

# street views

## ABOUT STREET VIEWS

Street Views is a mutual aid newspaper published by UCLA urban planning graduate students, unhoused community members, and mutual aid organizers. Our goal in creating Street Views was to build power and community by uplifting strategies of community design and planning that unhoused communities are engaging in as forms of self-governance and by creating new lines of communication among encampments and organizers across the City. Street Views is a platform for communities to plan, design, and build together through dialogue and collective visioning.

We are looking for support in leading and sustaining this paper, if you are interested, please contact [@aetnastreetssolidarity](#) on Instagram or email [streetviewsnews@gmail.com](mailto:streetviewsnews@gmail.com)

ISSUE 1 | JUNE 7, 2023

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## AETNAPALOOZA A CELEBRATION OF RESISTANCE

On a hot spring morning in late April, dozens of community members gathered on Aetna Street in Van Nuys to celebrate art, culture, and community. The second annual Aetnapalooza street festival celebrated resistance on Aetna Street. The day-long event reclaimed public space and brought together community members, artists, mutual aid organizations, musicians, builders, makers, students, and friends. As described by organizer Carla Orendorff, Aetnapalooza is an "event rooted in love and abolition and we invite you to join us for a joyful celebration of our communities who are fighting for the right to remain, the right to housing and the right to stay."

Aetnapalooza centered art with simultaneous mural painting, candle collaging, performances, and crafts. As people listened to poetry by Lupita and calls to action from organizers like La Donna, attendees sipped ice-cold waters and sodas and enjoyed fresh tacos from Mayra from Community Power Collective. The chefs hand-pressed the masa into fresh corn tortillas on-site. Folks got haircuts and new clothes. There were resources and community organizers. People leaving the orange line, passing by on the street, traveling from across the City came together

to eat, dance, laugh, and build together.

In addition to the abundance of resources pooled together by communities and organizers across Los Angeles, Aetnapalooza asked attendees to also imagine a world where this community could be permanent. Organizers and community members spent the day imagining a world beyond the current violence, policies of banishment, and constant state-created and perpetuated scarcity.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Aetna is a longstanding encampment of tents and hand-built structures at Aetna Street and Van Nuys Boulevard, often called the "Skid Row of the Valley." Aetna Street has been a site of resistance for decades, but the City's imposition of a 41.18 zone has brought renewed attention to the importance of strong and organized community power.

A collaborative of current and former

Aetna residents, UCLA graduate students, and housing justice organizers hosted multiple activities as a part of larger community organizing effort. One group, in collaboration with radical tiny house builder Elvis Summers, led a build that repurposed pallets to create movable platforms (instructions on page 11 to do this in your community!). Another group asked participants to call out hypocrisy in the 41.18 policy by marking up a giant printed version of the ordinance. A third group asked Aetna residents to reflect and write down what a hope for a future Aetna could be.

Finally, the group supporting the creation and publication of this newspaper had an "AetNarratives" booth where attendees could stop by and share their story, a vision for the newspaper, or helpful tips for others living on the street. Many of the pieces included in this edition of Street Views came from ideas or conversations at Aetnapalooza. Dwight, a com-

### "WE KEEP US SAFE"

munity advocate and former Aetna resident, expressed, "I think Aetnapalooza was a building block event that gave life to our project [Street Views] as a whole."

Group facilitators had an open conversation with community members who expressed their feelings about topics ranged from life experiences to how inefficient current housing programs are. The group captured these moments through a recording device and have included select quotes below. Quotes and names have been published with consent.

G: "When I think about an encampment, what's happening at Aetna, it's community. I really do see a way of living. A lot of us are on survival mode, a lot of us operate out of fear... When you first walk into an encampment, you might be afraid, but once you really tap into community, you see people really operate out of love. You see people that are unhoused, that might not have a lot of monetary means, but are cooking for the community, that are sharing, feeding each other... Even that is a radical thought, right? Just like, community coming together and sharing food, you don't really see that in other communities."

### RESISTANCE IN THE VALLEY

In spite of the City's policies of forced displacement, Aetna continues to be a small place of safety on the streets. Nothing showed this more than Aetnapalooza. Everyone was welcomed with open arms, warm food, cold drinks, vibrant art, and a chance to continue building the world they want to see.



Photos of Aetnapalooza by Community Collaborative

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street views

## AETNARRATIVES: AMBER

Sitting next to an old friend, Amber laughed recalling good and bad memories from living on the street and moving into temporary and permanent housing. Amber is a self-declared "open book," and she spoke with our UCLA Community Collaborative group about how difficult moments have led her to where she is today: sober, about to graduate with an education in counseling and addiction, and reconnecting with multiple generations of her family.

In July 2020, months into the global COVID-19 pandemic, Amber was living on the street in North Hollywood when her boyfriend overdosed. He was brought back to life with medical attention, and the experience confirmed that the time had come to get sober. Amber credits friend and organizer, Carla Orendorff, with the encouragement she needed to change her life. A week later, LA Family Housing offered her a spot in Project Roomkey, a program run by the State and local governments to move unhoused folks to hotel rooms during the raging pandemic.

Amber had heard this pitch before. She said she had been on the list for months. But this time, things were moving quickly. Amber couldn't take the opportunity without ensuring her friends also got into Project Roomkey. She told organizers that unless a friend from Lankershim could join, she wouldn't go. They made Amber a deal: if she could get 90% of her overpass encampment to go to Project Roomkey, they could also find a room for her friend at Lankershim. Done. By the end, everyone from both encampments was offered a room in Project Roomkey.

While the offer of a room was good, it wasn't perfect. Amber and her friends were assigned rooms in Lancaster, 60 miles from where they were in North Hollywood. Amber and her boyfriend were a two and a half hour train ride from his kids and family in Ontario, California. When she asked if they could be moved closer to family, the program warned her that if she didn't take housing in Lancaster, she would go to the bottom of the list for housing. "You aren't going to get housed."

These systems are rigid, and they don't take into account the full humanity of people: their life experiences, wants, and needs. Amber believes that she was able to get sober because of Project Roomkey, but the program doesn't set you up for success. When she left, she was given a Section 8 voucher, which provides government funds to cover private market rent. However, Amber says, "Section 8 is set up for failure" – few landlords take vouchers even though in California it is illegal to deny someone housing because they use a voucher (a later article explains "source of income discrimination"). Amber spent 9 months searching for an apartment that would take her section 8 voucher to no avail. A voucher that would ultimately expire when she moved across county-lines to stay with her family, despite continuing to pay rent on her subsidized apartment.

Amber plans to be a part of changing this cycle or hardship. She wants to do outreach to people on the street who want help and need immediate places to go, not just another waitlist or set of eligibility criteria. Currently, Amber is going to school for drug and alcohol counseling, and for the first time, she is a straight-A student. "I'm addicted to learning about addiction," Amber said. Her passion is working with unhoused people because she had wanted to get sober, but said "it was too hard on the streets. It's easier to use on the street." She wants to be a link she sees missing from the current housing and homeless system. With so much money allocated, Amber questions where it is all going? It's not going to house people. "Everyone deserves a safe place to rest their head. No matter if they are high or drunk, everyone deserves to have a roof over their head," Amber said.

She said her family and daughters are proud of her. But she also sounded proud of herself. "Life is great, but I wouldn't have gotten there without getting housed. It's too hard on the street."

## FOLLOW THE MONEY IN THE LOS ANGELES HOUSING BUDGET

We've seen the numbers – the more than one billion dollars allocated to "homelessness." On Thursday, May 18th, the Los Angeles City Council voted 13-1 to approve Mayor Karen Bass's proposed \$13 billion budget, which includes \$1.3 billion allocated to "ending homelessness." As the Mayor wrote in her letter to City Council:

"The budget commits nearly \$1.3 billion – more money than ever before – to move people indoors and confront the crisis of homelessness. This investment includes scaling up the Inside Safe pilot that we launched to bring people inside from tents and encampments, and to prevent encampments from returning."

The budget breaks new ground by investing in City purchases of motels and hotels, in the acquisition of mental health and substance abuse treatment beds that will be dedicated to the City's homelessness strategy, and in strategic planning and accountability through Mayor Bass' new Office of Housing and Homelessness Solutions.

Councilwoman Eunisun Hernandez voted "no" citing the lack of support for LA's diverse communities and nearly 25% of the budget (\$3.2 billion) going to LAPD. On Friday, May 26th, Mayor Karen Bass signed her budget into law.

### WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING OVERALL?

So where is the \$1.3 billion dedicated to homelessness slotted to go? Let's follow the money!

In the total \$1.3 billion budget, there is a specific allocation for \$9.4 million dedicated to "Police Department Homeless Services." The largest allocation is \$250 million for ramping up the Mayor's Inside Safe operation. The breakdown of funds is below:

- \$110 million for interim housing costs, like motel rooms
- \$47 million to buy hotels and motels
- \$62 million for services like case management, food, and staff
- \$21 million for developing and building transitional and permanent housing and a new 12-month rental assistance program.

### AND LAHSA

In the approved budget, Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) receives \$38.4 million for administration, operations, and street outreach, an increase from 2022-2023. Shelter services, which include interim housing strategies, total \$14.6 million. In this bucket of funding are all the emergency, short term housing options like Bridge Housing, Safe Parking, and Coordinated Entry System Interim Housing. The numbers are included below:

- \$10.9 million: Coordinated Entry System Interim Housing for Families, Singles, and Youth
- \$1.6 million: Shelter Program
- \$1.1 million: Safe Parking
- \$1 million: Housing Navigation

Interestingly, the largest chunk of the LAHSA budget is not for shelter services but for "Street Strategies" at \$16.8 million. Funding from this bucket goes toward Homeless Engagement Teams (HETs) that conduct direct outreach to people living on the streets "who typically do not seek shelter or service programs of their own initiative." Line items in the \$16.8 million allocation include:

- \$4.6 million: General Homeless Engagement Teams (HETS)
- \$4.3 million: Operation Healthy Streets
- \$1 million: Involuntary Storage
- \$3 million: Voluntary Storage

## Edited Excerpts from: NEW LA COUNTY DATA SHOWS THAT HOMELESS 'SWEEPS' RARELY LEAD TO PERMANENT HOUSING

By Lexis-Olivier Ray

Published in LA Taco | 12.01.2022

On average, less than 10% of people engaged by outreach workers through the CARE program were moved into temporary shelter. And only 63 people out of more than 30,000 enrollees found "permanent" housing.

■ Returned to streets ■ Sheltered or housed



\*2019 includes roughly three months of data || \*\*CARE outreach was put on pause due to the pandemic from March 2020 through September 2021, according to LAHSA || 2022 YTD includes data through early October.

Chart: Lexis-Olivier Ray (L.A. TACO) • Source: The Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) • Created with Datawrapper

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) data and the experiences of unhoused residents inter-

viewed for this story, calls into question the success of a program that has cost taxpayers more than \$150 million in sal-

## WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE OBSESSED WITH REMOVING THE HOMES OF HOUSELESS PEOPLE?

By Zelda of Cobb on Wood, Oakland

but not the homeless who have grown attached to the land and their community.

In October 2022, activists and Wood Street Community Members raised both awareness and funds to move the cobb structures and continue their dream of supporting people by offering resources. Skilled residents were able to operate the machinery that moved existing structures. The Wood Street Commons became a hub for distributing food and supplies to people in need. The location, however, was still too close to the developing apartments; people with power did not want this here.

In April 2023, the city came in and destroyed the village,

aries and expenses. "Sweeps" are supposed to keep our city sidewalks clean and help move people living on the streets indoors. However, according to new data obtained by L.A. TACO from LAHSA, few unhoused people have been sheltered as a result of outreach associated with the encampment clearings seen regularly across the city (also known as "CARE cleanings") And almost nobody has been moved into permanent supportive housing.

Rather than move people indoors, more than 15 unhoused residents and advocates interviewed for this story over the past nine months, said that CARE cleanings push people with nowhere to go from one block to another. They've triggered medical emergencies and left people with serious chronic health conditions on the streets to fend for themselves. Plus they separate unhoused people from important belongings and resources.

