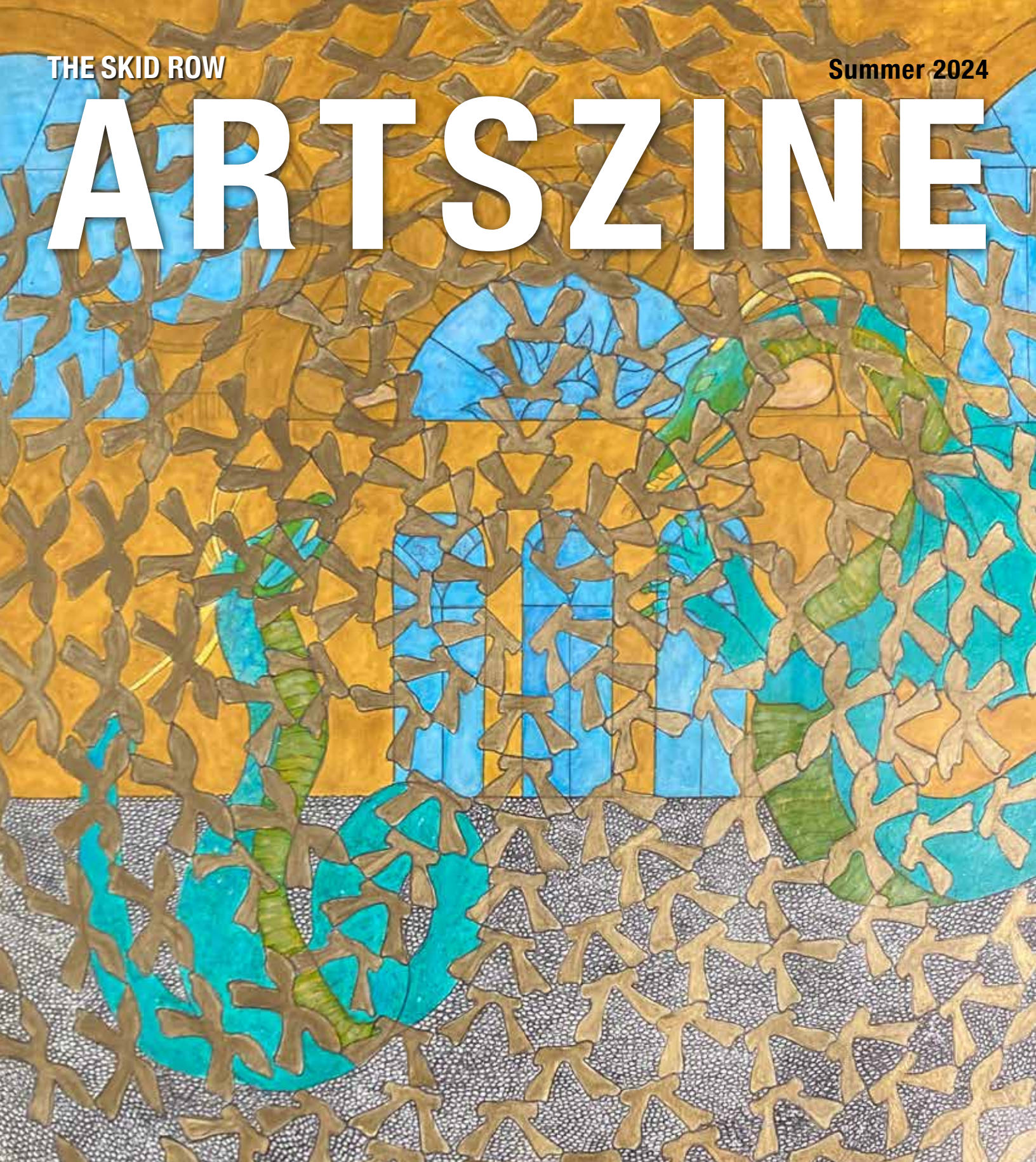


THE SKID ROW

Summer 2024

ARTSZINE



Artworks by Margo p.4-5

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Skid Row Arts Map

Welcome

...to your **Skid Row Arts Zine**, your way to connect to multiple physical and online offerings of various Skid Row-based arts organizations. The Skid Row Arts Alliance seeks to promote neighborhood-based connectivity through creativity.

Visit the website: skidrowartsalliance.com for links to our programming.

Brought to you by the Skid Row Arts Alliance:

- Los Angeles Poverty Department
- Piece by Piece
- Urban Voices Project



... in partnership with





Artist Spotlight: Margo



A Visionary Artist and Poet

At Studio 526, a visual and performing arts program of The People Concern, we were privileged to witness the inspiring work of Margo, an artist whose vision and creative expression illuminated every piece she created. This spring, we were thrilled to spotlight Margo as our Featured Artist, showcasing her extraordinary talent and dedication to her craft.

Margo's journey through various artistic techniques, including abstract, cubism, impressionism, and portraiture, showcases her dedication to capturing the unique beauty of her subjects. Her careful consideration of light, color, and harmony allows her to craft breathtaking images that invite viewers into a spellbinding realm of dual realities—where the tangible and the ethereal coexist.

In addition to her visual art, Margo is a gifted poet. Her original poems, often recited at Studio 526, are deeply spiritual and artistic, frequently dedicated to young women. Through her poetry, Margo offers guidance and wisdom, helping young women discern the qualities of potential partners. Her words are a source of inspiration and strength, reflecting her caring nature and deep empathy for others.

Margo carries herself with elegance and poise, embodying professionalism in every aspect of her work. Her dual talents in visual art and poetry create a rich tapestry of creative expression that enriches our community at Studio 526. Whether through a striking portrait or a moving verse, Margo's work continually uplifts and inspires those around her.

