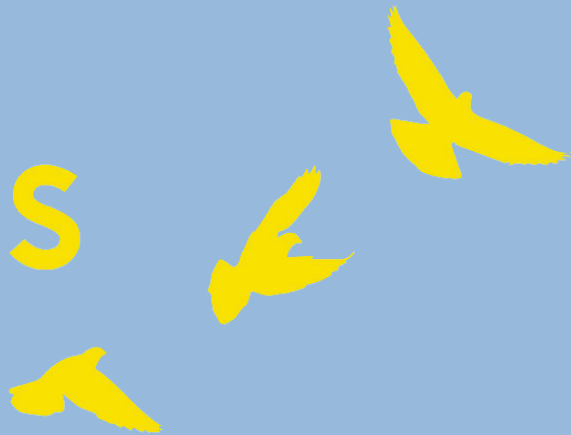


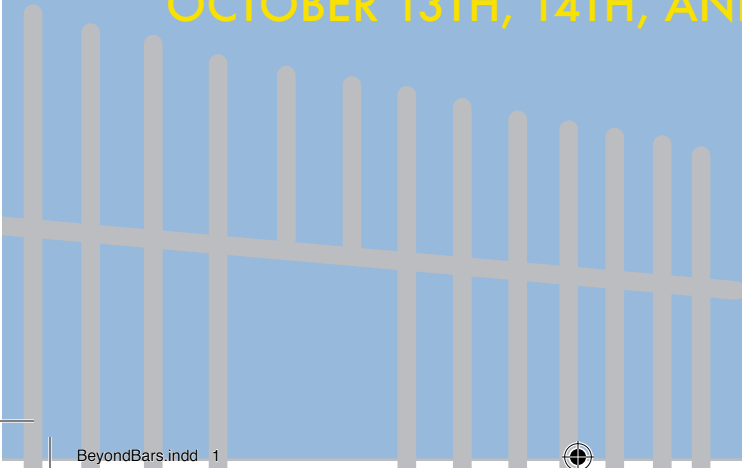
BEYOND THE BARS



LOS ANGELES

THE END OF MASS INCARCERATION

OCTOBER 13TH, 14TH, AND 15TH, 2017

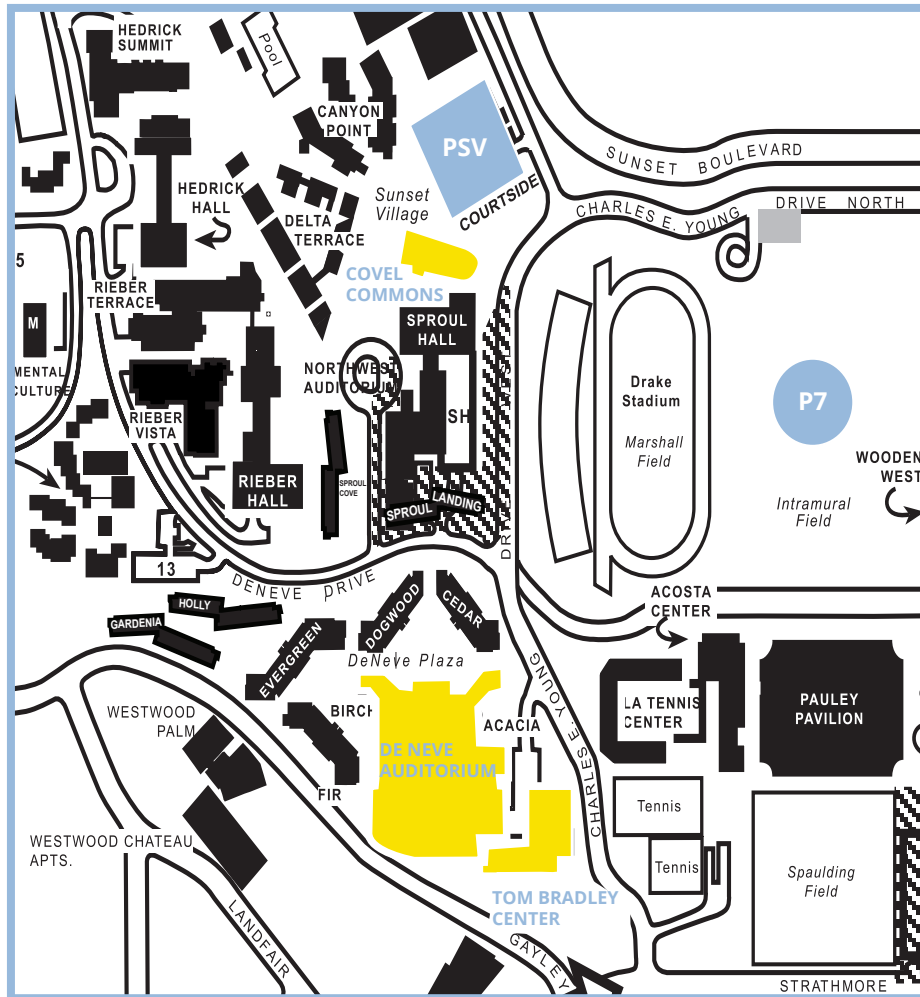


CONFERENCE MAP SCHEDULE

PARKING (\$12/DAY)

P7 ELEVATOR

CONFERENCE



DAY 1 - KICKOFF

3:30 - 4:30 PM Registration
Covel Foyer (in front of Westcoast Room)

4:30 - 6:00 PM
Welcome | Keynote Address
Grand Horizon Ballroom

6:00 - 7:30 PM
Reception | Art Installations |
Open Mic
Grand Horizon Ballroom, Promenades & Terrace

7:00 - 8:00 PM
Welcome Reception for What it IZ
feat. special guests: The Lost Poets
NorthWest Auditorium & Plaza

8:00 - 9:30 PM
WHAT IT IZ: THE SPOKEN WORD-ICAL
A Hip Hop Theater, Prison Abolition
Remix of The Wiz
Adapted by Women at CIW Prison
Directed by Bryonn Bain
NorthWest Auditorium & Lobby

