End of Year Reflection
from LARRP Executive Director Troy Vaughn
December 31, 2022

As I sit meditating on a passage from the Bible in Ezekiel 37, and the message of the dry bones being brought to life with purpose, I am reminded once again of our ability to create new life in situations we once thought dead. As the word came to Ezekiel, so to it comes to us, and challenges us to “Hear.”

Like the bones that play different roles in the framing of the body, we all play different roles in the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP). And as we have for the past 11 years, we came together throughout 2022 to achieve our goals and make the gift of loving and caring reentry a reality for Angelenos exiting incarceration.

We had several legislative victories this past year, like the passage of a bill we co-sponsored, SB 731 (Durazo), which allows for automatic and retroactive record expungement for most felonies. At the County level, we created new awareness around supportive pre-trail services, we fought for and won funding for 750 new treatment beds, distributed COVID relief resources to reentry providers, Our MUSIIC Matters outreach in partnership with the Los Angeles Mission and Christ-Centered Ministries created an impact that has transformed how services are provided.

LARRP continues to voice strong support for legislation that is just and fair to the reentry community and to oppose legislation that limits the opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals to reintegrate back into their communities. I’m proud of LARRP’s ability to be a driving force in the successful promotion of innovative solutions to combat in inequity in our community.

You work hard all year. This holiday season, I hope you find time hit pause, take joy in friends and family, throw a few snowballs or take a good long nap. Come 2023, it’s full steam ahead. The New Year brings a golden opportunity – to work together with new leadership in this City to make our contribution bigger, more relevant and vital than ever.

On behalf of everyone at LARRP, staff and the Steering Committee, I thank you for your love and your continued
Last year we stuck together, like those bones, when we continued to be hit by the global pandemic, the downturn in the economy, polarizing politics, and many of us with personal crises. We were heartbroken by the passing of LARRP Steering Committee member and long time carceral activist Joseph Maizlish in March, and we are proud of the 3 women on the Steering Committee and staff who are battling and surviving their cancers. And personally, I would like to thank you and your family for the love and support when my wife was diagnosed with cancer this Fall. We’ve received so many heartwarming cards from agencies, text messages from friends, staff, government officials and Board members expressing their love and support, and that has meant the world to us.

When I look back on 2022, I find inspiration at every turn, forged by dreamers and innovators taking risks, facing down challenges and enjoying their success while shining a light on those who need it most, the marginalized in our community. We saw reformer DA George Gascon beat back two extremist recall attempts and the ouster of an LA Sheriff who spread lies and division in every corner of the County. We saw the election of former LARRP Steering Committee member Eunisses Hernandez to the Los Angeles City Council And our beloved South LA hometown hero Karen Bass elected as Mayor of this great City.

After nearly 30 years in this field, I’m still passionate about the work we all do and excited by the world of possibilities ahead.

Committee, I thank you for your love and your continued faith in our mission. With that, I’ll leave you with these final words:

Give yourself permission to dream and remember nothing is impossible.

Put yourself in position to learn and learn all that you can, because you can.

Take time to smile, rejoice and laugh with family and friends, because laughter does good like a medicine.

Make sure to set achievable goals and reward yourself when you achieve them.

Never doubt yourself and your abilities; there is great success inside of you; because you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Strive to be authentic in what you do and say, and the rest will follow.

Be a giver and a helper to others, and it will return to you a hundredfold.

Stop and relax to enjoy the fruit of your labor and reengage your creativity.

Above all love! Love yourself and those around you. Remember you deserve to be happy.

Believe in yourself, because I believe in you.

Happy New Year
Pastor Troy

---

LARRP Committee Meetings

**LARRP General Meeting**

January 19 2023
10:00am - 11:30am

2023 meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 10:00am - 11:30am

REGISTER - General Meeting

**Employment Committee**

January 18, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

2023 meetings will be held every ODD month, on the 3rd Wednesday from 2:00pm - 3:30pm

REGISTER Employment

**Housing Committee**

January 19, 2023
1:30pm - 3:00pm

2023 meetings will be held every ODD month on the 3rd Thursday from 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Register Housing

**Education Committee:**

January Meeting CANCELLED!

Next Meeting: February 2 2023

Every first Thursday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Register Education
Integrated Health Committee

January Meeting CANCELLED!