As our Spring Featured Artist, Margo's contributions remind us of the transformative power of creative expression. Her dedication to both art and poetry is a testament to her commitment to beauty and truth. We are honored to celebrate her talent and spirit; through her work, she continues to cast a spell of wonder and introspection, inviting us all to see the world through her unique and visionary lens.



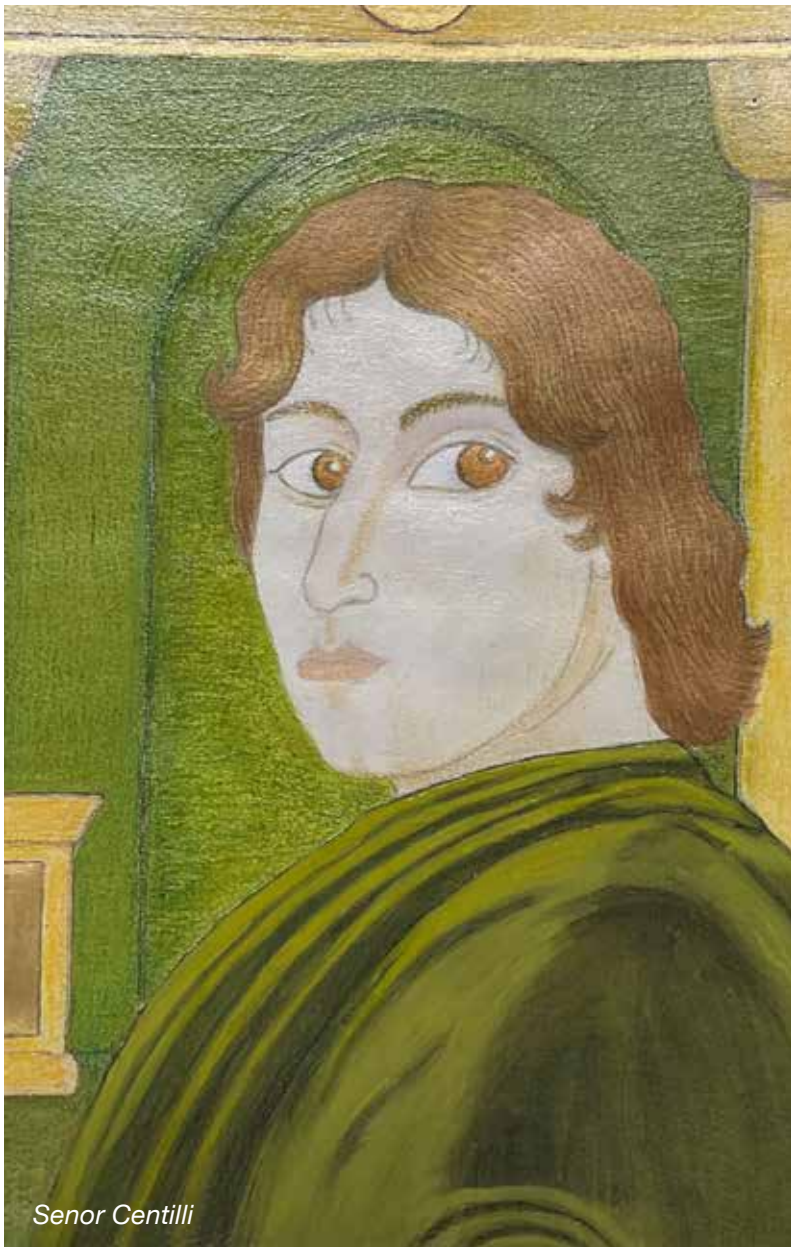
Slow Poke



Miss Caorrahitti



Fiametta



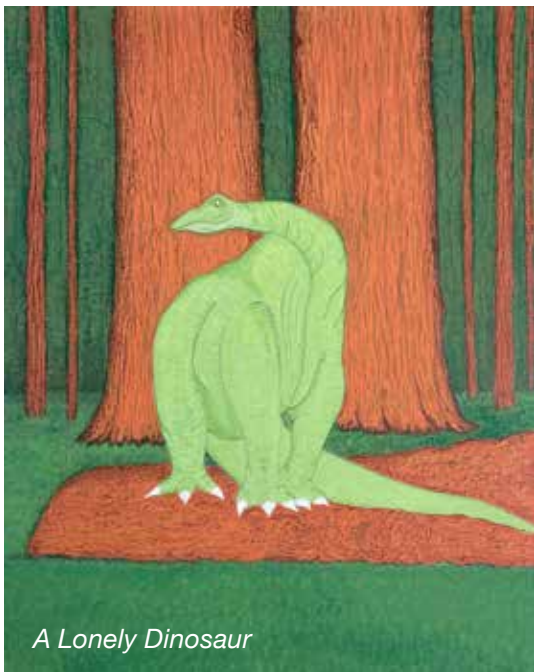
Senor Centilli



Chameleon



Two Dragons



A Lonely Dinosaur



Chameleon Noir

Artist Spotlight: Kaoko



Kaoko performing at The People Concern's Gala event

From the moment her fingers first touched the piano keys at the tender age of six, Kaoko's life was transformed by music. Displaying extraordinary talent, she quickly mastered the instrument, earning the title of child prodigy with her flawless performances of Beethoven's complex symphonies. Beethoven, her favorite composer, became her muse, inspiring her with his profound compositions.

Born in Japan, Kaoko moved to the United States with her nurturing mother, who sadly passed away when Kaoko was still young. This devastating loss left Kaoko without a home, leading her to the heart of Los Angeles' Skid Row community. Despite the daunting challenges, Kaoko's spirit remained unbroken. She found positivity in every situation but longed for a space to play the piano. Her longing was fulfilled when she discovered Studio 526, a music and arts program of The People Concern dedicated to providing a creative haven for the Skid Row community. Studio 526 became Kaoko's sanctuary, and for over a decade, she has been a regular in the studio's music room.