DAY 2 - AWARENESS

8:00 - 9:00 AM
Guest Registration | Light Breakfast
DeNeve Room A & B

9:00 - 10:20 AM
Plenary Session
Californians for Safety & Justice
Anna Cho Fenley
Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice
Jay Jordan
Second Chances | Faith in Action
DeNeve Auditorium

10:35 - 12:05 PM
Breakout Session #1

12:15 - 1:45 PM
Lunch
Tom Bradley Center & DeNeve

2:00 - 3:30 PM
Breakout Session #2

3:40 - 5:15 PM
Breakout Session #3

7:00 - 8:30 PM
The Box: A Play About
Solitary Confinement
Written by Sarah Shourd
Popper Auditorium

8:00 - 9:30 PM
WHAT IT IZ: THE SPOKEN WORDICAL
A Hip Hop Theater, Prison Abolition
Remix of The Wiz
Adapted by Women at CIW Prison
Directed by Bryonn Bain
NorthWest Auditorium & Lobby

9:30 - Late
WHAT IT IZ Talkback
feat. DJ Kool Herc & Cindy Campbell
NorthWest Auditorium & Lobby

DAY 3 - ACTION

8:00 - 9:00 AM
Guest Registration | Light Breakfast
DeNeve Room A & B

10:00 - 12:00 PM
Resource Fair and Ally Fair
Covel Grand Horizon Ballroom
Inland Valley Recovery Services
Justice Work Group
Underground Scholars (UCLA)
Youth Justice Coalition
LA Kitchen
Critical Resistance
ACLU (LA Chapter)
Project Rebound CalState LA
Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project at UCLA
Project Return Peer Support Network
Anti-Recidivism Coalition
WeThePeople.org
Million Dollar Hoods

11:30 - 12:50 PM
Lunch
DeNeve Plaza Room
A & B Combined

1:00 - 2:45 PM
Action Work Groups

3:00 - 5:00 PM
Awards, Closing Remarks
and Next Steps
DeNeve Auditorium

The Beyond the Bars Fellows and the members of the Justice Work Group are honored to welcome you to the inaugural Beyond the Bars LA conference at the University of California, Los Angeles. We are a group of students, teachers, activists, researchers, and advocates of different backgrounds and life experiences, who share a common commitment to righting the social wrongs carried out through the criminal justice system—some of us having experienced the carceral machinery firsthand.

Our country faces such problems today as the systematic and discriminatory incarceration of black and brown bodies; the revolving door of prisons, homelessness, joblessness, the criminalization of immigrants, stigmatization of those with a criminal record, the school to prison pipeline, the commodification of service provisions for currently and formerly incarcerated people, the list goes on. There is a persistent, and urgent need to raise awareness, engage in dialogue, network, organize, and take action.

There has also been incredible work done in the service of addressing some of these problems. Among our goals in organizing this conference have been to further publicize this work, to foster discussion and working relationships among those engaged in these efforts, to bring together organizations in need of individuals driven by these causes and those looking for a way to become involved, and to be of service to currently and formerly incarcerated people and their families. Our conference theme is The End of Mass Incarceration, and to that end we have drawn together speakers, presenters, panelists, and organizations from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, all of whom share a vision of the future without mass incarceration, and who have been working in one way or another toward accomplishing that goal.

It has been of utmost importance to us to place front and center the experience and expertise of those who have been through the criminal justice system. The time is long past for these voices to not only be heard, but to be recognized as the primary authorities and sources of knowledge about how our criminal justice system operates, what needs to change, and how that might best be achieved.

We would like to thank our attendees, all of our presenters, our community partners, and our sponsors. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in us as we have worked to bring this inaugural conference together. We hope that the energy, momentum, and inspiration generated at Beyond the Bars LA can be used to build lasting connections between all of us working for the end of mass incarceration, and concrete action in service of that goal.

The Beyond the Bars L.A. Fellows

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Friday, October 13
4:30 - 6:00PM



RICKY ROSS

Ricky Ross, better known as Freeway Rick Ross or “The Real Rick Ross” is notoriously known for building a Drug Empire in the 1980’s and amassed a personal fortune of a billion dollars. Ross was convicted and ended up spending 20 years of a life sentence before winning his appeal and getting his sentence overturned. Since his release, Ross released his infamous tee shirt “The Real Rick Ross is not a Rapper, an autobiography with Cathy Scott called Freeway Rick Ross: The Untold Autobiography, and 2016 Emmy nominated, Freeway: Crack in the System. He is currently touring the nation on his Official Freeway Ricky Ross Book Tour. Today his mission is to teach literacy—reading, writing, financial, and media—to those whom educators find the hardest to reach. He acknowledges the terrible damage crack created, especially in African American communities, and he is now trying to give back.



KIM CARTER

Kim Carter’s journey began right here in San Bernardino Valley College where she earned her Certificate in Accounting with an emphasis on Governmental Funding. Currently she is the President and CEO of the CHAMP - Center for Housing Advancement & Motivational Projects also the Founder and Executive Director of Time for Change Foundation, an internationally known nonprofit organization. Ms. Carter’s scholarly work includes being the author of Invisible Bars- Barriers to Women’s Health and Well Being, and the creator of “The Disease of Incarceration”, an Epidemiological Model of Interventions for Women in Prison. Ms. Carter uses her history of incarceration, addiction and homelessness as her motivation to ensuring others are able to escape those cycles of despair. She advocates for women and their issues while empowering and enhancing the lives of others. She follows the path that Harriet Tubman blazed when after she tasted freedom she came back to get others too. Her motto is “Be the Change you Want to See”.



SHAKA SENGHOR

Shaka Senghor is a leading voice in criminal justice reform, a Senior Fellow with The Dream Corps, and President/Creative Director of Mind Blown Media. His memoir, Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death, and Redemption in an American Prison, was released in March 2016 and debuted on The New York Times Bestseller List as well as The Washington Post Best Seller List. An unforgettable tale of forgiveness and second chances, Writing My Wrongs reminds us that our worst deeds don’t define who we are or what we can contribute to the world. Shaka’s story has inspired thousands and serves as a powerful testament to the power of hope, compassion and unconditional love. Shaka is a former 2013 MIT Media Lab Director’s Fellow, and a former Fellow in the inaugural class of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s Community Leadership Network. He has taught at the University of Michigan and shares his story of redemption around the world. Shaka’s TED Talk, which he delivered at TED’s 30th Anniversary Conference, received a standing ovation and has been viewed more than 1.3 million times. Shaka is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2012 Black Male Engagement (BME) Leadership Award, the 2015 Manchester University Innovator of the Year Award, the 2016 Ford Man of Courage Award, and the 2016 NAACP Great Expectations Award.



