



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

"Enriching lives through effective and caring service"

November 30, 2023

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Fesia Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Ilan Davidson, President

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting- Monday, December 4, 2023

Our Commission will meet on Monday, December 4, 2023 from 12:30 p.m.- 2:00pm at 510 S. Vermont Ave., 9th Floor, Room C., 9K05, Los Angeles, California 90020.

You may also join meeting **Via Teams Calendar Invitation** [Click here to join the meeting](#). If you are unable to do so, you may Dial: [+1 213-204-2512,,980587174#](tel:+12132042512980587174)
Please Post Agenda in your location.

Parking is located at 523 Shatto Place. Please pull a ticket when entering the parking structure. Please take the elevator to the 9th floor and walk through the bridge, which is located towards the northwest corner of the parking structure, to reach Terrace (T) Level of the designated candidate waiting area. Prior to leaving the facility, please take your ticket to either security desk (Ground Level or Terrace Level) for validation. **Do not park at the 510 South Vermont Avenue structure. Violators may be towed at vehicle owner's expense.**

Please review, and let me know if you have any questions.

If you are unable to join the meeting, please call me at (213) 639-6089 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 4th.

Grace Löwenberg
(213) 639-6089



Los Angeles County Commission on
Human Relations - 510 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020
(213) 738-2788

AGENDA
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
Monday, December 4, 2023 – 12:30-2:00 pm
LA County Vermont Corridor Building - 510 S. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020 - Conf. Rm. C on the Terrace Level, 9th Floor
[Also via MS Teams Video and Audio Conferencing [213-204
2512..980587174#](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/2512980587174) [Click here to join the meeting](#)]

Our mission: to transform prejudice into acceptance, inequity into justice, and hostility into peace

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment (12:30)**
- 2. Review & Approval of November 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes***
- 3. President's Report (12:33)**
 - 3.1. Spotlight on a Partner: LAVsHate's TaskForce re: UAHW and SOS
 - 3.2. Statewide United Against Hate Week press conference in Berkeley 11/13/23*
 - 3.3. Press Conference on Annual Hate Crime Report on 11/29/23*
- 4. Executive Director's Report (12:45)**
 - 4.1. LA vs Hate Black Community Mural Unveiling Event on 11/11/23*
 - 4.2. AAPI Equity Alliance's State of Hate in LA Report on 11/15/23*
 - 4.3. LA vs. Hate UAHW "True Colors" at Museum of Tolerance on 11/14/23*
 - 4.4. Communications Update with PIO Tony Cowser
 - 4.5. Other Program and Administrative Updates
- 5. Committee Reports (12:55)**
 - 5.1 Transformative Justice Committee (Gunning)
 - 5.2 Policy and Advocacy (Legislation) Committee (Montaño)
 - 5.3 LA vs Hate Committee (Montaño)
 - 5.4 John Anson Ford Awards Committee (Montaño)
- 6. Public Comment (3 minutes per person) (1:05)**
- 7. Action/Discussion Items (1:10)**
 - 7.1 Recent increase in hate in LA County arising from Gaza-Israel war*
 - 7.2 Process for Commissioners with many absences*
 - 7.3 Commission follow-up on the findings of the hate crime report (LA vs Hate annual report)
- 8. Commissioner Announcements (2 minutes per Commissioner) (1:55)**
- 9. Adjournment in memory of humanitarian Rosalynn Carter (2:00)**

For translation to other languages o para más información en español, call (213) 738-2788 or email us.

* Denotes that this agenda packet includes written material regarding this agenda item.

Meetings are held in English. If interpretation in other languages or accommodations for persons with disabilities are needed, please contact the Commission at (213) 738-7288 at least 3 business days before the meeting. The meetings of the Human Relations

Commission are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Note: The following Commissioners will be participating by conference telephone communication from the following locations: Dandy de Paula, 21815 Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716, Preeti Kulkarni, 3419 Federal Avenue, LA, CA 90066



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

510 South Vermont Avenue, 11th floor
Los Angeles, California, 90020
www.lahumanrelations.org
(213) 738-2788

[PROPOSED] MINUTES

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Meeting of November 6, 2023

510 S. Vermont Ave., Terrace Level (9th floor), Conference Room A, Los Angeles, CA 90020
and via Microsoft Teams Video & Audio Conferencing

PRESENT: Helen L. Chin
Ilan Davidson
Dandy De Paula*
Jeanette Ellis-Royston
Isabelle Gunning
Kevork Keushkerian
Preeti Kulkarni*
Guadalupe Montaña
Jason Moss
Fredrick Sykes

STAFF: Pierre Arreola
Tony Cowser
Grace Lowenberg
Yadira Pineda
Paul Smith
Robert Sowell
Robin Toma
Siranush Vardanyan

GUESTS: Rev. Alonzo Braggs, Antelope
Valley
Andria Seo, Office of County
Counsel

(*) Indicates Commissioners who participated via Teams video conferencing and provided their location address timely to include on the posted agenda.

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment of Indigenous Peoples:** Commission President Ilan Davidson called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. with a quorum in attendance. He began with recognizing that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants - past, present, and emerging - as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multi-generational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño

Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and San Fernando Band of Mission Indians. To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov.

Review & Approval of October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes: The motion to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of October 2, 2023 as presented by Vice-President/Secretary (VP-Sec.) Isabelle Gunning was moved by VP-Sec. Gunning and seconded by Commissioner Guadalupe Montaño. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.

2. President's Report

2.1 Spotlight on Partner: Rev. Alonzo Braggs, Palmdale

President Davidson welcomed partner Rev. Alonzo Braggs from Palmdale via Teams videoconferencing. Rev. Braggs talked about his interest in bringing awareness of the Human Relations Commissions (HRC) to Palmdale and to the Antelope Valley, through his connection with Commission senior staff Paul Smith who is a resident of Palmdale. Executive Director (ED) Robin Toma and President Davidson thanked Rev. Braggs for his time and expressed their interest in working with the Sheriff's Department and community leaders in this partnership between HRC and Antelope Valley communities.

2.2 Attendance policy and meeting stipends: President Davidson, referring to the document in the meeting packet, encouraged all Commissioners to complete all documents and to make sure that they are receiving their meeting stipend; and to be aware of the meeting attendance requirements as Commissioners.

2.3 Invocation on 11/2/23 at Chair Hahn's State of the County Address: President Davidson shared that he had the honor of offering the invocation at Supervisor Hahn's State of the County Address in San Pedro on November 2nd. He shared some information about the \$15 million effort to fight organized retail theft and new common sense gun policies that are being put in place to save lives by limiting access to guns. Additionally, President Davidson discussed that the budget for the Sheriff's Department has increased by one billion dollars over the past decade, debunking the myth of defunding the police. He continued to share other highlights including housing for veterans, an increase in hiring mental health care workers for those in need of services, offering loan forgiveness, and lastly a success story about safe surrender. President Davidson invited Commissioner Dandy De Paula who was also present to share his experience, who added that President Davidson beautifully sang a prayer.

3. Executive Director's Report

3.1 LA vs Hate Mural Unveiling in Piute Middle School in Antelope Valley

ED Toma began by sharing that there was the unveiling of a new LA vs Hate 'Summer/Season of Solidarity' mural in the Antelope Valley on October 27th, which was a wonderful event. He reported that the school band performed, as well as thirty students were involved in the actual painting of the mural. Additionally, other community partners (Piute Middle School, Antelope Valley Partners in Health, et al.) were involved in helping put together this mural, making it a special event. ED Toma invited PIO Tony Cowser to share his report on the event. He shared his screen to show a report about which the media coverage of the unveiling of the mural.

3.2 3rd Annual COC-HRC Community Policing Conference

ED Toma shared that the 3rd annual Civilian Oversight Commission and Human Relations Commission Community Policing Conference was held on October 27th and asked staff manager Pierre Arreola to share more information about the conference. He said that various departments and partners are working together towards advancing equity and community safety, and the topics covered were around elevating law enforcement work, building policing trust, diversion, and reentry. He noted that senior staff Paul Smith was a moderator for a beautiful panel with keynote speakers and much information. Staff manager Arreola ended by showing a short video from the conference.

3.3 Other Program and Administrative Updates

ED Toma reported that the Board of Supervisors is going to take up a motion presented by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath about the growth of anti LGBTQ+ hate, and the involvement of a larger network beyond LA County that is involved in different LA County jurisdictions. ED Toma shared his screen to show that the motion asks that the CEO collaborate with the Sheriff's Department and county partners (including our Commission) to report back about the number of incidents that have occurred in the last five years.

Next, ED Toma shared that there was effort to pull together as many community-based organizations and partners who have been working with us already to let them know about a funding opportunity that is available.

ED Toma mentioned that HRC has put in a request for an additional staff person to help in strategic and communications priority and that the budget is being requested for a Marketing Analyst.

He moved on to share that he was part of an international panel organized by LA-based nonprofit Expediente Rojo on hate crimes which included representatives from Argentina and Mexico to talk about the issue of rising hate crimes and what is being done about it.

ED Toma provided information about a funding agreement that is being worked on with Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to support them in responding to not only LGBTQ hate but also all matters of hate, racism, homophobia, antisemitism, anti-immigrant sentiment, etc., in some of the County's schools.

Lastly, Saturday the 11th will be the 5th unveiling of the Summer/Season of Solidarity mural unveiling for the Black community, with Supervisor Holly Mitchell and the County's head of the Aging and Disabilities Department, Laura Trejo.