Kaoko passionately believes in the transformative power of music and art, advocating for greater access to these programs in the Skid Row community. She dreams of more funding and support

for these initiatives so that everyone can experience the healing and empowerment she has found.

For many years, Kaoko received invitations to perform at various events, but her confidence had waned, keeping her from the stage. The supportive staff at Studio 526, however, saw the spark in her and encouraged her to share her remarkable gift with the world. After years of nurturing her confidence, Kaoko made a triumphant return to public performance at The People Concern's gala. It was her first public performance in over 15 years, and it was nothing short of magical. The audience was mesmerized, and Kaoko rediscovered the joy of sharing her music with others.

Kaoko's journey back to the spotlight is a testament to her unyielding resilience and the power of music to heal and transform lives. She continues to inspire everyone around her, demonstrating that with support, determination, and a bit of courage, one can overcome even the most challenging circumstances. Kaoko eagerly anticipates more opportunities to share her music, hoping to bring the same healing energy to others that she has found through her art.

JOIN US! The People Concern's Studio 526 welcomes artists of all levels. We firmly believe that creativity resides within everyone. Our space offers access to art supplies and boasts a music room equipped with keyboards, drums, pianos, microphones, and guitars. Moreover, we host a monthly Art Jam, providing a platform for performance and creative expression. Interested in getting involved? See page 27 for calendar of on-going events at Studio 526. Reach out to us at: ArtsProgram@ThePeopleConcern.org



STUDIO 526 SCHEDULE

Art Studio Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 12:30pm–3:30pm

Music Studio Hours (by appointment only): Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 9am–3:30pm (1.5-hour sessions)

Please note: All new artists must first attend the New Artist Orientation prior to using the studios.

New Artist Orientation: Select Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm. See schedule -->

Art Jam: 2nd Friday of every month, 5pm–7pm (open to the public)

ORIENTATION


- * Aug 15 (Thu) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Aug 27 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Sep 03 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Sep 17 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Oct 01 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Oct 15 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Nov 05 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Nov 19 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm
- * Dec 10 (Tue) 1 pm - 2pm

ART JAM

2nd Friday of every Month
5pm-7pm

Open Mic ~ Spoken Word ~ Music ~ Art

No Orientation is required





THEPEOPLECONCERN
Because everyone should be housed, healthy and safe

Studio 526 @ The People Concern
526 San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA 90013
Email: ArtsProgram@ThePeopleConcern.org
www.thepeopleconcern.org | (213) 757-8598

Skid Row Arts Alliance Micro-Grant Recipient Community Arts Depot



There are practical sides to life in Skid Row as a dynamic arts and culture community. One practical side is this question—where do we keep our stuff? One grassroots answer to this question is the Community Arts Depot located at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo.

Community Arts Depot was initiated by artist and community arts organizer Hayk Makhmuryan, who was at Lamp Arts Project/Studio 526 for 13 years, along with a team of collaborators. Lamp Arts Project became Studio 526 (as in, 526 San Pedro Street) as LAMP (Los Angeles Men's Project) merged with OPCC (Ocean Park Community Center) to become The People Concern.

As part of his community arts focus, Hayk made Studio 526 storage space available for Skid Row artists. Seeing the critical importance of artwork storage in action, he wanted to create a project that formalizes and centers fulfilling this need, he explained.

“Community Arts Depot started in July 2021,” said Hayk.

“The name was the result of a lot of brainstorming at the beginning of the project.”

As Clancey explains, some of the work stored in Community Arts Depot is by artists who passed away. Much of their work was being kept by Rory White*. Clancey sees Community Arts Depot as an “artist archive” and even more than that, “a time capsule of art history in Skid Row.”

Ideally, she explains, Community Arts Depot will be in a bigger space where preservation techniques will be used to store the artwork. Right now, the need is immediate and practical. For artists to access their work, they set up an appointment to go over to JACCC. “It was through the incredible support of Sustainable Little Tokyo which got the Community Arts Depot into JACCC”, says Hayk.

As many folks who rent can relate to, making the monthly rent can be a scramble and so this microgrant from the Skid Row Arts Alliance covering five months of rent is a major help.

*From artworkscontinuum.org; LAMP ART PROJECT today is embodied in both ART WORKS CONTINUUM, (headed by artist/activist RORY WHITE, founder of Lamp Art Project) ... and also: STUDIO 526 (in conjunction with the People Concern) led for its next 13 years by community arts advocate HAYK MAKHMURYAN.

Furthermore: CLANCEY CORNELL, artist, activist and archivist, known for her work with the amazing Skid Row History Museum & Archive (part of L.A. Poverty Department/"LAPD", pun-intended) is involved in developing an Artist's Storage Space, to meet a huge need for the artists served, particularly in Skid Row, but also the expanded community. Titled Community Arts Depot.

Community Arts Depot addresses the critical need for artwork storage and access focused on Skid Row neighborhood members and residents. We see adequate and equitable accessibility of an artwork storage as an inseparable part of the fundamental human right of accessibility of arts and culture, essential to both individual and collective arts and cultural work everywhere.

Our home is at the **Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC)**. We are very grateful for our partnership with JACCC and Sustainable Little Tokyo (SLT), which makes the use of this space possible! A special thank you to Scott and Alma, without whose tireless advocacy the collaboration with JACCC and SLT would not be possible.

This location allows us to be very close to the Skid Row neighborhood, picking up and dropping off artwork to the storage space at regular times (currently 2-3 times a month).

Community Arts Depot's mission also makes storage of collaborative artwork possible, one highlight being the works from previous Festivals for All Skid Row Artists (2009 to present). At the 2022 and 2023 Festival it was incredible to be able to display these large pieces.