"I don't know how many times that they've came and taken down my information," said La Donna, an unhoused woman living near

an electrical substation in an industrial part of the San Fernando Valley, during an interview last month. "And nothing has come from it."

Since 2019 more than 30,000 unhoused residents, like La Donna, have been "enrolled" in the CARE outreach program according to LAHSA's data. That's roughly ten thousand fewer people than the total number of unhoused residents currently living in the City of Los Angeles. Less than 10 percent of those 30,000 "enrollees" moved into a temporary housing facility. And fewer than one percent (or 63 people) moved into a place categorized as "permanent supportive housing," according to LAHSA's data.

La Donna laughs at the idea of being "enrolled" in the CARE program, or "CARE-sus" as she and her unhoused neighbors call it (rather than CARE+). "I don't know what kind of database that they're putting [my information] in. But it's not for me to get any resources. It's not for anybody to contact me," said La Donna. "That's for f\*cking sure."

with dignity and humanity.

Yet still, despite everything the homeless have to endure, there are unsympathetic neighbors bent on getting a "clear view" of Wood Street. All we have left to say to people who would rather punch down than punch up at the people who perpetuated these issues ...

Whether you are houseless and fighting for your right to be seen as human, or maybe you have a home or support and you are advocating for the right for houseless people to receive help from the government... the homeless crisis WILL end when people care deeply enough to see it as a humanitarian issue, not a sanitation one.

### HOW MUCH ARE THEY SPENDING ON SWEEPS?

The total amount of money spent on Sweeps is likely undercounted because of the many health, safety, and carceral implications of forced displacement. However, in the specific budget, funding is mostly categorized under Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement Program (CARE) teams and CARE + teams.

CARE teams used to be called Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement Teams

(HOPE) and are what folks on the ground call "spot cleans." CARE + teams used to be called Clean Street Los Angeles Teams and are what many folks on the ground call "Sweeps." In adding up budget items explicitly marked for CARE/CARE + under the Homeless Budget and the Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation allocation, the total is around \$70 million. Of this, \$44.7 million is allocated to staffing CARE/CARE + teams: 303

positions to staff five CARE teams and 22 CARE+ teams. Other expenses include: hazardous waste removal and disposal, vehicle rentals, administrative costs, and data collection and reporting.

### SO WHAT?

It is important to know these numbers and ask, where else could nearly \$1.3 billion dollars go? What else could be supported? By recognizing how the City spends and talks about money, advocates can argue for better usage of critical housing dollars.

These figures were pulled

from the Detail of Department Programs (Blue Book), which can be found at the City Administrative Officer's website: [caolacity.org/budget/index.htm](http://caolacity.org/budget/index.htm). They were also verified against recent amendments described in the LACityClerks's Council File: 23-0600. Other figures were pulled from recent media coverage including from KCAL NEWS and a piece from ABC7 titled "LA council approves amended version of Mayor Bass' proposed \$13 billion city budget."





## AETNA COMMUNITY VISIONING CIRCLE

On the evening of Tuesday, June 16th, Aetna street's front door opens with a welcome mat. Weekly community nights, a long standing Aetna street community practice, offer space for imagination, expression, and glimpses of the future. Exchanges of free food, clothing, resources, and community space are heard as music and laughter echo down the block.

On this particular night, residents share ideas of what the future should hold for their home, and offer insight into important community assets which are often neglected. Sharing a wall with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) often means increased surveillance and vulnerability for residents along Aetna. But on community nights, this wall is adorned with art, fairy lights, shrines, messages of solidarity, love, and support, and

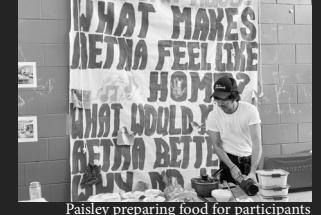
projections of movies and karaoke lyrics. On this night, the wall wears 15 visions of the future; pictures of conceptual spaces, community healing centers, gardens, and etc., posted by UCLA Community Collaborative's Public Land Use Plan #2 (PLUP2) group students.

As the night goes on, these pictures become vibrant with pink and green post-it notes hosting Aetna resident's thoughts, reflections, and ideas. The concrete sidewalk turns into a layering of persian rugs, upon which sits a circle of chairs and an open microphone. Promptly at 7pm, PLUP2 and Aetna's Community Visioning Circle begins. The circle opened with a few initial remarks, a call for the returning of land to its original indigenous inhabitants, a message of solidarity in support of self-governance without police interference, and initial ideas to spark conversation. The circle then breaks into more personal conversations



between students and residents to discuss current community assets and needs. A few conversations reveal opinions and realities. "Theater here? We have our own theater here every night!" "Green open space... hmm maybe?" "Child care would be great!" "Community garden, we can farm." Among the pictures on the wall, those which depict a community garden seem to gain the most support, along with pictures of healing centers, community kitchens, and studio spaces to store and use tools and instruments.

Aetna is a community of builders and place makers. One resident notes that the library close by is a community asset which offers space to find peace, read books, use the internet, and bathrooms to wash their hands. "Something about books makes people calm." Other residents share their imaginings of what life on Aetna could be in the future, including better lighting and power up charging



# INSIDE SAFE: STREET VIEWS

## BRIEF OVERVIEW

Inside Safe, a mayoral program introduced in December 2022, has folks on the ground asking questions. A citywide initiative "to proactively house people and prevent encampments from returning." Inside Safe supposedly differs from previous programs such as Project Roomkey in that it plans to permanently provide people with housing and other services. As Inside Safe "operations" have been carried out across the City, through word of mouth, news of shelter placements has reached other encampments.

Inside Safe places unhoused residents in temporary shelter, usually motels/hotels, with the aim of putting people on the path to permanent housing. Here, these placements are termed "shelter" rather than "housing," which we reserve for permanent housing.

The views represented below come from matthew who organizes with the Inside Starving coalition and from unhoused community members (Yolanda, Shayne Smith, Jeffrey, Billion, Angel) who are currently in Inside Safe. They spoke about their experiences at an Inside Starving press conference that took place outside LACMA on May 8, 2023. The full audio file can be found at <https://www.insidestarving.com/resources>.

## HOW IS THE OPERATION CARRIED OUT?

Inside Safe is targeted at unhoused residents living in tents. There has been a one tent in exchange for one room policy in the past; if two people are living in a tent they may only be offered one hotel room. If a resident is living in their vehicle, they will not be included in this program.

The operation will likely take all day, potentially more, and residents should be prepared to wait. The city likely will not provide food or water for the wait. Residents are put on a bus once they agree to enter the program, though they may be asked to leave the bus for filming at some point during the day. If a resident is not on the City's list it is not clear whether they will be included in the operation.

"We were all put on this bus, and we didn't know where we were going. The bus driver didn't speak to us. It was like one of those horror movies. We didn't know where we were going." - **Yolanda**

The City has a practice of filming unhoused residents consenting to the exchange of their tent for a motel room. It's fucked up and weird. Residents will not be allowed to keep their tents. The City also enforces a two-bag policy, limiting the possessions a resident can bring to their temporary shelter. The City has seemed able to accommodate pets and disabilities, but is not clear and forthright about being able to do so, significant advocacy may be necessary to force accommodation.

Residents are also required to sign a contract to enter the program, recognizing it not as housing, and agreeing to certain rules.

## WHAT ARE THE SHELTERS LIKE?

There is almost no uniformity across the program. Many shelters have been called roach motels, while others are cleaner, the quality and sanitation of the rooms is all over the place. Some have rules regulating when people can leave and who can visit them, security, and regular visits by service providers; others have no rules and no services. Caseworkers may be reassigned once someone is moved into an Inside Safe Program, or they may stop showing up altogether.

"They don't even talk to us... 'just see your case manager.' Who's our case manager? We don't know who our case manager is, we don't see that!" - **Yolanda**

Mostly though, once residents are placed, it seems they are forgotten about. One of the biggest complaints of folks in these shelters is that they are not given any support for basic needs, such as food, and don't receive services. While folks may have been able to make money pan-handling or through donations on the street, many have experienced much greater food insecurity in motel placements.

The City does not give a guarantee on a length of stay, or any information pertaining to it, and some residents have experienced being shuffled around from motel to motel.

## WHOSE VOICE IS HEARD IN THE MEDIA ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

By Shea Backes

Reporters descended en masse on Hollywood on May 18th after a violent incident at the Selma Avenue encampment. The specifics of what happened are unclear. Some say the people involved were all unhoused residents; others report that there was a parent from the nearby school involved, or perhaps a janitor or security guard that works there. The reports focus less on the details of what occurred on Selma, and more on the im-

pact on the community – the housed community, that is. Coverage on Fox 11, KTLA, and other outlets centered on the potential threat of an encampment being in such close proximity to a school. Reporters interviewed parents about their concerns and passers-by about the shock of seeing violence in their neighborhood. The voices of those who live in this long-standing encampment, one of the few in Hollywood that has not yet been destroyed, are almost entirely excluded from the narrative. "They wanna come out here and film us, put us on the big screen that we're a nuisance? Okay, I'm a nuisance. I'm your neighbor," said Sketch.

Sketch, an artist and longtime resident of Selma, has been on the street with his dog Poshu Underfoot, for 10 years. Sketch has been in and

"The food that they offer us is EveryDay Table... which is good for a day or two, but to be eating every day, breakfast, lunch, and dinner? But then they gave us... the chicken stunk, rotten food. They promised us food, but then they turn around and say we're not required to. And there's no markets around us. To buy some cereal, I spent \$15." - **Shayne**

"We were not being provided with food. We were given \$60 gift card... however, it costs \$20 per day without a kitchen. We have not received gift cards for March, April, or May." - **Jeffrey**

"We're not being provided with wrap-around care or mental health services, which I have been requesting, I have level 2 autism... I am at risk of losing all my rights at the hands of inside safe, simply because of my genetic differences they were disenrolled from a full service partnership program as they were promised wrap-around care with Inside Safe]" - **Jeffrey**

## WHERE ARE THESE OPERATIONS BEING IMPLEMENTED? HOW ARE LOCATIONS DECIDED UPON?

The location of Inside Safe operations seems to be determined by the local City Councilmember in coordination with the Mayor's Office, though, how much control the Councilmember has is unclear. The location seems to be determined largely by the visibility of the unhoused encampment and the degree of complaints from housed residents. Inside Safe operations tend to happen where residents, local businesses, and community facilities have created petitions or complained; encampments that have received a significant amount of press coverage also seem to be commonly targeted.

The real number of people affected by these operations is quite small. Approximately 1,200 people have received housing; this in comparison to the estimated more than 40,000 people experiencing street homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. It is unclear if there is sufficient housing or funds to greatly expand or continue this program. The recent budget agreement which includes money for homelessness is discussed on page (2). Anecdotally, it has also been noted that the program may be slowing down or stalled as the City has had difficulty finding additional motels willing to take unhoused persons.

## HOW ARE THESE OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR?

The operation is carried out by LAHSA, local electeds, and the local service provider (e.g., Saint Joseph, the People Concern, LA Family Housing). People living in encampments are given very little notice about an upcoming Inside Safe operation. This is the City's intentional strategy to avoid having people outside an encampment move to that area in anticipation. City workers compile a list of residents that live in encampment 1-3 days prior to an operation. The covert nature of this strategy and the incompetence of city workers or service providers results in encampment residents sometimes being left off the list. People who show up a few days prior to the operation also face difficulty in getting approval for placement in motels. The list is used to determine the number of motel rooms secured for an Inside Safe operation.

The location of a motel is also kept from residents until the day of the operation, or even, in some cases, until after they have been put on a bus, without knowing where it is going. It has been common for residents to be sent far from their existing encampment location, for instance, folks in West Los Angeles have been shipped to Southeast Los Angeles, 20 miles away.

out of housing for 23 years. He was asked to leave his last Section 8 apartment after a past guest of his entered the building without permission and broke his door down. He was promised a new voucher if he left voluntarily, but despite talking to six organizations at seven different locations, he remains on the street a year and a half later. Sketch takes pride in his home and his community, he cleans every morning along with a handful of other residents who work to make sure the park and street is cared for.