Commissioner Keushkerian asked about the status of our move and was told that HRC will be moving temporarily to another side of the building on the 11th floor, until our space is ready on the 15th floor.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Transformative Justice Committee: Committee Chair Isabelle Gunning shared that the Committee did meet and had a couple of guests, Sandy Greenstein and Jonathan Horgan, who are the co-chairs of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission. They shared information about their history and the work that they are doing. They received information about what Los Angeles County HRC is doing with 211/LA vs Hate. Chair Gunning explained that the Pasadena Human

Relations Commission United Against Hate Week event will be taking place on November 16th from 6 to 8 pm. She also shared that the next visit to Men's Central Jail will be on December 7th and to let the committee know if anybody would like to join the tour.

4.2 Policy and Advocacy (Legislation) Committee: Committee Chair Guadalupe Montañó stated that there have been no meetings, but she is looking into the effects of SB 411, which would make it easier for neighborhoods councils to meet remotely, to see if there are any implications.

4.3 LA vs Hate Committee: Committee Chair Guadalupe Montañó shared that United Against Hate Week is November 12 to 18, and there are so many events happening, she asked for Commissioners to keep an eye out for them, and to sign up to be on the distribution list so that they can get more information. Commissioner Jason Moss suggested we develop a plan to get the information out on LA vs Hate to proactively approach others in the community about this, and provide help to schools experiencing bullying, and indicated his interest in serving on the committee.

4.4 John Anson Ford Awards Committee: Committee Chair Guadalupe Montañó announced that our annual human relations awards event is on January 16th on the 8th floor of the Hall of Administration, and all Supervisorial districts have been contacted and that we are waiting on some awardees to confirm availability.

5. **Public Comment:** No public comments.

6. **Action/Discussion Items**

6.1 Report to the Board on Supporting Gender Affirming Health Care: ED Toma shared that this is a follow up item continued from the last meeting, in case there were questions.

6.2 Preparations for United Against Hate Week- November 12-18: ED Toma shared a poster of which 10,000 are being posted in high hate crime areas for United Against Hate Week, and spoke about different events that are going to take place during that Week, referring to the online calendar at www.LAvsHate.org ED Toma encouraged all to share the information about the various events, but especially about our whisper campaign that hate should be reported to LAvsHate.org or 211.

6.3 Recent increase in hate in LA County arising from Gaza-Israel war: After ED Toma shared a draft Commission statement on the Gaza-Israel war, he began explaining that the intention is to recognize the violence that is happening there; to express our solidarity with our fellow community members who are suffering; to note what the Board has said; and to recognize the impact of violence rising here in our own county and communities. He went on to say that the statement is to draw attention to our model LA vs Hate system and all its anti-hate resources, as well as training and tools we offer for difficult conversations, with the purpose of getting people to help make the changes in institutions and systems that get at the root of hate. He noted that we are currently providing funding of \$1.045 million to community organizations for hate violence prevention for the next 12 months that couldn't come at a better time. But we are challenging people to be careful during these times about the tendency to stereotype others, the need to not make assumptions about others' views, and to try to understand before acting. He then invited feedback and discussion. Commissioner Moss commented positively about the statement, and suggested including that it is not just the violence but the intimidation, which causes people to live in fear. He noted that it is happening especially on college campuses which they don't appear equipped for, and also noted the 400% increase in

antisemitic incidents since October 7th. VP-Sec. Gunning spoke of the anti-Palestinian/anti-Islamic actions as well, noting that the intimidation is happening to both sides, with each side dehumanizing the other. Commissioner Guadalupe Montano felt it needed a clear lead statement before the long first paragraph, and the language was too evocative for her by referencing the horrific killing and atrocities. Discussion ensued in response about not wanting to water down the reality of it, that it would not recognize the specific negative acts. Commissioner Jeanette Ellis Royston spoke of the deep history that goes back to 1948 and before, and how that's so important in understanding what is happening now. PIO Cowser mentioned the need to distinguish the Jewish people from the Israeli State, that if the media did that, it would help to reduce the hate that is proliferating because of the broad-stroke thinking that is promoted when we don't differentiate people from their governments. Pres. Davidson stated that if the Commission is going to put out a statement, he thinks that this conveys what we want to say in a strong way with a powerful message that alludes to both the attack and the hostages, but also the loss of all innocent life; and to go beyond that will lead into potential pushback and distract from our main intention, and agreed with Commissioner Montano about leading off with what we are for and why.

6.4 Upcoming Briefing on the Annual Hate Crime Report: (Moved up on the agenda without objection) Staff Manager Marshall Wong shared that Wednesday, November 29th there will be a hybrid press conference for the release of the 2022 Hate Crime Report that will announce major findings. He stated that our Commission has been studying hate crimes since 1980, which makes us one of the longest standing programs. Staff manager Wong shared some data and details regarding the report and the increases in hate crimes. President Davidson thanked staff manager Wong for his time and the report.

7. Commissioner Announcements: No announcements.

Adjournment: President Davidson invited a motion to adjourn the meeting in the name of peace on the planet as suggested by VP-Sec. Gunning. Commissioner Montano asked to adjourn in memory of Wadea Al-Fayoume, the 6-year-old boy who was murdered in Illinois for being Muslim, and California former Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, 49. Commissioner Keushkerian added to adjourn in memory of the Armenians who were killed due to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. The motion passed unanimously with no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabelle Gunning
Commission Vice President-Secretary

Civil Rights Department, Local Government and Community Partners Join Together for Launch of Sixth Annual United Against Hate Week

Highlight dozens of anti-hate events planned across California, from poetry slams to rallies and more

Share new preliminary statistics showing approximately 513 reports of hate to state's anti-hate hotline and resource network in first six months since official launch

BERKELEY – The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) — in partnership with the City of Berkeley, Not In Our Town, and LA vs Hate — today joined government and community leaders for the launch of the sixth annual [United Against Hate Week](#) (UAHW). The week is part of a call for local civic action to help put a stop to the spread of hate and discrimination, which remains a threat to our neighborhoods, towns, and cities. Throughout UAHW, local government and community partners will host dozens of anti-hate events across California — from poetry slams to rallies and more. In addition, CRD today also announced the release of new preliminary statistics showing approximately 513 reports of hate to [California vs Hate](#), the state's anti-hate hotline and resource network, in the first six months since its official launch.

“California continues to lead the charge in pushing back against hate,” **said CRD Acting Director Mary Wheat**. “From civic engagement at the grassroots level to historic statewide investments, the Civil Rights Department is proud to be part of a new generation of leaders in the fight for greater inclusion and equity for all. During United Against Hate Week, we encourage all Californians to take advantage of existing resources — like California vs Hate — to push for change from the ground up for all our communities. Whether it's because of conflict abroad or here at home, it takes real strength to stand in solidarity in the face of bias and discrimination. Together, we're united against hate.”

“With hate crimes increasing in California and different views spurring debate that sometimes turns hostile, movements like United Against Hate Week become more vital,” **said Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee**. “It is my hope that providing awareness about nonprofit services available to victims or other resources, such as the Civil Rights Department hate crime reporting hotline, we can spread the message that hate is not okay and that there is support available for those who need it.”

“Berkeley is proud to have a founding role in United Against Hate Week,” **said Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin**. “Over the last few years, we have seen this event grow exponentially, yet there is still so much work to be done. Now more than ever, in the face of growing hate crimes, we must take a stand to bring our communities together against hatred.”

“We're honored to stand with this coalition of organizers and leaders who are committed to pushing back against hate for the safety of all residents,” **said Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission President Ilan Davidson**. “When we founded LA vs Hate in 2019, it was in direct response to the rise of hate our communities were enduring, and we knew that we could not do this work alone. Through community partnerships, organizing, and activism, we have created a unique, holistic program and an expanding system that is working to ensure peace and safety for all of our communities. We hope that all

who are targeted for hate know that we are here for you, there are services for you, and together we can stop the spread of hate in California and beyond.”

“Black people are disproportionately impacted by hate crimes in California, which is why the NAACP California Hawaii State Conference is proud to participate in the sixth annual United Against Hate Week,” **said Rick L. Callender, ESQ., CA/HI NAACP President.** “The NAACP CA/HI State Conference, in conjunction with our 57 branches across California, is dedicated and committed to eradicating hate within our state through community action and by supporting bills such as AB 449 (Ting), the CA vs Hate Hotline, and our collaborative efforts with the CDSS Stop the Hate grant. It is through these comprehensive measures that we will make a positive difference in the statistics we have seen persist for far too long.”

Initially created by local government and community leaders in the Bay Area in response to white supremacist rallies in Berkeley and San Francisco, UAHW is an opportunity for local residents to take action in their communities under the simple, yet powerful principle that, when cities and their residents work together against hate, we can restore respect and discourse, embrace the strength of our diversity, and build inclusive and equitable communities for all. Through local events, sharing stories, holding rallies, and connecting with local institutions, UAHW, which runs from November 12 to November 18, is about working together to help combat a national and statewide increase in reports of hate. In California, reported hate crimes [have continued to rise](#) in recent years, reaching their highest levels since 2001 — jumping more than 20% from 2021 to 2022.

