



LA Voice

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Dear Friends,

Our core organizing principle has always been: *"Power is a product of relationship."* As 2021 comes to a close, I have been visualizing the collective impact of each bridge of relationship we've built and nurtured together.

Everything we do as LA Voice-- whether it's a one-to-one meeting between grassroots leaders, a large-scale action to demand change, a meeting with a legislator, a get-out-the-vote phone call, or a donation-- builds a small bridge between people, and these bridges spread out across the county to create connection, belonging, and power.

On the next page of this year's report, you'll see a map of all LA Voice's member congregations. Each congregation on the map is an essential node, connecting powerfully to every other location through the bridges we've built. Everyone who becomes part of LA Voice joins this power

map and crosses bridges to reach across differences of race, faith, and class. As we build new bridges and strengthen older ones, we build the county we all long for.

As you read through the stories of our year, I invite you to see yourself as part of this network of powerful relationships. See how each new relationship, new community, new voter, adds life to our shared vision. Imagine what more we can accomplish as we continue to build, bridge, and belong.

Peace and Blessings,

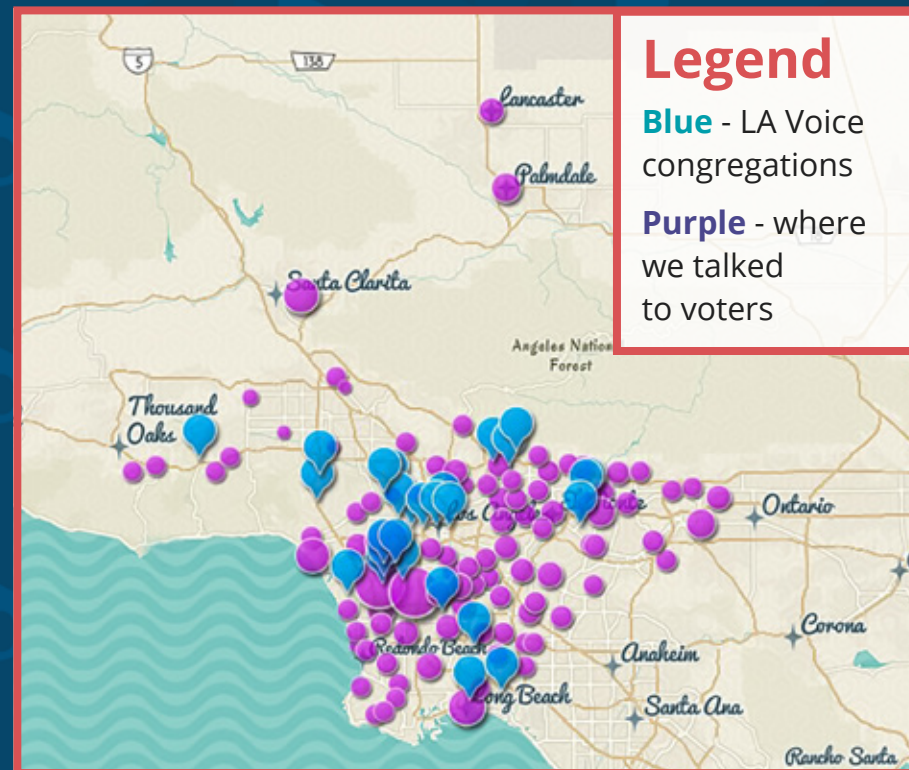
Rev. Zach Hoover
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

LA Voice is a multi-racial, multi-faith community organization that awakens people to their own power, training them to speak, act, and work together to transform Los Angeles County into one that reflects the dignity of all people.

We believe all people have power and a voice. Every day we amplify that power by uniting diverse faith voices to stand up for what their communities need, winning changes that improve the lives of all Angelenos.

LA VOICE FOOTPRINT



OUR TEAM

(Not included in photo: Rev. Eddie Anderson and John Vigna)

OUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORK

Our volunteers and justice system-impacted paid phone bankers talked to 152,000 voters about:



what's at stake
in special
election recalls



the role of
a district
attorney



rent relief
programs

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE



3,563 COVID tests
performed



5 congregation test
sites in underserved
communities

OUR TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE WORK

In April 2018, Kenneth Ross Jr., a 25 yr. old Black man, was shot and killed with an automatic rifle for running away from the police at a park in Gardena, CA. He struggled with mental illness and was unarmed. His mother, Fouzia Almarou, cried out that her son's black life mattered; a cry that we have heard far too often in Black and Brown communities in Los Angeles.