For periodic updates about our work you can also follow our sister community group, **Doodles Without Borders**, on Instagram.



WELCOME TO THE COVID HOTEL

an Exhibition, a Performance and Advocacy Project



If you passed by the Skid Row History Museum & Archive you might have noticed the masked mannequins in the window and wondered why they were waving at you. If you looked closer and saw “Welcome to the Covid Hotel,” you maybe wondered if going inside would make you sick. Noooo!

LA Poverty Department’s exhibition is about what happened at the start of the pandemic when the County created emergency medical shelters for people who were homeless or exposed to the virus in shelters and didn’t have a safe place to quarantine. Over two years, more than 13,000 people were transported to strange places like hotels, motels, and FEMA trailers that had been converted (almost overnight) into hospitals. The official name was “Quarantine & Isolation” (QI) sites, but the staff, trying to joke away the tension of the times, called them “Covid Hotels.”

The exhibition—and performances by LAPD’s gregarious group (Stephanie Bell, Henriëtte Brouwers, Iron Donato, Tom Grode, Keith Johnson, Jaiye Kamson, John Malpede, Lee Maupin, Lorraine Morland and ToneTone Taylor) are based on interviews by LAPD’s Clancey Cornell with the doctors, nurses, social workers, and mental health workers who staffed the QI sites. As John Malpede says, their commitment, passion, courage, and spirit is the “secret sauce” that turned the QI program into a success story. The QI staff did whatever it took to meet their patients where they are, to

encourage them to stay with the program while they healed. To help their patients who were struggling with addiction, they practiced harm reduction, prescribing joints, or alcohol to alleviate their withdrawals. And then there was the most radical thing they did: the QI healthcare team actually talked to each other. Doctors, mental health professionals, and social workers all met daily to share information and coordinate care. They treated the whole person, and they treated them with compassion rather than judgement. They built trust with their patients, and it made all the difference. One physician’s assistant said, “I think we gave them for the first time, empathy and the feeling that the health industry actually cared for them.”

Unfortunately, the story took a turn for the worse when Covid-19 got under control, the money for the program dried up and the QI workers had to go back to doing business the old way—the way that reduces people to numbers and keeps them from getting the best possible care. They will tell you they are not happy about this. They are as frustrated by the system as the people in Skid Row are.

In creating the “Covid Hotel” project, LAPD has been working closely with Dr. Jennifer Sudarsky, the last QI Medical Director, and who has introduced us to many, many of her passionate colleagues. They are eager to make sure the lessons they learned at the QI sites are not lost, but instead are used to reimagine and rehumanize the healthcare system.



LAPD has been hosting panel discussions and doing interviews with QI staff, public health experts, and Skid Row advocates like Sidewalk Project's Soma Snakeoil, Christopher Mack from the Wesley Health Center, and Steve Diaz who was at LACAN and now works for the County—so everyone could share their insights and experience with each other and with the community.



Those conversations have generated so much passion, like from Iron Donato, who said loud and clear what everyone else was thinking: “We need better healthcare! This is still a crisis!!! WHAT CAN WE DO???!?” Now we are working on just that. LAPD and Dr. Sudarsky and other QI staff are creating an advocacy campaign to push for better healthcare for people in need. One possibility is to push for healthcare centers that scale the new-and-improved model created at the QI sites.



So what's next? We're going to keep the conversation going and the creativity flowing. The Covid Hotel mannequins will keep waving as long as the exhibition is up—until mid-December. We'll make more performances, and keep getting community input at conversation events. Stay tuned for what's next, and come out to make your voice heard.



And in the meantime, if you pass by 250 S. Broadway, come on in and check it out! Everyone is welcome at the Covid Hotel.

Coming Up: 15th Festival for All Skid Row Artists

October 26 & 27, 2024: Noon – 4pm, General Jeff Memorial (Gladys) Park



Since 2010, Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) has celebrated Skid Row artists with a festival at the end of October. Here is how it started:

In 2008 Americans for the Arts commissioned the Urban Institute to write a report about how LAPD is serving the community. We said, “Instead, let’s write about the artists in the community and find out who they are, where they make their art. We had five community convenings in different places and we got a lot of input from all sorts of community members.

Then John and Maria Rosario Jackson, who was at the Urban Institute at that time, wrote the report: MAKING THE CASE FOR SKID ROW CULTURE. We found out that Skid Row is a community that is rich with culture, and people make art wherever they are. It comes from the ground up. The Institute advised us to hire a geographer and get the data to prove it.

And we were like, ‘We are not going to walk around with computers and clipboards.’ Instead, John said, “Let’s do a festival. Anybody who self-identifies as an artist is an artist. Let’s create a space for it.” because one of the things our focus groups had confirmed was that there were no spaces to create art in Skid Row. Skid Row artists made their work in their rooms, in the parks and on the streets. Walter Fears said, “We are the Skid Row drummers, and Lead Officer Dion Joseph keeps taking away our drums. We have no space to drum—not even in the streets.”

At that time Studio 526 was still called the LAMP workshop, and it wasn’t open to the whole community. There were art workshops facilitated within the Missions, but it was only for the people who live in the Missions. LA Poverty Department was the only place where anybody could come in and participate.

So, we said, We’re going to do a festival next month on a Saturday in Gladys Park. We made a flier: Festival For All Skid Row Artists. We started running around Skid Row asking, “Hey, you want to come and perform? Do you have something to show?”

LAPDers managed the stage, the workshops and the food. Hayk came with the LAMP (now Studio 526) artists and Xman offered to bring his sound equipment. It was a festival by the community, with the community, for the community. We felt that we needed to interview the artists to document their work. So, we made a space to interview artists. And a space to advocate for the community. People came and supported, appreciated each other. It was just beautiful and then we decided to do it the next year. That first year it was just one day, and then the next year we expanded it to Saturday and Sunday. And we’ve been doing it ever since.