Sketch witnessed the incident on May 18th and wanted the story to be told by those actually targeted: the residents of this encampment. The situation began with a man unknown to the encampment, identified by some as a parent dropping children

off at school, who began sweeping a large pile of trash that was outside the encampment, into it. Sketch thinks the pile was probably dumped in the middle of the night by a neighbor; it didn't come from the Selma residents. The man apparently began pushing the trash roughly enough that it was hitting tents with sleeping inhabitants inside, eventually injuring a woman who came out to confront the man. The argument turned violent and the woman was injured, causing some of the other residents, including Sketch, to come out to defend her. After this the man ran away, climbing the fence into the school. Several people were arrested, including the woman who was injured and one of her defenders.

Regardless of the specifics of the altercation – whether it was a pur-

"We're right out here in South Central, Leimert Park, Crenshaw... they took them out to Long Beach." - **Billion**

## IS THE PROGRAM VOLUNTARY?

While the operation is billed as voluntary, it is generally followed by a Comprehensive Cleaning, aka CARE+ sweep, and in many instances, following an operation, new fencing, an increased police presence, or harassment by local residents makes continued occupation impossible. There have been instances of encampments resisting these operations. On Aetna Street in Van Nuys, residents presented a letter of demands to the service provider responsible for the operation and succeeded in stopping the operation from occurring.

We have included a tear sheet in the back of this newspaper which can be used as a means of self-advocacy in the case of an Inside Safe operation.

## IS THIS A PATH TO PERMANENT HOUSING?

There have been few, if any, reported placements in permanent housing as a result of Inside Safe. There also seems to be limited, if any, work on the part of the City to get folks into permanent housing.

"There has been no progress for housing, and I have already been in the program for 3 months... No one is questioning why we are not being placed in permanent housing." - **Jeffrey**

What has been most commonly experienced at this stage is, after a certain period of time, residents are moved, en masse, from one motel to another, whether it be shared housing or larger complexes like The Grand in downtown. Many others have also been evicted or chosen to leave the program.

"I was moved more than 5 times in a week without prior notice and St. Joseph's wouldn't tell us where we were being moved to. The front desk would call me as I was getting ready to leave for work." - **Jeffrey**

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FOR KAREN BASS:

"Where is all the money going, Mayor Bass? You said you were here to help us! We're sitting here getting threatened once a week that we're going to lose our rooms at a moment's notice, that we're going to be out. Well guess what, in the course of this, y'all outlawed camping, so everyone's going to go to jail, if they get kicked out." - **Angel**

"There has to be communication between us, the people who are on the street working, the mayor's office, and the different programs, and we need to communicate and make a plan. Make a plan before you go out, and set a standard of rules of care. You follow the blueprint, and you won't build the house wrong. You give people the respect that YOU would want." - **Shayne**

"We're losing 5 a day. They are complicit with genocide... Everybody on City Council, Mayor Bass, ex-mayor Garcetti..."

- **Billion**

Photo by Anthony Orendorff



People living on the street are much more likely to be victims than perpetrators of violent crime, and often residents at Selma face frequent verbal harassment by housed neighbors. However, these stories are not included in mainstream representation of homelessness. "It's not about me, it's about the community itself. Only parts of the community that they want to see, that they want to hear [are represented]. This is my story, this is her story, this is his story, this is everybody's story. I don't matter but she does, and he does, and they do," Sketch added. To the recent coverage, all Sketch asks is that the media takes the opportunity to actually talk to the people they're so quick to tell stories about. "Give us a fair chance. Give us our say... give us our day in court."



## I GOT EVICTED FROM MY OFFICE PARKING LOT

By Paisley Mares

The gentle croon and melodic guitar of Townes Van Zandt pipe from a speaker and I rest atop a mound of my worldly possessions. Tucked at the back end of the 1987 Chevy Mal-lard Sprinter Class-C RV, I warm myself in the red glow of a portable propane heater and push beyond the quiet worry that I may be inadvertently carbon monoxide poisoning myself. Puffing my joint, petting my dog, and reflecting on the wild new chapter of life that I have just leapt into. A newly minted mobile homeowner, I now live in the parking lot at my job. I am unhoused.

In 2020, the world slowed as close to a stop as I've ever felt, and I went on rent strike. Escaping the hamster wheel of capitalist hustle long enough to think clear, I saw with open eyes how nonsensical were the inequities I had accepted as fact. Unchangeable reality became a moldable fate and doing things the same way didn't make sense. Why should I pay rent I could barely afford, working for most of my waking hours in order to meet the fee of living? Meanwhile, more empty apartment buildings sprout up like taunting weeds casting shadows upon the thousands who sleep on the sidewalk. So, while the city of LA afforded some eviction protections, I joined the LA Tenants Union and stopped paying rent.

Over the next year of riots, protests, eviction blockades, death, triumphs, and heartbreak, the money in my savings account that would've been lining my landlord's pocket provided a padding of security I had never known. It allowed me a mental freedom and abundant mindset that was reflected back in the way I spent my time, energy, and money. I gave of myself more freely and found my life's purpose not in the pursuit of the Hollywood dream that had brought me to LA in the first place but in a dedication to love. To give of myself to those around me. I recognized our collective interconnectedness.

By the summer of 2021, I returned from my first trip in an RV and was still on rent strike. A plan to live in a rig fulltime formed quickly and loosely, with far more questions than answers.

*"Living on the road, my friend, was gonna keep you free and clean. Now you wear your skin like iron and your breath as hard as kerosene."*

All I knew was that I couldn't go back to paying to live in the way that I had before. I used the money I had saved in rent towards financing an RV that made up for in charm what she lacked in safety features and moved into the rig on December 1.

I will never forget walking around downtown LA that first day feeling truly free. Capitalizing on my position as a facility manager of an office where most were working from home, I parked in the office lot for as long as I could get away with it. There were bathrooms, a shower, WIFI, electricity, and all the Cheez-Its and La Croix one could desire. The freedom I now felt sheltered me from fear of judgment or being fired and looking back I recount a level of brazenness that reflected this. Bringing friends who I'd defend unhoused encampments with by day, over at night to watch movies in this mid-century modern facility, drinking liquor leftover from bougie client parties. My existence became a direct reappropriation of wealth. I had offered the facility to others living in their vehicles if they needed showers or power—though none ever ended up taking me up on that.

This nirvanic state lasted about a month until more people began returning to work on-site, including one week where the entire HR department were in and well, RVs aren't in-

conspicuous. They told my boss who told me I couldn't park there overnight. I thought about working around them, move the rig back after folks left for the night. But ultimately, I realized that the chapter was over, and I had to move on. Leaving the parking lot, illuminated how privileged and unique that experience was compared to living in the city parked on the street. With no access to power, my house battery dies quickly. If it weren't for access to my fiancée's family home, I'd be spending much of my time planning where and when to use the bathroom. I've encountered a sliver of anti-unhoused sentiment: being told my presence lowers property value, being harassed for missing the street-cleaning time by five minutes, but ultimately, I know that I've barely gotten a taste of what others experience. 5 people die on the streets of Los Angeles every day and the public's fear and hatred for someone living outdoors is a pillar upholding the racial capitalism that is poisoning our society and killing our planet.

RV and van-life mean much more than weekend trips to Yosemite and drinking coffee by the Grand Canyon. For many, it is survival. None of us are free until all of us are. What role will you play in our liberation?



Lavi, me, and Mr. Heater Buddy laid in the back of our rig.



Lavi in that Heater Buddy glow.

## HOMELESSNESS IN LA

By Josephine

Los Angeles: a city of dreams, glittering Hollywood lights, and seemingly boundless opportunities. Yet, beneath the surface lies a stark reality that plagues thousands of individuals: homelessness. Having experienced the depths of this crisis firsthand, I can attest to the struggles, resilience, and untold stories that define the lives of those without a home in the City of Angels.

My journey into homelessness was not one of choice, but rather a result of a series of unfortunate events that spiraled beyond my control. It started with losing my job due to corporate downsizing, followed by mounting financial pressures and unsuccessful attempts to secure stable housing. As my savings dwindled, the once unfathomable possibility of homelessness became an impending reality. Waking up on the streets of Los Angeles, I faced a daily battle against despair, uncertainty, and survival. Basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter became elusive dreams. The constant struggle for a warm meal and a safe place to sleep overshadowed any semblance of normalcy. In a city teeming with wealth and opulence, the stark contrast of destitution was a painful reminder of the gaping inequalities that persist.

Behind the statistics and headlines, there is an invisible community of individuals experiencing homelessness, each with their own unique story. I encountered people from diverse backgrounds, all united by the common thread



Photo Credits to Si Pues, Van Nuys, CA, July 29, 2022

of vulnerability. The elderly, veterans, families with young children, and those struggling with mental health issues, all trapped within a system that failed to adequately address their needs. Their voices, silenced by society's indifference, echoed in the alleyways and shelters, each one telling a story of resilience and determination.

Surviving on the streets required mastering the labyrinthine network of services and resources available to the homeless. Shelters, soup kitchens, and outreach programs be-

came vital lifelines in a city struggling to provide for its most vulnerable citizens. However, the limited capacity, long waiting lists, and stringent eligibility criteria created additional barriers to accessing support. The system, designed to help, often left us feeling dehumanized and trapped in a cycle of dependence.

Homelessness carries a heavy burden of societal stigma, isolating individuals from their families, friends, and the broader community. The sense of shame and

walks, filled with people who society forgot. The sights and smells were overwhelming—a patchwork of tattered blankets, discarded belongings, and the pungent scent of despair. But amidst the despair, there were glimmers of hope. I met Lisa, a woman who had managed to escape the cycle of homelessness with the help of a local outreach program. Her determination and resilience inspired me as she shared her journey of overcoming addiction and rebuilding her life from scratch. Lisa's story reminded me that there is strength and resilience within every person regardless of their situation. As I delved deeper into the issue, I discovered the systemic challenges that perpetuate homelessness in LA. High housing costs, a lack of affordable housing options, and a shortage of mental

worthlessness weighs heavily on one's spirit, compounding the challenges of regaining stability. Society's perception of homelessness as a personal failing rather than a systemic issue perpetuates this cycle of alienation, leaving individuals feeling invisible and devoid of hope.

In the face of adversity, I discovered the strength and resilience that exists within the homeless community. Mutual support and camaraderie became essential for survival. Strangers turned into allies, offering words of encouragement, sharing limited resources, and providing a sense of belonging that transcended our circumstances. Amidst the despair, small acts of kindness served as beacons of hope, reminding us of our shared humanity.

The homelessness crisis in Los Angeles is an urgent call to action. The city's leaders must acknowledge the systemic failures and work towards sustainable solutions. Investments in affordable housing, mental health services, job training, and substance abuse programs are crucial steps in breaking the cycle of homelessness. Collaborations between government agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations can foster comprehensive approaches to address the multifaceted nature of the crisis.

Having experienced homelessness in Los Angeles, I have gained firsthand insights into the challenges and complexities that define this crisis. The daily struggle for survival, the isolation, and the resilience of the homeless community have left an indelible mark.

health services were just a few of the barriers that trapped individuals in a cycle of homelessness. It became clear that addressing this issue required a multi-faceted approach that involved not just shelters and food banks but policy changes and community engagement. Homelessness is not an isolated problem but as a symptom of broader societal issues. My experiences forced me to question the values and priorities of our society, urging me to advocate for change and a more compassionate approach toward those who fall through the cracks. The true measure of a city's greatness lies not in its glittering skyline or thriving economy

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 >>**

## STORY OF THE UNHOUSED

By Cindy

As the sun began to set over the bustling streets of Los Angeles, I found myself navigating through a different world—one where the shadows whispered stories of struggle and despair. My journey into the heart of homelessness was a humbling experience that would forever change my perspective on the city I thought I knew. It all started when I volunteered at a local shelter, hoping to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Little did I know that my encounters would expose me to the harsh realities of homelessness that plagued the streets of LA.



