



UNITY NEWS, ACTIVITIES, & PROGRESS: 2019



The Long Beach Unity Festival
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FACEBOOK: The Long Beach Unity
Festival
The Dancer In Me

Steve Adams – President/CEO
Stephanie B. Adams – Executive Director

Our Mission: Bringing unity to diverse
communities through music, the Arts, and healthy
lifestyles.

IG: dancer.N.me



LONG BEACH UNITY ADDRESSES ISSUES AFFECTING OUR CHILDREN:



- RISING CHILDHOOD obesity, physical inactivity, & poor nutrition
- SYSTEMIC EXCLUSION from quality arts programming in underserved communities
- ELIMINATION of school funds for Arts Education & Physical Fitness

- RISING SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS due to negative behaviors like bullying & violence
- INCREASED intolerance and insensitivity among children & peers of different cultures and ethnicities
- NEED of a safe, creative learning environment of expression
- POSITIVE role models & mentors





ABOUT THE LBUF PROGRAM FUNDED IN PART BY THE MILLER FOUNDATION: SKY KIDS CREATIVE ARTS IN ACTION:

The LBUF Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action program is an afterschool arts enrichment program for children ages 6-12 facilitated in collaboration with the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach W.R.A.P., and COR Community Development Corporation. It is coordinated, implemented, and supervised by LBUF Executive Director Stephanie Adams, with strong support from the organization's President & CEO Steve Adams and the LBUF Advisory Board, LBUF College/HS Interns, and other professional artists.

The curriculum includes professional dance training (ballet, modern, lyrical, jazz, tap, & various cultural genres), physical fitness, martial arts, **children's theater**, music appreciation, creative writing, and visual arts. Each discipline is delivered by trained LBUF instructors focused on providing every child access to fun yet challenging content, exhibit a high-level of performance proficiency, and equip children for an ever-evolving artistic world while preparing them for academic arts advancement. Class sessions occur four days per week for 1.25 hours and are designed to teach children (and their families) the importance of unity in the Arts as a vehicle of transforming troubled communities.

Currently, Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action is in residence at **10 sites city-wide (8 LBUSD schools and 2 local communities)**. THE LONG BEACH UNITY SKY KIDS Program provides children strong alternatives and artistic options to help our students reach their full potential in the face of many societal, economic, and cultural barriers.

POPULATION SERVED 2019

Nearly 300 students are participating in the Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action Program from the following Districts/Schools:

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT:

- Grant Elementary
- Starr King Elementary
- Herrera Elementary
- Lafayette Elementary
- Garfield Elementary
- Burbank Elementary
- Hudson Elementary
- Edison Elementary

COMMUNITIES:

- Northpointe Apartments [Avanath Properties – N. Long Beach, Paramount Unified School District & LBUSD with CORCDC]
- COR Church - Irvine, CA



2020: EXPANDING TO:

- Hamilton Middle School
- Stephens Middle School



ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES, UPDATES, & PROGRESS:



The future of the Long Beach Unity Festival is limitless. As the organization enters its 20th year anniversary of producing community events and serving children and their families throughout the city of Long Beach and beyond, we continue to sharpen and develop our skills and ability to creatively reach even more children with new methods, in new places!

LBUF NAMED AS INNOVATION 2 GRANT PARTNER:

- Long Beach Unity's Executive Director will facilitate and develop curriculum focusing on the healing power of creative Arts as one of several partners for the Innovation 2 grant in collaboration with its grantee, The Children's Clinic Serving Children & Their Families. Awarded by the LA County Department of Mental Health, the grant will be used to Develop Trauma Resilient Communities through Community Capacity Building. LBUF will create culturally competent, non-traditional self-help activities for families and their children with multiple generations experiencing trauma, including outreach engagement, intergenerational story-telling, intergenerational dance, and intergenerational mentorship programs.

