

Walk the Talk

May 25, 2024

PARADE & PERFORMANCES celebrating people who live and work in Skid Row by Los Angeles Poverty Department



Join the **Los Angeles Poverty Department** for the 2024 *and 7th* 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.

Saturday, May 25, 2024, 12:00 – 4:00PM

The parade route starts at noon at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive, 250 S. Broadway, LA, CA 90012

SEE PARADE ROUTE INSIDE

The 2024 honorees *in order of parade route* are

Clancey Cornell – super volunteer, archivist, therapist.
Kayo Anderson – minister of music and artistic development with The Row Church Without Walls and Creating Justice LA.
Lorinda Hawkins Smith – actor, singer, video maker, author, playwright, and advocate against domestic violence.
Linda Leigh – artist who creates healing ceremonies integrating song, the written word and visual art.
Adelene Bertha – Senior Peer Support Specialist with LA's Downtown Women's Center.
Gary Brown – musician and painter.
Sieglinde von Deffner – L.A. County Skid Row coordinator for the Department of Health Services.
Sir Oliver – DJ and producer of numerous Bob Marley Day and Jamaican Independence Day festivals in Skid Row.

Led by **Torrence BRANNON & his Everything with Soul Band**, together with community musicians, the parade makes its way through Skid Row, stopping at eight locations. Los Angeles 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 **Hayk Makhmuryan**.

COME TOGETHER!

Saturday May 18, 2 - 4:30pm
at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive,
250 S. Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012

In the "Come Together," 8 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.

Presentations by

Michael "Waterman" Hubman, founder of Watercorps and the Right To Share Food.
Sean Gregory, Skid Row community resident, activist, and artist.
Matt Horns, biologist, musician and activist.
(presented by Ray Lewis and Mr. Pancake)
Young Mi Chi, volunteer, co-founder of Creative I.
Matt Harper, Los Angeles Catholic Worker
Al Ballesteros, President & Chief Executive Officer of JWCH Institute, Inc.
Queen Mama Tabia, painter, musician, writer, zine maker.
Tom Grode, Skid Row community activist, and artist.

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 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

LAPD
LOS ANGELES POVERTY DEPARTMENT

Parade Route

Saturday, May 25, noon - 4pm



Sites of 15-minute performances along the parade route.
The parade starts at NOON at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive

- 1

Clancey Cornell
Skid Row History Museum & Archive
250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- 2

Kayo Anderson
Peace & Healing Center
116 E 5th St, Los Angeles, CA 90013
- 3

Lorinda Hawkins Smith
San Julian Street
at the Union Rescue Mission women’s shelter
- 4

Linda Leigh
Studio 526
526 San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013
- 5

Adelene Bertha
UCEPP Community room
800 Stanford Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90021
- 6

Gary Brown
Former Lamp Studio, next to the Ford Hotel
1010 E 7th St, Los Angeles, CA 90021
- 7

Sieglinde von Deffner
Hippy Kitchen, Gladys Avenue entrance
821 E 6th St, Los Angeles, CA 90021
- 8

Sir Oliver
General Jeff Memorial Park
808 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Linda: “The people in Skid Row are there to help you become more than who you are. You are here to grow.”

Gary: “I always wanted to be known as an artist and a musician.”

Lorinda: “I just wanted to have family-friendly, safe and brave spaces where people get their voices heard.”

Kayo: “This is how I’m going to walk in what’s right.”

Adelene: “I imagined the position of a Peer Support Specialist.”

Clancey: “Sometimes you need a little ointment, but the healing comes from within.”

Sieglinde: “I love working with people.”

Sir Oliver: “I love to spin music and I love to teach people. That’s the only way I could do it: presenting a different culture, a different style, a different way.”

1

CLANCEY CORNELL



Clancey makes everything that she’s involved with better. She began her service in Skid Row as a volunteer at the Lamp Arts Studio (now the People Concern’s Studio 526) and then with LA Poverty Department, where she’s played an important role in producing the Festival for All Skid Row Artists and as the first archivist at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive.

5

ADELENE BERTHA



Adelene grew up in Skid Row, was part of the United Coalition East Prevention Project youth program and later worked with UCEPP. Currently she is a Senior Peer Support Specialist with the Downtown Women’s Center and Co-chair of the Los Angeles City Skid Row Park Advisory Board. She loves and articulately represents Skid Row.

