Committing To The Change You Seek And Staying The Course!

Those of us who have been involved in the justice movement for the past few decades understand all too well the meaning of “staying the course.” I know that we all have endured a year like no other. We may still find ourselves taking stock of what we’ve done over the past several months and what we still need to do, as we look toward the year ahead. With this election past us, we see change in the leadership of the nation, including electing the first Black/Indian woman as Vice-President. Yes, we have started this year with a lot of great changes. Now, when it comes to generating change, there are two types of people: those who stay the course and those who don’t! At a simple level, you could say that any change initiative goes through three key steps. You could call them different things, but in essence, they are: Creation, Execution, and Breakthrough.

The first step – Creation – is the easiest and most fun. It’s about imagining a better future state, creating new possibilities, and committing to them. It is about setting the course. If you do it right, you will emerge from this step feeling highly optimistic, energized, hopeful, and eager to achieve a better future. Optimism causes people to feel empowered, bold, and invincible. That’s the stage we have just emerged from in this County and Country. Here in LA County, we now have a mechanism in place through Measure J to fund our Alternatives to Incarceration Initiatives. We also have a bold DA that is attempting to put in place sweeping criminal justice reforms.
President; and here in Los Angeles County, we have passed Measure J. While these are certainly key victories that should be celebrated, the pandemic is still surging. It’s important that the killings of George Floyd and too many other Black Americans that were such an important focus of attention in the summer are not forgotten, and that we don’t lose sight of the critical need to address racial equality and criminal justice reform.

The second step – **Execution** – is the toughest step of any change, both physically and mentally. This is the step we now find ourselves in...

*Read the rest of this important and timely piece on Troy’s Blog*

---

**March General Meeting**
March 18, 2021, 10:00 AM

**Watch the recording of amazing February General Meeting!!**
- LARRP Voices From Impacted People - Steven Hensley | LARRP Leadership Academy
- Executive Director Report - Troy Vaughn | LARRP
- LA DA Platform for 2021 - George Gascón | Los Angeles County District Attorney
- LARRP Member Feature - Simone Berry | Phoenix

*CLICK HERE*

**Education Committee:**
March 18, 2021
4:00PM- 5:30 PM

**Housing Committee:**
March 18, 2021
1:30 PM-2:30 PM

**Integrated Health Committee**
April 5, 2021
1:00 PM

**March Spotlight**

**George Gascón - In His Own Words**

George Gascón was the keynote speaker at the LARRP on February 18, 2021. The new District Attorney spoke openly and eloquently about the changes he is making and the challenges he is facing since taking office.

He is working to implement many of the reforms that the criminal justice impacted community has been advocating for many years and the pushback has been fast and furious on both the local and national level.
furious. And not just on the local level (see this article by the Heritage Foundation which is "part of a series on the rogue prosecutors around the country")

Partner Events

Fireside Chat
with LA County District Attorney George Gascón
Thursday, 3/4 at 6pm
REGISTER

The State of California’s Children & Youth in the COVID Era
Friday, March 5, 2021 9 A.M. – 1 P.M. PST

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II and Tony Thurmond State Superintendent of Public Instruction
An annual symposium focused on the state of children in our state. This year, a year after stay-at-home orders were issued, we not only want to highlight the impact of the pandemic, but focus on public policy solutions that promote child well-being with a focus on our four policy areas: education equity, health equity, juvenile justice and economic justice.

More Info and register

MARCH Narcan and Harm reduction trainings

Narcan: Opioid Overdose Reversal
March 4th at 10am:
REGISTER

March 15th at 6pm
REGISTER

Harm Reduction Overview (including safer use)
March 11th at 9:30am:
REGISTER

Court Relief for Criminal Records
Last Tuesday of Each Month
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Online with Skype
Did you know that applying for court relief may reduce the barriers of a criminal conviction and make it easier to obtain a job? Attendees of this Webinar will find out how Reductions of Charges, Expungements, and Certificates of Rehabilitation may increase their opportunities for employment and job licensing. They will learn the criteria to qualify, how to apply if eligible, and be provided resources in their community that can be helpful in their rehabilitative journey. In addition, a lawyer from the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association will be present to answer questions and provide information on the free legal services they offer for eligible individuals.
Registration required.