More broadly, California has continued to be at the forefront of efforts to combat hate, whether through civic engagement, [nation-leading investments in local anti-hate programs](#), and the [first statewide commission](#) working to track hate crimes and recommend policy. A key component of the state’s anti-hate initiatives includes the [recent launch of CA vs Hate](#), a new multilingual statewide hotline and resource network that provides a safe, anonymous reporting option for victims and witnesses of hate. CA vs Hate aims to help overcome barriers to reporting by offering people targeted for hate — and their communities — additional resources to report acts of hate through a community-centered approach that does not require engagement with the criminal legal system. Whether individuals report to CA vs Hate online or by phone, they are eligible to receive care coordination to ensure they can access resources and support, including legal, financial, mental health, and mediation services.

In the first six months since its official launch, CA vs Hate has been contacted by hundreds of individuals. Key preliminary statistics from May through October include:

- CA vs Hate received 513 reports of hate acts across California. Of those reports, 233 were made over the phone and 280 were made via the online portal.
- More than 60% of all individuals who reported an act of hate accepted care coordination services, including direct and ongoing support accessing legal aid or counseling.
- More than 75% of California’s counties were represented in the preliminary data, up from approximately 40% in the first month following the official launch.
- Among the reasons cited for the report of hate, race (27%) and ethnicity (18%) continued to be the most reported bias motivations, followed by religion (13%) and sexual orientation (11%).
- Approximately one in six reports were made by a witness or advocate. Most reports were made by an individual who reported being targeted for an act of hate.

CA vs Hate is a non-emergency, multilingual hate crime and incident reporting hotline and online portal. Reports can be made anonymously by calling (833) 866-4283, or 833-8-NO-HATE, Monday to Friday

from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT or online at any time. Hate acts can be reported in 15 different languages through the online portal and in over 200 languages when calling the hotline. For individuals who want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or who are in imminent danger, please call 911. For more information on CA vs Hate, please visit CAvsHate.org.

You can find more information on UAHW, upcoming events, and ways to help drive change in your community online at <https://www.unitedagainsthateweek.org>.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CALACOUNTY/bulletins/37ad461>

LA County Hate Crimes Report Has Second Highest Total in More than 20 Years

County of Los Angeles, California sent this bulletin at 11/29/2023 02:28 PM PST

[View as a webpage](#) / [Share](#)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2023

CONTACTS

Antonio Cowser

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213-440-2945

LA County Hate Crimes Report Reveals Second Highest Total of Hate Crimes in More than 20 Years

Skyrocketing anti-Black and anti-Jewish crimes, the largest number of anti-transgender crimes ever, a record-breaking number of anti-immigrant slurs, and a high rate of violence are among the findings.

LOS ANGELES, CA – Today, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) released its annual analysis of hate crimes reported throughout Los Angeles County in 2022. Since 1980, LACCHR has compiled, analyzed, and produced this annual report of hate crime data submitted by over 100 law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and community-based organizations. **Following two years of double-digit increases, reported hate crimes in Los Angeles County grew 18% from 790 to 929, the second largest number in more than 20 years.** For the past 8 years, hate crimes have been trending upward and since 2013 there has been a 143% increase.

“The release of the County’s Commission on Human Relations comes at a somber time—a time in which we are seeing what is happening afar having a direct local impact here in LA County,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District. “It is also a reminder that we are not immune and hate and violence continue to impact the lives of Angelenos. To that end, we have doubled our efforts to enact several anti-hate programs led by the Human Relations Commission to help those most impacted by hate – so that they can receive critical support, counseling, and resources to heal from traumatic situations and feel safe again.”

Some of the other important findings in the report include data that showed Blacks being the most frequent targets of reported hate crimes in the County, anti-Asian hate crimes reaching the second highest total ever, explicitly anti-immigrant hate crimes hitting a historic high and a growth in hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ+ and Jewish communities.

“We are troubled by the extremely high number of hate crimes in 2022,” stated Commission President Ilan Davidson. “But we are especially concerned about the huge increases in hate crimes targeting the African American and Jewish

communities.”

“2022 witnessed deepening divides across the U.S. along lines of political party, race, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity,” commented Robin Toma, the Commission’s Executive Director. “Against this backdrop, hate crimes across the nation, including L.A. County, reached historic highs, which reflect more bias-motivated crime, but also better reporting, thanks to our anti-hate program LA vs Hate: it’s helped over 2,700 victims of hate motivated bullying, verbal harassment, threats, and hate crimes in our county since it began, provided us a more complete map of hate crime for our county, and enabled us to carry out more effective hate prevention strategies.”

To view the complete report, including hate crime maps, graphs, and tables, please visit hrc.lacounty.gov. Some hate crime data is limited by the current searchability of the database only for the time period of 2003 to 2022. For specific race/ethnicity data and examples, please [click here for anti-Black hate crimes](#), [click here for anti-Latino/a hate crimes](#), and [click here for anti-Asian hate crimes](#).

The report’s significant findings include the following:

- 72% of hate crimes were of a violent nature, the second highest percentage in at least 20 years.
- Racial, sexual orientation and religious hate crimes all grew sharply. But racism was by far the most common motivation, constituting 57% of all hate crimes. Racist crimes jumped 14%, from 476 to 545.
- Although they only comprise about 9% of the county’s population, African Americans were again disproportionately targeted and comprised 53% of racial hate crime victims. While anti-Black crimes climbed, all other major racial and ethnic groups experienced slight increases or declined significantly.
- Anti-Latino/a crimes rose 3% and they again were the second largest group of racial victims. This was the seventh year in a row that Latino/as experienced the highest rate of violence (93%) of any racial/ethnic group.
- Anti-Asian crimes, which had soared to record highs during the pandemic, declined 25%. However, the 61 crimes reported were the second largest number in this report’s history.
- Sexual orientation crimes comprised the second largest motivation (18%) and grew 20%. 81% of these crimes targeted gay men.
- Religious crimes spiked 41% and comprised 16% of all hate crimes. Eighty-three percent of these crimes were anti-Jewish.
- There were 44 anti-transgender crimes, the largest number ever documented. Ninety-one percent of these crimes were violent, a rate much higher than racial, sexual orientation, and religious attacks.
- After skyrocketing 48% the previous year, hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used continued to climb another 12% from 84 to 94. This was the largest number ever recorded. Suspects used anti-immigrant language in 55% of anti-Latino/a crimes and in 25% of anti-Asian offenses.
- Hate crimes committed by gang members remained elevated and comprised 6% of all hate crimes. 74% of these were racially-motivated.
- After declining the previous year, hate crimes that contained evidence of white supremacist ideology (most often the use of swastikas in vandalism) increased 66% from 97 to 140 crimes. This was the largest number in 13 years. They comprised 15% of all reported hate crime. There was evidence of white supremacist belief systems in 38% of all religious hate crimes and 9% of racial crimes.
- Similar to the previous year, the largest number of hate crimes (251) reported in 2022 took place in the Metro Service Planning Area (SPA) Region IV (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights) followed by

San Fernando Valley SPA Region II (141). This represents large increases in the number of hate crimes in both regions. However, if one compares the populations of the regions to the numbers of reported hate crimes, the Metro SPA had the highest rate followed by West SPA Region V (which includes part of West Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Culver City, and a number of beach communities). These two regions have had the highest rates for several years in a row.

In response to the rise in hate, the Board of Supervisors directed LACCHR to build a multi-year campaign to prevent and respond to acts of hate in the County, which resulted in the LA vs Hate initiative. The initiative has three components: (1) a community-driven marketing campaign to encourage residents and organizations to unite against and report acts of hate; (2) the first government hotline (via 211) for reporting acts of hate and providing assistance to hate victims; and (3) a network of community agencies that provide rapid response, support and advocacy, and hate prevention services.

Since September 2019, when LA vs Hate/211 began accepting calls and reports via the website, LA vs Hate has received more than 2,700 reports of hate, over 800 during the last year alone. Approximately 88% of those callers have requested personal assistance through case management, demonstrating the critical need for hate victim support.

For more information on the LA vs Hate initiative, including shareable graphics ready-made for social media, please [click here](#).

*The database is only searchable back to 2003.

###

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3.3 (2) Press Conference on Annual Hate Crime Report

CALIFORNIA

L.A. County says hate crimes surged in 2022, with nearly 75% of them violent



Protestors march at a rally against Asian hate crimes in downtown Los Angeles in 2021. (Damian Dovarganes/Associated Press)

BY REBECCA ELLIS | STAFF WRITER

NOV. 29, 2023 2:20 PM PT

Hate crimes in Los Angeles County surged in 2022 to the highest level in two decades, according to a report released Wednesday by the county Commission on Human Relations.

The [report](#), which the county has produced annually since 1980, found that at least 929 people were victims of hate crimes in that year, an 18% increase over 2021. It is the largest total the county has reported since 2001, according to the report.

Officials noted a sharp rise in hate crimes against Muslim and Jewish individuals since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7, but those are not part of the 2022 report.

The report found nearly three-quarters of the crimes were violent, and Black and Jewish residents were disproportionately the victims. Anti-Black hate crimes rose by 34%, according to the report. Anti-Jewish crimes spiked by 59%.

“Nearly every race, ethnicity, nationality and religion has been targeted for hate crime in our county,” Robin Toma, executive director of the Commission on Human Relations, said at a news conference Wednesday.



CALIFORNIA

Hate crimes in L.A. County reach highest level in nearly two decades

Dec. 7, 2022

Toma said he believed the rise in hate crimes was in part due to a more muscular reporting system. The county launched its [LA vs Hate](#) initiative in 2020, which includes a government hotline for reporting hate crimes.

