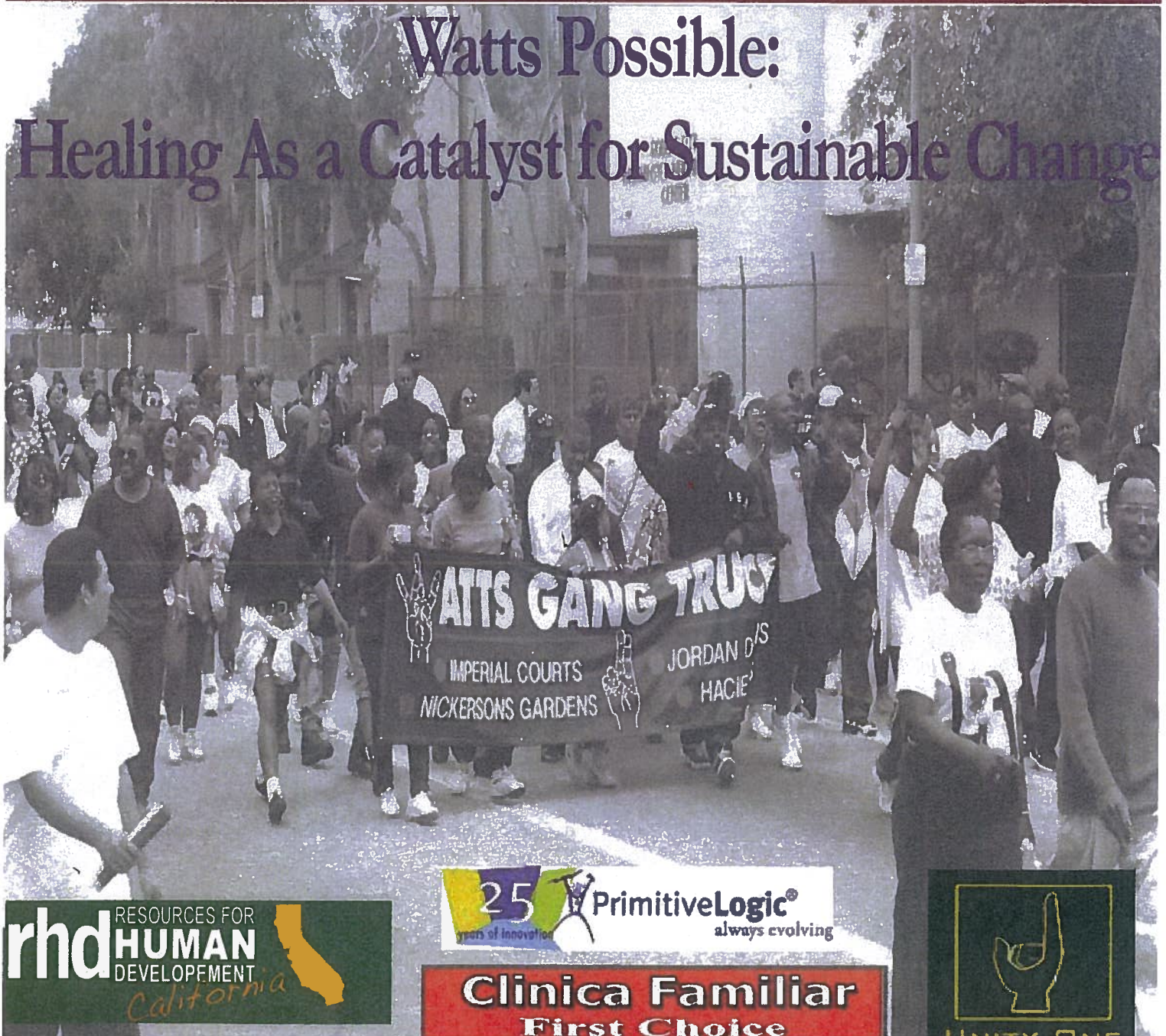


20th Anniversary Reunion Celebration of the Los Angeles "Peace Treaty"

April 27-28, 2012

Watts Possible: Healing As a Catalyst for Sustainable Change





Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence and justice. ~Baruch Spinoza

On behalf of the Steering Committee for the 20th Anniversary Reunion Celebration of the Los Angeles "Peace Treaty", we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your supporting these historic events.

