



Eye Speak

United

The
Leimert Park Village
Photo Project

California Artist Coalition
of Los Angeles

in collaboration with
KAOS Network



Leimert Park

is rich in ...

Love of Community **History** Family **Political Engagement**
Respect **Laughter** Music **Art** African American Affluence
Dance Cultural Identity **Social Activism**

The

Leimert Park Village Eye Speak Photo Project focuses on teaching youth the importance of getting involved in their community. Our objective is to empower the kids through creativity and allow them to feel involved in directing positive changes within their neighborhood. To accomplish this goal, we conducted workshops with local artists to excite participating youth by helping them creatively explore ways in which they can incite change. The participants took photographs within the Leimert Park Village community and highlighted the positive and unique aspects of the neighborhood. The kids also were involved in discussions regarding their relationship to Leimert Park and their goals for the area. The workshops served to engage youth by helping them identify real solutions and giving them the tools to facilitate change.

CACLA is a non profit 501(c)(3) artist based organization dedicated to serving targeted communities and the visual artists who live and work in those communities. As part of our mission, CACLA supports youth art programs by collaborating with neighborhood art centers, museums and schools to instruct art related programs through our roster of elite artists and master teachers.

cacla2006.org

Youth Participants

Krystal Albert, Age 13

Leslie James, Age 14

Anbiya Smith, Age 11

Minkah Smith, Age 15

Aviane Staples, Age 12

Cinnamon Buckley, Age 15

Donovan Dickson, Age 13

Amanda Jones, Age 16

Jacquil Constant, Age 19



Original Artwork by Michael Massenburg

The Leimert Park Project Area is located within the South Los Angeles Region of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles. To strengthen the socio-economic condition of the area, the CRA/LA is working with residents and stakeholders to coordinate community and economic development. Initiatives for the Region include identifying physical and institutional constraints, partnering with new and existing programs, and determining how resources can best be leveraged to meet the needs of all of stakeholders within the community.

Leimert Park is special to me because it puts culture in everything that you see from poetry to dance.

**I love the way I walk
in a black community
and feel safe.**

I love leimert Park! - Krystal Albert





SANKOFA PASSAGE

Sankofa Passage is a community-initiated cultural destination designed to preserve, document, and educate the world about the many creative spirits, past and present, who have contributed to the rich, ever-evolving artistic community located in the Los Angeles/Crosshatch Area of the City of Los Angeles.

The name **Sankofa Passage** establishes African American culture as the foundation for the creative expressions of those honored artists, each identified within a bronze pedestal bordered by stone branching iron shapes evoking their name, artistic field, place and year of birth.

Sankofa is an African symbol and principle from the Akan people of Ghana, reminding us that we must recognize, respect and learn from the past, so that present and future generations can forge a progressive and successful future.

The word **Passage** evokes the spirit, the strength and the sacrifice of the tens of millions of Africans who emigrated on the horrors of the "Middle Passage" (Slave to Dragon) cultures and who either died on their deathbeds at the bottom of the ocean en route or who became chained slaves throughout the Americas.

Passage is also a contemporary "Rites of Passage" reference that provides a bridge for aspiring artists from here and around the world to recognize, respect and draw inspiration from the artistic accomplishments of those identified on **Sankofa Passage**.

Sankofa Passage artists continue to profoundly define, shape and influence the cultural fabric of this Nation and the entire World Community. The art created by the **Sankofa Passage** honorees is a noble example of this community's influential legacy of creativity and spirituality that African Americans and Africans throughout its diaspora have contributed to world art and culture.

WELCOME to **Sankofa Passage**.



What Leimert Park means to me is a place that accentuates a great deal of cultural and artistic freedom.

**It is a
place full
of life and
joy.**

I am very honored to be a part of it and I hope that in the future it keeps the heart of the past embedded in our future.

- *Minkah Smith*



Leimert Park is important to me because it shows that black kids can do things in the community that could

**make a
difference!**

- Donovan Dickson





Leimert Park is special to me because of the beautiful scenery and all the people that are here.

The festivals, music, dance, and poetry!

Leimert Park Village is great!

- *Cinnamon Buckley*





Leimert Park is important to me because it is a nice place to visit and

**learn about
African
American
culture.**

The people are so nice. There are shops with African art, clothing, jewelry, and the food is delicious! In Leimert Park children like me can have fun and enjoy themselves! - Aviane Staples

Leimert Park is special to me because of its community pride, the colors that you see everywhere, the closeness of the people and the happiness you see when you walk around.

People are so proud of their culture.

The pride truly inspires me to make all black communities as great as this one.
- Amanda Jones



Original Artwork by Carla Carr

Leimert Park is important to me because it is a very cultural and beautiful place. I like that we have lots of cultural celebrations which

**make us
more aware
of our
heritage.**

- Anbiya Smith





United

We

Stand

Original Artwork by Carla Carr



Rameses

Leimert Park is special because it holds a lot of history. People here tell you the **history of our people.**

Leimert Park is more than any other park.
- *Leslie James*

Leimert Park is a special place for me because it is where

I can learn and create.

I feel I can be myself here. Everyone is proud of this community., as I am proud of it. - *Kenneth Jones*



Original Artwork by Carla Carr



This project would not have been possible without the loving support of the parents and volunteers.

The youth photographers were enthusiastic, creative and inspirational!

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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Leimert Park Task Force

Business Owners &
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