LBUF INTERNS LAND CITY JOBS WHILE LBUF GAINS OFFICIAL CITY VENDOR STATUS:

- LBUF has successfully developed and cultivated a strong, working model of our Interns & Leaders Program. As a result of funds received from the Miller Foundation over the past two years, LBUF was able to successfully hire, train, integrate, and compensate three Cabrillo High School graduates (now attending CSULB and LBCC respectively) into the Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action programming at 10 sites across Long Beach in collaboration with LB Parks, Recreation, & Marine's WRAP Afterschool Program.
- As a result of the excellent performance of our Interns in working with the elementary school sites, 3 of our interns were offered interviews for part-time employment with the City. We are happy to report that 2 of our trained interns have now been offered jobs with LB Parks & Recreation, and will begin their employment in August 2019!
- Effective September 2019, LB Unity will serve as an official training and recruiting organization for recent High School graduates for consideration as part-time city employees with LB Parks, Recreation, and Marine. LBUF Interns become eligible after a minimum of 6 months training with LBUF staff.

LBUF Sky Kids Interns: Javonna Steptoe, Che'lyn Lane, Debreana Helmage, & John Arceno with Steve & Stephanie Adams



SKY KIDS CREATIVE ARTS IS NOW AT ALL 8 LONG BEACH WRAP SITES & 2 AREA LOCATIONS:

LBUF serves nearly 250 children weekly!

Here's where we are now:

- Burbank Elementary
- King Elementary
- Grant Elementary
- Garfield Elementary
- Lafayette Elementary
- Hudson Elementary
- Herrera Elementary
- Edison Elementary
- Northpointe Community Center
- COR Church-Irvine



CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL (COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT) REACHES OUT FOR HELP:



Having heard about LB Unity's program and activities serving youth, the career counselor and performing arts department instructor requested a meeting with LBUF Executive Director and President to see how we may provide arts-related encouragement to some of their troubled students who have great dance and acting potential but lack the platform and opportunity to be stretched. We will begin working with select students in the 2020 school year.

WINNING! LBUF EAGLES BASKETBALL TEAM IN NORTH LB TAKE 2ND PLACE IN YOUTH LEAGUE:

Under the leadership of LBUF President/CEO Steve Adams, the Eagles Mentoring Program in residence at the 3,000-resident property of Avanath/Northpointe Housing in North Long Beach is thriving. After 3 years on-site, the LBUF staff has established an official basketball team for kids ages 10-11 years old. They entered the team into long-time Youth Basketball league, "The Wood", based in the Lakewood community, and the team



experienced a winning season, taking 2nd Place overall with a record of 6-2! The program continued to serve as a safe-place of mentoring for the kids, but also offer a variety of creative ways to assist in stemming violence, negative behaviors, and encouraging personal pride and self-worth in young boys of color. The success of the team has also generated active involvement of the kids' parents.

Coach Tristan, Coach Steve, and Coach Arnold



NEW PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP WITH THE WOMEN'S SHELTER OF LONG BEACH

LBUF President/CEO established a great partnership/exchange with Executive Director Mary Mitchell and Board Member Dr. Carol Grabowski of the WomenShelter of LB in the 2018-2019 season. Mothers and their young children from WSLB were able to attend free classes during the annual Dancer in Me Conference and they had a blast! Five families were represented. In exchange, WSLB donated brand new toys for over 100 of our Sky Kids attendees. LBUF will engage even more with the shelter families to offer encouragement & inspiration through the Arts for women and children.



Sky Kids & Site Directors, LB WRAP



Unity Festival Toy Give-Away



LBUF CO-PRODUCES YOUTH CONCERT AT THE ORANGE COUNTY FAIR FEATURING SKY KIDS!

LBUF Executive Director co-produced the first ever Youth Gospel Concert at the Orange County Fair July 21st, 2019. In collaboration with COR CDC, New Hope Church, the event featured 35 Youth ages 7-17 in 3 original choreographic works, along with a youth choir, and youth orchestra. The OC Fair is one of the largest attended fairs in the U.S.