Shayne speaking at the #InsideStarving Press Conference, Photo by Anthony Orendorff

## INSIDE SAFE

By Shayne Smith

I will never forget the evening that my friend MAC came to my makeshift bedroom in an abandoned building on Beverly Blvd. He said that he had been to an encampment on 6th and Fairfax (directly behind the LACMA museum and the location of the soon to be televised Oscars). Without notice, a new outreach group called Inside Safe was offering everyone a hotel room in exchange for their tents and personal belongings if they agreed to leave that day. He said that they were loaded on buses taken away to a hotel in Silverlake four miles away. I was astonished, excited, jealous, remorseful, and DEVASTATED.

It immediately brought back memories of the times I had called, walked, talked to workers and become angry and disillusioned as I countless times begged, pleaded, and eventually broke down hysterically asking for help while I was repeatedly told that they were overcrowded, lists were closed, or that I was not an appropriate fit. Then I remembered the many times I had been falsely arrested, physically and sexually assaulted with absolutely no help from police or hospitals although I filed reports. Thankfully, he told me that they had not finished emptying the encampment and that if I showed up the following morning at 8:00AM, I stood a chance of getting on the bus.

I packed my bag and the three of us arrived there at 5:00am. It worked! I was taken to hotel Silver lake where I was again (for the 11th time over a seven year period) enrolled in the program The People Concern (TPC). It was as if GOD reached down from the Heavens and picked me out of the thousands of other people and gave me a second chance at life.

We were given many promises: We would not have to worry about being bullied or threatened by the police to move again. Once we got to the hotel, we would not have to move again until we entered permanent housing. We would not have to abide by strict constitutional rules that treated so many of us like criminals in other programs. I was sharing a tent with my significant other and was promised my own room within a week of checking in. The Mayor's office also promised to have full wraparound services for all individuals in the program. This included an assigned social worker, drug counseling,

mental health services, physicians and prescriptions, food provision or vouchers, assistance in obtaining all documentation needed for citizenship, transportation to and from doctors/dental appts, and metro cards, free phones, clothing, cal fresh and general relief assistance, job training, possible enrollment to further our education, family reunification, and legal advice or representation, and womens services (domestic violence and rape counseling, child care and reunification, etc.) and finally, permanent housing for life. I was elated and very thankful.

It has been 3 months now since I arrived at the hotel. I can tell you being inside has made a tremendous difference in my mental state and my physical appearance. However, the wrap-around services have not been delivered. We were supposed to be taken by our social workers to DMV for an ID or license, DPSS for Cal fresh and general relief and to apply for Medi-cal and Denti-Cal, Social Security office to receive a copy of our SS cards and apply for SSI, and to apply for a copy of our birth certificates. I was not taken by my social worker to any of these. I called and tried numerous times to set up a time and date with her to no avail. She was either too busy with her 15 other clients or the van was not available. Finally, I decided to do it on my own.

I was promised 1 visit per month with a psychiatrist and mental health counselor and a family counselor. While I have seen a physician and a psychiatrist, I have yet to have a counselor set up for myself or my family. I still have not gotten any of my prescriptions. For the past month, I have been dealing with the Department of Social Services to sort out my health insurance.

After being here one month and after many phone calls and in-person requests; I was given permission to get my own room. The very next day, I was told our whole encampment was being moved to the Grand Hotel without reason. I asked the assistant director of TPC and was told that because the district councilman for district 15 was upset with the Mayor's office because they brought people from district 5 into his area. He had promised during his campaign to remove all homeless from Echo Park (apparently without all the council members' votes) He made a call to the mayor that same Friday morning and the decision was made to turn the Silverlake hotel over to PATH and his office and to move the homeless from the park into our rooms. The mayor already promised to keep

Had this wild dream last night. Carla and Paisley were fighting with the cops and the city about the way they were treating these broken pieces of glass that were spread all throughout the streets. The city was trying to bulldoze, step on, crush the glass and throw it into dump trucks. Carla and Paisley were insisting that these, what everyone thought were worthless, pieces of glass be treated with the utmost respect and that they carry them by hand so they tied their shirts together off their backs and scooped up piles and piles of this shattered glass and made hundreds of trips back to Paisley's RV and just poured them in the RV to the point that it was filled up to the brim and it was weighing down the RV so much that when they drove off the bumper was scraping on the ground and sparking all the way down the street I asked Paisley where he was going he said to the recycling plant but when he came back, his RV was full of diamonds he opened up the win-

dows and doors and diamonds just poured out of all the windows and doors. Then my dream flashed to Paisley on top of his RV. He had put a little miniature golf thing up there with lawn chairs and Carla was on the side in an inflatable Jacuzzi with a bunch of unhoused people and there was a water hose coming from the courthouse filling up the Jacuzzi. So I guess they were taking the water from the city (as they should). My medication makes me have gnarly dreams. But I think that the broken shattered glass represented the unhoused community and I think they ended up as diamonds because Carla and Paisley were able to see their beauty and shined, polished, loved on, and cared for them. I think it was a story about finding diamonds in the rough. Really interesting how even with all the diamonds there was no mansion, no Bentleys. Paisley was still in an RV. Carla was in an inflatable Jacuzzi as if money is not the issue as if love and community is all you really need.

### << STORY OF THE UNHOUSED CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

but in its ability to care for its most vulnerable citizens. For all its glamor and wealth, Los Angeles has a responsibility to address the homeless crisis that pervades its streets. My journey into the world of homelessness in Los Angeles taught me the power of empathy and the importance of human connection. It taught me that every person has a story worth sharing and that by listening and understanding, we can take small steps toward creating a more compassionate society.

As I reflect on my own experience, I am reminded of the words of Marcus, who once told me, "homelessness is not just a lack of shelter; it is a lack of hope." And so, armed with newfound knowledge and a burning desire for change, I continue to advocate for a world where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can find hope and a place to call home.

ing worker came to meet me and said she would come weekly with housing options for me to look at with her, but she has only come twice. That was a month and a half ago.

Needless to say, this is certainly not a program that is organized professionally. They have been incredibly disrespectful and rude and don't seem to have a set way of doing anything nor a unified system to get people documentation. They are having meetings for housing and various events at the Grand Hotel, but they have not had housing events, job fairs, or mental health counseling. We are not updated on our housing status nor given a time frame of when to expect it.

I am quite disappointed and yet I feel ungrateful for complaining. I don't know where the homeless monies have gone, but it certainly has not gone to making sure we receive adequate wraparound services.

lessness, I discovered a remarkable sense of community support and camaraderie with those experiencing similar struggles. In makeshift camps and shelters, I encountered individuals with diverse backgrounds and stories, all united by a shared determination to survive. Through their collective strength, I found a lifeline of compassion, solidarity, and resilience that transcended the harsh realities of our circumstances. We became each other's pillars of support, offering encouragement, sharing resources, and reminding one another of our inherent worth.

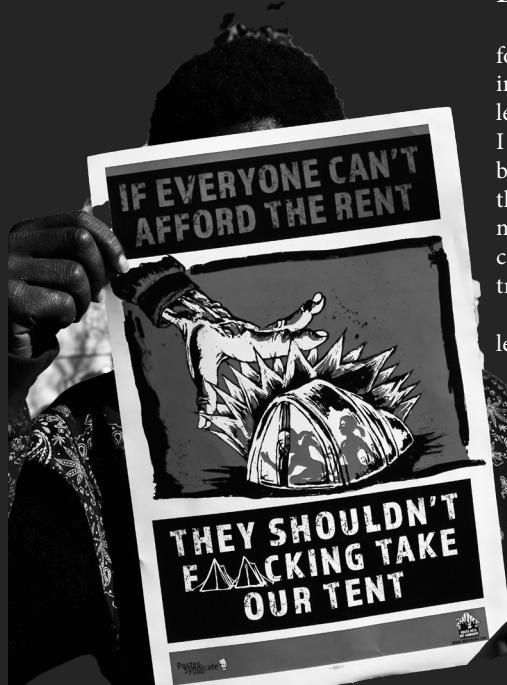
Homelessness did not quell my dreams; it fueled them. In the midst of adversity, I clung fiercely to my aspirations, refusing to let the circumstances define my future. I sought out educational opportunities, attended workshops, and honed my skills whenever possible. Through the support of local organizations and mentors, I gained access to resources that empowered me to pursue my passions. Even in the face of uncertainty, I believed in the transformative power of education and self-improvement as vehicles for change.

With unwavering determination, I gradually rebuilt my life, step by arduous step. The support I received from organizations dedicated to assisting the homeless population was instrumental in securing stable housing and employment

opportunities and accessing essential services. As I transitioned from the streets into a home of my own, a profound sense of gratitude washed over me. I understood firsthand the significance of having a place to call home and the immense impact it has on one's well-being.

My personal journey through homelessness in Los Angeles taught me invaluable lessons about the intricate web of circumstances that can lead to such vulnerability. It revealed the urgent need for systemic changes to address the root causes of homelessness and provide sustainable solutions. Each person experiencing homelessness has a unique story deserving of empathy and support. It is incumbent upon our society to foster compassion, advocate for affordable housing, increase access to mental health services, and create meaningful employment opportunities.

My journey through homelessness in Los Angeles was not without its struggles, yet it also revealed to me the strength of the human spirit and the transformative power of community. It is my hope that by sharing my story, we can challenge societal perceptions, inspire empathy, and ignite meaningful action. Together, we can build a future where every individual has the opportunity to find stability, reclaim their dignity, and rediscover the meaning of home.



## A STORY ON HOMELESSNESS

By Tiffany

In the bustling streets of Los Angeles, I found myself thrust into a world I never imagined I would inhabit — the world of homelessness. Through the twists and turns of fate, I experienced firsthand the challenges, heartbreak, and triumphs that accompany life on the streets. This personal narrative chronicles my journey, revealing the inner resilience that can emerge in the face of adversity, and the transformative power of hope and community.

When circumstances beyond my control led me down a path of homelessness, I was forced to confront my own vulnerability and the fragility of the life I once knew. Stripped of possessions and the comfort of a stable home, I wandered the unforgiving streets of Los Angeles, searching for solace and a way to regain my footing. It was during this time of uncertainty that I embarked on a journey of self-discovery, learning to redefine my identity beyond societal labels and material possessions. As I navigated the challenges of home-

Photo by Ashley Balderrama



## OVERSIZE VEHICLE ORDINANCES NEED TO GO

By Bitta Sharma

For unhoused folks across Los Angeles, parking restrictions are just another weapon in the city's arsenal for criminalizing and displacing poor people. In the public imagination, parking restrictions fall squarely within the realm of traffic and transportation. The vast majority of Angelenos drive around the city and get parking tickets, so we don't think of these rules in the context of deep social issues like poverty and homelessness. As a result, our labyrinth of parking bans escapes the level of scrutiny applied to laws like LAMC 41.18, which clearly target unhoused people.

And yet, many L.A. parking restrictions are written and enforced with the goal of banishing unhoused people from public spaces. They are wolves in sheep's clothing, and that's what makes them so insidious. A prime example is LAMC 80.69.4, which went into effect in 2006. The ordinance prohibits parking "oversize" vehicles on designated street segments between 2:00am and 6:00am. Of course, banning RVs in the middle of the night does little to reduce traffic hazards; it simply makes life harder for people living in their vehicles.

Like LAMC 41.18, the oversize vehicle ordinance allows City Councilmembers to construct a patchwork of banned street segments throughout Los Angeles, one motion at a time. Once a City Councilmember introduces an 80.69.4 motion, it sails through committee and full Council with zero oversight. After all, we live in a city where each Councilmember is granted absolute deference on matters arising within their district, especially when it comes

to disappearing poor people. Interestingly, these motions previously passed through the Housing and Homelessness Committee but were recently re-routed through Transportation, making it even easier for elected officials to hold their nose and rubber-stamp each new ban. Once City Council approves a new ban, the LA Department of Transportation is instructed to put up signage. Incredibly, LADOT is not required to track their work, and they have no map or record of where oversize vehicle bans exist. None of this is inevitable. Parking restrictions that allow city officials to discriminate against poor people have been successfully challenged in the past. For example, in 2014 the 9th Circuit struck down LAMC 85.02 as unconstitutional.