2

KAYO ANDERSON



From Detroit, Kayo is a former Skid Row resident and dedicated to the well-being of all Black and oppressed people using music and the arts as a medium for self and community wellness and growth. Currently, he is the minister of music and artistic development with The Row Church Without Walls and Creating Justice LA.

6

GARY BROWN



“Downtown” Gary Brown - musician, painter, active part of many musical performances and art shows for 20+ years in Skid Row. In 2023 his work was showcased at The Grove L.A and at The Wende Museum. He doesn’t toot his own horn --- well, he does amazing toots on his saxophone (and jingles those piano keys) –but he’s very humble and quiet about his talent.

3

LORINDA HAWKINS SMITH



Lorinda transitioned from being homeless in Skid Row to housed and completed an MBA from the University of Phoenix. She’s an actor, singer, video maker, author, playwright, and advocate against domestic violence. Currently Lorinda has leading roles with Urban Voices Project, the Open Mic at the Skid Row History Museum, and was the MC of the Festival for All Skid Row Artists.

7

SIEGLINDE VON DEFFNER



Sieglinde is L.A. County Skid Row coordinator for the Department of Health Services. Sieglinde has helped lots of folks get off the streets and get services. She is always keeping an eye out for the most vulnerable people that she has sheltered.

4

LINDA LEIGH



Mama Linda Leigh is a healer and artist who uses ritual and ceremony through song, the written word and visual art for healing and consciousness raising. She has been involved with Street Symphony, Urban Voices Project, Studio 526, Skid Row Coffee, LA CAN Food and Wellness Committee, Skid Row Community Refresh Spot and the Skid Row Action Plan.

8

SIR OLIVER

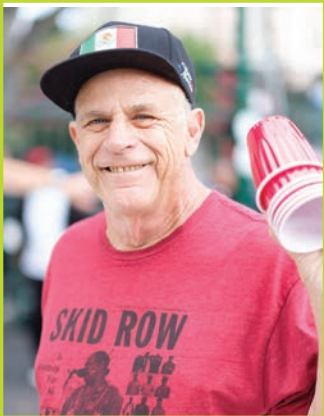


Sir Oliver brings the community together in the spirit of Bob Marley, but more so in the spirit of knitting the community and arts together in the most grassroots way. He has produced numerous Bob Marley Day, and Jamaican Independence Day festivals in Skid Row. Oliver is responsible for the City of LA’s recognition of Bob Marley Day.

COME TOGETHER

Saturday, May 18: 2-5pm at the Skid Row Histroy Museum & Archive


3 min. * Eight ‘selectors’ introduce a person who they believe is doing inspiring work in the community,
7 min. * and that person presents --- in any form they choose (talk, music, film, slide show, workshop...)
5 min. * Then the audience gets a chance to ask questions.



Bringing water


PRESENTER Michael “Waterman” Hubman

I am the founder of Watercorps and Right To Share Food. With Watercorps I began my 14 years of service, providing bulk drinking water to the homeless people of Skid Row, LA. I lobbied the city on behalf of the human and civil rights of Homeless people and the underclass. I reacted when some of the political leaders of LA, attempted to restrict the sharing of food. I worked as a fabric buyer for my fiancé’s custom bridal shop. I took a curious interest in the homeless people of the LA area and found inspiration from the humanitarian response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Then came Hurricane Katrina in 2005. I volunteered at Emergency Communities kitchen and disaster response in greater New Orleans. Since 1999 I have been a Rainbow (Rainbow Family of Living Light) and water has been my focus. In response to Katrina, the Rainbow Family, founded in 1972, did something new: they mounted multiple organized responses to the hurricane. This motivated me to start up a disaster response organization. Instead of waiting for a disaster to happen, it occurred to me in a revelation that I knew of an ongoing disaster. On October 16, 2006 I brought my first water to Skid Row Los Angeles.



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.



Improving conditions


PRESENTER Sean Gregory

Sean is a long-time Skid Row community resident, activist, and artist. He was initially introduced to Skid Row during the Occupy LA movement. From there, he became an intern with the Los Angeles Community Action Network, where he helped organize membership meetings. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to improve the conditions of Skid Row residents. “I support the work of UCEPP, am involved with the Skid Row Artist Festival, and work at the Refresh Spot to improve access to hygiene.” The spirit of Skid Row and the most significant recovery community clearly shines on Sean. He is currently working with Venice Community Housing, a permanent supportive housing site in West Los Angeles. In his off time, he also golfs and cooks. Getting to know Sean means getting to know his energy, his anger at injustice, and his goal of giving more every day.