MELINA ABDULLAH

Melina Abdullah is Professor and Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Dr. Abdullah earned her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California in Political Science and her B.A. from Howard University in African American Studies. She was appointed to the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission in 2014 and is a recognized expert on race, gender, class, and social movements. Abdullah is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, with subjects ranging from political coalition building to womanist mothering. Professor Abdullah is a womanist scholar-activist, understanding the role that she plays in the academy as intrinsically linked to broader struggles for the liberation of oppressed people. Professor Abdullah is a leader in the fight for Ethnic Studies in the K-12 and university systems and was a part of the historic victory that made Ethnic Studies a requirement in the Los Angeles Unified School District, also serving on the Taskforce for the Advancement of Ethnic Studies for the California State University system. She was among the original group of organizers that convened to form Black Lives Matter and continues to serve as a Los Angeles chapter lead and contributes to the global leadership.



DANNY MURILLO

Danny Murillo is a 2016 Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow at the Opportunity Institute. Working with the Opportunity & Justice team Danny will work to empower formerly incarcerated students by creating a network of students throughout California who have successfully made the transition from incarceration to higher education. Danny was most recently a program analyst at the Vera Institute of Justice, a counselor with Rutgers University's NJ-STEP program, and a John W. Gardner Fellow in Public Service at the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 2015, with a degree in Ethnic Studies, and was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, conducting research on the disproportionate rate of suspension of Black male students in Oakland's public schools. Danny was also a national policy intern at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, where he researched the economic impact of incarceration on communities of color. Also while at UC Berkeley, he co-founded the Underground Scholars Initiative, an organization dedicated to supporting students who have been personally impacted by incarceration. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his leadership and service to the university community.



DR. OFELIA ORTIZ CUEVAS

Dr. Ofelia Ortiz Cuevas is an interdisciplinary scholar in the Department of Chicana/o Studies at UC Davis. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego in 2008. Her research is at the intersections of Critical Race Studies, Visual and Cultural studies and Geography and Law. She has been working on issues of race, prisons, and policing for over 20 years. Cuevas works on the histories of race, policing and imprisonment as an abolitionist and has worked with organizations such as Critical Resistance as well as community organizations in California. She was a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow and has taught extensively across the UC system. She is completing her manuscript, *Mortifications of the Flesh: Racial Violence in a Time of Crisis*, which maps the historical continuities and discontinuities of policing and state violence on the material and discursive terrains of law, visual cultural productions, and raced populations. She is also at work on a second book, *Policing L.A.'s Human Terrain: The Criminal Non-Human at Point Zero*, which examines Los Angeles County jail as a critical point on the city's cartography of productive human terrain.



AWARENESS

Saturday, October 14

10:35 - 12:05 PM

Breakout Session #1

WOMEN IN PRISON GRAND HORIZON 1

Wendy Staggs - Beyond the Bars LA Fellowship
 Kim Carter - Time for Change Foundation
 Ummra Hang - UCLA Justice Work Group
 Natalie Venegas - Homeboy Industries/Project Rebound CalState LA
 Monica Garcia - ELAC/Project Rebound CalState LA
 Moderator: Donna Hylton, Coalition for Women Prisoners

LGBTQ VISIONS FOR THE END OF MASS INCARCERATION WESTCOAST




Roberto Herrera - Resilience OC
 David Pitts - UC Irvine Department of Criminology
 Bamby Salcedo - Trans Latin@ Coalition
 Moderator: Raja Bhattar - UCLA LGBTQ Resource Center

PROP 57 - INMATE EDUCATION GRAND HORIZON EFG

Kevin Gonzalez - Project Rebound Cal State LA/Beyond the Bars LA Fellow
 Airtto Morales - Five Keys Charter School/Project Rebound SF State
 Jay Jordan - Californians for Safety and Justice
 Shanley Rhodes - Five Keys Charter School
 Moderator: Dave Bates - Five Keys Charter School

BAIL REFORM NORTHRIDGE

Reverend Eddie Anderson - Justice Not Jails
 Michael Woo - Brave New Films
 Shelby King - UCLA Graduate Student
 Shelby McNabb - UCLA Graduate Student
 Moderator: Andrew Winn - UCLA Justice Work Group



AWARENESS

Saturday, October 14

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Breakout Session #2

JUVENILE JUSTICE GRAND HORIZON BCD

Kim McGill - Youth Justice Coalition
Nate Williams - Choices for Freedom
Keshad Adeniyi - Beyond the Bars Columbia, New York University
Leondra Kinard - Parent & Community Member
Dean Kim - Alternate Public Defender

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT WESTCOAST

Michael Saavedra - Beyond the Bars LA Fellowship
Taeva Shefler - CA Prison Focus
Sara Shourd - A Sliver of Light/The Box
Danny Murillo - Soros Justice Fellowship/Opportunity Institute
Moderator: Kevin Gonzales - Project Rebound CalState LA/Beyond the Bars LA Fellow

RE-ENTRY NORTHRIDGE

Tyrone Hardison - LEAPP (Learn Everything About the Parole Process)
Scott Budnick - Anti Recidivism Coalition
Terri McDonald - Los Angeles County Probation
Moderator: Marina Bell - Beyond the Bars Fellow

PROCESS OF ELIMINATION: MASS INCARCERATION IN A POLICE STATE GRAND HORIZON EFG

Kelly Lytle Hernandez - UCLA Department of African American Studies
Robert (Bobby) Rivera - San Diego Police Department/UCR
Edxie Betts - Artist/Organizer
David Whitt - WeCopwatch in Ferguson, Mo.
TBD - Youth Justice Coalition
Moderator: German Mauricio Gallardo, Critical Resistance LA

