



HDCA Meeting Notes  
November 11, 2020  
Zoom / Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Brandi D'Amore  
Bruce Bermudez  
David Brewer  
Deborah Brosseau  
Pamela Clay Magathan  
Debra De Cordova  
Stephen De Cordova  
Linda Deutsch

Judy Dowden  
Jodi Ehrlich  
Anne Fitzgibbon  
Jan Hohenstein  
Alexa Iles Skarpelos  
Pamela Kalmus  
Diane Luby Lane  
Heather Mata

Patti Negri  
Jack Rosenfeld  
Allison Schallert  
Nathan Singer  
George Skarpelos  
Bill Walker  
Anji Williams  
Kelly Ziegler

## I. Welcomes & Introductions

**Alexa Iles Skarpelos** HDCA President  
Email: [alexa@hollywooddell.com](mailto:alexa@hollywooddell.com)

## II. Taking Care of Our Community

We invited special guests to come speak about local organizations that are making a positive contribution in the community in creative and inspiring ways.

**Diane Luby Lane, Founder / Executive Director - Get Lit – Words Ignite**

Website: [www.getlit.org](http://www.getlit.org)  
Email: [diane@getlit.org](mailto:diane@getlit.org)

*Get Lit – Words Ignite* is an arts education nonprofit that uses poetry to increase literacy, empower youth and inspire communities. They have developed a curriculum that is taught in over 150 schools to kids 4<sup>th</sup> grade – seniors in high school. Youth poets learn classic poetry, write their own work and perform them. It's been so successful that LAUSD has made it an official "intervention" program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. It's a rigorous program, but also very popular with kids.

Youth Poets from the program have been invited three times to the Whitehouse (Obama era). Recently a group of 27 wrote and star in a movie called "*Summertime*," which opened as a Sundance feature this year. It will be premiering this upcoming May in 52 theaters across America. <https://www.sundance.org/projects/summertime>

If you are interested in supporting this organization, they will be hosting their Annual Gala on December 5, 2020 (virtually) and silent auction. The theme this year is "Say Thank You, Say I'm Sorry." The silent auction will feature boxes hand-painted by local artists inspired by poetry, including Hollywood Dell artist Rosemary May, who painted two boxes. Other visual artists who are interested in participating are invited to contact Diane.

Watch these short videos and get inspired:  
<https://youtu.be/fckE9Kb5LF4>  
<https://youtu.be/fg6LVeeYW3c>

## **Allison Schallert, Co-Founder - Stories From The Frontline**

Website: [www.storiesfromthefrontline.org](http://www.storiesfromthefrontline.org)

Email: [allisonschallert@gmail.com](mailto:allisonschallert@gmail.com)

*Stories From The Frontline* is a nonprofit focused on transforming the lives of those who struggle with homelessness in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County. They host storytelling events where formerly homeless people can share their stories, to help create understanding and support within the community. They believe that the power of story telling can be a catalyst for change. They advocate for Affordable and Supportive Housing solutions, and invite neighbors to take action in their communities.

By joining their mailing list and responding to calls for action to contact city and county officials to speak up about projects in our area, each community member that takes 5 minutes to contact can have an impact equivalent to 1,400 people.

She encourages you to get involved in ways that speak to you. Some people like to write a check, others want to get really involved. They try to offer a wide range of opportunities for volunteering at each of their events (now virtual).

Here's a list of organizations in our area that could use financial support and volunteers:

- The Center At Blessed Sacrament <https://thecenterinhollywood.org/volunteer/>
- Alexandria House <https://www.alexandriahouse.org/help>
- Aviva Wallis House <https://aviva.org/wallishouse/>

In September of 2019 a women's bridge shelter opened in a formerly vacant Mid Century building on Gardner Street. Initially surrounding neighbors were wary and opposed plans to install a shelter at the location, but once it was completed the attitude of the community did a dramatic turn around. Watch this video: <https://www.storiesfrontline.org/videos>

Along with her volunteer work in the community, Allison is a professional photographer and a Hollywood Dell neighbor, who moved to the Dell in April of this year.

Watch this short video featuring Marquesha "Keke" Babers and get inspired:  
<https://youtu.be/QZ8LRpkQFY>

## **Anji Williams, Director The Punk Rock Marthas**

Website: [www.punkrockmarthas.com](http://www.punkrockmarthas.com)

Email: [anjiwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:anjiwilliams@yahoo.com)

*The Punk Rock Marthas* originally formed as a club on the campus of the Helen Bernstein public high school (a mile and a half from the Hollywood Dell) in 2007. The community service part of it quickly took on a central role of the club's activities. They focus their resources and projects on helping people experiencing homelessness and promoting literacy in public elementary schools.