The 1992 "Peace Treaty" was a community driven strategy, inspiring individuals in their respective neighborhoods from across the country to implement measures to reduce the high level of violence affecting our children and families. As a direct result of our efforts, youth violence, and more specifically, gang violence, experienced a national decline.

Today, many of our hard won successes are attributed to law enforcement. The "consent decree" imposed by the federal government on the LAPD in 2000 was lifted in 2009, causing millions of dollars in human and social service grants to be redirected away from traditional community-based organizations.

Two of the key questions we need to be asking ourselves is, "What role will community play in future strategies to continue to reduce violent crimes and homicides in our neighborhood?" and, "What resources are available to us in our efforts to create healthy communities for our families?"

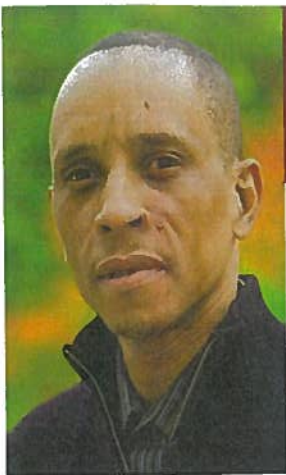
This forum will be a powerful instrument in informing activists, organizers and newly elected officials about the role that community must play in the overall strategy to create healthy communities. In addition, it presents an opportunity for us to identify the disconnects in the movement, name them, and talk about actions we can take to remedy them.

The theme: **Watts Possible** is not just a question. "Possibility" speaks to the idea of being able to participate in the future as though we already know what it's going to be. It's about loving our collective idea into existence!

We hope that you will join us on this journey.

In Solidarity,
Aqeela Sherrills

Chair,
20th Anniversary Reunion Celebration



"Pioneering Peace"

Moderator:
Orland Bishop

Orland Bishop combines a deep dedication to human rights advocacy and cultural renewal with an extensive study of medicine, naturopathy, psychology and indigenous cosmologies. He was a research fellow with the Center for the Study of Violence and Social Change at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles and has consulted with many human development organizations. As director of Shade Tree Multicultural Foundation in Los Angeles, he has pioneered approaches to urban truces and mentoring at-risk youth that combine new ideas with traditional ways of knowledge.

Panelist



Daude Sherrills, Sr.— is the co-founder of multiply organization (Amer-I-Can, CSDI, Hand Across Watts and Go Hard Entertainment). He has received many awards including the 1996 California Wellness Foundation Community Fellows Award. A tireless organizer and advocate for peace, Daude continues to support both individuals and communities with his unique ability to communicate ideas and inspire people into action.



Cynthia "Sister Souljah" Mendenhall—is the founder of United Colors, a community based agency in the Imperial Courts Housing Projects, focused on creating healthy individual and communities through direct action. The subject of multiply documentary and films, Sister Souljah is a celebrated mother/activist and can be found any day of the week on the frontline providing a safe heaven for the children of Watts.



Dewayne Holmes—On November 19, 1991, Henry "Tiny" Peco was shot and killed by LAPD in Imperial Courts Housing Project. Dewayne Holmes and his family organized the Henry Peco Justice Committee and hundreds took to the streets. Intelligent, articulate and well respected, Dewayne became the symbol of the new resistance in Watts. Co-architect of the Watts "Peace Treaty", Dewayne continues to support the movement.



Eugene "Big U" Henley—Instrumental in organizing the west side "Peace Treaty", Big U is the CEO of Developing Options, a multi-faceted agency focused on community economic development and cultural competency. A talented facilitator, organizer and orator, Big U continues to leverage his relationships in the hood and with high profile friends in the entertainment industry on behalf of peace across the country.



Leon Gulette—Innovator of the community "Safe Passage" program, Leon Gulette is the Project Director for Safe Passage Programs at Community Build. Originally out of the Pueblo Del Rio housing projects in South Central, Leon also played a key role in organizing and sustaining the peace in his neighborhood past and present. Disciplined, honest and seasoned, Leon is the model interventionist/executive.



Stan Muhammad-- is the Executive Director of HELPER Foundation/V2K, a gang rehabilitation and job-training program in Venice, CA. A brother who's strength is rooted in his faith, Stan is a key sustainer of the "Peace Treaty" in Venice. In 2006, V2K/HELPER was instrumental in negotiating a "cease fire" agreement between the "Rollin 30's and 40's that holds to this day.