AWARENESS

Saturday, October 14

3:45 - 5:15 PM

Breakout Session #3

ARTS IN CORRECTIONS & ABOLITION WESTCOAST

Annie Buckley - CalState San Bernardino Prison Arts Collective
Nery Lemus - Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network
Jeremie Loncka - Actor's Gang Prison Project
Israel Guillen - Actor's Gang Prison Project
Wendy Staggs - Beyond the Bars Fellow
Taylor Balk - Inside Out Writers/Agency Arts
Moderator: Dr. Amir Whitaker Esq, UCLA Civil Rights/Project Knucklehead

RE-ENTRY FOR PROFIT: THE MANIPULATION OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED POPULATION NORTHRIDGE

Khalid Shah - Stop the Violence Increase the Peace Foundation
Aquil Basheer - License to Operate
Nate Williams - Choices for Freedom
Mark Fawcett - Amity Foundation
Kim Carter - Time for Change Foundation
Moderator: Daniel K. Tabor - Re-Entry Corps

CRIMMIGRATION GRAND HORIZON EFG

Claudia Rueda - CalState LA/Immigrant Youth Coalition
Alex Sanchez - Homies Unidos/Trade Union Activist
Yunuen Trujillo - LA Voice
francisco aviles pino - Orange County Congregation Community Organization
Moises Escalante - Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights

PUNITIVE SENTENCING GRAND HORIZON BCD

Andrew Diltz - Loyola Marymount University
Martina Kartman - Soros Justice Fellowship/Public Defender Association
Rudy Reyes - Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Hilary Blout - Fair and Just Prosecution
Dr. Luis Garcia Ed.D, MSW - Loyola Marymount University
Moderator: Omar Chavez, Beyond the Bars LA Fellow



ACTION

Sunday, October 15
1:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Action Work Groups

COMMUNITY BASED DEPORTATION DEFENSE

Learn how community and grassroots organizations have been resisting deportations by organizing. Learn more about the detention and deportation system. Get an overview of different forms of deportation relief. Learn how community organizing can successfully advocate for the release of immigrants in detention and to stop their deportation. The Immigrant Youth Coalition is an undocumented and queer/trans lead organizations who has supported more than 400 community members in detention/deportation proceedings in the last 3 years and successfully advocated for their release and stopping their deportations.

Marcela Hernandez is an undocumented, unafraid, abolitionist, feminist activist and the Deportation Defense State Coordinator with the Immigrant Youth Coalition. She has been working with various grassroots organizations for more than 7 years to support community members in detention and deportation proceedings. Her family was directly impacted by the system when her uncle was deported 10 years ago due to contact with the criminal justice system and police.

The Immigrant Youth Coalition (IYC) is an undocumented and Trans* & Queer youth led organization based in California founded in 2010. IYC's mission is to mobilize youth, families and incarcerated people to end the criminalization of immigrants and people of color. We organize to create social change that confronts the interlocking systems of oppression.

IMAGINE FUTURES: DIGITAL STORYTELLING AND CENTERING THE NARRATIVES OF INCARCERATED AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

This workshop is a hands on opportunity to think critically about the role of digital storytelling, organizing, and advocacy work. There is a saying, "no conversations about us, without us." At the center of this training, we hold these words to be self evident and will discuss strategies for changing the narratives around the carceral state. Participants will explore inexpensive ways to create mobile podcasts, learn to use mobile apps with live video features, and will be introduced to the iographer (iographer.com) and mobile devices as powerful storytelling tools. Workshop attendees should leave with varying hands on introductory skills such as, learning to create video resumes, live book reports, an introduction to documentary and filmmaking on a budget, and a better idea of the role digital storytelling can play in activism, advocacy, and educating people about the impact of mass Incarceration, policing, and other criminal legal injustices.




jub Sankofa is a formerly incarcerated author, artist, and organizer. He is the co-founder of Imagine Futures, a consultancy network in NYC that conducts trainings and workshops for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and organizations working on issues associated with the carceral state. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati in Africana Studies. jub then obtained a Master of Arts degree in African American Studies from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). While at UCLA, jub was one of co-founding members of the Justice Work Group and assisted Professor Bryonn Bain in the development of the Prison Education program at CIW. As an emerging scholar at UCLA, jub researched the history of parole and probation, reentry and employment, prison education programs, the school to prison pipeline, and the structure of juvenile prisons, confinement programs, and other elements of youth incarceration and release. His master's thesis, "The Trap: Black Youth and the Carceral State in California, 1929-1939," follows the lives of young migrant laborers coming of age during the Great Depression. Currently, jub is a joint Ph.D student in American Studies and African American Studies at Yale University with a concentration in Public Humanities (community memory, digital humanities, and documentary studies). jub's research and teaching interests explore the United States carceral regime—the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems—at the intersections of race, history, and law. As a digital humanities teacher, jub explores digital storytelling, documentary, and technology through the lens of social justice and activism. This semester at Yale University, jub is a Digital Humanities Teaching Fellow for a course titled Intro to Digital Humanities and is in the process of creating a Mobile Digital Teaching Lab for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.

UNTANGLING CALIFORNIA "EXPUNGEMENT"

Learn about the growing variety of clean slate options available in California to help people minimize the barriers created by past criminal convictions, particularly in relation to employment. This training will provide a basic understanding of the types of clean slate remedies currently available (and coming soon), and the primary benefits and drawbacks of each. Attendees will also gain an understanding of how past convictions, clean slate remedies, and background checks interact in the world of employment. This presentation is intended for non-legal attendees, in that it will not provide in-depth technical legal information. The goal of this training is to equip individuals, community members, and service providers with a general understanding of the options available to people with past convictions, particularly when it comes to finding employment.

CT Turney-Lewis is the senior staff attorney at A New Way of Life Reentry Project, focusing on adult clean slate remedies, occupational licensing, and other means of reducing and overcoming barriers to employment for people with conviction histories. CT's work at ANWOL has also included litigation to enforce access to courts for people pursuing clean slate remedies, and assisting efforts to develop local Ban the Box policies in Los Angeles County. CT earned their J.D. from UCLA School of Law, with specializations in Public Interest Law and Policy, and Critical Race Studies.