SELECTOR Steve Diaz


Steve is the former Deputy Director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network an A native Angelino. 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. During Steve’s time at LA CAN he worked on many different 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 create forward progress and consensus among his team.




Matt will be presented by Mr. Pancake and Ray Lewis.

PRESENTER Matt Horns

is an amazingly knowledgeable gardener, guitarist. Matt was a biologist. He worked for the state wildlife agency, monitoring endangered species. He donated to the Skid Row organizations that he loved. And he participated in the work of LA CAN. He made music with Franc Foster and others. He passed way too young.






Doing something interactive

George Herod aka Mr. Pancake

is a soldier and a part of most events in Skid Row. Pancake has a song or a smile for everyone. He is out in the street waving people into the organic market 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. He is the guru: a healer and spiritual giant for the “BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE” of Skid Row.



Young Mi Chi

has been conducting free arts workshops throughout Skid Row for over 10 years. She began volunteering at Studio 526 when it was called the “LAMP Arts Program”. With a few volunteers and artists she met there, she started Creative I, a grassroots activist collective to bring art workshops to spaces and events in Skid Row. Without any infrastructure, she just goes out and does it. Amazing grit, kindness, and persistence. Young Mi is a professional graphic designer--and does an amazing job designing the Skid Row Art Zine.

SELECTOR Henriëtte Brouwers

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.



Health Care

PRESENTER Al Ballesteros

Al is the President & Chief Executive Officer of JWCH Institute, Inc., a Los Angeles based non-profit, Federally Qualified Community Health Center. As CEO of Wesley Health Clinic, his work is throughout the county, but he has a heart for Skid Row and Wesley is expanding its services to Skid Row. Al is one of the nation’s foremost leaders on healthcare reform and federally qualified health care centers. Growing up, Al experienced and witnessed the disparity and lack of quality healthcare for some of the most vilified segments of society. That’s led him to use his position and capacity to create a model system that provides hope for the most vulnerable; regardless of your ability to pay, nobody gets turned away.

SELECTOR Christopher Mack

Christopher Mack is the Lead Community Outreach Worker for the JWCH Institute Skid Row Community Clinic. In that role he’s out and about knowing everybody in the community and hooking them up with health services. Chris loves people, he loves to talk and he loves to sing. He figured out long ago that it’s the right brain, the creative side of people that finds joy and wonder in the worst situations and brings them through it. His infectious spirit resulted in the creation The Urban Voices Project.



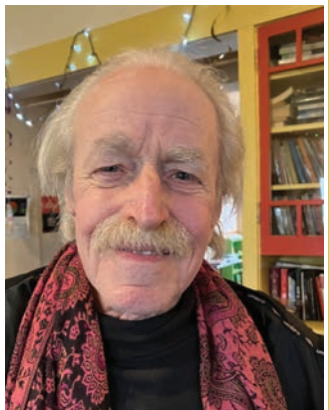
L.A.C.W. changes

PRESENTER Matt Harper

Matt Harper has been a live-in community member with the Los Angeles Catholic Worker for the last 7 1/2 years where he is co-editor of their newspaper, Catholic Agitator. Through the LACW, he is part of the Skid Row Now & 2040 Coalition. Additionally, Matt also organizes white people in the Los Angeles area into strategic and accountable anti-racist action with White People for Black Lives, the local affiliate of Showing Up For Racial Justice.

SELECTOR Jeff Dietrich

Jeff Dietrich joined the L.A. Catholic Worker six months into its founding and met his wife, Catherine, there just a year later. They have been active and consistent presences in the poor’s struggle for justice in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Over Jeff’s five and a half decades at L.A.C.W., he has helped shepherd the Catholic Worker’s Skid Row soup kitchen, their Boyle Heights house of hospitality, their works of resistance, their newspaper, and the many projects that have come through their doors. From direct service to policy planning to the development of neighborhood amenities for people living in poverty, Jeff (and Catherine’s) work in the neighborhood has encouraged the involvement of many others, including the founding of Las Familias del Pueblo and Inner City Law Center.



Poem and Interview

PRESENTER Queen Mama Tabia (QMT)

Queen Mama Tabia (QMT) - painter, photographer, musician, writer, zine maker, don’t even start describing Queen Mama Tabia Salimu. Cuba, African diaspora, New York, Los Angeles. The list goes on. Black mother, grandmother, friend, collaborator. Outspoken about living with mental illness, making art and writing about it and chipping away at stigma for herself and others. Historian! also, a person who likes to have a floor to ceiling living history of photos, artwork, clippings on her apartment walls (you should see her apt walls!). A most wonderful human being. This woman has been contributing to many spaces and places in Skid Row neighborhood for over 20 years. A lot of people know her, and everyone who knows her, loves her. “Tsfu tsfu tsfu,” to ward off the evil eye, as my grandmother would say. Queen Mama Tabia has the most soothing presence, while also being absolutely real, absolutely honest, and absolutely open.