It's particularly vague, in part because it promoted arbitrary enforcement targeting unhoused people. LAMC 80.69.4 is just the latest iteration of anti-poor laws posing as parking restrictions, and it's high time we gave this ordinance the attention it deserves. First, we need to do LADOT's work for them, by building a database and map of banned street segments. Next, we need to make it painful for the Transportation Committee to rubber stamp these motions. This narrative was dominant and generally accepted. Project Roomkey was promoted as an effective program that was beneficial to Angelenos. The media hailed the project and its architects as a great success. However those of us in the program are the ones who had to face its harsh truth. Residents of these hotels experienced conditions that were unsafe and, in many cases, worse than the conditions experienced on the street. Ultimately, Los Angeles was not interested in

providing humane housing for the people who needed it. In fact, more people died in the confines of Project Roomkey sites than died on the streets for the duration of the program. Insiders saw PRK providers, like the Salvation Army, clearly prioritizing maintaining image over life.

We are unhoused because unjust processes removed us from our housing. Renters and tenants, who may not own property but occupy it through laws rooted in colonialism, have rights, and should know and enforce them. We are against carceral structures and ideas. Much of our environment is leveraged and weaponized to maintain a status quo. Unhoused Tenants Against Carceral Housing (UTACH), discovered that when we speak, in a large group, in unison, our demands can create a real change in the world.

We fight against conditions that are



Police violence disrupting community.



must 'participate' appropriately or be 'excluded' from the program and sent back to the street with potentially nothing) into permanent housing under a government subsidized voucher. The hope was that PRK would protect some of the most vulnerable on the street and prevent the spread of COVID-19 by providing sanitary shelter, free vaccines, and regular free testing.

This narrative was dominant and generally accepted. Project Roomkey was promoted as an effective program that was beneficial to Angelenos. The media hailed the project and its architects as a great success. However those of us in the program are the ones who had to face its harsh truth. Residents of these hotels experienced conditions that were unsafe and, in many cases, worse than the conditions experienced on the street. Ultimately, Los Angeles was not interested in

## HILLSIDE VILLA: THE FIGHT TO KEEP PEOPLE HOUSED IN LA

Below is an open letter to Angelenos from a tenants association fighting to stay housed in Chinatown. Over the past five years, they have organized and won huge victories in housing justice history, and yet have not secured affordable housing for themselves. Evictions have now begun, but the fight is not over. Reprinted with permission from Hillside Villa Tenants Association.



April 15, 2023

Dear Neighbors:

We are the Hillside Villa Tenants Association from Chinatown, and we're here today because we are desperate for Mayor Bass's support.

Many of us are single moms, many are elders fixed on incomes, and all of us are in danger of losing our homes now that the eviction moratorium has expired. We began organizing together in 2018, when our landlord Tom Botz announced massive rent increases of up to 300% after the affordability covenant on our building expired. Five years later, we are still facing the same rent increase.

By organizing and making our voices heard, we got the City Council to vote unanimously to begin the process of acquiring our building to keep it permanently affordable. That was in May, 2022. Since then, no progress has been made toward buying the building. The City, including the Housing Department and City Attorney, have been dragging their feet. Mayor Bass is the only one who has the power to change this.

Meanwhile, our slumlord Botz has been

gun trying to evict tenants, including a disabled veteran and a family that lost their mother to Covid on Christmas and received an additional rent increase the next month.

The Mayor has declared a State of Emergency around homelessness and has said "We are going to be just as bold when it comes to preserving housing as we are about building housing," but we haven't seen any urgency on her part about keeping 124 families at Hillside Villa "inside safe" in our homes. There are thousands of units in buildings like ours with expiring covenants in the city. If landlords see that they can get away with throwing people onto the street by jacking up rents, many of them will.

That's why our Tenants Association has the support of 50 housing advocates, nonprofits and elected officials. For more information, please visit hillsidevillata.org. We hope you'll join us in demanding that the Mayor lock arms with us and do what she needs to do to save our homes. If you have any questions or concerns, come talk to us!

**Thank you for your understanding.**

Hillside Villa Tenants Association



## RECLAIMING A HOME

By Martha A. Escudero

As California shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic shelter at home order, many people began to panic as so many Californians were unhoused or housing insecure. I, with my 2 daughters, reclaimed a two bedroom home in El Sereno as part of Reclaiming Our Homes, a movement of unhoused and housing insecure families and individuals taking vacant, publicly-owned housing back for our community. We, the Reclaimers, are calling on the city and state to immediately use all vacant proper-

ties to house people. We need all levels of government to make a massive investment in public and social housing so that everyone has a home during the housing and public health crisis. With the help of a coalition of six organizations working to secure affordable housing, members of Reclaiming Our Homes were able to move into 12 homes that are owned by CalTrans, the California Department of Transportation, and had been sitting vacant. Having our own space kept us safe throughout the height of the pandemic. Like many people, we were afraid to be out

in the streets during the pandemic, and in order to avoid this, we signed a 2 year contract under duress with a city program called PATH. They promised to provide us with permanent housing options. I was offered some options but none of them met my needs. The housing options offered to me were either outside my income range, subject to lotteries, or outside my preferred geographic area. These programs are built with cookie cutter bureaucracy that I believe to be inhumane. As a single mother of 2, it is essential I stay in my community because it is here where

my daughters and I have stability and support.

Now myself and members of Reclaiming Our Homes are facing eviction from our homes.

Our contract is over and the state would rather

hoard vacant homes than create a way to be able

to transition in place and stay in our community. I feel this system is that currently run for profit over people is immoral and wrong and it is our duty to abolish it. We are in a great time in history where we may be able to create significant change in our systems and be able to create a society that is sustainable for all living beings.

## SOLIDARITY



Theo Henderson at InsideStarving Press Conference. Photo by Anthony Orendorff



La Donna Harrell speaking at a rally. Photo by Anthony Orendorff

## THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY

By Theo Henderson

Fannie Lou Hamer said, "If this is a

great society, I'd hate to see a bad one." Look no further to cruel indifference in the murder of Jordan Neely. Look closer in Los Angeles with 41.18, bicycle ban, RV ban, responses to the Unhoused community erasure, and carceral treatment. So again, who is on the side of the voiceless, when they have only a minute to smile and an hour to weep in? Is this a dignified life for the Unhoused community? The moans of grief double while their belongings are thrown in the trash. Are their hopes deferred or do they explode in a vocal torrent of desperation? It seems that they are met with a nine minute chokehold restraint. The stairs that the Unhoused must climb through this mad life are not crystal. Worse, there is no light to get you out of the darkness. Yet, they climb in eager desperation for permanent supportive housing that the city promised.

## A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY, EXCERPTS

By Spike / Pathos

To be a revolutionary is to be in unity with possibility, and if I am burnt out of possibility, creativity, and community, I suppose I am no longer a revolutionary. Maybe I never was... and I cannot labor. One would think that labor is what makes capitalism, specifically that prioritizing your labor above yourself is what makes capitalism, but it makes communism as well (at least, the misunderstood version of communism that is frequented today). I would never propose that there be one group of people set to work for another, but in a world where one must work for themselves, what happens to those that cannot? What happens to those who cannot grow their own food, who cannot build their own homes? Must they become horses, and be put down? I am crippled, broken, but I do not want to be your broken horse. I am not happy in my uselessness. I want more than anything to actually interact with my community, to be able to provide for my community, but...

I want (need?) to live in a place where people give back when I give, not because I think I am owed that, but because that is just how ecosystems work. I heal, you heal. I grow, you grow. I die, you feast on my corpse, and then when you die, the grasses that grow using your nutrients will feed my descendants. Individualism is a curse. And whiteness teaches you to eat that shit for breakfast. Whether whiteness has

## ENVISIONING A NETWORK OF SOLIDARITY TO DISRUPT LOGICS OF CARCERALITY

On the Books: Funds for the People

Residents of the Aetna Street encampment in Van Nuys, in collaboration with UCLA Community Collaborative members, sketched out a proposal for residents to support one another with funds, if incarcerated, called On the Books. On the Books is conceived of as a collective infrastructure to deposit funds on an incarcerated unhoused individual's inmate account, or books. The funding for On the Books would be structured as a "buy in," however, given time, the vision is of an infrastructure which would be open to everyone and sustained by a larger community.

Individuals who contribute would be able to get money deposited on their account by calling a dedicated phone number or mailing a letter to a dedicated address. The message sent to the phone number or address would need to include the individual's booking information. On the Books project designers are still

emboldened you, assimilated you, or vilified you, or some combination of all three, we are all disconnected from each other. And that disconnect worsens the wounds of assimilation and especially vilification, or perhaps it is the root of both; we who have chosen ourselves to be so emboldened do not even see each other as human, to say nothing of those we have the systemic power to weaken, poison, or destroy. I guess I have a somewhat unique perspective because my disconnection takes on a form found in psychology textbooks – an undiagnosed dissociative disorder. I am not comparing individualism or whiteness to mental illness, at least, not in the way you might expect; rather, whiteness is more dangerous than any mental illness. I already know that I have trouble comprehending others, socializing with others, understanding reality and that other ppl and non-human beings outside of my own individual body are real, understanding that I am real. Do you know what happens if you tell an average vote-blue-no-matter-who, love-and-light-and-cultural-appropriation, homelessness-is-such-a-tragedy-but-I-don't-want-those-people-in-front-of-me white woman that she struggles with the same? (Actually, if you're reading this, chances are you do know what happens.)

## TO DISRUPT LOGICS OF CARCERALITY

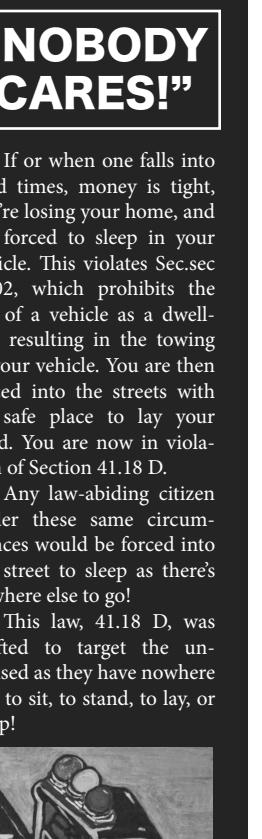
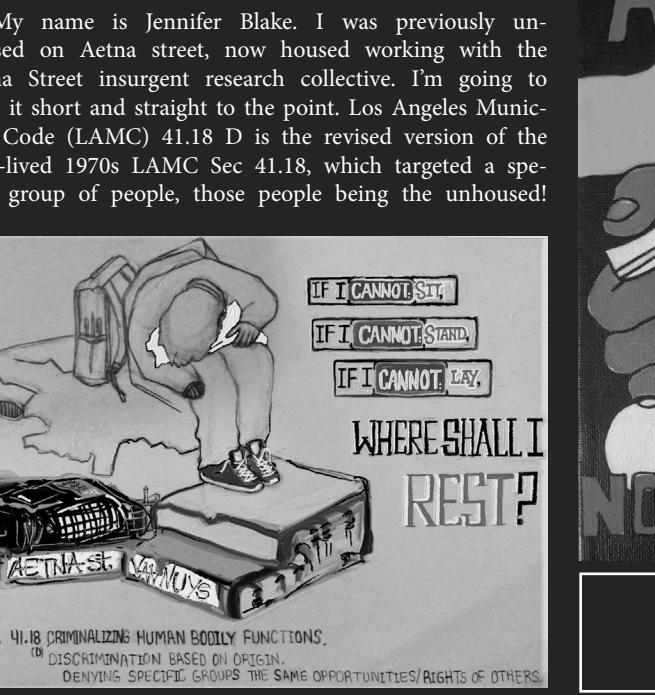
trying to determine the best way to ensure that the people who need it have easy access to the dedicated phone number and address. One idea is a sticker that could be covertly placed within jails.