A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project (ANWOL) is a grassroots, nonprofit organization founded in 1998 by Susan Burton. After Susan's five-year old son was accidentally hit and killed by a car driven by an off-duty police officer, Susan numbed her grief through alcohol and drug abuse. She was not offered help to address her pain. As a result, she became enmeshed in the criminal justice system for nearly two decades before embracing freedom in 1997. She has since made it her life's mission to help others adversely affected by incarceration and addiction by providing support and resources such as safe housing, case management, enlightenment, leadership development, advocacy and pro bono legal services.

KNOW JUSTICE, KNOW PEACE: TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO POLICING, MASS INCARCERATION AND DEPORTATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR

LA leads the nation and the world in incarceration – including having the largest jail system, the largest juvenile halls and county youth prison system, the largest sheriff's department, Probation Department and court system on the planet. We have also exported our addiction to punishment and incarceration internationally including militarized policing, gang suppression policies and the policy of allocating a majority of municipal funds to law enforcement. In order to "starve the beast" we have to build alternatives to 911 in our schools and communities. Since 2007, the Youth Justice Coalition has created and implemented transformative justice in order to enable youth, families and neighborhoods to support each other, heal from trauma, build and maintain a positive climate in schools and communities, build truces and cease fires, and prevent suspensions, expulsions and arrests. TJ emphasizes individual, community and system accountability and change for all involved (versus restorative justice which often only emphasizes individual accountability and often sees one party as "guilty" or "responsible" and another as "Innocent." Conflicts, disagreements and emotional or physical harm and injustice between individuals or groups are addressed through a facilitated transformative justice circle. Participants will learn about the roots of TJ, get a chance to practice facilitating a TJ circle, and get connected to ongoing support in order to build local alternatives to 911.

Gloria Gonzalez is a youth leader with the Youth Justice Coalition. Arrested and pushed out of school for getting in an argument with another student, Gloria has become a leading voice in the movement to end the school to jail track, remove police from schools and close youth prisons. She graduated from the YJC's FREE LA High School and is a proud mom of her daughter Violet.

Kim McGill is an Organizer with the Youth Justice Coalition and teaches organizing and movement building in the YJC's high school, FREE L.A. As with other YJC members, Kim came to the work through her own and family experiences with arrest, court, detention and incarceration. She has worked with other organizations and YJC members - young people, families and currently and formerly incarcerated people - to write and pass Prop 57; and to pass state laws and local policies to close more than

2/3 of the states youth prisons; to challenge LA County's 3.5 billion \$ jail expansion; to end youth Life Without Parole and extreme sentences for youth up to age 23; to pass the nation's strongest law defining and outlawing racial and identity profiling and requiring police to report on who they stop and why; to end youth solitary confinement; to guarantee notification and appeal rights for people added to a shared "gang" database; to create exit processes for people served with a gang injunction and remove more than 4,000 people so far from LA City injunctions; to eliminate the fees required to seal juvenile records; to provide people released from juvenile halls, jails and prisons with IDs and birth certificates; to end the billing of families for detention and court fees; to decriminalize fare evasion for youth across California; to close the County's Juvenile Traffic Court and divert all tickets for youth under 18 - including winning a full amnesty for 250,000 past tickets; to reduce suspension, expulsions and arrests of students statewide; and to end the blocking of students coming home from lock-ups to re-enroll in their district school.

The Youth Justice Coalition is working to build a movement led by system-impacted youth, their families and currently and formerly incarcerated people to expose race, gender and class inequality in Los Angeles County's and California's juvenile and criminal injustice systems and to challenge the U.S. addiction to suppression and incarceration. The YJC works to dismantle institutions and policies that have ensured the massive lock-up and deportation of people of color, widespread police violence and corruption, consistent violation of youth and communities' Constitutional and human rights, the construction of a vicious school-to-jail track, and the build-up of the world's largest network of jails and prisons. The YJC uses direct action organizing, advocacy, political education, community defense, transformative justice and activist arts to bring about change.

WHAT WHITE PEOPLE CAN DO TO HELP END MASS INCARCERATION

Session Facilitator: JD Mass, White People 4 Black Lives

JD is an educator, activist, and member of White People 4 Black Lives and is helping to take the lead on the White People 4 Black Lives workgroup that is part of Justice:LA, a broad coalition to halt the construction of a new women's prison in Mira Loma and a new men's central jail. In this session, JD will bring his knowledge, wisdom, and tools to bear in a conversation with participants who are interested in learning how to better and more effectively engage White people and others on ending mass incarceration.



BEYOND THE BARS FELLOWS



WENDY STAGGS

In addition to being a formerly incarcerated person, Wendy Staggs has also worked as a substance abuse counselor in the prison system. She has been exposed to many injustices on both sides and her experience is that it's always at the cost of the incarcerated population. Having overcome her own trauma, Wendy feels a responsibility to help the ones still suffering. She has a desire to speak for those who have been silenced not only by their trauma, but by our failing judicial system. Her journey of self-discovery could not have happened without the support and willingness of individuals who truly cared about her healing process. Because of them, she is able to use her voice today and has become a very strong driven individual who will not stop speaking out until there is some resolve. Today Wendy is a Beyond the Bars Fellow at UCLA, and she is currently enrolled at Mount San Antonio College.



ANTHONY ROBLES

As a formerly incarcerated student who grew up in low-income communities of color throughout the San Gabriel Valley, Anthony Robles never thought he would attend a university. Before he turned 15, his father was deported three times, and his mother had to overcome breast cancer. The same year he began college he witnessed the murder of his best friend. Now, Anthony is entering his senior year at Cal State University, Los Angeles majoring in Sociology and minoring in Chicano Studies. His experiences have guided him towards community activism. He helped create an immigrant detention visitation and penpal program on campus called the Migrant Liberation Collective and is the Vice President of the Student Homie Union, a student club that assists formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students. He is also a distinguished member of Project Rebound at Cal State LA. More recently, Anthony won the CSU Board of Trustees Award, an accolade and scholarship given to only one student from each CSU campus for Outstanding Academic Success despite adversity. Additionally, he is currently writing a book chapter on the criminalization of immigration. After graduation, Anthony plans on pursuing both a J.D. and Ph.D. in Sociology.