February 6, 2022, 2:00 pm

REGISTER Integrated Health

---

LARRP News

It brings us great sadness to announce that Kaitlin Martins, LARRP’s program specialist, has decided to move back to the east coast to continue her education at Northeastern University for a Masters in Quantitative Analysis and Social Methods. We are so honored to have had her be part of the LARRP family for the past year! She has been an integral part of LARRPs successes, and she will be missed in all LARRP events. We know she has a bright future ahead of her, and are excited to keep in touch as she continues her passion through research. Congratulations Kaitlin and we thank you for everything you did for this family.

If you have any questions in her absence please direct them to Julyanna@lareentry.org

---

Partner Events

Invitation from CA DOJ: California Reentry Roundtable

On behalf of Attorney General Rob Bonta, I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the newly launched “California Reentry Roundtable” or “CARR”. CARR is focused on addressing barriers for those who have been formerly incarcerated and exploring strategies to reduce recidivism rates.

- California Reentry Roundtable: Information Session
  Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 11am-12pm PST. RSVP Necessary Send email to Catherine.Nou@doj.ca.gov
- The first meeting of the California Reentry Roundtable
  Thursday, February 9, 2023 in San Francisco from 1-2pm with a virtual participation option. RSVP Necessary Send email to Catherine.Nou@doj.ca.gov

Join CURB for their Jan 12 in Sacramento Rally to Close Prisons

Jan 12th will be a big day for the campaign because Governor Newsom’s proposed 2023-2024 budget will be released, and we want to make our voices for prison closure and community investment loud and clear.

With CDCR’s recent announcement of one closure, one facility lease end, and 6 yard deactivations, our campaign continues to gain momentum and move towards our goal of 10 prisons closed by 2025. While this recent announcement is a big step in the right direction, we need all hands on deck to keep the momentum going.

RSVP here so we can coordinate logistics.
In the News!

Featured Report

REPORT: Violent crime and public prosecution

Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, By Todd Foglesong, Ron Levi et al., October 20, 2022

A review of recent data on homicide, robbery, and progressive prosecution in the United States

This report analyzes recent data on homicide and robbery to understand whether there is a relationship between violent crime and “progressive prosecution.” We pooled data on recorded crime from 65 major cities, conducted a statistical regression of trends in violent crime as well as larceny in two dozen cities, and compared the incidence of homicide before and after the election of progressive prosecutors in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Los Angeles, cities where we are conducting on-going research on changes in criminal justice. We also compared trends in recorded crime across all counties in Florida and California since 2015. We find no evidence to support the claim that progressive prosecutors were responsible for the increase in homicide during the pandemic or before it. We recommend that further statistical analyses of data on violent crime be supplemented by qualitative research and direct evidence about the practices of prosecutors in cities that recorded divergent patterns in homicide.

Read the REPORT

Featured News Story

This month we are proud to feature an article about one of the many hard-won victories fought for by LARRP and our Partners, that has the potential to impact so many lives, and begin a new, more humane and more effective
For Decades, Los Angeles Jailed People with Mental Health Needs. Now, It’s Finally Prioritizing Treatment

Vera by Sam McCann Senior Writer, Dec 22, 2022

The Los Angeles jail system is the largest mental health institution in the United States, and it’s locking up more people with mental illness than ever before. But this fall, a coalition of local organizers, service providers, impacted families, and advocates like Vera secured two major victories that will divert hundreds of people with mental health needs away from Los Angeles County’s inhumane and dangerous Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) and into supportive housing. The wins are part of an ongoing effort to transform how Los Angeles approaches mental health.

...However, realizing that promise depends on implementation, too. If the recent wins do indeed bring a sea change in how the county handles mental health needs, that means there’s plenty of work ahead, according to Troy Vaughn, executive director and chair of the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership, a network of service providers that offer housing, health, and employment solutions for people with legal system contact.

“I think about where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean: it’s a sea change but in the moment it changes, there’s a lot of turbulence,” Vaughn said. “So yes, [these decisions] are a sea change. But we [have] got to make sure that we batten down the hatches in a way that understands the dynamics of the change.”

More News

Hope emerges in 2022 as homicides dip in Los Angeles

LA Times By Libor Jany, Staff Writer, Dec. 31, 2022

After one of its deadliest stretches in recent memory, Los Angeles will end 2022 with fewer homicides and shootings than in 2021, sparking hope that the surge in violent crime over the previous two years is flattening.

How California’s colleges are supporting formerly incarcerated students


California public universities are becoming more equitable and inclusive as programs emerge to help formerly incarcerated students earn college degrees.

These programs include the California State University system’s Project Rebound and the University of California’s Underground Scholars, both of which have shown promising results in the successful reintegration of people into the education system.