SELECTOR Hayk Makhmuryan

Hayk Makhmuryan is an Armenian artist, arts worker and community organizer living in occupied Kizh/Tongva land (aka LA region). He has worked in LA’s Skid Row neighborhood since 2008, leading, facilitating, and contributing to participatory art projects in Los Angeles’ Skid Row neighborhood that center on equitable access to arts, cultural, and social spaces as a fundamental human right and collective responsibility. Hayk ran Studio 526 (formerly Lamp Art Project), a community arts space, from 2008 to 2022. He currently coordinates two projects, Doodles without borders and Community Arts Depot, and has worked with many organizations and initiatives, from LA Poverty Department and Sustainable Little Tokyo, to Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition and the campaign to form a Skid Row Neighborhood Council. Regionally, Hayk is a tenant organizer against displacement and a translator/interpreter with Glendale Tenants Union and regional tenants’ and language justice groups. Hayk was born and grew up in Yerevan, Armenia.



Toilet Lady in Gladys Park

PRESENTER Tom Grode

No one is more involved in Skid Row activism and trying to promote all that’s good in the Skid Row community than Tom Grode. Tom stays informed and has championed many issues through direct, committed involvement in numerous community organizing efforts. He is invested in linking the local to macro historical perspectives, stories and causes. Tom is involved in the the development of the political, artistic and cultural life of the Skid Row community through Los Angeles Poverty Department, Skid Row Action Plan, Skid Row Now & 2040, Urban Voices Project, Skid Row Community ReFresh Spot and with the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition. He is an honorary member of the Gabrielino-Tongva, one of the major Native tribes in Los Angeles County. Tom is the co-founder of Skid Row Cooling Resources.

SELECTOR Danny Park

Danny Park is a Korean American who grew up in the Skid Row community where his parents have owned the Best Market on the corner of 5th and San Pedro since 1992. After getting a degree in graphic design at Art Center College of Design and a job at Nike, in Portland, Danny returned to LA and transformed his parents store into the Skid Row People’s Market. In addition, Danny, along with business partner, Andrew Kang, started Skid Row Coffee. Both the Skid Row People’s Market and Skid Row Coffee prioritize hiring people from the community. They focus on creating local jobs, providing healthy food and bringing the community together. Danny is engaged in many grassroot causes in the neighborhood.



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, 2020 and 2022 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 84 honorees is available on our dedicated Walk the Talk website.

‘The 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 opened “5th Street Dick’s Coffeehouse” in Leimert Park; Catherine Morris & Jeff Dietrich joined the LA Catholic Worker in 1970; Officer James Rich was a LA County Police Officer and a guard at the DPSS 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, a veteran living in Skid Row, became a recovery counselor after living in a cardboard box for a decade; Mark Holsinger, director of the LA Mission opened its 156,000-square-foot facility at 303 East 5th St.

SECOND ROW Pastor William Monroe Campbell started Project Open Door; Harry Rogers organizer with the Homeless Organizing Team; Darlene Berry the first female hotel manager and manager of the two parks for SRO Housing Cooperation; Ms. Lee & Mr. Lee opened D+D Deli in Skid Row in 1997; Andy Raubeson the first executive director of SRO Housing Corporation in 1984; Orlando Ward public affairs director for the Midnight Mission; Nancy Mintie founded Inner City Law Center in 1980; Clyde Casey, in 1988 he created “Another Planet” an outdoor cultural space, open 24 hours, on the corner of Wall and Boyd Streets, the site of a former gas station.

THIRD ROW Adam Bennion was one of the leaders of Love Camp (1987), Tanya Tull founded Para los Niños (1980), co-founded L.A. Family Housing Corporation (1983) and A Community of Friends and Beyond Shelter (1988), Mike Neely founded the Homeless Outreach Program (1989), Flo Hawkins a painter and portraitist, worked on the Skid Row mural “What I See Can Be Me” on 5th street, 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 in 1975. Hupp ruled that alcoholism is a disease, not a crime, Alice Callaghan started Las Familias del Pueblo and Skid Row Housing Trust (1989); Manuel Compito (aka OGMan) founded OG’s N Service Association, a beautification program that brings painted trash cans to Skid Row (2007) and the 3-on-3 Basketball League at Gladys Park, Lillian Abel Calamari initiated an art workshop open to all Skid Row residents in 1992 with SRO Housing Corporation.