JESSICA MORONE

Jessica is a Sociology PhD student at the University of California, Riverside. She specializes in Race and Class Inequalities and Gender Studies. She is currently working on her dissertation prospectus which focuses on the experiences of formerly incarcerated women of color.



LAMONT "MONTY" JACKSON

LaMont "Monty" Jackson just received his B.A. in Negotiations, Conflict Resolution, & Peacebuilding, from Cal State Dominguez Hills (May 2017). He begins his Master's in Rehabilitative Counseling at San Diego State University in February 2018. LaMont Has several A.A. Degrees, including Psychology, Social & Behavioral Sciences, & Substance Abuse Counseling. While LaMont was obtaining these A.A. Degrees, he was also a student body president (L.A. Southwest College 2013-2014), & then got elected to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees as the Student Trustee (2014-2015). During his term, he represented the largest community college district in the U.S., with a student population of 249,000 full & part-time students. LaMont used that platform to advocate for the formerly incarcerated population of students that were not receiving the same services & or resources as the other population of students were receiving. These other populations included the Veterans, Disabled Students, LGBTQ, AB540, & DACA students. LaMont took a special interest to the formerly incarcerated population because he too was from that population. On February 14, 2011, LaMont was released from what he likes to refer to as his 96 month "Federal Vacation". LaMont is the first person in his family to go to prison. In fact, he was raised with both of his parents, in upper middle class neighborhoods. He grew up in a family of politicians. His Aunt is Congresswoman Barbara Lee. His Godfather is the Honorable Elihu Harris, former Mayor of Oakland, CA., & CA. Assemblyman. He got his leadership & outspokenness honestly. It was while LaMont was on his "Federal Vacation" that he realized that he should obtain his degree. Once he enrolled in community college, he realized that he could use his life experience, & add his education as an "game changer & equalizer". LaMont's area of expertise is broadening the pathway from incarceration to institutions of higher education. LaMont sits on several boards, & committees. He mentors formerly incarcerated men & women. He speaks across the country about the importance of recognizing that criminal justice reform is real, & the population of Returning Citizens (Formerly Incarcerated) should be able to have access to the same resources as other marginalized populations. LaMont's happiest moment upon his return from his "Federal Vacation" was having the opportunity to go to the White House last September, & have a 15 minute personal conversation with President Obama about criminal justice reform and share a little bit of his story.



EMMA CONNER

Emma Conner is a doctoral student in Criminology, Law, and Society at the University of California, Irvine. Prior to her studies at UC Irvine, she managed a grant at the Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office under Mayor Bloomberg to facilitate legal representation for individuals facing criminal and immigration proceedings. She also directed a program at the Center for Restorative Justice Works, a non-profit in North Hollywood, to help provide free transportation for loved ones to visit incarcerated women around California. Her research interests are the collateral consequences of incarceration on families and children, and race and inequality.



MARINA BELL

Marina Bell is a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine. Her research involves looking at prisoner "reentry" from critical-philosophical and radical criminology perspectives. She also works as part of a research team evaluating the impact of Arts in Corrections programs in California prisons. Prior to her work at UC Irvine, she spent several years teaching Philosophy at San Quentin State Prison with the Prison University Project, and volunteering with the California Reentry Program.



KEVIN GONZALEZ

Kevin Gonzalez has served over 7 years in a variety of County, State, and Federal carceral facilities. He recently graduated Magna Cum Laude with Departmental Honors in Sociology with an emphasis in Law and Society from Cal State LA in 2016, and is currently the Program Coordinator for Project Rebound at Cal State LA. Kevin is committed to the movement against mass incarceration through supporting and encouraging higher educational opportunities for formerly incarcerated students. In the upcoming fall semester of 2017 he will begin studies in the Sociology graduate program at Cal State LA.



LABREONNA BLAND

LaBreonna Stori-Turner Bland, MS of Saginaw and Flint, Michigan is a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at UC Irvine. She will enter her second year beginning Fall 2017. Before beginning her studies at UC Irvine, she obtained three undergraduate degrees and her masters while living in Michigan. LaBreonna received her Bachelors in Health Care Administration along with an Associates in Legal Studies from Ferris State University in 2011. She then went on to receive a second Bachelors in Psychology from the University of Michigan before completing her Masters in Criminology/Criminal Justice at Wayne State University. Her research interests include policing in communities of color, community-based reforms, mass incarceration reforms, and the policy aspects of these issues as they relate to urban minority populations. In addition, she is interested in the role of inequality and race as it relates to these issues.



OMAR CHAVEZ

Omar Chavez recently graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a BA in Linguistics. His education was interrupted with incarceration in 2012, and upon his return he became part of Project Rebound. He was the first Rebound Scholar to graduate from Cal State Fullerton. Omar began doing most of his advocacy work as an Outreach Officer for Project Rebound, and has recently become a member of ARC. His participation with Beyond the Bars LA reflect his beliefs that for our society to see the end of mass incarceration, a rethinking and revamping of the entire public education system is needed, especially in urban communities.



MICHAEL SAAVEDRA

Michael Saavedra was recently released from the California Department of Corrections in February of this year, after spending 19-years in prison. He spent the last 12 of those 19-years in solitary confinement. As a result of his unjust treatment and lack of access to quality legal representation within the correctional system, Michael taught himself law. To date he has successfully litigated many civil rights and criminal cases on behalf of himself and others. Michael is currently engaged with several reentry organizations working to support and assist the formerly incarcerated in their transition back into the communities. He is currently enrolled in the Pathway to Law program at Riverside City College with his academic career set on UCLA School of Law. He is dedicated to assisting those wrongfully convicted and those seeking a positive reentry back into the communities.



GABRIELLE SHEERER

Gabrielle Sheerer is a fourth year undergraduate student at UCLA majoring in International Development Studies and minoring in Environmental Studies and Public Affairs. During her time as a student at UCLA she has found multifaceted ways to be involved exploring her various interests. Committed to community and creative activism, Gabrielle has been involved in the Student Food Collective, Campus Events Commission, UCLA Radio, and Cultural Affairs Commission. In addition to academics, Gabrielle is passionate about dance and the broader force of the arts to engage people and create space for reimagining our world. Gabi is inspired to understand how to connect different disciplines, perspectives and approaches to work towards social justice. Gabrielle is grateful to be a 2017-2018 Beyond the Bars LA Fellow.