Cle "Bone" Sloan— is an American filmmaker and activist from LA. While still a member of Athens Park Bloods, Sloan worked to reform gang culture and to put an end to gang violence from the inside. Bone has worked on several film projects, *Training Day* and *Street Kings* are two of his Hollywood blockbusters, however his directorial debut, *Bastards of the Party*, is what made him famous. A solution based film about the history of gangs.



Alex Sanchez-- is an internationally recognized peacemaker and co-founder of Homies Unidos in Los Angeles. Alex is a hands-on prevention and intervention professional that has made a positive impact in the lives of thousands of at-risk youth and their families. Alex adeptly connects these issues to a deeper analysis of local, national and transnational politics, systems and policies.



Twilight Bey-- is the lead Social Intervention Specialist and co-founder of SSI. Twilight Bey is also a key figure in organizing of the "Peace Treaty" in Watts. Twilight serves as a co-founder of numerous community based organizations and action committees with the vision to reduce hopelessness and violence and improve socio-economic progression in the disenfranchised sections of society.



Donny Joubert—Is the Co-Founder of the Watts Gang Task Force, a community based civic organization responsible for decreasing the violence in the Watts community since 2008. Original architect of the 1992 "Peace Treaty", mentor and community spiritual advisor, Donny's commitment to unifying the Watts community is driven by his faith in God.

"The Fire This Time"

Moderator:
Ras Baraka



Panelist

Council Member Ras Baraka was elected to the Newark Municipal Council to represent the South Ward in May 2010. A native of Newark, New Jersey whose family has lived in the city for over 70 years, Baraka was educated in the Newark Public Schools and received a degree in Political Science and History from Howard University in Washington DC.

Current principal at Central High School in Newark, he established Newark's Committee on Violence, which consisted of elected officials, community organizations, social service

providers, law enforcement, local business owners and the clergy. An advocate for gang intervention and prevention, Baraka served

as one of the key organizers and mediators of the Newark Cease Fire/Peace Initiative that took place in May 2004.

Baraka inherited his artistic excellence and



Skipp Townsend-- is the Violence Reduction Specialist for 2nd Call. Skipp develops strategies amongst several community based gang intervention agencies and local law enforcement organizations on implementing mediation services for the reduction of gang violence in the City of LA. Co-founder of the Southern California Cease Fire Committee, Skipp has established 2nd Call and himself as the "go to" Interventionist in the City.



Vicky Lindsey—is a veteran activist/advocate/organizer who founded Project Cry No More after her 19 year old son was murdered in 1995. Project Cry No More is a self-help organization designed solely to offer emotional support and information about surviving the loss of loved ones to murder. The impact of Vicky's love and compassion can be felt at the many candle light vigil proceeding a senseless act of violence.



Terrance Roberts-- is the founder and Executive Director of The Prodigal Son Initiative Inc., After being shot in 1993 and spending nearly a decade in and out of prison, Terrance realized a life in prison wasn't his destiny. A celebrated organizer/activist in the Denver community, Terrance In 2010 was a key organizer in the "Heal the Hood" march in which both Crips and Bloods in Denver came together to discuss a Cease Fire.



André Norman-- is an inspirational speaker specializing in motivation and leadership. Raised in the streets of Boston, Andre served 14 year in Prison before his miraculous transformation. Upon his release, Andre played a key role in developing gang violence reduction strategies in Boston. His keynote lectures derive from personal experiences. His resiliency and perseverance helped him survive an abusive father, illiteracy, gangs and prison.



Maurice Moret—is the Project Director for PeaceKeeper, an organization providing "High risk" youth and young adults living in/near the Alice Griffith public housing projects in Bay View Hunters Point, San Francisco. Brother Mo is a skilled facilitator and conflict mediator who helps to maintain the peace in BVHP. Passionate and insightful, Maurice is representative of the now generations ability to adapt to a changing landscape.



Rudy Corpuz-- is the founder of United Playaz, a 14-year-old gang prevention organization located in the Mission District of San Francisco. Corpuz works with both at-risk youth and adult ex-cons, because he once lived violently in the streets. Central to his strategy, Rudy leads teens on eye-opening field trips to San Quentin Prison and San Francisco State University for a firsthand look at the polar extremes of their future options.



Kim McGill- is an internationally known expert on youth development and juvenile justice. Spearheaded the grassroots movement of the Youth Justice Coalition since its beginning in 2002, Kim has helped the group advocate for changes to stop trying kids as adults and to end the imposition of life without the possibility of parole for juveniles. The Youth Justice Coalition's membership and leadership is made up exclusively of young people.