If you’d like to perform or show your artwork, sign up as a Skid Row Artist at info@lapovertydept.org, or call (213) 413-1077.



Pamela played “Amazing Grace” on harmonica at the Festival for All Skid Row Artists in 2007—in memory of KevinMichael Key, who had encouraged/bugged her to perform there.

Pamela Miller recently became the Chief Operating Officer for Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), joining the crew at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive. That sounds very big and official, so let’s quickly make it personal.

“I became close friends with KevinMichael Key from the start at LAPD,” Pamela remembers. “When my marriage ended, it was Kevin who called. I was living in New York at the time and Kevin called me from LA every morning to ask me how I was doing. At his funeral, the running joke was when someone would say “I was Kevin’s best friend” talking to the church full of people, everybody in the audience was thinking “No, I was Kevin’s best friend. No I was ...”

Over the years, before working at arts non-profits, Pamela was Editor and Deputy Editor for publications such as Glamour and ESPN. Before joining LAPD full time at the beginning of 2024, she worked as Co-Development Director for SCI-Arc in the Arts District.

“I love that there is no hierarchy at LAPD,” she says. We all do whatever it takes. “One minute I’m working on a major grant proposal and the next

minute I’m cleaning the toilet.” She explains that with her now handling a lot of LAPD’s fundraising and administrative work, it helps to give John Malpede and Henriëtte Brouwers time to focus more on the artistic side of things, a major reason why this new position of Chief Operating Officer exists.

Pamela first became aware of LAPD over 15 years ago when she moved to LA and got involved as a volunteer. Eventually she became more involved with LAPD as a freelance grant writer. And in the bigger picture of her life, Pamela explains that she very happily transitioned from the glossy world of New York City magazine publishing to the scrappy arts nonprofit world. Over the years she took on numerous project roles within LAPD including stage managing the UTOPIA/dystopia performance at REDCAT theater and assisting with exhibitions.

And one of her goals as Chief Operating Officer for LAPD—“I want to make the three P’s (public, press, politicians) more aware of the important and great work being done here.”

What's Happening at the Skid Row History Museum & Archive?

All events are free. Check our website for updates about the movies we are screening and the public conversations and events we are hosting at the museum: lapovertydept.org

Or stop by to pick up a hard copy of the calendar with all events, and check out the exhibition!

SPECIAL EVENT: Friday, August 23: 4–7 pm



THEATER WORKSHOPS are starting up again on August 27.
Tuesdays: 2–5pm and Thursdays: 7–9pm

We create theater performances from scratch with creative input from everyone involved. Improvise, write and perform with us. Skid Row's original creative group continues to surprise. We mess around, but we are absolutely serious.

• **Welcome to the COVID Hotel**

We're making a performance about the Quarantine Isolation sites and the innovations the staff made to make the healthcare system work for homeless people.

MINDFUL MONDAYS: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1:30–3 pm

Art of Xpression: *Coffee, Croissants and Craft with Cami* (aka Jenni Alpert, Founder of Creative Arts Wellness, Fine Arts Revolution Inc.)

MUTUAL AID SELF / SOCIAL THERAPY (MAST) with Mel Butler
2nd & 4th Sundays, 2–4 pm, hosted by The Public School Los Angeles.

This political mental health project uses the principles of mutual aid to help people overcome emotional difficulties and deal with trauma and burnout in their community through peer counseling. Come learn how to support yourself and your friends!

MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM: 1st & 3rd Fridays, 7pm

FREE Movie Screenings, Free popcorn, Free Coffee & Free Conversation

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP: 3rd Tuesdays, 10:30am–Noon
(led by published author, Ivy Pochada)

LOS ANGELES TENANTS UNION—Downtown Local: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7pm

FIRE STATION 23 MEETING: Last Tuesdays, 7pm

Learn about the new community and youth art center in-the-works in the old Fire Station 23 on 5th street and give your input.

SOCK PUPPET WORKSHOP: Last Fridays, 3–5pm (led by Marilyn Irizarry)

OPEN MIC with Lorinda: Last Friday of the month, 5–7:30pm
Hosted by Lorinda Hawkins



250 S. Broadway, Los Angeles
213-413-1077, info@lapovertydept.org

Founded in 1985, Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD) is the first arts group in Skid Row made up of Skid Row residents, housed and un-housed. We make performances, create exhibitions and we have an archive of Skid Row History.

Movie Night



LAPD website



MINDFUL MONDAYS



SKID ROW HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

Los Angeles Poverty Department

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP



THEATER WORKSHOP



MOVIE NIGHT



OPEN MIC NIGHT



SOCK PUPPET WORKSHOP





Piece by Piece Creates Mosaic Heart for City of Paramount

Piece by Piece artists recently created a three-dimensional mosaic heart for the City of Paramount's Community Center. The heart stands at 5 feet tall and 2-½ feet deep. Many artists collaborated in creating individual flowers, including members of the community center.

The process begins with the fabrication of the base, which is polystyrene and concrete, then individual pieces are made in mosaic and attached to the base.

A team of artists work together to install the mosaics, covering the whole heart.

There was a great unveiling of the artwork with city officials and members of the community. Jose M, Piece by Piece's program assistant and mosaic artist said, "After the effort in the making comes the reward of seeing this beautiful piece up on its pedestal."





LOCAL ARTISTS OF THE PAST:

The Historic Mosaic Murals of Millard Sheets in and around Los Angeles



Millard Sheets (1907–1989) was a well-known American artist and architectural designer based in Pomona Valley. He was known for his California landscape paintings and was appointed director of Otis Art Institute (now called Otis Collage of Art and Design) in 1953. When he met Howard Ahmanson, American businessman and philanthropist, in the late 1950s, he began a series of mosaic murals that graced the Home Savings buildings throughout Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Ahmanson had expressed a desire to make these institutional buildings more inviting for customers and in doing so, created a legacy of public art that reflected the history and culture of California.