More info and register

Housing Rights Workshops
Storycatchers Theatre Gala
March 5 and 6
4 PM PST each day

Storycatchers Theatre, a Chicago-based nonprofit that works with youth in the juvenile justice system, invites you to the IMAGINE TRANSFORMATION Virtual Gala. This online event will generate awareness and support of our trauma-informed performing arts programs for detained, incarcerated, and post-release youth. As online guests, you will experience the impact of the work Storycatchers creates – beautiful, moving songs based on youth stories. We will share examples of what transformation means for the young people in our programming, for their parents, and for juvenile justice advocates from across Illinois.

REGISTER

D.O.O.R.S Community Reentry Center Orientations

D.O.O.R.S
DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES AND OFFERING REENTRY SOLUTIONS
COMMUNITY REENTRY CENTER
ORIENTATIONS

Learn about the services at D.O.O.R.S. Housing, Employment, Legal Assistance, Education, Anger Management classes, Parenting classes, and more!

VIA ZOOM
(NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)
MONDAY & TUESDAY
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
THURSDAY 2 PM - 3 PM

PERMANENT ORIENTATION ZOOM LINK: 856-3062-5820
(NO PASSWORD REQUIRED)
ZOOM CALL-IN NUMBER: 1-866-990-9828

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE D.O.O.R.S CENTER AT (323) 750-4442

Download Flyer

LARRP Policy Updates
We need Action and Participation on all of these Items!

Measure J
The Time to be heard is NOW!
We need your voices at the table. Be the change that you seek, and show up to these meetings.

Measure J was passed overwhelmingly by voters this past November, thanks to advocates and organizers across LA.

Now, the input of LARRP members is urgently needed to help shape the implementation of Measure J.

Since its passage, a Measure J Advisory Committee has been formed, which includes 17 members – 5 appointed by the Board of Supervisors, 5 representing County departments, 5 lived experience members, and 2 union representatives.

The Advisory Committee then formed 5 Sub-committees, each co-chaired by a member of the Advisory Committee, joined by a co-chair elected from the community.

The Sub-committees are meeting now and we are strongly encouraging all LARRP members to actively participate. Information can be found here and comments can be sent to ati@lacounty.gov.

Your voice is needed to re-imagine LA!

---

MEASURE J
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS:
March 18th, April 1st & 15th, May 20th, June 17th

JOIN THE MEETING
MEASURE J SUBCOMMITTEES:
- Economic Opportunity and Sustainability - Mondays at 4 pm: March 1st, 8th, 15th
- Diversion, Behavioral Health - Tuesdays at 4 pm: March 2nd and 9th
- Education Access and Youth Development - Tuesdays at 6 pm: March 2nd, 9th
- Housing - Wednesdays at 4 pm: March 3rd, 10th
- Reentry - Wednesdays at 6 pm: March 3rd and 10th

Please also consider submitting a letter of support on these DPA Sponsored bills:

**SB 57 (Wiener)** - authorizes the city and county of San Francisco, Oakland and Los County to pilot Overdose Prevention Programs also known as Safe Consumption Sites (SCS) for six years. The bill will also provide legal protections for the staff, volunteers, and participants in these centers and guidelines for an entity to operate an OPP. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Health Committee and letters are due March 3rd by 5:00 P.M. LARRP is supporting this bill.