Rick Ross--better known as "Freeway" Rick Ross, is one of those rare figures whose experience as a drug kingpin made him infamous, however his tireless efforts to atone for the damage he caused through speaking, mentoring and rebuilding the community economic development is what's making him famous. Through Freeway Enterprise, Ross plans to inspire many of today's youths to achieve their greatest successes without following in his footsteps.



Gregory Thomas- After serving 12 years in federal prison, Greg came home on a mission. Long time resident of the Nickerson Garden Housing project, Greg earned his degree in organization management while still incarcerated. In his first 2 year home, he received his MBA. In 2005, Greg co-founded KUSH, inc and became the lead agency providing gang intervention services in the Watts community. A Brilliant, hyper-intellectual. Greg represents the best of the Watts community



“Responding with Faith”

Moderator:
Tony Massengale

Tony Massengale has over 30 years experience in institutional and community change. Currently with the County Human Relation Commissions, Tony serves as an organizer and educator, in his own consulting practice, introducing his Civic Organizing Framework and Organizing-Leadership Tools to over 7,500 service professionals, educators, students, and grassroots practitioners in over 150

schools, colleges, government departments, youth and community nonprofits, in 12 states and six California counties. A man of deep faith, Tony's activism is guided by his commitment to spirit

Panelist



Cornell “Coach” Ward—is the Executive Director of Unity One gang intervention agency. A celebrated athlete and mentor, Coach has sent over 700 youth to Division I, Division I AA, Division II, Division III, and NAIA schools around the country. In addition to his role as an activist /organizer, Coach Ward is also a man of faith. Ordained in 2010, Coach's words of wisdom can be frequently heard coming from the many folks who admire him.



Imam Mujahid Abdul-Karim—is the Imam of Masjid Al Rasul and a key advisor in the organizing of the 1992 Peace Treaty in Watts. Imam Mujahid offered the Masjid as neutral ground for peace negotiations and served as a facilitator of the conversation. A native of Chicago and former Black Panther Party member, Imam Mujahid has traveled around the world representing the plight of the disenfranchised in U.S.



Minister Tony Muammad—Min. Tony began his commitment to community service in 1985 when he walked out of corporate America into the Nation of Islam. Dedicated to improving the quality of life of the family structure, Min Tony conducts countless "Peace Treaty" meetings and prison visits. A tirelessly advocate for peace, he also Co-Author'd "The Power of Words" in an effort to attack the real cause of gang violence, illiteracy.



Najee Ali—is the founder of Project Islamic Hope, a national civil rights organization that advocates for oppressed people regardless of race, gender or religion. The outspoken, controversial leader has launched two national grass roots initiatives that are designed to return the indigenous Islamic community back to its roots as a social reform movement. Najee is always the first to check those who seek to take advantage of the community.



Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams— is a maverick spiritual teacher, advisor and friend to many. Founder of urbanPEACE, Williams sees Transformative Social Change: applying inner awareness practice to broad-based social change, as America's next great movement. Angel envisions the building of a presence-centered social justice movement as the foundation for personal freedom and the healing of divisions of race, class and faith.



Rev. Ben "Taco" Owens—is a former gang member who is now a prominent gang interventionist. Co-founder of the Southern California Cease Fire Committee, Taco consults and advises a number of community based gang intervention agencies on violence reduction strategies. Co-organizer of the Gardena based "Peace Treaty", Rev. Taco has travel international sharing both theory and practical ways of creating and sustain peace.



Alfred Lomas—is a former gang member from one of the largest and most notorious gang in South-Central Los Angeles, F13. After a radical and life changing experience, he received the Lord as his personal Savior, Alfred dedicated his life to serving the Los Angeles community through humanitarian aid and violence reduction/prevention. Currently, Lomas Directs the LA Gang Tours and is a sought after speaker and lecturer.



Pastor Michael Cummings—is a gang interventionist who insures the "Safe Passage" of youth from schools to home in the Watts community on a daily basis. Co-founder of Project Fatherhood and Pastor of We Care Ministries, Big Mike is a gentle giant who faith in God and love for the community has earned him a permanent place in the hearts and minds of community resident, school Principals, Chiefs of Police and prominent politicians.



Rev. James “JJ” Jones—is the founding minister of Gangsters for Christ, a full-fledged ministry that promotes education through faith. Rev. JJ is the facilitator and Board member of the Watts Gang Task Force and works closely with the LAPD Clergy Council. Rev. JJ became an advocate for justice when he helped to form Action and Accountability in response to the death of Devin Brown in South LA.