“But we also know that the increase in actual hate crime is real because other jurisdictions we know of have reported similar rises in hate crimes,” said Toma, noting that 2022 was a year in which major news stories — continuing fallout from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, and, locally, the release of a recording in which city leaders made racist remarks — may have bitterly divided constituents.

The commission highlights specific examples of hate crimes that took place last year, many of which never made headlines; a white man throwing a cup of coffee at a Japanese man, telling him to “go back to where you came from”; three white men driving a truck with a Confederate flag yelling racial slurs at two Mexican men; a Black teenage boy in Marina Del Rey receiving a FaceTime call from a man who flashed his firearms and said he planned to carry out a mass shooting targeting Black people.

“In any given year, only a handful of hate crimes ever get reported in the media,” said commission President Ilan Davidson. “This report tells the stories of the hundreds of other nameless victims.”

The report comes at a time of [rising](#) anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim crimes following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. Three Palestinian college students were [shot in Vermont](#). A 6-year-old Muslim boy was [fatally stabbed](#) in Chicago. Swastikas have cropped up on [school lockers](#) and [college dorms](#).

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“We know this is a particularly tense time with the violence and the war between Hamas and Israel is causing not only suffering there, but suffering here,” said Toma, adding the commission was learning of a growing number of hate crimes targeting both Muslims and Jews.

The report goes only through the end of 2022 and does not include data on the hate crimes that took place after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, prompting Israel to bombard Gaza. But both Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna and Asst. Chief Blake Chow of the Los Angeles Police Department shared newer data indicating that local hate crimes against Muslim and Jewish individuals had skyrocketed since the war began.

Chow said the LAPD had seen a 267% increase in antisemitic hate crimes in the period between Oct. 6 and Nov. 20 compared with the same period last year. He said anti-Muslim hate crimes had increased 633% — to 22 from three.

“Acts of hate and racism will have absolutely no place in this county,” Luna said. “Please report this.”

According to the report, there were 121 anti-Latino hate crimes last year — a 3% increase from the year before. Perpetrators used anti-immigrant slurs — typically against Mexicans — in many of the anti-Latino crimes. The vast majority were violent.

“I find it disturbing to learn that Latino victims of hate incidents also have hurtful racist and anti-Mexican slurs used against them,” said county Supervisor Hilda Solis, the first Latina to serve in a presidential Cabinet. “It’s no secret many of us have faced that through our careers.”

Anti-Asian hate crimes, which rose dramatically during the pandemic with perpetrators blaming victims for the spread of COVID-19, decreased by 25%, to 61. While a sizable decline, officials noted this was still the second-largest number of hate crimes ever reported against Asians.

Eighteen percent of hate crimes were motivated by sexual orientation, according to the report, with most targeting gay men. Forty-four anti-transgender crimes were documented — the largest number ever reported.

According to the report, 97 hate crime cases were referred to the L.A. County district attorney's office in 2022. Charges were filed in 86 cases.

“Every member of our community deserves to feel safe and valued,” said Dist. Atty. George Gascón. “And we will work tirelessly towards ensuring that reality.”



Rebecca Ellis

Rebecca Ellis covers Los Angeles County government for the Los Angeles Times. Previously, she covered Portland city government for Oregon Public Broadcasting. Before OPB, Ellis wrote for the Miami Herald, freelanced for the Providence Journal and reported as a Kroc fellow at NPR in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Brown University in 2018. She was named a finalist for the 2022 Livingston Awards for her investigation into abuses within Portland's private security industry.

4.1 LA vs. Hate Black Community Mural Unveiling Event



LA vs Hate Joins Supervisor Holly Mitchell to Launch United Against Hate Week and Unveil New Anti-Hate Mural Honoring the Black Community

Coalition Unveils Mural Promoting Solidarity and Calls for Peace and Unity in Response to Rising Rates of Hate Incidents Across LA County

Los Angeles – November 11, 2023 – [LA vs Hate](#), the county’s anti-hate program, joined LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell to kick off [United Against Hate Week](#) by unveiling a new mural that celebrates LA County’s Black community at a special event at Willowbrook Senior Center. The mural, “It’s All For You,” by Brittney Price, is the fifth and final mural of LA vs Hate’s Summer of Solidarity, a public art series that celebrates the diverse communities of Los Angeles. Launched by the LA County Commission on Human Relations in 2019, LA vs Hate is a community-centered program designed to encourage all residents of Los Angeles County to unite against and report hate, as well as to support those of us who may have been victims of hate-motivated acts. Returning for its fourth annual campaign, LA vs Hate’s United Against Hate Week (UAHW) is part of a statewide call for local civic action to put a stop to the spread of hate and discrimination, which remains a threat to our school campuses, neighborhoods, towns, and cities.

This LA vs Hate mural was created in partnership with Willowbrook Inclusion Network, Brotherhood Crusade and LA Commons, as well as the office of LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell. Each of LA vs Hate’s five solidarity murals unveiled across LA County conveys inclusion, pride and history of groups experiencing high levels of hate and discrimination, and promotes cross-cultural and interracial solidarity, utilizing the power of art as part of its strategy to unite diverse communities against hate.

This coalition of County leadership and community partners launched United Against Hate Week with a call for peace and unity during a time where world events are causing division and rising rates of hate across LA, state and the nation. This follows the trend at the state and national level where in California hate crimes increased over 20 percent from 2021 to 2022, according to the CA Department of Justice. LAPD reported that in the city of LA, hate crimes grew 15% in 2022, with anti-Black hate crimes jumping 36%, making it among the most targeted for hate crimes along with Latinos, Jews and the LGBTQ+ communities. LA vs Hate leads LA County’s campaign each year, with over 10,000 anti-hate “Comm-Unity” posters going up in areas where hate acts have been reported and on Metro buses and trains; hundreds of hate victims who report to LA vs Hate and 211LA benefiting from free assistance and support to remedies for violations of their rights; and dozens of LA County communities, organizations and individuals organizing protests, educational events, and art activations – all focused on stopping the hate and preventing hate violence.

The press conference and dedication ceremony featured speeches from LA County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, President of the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations Ilan Davidson, Executive Director of the LA County Commission on Human Relations Robin Toma, Director of the Los Angeles County Aging & Disabilities Department Laura Trejo, Executive Vice President of Brotherhood Crusade Stacy

Hill-Williams, CEO of LA Commons Karen Mack, Willowbrook Inclusion Network Founder Reginald Johnson and poet Shandela Contreras. The ceremony also included remarks from a hate victim who reported an incident to LA vs Hate and shared their story. The community celebration that followed included family-friendly activities, food, as well as dance performances from the Willowbrook Center Senior Line Dancers.

“This unveiling is the culmination of residents across Willowbrook and South LA coming together to pay homage to the history of their communities while working to create a brighter future,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell. “I want to thank LA vs Hate and all the community partners involved in making this important event possible. I cannot think of a better time than now, to recommit to ending all forms of hate, it is my hope that this mural is a beautiful reminder of what is possible when we are brave enough to do so.”

“I’m proud of what our Commission has done in bringing LA vs Hate to communities through these beautiful murals and the energizing events of United Against Hate Week,” said Ilan Davidson, President of the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations. Its Executive Director, Robin Toma, added, “When community art is purposed to uplift and unify our communities, we become stronger and resistant to the things that would divide us - but right now, more of us need to do something to spread the word about LAVsHate.org as the place to learn, report, get help, and change the policies, practices and cultures that perpetuate hate and discrimination.”

“Brotherhood Crusade is honored to stand alongside LA vs Hate, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, and our partners in unveiling the 'It's All For You' mural, symbolizing unity in LA County's Black community,” said Charisse Bremond Weaver, President and CEO of Brotherhood Crusade. “This mural illustrates the beauty that emerges when diverse voices come together to spread a message of peace and understanding, and we are so proud to be part of this important movement as part of our commitment to creating a more positive and inclusive South Los Angeles.”

“When we experience art and culture together, it enables us to transcend differences and find common ground,” said Karen Mack, CEO of LA Commons. “This mural in Willowbrook and those in the other parts of the County are powerful touchstones providing us with beauty, inspiration and meaning, and energizing us for United Against Hate Week at a time when this is more important than ever.”

“Willowbrook Inclusion Network and resident stakeholders appreciate the added value to our community by way of arts and culture, specifically visual art in the form of murals,” said Reginald Johnson, founder of Willowbrook Inclusion Network. “The coalition that worked together on this project needs to be replicated and scaled to enhance historic preservation projects that help communities understand their past, present and future.”

“This mural welcomes the neighborhood with open arms to the gateway of South Los Angeles by connecting the history and future of Willowbrook's ecology and community,” said Brittney Price, muralist and creator of “It's All for You.” “Historical figures from Willowbrook and more broadly LA County's black community are depicted within a tableau of natural, musical, spiritual and architectural elements that pay homage to this neighborhood's rich culture from the past to the present.”

As the final mural unveiling of the Summer of Solidarity program, LA vs Hate welcomed back the artists of the other four community murals to talk about the work they created with and for the Jewish, LGBTQ+, Latiné and Indigenous communities of LA County. This series of five murals across the five LA County districts also seeks to remind residents of the County's hate reporting system, where anyone can report

an act of hate and receive free and confidential support by calling 2-1-1, or by filing a report online at www.LAvsHate.org.