COLLEEN HAMILTON-LECKY

Colleen Hamilton-Lecky is a World Arts and Cultures Major and the Project Director of the Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project at UCLA. As a Teaching Artist with Get Lit -- Words Ignite!, she has taught poetry in High Schools across Los Angeles. She believes that art is a fundamental way to address-- and end -- the Prison Industrial Complex in the United States.

JUSTICE WORK GROUP ORGANIZERS



BRYONN BAIN

Described by Cornel West as an artist who "...speaks his truth with a power we desperately need to hear," Bryonn Bain is Brooklyn's own hip hop theater innovator, spoken word poetry champion, prison activist and educator. Bryonn teaches in the Department of African American Studies at UCLA, where he serves as faculty advisor for the Justice Work Group, co-supervises the International Human Rights Law Clinic, and is developing the Prison Education Program. Bryonn has taught courses ranging from hip hop and spoken word poetry to critical perspectives on the prison crisis at NYU, The New School, Harvard University, and Columbia University, and has lectured and performed at over 200 colleges and correctional facilities in the United States, and for sold-out audiences in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. After teaching the first hip hop and spoken word workshop in the Dramatic Arts at Harvard, Bryonn began consulting Columbia University's Center for Justice, taught writing and performance at Sing Sing prison, and founded the prison education program offering NYU degrees to men incarcerated in upstate New York. His one-man multimedia production, *Lyrics From Lockdown* - executive produced by Harry Belafonte - was developed through workshops and performances during his annual tour reaching prisons and communities in 25 states, and inspired university courses using poetry, theater and film to build critical literacy in correctional facilities nationwide. His work has been featured at the Apollo Theater, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Public Theater (NYC), National Black Theatre (Harlem), New Jersey Performing Arts Center (Newark), The Actor's Gang Theater (Culver City), the Los Angeles Theater Center, Rikers Island (New York), Marion Prison (Ohio), TEDX at Ironwood State Prison and Sing Sing Prison, Festival de Liege (Belgium), M1 Theater Festival (Singapore), Universidad de las Americas (Mexico) and Muteesa Royal University (Uganda). Celebrated as "poet laureate of the hip hop generation" by NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, Bryonn's discussions aired weekly in over 20 million homes worldwide on BET's award-winning talk show *My Two Cents*. Winner of the 1999 Boston Grand Slam Championship and 2000 Nuyorican Grand Slam Poetry Championship, his work has earned grants from the Ford, Open Society, Mellon and Bertha foundations, and his latest film "*BaaadD Sonia*" explores the life and work of Black Arts pioneer, poet and scholar-activist Sonia Sanchez, and was nominated for a 2017 Emmy Award.



DANIELLE DUPUY

Danielle Dupuy is a doctoral student at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. She began her public health career as a social epidemiologist at the Sinai Urban Health Institute (Chicago) in 2006. Since then, she has directed and evaluated programs and initiatives related to racial disparities and social equity in the fields of maternal and child health, breast cancer care, urban agriculture and violence. In 2013, Danielle enrolled in the Community Health Sciences program at UCLA with a minor in Law to study incarceration and its' effect on community wellbeing. She devotes her time to examining the U.S. justice system; its' effectiveness as a publicly funded institution and as a social determinant of health in Black U.S. communities. Since coming to UCLA, Danielle has co-founded the UCLA Justice Work Group, is a member of the University of California Justice & Health Consortium and a 2015 Justice Policy Network Fellow. Locally, she has worked with the Violence Prevention Coalition of LA, helped establish the first UCLA college course for high school graduates incarcerated in the LA county juvenile detention system and is currently a researcher for 'Million Dollar Hoods', an initiative which analyzes publicly available arrest data to map the cost of incarceration in Los Angeles neighborhoods.



LAUREL BUTLER

Laurel Butler M.A. is on Faculty in the UCLA School of Art and Architecture where for the past year she served as Associate Director of the Visual and Performing Arts Education Program. She teaches a range of undergraduate courses including Arts Programs in Correctional Institutions: History, Theory & Practice and the Arts in Corrections Practicum with students from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. She has taught performing arts in jails, detention centers, and diversion programs for the past 13 years, specializing in collaborative creative partnerships between incarcerated and non-incarcerated students, including Stanford University & Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Facility; the University of San Francisco & San Francisco Jail #5; Keshet Dance Company & the New Mexico Youth Diagnostic/Development Center (which received President Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities Coming Up Taller Award for Cultural Excellence in 2009); and the National Hispanic Cultural Center & Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center, for which the performance *Lucid Dreaming* was presented as part of the 2011 Revolutions International Theater Festival. In 2013-14 Laurel co-created and led the *Envisioning an Abolitionist* Future year-long youth residency at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, culminating in the sold out performance of *Truth Be Told*, a theatrical collaboration between Bay Area youth and the incarcerated men of the Community Works West Resolve to Stop the Violence Program. She is a Faculty Advisor for the UCLA Justice Work Group, a facilitator with the Beyond the Bars LA 2017 Fellowship Committee, a presenter at the 2017 Arts in Corrections and Create Justice conferences, a member of the Arts For LA ACTIVATE Fellowship, and the Performing Arts Specialist for the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Most recently, as founding Co-Director of Agency Arts, Laurel was awarded a California Arts Council Re-Entry Through the Arts grant to develop performing arts programs for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted youth throughout Los Angeles.



JAKE GILDEA

Jake Gildea is a passionate youth justice advocate who has worked within his career, as a volunteer, and as a mentor to best serve the youth advocacy space. Jake currently serves as the Advisor to the Underground Scholars Initiative at UCLA, and is also the Advisor to Books Beyond Bars and the Incarcerated Youth Tutorial Project. He is a proud Justice Work Group member and organizer, and appreciates the chance to be of assistance as a part of the Beyond the Bars LA Conference team. Jake began his commitment to youth justice as a Criminology Major at the University of Toronto where, as a college student, he volunteered as a mentor in several programs serving incarcerated youth. These experiences helped lead him to a lifelong dedication: supporting formerly incarcerated youth excelling and thriving as much as possible inside and outside of the juvenile justice system in Canada and now in Los Angeles where he lives and raises his family.