Most mosaic murals were designed by Sheets and fabricated by a team of highly-skilled mosaic artists

including Denis O'Connor and Susan Hertel using a variety of vibrant glass tile. Below is a list of just a few of these murals you can see throughout southern California. Although some buildings are no longer banks, many of the murals are still displayed. Check them out if you are in the area.

- 9245 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills
- 6311 Manchester Blvd., Buena Park
- 8010 Beach Blvd., Buena Park
- Sunset and Vine, Hollywood
- 660 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles
- 2600 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica
- 12051 Ventura Blvd., Studio City
- 6570 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside
- Long Beach Blvd and Atlantic, Long Beach



Join our community!

Piece by Piece is a nonprofit mosaic art program and social enterprise, offering free workshops and training to residents of Skid Row, South Los Angeles, and beyond. Classes are open, welcoming, and a safe space to be creative. Opportunities to earn income through the sale of individual work, or to contribute to public art, are available.

Get info or register at: www.piecebypiece.org. or call (213) 459-1420



Millard Sheets mosaic mural at Chase Bank at 9245 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills

STREET & SYMPHONY

2024
Crossroads
Concert

Sept
28

2024
Messiah Project

Dec
6

save the date

save the date

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.STREETSYPHONY.ORG

THE URBAN VOICES PROJECT PRESENTS

COFFEEHOUSE

AN EMPOWERING MUSICAL EXPERIENCE
FEATURING SKID ROW ARTISTS!

FREE Coffee & Treats!

SATURDAY, AUG. 24
3:00PM - 6:00PM

Rosenthal Theater at
Inner-City Arts
720 Kohler St.
Los Angeles, CA 90021

FREE - RSVP REQUESTED//URBANVOICESPROJECT.ORG

THE URBAN VOICES PROJECT PRESENTS

COFFEEHOUSE

AN EMPOWERING MUSICAL EXPERIENCE
FEATURING SKID ROW ARTISTS!

Prepare to be inspired as the Urban Voices Project Performance Choir and soloists take the stage at the Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts in Skid Row. Our talented Skid Row artists have been pouring their hearts into preparing their solo performances through professional vocal coaching. Backed by an incredible live band, each artist will share their unique voice and musical journey with you all.

Don't miss this opportunity to support and celebrate the passion of these incredible performers. Come in, enjoy the music, and leave feeling transformed.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24
3:00PM - 6:00PM

Rosenthal Theater at
Inner-City Arts
720 Kohler St.
Los Angeles, CA 90021

FREE Coffee & Treats!

Scan here to register!

FREE - RSVP REQUESTED//URBANVOICESPROJECT.ORG

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS
INNER-CITY ARTS
PERENCHIO FOUNDATION

UVP Welcomes Program Manager: Thoralf Island

Thoralf Island has been on an Urban Voices Project (UVP) journey from Phoenix to Skid Row and from Zoom to in-person.

“I majored in African American Studies and LGBTQ Studies with a focus on the prison industrial complex,” they explained. Wanting to work in a museum setting or public programming, they responded to Urban Voices Project’s search for Program Manager and came on board.

For a year during the pandemic, they worked on UVP Programming from Arizona on zoom and then moved to LA. “It was an interesting time for me and UVP with online programming,” they said. Now with programming in-person and hybrid, Thoralf has a multi-dimensional understanding of what programming can mean.

“As for Skid Row, it’s a continual learning experience, where do I even start? UVP is the most grassroots nonprofit I’ve worked for,” said Thoralf.

Thoralf is also a singer and musician. “I sing and play the bassoon,” they said, “and so for UVP, I’ll pop in with a few notes now and then.”

Being involved with UVP and the Skid Row Arts Alliance has deepened their appreciation for the arts writ large, they explained. Thoralf is highly motivated to be a part of the Skid Row ecosystem which is constantly teaching them.

As for the future, Thoralf is excited about the growth of UVP and they want to help deepen the existing partnerships between UVP and Skid Row. Aware of the tendency for nonprofit organizations to compete with each other, Thoralf looks forward to greater collaboration as they push themselves and UVP in that direction.



Urban Voices Project has long been a Skid Row community choir, yet offers so much more. UVP provides music education and wellness classes, as well as building community spaces to express voices of humanity.

www.urbanvoicesproject.org

Follow us: @urbanvoicesproject
Email: info@urbanvoicesproject.org



WEEKLY PROGRAMS



Experience the healing power of music!

NEIGHBORHOOD SING

WEDNESDAYS

📍 Joshua House Clinic (325 E 7th St)

🕒 2:00-3:30pm

THURSDAYS

📍 Central Library (630 W 5th St)

🕒 2:30-3:30pm



CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY



MUSIC EDUCATION LAB

MONDAYS

LEARN ABOUT MUSIC

📍 Studio 526
526 San Pedro St

🕒 1-3pm

MUSIC WELLNESS LAB

TUES

FRI

📍 Central Library
630 W 5th St

🕒 1-2pm

📍 Zoom

🕒 1-2pm

HEAL THROUGH MUSIC

BUSKFEST

THIRD FRIDAYS

📍 5th & San Pedro

🕒 11am-2pm



EXPRESS YOUR VOICE

Go to www.urbanvoicesproject.org to learn more!



October 1985, that’s the date of the first Los Angeles Poverty Department theater workshop. At that time our rehearsals were at 544 S. San Pedro Street, which was the office of Inner-City Law Center (next to the Weingart Center—which at that time was still the El Rey Hotel).