This event was the first of many events planned during LA County's fourth annual United Against Hate Week. Now through November 18, communities will host webinars, social media events, screenings, art projects, community dialogues, and meditation gatherings to provide a dynamic way to increase engagement across neighborhoods and support efforts to stand up to hate in our communities. LA vs Hate will be participating in several United Against Hate Week actions including the statewide campaign press conference in Berkeley on November 13, alongside the California Civil Rights Department, City of Berkeley, and Not In Our Town. On November 13, The City of Santa Monica is partnering with Right To Be to offer a virtual bystander intervention training for the community. On November 14 at the Museum of Tolerance, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and Brotherhood Crusade will present True Colors, a showcase of true stories performed by Jews of Color actors, sharing their yearning for belonging and the rich and complicated question of identity. For a full list of the United Against Hate Week events taking place in LA County, visit LAvsHate.org/uahw.

For more information and to report acts of hate and discrimination, visit LAvsHate.org.

About LA vs Hate

LA vs Hate is a community-centered program designed to support all residents of Los Angeles County. Led by the County's Human Relations Commission, LA vs Hate partners with public agencies and community partners from all five County districts, representing a diverse coalition of voices committed to ending hate. The program aims to address the normalization of hate and inspire people to stand up to it, build understanding about what constitutes a hate act and how to report it, as well as support individuals and communities as they heal from the trauma of hate and work to end systemic discrimination. By tracking, reporting, and standing together against hate, we can ensure that resources are allocated effectively, that those targeted by hate receive the support they need. Together, we can build respectful and resilient communities.

Media Inquiries

press@lavshate.org

Media Assets

[Available Here](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 16, 2023

CONTACT: tpham@aapiequityalliance.org
(714) 312-8862

AAPI Equity Alliance Releases 2023 Report on *The State of Hate in Los Angeles*

LOS ANGELES—In 2021, Los Angeles County saw a 23 percent increase in hate crimes from 2020, reaching an all-time high since 2002, according to *The State of Hate in Los Angeles*, a new report released today by [AAPI Equity Alliance](#) (AAPI Equity). The report highlights the first year of work by [the Los Angeles County grantees](#) of [California's Stop The Hate program](#).

In the new report, AAPI Equity examines:

- the long history of hate in Los Angeles,
- causes and contributors to hate,
- strategies to prevent hate and mitigate the adverse outcomes of hate, and
- challenges in stemming the tide of hate.

“Hate is not new to Los Angeles,” said Manjusha Kulkarni, Executive Director of AAPI Equity and co-founder of [Stop AAPI Hate](#). “It has been present since the displacement of the indigenous peoples of this land, and continuing through the post-9/11 era and the recent pandemic.”

According to the report, increases in hate-motivated violence and discrimination are rooted in prejudice, bigotry and racism, but they can be exacerbated by politics and national and global emergencies, such as 9/11 and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as migration patterns and systemic segregation.

In an online briefing for members of the media, AAPI Equity invited Robin Toma, Executive Director of the LA County Human Relations Commission and LA vs Hate, to share his insights on hate in Los Angeles.

“The data that we have been seeing over the years has been very much disturbing,” Toma said, adding that “the level of hate across the board against so many targeted groups” is experiencing “a continual rise.” He thanked county officials for increasing resources and called for public officials to continue “building relationships with the community that can lead to a reversal in this rise in hate.”

During the briefing, Kulkarni shared how members of California's Stop The Hate program are tackling hate head-on, but said there are challenges to the work, including barriers to changing the status quo; the need for increased resources for community organizations to sustain, tailor and scale-up direct services, as well as barriers to access for diverse communities, including lack of government or law enforcement response, language barriers and stigma.

Kulkarni and other speakers called for increased data equity and transparency regarding reports of hate incidents. [Briefing participants](#) included several Stop the Hate grantees from the Los Angeles Region, who shared how their community members are experiencing hate on the ground and some of their successful anti-hate strategies in year one of the grant.

Andy Ruiz, staff attorney for St. Johns Community Health, a Stop The Hate grantee, urged local and state officials to continue funding anti-hate programs.

"Continuing this funding or finding some actual permanent resources for these types of programs is essential because we have community members who will constantly need this type of work and assistance in the future," Ruiz said. "I know stopping hate is something we want to happen overnight, but it's not and it's going to take a lot of years of work and those years need funding."

A recording of the online briefing and a copy of the report, along with other background information, is available in AAPI Equity's [Electronic Press Kit](#).

Kiran Bhalla, Project Director for the Stop The Hate grant program at AAPI Equity said the new report focuses on the history of hate in Los Angeles and is limited in scope to sharing examples of the work done by the Los Angeles County grantees in year one of California's Stop The Hate program.

Bhalla said the report is meant to open a regional conversation about the value and importance of anti-hate work, and the critical need to fund, expand and support anti-hate efforts.

AAPI Equity is the regional lead for California's Stop the Hate program, currently overseeing 42 Los Angeles-based organizations providing anti-hate programs and services. For more information visit <https://stopthehateca.org/>.

###

AAPI Equity Alliance (AAPI Equity) is a coalition of over 40 community based organizations serving the diverse needs of the 1.6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County and beyond. It is dedicated to improving the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through civic engagement, capacity building, and policy advocacy.

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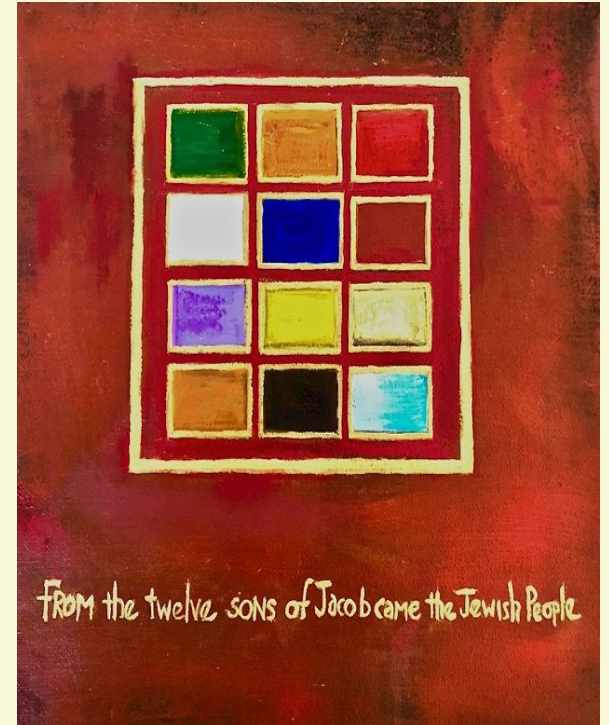
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November 14 / 2023

True Colors

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True Colors

Adapted, curated, and produced by **Ronda Spinak**
 Directed by **Susan Morgenstern** • Co-produced by **Eric Greene**
 Dramaturges **Susan Baskin** and **Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum**

This event is sponsored in part by the Los Angeles County
 Department of Arts and Culture.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

THE PERFORMANCE

Opening/I've Got to Be Me

Written by Walter Marks. Performed by Jared Stein and Joshua Silverstein.

The Men in My Life

Written by Marissa Tiamfook Gee. Performed by Kimberly Green.

No Joke

Written by David Chiu. Performed by Joshua Silverstein, Kimberly Green, and Nadège August.

True Colors

Used by permission of songwriter Billy Steinberg. Performed by Jared Stein.

Both/And

Written by Maria Ramos-Chertok. Performed by Jill Remez.

Eli, Eli

Music composed by Marcos Cohen, lyrics by Hannah Senesh. Original melody by David Zehavi. Performed by Jared Stein and Joshua Silverstein.

Hanukkah, Bakersfield Style

Written by Courtenay Edelhart. Performed by Nadège August.

Special - A Commission of The Braid

Written and performed by Joshua Silverstein.

I've Got to be Me

Written by Walter Marks. Performed by Joshua Silverstein and Jared Stein.

Q&A POST SHOW



True Colors was created for The Braid and premiered in the 2019 Salon Theatre season. Material adapted, curated, and produced by Ronda Spinak, Artistic Director. Co-produced by Eric Greene. Directed by Susan Morgenstern, Producing Director



The Go-To Jewish Story Company

THE BRAID engages, educates, entertains, and creates a living legacy by inspiring Jewish stories that connect us all. As the Jewish story company that pioneered a new theatrical art form called Salon Theatre, we give voice to diverse contemporary stories grounded in Jewish culture and experience.

Since 2008, our growing collection of 75 original Salon Theatre shows have illuminated varied themes like forgiveness, food, family, and freedom, touching hearts and creating real change, including combatting antisemitism. Seminal shows newly spotlight the true stories of women rabbis, Persians, Latinx, Russian Jews, and Jews of Color. Our recently launched StoryNosh is also releasing digitally "bite-sized" Jewish stories on YouTube for all to enjoy.

In 2021, The Braid's commissioned work *Stories from the Violins of Hope* was shared in 30 countries in partnership with the United Nations Outreach Programme on the Holocaust. It's been translated into Spanish and Portuguese and was featured in the 2022 Greenwich International Film Festival. A new stage version premiered in Sydney, Australia in May 2023 to critical acclaim.

The Braid's commissioned *Not That Jewish*, by Emmy Award-winning writer Monica Piper, ran more than 16 months in LA followed by a successful off-Broadway run. Other hit shows have featured Rain Pryor, TikTok star Annie Korzen, and master storyteller Vicki Juditz.

We are highly invested in ensuring that next generations have an artistic platform and inclusive community in which to celebrate the diversity in Jewish culture through our NEXT Emerging Artists Program.