**SB 57 Fact sheet, SB57 Support Letter Template**

**SB 73 (Wiener)** – which authorizes the court to grant probation for certain drug offenses for which there are currently mandatory minimums requiring jail time. Mandatory sentences for nonviolent drug crimes force judges to imprison individuals who would be better treated and supervised in the community. The result is overcrowding in county jails, unnecessary strain on state and local budgets, and a destructive ripple effect throughout California communities and families. Letters due by March 2nd at 5:00 P.M.

**SB73 Fact Sheet**
**SB 73 Letter of Support Template**

Please copy and paste letter template onto your letterhead, personalize the letter and submit through the Senate’s advocacy portal at https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/. And email a copy to DPA via Norma Palacios at npalacios@drugpolicy.org Or if easier, email Norma Palacio directly and she can submit the letter for you.

---

**Member Newswire**

**ReEvolution**
**Remix - Reenter - Restore**

This month we would like to highlight
This month we would like to highlight LARRP Member Organization Re-Evolution, whose mission is to facilitate a circle of intergenerational healing and support to reduce the risk of incarceration and recidivism.

They are a network of people building resilience and creating positive change in individuals and communities impacted by incarceration.

While embracing all those who are system-impacted, they give particular focus to at-risk youth, incarcerated youth offenders, and formerly incarcerated juvenile lifers. They provide programs that span prevention to reentry as they leverage their collective experiences, relationships, and resources to bring awareness, healing, and change full circle.

For more info please see their [WEBSITE](#).

---

### Information and Opportunities

**VITA/ EITC Program**

Free Virtual Tax Preparation

For More Info [DOWNLOAD FLYER](#)

**Free Fitness with LARRP Partner The Phoenix**

The Phoenix takes a new approach to recovery by fostering healing through fitness and personal connection. We offer activities for everyone – from weightlifting and boxing to running, hiking, and yoga.

[Click Here](#) to find a live class near you

[Click Here](#) For LA Schedule March

[Click Here](#) For Long Beach Schedule March

Facebook Link for the full schedule

---

**DAAC Looking for folks affected by the criminal-legal system**

As you may know, the District Attorney Accountability Coalition (DAAC) is a group of individuals and organizations working to improve the criminal justice system. They are looking for people who have been affected by the criminal-legal system to join their efforts. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact them.
ABC

"All of us or None" is putting together a coalition to manage the California work of abolition - Abolishing Bondage Collectively (ABC). As the year progresses, we will be rolling out a comprehensive strategy, engaging the media and influencers, lawmakers and other entities, and centering your voice around this issue. We would welcome your full participation in the coalition. It will take all of us working together and sharing resources to finally eliminate this vestige of slavery. Please sign up for the ABC coalition and join the fight for freedom today.

Register

ReLINC- Restoring Lives, Investing, and Networking in Communities

In collaboration with 211 Los Angeles County, Christ Centered Ministries, and Paving the Way Foundation we are looking for additional community service providers to join our ReLINC network to effectively service our reentry population. The current network is working collaboratively and receiving training on how to effectively service our population. All the efforts will be tracked by the innovative CarlinQ system that will track referrals, collaborations, and success rates. If you would like to join this network of community service providers contact Evelyn Garcia at evelyn@lareentry.org

Download the Flyer

Funding Opportunities

Advance notice of all funding opportunities is generally sent to LARRP Members. Then if they are still available, we will include them in our newsletter. As a member, you can also find an updated list of all Grant Opportunities on our Members Only webpage.
Housing Services
Request for Information (RFI)

Submission Deadline Extended to March 5, 2021 at 2 p.m.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) has posted Addendum #3 to the 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Re-Housing Services Request for Information on our website. The addendum notes the extension of the submission deadline. In addition, the Scope of Required Services has been expanded to include families with children. Youth and family providers are eligible to respond to this RFI.