### **Caring for People Experiencing Homelessness**

This year the Punk Rock Marthas assembled 750 first aid / toiletry kits for Project RoomKey, 5,000 kits distributed to unhoused residents when they received flu shots through LA County Health and 500 care packages were made especially for farm workers (essential workers) who were working through the pandemic, and during the dangerous air quality (because of wildfires). Teens from nearby high schools (Hollywood HS, Fairfax HS, Marshall HS, and RFK HS ) are the majority of the Punk Rock Marthas volunteer labor force.

### **Books For School Kids**

The Punk Rock Marthas have raised funds and purchased thoughtfully curated books for area school kids. These books are gifted to children to take home and keep, to get books in their

hands to activate their interest at an early age. To date the PRM have purchased over 5,000 new books and expect to hit 6,000 soon. They also invite authors of these books to come to schools to speak.

Author Pseudonymous Bosch (Raphael Simon) and illustrator Gilbert Ford were the guest speakers at an event organized by the Punk Rock Marthas at Cheremoya Elementary School. The kids greeted them like rock stars! PRM have gifted over 100 new books to kids who attend Cheremoya as part of their literacy mission.

Watch this short video and get inspired:

<https://www.facebook.com/lapubliclibrary/videos/1425961874271704/>

**George Skarpelos**, President – Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC)

Email: [george@myhunc.org](mailto:george@myhunc.org)

Website: [www.hollywoodunitednc.org](http://www.hollywoodunitednc.org)

HUNC will be holding board elections on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. For interested candidates, the filing period for those who are interested to run begins on November 13, 2020 and ends on December 28, 2020. For details, email: [elections@myhunc.org](mailto:elections@myhunc.org)

Voting in the upcoming election will be entirely Vote-By-Mail. The vote by mail application period begins on February 15, 2021 and ends on March 9, 2021.

Any HUNC stakeholder (live / work / own property or business in the area) who is interested in working on specific issues can participate on a HUNC committee (you don't have to be an elected HUNC board member). It's a great way to learn how the NC works. Committees are:

- Education, Non Profit & Arts
- Outreach
- Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM)
- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
- Renters & Housing
- Social Services & Homelessness
- Transportation & Works

If you have a project in this area that you would like HUNC to support, bring it to them!

The next HUNC board meeting is Monday, December 14, 2020. Nithya Raman, newly elected to represent LA City Council District 4, is scheduled to attend.

### **III. Taking Care of Our Neighborhood**

#### **Hollywood Dell Little Free Library Project**

In August we announced the Hollywood Dell Little Free Library project. The idea was to create "branches" around the neighborhood to invite residents to discover and exchange books while out walking. Last month we announced that we had 5 confirmed locations where residents had offered to "host" a branch.

This month we are excited to have lined up a local craftsman who can build them with our budget and hope to get them completed in the next couple of months. HDCA Veep, David Brewer has designed a prototype.

There have been a few recent issues with the existing Little Free Library on Holly & Granada – people leaving stuff other than books and one occurrence of vandalism (during the period of civil unrest this summer).

Once the libraries are completed and installed, we are asking residents to donate books that they have read and enjoyed and would like to share. This is not the place to dump random volumes of long out of date manuals or textbooks!

Nathan Singer offered that he has a number of good “high class” literary magazines that he would like to share.

### **Abandoned Vehicles**

Last month LADOT resumed parking enforcement (as of October 15<sup>th</sup>) after relaxing enforcement due to the pandemic. There are still cars that have been abandoned / dumped in the neighborhood for months. Neighbors should report them. Abandoned vehicles, especially those with an expired license or no plates may be impounded. Leaving these vehicles for months attracts crime and vandalism and take up much needed parking spaces.

LADOT 24-hour parking enforcement dispatch: (818) 374-4823

### **Neighborhood Beautification week**

HDCA will organize projects for people to do on their own the week of November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Trash Cans Being Left Out After Collection Day (Friday)**

Nathan commented his pet peeve is people who don't bring in their trashcans after collection days and often they create a traffic hazard.

David Brewer advised that cans being left out and causing obstructions could be reported using MyLA311. Create a service request, drop down to where it says “obstructions” you can provide details, you can take a photo. If there are ongoing issues and repeated reports from a location / address the city can confiscate the cans and the property owner will have to pay for them to bring them back! That has solved the problem in other parts of the neighborhood.