The Braid performs across the country and is accessible globally via Zoom performances, our podcast AudioNosh, StoryNosh, streaming on ChaiFlicks, and other online platform.

www.the-braid.org



THE BRAID/JEWISH WOMEN'S THEATRE WAS VOTED SEVEN YEARS RUNNING "ONE OF THE BEST LIVE THEATERS ON THE WESTSIDE OF LOS ANGELES" AND VOTED SANTA MONICA'S "MOST LOVED" PERFORMANCE VENUE.

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 The Braid is a 501 (C)(3), and contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

4.3 LA vs Hate UAHW "True Colors" at Museum of Tolerance

Wesleyan University and was a paralegal at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund before attending Stanford Law School, where he served as vice president of the Black Law Students Association and was a co-founder of the West Coast Conference on Progressive Lawyering. In addition to his efforts as an organizer in national and local Jews of Color communities, Eric has served as a consultant working with Jewish organizations on diversity and inclusion strategies. He is on the board of Jewish Multiracial Network for whom he wrote 2020's Kaddish for Black Lives.

SUSAN MORGENSTERN (Director/Producing Director) began directing in college by staging musical-theatre concert readings while co-teaching American musical comedy with Tom Lehrer at UC Santa Cruz. She went on to teach and direct at the renowned Stage Door Manor performing-arts camp in Liberty, New York. She's directed numerous Los Angeles plays and musicals at celebrated venues including Theatre West, The Garry Marshall Theatre, Whitefire Theatre, The Pico, Santa Monica Playhouse, and Cabrillo Music Theatre. She co-authored and directed *18 Minutes of Fame: A Musical Journey with Barbara Minkus* in Los Angeles and NYC. Susan worked as a consultant show director at Disneyland Parks and Resorts, Anaheim, where she had the privilege of working with Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, and all their pals. She's directed numerous Braid shows and is especially proud to be its producing director, working closely with a tremendous group of brilliant and passionately creative people.

LISA PEARL ROSENBAUM (Dramaturge) is the author of the novels *A Day of Small Beginnings* (Little, Brown & Co, 2006) and *Sacrificial Man*, a novel of the McCarthy Era, which she is currently adapting as a play. She is a dramaturge and writer with The Braid and a moderator of its Sunday Morning programs. Her play, *Stories from the Violins of Hope*, is the first theatrical production about the remarkable violin maker who brought the voices of stringed instruments that survived the Holocaust back to life, and to the world. Featuring Braid actors and the Chamber Players of the LA Jewish Symphony, the live-Zoom performance premiered in January 2021 to an audience of over 1300 in the US and ten countries and has since been viewed in Spanish and Portuguese in 15 Latin American countries. A filmed version of the play was later presented at the United Nations, through their Department of Global Communications, and was shown at the 2022 Greenwich International Film Festival.

RONDA SPINAK (Producer/Artistic Director) founded The Braid and created the innovative theatrical art-form, Salon Theatre. She has curated and produced 75 original Jewish-themed salon shows including *True Colors*, stories by Jews of Color. She developed and produced six successful one-person shows like *Not That Jewish*, which ran 16 months in LA before a successful run off-Broadway at New World Stages. Spinak developed and produced *Stories from the Violins of Hope*, which the United Nations Programme on the Holocaust broadcast to 30 countries. Spinak co-wrote *Stories from the Fringe*, spotlighting the stories of women rabbis on stage for the first time. Her team filmed interviews of 185 women rabbis worldwide, and in partnership with Jewish Women's Archive are making them available at www.jwa.org. In 2022, Spinak and her colleagues created the art exhibition "Holy Sparks" featuring 24 artists, each paired with one pioneering woman rabbi, to create a work of art, which is now touring nationally. Her plays have appeared at the Ashland New Play festival, and a new play opened in Sydney, Australia in May 2023. Spinak is on the board of the Alliance for Jewish Theatres and is a member of the Dramatists Guild.

Thank you to LA vs HATE, The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, and Brotherhood Crusade for your commitment to The Braid and for presenting *True Colors*.

MEET THE PERFORMERS

NADÈGE AUGUST (Actor) is a proud Abby Freeman Artist-in-Residence with The Braid. An award-winning actress, she is the creator, writer, and lead of *Bougie Dilemma*, on YouTube, and hosts the podcast *What the Fockery?* Currently a series regular in Tyler Perry's *Ruthless* on BET. Stage (partial list): CVRep: *Good People* (Kate) Outstanding Supporting Actress from Desert Theatre League Award. Antaeus Theatre: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Emilie); Odyssey Theatre: *Sunset Baby* (Nina) NAACP Best Lead Actress nomination; Antaeus Theatre: *Wedding Band* (Mattie); Odyssey Theatre: *Desire Under The Elms* (Abbie Putnam) NAACP Best Supporting Female nomination; Lower Depth Theatre: *Three Sisters After Chekhov* (Jean). Nadège is a lifetime member of the Actors Studio. For more details, go to realnadegeaugust.com

KIMBERLY GREEN (Actor) is an actress and dancer, born in Seoul, Korea. You can see her in *The Company You Keep* on ABC, Dunkin Donuts "Fall Hard" campaign, and the independent feature *Alone Time* written by Paul Coates. Kimberly has performed in productions for the Group Repertory Theatre, the Road Theatre, Smart Phone Theatre and is a part of the Actors Studio. In 2019 Kimberly joined The Braid, performing in their on-going production of *True Colors*. She is also a player in *Jews in America*, *Sweet Tea & the Southern Jew*, and *Arise my Friend and Go Forth*. Kimberly is honored to be an Abby Freeman Artist-in-Residence with The Braid. Past theater credits include *It's Just Sex*, LA's longest-running comedy, and B.L.A.C. Mail Productions' *Can God's Love*, (Trina). TV and film credits include *Lucifer* (Fox), *The Young and the Restless* (CBS), and *The Hot Chick*, a Happy Madison Production.

JILL REMEZ (Actor) is an actor, writer and storyteller. Theatre credits include International City Theatre: *Myra*, *Deathtrap*. Wallis Theatre: *The Bluest Eye* (workshop production). Open Fist Theatre Company: *Ofelia*, *Anna in the Tropics*. West Coast Jewish Theatre: *Kate*, *Broadway Bound*. Mark Taper Forum: *Ensemble*, *Body of Bourne* (World Premiers). Laguna Playhouse: *Germaine*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. South Coast Rep: *Sofia*, *Two Sisters and a Piano* (West Coast Premiere). FILM/TV credits include *Yellowstone*, *Bosch: Legacy*, *The Neighborhood*, *Made For Love*, *This is Us*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *I Think you Should Leave*, *The Good Place*, *88*, *DUSTWUN* and *Eat Wheaties*. Voiceover credits include *Demonlayer*, *In/Spectre*, *Lupin Part 6*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The Reflection* and *LA Noire*. Also a playwright, Jill's recent play, *Writing on the Wall*, has been a finalist in several playwright competitions. She currently teaches voice-over for Kalmenson & Kalmenson.

4.3 LA vs Hate UAHW "True Colors" at Museum of Tolerance

JOSHUA SILVERSTEIN (Actor/Writer) is an award-winning actor, comic, writer, beatboxer, educator and DEI consultant whose performances, productions and presentations throughout the country have prompted admiration from creative greats ranging from Norman Lear to Prince. For more than 25 years, Joshua has provided and facilitated theater, improvisation and creative writing workshops and in-school residencies designed to create a safe and open space for students of all ages to experience the freedom of creative expression. Joshua brings passion, play, and persuasion to make words, thinking, and expression infectiously fun. His DEI work has provided transformative dialogue and opened the bridges of challenging conversations for countless individuals. He has served as the cohost and co-producer of Emmy Award-winning *Downbeat 720* for 21 years and currently cohosts *The Silversteins' Trivia Show*, a weekly trivia-game podcast covering a wide range of topics with his wife, Cinthya Silverstein, their 3 children and hosted by Jacob Rubin.

JARED STEIN (Musician) is a composer, song leader, music educator, and professional musician. Originally from the Washington, DC area, Jared has infused the LA Jewish community with his intentional approach to prayer leading and song. Playing music makes Jared feel greater than just himself and allows him to read between the lines of life. Starting at the age of 10, Jared joined his family band, The Rolling Steins, and continued studying and playing a variety of styles. In 2004, Jared joined the Nashuva Band with Rabbi Naomi Levy. He has played and recorded with many notable artists, including Theodore Bikel, Peter Yarrow, Nava Tehila, Moshav, Distant Cousins, and Craig Taubman. Jared strives to bring people together with music as the primary language, whether it's through his work as a music educator at deToledo High School and BCI (Brandeis Collegiate Institute) or performing with his talented wife, Jamie.

MEET THE WRITERS

DAVID CHIU is a screenwriter whose journey with The Braid began when a story of his was performed in *True Colors*. He went on to become a two-time NEXT at The Braid Emerging Artists fellow and finally joined this incredible story company as an employee. Television: *LORE* (Amazon Prime). The Braid: *StoryNosh* (producer), *True Colors* (writer), *Inside Our Time* (writer), *For Goodness Sake* (writer, director), *I Am a Jew* (writer), *The Rest is History* (writer, director, literary), *Star-Spangled Sabra* (dramaturge), *Wide Open* (writer, literary), *Uncovered* (writer). Represented by The Gersh Agency and Authentic Talent & Literary Management. Member of the Board of Trustees at Temple Isaiah of Los Angeles; recipient of its 2019 Emerging Leader Award. Environmental activist and volunteer on various electoral campaigns. Jew of Color, of Litvak and Cantonese heritage. Los Angeles Community Leader for The LUNAR Collective, a national organization of Asian Jews.