FOURTH ROW Mollie Lowery started Lamp Community on San Julian Street (1985); Wendell Blassingame started free “Movies on the Nickel” at the James Wood Community Center in 2004; Dr. Dennis Bleakley was a physician at the John Wesley Clinic (2000); S.S. Jones blues guitarist, organized the Skid Row Musicians Network in the Leonide Hotel with hotel manager Bill Edwards in 2000; Pete White co-founded Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN) in 1999; Tony & Lucy Stallworth founded the Karaoke Coffee Club in 1997, hosted at Central City Community Outreach; Ted Hayes started Justiceville in the playground of the Catholic Worker in 1985 and opened Dome Village in 1993; Scott Chamberlain 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, from 1988-2003.



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

Zelenne Carnedas began United Coalition East Prevention Project (UCEPP) in 1996; **Charles Porter** with UCEPP since 1999, works to bring agency to Skid Row; **Clancy Imislund** director of the Midnight Mission for 40 years beginning 1974; **Captain Duffy** captain of Skid Row Firehouse 9 for eleven years; **Michael Blaze** founded Skid Row Photography Club, Unified Fathers for Life and Veterans in Photography; **Joan Sotiros** director of St. Vincent DePaul Manning Center for 19 years; **Dr. Mongo** a poet, author and teacher, came to Skid Row in the 1960’s; **General Jeff**, a first generation West Coast rapper and activist started Issues and Solutions in Skid Row in 2006.



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

General Dogon, community organizer and civil rights activist with LA Community Action Network (LACAN); **Becky Dennison**, as co-director of LACAN, made important contributions to their housing campaigns; **A. J. Martin**, for several years the volunteer responsible for community access to Gladys Park; **Carol Sobel** civil rights attorney who successfully litigated lawsuits against the City of LA, including the Jones Case; **Hayk Makhmuryan**, Lamp/Studio 526 Fine Arts program coordinator (2008- 2022); **Christopher Mack** Lead Community Outreach Worker for the JWCH Institute Skid Row Community Clinic and co-founder of Urban Voices Project; **Katherine McNenny**, co-founder of Industrial District Green; **KevinMichael Key**, community organizer, wearing many hats, worked for the community non-stop.



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

Tiffany Rose founded My Friends House LA in 2008; **Steve Diaz** joined the staff in 2004 of LA CAN and was the Deputy Director of Organizing; **Bobby Buck** is Skid Row’s video/photographer and founded the The Bobby Buck Show in 2014; **Vijay Gupta** is a violinist, speaker and founded Street Symphony in 2011; **Demetra Wilson-Washington**, aka Lady Dee Dee, is the outreach Minister with Central City Community Outreach; **Andy Bales** was Executive Director of the Union Rescue Mission; **Eddie H.** Skid Row advocate was active in creating the ReFresh Spot; **Pastor Cue**, evangelist and activist, 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, got involved with the Funky Trashcan Campaign, ran the Fun Zone Reading Club for kids at the Huntington Hotel (2008-2011), is a leader of the Skid Row Brigade, and announcer for the Skid Row Three on Three Street Basketball League; **Danny Park & Andrew Kang** social entrepreneurs who started 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 and formed the Homeless Litigation Team in 1985; **Angelia “Big Mama” Harper** 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; **Leeav Sofer** Co-Founding Director of Urban Voices Choir; **Leslie Croom** community organizer, Skid Row Advocate, started in 2000 at the VOA Drop-In Center and joined the staff at UCEPP.



WALK THE TALK 2022 HONOREES - PORTRAITS DESIGNED BY DAKARAI AKIL - FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Mr. Pankace aka George Herod, an activist, healer and spiritual giant for the “BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE” of Skid Row; **Suzette Shaw** a Skid Row resident voice for Black women; **Ukal Bean** a rapper extraordinaire for over 20 year; **Chella Coleman** a kick ass organizer and artist, participating in liberation work for many years; **Kate Richards-Geller** a music therapist and executive director of Urban Voices Project; **Crushow Herring** a talented performer, amazing artist, advocate and athlete, responsible for many murals in Skid Row; **Alisa Orduna** did amazing work as Mayor Garcetti’s Homeless Policy Director from 2016 until 2018 and was instumental in creating the ReRefreshSpot; **Ray Lewis** is the leader of the Ase Ashe drummers and has studied African healing techniques which he shares with the community.