We did our workshops on evenings and weekends when the lawyers weren’t there. We’d just push the desks out of the way, so we had room to jump up and down, improvise and make up performances.

Pushing desks out of the way tells a lot about the amount of indoor creative space available in Skid Row in 1985—there wasn’t any. We moved desks and made it happen.

As the first arts group in Skid Row, we wanted to get the word out to get people involved. We wanted to have fun and make community. For that we hit the streets, doing talent shows and short performances in Gladys and San Julian parks. And on the streets of Skid Row, in front of our rehearsal space, and on the corner of 5th and Wall Streets, where the LA Mission is today. But at that time it was an empty lot known as “thieves’ corner.” For our talent shows we gave away “fabulous” cash prizes (usually \$5, \$3, \$1 but for a special winners round, our cash prizes became even more fabulous—an out of this world \$15, \$10, \$5) to the top three performers as determined by audience applause. Sometimes talent show performers or audience members “would stick,”—meaning they would start showing up at rehearsals and join our performance group.

In 1986, we did a blow-out day of performances. “Condo at Thieves’ Corner” with a slew of Skid Row performers and other performers and alt-bands from around downtown. I was getting a soda at Jack’s Market, at the southeast corner of 5th and San Pedro, (where JWCH is today), as we were setting up for the day’s performances. There were three or four cops in the market, and I overheard them speculating on what time they’d have to go into the lot and break up whatever disaster they were imagining. It turns out, the day went off without a hitch—just a lot of good performances, and audience appreciation and enjoyment.



Left to right; Some “Condo at Thieves’ Corner” performances



Comedian telling a joke at LAPD talent show at 5th and Wall, 1985.



San Diego's Leonora Hills performing in Balboa Park.

We made some performances that shocked people because they were good and soon people started asking us, LA Poverty Department, to come and perform in their city. The first time we did that was in San Francisco in 1988. We wanted to include local people in the performance, so we started doing talent shows in Boeddecker Park—in SF's Tenderloin District, the SF version of the Skid Row Neighborhood. Once again, the parks were the place to make it happen. Later that same year we traveled to San Diego and did talent shows in Balboa Park, and again added local cast members for our evening-length indoor performance, "LAPD Inspects San Diego".

Around the same time, some organized street encampments had been harassed out of downtown and migrated to Venice Beach, causing us to do a series of short performances on the Venice Boardwalk.

In 1991, we made a phone booth in front of 544 S. San Pedro and offered free phone calls to everyone walking down the street—the only string attached was they had to call someone that they loved. People called all over the US and South America. People called loved ones in Africa. We never asked anyone about the content of their conversations, but we invited them to join our rehearsals, where we were making a performance, "Call Home" which was about home, family and belonging and was eventually performed at LA Boca performance space, Beyond Baroque in Venice and at the World Stage in Leimert Park as part of the 1991 Los Angeles Festival.

We're still doing projects outdoors in Skid Row, just finished the 2024 Walk the Talk performance Parade on May 25. Next up, you can be part of the Festival for All Skid Row Artists, Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, noon–4pm at General Jeff Park.



Venice Beach (LAPD's John Malpede and Julious Jenkins Jr.)

3 Skid Row community members and LAPD's Sunshine Mills and David Halenda.



A community member taking us up on our offer of free phone calls to anywhere.



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Tech2go Computer Bundles can be checked out at any of the listed locations. To check availability and place a hold, choose your preferred pick up location from the drop down menu on this web page. Bundles must be picked up at the designated location and cannot be transferred to another branch for pickup.



The Central Library offers many free events and classes

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/3usdk728> for more information on current and future free exhibits, events, workshops and many other helpful resources at this branch.

Join the Octavia Lab for free access to high-tech tools!

Octavia Butler was an award winning science fiction writer who broke new ground in a male dominated field. Her legacy lives on in Central Library's **Octavia Lab: Creativity Within Reach** which offers high tech tools for artists free of charge. Under the heading of Design Computers, Equipment, and Studio, the Lab services include 3D Printing, Laser Cutter, Epson Large Format Printer, and a Green Screen Backdrop. In the Studio are Video and Audio programs including Final Cut Pro and Garageband. The Lab is open Monday through Saturday afternoons and Staff at the front desk are there to help. Workshops are offered to help you use the large range of equipment. Go to lapl.org/labs.





UNITED COALITION EAST PREVENTION PROJECT

Established in 1996, United Coalition East Prevention Project is located at 804 E. 6th St. in Skid Row. We specialize in alcohol and other drug prevention and community mobilization to support a healthy and vibrant Skid Row neighborhood. We meet monthly to discuss prevention initiatives and community-driven programming at our local Skid Row parks.

UCEPP Monthly Coalition Meeting:
First Thursday of each month at 2 PM,
in person and on Zoom*

*Zoom (Meeting ID 87890708182) link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87890708182> →



For more information on how to get involved and support community prevention and improvement efforts please contact:
charlesp@socialmodel.com

Social media: @ucepp_smrs



Creating Justice LA

Hours of Operation

Monday: 9 am–2 pm

Wednesday: 9 am–3 pm
(12pm) Healing Circle Book Club

Thursday: 4 pm–9 pm
(6pm) Off The Top Thursdays

Friday: 2 pm–6 pm
Freestyle Fridays

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doodles without borders

doodles without borders (dwb) is committed to equitable access to arts, cultural, and social spaces as a fundamental human right and collective responsibility.

Connect with Hayk and dwb events:
doodleswithoutborders.com | [@doodleswithoutborders](https://twitter.com/doodleswithoutborders)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
SKIDROWARTSALLIANCE.COM

Explore a variety of inspiring programs from music to theater, visual arts and much more. Each program uses the arts to nourish wellness, community and connectivity.