MARCOS COHEN a/k/a MOR D. HAI is an actor-singer and songwriter who was born in Uruguay and is currently living in Los Angeles. In 2008, he produced his first CD album in Latin Jewish music, *Diaspora Sur*, and since then has been presenting his contagious music across South and North America. Cohen started his artistic career as a playwright and director of musical theater. He has written the music and book of more than ten plays for children and adults, including *Al Jolson*, *The Show Must Go On*, *Trapped at Tea Time*, *A Magic Book*, *Robotic Park*, *CooCoo Beat Show*, and *The Creation*. His "Hay Que Cantar" was awarded best original song at the 2000 World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Since his Hollywood acting debut in the movie *The Good Shepherd* (Universal, 2006), directed by Robert De Niro, he has appeared in the TV shows *Dharma & Greg*, *Ally Mc Beal*, *Angeles*, and *Locked Up Abroad*, to name a few.

COURTENAY EDELHART is the biracial daughter of two social worker parents, one black and one an Ashkenazi Jew. She and her twin sister grew up in Chicago and Albuquerque. Courtenay majored in journalism at Northwestern University before embarking on a nearly three-decade-long career as a newspaper reporter. Now in her 50s, she's recently begun a second career as a middle school English teacher. Courtenay lives in Simi Valley, California, with two adopted teenagers, and assorted dying houseplants.

MARISSA TIAMFOOK GEE grew up in Brooklyn, NY, with an Ashkenazi Jewish New York mother and a half black, half Chinese Catholic father from Trinidad. She has always been active in the Jewish community, from being on the board of the Jewish Multiracial Network (JMN) to being on the board of IKAR, her current spiritual home. Marissa is a lawyer, teacher, runner, coach, and an outdoor adventure enthusiast. She runs, climbs, and explores every mountain and hidden trail she can find. She has traveled the world, worked in health care in Uganda (volunteering through American Jewish World Service), taught English in Asia, was a legal intern at the UN in Geneva, studied abroad in Jerusalem and Amsterdam, and backpacked through the Pacific Rim, Australia, and Europe. She now has a more conventional (although no less active!) life and lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.

MARIA RAMOS-CHERTOK enjoys writing fiction, nonfiction, and poetry and is a contributor to three anthologies: *All the Women in My Family Sing: Essays on Equality, Justice, and Freedom* (2018), edited by Deborah Santana; *She's Got This! Essays on Standing Strong and Moving On* (2019); and *What We Didn't Expect: Personal Stories About Premature Birth*, edited by Melody Schreiber (2020). Her book *The Butterfly Series: Fifty-two Weeks of Inquiries for Transformation* was published in August 2018 and was a finalist for the 2019 International Book Awards (Women's Issues category), won honorable mention in the 2019 Reviewers Choice Award (Body/Mind/Spirit category), and won honorable mention in the 2020 Writer's Digest 28th Annual Self-Published Book Awards (Inspirational category). Her fiction manuscript, *Rosie's Blues*, was inspired by the experience of her mother opening their family home as a shelter for battered women and their children. For more information about her work and/or to sign up to receive her monthly newsletter, visit www.mariaramoschertok.com.

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

SUSAN BASKIN (Dramaturge) wrote the Academy Award-winning film *Violet* and has written extensively for television and film. Her essays have been published in *The LA Review of Books*, *Los Angeles Magazine* and *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, among others. Susan has written a number of pieces for The Braid, including *Windows and I, Citizen*, which were commissioned by The Braid. She also wrote *Like A Monkey*, which won the StoryNosh Best Story of the Year Award.

ERIC GREENE (Co-Producer) is a Los Angeles-based writer and civil rights activist. Currently Associate Director for Diversity and Campus Climate in UCLA's Strategic Communications Department, Eric was previously senior policy advisor at the ACLU of Southern California and Southern California regional director for the Progressive Jewish Alliance/Bend the Arc. He has written or contributed to several books on race, the arts, and politics, and his first book, *Planet of the Apes as American Myth: Race, Politics and Popular Culture*, was hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as a "classic." Eric studied religion at



Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations

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COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 7.2

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND MEETING STIPENDS

ISSUES:

1. THE COUNTY PROVIDES FOR A \$25 STIPEND PER COMMISSION MEETING, FOR A MAXIMUM OF 3 MEETINGS PER MONTH.
2. THOSE WHO DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE BYLAWS' ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE REPORTED TO THEIR SUPERVISOR. SEE THE BYLAWS EXCERPTS BELOW.

1. MEETING STIPEND PAYMENT: In order to be paid, Commissioners must have a county employee number.

- a. Some Commissioners were not provided one by our former host department, WDACS, but have since obtained one.
 - i. For those Commissioners who attended Commission meetings but had not yet been assigned a County employee number, they must be paid as a county vendor, according to the Board Executive Office administrative branch.
- b. Commissioners must go to the Board Executive Office (EO) at the LA County Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (HOA) for their processing required to obtain your County Employee ID number. (Contact Grace or EO staff who you are meeting with – they can facilitate free parking arrangements at the HOA.)
- c. Waiver of meeting stipends is not currently an option.

2. MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Attendance at Commission Meetings: *“It shall be the duty of all Commission members to attend all meetings of the Commission except in case of illness or other emergencies. If a member of the Commission shall fail to attend three (3) consecutive regular meetings (Ordinance 4099, Sec. 395, 3/22/63) or fifty percent of regular meetings in any half of a calendar year without being excused by said Commission, such absences shall be reported to the appointing supervisor by the Secretary.”* (Commission Bylaws, Article VIII, Section B)

- b. Attendance at Committee Meetings: *“Absence, except for illness, from more than twenty-five percent of committee meetings during any twelve-month period shall constitute automatic resignation from the Committee, subject to Commission action.”* (Commission Bylaws, Article IX)

9. Adjournment – Rosalynn Carter

Rosalynn Carter honored by family, friends, first ladies and presidents — including husband Jimmy



Former President Carter arrives to attend a service Tuesday for his wife, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, at Glenn Memorial Church in Atlanta. Carter's funeral will take place Wednesday in the family's hometown of Plains. ((Andrew Harnik / Associated Press))© Provided by San Diego Union Tribune

[Rosalynn Carter](#) was memorialized Tuesday as a matriarch who felt most comfortable among the impoverished and vulnerable as she was mourned by a rare gathering of all living U.S. first ladies and multiple presidents, including her 99-year-old husband [Jimmy Carter](#).

The tribute service marked the second day of a three-day schedule of public events celebrating the former first lady and global humanitarian who died Nov.

19 at home in Plains, Ga., at the age of 96. Tributes began Monday in the Carters' native Sumter County and continued at Glenn Memorial Church in Atlanta.

"My mother was the glue that held our family together through the ups and downs and thicks and thins of our family's politics," her son James Earl "Chip" Carter III said.

The former president, who is 10 months into home hospice care and hadn't been seen in public since September, watched from his wheelchair, reclining and covered by a blanket featuring his wife's face, with Chip and his daughter Amy holding his hands. Their other sons, Jeff and Jack, flanked them.

"He never wants to be very far from her," Carter Center Chief Executive Paige Alexander said.

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, their longtime friends, joined them in the front row, along with former President Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former First Ladies Melania Trump, Michelle Obama and Laura Bush. Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff paid their respects, as did Georgia's U.S. senators and Gov. Brian Kemp and his wife, Marty. More than 1,000 people, including a sizable contingent of Secret Service agents, filled the sanctuary. Former Presidents Trump, Obama and George W. Bush were invited but didn't attend.

Related video: President Carter attends wife Rosalynn's tribute service in Georgia (Dailymotion)

The service reflected Rosalynn Carter's status as a global figure while emphasizing her more private profile as a family matriarch who preferred a simple life and held a deep religious faith.

"She had met kings and queens, presidents, others in authority, powerful corporate leaders and celebrities," Chip Carter said. "She said the people that she felt the most comfortable with and the people she enjoyed being with the most were those that lived in absolute abject poverty."

The pews filled with political power players, but front and center were her children and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren — all surrounding Jimmy Carter, who grieved not as a former president, but as her partner of 77 years.

The speakers came from many chapters of her long life: Chip as the son who recalled his once-shy mother coming into her own in business and politics;

Kathryn Cade as the White House aide who stayed on as a close advisor as Rosalynn Carter helped build the Carter Center and its global reach; Judy Woodruff as a journalist who covered the Carter presidency; and Amy Carter, who read a love note her father wrote to her mother 75 years before.

"Their partnership and love story was a defining feature of her life," Amy Carter said.

Cade described Rosalynn Carter's time as first lady as "really just one chapter in a life that was about caring for others."

Woodruff recalled Rosalynn Carter lobbying lawmakers, campaigning separately from her husband, attending Cabinet meetings and playing key roles — including being the first presidential advisor to suggest Camp David as a negotiating place for Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin. The decision led to historic peace accords between the two countries.

"Without Rosalynn Carter, I don't believe there would have been a President Carter," Woodruff said.

It was Jimmy Carter's first public appearance since entering hospice care, other than a brief ride with Rosalynn in September's Plains Peanut Festival parade, where they were visible only through the open windows of a Secret Service vehicle. He was with his wife during her final hours, but did not appear publicly during earlier events at Rosalynn Carter's alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, and at his presidential library.