Rev. Johnny “Ready” Bailey—is the founder of Fathers of Watts, co-founder of Project Fatherhood and a well respected interventionist/organizer /Activist out of the Jordan Downs Housing Projects. As former gang member, Rev. Ready dedicated his life to God while serving a 11 year sentence in the Federal Correction System. Upon his release, he went to work to save the souls of our brother and sister trapped in the gang "death style".

"Seeding Possibilities"

Moderator:
Bernard Dory



A Brooklyn, NY native, Bernard Dory is a brilliant political strategist, organizer and campaigner for community based representative leadership. The former Director of Constituent Affairs with the Office of Assemblyman Isadore Hall, Member at League of Independent Voters and current Senior Legislative Deputy for 3rd District LA City Councilman Dennis Zine. Bernard is a rising star in the Los Angeles political scene and advocate for justice.

Panelist



Honorable Jim Brown-- Jim Brown is considered one of the greatest American professional athletes of all time. He played running back for the National Football League from 1957-1965. At just 30 years of age, he retired and pursued a career in acting, appearing in highly successful films. Founder of The Amer-I-Can Program, Jim financed the "Peace " Movement and created the platform for the Peace Treaty to take root nation wide.



Brian Center—is the Executive Director of A Better LA, founded by Pete Carroll and Bo Taylor, ABLA unites local leaders from the private, non-profit, social service, faith-based, education and law enforcement sectors. Brian obtained his J.D from U.C.L.A in 1993 and practiced law for over 8 years. Mr. Center has become an expert in the areas of violence prevention and evidence-based practice.



Julio Marcial—is the Program Director at the California Wellness Foundation. One of six children, Marcial was the first in his family to attend college. After two years at UCLA, he transferred to the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). While attending UCSB, Marcial participated in the National Television Violence Study, which was partially funded by TCWF and administered by Mediascope. This experience piqued his interest in social issues, which he integrated into his educational and career choices.



Barbara Becnel— is an American author, journalist, and film producer. She was a close friend and advocate for Crips co-founder Stan "Tookie" Williams, and editor of Williams's series of children's books, which spoke out against gang violence. Williams was executed in 2005. Becnel co-produced the Golden Globe-nominated film *Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story*



Deputy Mayor Guillermo Cespedes-- who heads LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's anti-gang efforts, GRYD. Cespedes is one of Los Angeles' most quietly effective city leaders. A native of Cuba, Cespedes been working in community service for over 30 years, starting in New York. A decade ago, he launched a gang-prevention program in Baldwin Village and, on the success of that model, came to work for Villaraigosa.



Michael De La Rocha-- Offers an alternative view of dealing with youth violence, Michael has been acknowledged for integrating social justice, the arts, and his personal experiences to bring diverse communities together to promote alternatives to social inequity and youth violence. Michael currently serves as a legislative deputy for Los Angeles City Councilman Tony Cárdenas.



John Richard King II--serves as the Director of the Policy and Planning Department for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) where he has been an employee for over 13 years. He is responsible for coordinating systems and support to HACLA's operating departments, CEO, agency planning, Board of Commissioners Operations, Community Advisory Committee stewardship, and legislative affairs.



Constance L. "Connie" Rice--is a prominent American civil rights activist and lawyer. She is also the co-founder and co-director of the Advancement Project in Los Angeles. She has received more than 50 major awards for her work in expanding opportunity and advancing multi-racial democracy. She is a second cousin of former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.



Dr. Jorja Leap-- has been a member of the UCLA faculty since 1992. Dr. Leap's research interests focus on gangs and at risk youth. Her current work is designed to reduce community-based violence and promote pro-social attitudes within violence-plagued neighborhoods, informing policymakers and practitioners through rigorous research and evaluation-based knowledge and evidence.



Brad Carson--A Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officer, Brad Carson is well acquainted with the problems facing youth at-risk. He received the employee of the year award from Chief Probation and Parole Officers of California Association for his involvement in establishing a gang truce between Venice 13 and the Venice Shoreline Crips (VSLC) in 1994. He also helped broker a gang cease-fire between VSLC and the Culver City Boys in 1997. Brad developed the Job Create Peace model, which became PVJOBS' program, providing hundreds of jobs for ex-gang members and ex-convicts alike.