Local organizers would be responsible for maintaining the fund by keeping a ledger and administering the release of funds by going to jail and putting money on a community member's inmate account, or books. The program would be piloted at a single community but has the potential to expand across the City.

Our community has everything we need to keep ourselves safe. With on-going state violence, particularly in the form of sweeps, the perpetuation of dispossession and the criminalization of poverty, we must rely on each other to meet our basic needs and for community in the face of oppression.

## A SPEECH FOR THE SPECIAL RAPPOEUR

A Speech for the Soledad Garcia Muñoz,  
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural,  
and Environmental Right  
Written, Delivered, and Artwork by Jennifer Blake



## SWEEPS = ENTRAPMENT

What is considered entrapment in California?

Under California law, entrapment refers to a situation where you were so exhausted you didn't think you could take another step. When you finally arrived home you barely made it into bed. When you awoke you were sprawled across the bed still in your work clothes. I'm sure you were thinking 'wow that was a crazy day! Glad that's over!' Well lucky you, right?

The unhoused don't get those same opportunities!!! When an unhoused person passes out from sleep deprivation they may be awoken by law enforcement, cuffs slammed onto their wrists, followed by a trip to the City jail for simply allowing their body to function! There's no 'wow, glad that's over with!!' Rather, a consistent fear of falling asleep! Most address these fears with drugs and the thought that nobody cares!

41.18 D denies the unhoused the right to function in a safe and healthy manner! For a second I want you to imagine a time where you were so exhausted you didn't think you could take another step. When you finally arrived home you barely made it into bed. When you awoke you were sprawled across the bed still in your work clothes. I'm sure you were thinking 'wow that was a crazy day! Glad that's over!' Well lucky you, right?

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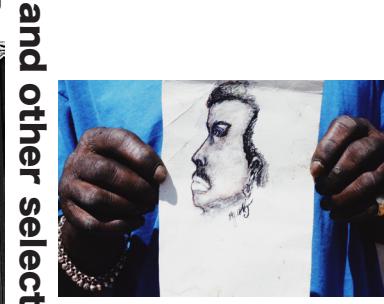
unhoused person passes out from sleep deprivation they may be awoken by law enforcement, cuffs slammed onto their wrists, followed by a trip to the City jail for simply allowing their body to function! There's no 'wow, glad that's over with!!' Rather, a consistent fear of falling asleep! Most address these fears with drugs and the thought that nobody cares!

# A TABERNACLE FOR A SHADOW

A series by Cecelia Echo



## CENTER IN HOLLYWOOD ARTWORK



MORE ARTWORK FEATURED IN THE ONLINE NEWSPAPER



CHECK OUT THE ART IN COLOR

## TEAR SHEET

To Whom It May Concern:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

- I need translation services. Necesito servicios de traducción. 我需要翻译服务. Kailangan ko ng mga serbisyo sa pag-sasalin. Tôi cần dịch vụ dịch thuật. 번역서비스가 필요합니다. Ինձ թարգմանական ծառայություններ են պետք. خدمات ترجمة نیاز دارم. 需要翻譯服務。翻譯サービスが必要です. МНЕ НУЖНЫ услуги переводчика
- I demand the right to remain in place.
- I need shelter.
- I authorize my advocate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

to discuss my case with you on my behalf.<sup>1</sup>

This letter outlines the conditions under which I am agreeing to engage with caseworkers and other state actors. If these conditions are not met, I demand the right to remain in place and will consider this program to be compulsory, not voluntary.

My primary emergency contact(s) is/are and can be reached at: \_\_\_\_\_

### Shelter & Basic Needs

- I need my offer of shelter and services to be made in writing. The offer should include the location of my shelter, duration of my stay, rules of the shelter, specific services provided, and date when permanent housing will be offered. The best way for me to receive this offer is:
  - Hand Delivered: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Text Message: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Email: \_\_\_\_\_
- I need food provided for me at my shelter. I have the following dietary needs:
  - The offered shelter must be within \_\_\_\_\_ miles of \_\_\_\_\_
  - I need to be sheltered alone in a private room.
  - I need to share a room with the following person(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- I cannot be placed in the same shelter as the following person(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- I need accommodations for my pet(s) at the shelter. My pet(s) include: \_\_\_\_\_
- I need the following accessibility accommodations (e.g., wheelchair compliance): \_\_\_\_\_
- I need to park my vehicle at the shelter site.
- I need to be allowed to bring the possessions with me I choose and not be limited to two bags.
- I need storage for my belongings while I am being sheltered and the ability to easily access them.
- I need to keep my tent or a replacement tent in case I am evicted from shelter and end up back on the street.
- I need the ability to have friends and family visit.
- I demand the right to be free of search and seizure and to have freedom of movement (no curfew).
- I require a clean and sanitary room. I need help with keeping my room clean.
- I require a clean and sanitary room. I need my space respected and do not want cleaning service to visit my room.

### Services

- I need a caseworker to help me find permanent housing and sign me up for benefits including, but not limited to, the following (GR, SNAP, SSI, SSDI, drivers license or ID, LIFE metro pass, phone, and ect.):
  - The caseworker should ensure all needs are met and should remain in contact with me.
- I need the following transportation services (e.g., need to go to work place or site for treatment a certain number of times a week):
  - I need the following medicine, medical services, dental care, or mental health services: \_\_\_\_\_
  - I need the following educational services (e.g., community college): \_\_\_\_\_
  - I need the following harm reduction supplies (e.g., clean needles, glassware, Narcan): \_\_\_\_\_
  - I need the following support with my substance use (e.g., suboxone, treatment): \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> State actors use the following form which can be completed to authorize an advocate as a precaution:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10\\_ZYkPqCMLmhfbSxx2PirIDtY1gZjk4u/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10_ZYkPqCMLmhfbSxx2PirIDtY1gZjk4u/view?usp=share_link)

I have the following additional needs and requests:

# ARTS + CULTURE POEMS

## SELMA

By Lori Millard

Sometimes we march.  
Sometimes we stand  
and deliver our demands  
for justice, for fairness,  
for compassion.  
That these things need  
be demanded at all is  
a kind of tragedy.  
But on the stage of society,  
tragedy is all too often  
acted out and acted upon.  
Still we press on.  
We do not give in  
To that dark spirit  
of despair that might  
bid us to just give up  
accept our fate.  
We each have our own  
fate in our grasp  
and can shape it  
into an arc that bends  
toward a just world-  
maybe not paradise,  
utopia but a place  
we can all share our hearts

## EARTH DEBT

By Lupita Limón Corrales

"The spider's web is a home  
and a trap" - Tommy Orange

My home is my home and my cashier's check. Each hour I spend working  
to pay for the roof over my head  
(which leaks, by the way, every time it rains) is an hour I don't teach my children to swim, watch the agave plant grow its death spear,  
or allow myself to feel outrage for this stillborn world.  
Every hour I spend indoors is an hour I don't spend outside with the breeze and the butterflies, I mean burnt and dehydrated as the sun boils concrete.  
If I work hard, maybe I deserve it. God forbid  
I miss the paycheck or fall ill in the death trap we've made of mother earth. If it's illegal to exist in public then it's either jail or haunt  
the vacant houses. If they take my home why won't you share the street and sky.  
There are no human rights but there are human obligations. You pay your landlord's debt when your neighbor is yours to keep.

## UNTITLED II

By Kalic Chambers

**Where Does a star shine  
When there is no universe  
Big enough to contain its  
light...?**

## UNTITLED I

By Kalic Chambers

unremitting recollection. of distant past... will the soul escape earthly restraints or is it bound by unending destitute... we are vessels of God's imagination... If the almighty dreamt it would be US... The by product & end result of God's fancy & fantasy.... And if God is perfect why are his dreams. So flawed... At the intersection Of Now & eternity Un Sure of which Steps to take... No Such thing as heaven or hell just the past or Present Cant lay no future Bets on Hearsay... As years parley into a lifetime The odds of eternal love look to be the longest Shot on the board... But sometimes underdogs win too... I only know those who have walked & I pray those who will walk after I cease to exist... Suffers Know Know Time Suffers no defeats... one day my soul & body will party ways and my memories will give chase... And if God is perfect why are his dreams so flawed? ask the person next to you...

Etched across my existence.  
pain too immense  
Slowly the sorrow becomes  
euphoric...  
Love is just Rhetoric spewed  
from representatives.  
So callous & measured.  
with their disdain...  
my Soul knows - no Harmony...  
just disjointed Staccato notes  
of frenzied anxiety

I am The Giver  
Stripped of all worth...  
left pious...  
I never meant to pontificate  
or become the pawn...  
an unending cycle of distraught...  
If I ever loved anyone.

it was her  
the image Zodiac Sagittarius  
blissful in the wind....

Never able to grasp her thoughts  
Or Capture her imagination....  
Destined for destitute ...

Nomadic Soul  
Stripped barren

of confidence & life...

I've become my own worst  
enemy...

Defeated by circumstances.  
beyond my reach...

One day my memory  
will be beyond reproach.

And I will know no more pain...  
just eternal Silence.

and within the vast  
expanse of nothingness.

maybe peace resides  
because I've only

Known it in  
 fleeting glimpses

of feminine divine

but my love has fallen.

short of the design.

to map out happiness...

So maybe the overwhelming  
Sound of Silence

will justify my existence.

if I ever existed at all...

**Simply it creates  
a new one...**

- KALIC CHAMBERS

## BEYOND BROKE

By Iván Salinas

## I RENT-A-FENCE

After, I junk my car and use the change to buy me some more pens.  
I rent-a-fence for a dollar and build myself my first home ever, made entirely out of barbed wire.  
I find fence sobre cualquier frontera and cut a circle pa los que vienen en camino.  
ICE builds an illegal fence to cage children and leave them on display for white homeowners to ask: "where will my children play?"  
Mutual aid brothers rent-a-fence on Sundays and give out home-cooked meals outside of the Mission church doing the work the lord refuses.  
According to the LA Times, the chain-link air quality is the reason why unhoused people like to live in public parks.  
Orange County believes tent encampments caused the oil spill to the Pacific. Santa Monica agrees.

In Los Angeles, a fenced park is a site of extermination for a new luxury apartment complex.

Real-estate has convinced City Council that single family housing is the only cure for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Urban planners are taught how to recreate bulldozing neighborhoods to make way for freeway lanes using 3-D printing.

LA City workers are just trying to get paid cause they know that eviction equals death.

Clean cut authorities have made it clear: The Golden State does not protect its wildlife.

In Venice Beach, Banditos Sheriffs put up a fence along the sand so they can walk with M-16s at night terrorizing tents.

And the people living there ask for a permanent place but the Banditos only reason with their bullets.

Refusing to live in a temporary tiny shelter is a decision subject to arrest.

Your decision to starve under the shade of this palm tree is subject to arrest.

Your survival as an elder veteran in a wheelchair is specially subject to arrest.

The mossy ghosts of Manazar Gamboa and Jim Morrison rise from the Pacific to remind the sheriffs to go fuck themselves.

Wanda Coleman would write ACAB on the gray faded walls of the Venice boardwalk cause LAPD will forever be a drag.

Mike Bonin approved a monument for poets next to illiterate surfers next to showerheads with "revolutionary" intentions.

In the name of Fred Dewey, can someone explain to white men full of themselves what the white savior complex is?

A police station demolished to make way for a library is more of a revolutionary act.

I find that the only people reading in Venice tend to live inside a motor-home.

I find that the sweeps in Van Nuys are inhumane at any time and temperature of the day.

I find that my landlord's eviction notice on our door is always a month away.

I find that my mom's nanny job won't get her a mansion in Encino.

Can someone explain in Calo what gentrification is to the Mayor's Office? Carnal, if it were up to Garcetti, he'd hire our gente to put up a pinche chain-link border along the LA River and keep Chicanxs out of the west side.

Activists urge neighborhood council NIMBYS to wipe their ass with their meeting agendas.