BREAKING BARRIERS! THE 2019 LONG BEACH UNITY FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS TRAINING: The Power of Collaboration

The Long Beach Unity Festival (LBUF) presented the 9th Annual *Dancer in Me Sacred Arts & Music Training Institute* (DIM) under the theme “Breaking Barriers” on Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th, 2019 on the campus of *Cabrillo High School*. As part of the weekend-long activities, *The Long Beach Unity Festival* co-



hosted a kick-off fundraiser with LBUSD School Board member, Dr. Felton Williams to benefit the LBUF Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action program on Friday March 29th at Keesal, Young, & Logan, 400 Ocean Gate in Long Beach. The event fundraiser was sponsored

in part by 4th District L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn and LBS Financial Credit Union. The weekend culminated with the community-wide celebration at the 19th Annual Long Beach

Unity Music & Arts Festival on Saturday, March 30th from 11:30am-4pm also at Cabrillo High School featuring live performances throughout the day from bands & choirs, Poetry Slam Competition, Unity Flashmob, and a host of exhibitions, community

performers, food & merchant vendors, and Kids Zone. *The Dancer in Me Training Institute* is a uniquely designed experience in the Arts for the purpose of continuing a successful history of community outreach to young people, while providing creative & professional instruction, job opportunities, and spiritual enrichment. In 2019, LBUF experienced its largest number of registrants to date, with nearly 700 participants from across the nation, and internationally gathered to experience over 40 classes daily, 7 specialty tracks, and 30 professional instructors. Among attendees were nearly 200 LBUSD elementary students enrolled in the LBUF Sky Kids afterschool program.



LONG BEACH UNITY PRESENTS THE 2020 DANCER IN ME IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA!

Host Bishop Anne Henning-Byfield
Presiding Prelate
16th Episcopal District AMEC

DANCER IN ME Kingston, Jamaica

REJUVENATE to ACCELERATE

March 22-30, 2020

DANCERS, SINGERS, ACTORS, POETS, ACTIVISTS,
INTERCESSORS, & RADICAL WORSHIPERS WORLDWIDE will
Gather for Training & Transformation in the heart of
the Caribbean!

PHASE ONE: REJUVENATE - 3/22-3/26/2020
A Prophetic Faith Formation & Creative
Arts Encounter for Persons 55 Years +
With Global Matriarch Rev. Cecelia W.
Bryant & her team of 7 anointed facilitators

PHASE TWO: ACCELERATE - 3/25-3/30/2020
A Sacred Arts, Music, & Outreach Experience for
Persons 6 Years & Up with 40 classes daily; 30
dynamic international instructors.

Steve Adams - President & CEO
Rev. Stephanie B. Adams
DIM Producer | Executive Director

REGISTER EARLY & SAVE:
<https://dim2020rejuvenate2accelerate.eventbrite.com>
Visit spiritofpraiseinternational.com
562-293-1700 | 562-293-1753

Having been sent to the 16th District originally under the leadership of Bishop John & Rev. Cecelia Bryant (10th District, Texas) it was an honor to serve in Jamaica for 11.5 years under the leadership of AME Bishops William DeVeaux, Carolyn Tyler-Guidry, and Sara Frances Davis in various capacities as a full-time missions liaison/trainer, educator, Board of Examiners instructor, Senior Pastor, and Supervising Elder. Additionally, having served under the leadership of Bishop Peter & Dr. Patricia Morgan as founding director of the School of the Arts at Caribbean Christ for the Nations & Kingston City Church (Montego Bay & Kingston), and Pastor Carrington Morgan (Board Member, City Life Ministries-Kingston), it now brings us great joy to return to Jamaica after 10 years to execute Arts-Evangelism, Community Activism & Engagement, Ministry to the Jamaican Girl Child, Building/Health/Wellness initiatives and more!

In 2020, the co-host/producing organization, Long Beach Unity will celebrate 20 years of productions, training youth, and transforming communities through its mission of bringing unity to diverse communities through music, the Arts, & healthy lifestyle initiatives by taking **The 10th Annual Dancer in Me Sacred Arts & Music Training Institute** on its international premiere to Kingston, Jamaica. The DIM experience features 30 classes daily in dance, music, pageantry, drama, and spiritual formation, along with Worship in the Arts concerts and cross-cultural exchange. We are excited to have the collaboration of the 5th Episcopal District Supervisor Alexia Fugh, the Women's Missionary Society & YPD, along with other AMEC Districts worldwide.

JOIN US! Register & get more information at www.spiritofpraiseinternational.com or call 562-293-1753 | 562-293-1700

SKY KIDS CREATIVE ARTS IN ACTION

Training Children. Touching Lives.