TORRENCE BRANNON & his Everything with Soul New Orleans style Brass Band!



WALK THE TALK CAST & CREW

LAPD's Walk The Talk 2024 is performed by Stephanie Bell, Henriëtte Brouwers, John Chase, Iron Donato, Tom Grode, Jaiye Kamson, Keith 'Footie' Johnson, John Malpede, Lee Maupin, Christopher Michael, Lorraine Morland, Aidan Starbird, and Anthony 'ToneTone' Taylor.

THANK YOU! to all our pals and partners who have worked to make Walk the Talk happen. And that includes **L.A. Poverty Department production staff:** Henry Apodaca, Zach Rutland, Pamela Miller, John Malpede and Henriëtte Brouwers. The **'parade monitors' and volunteers:** Shawne West, Cathy Gudis, Clancey Cornell, Annie Powers, Emily Benoff, Siena Taylor, Franny Alfano, Philip Hernandez, Jordan Labrec, Ella Cornell, Mina Gudis, Michael Alexander, Julia Carnahan, Sonja Cayetano, Emily Haddad, Steve Diaz. **Videographers** David de Rozas and Andrea Kim. The **L.A. Catholic Worker** for lending us their shopping carts, **portait artist** Hayk Makhmuryan, the **Torrence Brannon & his Everything with Soul New Orleans style Brass Band!** and all the musicians who participated, and the **L.A. Department of Transportation.**



Hayk Makhmuryan is an Armenian artist, arts worker and community organizer living in occupied Kizh/Tongva land (aka LA region). He has worked in LA's Skid Row neighborhood since 2008, leading, facilitating, and contributing to participatory art projects in Los Angeles' Skid Row neighborhood that center on equitable access to arts, cultural and social spaces as a fundamental human right and collective responsibility. Hayk ran Studio 526 (formerly Lamp Art Project), from 2008 to 2022.

Portraits by Hayk Makhmuryan



General Jeff mural in General Jeff (Gladys) Park

Unveiling of the General Jeff mural in Gladys Park, soon to be renamed General Jeff Park, at the end of the Walk the Talk parade, around 4pm.

General Jeff was a first-generation West Coast rapper, and community activist who jumpstarted the regeneration of the park. He was honored in Walk The Talk in 2014 and Gladys Park will be renamed after him.

In honor of this occasion LA Commons initiated the project with the support of the LA Department of Parks and Recreation. Community partners, including the Skid Row Park Advisory Committee and the Los Angeles Poverty Department created the mural. The mission of LA Commons is to engage communities in artistic and cultural expression that tells their unique stories and serves as a basis for dialogue, interaction, and a shared understanding of Los Angeles.

The General Jeff mural has collaboration at the heart of it. The creative process began in the spring in workshops led by Showzart and assistant artists from Skid Row. 12 to 14 community artists participated in weekly meetings, honing on the messaging and themes that best represent Jeff and the causes he fought for.

This mural honors his spirit and was created by lead artist Crushow Herring / Showzart, with associate artist Natosha Smith, a crew of Skid Row Artists, project director Berth Peterson of LA Commons and arts organizer Hayk Makhmuryan, working for LA Poverty Department.

Los Angeles Poverty Department's "Walk the Talk" 2024 project activities are made possible with support from California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery LA funded by the American Rescue Plan. LAPD programs are supported by The Ahmanson Foundation; Annenberg Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Humanities, The Kindle Project; Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; and Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts. LAPD is a member of Los Angeles Visual Arts Coalition (LAVA) and Skid Row Arts Alliance.

Newspaper Layout / Editor: Henriëtte Brouwers
Photographs by: Henriëtte Brouwers, Monica Nouwens, Ryan Schude, Gio Solis, Crushow Herring, and others.

WALK THE TALK ARCHIVE / WEBSITE

The website provides access to all the people whose real-world accomplishments ---from 1970 until today, have been celebrated in Walk the Talk. 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, from 2012-2024.



Write or call us

Los Angeles Poverty Department
POB 26190
Los Angeles, CA 90026
info@lapovertydept.org
213-413.1077

Find LAPD online

www.lapovertydept.org
youtube.com/lapovertydepartment
http://vimeo.com/lapd
facebook.com/lapovertydepartment
facebook.com/skidrowhistorymuseum
instagram.com/lapovertydepartment

SKID ROW HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



250 South Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