Unhoused married couples across the city want me to remind the pigs to go fuck themselves-

Hop on the mic to scream google LASD gangs during public comment before yielding my time.

Rent-a-fence and turn it into your apartment on any sidewalk in violation of 41.18.

When they sweep you after 6:30 am-and the temperature is just right and it is no longer inhumane- record Sanitation throw your life away.

Record the bootlickers telling you to stay behind their barricade.

((It is the first thing they'll try to erase))

Rent-a-fence and bury a giant hole for your neighborhood's mass grave.

Everybody better cash in all those stimmy checks!!

Let the LADWP bills be sent to collections.

Sooner or later we will all breathe in the methane leaks.

Sooner or later we'll all drink the lead and drop down dead.

Might as well pile up the community's remains all in one place.

## Alan Glover Artist's Statement

My artwork looks into the lives of various people in the Downtown Los Angeles Area. It takes a part of the everyday life and lets the viewer know that something else is worth looking at underneath what we casually glance at. Sometimes it may be joy, heartbreak, or just making it to work on time, but attempts to establish a connection with what that person may be going through underneath the paint.

I use bright and colors in the background and up close to break down the planes of the face then use a masking technique to bring the background colors (often the mood color) back into the foreground. It gives the images a dream quality and connects them to the viewer. I also use stencils of letters and numbers to show our quest to communicate with one another. The letters and numbers are always random but you can still get a sense that something is being said, just as we constantly do on social media- this is just a sublime inference of it.

The people in the images are from various ethnicities and ages just as you would find in Downtown Los Angeles Area. I hope that the viewer will take a way that we are all connected even walking to the store along Broadway. I can share in your life just as you can glance in and share a part of mine.

### Programmatic Vision Statement

Because art can speak to the heart of people, my vision is to connect the viewer to the experience of living in the Downtown Los Angeles area. My goal is to encourage and to inspire the onlooker to appreciate the life of our fellows, and to inspire a mutual appreciation. My vision for the Art Boxes along Broadway from 1st to 12th Streets is to develop a series of images of people in various aspects of downtown life. I plan to paint the initial images in acrylic at 22x28 inches, then take that images and use some photos of the downtown area in that specific color and juxtapose the background with the painting. I would also like to attach a scanable code that would upload onto a mobile phone to access different audio files. Some of the files could be of the History of that particular Downtown Los Angeles area. Other files could be of music, or of a brief narrative from some living, or owning a business on that street.



## Health Tips from Your Friends & the All Power Free Clinic: DIY WOUND CARE

We all find ourselves nursing wounds one day or another. Because of our racist, capitalist, fractured healthcare system, though, we are **not** all able to get the care we need when we need it, nor with the respect + dignity we deserve. Here's some basic information on **wound care** that we hope will help all of us keep each other safer and healthier! ❤️

### The Basics

Most wounds can be treated with the same simple algorithm: **clean, irrigate, and dress**.

- ★ **Before** taking care of your wound, it is important to make sure that your hands are clean. Wash with soap and water if possible, or use hand sanitizer. Now you're ready to clean the wound!
- ★ **Clean** the area by removing any debris (dirt, dead skin, small objects) in the wound — this can be done with sterile saline or water.
- ★ **Irrigate** by pouring the saline or water on the wound and then taking a clean gauze pad to try to gently clean it up as much as possible.
- ★ **Dress** the wound with a Bandaid, or gauze and tape — depending on the size and location. Generally, smaller and more surface level wounds should be fine with just a Bandaid, larger areas may work better with gauze and tape.

It may also help to apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin, Bacitracin) **prior** to dressing the wound to help kill any germs that are present. This reduces the risk of infection!

### Keeping It Up

**Change** dressings every other day to allow for healing, or when they get dirty or damp. Be on the lookout for infection when you change the dressing.

### Infection & Complications

Signs of infection include **pain, swelling, redness, and pus**. You may also feel like you have a fever. If you feel like you have a **fever**, or any redness and swelling seem to be **spreading**, these are signs that you likely need medical treatment and possibly antibiotics. Wound infections can be life-threatening if they spread to our blood, joints, or bones!

Have wound care or other health hacks + tips you want to share with your neighbors? **Hit us up @APFreeClinic!**



## RECLAIMING OUR HOMES

Did you know Caltrans has empty homes?

Yes, CALTRANS has over 100+ empty homes while LA has a housing crisis with over 66,000 K folks sleeping in the streets. No one should be homeless while vacant homes owned by CALTRANS are sitting empty.

Did you know public-owned land and housing can be made available for folks who need housing

Using the Community Land Trust (CLT) model as a tool publicly-owned land and housing can be placed into community control. We know CALTRANS has hoarded vacant homes for over 50 YEARS. A CLT would make the homes accessible and affordable to the poor working class folks whom have been homeless.

El Sereno Reclaimers

In March of 2020 Governor Newsome placed the order to remain shelter in place at the start of the covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic exacerbated the conditions of the homeless reclaimers and decided to REclaim and REmain in our El Sereno community bringing to light CALTRANS hoarding of the 100+ empty homes.

HELP US STOP EVICTIONS  
KEEP RECLAIMERS HOUSED

Currently the REclaimers have been served with evictions placing them at risk of becoming homeless. We believe housing is a human right but CALTRANS continues to hoard on the vacant homes while the housing crisis is exacerbated with 4K evictions being issued a day since March 31, 2023.

FOLLOW US:

RECLAIMINGHOMES

WEBSITE: RECLAIMINGOURHOMES.ORG



## RECUPERANDO NUESTRAS CASAS

¿Sabías que Caltrans tiene casas vacías?

sí, CALTRANS tiene más de 100 casas vacías mientras que LA tiene una crisis de vivienda con más de 66,000 K personas durmiendo en las calles. Nadie debería quedarse sin hogar mientras las casas vacantes propiedad de CALTRANS estén vacías.

¿Sabía que los terrenos y viviendas de propiedad pública pueden estar disponibles para las personas que necesitan vivienda?

Usando el modelo de Fideicomiso de Tierras Comunitarias (CLT, por sus siglas en inglés) como herramienta, las tierras y viviendas de propiedad pública pueden colocarse bajo el control de la comunidad. Sabemos que CALTRANS ha acumulado casas vacantes durante más de 50 AÑOS. Un CLT haría que las casas fueran accesibles y asequibles para las personas pobres de la clase trabajadora que se han quedado sin hogar.

Reclamadores El Sereno

En marzo de 2020, el gobernador Newsome ordenó permanecer en el refugio al comienzo de la pandemia de covid-19. La pandemia exacerbó las condiciones de los reclamantes Y de personas sin hogar y decidieron REclamar y permanecer en nuestra comunidad de El Sereno sacando a la luz el acaparamiento de CALTRANS de las más de 100 casas vacías.

APOYENOS A DETENER LOS DESALOJOS  
MANTENGA LOS RECLAMADORES ALOJADOS

Actualmente, los REclamadores han recibido la carta de desalojo que los ponen en riesgo de quedarse sin hogar. Creemos que la vivienda es un derecho humano, pero CALTRANS continúa acumulando viviendas desocupadas mientras que la crisis de la vivienda se exacerba con 4K de desalojos emitidas por día desde el 31 de marzo de 2023.

SÍGANOS:

RECLAIMINGHOMES

SITIO WEB: RECLAIMINGOURHOMES.ORG



## FINALLY, AN ID!

By Dwight Singleton

What is the value in having an identification card (ID)? Having lived in the state of California for over 20 years and never possessing a California ID, the importance of having one never bore its mark on me, but circumstances have made me acknowledge that there is value in having one. Because I never truly realized the value of having an ID, I did not try to get one nor did I really want one. Dealing with the basic things in life, like getting human service benefits from the department of social services, being able to travel, and going into

business establishments, made me see the necessity of having a physical California ID. Of course, there is the matter of being identified by the police in case of being stopped by one for whatever reason(s). Then, there is the need to be known in case you have to go to hospital for an emergency and a whole host of other things where an identified card is required. Finally, having a real California ID has hit home for me; the reality of seeing how people have responded to me in positive ways tells me that it does matter to have an ID, if for no other reason than being able to be identified.

## TANYA'S TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME HOMELESSNESS

By Tanya

1. A tent with a working door is exactly like a house or apartment.
2. No one can enter your tent home without permission from the owner.
3. You can and should protect your tent home and belongings from others.
4. Keep your trash in one place away from where you live in order to keep rodents away and stop sanitation from harassing you.
5. Always record interactions with police, and any other organizations that promise you things.
6. Get everything in writing! Never go with an organization until you have written confirmation, rules, and contacts in your hand first.
7. Treat people with the same respect as you would expect from others.

## What you need to know about Xylazine AKA Tranq

**Xylazine is a non-opioid sedative used to tranquilize animals. It's being added to Fentanyl to give it longer legs**

**Xylazine increases the risk of overdose.** Administer Narcan and do rescue breathing as usual. The person may still remain sedated even after they start breathing again.

You can get your drugs tested in Los Angeles! It requires a 10 mg sample (about the size of a grain of rice) and you get some results in minutes. Email [checkngla@proton.me](mailto:checkngla@proton.me) for times and locations.

**Tranq has recently been found in the Los Angeles drug supply**

**These wounds can occur regardless of method of use (snorting, smoking, or injecting)**

**What to do if you think there's Tranq in your dope**

**Tell someone:** keep each other safe and tell someone at your local syringe program so they can warn others

**Start low and go slow:** tranq causes a heavier nod so make sure you're in a safe place

**Never Use Alone** English hotline: 800-484-3731 Spanish hotline: 800-928-5330  
**The Brave App** download in the app store

Use with friends or:

carry narcan (naloxone)  
start low and go slow  
tell someone you're using

**More info**

Created with information from The Everywhere Project and SUPHR division DPH Philadelphia

**§ 41.18** WHEREAS, the Council hereby finds that THE PUBLIC, health, safety, or welfare is served by the Prohibition.

**§ 41.18** WHEREAS, the homeless people are not "THE PUBLIC" nor endowed with health, safety or welfare protections

THEREFORE, we prohibit homeless people, sitting, lying, sleeping, or living on PUBLIC property.

1.- City Council stole our housing and salary with 2 laws, rent UP and minimum wage LOW. The Council created homelessness. please see this article: "[LA intentionally manufactured homeless](#)"

2.- City Council and real estate are embedded in an unholy alliance. The real estate industry pays for the Council political campaigns. The Council in return makes laws RENT UP and LOOW minimum wage . Creating the "legal", "official" MORALLY REPUGNANT HOMELESS PEOPLE FACTORY! Increasing the ill gotten fortune of the real estate industry and as a byproduct, 75,000 homeless people

3.- To add insult to the injury The City Council created § 41.18 to dehumanize and criminalize the homeless people. And so dispose of the "successful" real estate industry's byproduct.

Five homeless people are dying daily in City of Los Angeles 2021

**Tio Benito Reclaimer & Lawfully Homeless**

By Tio Benito, Reclaimer and Lawfully Homeless

# CITY POLITIX

## MAKE YOUR OWN DIY PLATFORM ON WHEELS

DIY Urbanism Collective

Resist 41.18 sweeps with a portable vehicle that meets your needs.

Use scrap wood, shopping cart wheels, foam pads, and other materials.

DIY Platforms on Wheels aim to add flexibility and mobility to your life. Using pallets, planks, wheels and other spare materials, you can build your own platform to move and store your belongings on the street. We encourage you to customize the platforms and build together!

**Step 1** Start with a pallet.  
**Step 2** Remove the planks.  
**Step 3** Align & reattach the planks.  
**Step 4** Attach wheels.  
**Step 5** Connect 2 platforms.

"It's holding up great. I can fit my twin bed on it!" - Happy Customer

## I GOT FINED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR BEING POOR IN PUBLIC

By Ruth @roflesser

I live outdoors in the City of L.A., which is something I have done continuously since 2017 after first being displaced in 2003. My partner and I have gotten seven tickets for "quality of life" crimes like possessing an umbrella, having a suitcase & public sleeping in the City of Los Angeles. I went to court for two of them: \$237 each. For two more of them, my significant other told the judge we moved, & those were dismissed. When we were in Court (on alternating days because we can't leave our spot unattended), they did not offer or refer us to ANY resources.