Share your experience and ideas for the next Zine!
Reach us at info@skidrowartsalliance.com

Skid Row Happenings: On-going

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>1–3pm Music Education Labs (Urban Voices Project, held at Studio 526, see p.21)</p> <p>1:30–3pm Mindful Mondays (1st & 3rd) Coffee, Croissants and craft with Cami (LAPD, see p.14)</p>	<p>10:30am–Noon (3rd Tuesday) Creative Writing Workshop (LAPD, see p.14)</p> <p>11am–12pm Virtual Art Inspiration (Zoom Beginning mosaic workshop with Piece by Piece instructor): Register online (see p.18)</p> <p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30–3:30pm Music Studio: 9am–3:30pm (1.5- hr. sessions by appt.) New Artist Orientation: 1pm, on Select Tuesdays (see p.7)</p> <p>1–2pm Music Wellness Labs (Urban Voices Project, held at Central Library, 630 W. 5th at Flower. See p.21)</p> <p>2–5pm Theatre Workshops (LA Poverty Dept., see p.14)</p>	<p>10am–12pm Free Beginning Mosaic (Piece by Piece): Learn basic mosaic techniques and be part of this welcoming and friendly community! (see p.18)</p> <p>2–3:30pm Neighborhood Sing (Urban Voices Project): Joshua House Clinic, 325 E 7th St, LA (see p.21)</p>	<p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30pm–3:30pm Music Studio (by appt.): 9am–3:30pm (1.5- hr. sessions by appt.) New Artist Orientation: 1pm, Select Thursdays (see p.7)</p> <p>2–5pm (also Fri & Sat): LAPD Exhibition—Welcome to the COVID Hotel (see p.14)</p> <p>2:30–3:30pm: Neighborhood Sing (Urban Voices Project): Central Library, Meeting Room B, 630 W 5th St, at Flower (see p.21)</p> <p>3:30–5pm doodles without borders “How dare you!” community arts table, General Jeff (Gladys) Park (see p.26)</p> <p>6–9pm Off the Top Thursdays–Open Mic (Creating Justice LA, see p.25)</p> <p>7–9pm Theatre Workshops (LA Poverty Dept., see p.14)</p>	<p>Studio 526 Art Studio: 12:30–3:30pm Music Studio: 9am–3:30pm (1.5-hr. sessions by appt. See p.7)</p> <p>1–2pm Music Wellness Labs (Urban Voices Project, by Zoom. See p.21)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MONTHLY FRIDAY EVENTS</p> <p>2nd Friday, 5–7pm Studio 526 Art Jam: Open Mic, Music and Art (see p.7)</p> <p>3rd Friday, 11am–2pm Buskfest (UVP: 5th & San Pedro, p.21)</p> <p>Monthly @LA Poverty Dept. (see p.14):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Tuesday, 10:30am–Noon Creative Writing workshop • 1st & 3rd Fridays, 7–9pm Free Movie Nights at the Museum • Last Friday: 3–5pm Sock Puppet Making Workshop • Last Friday: 5–7:30pm Open Mic with Lorinda Hawkins Smith • 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2–4 pm Mutual Aid Self / Social Therapy (MAST) by Public School Los Angeles

We want to hear from you!

The Skid Row Arts Zine is for you, the members of Skid Row community. Our goal is to encourage and engage your creative spirit by providing safe spaces and opportunities for you to create and thrive. We invite you to a short survey about what you enjoy and would like to see in the Arts Zine.

Go to: <https://shorturl.at/xDvcs> or scan the code below (updated).



JOIN US!

August 23 (Friday), 4–7pm
Jamaican Independence Day Festival
Skid Row History Museum (see p.14)

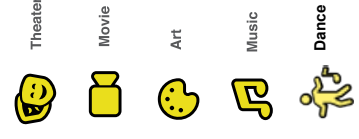
August 24 (Saturday), 3–6pm
Urban Voices Project Coffeehouse
Inner-City Arts (see p.20)

September 28 (Saturday), 6pm
Street Symphony Crossroads Concerts
Location TBD (see p.19)

October 26 & 27 (Sat & Sun), Noon–4pm
Festival for All Skid Row Artists
General Jeff Memorial (Gladys) Park (see p.12)

Skid Row is a dynamic and powerful arts community. Anywhere on the streets of Skid Row, creativity is happening. This map will show you where to untap the artist inside you.

SKID ROW ARTS MAP



- 1** **Skid Row History Museum & Archive and Los Angeles Poverty Department**
Theater Workshops, Monthly Open Mics, Movie Nights, Exhibitions and Forums
250 S. Broadway | 213-413-1077
www.lapovertydept.org
- 2** **Central City Community Church of the Nazarene**
419 E. 6th St. | 213-689-1766
- 3** **The Midnight Mission**
601 S San Pedro | 213-624-9258
- 4** **Studio 526 (Art & Music studio)**
526 S. San Pedro | (213) 757-8598
- 5** **Urban Voices Project**
323-741-1887
www.urbanvoicesproject.org
- 6** **"Movies in the Park" and "Drumming in the Park"**
• San Julian Park
312 E. 5th St. (5th & San Julian)
• General Jeff Memorial Park (formerly Gladys Park)
808 E. 6th St. (6th & Gladys)
- 7** **Joshua House Clinic**
UVP Singalong
325 E. 7th St, Los Angeles
- 8** **Piece by Piece**
Call for address: 323-963-3372
www.piecebypiece.org
- 9** **Central Library**
630 W. 5th St. (at Flower) | 213-228-7000



River Apartments

Inner-City Arts

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Designed and Produced by Sebin Song and Xivi Huang of the USC Roski School of Art and Design. Supported by USC Arts in Action, part of USC Visions and Voices: The Arts and Humanities Initiative.