LAURI LABEL

Lauri Label is a fourth-year undergraduate student at UCLA majoring in Sociology and minoring in Education Studies and History. Growing up in a family of educators, Lauri decided at an early age that she wanted to serve youth, whether that be as a teacher, lawyer, or social worker. On campus, she has volunteered for UCLA UniCamp as a camp counselor for high school students in the Los Angeles area, as a preschool teaching assistant in Venice and Marina del Rey through AmeriCorps' Jumpstart, and as a facilitator for college courses at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Her passion for social justice has extended from the classroom to her extra-curriculars and now to her intended career path. Currently, she is working as a Civil Rights Legal Intern at the DC Prisoners' Rights Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee before finishing her classes and graduating in Spring 2018. While in D.C., she is researching the inadequacies of mental health treatment in federal prisons across the United States. After graduation, she hopes to earn her M.S.W. and J.D. while she continues to serve as an educator and advocate for people impacted by our criminal justice system - specifically the incarcerated youth population



RYAN LO

Ryan Lo is a producer at UnLabeled Digital Media, and a 2016 Soros Senior Advocacy Fellow. Ryan is a long time member of the both the Justice Work Group and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, and has been involved in numerous statewide policy campaigns, including prop 57, and SB 261. He has been called to give testimony before both the Senate and the Assembly on juvenile justice reform measures and is intimately involved in the justice reform landscape across California. A storyteller by nature, Ryan has lectured on criminal and juvenile justice reform at colleges across the country and in 2016 gave the Keynote address to the World Youth Initiative Forum in Jarna Sweden. This work led him to found UnLabeled Digital Media as a means uplifting the stories of systems-impacted persons and the nonprofits who serve them, while at the same time employing those same systems-impacted persons in the production of the media.



SHUCHI RANA

Shuchi Rana is the co-founder of America Innovates, an impact investment platform focused on accelerating innovation and social impact in America. She brings 16 years of experience working with Startups in Silicon Valley with a focus on Technology. She is currently a mentor for startups at Sap.io and the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center. She runs a program for youth at the Barry J Nidorf Juvenile hall, along with other members of the UCLA Justice Work Group.



ROSIE RIOS

Rosie Rios is a recent UCLA graduate who studied Sociology and Labor and Workplace Studies. She is the proud daughter of immigrants and has dedicated her life to fight for justice. She grew up in Baldwin Park, California where she is a community activist and organizer. Rosie is also the Co-founder of Mi Familia Tutoring in Baldwin Park, California. She currently co-facilitates courses at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJN) and is the Project Coordinator for No Están Solos, an initiative to resource unaccompanied migrant children from Central America. Rosie is an aspiring lawyer who wishes to become a better resource to the community that raised her.



FEMI TAIWO

Femi Taiwo is a PhD candidate in philosophy at UCLA, where he studies political philosophy and ethical theory. He is also a founding member of Justice Work Group.



COLIN "CAB" WASHINGTON

Hailing from the city of Brotherly Love and Sisterly affection, Colin "Cab" Washington has always been known to wears many hats. He is a freelance journalist and blogger who covers a wide range of topics within urban communities. He is a standing member of the Justice Work Group and contributed last year to classes that were conducted in Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall and played a pivotal role in forming the conference's collaboration with UCLA Residential Life. He worked for UCLA for three years in Residential Life from '14-'17'. During that span he served as an Assistant Resident Director for two years and one year as a Content Producer for social media. As a supporter of racial and gender equity, in 2015 he started a podcast geared towards changing the mainstream narrative around African-Americans, stating that, "we are not all athletes and rappers." Through the project he interviewed diverse professionals within the African-American community stating that, "people have to see the examples in order to change their socialized biases." Today he is as an Assistant Producer for KRCW's Left, Right & Center and is a weekly contributor to the Los Angeles Wave Newspaper as he cover South LA, Compton, Watts and Inglewood.



KENJUS T. WATSON

Kenjus T. Watson teaches courses on Educational Inequality, Urban Education, and Critical Race Theory in the Education Department at Occidental College. Prior to joining the faculty in Education, he was on special appointment in the Psychology department where he served as the Assistant Director of the Intergroup Dialogue Program. Kenjus also teaches in an education program centered on combatting recidivism with currently incarcerated youth in the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Facility in Sylmar, CA. He has been involved with social justice education efforts in secondary and post-secondary spaces for over a decade and has established Dialogue programs at several universities across the country. Kenjus is a Doctoral Candidate in the Race and Ethnic Studies Division of the Social Sciences and Comparative Education program in UCLA's Graduate School of Education (GSE) and serves as a Graduate Research Assistant to the Black Male Institute as well as to the Associate Dean for Equity and Diversity in GSE. He is also a member of the Justice Work Group and the Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health in UCLA's Community Health Sciences Department. Kenjus' scholarship tracks the deleterious effect of anti-blackness and white supremacy throughout the educational pipeline. His current research investigates the biopsychosocial impact of racial microaggressions on Black college students and the potential of Critical Race Pedagogies to inform and bolster resistance and restoration amongst marginalized communities.



ANDREW WINN

Andrew Winn is a recent graduate of UCLA, where he received a BA in sociology and minored in African American studies; he earned Latin Honors, and was a commencement speaker for UCLA's Department of Sociology's graduation. While attending UCLA, he co-founded Underground Scholars Initiative, became president of University Apartments South Residents' Association, and became a member of the Justice Work Group. He was awarded the Next Generation fellowship in 2017, where he further explored his academic and practical inquiry in the field of policy, which is supported by Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, MILPA, and the California Endowment. Andrew currently resides in Sacramento with his wife Kimberlee, works for a couple of nonprofits, and maintains membership with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. He plans on attending graduate school in the Fall of 2018 either in sociology or public policy, and is in the process completing applications. Ending mass incarceration is personal to him, as he has served two prison terms in the state system, and countless stints in several county jails.

THANK YOU TO THE BEYOND THE BARS LA COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

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