I was offered a "deal": 12 hours of uncompensated "community service" labor clearing other "encampments" for Public Works (as if wage theft didn't contribute to my current situation). I forgot if this "deal" was for one or both tickets, but within another month, we had accumulated three more tickets.

**LAMC § 41.18 MADE SITTING IN PUBLIC illegal.** [CF20-1376]

LAMC § 41.18 made sitting in public illegal. [CF20-1376] The court made the labor offer after I pointed out to the judge that possessing an umbrella (my "crime", according to my ticket) is not even illegal. The judge seemed annoyed at my reluctance to accept diversion versus taking it to trial. I have since found out from LASD that all seven tickets were probably out of LAPD's jurisdiction. Despite their illegitimacy, I am still dealing with five of them dating back to 2019.

Fine for sitting in public: \$237.

**FINE FOR SITTING IN PUBLIC: \$237.** [1st offense, City Atty ACE]

This situation has, by design, rewarded us for lying about moving, punished us for honesty & shamelessly attempted to profit several thousands of dollars (or dozens of hours of unpaid labor) off of our situation by doubling the ticket amount with court fees before sending us into collections for over \$1k/each.

**Repeal LAMC § 41.18** Police harassment and judicial entrapment have forced us to make ourselves invisible in the past by not allowing us to have any possessions. Avoiding criminalization means hiding in dangerous places like dark storm drains, where my partner nearly drowned, & venturing deep into the caverns of viaducts, where we nearly died after getting trapped in a fire. We will have to return to those places as enforcement resumes against us. Repeal LAMC § 41.18

## CREA TU PROPIA PLATAFORMA BRICOLAJE CON LLANTAS

Colectivo Urbanismo Bricolaje

Resiste el despojo de los campamentos por orden de la Sección 41.18 del código municipal de Los Ángeles usando este vehículo bricolaje

Puedes usar madera desechada, llantas de carritos de market, almohadillas de espuma, y otros materiales para construir estas plataformas

Estas plataformas con llantas bricolaje ofrecen flexibilidad y movilidad. Usando palets de madera, llantas, y otros materiales, tú puedes construir tu propia plataforma con llantas para que puedas navegar por la calle y tener donde guardar tus cosas. ¡Te animamos a personalizar tu plataforma a tu gusto y construir estas plataformas en colaboración con otras personas!

**Paso 1** Empieza con 2 palets de madera.  
**Paso 2** Quita las tablas de los palets.  
**Paso 3** Alinea y vuelve a poner las tablas usando clavos.  
**Paso 4** Pon las llantas debajo de la plataforma.  
**Paso 5** Conecta las dos plataformas usando las llantas o un pedazo de madera.

"La plataforma se ha sostenido bien. ¡Pude poner mi cama twin encima de ella!" - Una cliente feliz

## WHERE CAN I GET HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES IN LA?

CLEAN RIGS  
PIPES  
FENTANYL TEST STRIPS  
SAFE INJECTION SUPPLIES  
HALOXONE AND MORE...

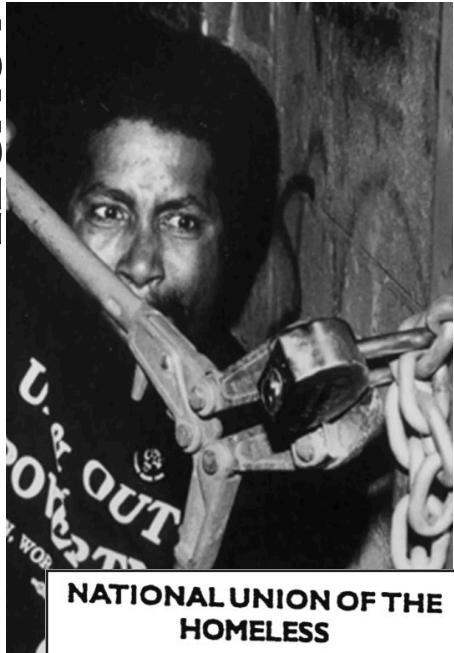
VISIT YOUR LOCAL SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM TODAY!



LIST OF LOCATIONS



MAP



## NATIONAL UNION OF THE HOMELESS

Collected and introduced by Annie Powers, Historian and Organizer with the Los Angeles Tenants Union (LATU)

The National Union of the Homeless (NUH) was an organized, national group of unhoused people who fought for their rights and took over empty homes together in the 1980s and 1990s, it included over 35,000 members across 25 cities. The union demanded and WON land from the federal government. These are their five main slogans, which show the NUH's beliefs and strategy. Do these slogans resonate with you today? What activities does your community already do together? How can you and your community fight for the housing you deserve?

## REMEMBRANCE



JESSE SAMUEL



ANGIE EBERHART & PETE DIOCSONI



### DOUBLE O

By: Danica Tsuchida

Although Double O was taken from this world too soon, his legacy of generosity and hospitality will live on. Double O was larger than life. Many of us will remember him as a cultural leader and pillar of the community. From speaking at rallies to distributing supplies to cooking breakfast for the block to throwing parties, Double O was always in good spirits and ready to lift others up. On his block in Hollywood, he kept a place to crash for any of his many nephews and nieces that came through looking for a meal or a place to lay their head. For a man who could have just as easily been closed off and hardened by life, he chose to embrace its challenges and see the beauty in humanity. Double O was admired and respected by all who knew him, and the ripple effect of his life will continue on for generations. Rest in Power, Double O.



DANTE FRANCIONE  
December 19, 1983 - April 2, 2023

## FIVE MAIN SLOGANS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF THE HOMELESS

### "HOMELESS NOT HELPLESS!"

We, the poor and homeless, can and must lead our own struggle to end poverty!

### "YOU ARE ONLY ONE PAYCHECK AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS!"

Homelessness is a class issue. We are homeless because we do not have enough money for a home.

### "NO HOUSING, NO PEACE!"

There can be no peace in America while people go without!

### "YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU ARE ORGANIZED TO TAKE!"

Power in America comes from one place... ORGANIZATION!

### "UP AND OUT OF POVERTY, NOW!"

People mobilize in their self-interest. It is in our self-interest alone to end poverty. We know when our pain is over. Therefore, WE must lead the struggle to end poverty. And we must end it NOW!

Echo Park sign converted to "People's Park" following the city's fencing off of the public space.

## JUSTICEVILLE: A COMMUNITY'S FIGHT FOR DIGNITY AND SURVIVAL

By Andrew Boland

In March 1985, 63 individuals experiencing homelessness united to challenge the unbearable living conditions in overcrowded Los Angeles County shelters. Facing apathy among public agencies and realizing that their best chance of survival was to help themselves, they formed the remarkable community which they named Justiceville in the heart of Skid Row.

Under the visionary leadership of Ted Hayes, Justiceville became a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of community. Hayes and his founding comrades constructed a self-sustaining village on a vacant plot of land they agreed to rent for \$1 per month; it sought to provide not just physical shelter, but also care and a pathway to integrate residents into society. Justiceville provided sanitation facilities including toilets and showers, employment opportunities, and a community safety program. Moving into Justiceville required community buy-in: residents possessed a collective

determination to improve their lives, take care of their neighbors, and create a revolutionary and sustainable model for building power among unhoused neighbors.

Justiceville nurtured a renewed sense of hope and belonging among its residents. Rodger Farr of the Skid Row Mental Health Program recognized these accomplishments, noting that Justiceville "gave people hope that society hasn't abandoned them." This sense of unity engendered feelings of safety and belonging, forging a surrogate family through the community's embrace.

Under pressure from city authorities citing sanitation and safety violations, the owner of the site eventually forced Justiceville residents to abandon their village. LAPD cleared the community and destroyed their facilities and infrastructure. Within a day, a thriving community became little more than a pile of dust and debris. Justiceville's residents were sent back to the streets.

Justiceville stands as a shining testament to the strength and resilience of collective care. People fueled by compassion and determination brought about profound change. May the legacy of Justiceville continue to inspire us in approaching homelessness with empathy and dignity, lighting the path towards a more compassionate future for all.

## SUBVERSIVE ETHNOGRAPHIES ZONE



**THIS PROJECT INCORPORATES THE STORYTELLING  
OF UNHOUSED COMMUNITIES, IN THE CONTEXT OF  
41.18, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS WORKING TO  
DISMANTLE SUCH UNJUST SYSTEMS AND TOWARDS  
THE ABOLISHMENT OF 41.18.**

**THOSE BEING DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY 41.18  
ARE THE HISTORIANS AND IT'S IMPORTANT  
THEIR VOICES AND EXPERIENCES ARE HIGHLIGHTED.**

Share your experience living in, organizing in, struggling in, building community in and/or resisting in a 41.18 zone using the QR code above.

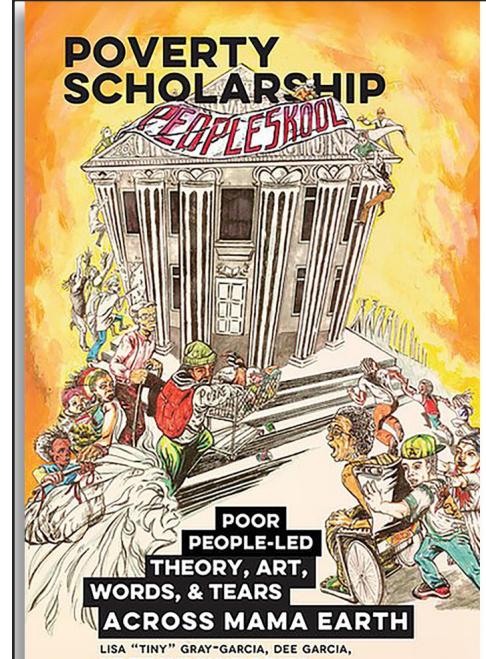
## A CALL FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OVER:



**ABOLISH L.A.M.C. SECTIONS 41.18; 56.11**

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE NEWSPAPER ONLINE AT: <https://beyond4118.com/resources.html>

## MUST ADD TO YOU READING LIST!



## POVERTY JOURNALISM

Excerpt from *Poverty Scholarship: Poor People-Led Theory, Art, Words, & Tears Across Mama Earth* published by poorpress.net  
In this excerpt, Lisa "Tiny" Gray-Garcia, Dee Garcia recounts the formation of Poor Magazine.

"It began on stiff plastic chairs in the corner of the welfare office in Oakland. There were only four of us. Some of us were hungry, many of us were hungover, all of us were disgruntled and depressed. We were waiting, small paper tear-off numbers crumpled in our pockets, to be called in for our welfare-worker evaluations. A perfect setting for a writing workshop, I decided.

Within sixty minutes (while still in waiting), we had created a body of powerful work, not necessarily linear, none of it word-processed, much of it scribbled on the backs of old General Assistance (GA) evaluation forms, assessment letters, and termination letters. We wrote about homelessness, disability and eviction, loss and racism, loss and poverty, and loss, period. We wrote about living on the street and in doorways, shelters, and cars. We wrote about addiction to crack, meth, and alcohol. We wrote and spoke about jobs had, then lost; people and families held together and torn apart by systems, institutions, gentrification, and displacement. We wrote about the violence of poverty and racism in amerikkka.

We also wrote about resistance. And scholarship. And beauty and art and love. And revolution. We knew that we weren't defined by our poverty, our color, our disability, our crisis. We weren't the lies told about us, created without talking with us. We were mothers and fathers and uncles and aunties. We were artists and laborers and chefs and designers and singers and poets.

We created journalism about what was happening to us. We proactively worked to change what was happening to us. We launched constitutional lawsuits, demanded appeal hearings, protested the mayor and Board of Supervisors. We fought Po'lice harassment of ourselves; the murder of our children of color; the violence in our homes, shelters, and communities. We began working on visionary change projects, rethinking the original theft of our resources, our cultures, and our lives."