## **IV. Taking Care of Each Other**

### **Halloween 2020 Recap**

HDCA volunteers put together special delivery boxes for kids in the Dell (parents signed them up) since in-person events and trick-or-treating were not advised due to the pandemic. Costumed volunteers delivered the packages on Halloween. The boxes had snacks, candy, a real pumpkin to decorate, and some novelties and games. We delivered 28 boxes to kids aged 2 – 12 from families all over the neighborhood and got a lot of positive feedback.

### **Holiday Toy Drive-THRU**

It's our tradition to hold a Holiday mix n mingle in December in lieu of a meeting and guests bring a toy donation for a toy drive. This year we won't be able to hold the party, but we still want to collect toys (and possibly organize a food box) for families in need. So we are planning a Toy Drive-THRU, which would be a safe, outdoor, socially distant way to collect the toys. We are looking for a location in the Dell that would work. Suggestions were to ask Vedanta to use their parking lot (it has gates at both ends) or La Granada. Anyone who would like to participate in the planning should contact HDCA. (alex@hollywooddell.com).

## Neighborhood Watch Update

The HDCA will be holding a specific Neighborhood Watch meeting – since there is a lot to discuss and we can't always cover it in our regular monthly meetings. These meetings will be focused on public safety, crime and security issues. Block Captains, our LAPD Senior Lead Officer and any residents who are interested are welcome to attend. The meeting dates will be announced via an email blast.

Linda commented that with the holiday season coming, there would likely be an increase in issues with package theft.

## V. HDCA Business

### HDCA Treasurer's Update

Kelly Ziegler

Email: [Kelly@hollywooddell.com](mailto:Kelly@hollywooddell.com)

#### 2020 Membership

HDCA voluntary annual membership dues are the primary source of income for the work we do in the neighborhood. In 2019 we had 185 members, this year we were bracing for a dramatic drop in participation due to the pandemic, but to date we are at 157 members for 2020, which is a good number given the circumstances.

#### Finding Additional Sources of Funding

If we can raise additional funds, we can do more as an organization for our community. One of our objectives for this year was to create opportunities to raise funds outside of dues. There are two ways we can increase what we can do for the community.

##### A) Becoming a 501c3 Nonprofit

First, the HDCA has been working on changing our non-profit status from 501c4 to a 501c3. Many businesses are willing to donate goods and services for fundraising to 501c3 nonprofit organizations. This has involved a lot of paperwork and effort by the HDCA Board. We are about 75% complete on the paperwork and once it's completed, we expect it to take another 3 – 4 months for confirmation from the State of California and the IRS that are status is changed.

##### B) Contributions from Production Companies

The second way is to get production companies who are filming in our neighborhood to make a donation to HDCA. So everyone should be alert and give HDCA a "heads up" if you see a FilmLA notification of filming on your street. Send the information to [alexa@hollywooddell.com](mailto:alexa@hollywooddell.com).

#### Filming Conditions

Alexa also noted that in addition to asking for the donation, we will advise them of the considerations of filming in our area, the fire danger, parking and traffic considerations, best routes in and out of the neighborhood, etc.

Jodi offered to be on the committee to work on this. She also cautioned that if you see filming on your block and FilmLA hasn't notified you, it's probably not a permitted production and you should report it.

**To Contact FilmLA: (213) 977-8600**

## **LA City Council District 4 Changes Hands**

The recent November 3 election resulted in a change in our Los Angeles City Council office. Incumbent David Ryu will pass the baton to Nithya Raman when his term ends on December 13, 2020.

### **Thank You To David Ryu**

HDCA will be sending a letter of appreciation to outgoing CM David Ryu & his staff for all the work they did on our behalf during his time as our representative.

### **Congratulations to Nithya Raman**

HDCA will be sending a letter of congratulations and an invitation to speak at our January 15, 2021 meeting to CM Elect Nithya Raman.

## **Re-elected Representatives**

Our US Congressman Adam Schiff and our CA State Assembly Member Laura Friedman were both re-elected with significant margins. The HDCA will send both of them our congratulations.

## **Misc. Announcements**

Wishing all the veterans gratitude today as we honor them on Veterans Day.

Today is also the 3-year anniversary of the dedication of Franklin Ivar Park!

In 2021 we will be marking the 10-year anniversary of the La Rocha Trail dedication!

Pamela Clay Magathan has invited everyone to a Zoom event Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> (7 – 8 pm) “Home For The Holidays” show. Here’s a link to purchase tickets:

<https://metropolitanzoom.ticketleap.com/pamela-clay--home-for-the-holidays/>

We agreed to have a Zoom “Cocktail Party” on December 9<sup>th</sup> (7pm) BYOB!

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.