Under this RFI, LAHSA is looking to identify qualified homeless service providers that are interested in delivering Recovery Re-Housing services, a new and comprehensive Permanent Housing service and subsidy model targeted for COVID-19 high-risk populations including residents at Project Roomkey sites. Recovery Re-Housing services play an essential role in carrying out LAHSA’s objective to permanently house 15,000 individuals as part of its COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Please submit all responses via this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PP8XCZM

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ)
Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives, Fiscal Year 2021

NIJ is requesting proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. NIJ is interested in supporting multi-site, randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that:

- Are specifically designed to address violent, habitual recidivism.
- Are initiated during an individual’s incarceration and continue in the community.
- Address multiple criminogenic needs that can be assessed incrementally.


Application JustGrants Deadline: March 11, 2021 11:59 PM ET

MORE INFO

NEWS

Featured News Story:

This month we feature a commentary by the Heritage foundation on newly elected District Attorney, George Gascón, so we can all be aware of the national scope of the challenges against him. And see below for some of the current attempts to unseat other reform minded DA’s

Meet George Gascón, the Rogue Prosecutor Whose Policies Are Wreaking Havoc in Los Angeles

The Heritage Foundation Feb 24th, 2021,

Commentary By Charles "Cully" Stimson, Senior Legal Fellow & Manager, National Security Law Program and Zack Smith, Legal Fellow, Meese Center

READ THE ARTICLE

Key Takeaways

- His “reforms” wholesale eviscerate the entire architecture of the prosecutor’s office and radically distort what the prosecutor’s role is supposed to be.
- Gascón is a rogue among rogues. And unfortunately, for crime victims and the citizens of Los Angeles County, he is making their communities less safe.
- George Gascón’s policies are outrageous, dangerous, and pro-criminal. A movement to recall him has already begun.
Families of prisoners hospitalized with COVID-19 say they're not notified until too late

LA Times, By Leila Miller, Feb. 28, 2021

Santos Ruiz, 41, said the state correctional system waited two weeks to tell him that his father, an inmate at San Quentin, had been hospitalized with COVID-19, and by that time it was unlikely his dad would recover.

READ MORE

He wants to kick Jim Crow out of the California Constitution

LA Times By Maria L. La Ganga, Feb. 24, 2021

Dorsey Nunn, who spent 11 years in prison for murder, is now runs an advocacy group called Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

READ MORE

How to help someone coming out of the criminal justice system

PBS Newshour, by Casey Kuhn, Feb 26, 2021

LARRP is listed as a resource in this piece by PBS Newshour about reentry nationwide.

READ MORE

Black Lives Matter-L.A. launches campaign against law enforcement unions

The Intercept, Akela Lacy, February 24 2021

The Philadelphia race will test whether reformist district attorneys can survive opposition from groups that see them as a threat to the status quo.

AS LARRY KRASNER, Philadelphia’s reformist district attorney, faces his first reelection challenge, the city’s law enforcement groups have coalesced around a former homicide prosecutor whom Krasner fired when he entered office in 2018.
Organizers with Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles launched a campaign Wednesday targeting two of Southern California’s biggest police unions, saying they will push to have them ejected from the powerful Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and ultimately disbanded.

Activists said they intend to stage protests every week outside the headquarters of the Police Protective League, the union that represents roughly 9,800 Los Angeles police officers, while also working to end that group’s status as a labor union.

READ MORE

Myesha Lopez does not know whether the L.A. County sheriff’s deputy who shot and killed her father last June is still patrolling Lancaster's streets.

“I plead for months and to no avail. I haven't received any information,” Lopez said. “I haven't received condolences.”

READ MORE

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed two motions to improve mental health crisis response in LA County.

Through the first motion, the county will co-sponsor AB 988, a bill to adopt “988” as an alternative to calling “911” for mental health emergency services.

Because this system will not be in place until summer 2022, Supervisor Hahn introduced a second motion focused on “doing something now” to address the fact that the county has “too many call centers that basically exist in silos and operate separately from each other.”

READ MORE
DHCS recently released a report on health care discrepancies:

**2019 Health Disparities Report**
Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division
California Department of Health Care Services
December 2020

*Read the Report*