Cindy Montañez, pioneering political and environmental leader, dies at 49



Cindy Montañez, then-mayor of San Fernando, campaigns in Pacoima for a California Assembly seat in 2002. She died Saturday at 49.

(Beatrice de Gea / Los Angeles Times)
BY [GUSTAVO ARELLANO](#) COLUMNIST
OCT. 22, 2023 3 AM PT

For Cindy Montañez, the seeds of her drive to fight for her community were planted before she was even born.

Her grandfather, a miner in the Mexican state of Zacatecas, died before she could meet him — an early death caused by his line of work. Her immigrant parents settled in the northeastern San Fernando Valley, where factories spewed chemicals and companies dumped waste with little care for the Latinos who lived nearby.

“My dad told us, ‘Whatever you do, you’ve gotta fight against the people who oppress our people and the exploitation of the land, because the two go together,’” Montañez said in an interview earlier this year.

ADVERTISING

She took that advice to heart by blazing trails in both politics and environmental activism. After serving in the California Assembly, Montañez used her connections and iron will to bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the San Fernando Valley and other underserved communities to clean up polluted areas and beautify neighborhoods.

The San Fernando City Council member died Saturday morning after a long battle with cancer, according to a family spokesperson. She was 49.



CALIFORNIA

Column: Cindy Montañez, environmental and political pioneer, reflects as her time runs out

Aug. 31, 2023

At UCLA in 1993, Montañez and a teenage sister [were among those who went on a 14-day hunger strike](#) that helped to establish a Chicano Studies department. She became the youngest San Fernando council member at 25, then the youngest woman elected to the California State Assembly at 28.

After leaving Sacramento, Montañez became an assistant general manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, playing a crucial role in pushing the agency to use cleaner energy and create better water-capture methods. Shy by nature but at ease in any crowd, she became CEO of TreePeople in 2016, making her one of the few Latinas in charge of a large, U.S.-based environmental nonprofit.

Mark Gold, director of water scarcity solutions for the Natural Resources Defense Council, first met Montañez while she was in the Assembly. He credits her for “marrying environmental justice with conservation” by getting politicians and wealthy funders to care about environmental justice in inner cities and getting working-class people into the open spaces that Montañez so loved to explore.

ADVERTISING

“The work she did was nothing short of extraordinary,” said Gold, who helped Montañez get appointed to the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability’s board of advisors.

“Cindy had a lot of courage, and she demonstrated that courage again and again,” said United Farm Workers co-founder Dolores Huerta, who first met Montañez at the UCLA hunger strike, which sparked a personal and professional friendship that lasted decades. “People followed her. She was never about promoting herself. She was about doing the work.”

Richard Alarcon, [a former L.A. councilmember](#) and San Fernando Valley-area state Assembly member and senator, first met Montañez after he read about how she and a sister chained themselves to a tree in an attempt to save it from being cut down. Soon after, he hired her as an intern.

“She contributed to women’s empowerment, she contributed to the environmental movement, and she never wavered to her commitment to grassroots mobilization,” Alarcon said. “She and I had many discussions about trying to create a bridge between the greater environmental movement to recognize the challenges that poor and minority communities had in taking on environmental issues. And she built it.”



Cindy Montañez in 2014 in Panorama City

(Mel Melcon/Los Angeles Times)

In a written statement, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass called Montañez “a relentless trailblazer who led with conviction and a vision of a better Los Angeles for all.”

“I saw her tenacity up close many times,” Bass wrote. “She was by my side when we fought together in Sacramento, making difficult decisions to help our state, and she advised me when I served in Congress on a range of issues impacting our city. Throughout it all, one thing was always clear — Assemblywoman Montañez’s heart and soul were always dedicated to the people of Los Angeles.”

The fourth of six children, Montañez grew up in a household where healthy living was emphasized as way to survive the tough, toxic environment they lived in. For years, the family [would get up every morning at 5 a.m.](#) to run together. They also would drive to the Central Valley on weekends to pick crops, then sell them back home. At 12, Montañez began to spend her summers volunteering anywhere and everywhere: street and park cleanups, Special Olympics, in juvenile hall, at hospitals, even to help with [Pope John Paul II’s 1987 visit to Los Angeles](#).

She entered UCLA as a mathematics major and quickly joined the school’s vibrant Chicano activist scene.

“Education is important to me,” she told the Associated Press nine days into the hunger strike. “That’s why I’m starving myself for it.”

The connections she made during that time propelled her toward politics. She began working for Alarcon, the first Latino to represent the San Fernando Valley in Sacramento. His mentorship helped Montañez win a seat on the San Fernando city council in 1999, then achieve [her Assembly milestone three years later](#).

“This victory is a victory for our community, not for me,” Montañez told a jubilant crowd at a primary night election party in 2002, on her way to winning the Assembly seat. “The northeast Valley is going to continue to be a beautiful place to live and work because we’re going to continue to work together. *Se los digo de todo corazon* (I tell you this from the heart).”

In the Assembly, Montañez made national headlines [for authoring the so-called Car Buyers Bill of Rights](#), a consumer protection bill that was among the first of its kind in the nation. But in the environmental movement she had long embraced, there were few people who looked like her or cared for places like her hometown.

“The L.A. River was getting all the attention,” Montañez told The Times earlier this year. “So I [said], ‘Hey, here I am in Sacramento, voting [to protect] preserves in Santa Monica. We gotta do something for our [San Fernando Valley] communities.’”

“She developed the concept that the beach starts in Pacoima,” said Steve Veres, a former UCLA classmate who worked for her as an Assembly staffer and is now a trustee on the Los Angeles Community College District board. “She used all the relationships that she had made in her life to make things happen for not just her community, but others.”



Then-San Fernando mayor Cindy Montañez, in a 2002 photo

(Myung Chun/Los Angeles Times)

Montañez made sure that state funds were allocated to build parks in working class neighborhoods. And she planned to accomplish more — she told the media that she wanted to run for the L.A. City Council

and eventually Congress. But two other rising San Fernando Valley politicians truncated her political career.

[In 2006, Montañez lost to Alex Padilla](#) in the Democratic primary for the state senate seat once held by her mentor, Alarcon. Seven years later, Montañez won the primary race for an L.A. City Council seat representing the San Fernando Valley [before losing](#) in the general election to Nury Martinez, [then losing again to her in 2015](#).

Padilla would go on to become California's first Latino secretary of state and [U.S. senator](#). Martinez became the first Latina to serve as council president before resigning in disgrace last fall [after uttering racist remarks in a secretly recorded conversation](#).

In an interview a few months before her death, Montañez said she had no regrets about the abrupt end to her political rise.

"Oh my gosh, I can't tell you how happy I am," she said. "How proud I am of the team we put together to truly move people and educate folks *and* have fun. In politics, it's all fighting."

She used her Rolodex as TreePeople CEO to convince the Assembly last year to pass a \$150-million bill to help schools combat climate change with more trees, shade structures and gardens. Her cheerful presence at community tree-planting events became a regular part of Valley life.

"Every tree that we plant," she told The Times, "I think about the tree that may help somebody."

In the weeks leading up to her death, former colleagues and political heirs publicly honored her. The California Legislature declared her birthday, Jan. 19, to be Cindy Montañez Day. The San Fernando and L.A. city councils renamed as Cindy Montañez Natural Park the area around the [Pacoima Wash](#), which Montañez had long advocated remaking as a green space. Last week, the Los Angeles Unified School District voted to rename Gridley Street Elementary in San Fernando in honor of Montañez.

Assemblymember Luz Rivas didn't meet Montañez until after getting elected to Montañez's former seat, but was already familiar with her legacy.

"She inspired people to run or serve in their community, because she was like a lot of us are," Rivas said. "She was standing up as an environmentalist and owning that identity at times when young Latinos didn't see themselves as environmentalists. She pushed what that definition is."

The two began to speak more regularly when Montañez rejoined the San Fernando City Council in 2020. Rivas said she would continue to look to her as an inspiration.

"[She] and I are the exact same age," Rivas said. "So it hits me: Am I doing what I want to do? Am I doing enough?"

Montañez is survived by her parents, Margarita and Manuel Montañez, along with siblings Ezequiel, Maribel, Miguel, Robert and Norma.

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[Gustavo Arellano](#)

Gustavo Arellano is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, covering Southern California everything and a bunch of the West and beyond. He previously worked at OC Weekly, where he was an investigative reporter for 15 years and editor for six, wrote a column called ¡Ask a Mexican! and is the author of "Taco USA: How Mexican Food Conquered America." He's the child of two Mexican immigrants, one of whom came to this country in the trunk of a Chevy.

IAOHRA HUMAN RIGHTS DAY EVENT – DECEMBER 5TH – 10:00am-11:30 am PST (1:00-2:30 PM EST)

From: BHRHLawyersNetwork <bhrhlawyersnetwork-bounces@listserve.com> **On Behalf Of** Davis, Martha via BHRHLawyersNetwork

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:29 AM

To: BHRHLawyersNetwork@listserve.com

Subject: [BHRHLawyersNetwork] Terrific event coming up on National Human Rights Institutions, Dec. 5

On December 5, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern time, join the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies for its Human Rights Day event, focusing on the need for a National Human Rights Institution in the United States:

More information is here:

<https://www.iaohra.org/>

Registration is available here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CrmmArnyRoOVRGy9LJBMMw#/registration

Martha F. Davis

*Northeastern University Distinguished Professor of Law
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