



Arts and Media Honoree

Karen Mack

Founder

LA Commons

Karen Mack is a passionate, visionary leader in Los Angeles focused on leveraging the power of arts and culture to empower individuals, develop communities and build connections. Fifteen years ago, she founded LA Commons, a South LA based nonprofit implementing artistic and cultural programs that reflect the unique character of diverse neighborhoods, with the goal of fostering interaction, dialogue and a better understanding of Los Angeles.

Through grassroots art projects, festivals and tours in partnership with communities across Los Angeles, LA Commons plays a unique role as a facilitator of local engagement in arts and culture as well as in other important issues - health, transportation and education to name a few, giving residents and particularly young people, a voice and an onramp to making positive change. Prior to her work with

LA Commons, she served as a Public Service Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University where she researched the role of culture in community building and Vice President at Community Partners, responsible for Program Planning and Development.

Ms. Mack holds a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Masters in Business Administration from the John Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is currently a mayoral appointee to the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission and in the past has served as the President of the City's Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and of the nonprofit, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative. Ms. Mack participates in her local choir, is strongly devoted to her family and uses her zest for life, talent, and skills to make Los Angeles a better place for women and for all.