Newsom Grants 10 Pardons, Including For Drug Crimes

Associated Press, Dec 27, 2022

...
Newsom has granted 140 pardons, 123 commutations and 35 reprieves since taking office in 2019.

SACRAMENTO, CA — California Gov. Gavin Newsom granted 10 pardons Friday, including for several people convicted of drug crimes more than 20 years ago and someone facing the possibility of deportation.

READ MORE

As fentanyl overdose deaths keep rising, efforts to reverse trend meet liability fears

LA Times By Connor Sheets, Staff Writer Dec. 27, 2022

As fentanyl overdose deaths rise unabated, California is at the forefront of the fight to reverse the grim trend. But organizations that distribute overdose reversal drugs worry that their increasingly bold efforts to save lives could land them in legal trouble.

READ MORE

For the First Time Since 2020, People In LA County Jails Can Get Married Again

The LAist By Emily Elena Dugdale, Dec 27, 2022

READ MORE

‘Dickensian’ Conditions At LA County Jail Amid Shortage Of Psychiatric Staff

The LAist, By Robert Garrova, Dec 22, 2022

4 In 10 Of mental health positions are vacant, Filthy jail cells. In an LAist investigation from earlier this year, current and former medical staff members described a jail working environment that is dysfunctional, abusive and detrimental to providing health care.

READ MORE

What It Means To Spend The Holidays Behind Bars

The Appeal, by Chris Blackwell, Antoine E. Davis, Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Aaron Edward Olson & George Soros Funding Criminal Justice Reform Plants In Legacy Media

By Corinne Murdock, Dec 21, 2022

Democratic megadonor George Soros will pay journalists anywhere from $63,000 to $85,000 to advance progressive criminal justice reform...

Journalists aren't the only ones eligible for these fellowships. OSF offers three distinct categories of fellowship funding — advocacy, media, and youth activism — which may pay up to six figures, according to scholarship data provided to universities. These categories qualify a wide variety of professions such as lawyers, advocates, grassroots organizers, artists, and filmmakers.

READ MORE

Criminal justice panel says California should pay restitution to victims, ban some traffic stops

LA Times by Hannah Wiley, December 20, 2022

California should set up a taxpayer-funded restitution system for crime victims, curtail the use of money bail and limit when cops can make traffic stops that disproportionately affect Black and Latino drivers, according to recommendations from a criminal justice panel that advises state lawmakers.

READ MORE
Incarcerated writers reflect on the pain, joy, and other complicated emotions associated with getting in the so-called "holiday spirit" in prison.

**Read More**

Justice Dept. Considers Early Release for Female Inmates Sexually Abused Behind Bars

NYTimes by By Glenn Thrush, Dec. 13, 2022

The push comes amid new revelations about the extent of abuse of women, and the unwillingness of many prison officials to address a crisis that has long been an open secret in government.

**READ MORE**

Lawsuit Challenges “Unconstitutional” LA County Bail Practices

Witness LA, November 30, 2022 by Taylor Walker

At least ten people who could not afford to post bail died in Los Angeles jails without having been charged with a crime, according to a class-action lawsuit challenging the incarceration of people simply because they cannot afford to post bail amounts set by the LA County’s bail schedule.

**READ MORE**

---

**Funding Opportunities, Information, Jobs**

**Funding**

DHCS Invests Funds To Transform Medical Practices To Address The Opioid Crisis

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) today made nearly $3.4 million in grants available to help

**Opportunities and Information**

The Concept Recommendation Form (CRF) deadline has been extended through January 15

The Concept Recommendation Form (CRF) captures project, concepts, and program recommendations in the areas of education, health, Workforce

**Jobs**

Equality California Legislative Director

Equality California is actively looking for an experienced, high-performing Legislative Director to lead our California state legislative advocacy and government affairs. This position is based in Sacramento and offers competitive salary and benefits.
$3.4 million in grants available to help improve patient care in the areas of substance use disorder (SUD), opioid use disorder, and addiction. Organizations can apply for grants of up to $70,000.

The project aims to encourage California physician residency programs to increase the capacity to serve patients with a SUD, including stimulant use disorder and opioid use disorder. Applicants must include education, outreach, and treatment for patients experiencing SUD, with a particular focus on serving vulnerable populations, promoting harm reduction, addressing fentanyl, and increasing medication-assisted treatment services.

Expression of Interest due January 13, 2023

More info and RFI

Join us here on Wednesday, January 4 or January 11 between 4:30pm - 6:30pm where we can answer questions about the CRF, its content, best practices, and materials and tools linked within the CRF.

Join Zoom!