SB2, the Police Decertification Act named after Kenneth Ross Jr., was recently signed into law to ensure that police officers who engage in racism and abuse their power can do no more harm. By organizing with faith congregations throughout L.A. County and in partnership with other community organizations, LA Voice contributed to the passing of this law. We called, we marched, we wrote, we engaged, we prayed...and we won!

ON BELONGING, THE YOUTH, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Our work with Youth Belong Circles has grown since we started with our first group of five participants at Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights last year. As an essential component of organizing, LA Voice invests in Belong Circles, a program designed to connect people across differences, build community, and support the development of leaders with the hope of connecting them with others across the network to realize a shared vision.



Today, the Youth Belong Circle has expanded from Dolores Mission to include youths from Loyola High School, Sacred Heart Academy and, most recently, to member congregations that include St. Mary's of the Assumption, Blessed Sacrament Church, and NEFESH LA. We have worked with 40 youths in 23 Belong Circle Sessions, two leadership retreats, and three information sessions.

MERGING WITH LONG BEACH AND OUR EXPANSION

LA Voice has expanded its network by merging with its sister organization, Long Beach ICO, allowing us to organize with congregations and communities in Long Beach around local issues in addition

to connecting to county-wide campaigns. In 2021, we joined the Long Beach People's Campaign in which we demanded a reallocation of police funds to be directed towards employment, housing and homelessness, health, and immigration.



HERE2STAY: A POWERFUL HOUSING CAMPAIGN

Ynes Torres, a 60 yr. old mother and grandmother and LA Voice leader at St. John Chrysostom in Inglewood, was evicted from her home during the height of the pandemic. Her family had no idea

why their home was being foreclosed on so they pushed back. Her church family, neighbors, and friends stood in unity to help her “reclaim” their home. Janeht Ayala, Ynes’s daughter, played a critical role in organizing a six-week eviction defense campaign to keep the family from being houseless.

Using collective action, the family was able to speak to the Mayor of Inglewood who committed to reaching out to the financial actor who foreclosed on them. He also ensured that the family would not have to deal with law enforcement until the problem was resolved. Ynes and her family are still in the process of recovering their home but this campaign showed the strength in unity and collective power.



FAITH IN HOUSING IN INGLEWOOD



In March 2019, Inglewood Church UMC lost \$250,000 of their annual income when the charter school they housed did not get their federal contract renewed. On the brink of closing down, the church community decided they would decide their own fate and fight not only to stay open but to re-imagine what church and ministry could look like in a struggling and gentrifying Black and Brown neighborhood.

Through our Faith in Housing program, we were able to connect the church with the resources they needed to explore the possibility of building 59 units for low-income seniors and workers and a community center that would offer programs and resources. The development team is currently going through the architectural design and city approval process while LA Voice is talking to the community to make sure their input is included. We hope to break ground by March 2023.

TESTIMONIALS

"LA Voice's Youth Belong Circles have meant everything to me. I didn't know what it meant at first but slowly, I began connecting with people. I have seen a dramatic change in me. I am now a leader and I'm very proud of myself for that." – **Aleena Gonzalez, 17 years old, leader and facilitator for Youth Belong Circles**

"The exploration of affordable housing with LA Voice has brought new life and new possibilities. We are contributors to a true Inglewood revitalization rather than being exclusively victims of gentrification. LA Voice has helped a small membership, working class congregation and community discover their voice and their power in creating the future of this city." – **Pastor Victor Cyrus-Franklin, First United Methodist Church, Inglewood**

"Expanding Long Beach's community organizing through our recent merger with LA Voice is the single most important act Long Beach's faith-based organizing groups and other partners have taken in recent years. Relationship building and networking countywide with inter-racial and multifaith faith communities, organizations, and individuals is the piece that was missing in our work. Fired Up! Ready to Go!" – **Pat Marr, founding member of Greater Long Beach ICO, current LA Voice board member, and member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach**

"We all want a just and equitable society. It has been a privilege to partner with LA Voice over the years. I know that every dollar I give goes towards thoughtful, loving, and effective action to improve the lives of the most vulnerable." – **Brian Huff, LA Voice donor since 2011**

FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities*
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020
*pending completion of annual audit

Support	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020 Total
Foundation and community support	\$343,660	\$2,140,600	\$2,484,260
In-kind contributions			
Special events, net	\$1,000		\$1,000
Dues	\$49,675		\$49,675
Total Support	\$394,335	\$2,140,600	\$2,534,935

Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020 Total
Interest	\$323		\$323
Other	\$2,052		\$2,052
Total Revenue	\$2,375		\$2,375
Support provided by expiring time and purpose restrictions	\$2,705,436	-\$2,705,436	
Total Support and Revenue	\$3,102,146	(\$564,836)	\$2,537,310

Expenses	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2020 Total
Program	\$1,846,229		\$1,846,229
Management and general	\$363,261		\$363,261
Fundraising	\$171,139		\$171,139
Total Expenses	\$2,380,629		\$2,380,629
Change in Net Assets	\$721,517	(\$564,836)	\$156,681
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$837,618	\$1,143,703	\$1,981,321
Net Assets, end of year	\$1,559,135	\$578,867	\$2,138,002

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

From 11/1/2020 to 10/31/2021

\$5000 and above \$500-\$999

Therese & Brian Tucker
Monica & Philip
Rosenthal

Ange-Marie Hancock
Alfaro
Anonymous
John Gallagher
Jacqueline Freedman
Rev. Zachary Hoover
Gary Kornegay
Brie Loskota &
Justin Ehresmann
Sid & Bea Richman
Pastor Carlos Rincon
Rebecca Sager &
Sam Ory
Bruce Shragg &
Robyn Samuels
Rabbi Ron Stern

\$2500-\$4999

Mark Branson & Nina
Lau-Branson
Zac & Sarajane
Guevara
Brian Huff
Rasheed Newson

\$1000-\$2499

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Gary Edelstone &
Deborah Lott
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Annie Lainer-Marquit
Forrest Mosten
Chase Stafford
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Matty & Andrew Wilder
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Timothy Shaheen

\$100-\$499

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Rabbis Anthony Elman
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Rona Sebastian
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Gaby Spivak
Aaron Temin
Maricar Totengco
Ronit Tsadok
Scott Unger
John Vigna
Nancy & Richard Walch

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Advancement Project
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Allison Thomas Racial
Justice Fund of Liberty
Hill
Amalgamated Foundation
Black Voters Matter
Capacity Building
Institute
California Community
Foundation
California Donor Table
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Christ-Centered Ministries

Common Counsel
Foundation
Conrad N. Hilton
Foundation
Durfee Foundation
Gathering All Muslim
Artists
Homeboy Industries
Kapor Center
LAC + USC Medical Center
Foundation
Liberty Hill
Local Initiatives Support
Corporation

Momentum Fund
Million Voters Project
PICO California
The Annenberg
Foundation
The California Endowment
The Grove Foundation
The Resilencia Trust
Tides Foundation
Unihealth Foundation
United Way of Greater LA
Values Partnerships
Weingart Foundation

LA VOICE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

All Saints Church Pasadena
Baldwin Park United Methodist Church
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
Chosen Generation Fellowship Church
Congregation Or Ami
Dolores Mission Catholic Church
Greater Zion Church Family
Homeboy industries
IKAR
Inglewood First United Methodist Church
Grace United Methodist Church
Islah LA
Jesuits West - Los Angeles
LALMA
Leo Baeck Temple
Nefesh

New City Church of Los Angeles
Pasadena Mennonite Church
Rose City Church
Saint Mark UMC
St. John the Baptist, Baldwin Park
St. Luke's Episcopal of Long Beach
St. John Chrysostom
St. Louis of France Catholic Church
Stephen Wise Temple
Temple Israel of Hollywood
Unitarian Universalist Church of Long
Beach (UUCLB)
Word Of Encouragement Church

2021 Board of Directors

Umar Hakim (Chair)

ILM Foundation

Francisco Flores

Artist & Designer

Ange-Marie Hancock

Alfaro

University of Southern
California

Manjusha Kulkarni

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning
Council

Patricia Marr

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Long Beach

Scott Minkow

College Track

Rev. Najuma Smith- Pollard

Word of Encouragement
Community Church

Be A Part Of Our Community

DONATE. Visit lavoice.org or send a check to make a donation. You can donate one time or set up a recurring gift. We also welcome used car donations and legacy gifts.

PARTICIPATE. Organize in your community. Contact us for opportunities or let your clergy or congregation leader know that you want to get involved.

CONNECT. Like us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and receive timely updates on actions and wins. Let your friends and family know that you support the work by sharing our page.

www.lavoice.org



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