poverty to the social forces that shape their lives and communities. Its works express the realities, hopes, dreams and rights of people who live and work in LA's Skid Row.

The Skid Row History Museum & Archive (250 S. Broadway) creates exhibitions and events and collects, preserves and disseminates the history of the Skid Row neighborhood.

The 14th Festival for All Skid Row Artists is made possible with the support of the Kindle Project of the Common Counsel Foundation; the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council; Kevin DeLeon, CD 14; the city of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks; and United Coalition East Prevention Project, (UCEPP).

#### **Festival For All Skid Row Artists**

**WHEN:** Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, and Sunday, Oct. 29

**WHERE:** General Jeff / Gladys Park, Sixth Street and Gladys Avenue, Los Angeles

**COST:** Free admission

**INFO:** 310-227-6071, [info@lapovertydept.org](mailto:info@lapovertydept.org), [www.lapovertydept.org](http://www.lapovertydept.org)