THE OPPOSITE OF POVERTY IS NOT WEALTH. IT’S JUSTICE.

— BRYAN STEVENSON
Amid substantial inflation and the continued economic fallout from the pandemic, the chasm between California’s extremely high-income households and those on the brink of entering homelessness continued to expand at an accelerated pace. We partnered with legal aid service providers, advocates, community organizations, and policy makers to secure protections and resources to support the 7 million Californians living in poverty. From tenant protections, the expansion of Medi-Cal, child tax credits, emergency food benefits, and historic increases to CalWORKs cash benefits, our work helped reduce California’s growing poverty, specifically for children, when non-cash supports were accounted for.

EMERGENCY INVESTMENTS TARGETING PEOPLE WITH LOW INCOMES DURING THE PANDEMIC PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT VEHICLE FOR ELIMINATING POVERTY IN OUR STATE — DEMONSTRATING HOW ONGOING, DEDICATED INVESTMENTS CAN END POVERTY AND ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IN OUR STATE CAN THRIVE.

This year’s annual report tracks what is possible when we invest in and care for those who face the greatest obstacles in our State. After 55 years of building a more just California by fighting on the frontlines at the Capitol, in the courtrooms, and in communities, Western Center’s work is as urgent now as it was at our inception. We know our work is not done until health care and housing are affordable, food is secure, and systemic racism is addressed. With your support and partnership, we will continue working to build a more just California in 2023 and beyond. We thank you for joining us in this effort.
I AM THE HURRICANE THAT COMES EVERY SINGLE YEAR, AND YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE ME AGAIN SOON.

— AMANDA GORMAN
In 2022, we continued our 55-year journey toward achieving racial and economic justice. As we marched forward in 2023, we look back on the challenges and triumphs of the prior year: 2022 was a year of transformation for Western Center as we adopted a new strategic plan in the fall after a year of collaborative planning work. I am so grateful for all the staff and board voices that provided critically important input to shape the future strategic direction of WCLP. Both racial justice and our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are deeply embedded in our strategic plan. The implementation planning process is well underway with the staff’s Implementation Task Force (ITF) members leading the charge. Many thanks to the ITF for going the extra mile to engage in this important and challenging collaborative work as we strive to put our new strategic plan into action to guide our decision making and advance our shared priorities.

Western Center continues to work diligently to preserve and strengthen economic security, health, housing, and basic needs for Californians impacted by poverty. In addition to the work highlighted in this annual report, Western Center has been actively involved in monitoring and supporting the work of the Historic California Reparations Task Force, a first-in-the-nation effort. The presentations and expert testimony provided to the task force shed light and illustrate how ongoing reparations efforts are necessary to address racial disparities. Before July 1, 2023, the Task Force will issue a final report with recommendations but will not officially sunset until July 1, 2024. Defining and implementing meaningful and achievable reparations for the Black descendants of enslaved people (who remain unable to reap the benefits of the American economy and continue to be shut out from opportunities to thrive), is the next critically important phase in California’s groundbreaking reparations journey. Western Center deals with the fallout of our country’s anti-Blackness and legacy of slavery every day when we work to protect people impacted by poverty. The legacy of American racism has resulted in worse social outcomes by most measures — from COVID-19 death rates, to incarceration rates, to homelessness, to employment and education.

We continue to call on our partners and stakeholders to join us in thinking deeply and acting boldly as we work together to build a better, stronger, more sustainable and fulfilling tomorrow in which all Californians can thrive. In the words of Amanda Gorman, “whether we prevail is determined not by all the challenges that are present, but by all the change that is possible.” Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We need you now more than ever.

IN SOLIDARITY,
Crystal D. Crawford, Esq.

FURY AND FAITH — AMANDA GORMAN

You will be told that this is not a problem, Not your problem.
You will be told that now is not the time for change to begin. Told that we cannot win.
But the point of protest isn’t winning —
It’s holding fast to the promise of freedom,
Even when fast victory is not promised,
Meaning we cannot stand up to police
If we cannot cease policing our own imagination,
Convincing our communities that this won’t work
Before the work has even begun,
That this can wait,
When we’ve already waited out a thousand suns.
By now, we understand white supremacy
and the despair it demands.
Are as destructive as any disease.
So when you’re told that your rage is reactionary,
Remember that rage is our right.
It teaches us it is time to fight in the face of injustice.
Not only is anger natural but necessary
Because it helps carry us to our destination.
Our goal has never been revenge, just restoration;
not dominance, just dignity;
not fear, just freedom;
just justice.
Whether we prevail is determined not by all the challenges that are present
But by all the change that is possible.
And though we be unstoppable,
If we ever feel like we might fail,
If we be fatigued and frail.
When our fire can no longer be fueled by fury,
We will be fortified by this faith
Found in the vow, the anthem:
All black lives matter, no matter what!
Black lives are worth living,
Worth defending.
Worth every struggle.
We must stand up for all of us and our aims,
United through protest and pain,
Amplifying women, the LGBTQ community,
and people with disabilities.
Because none of us are free
Until all of us break our chains.
We owe it to the fallen to fight,
But we owe it to ourselves
To never stay kneeling
When the day calls us to stand together.
We envision a land
That is liberated, not lawless;
We create a future
That is free, not flawless.
Over and over, again and again,
We will stride up every mountain side,
Magnanimous and modest.
We will be protected and served
By a force that is honored and honest.
This is more than protest — It’s a promise!
ABOUT WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY

FOR 55 YEARS, WESTERN CENTER HAS ADVOCATED ON BEHALF OF CALIFORNIANS EXPERIENCING POVERTY, IN EVERY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT — FROM THE COURTS TO THE LEGISLATURE. THROUGH THE LENS OF ECONOMIC AND RACIAL JUSTICE, WE LITIGATE, EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE AROUND HEALTH CARE, HOUSING, PUBLIC BENEFITS, ACCESS TO JUSTICE, AND FINANCIAL SECURITY LAWS, POLICIES, AND ADMINISTRATION.

HOW WE WORK

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY
Western Center works with county, city, and state administrators to ensure policies and procedures are implemented properly across California to protect and uplift Californians living in poverty. Sometimes a simple shift in procedure, or guidance and encouragement from our advocates, can make a difference in real life outcomes for thousands of Californians.

BUDGET ADVOCACY
While budget advocacy often proceeds quietly, its impact on individuals and families can be far reaching and life changing. Western Center’s advocacy pushes the state to use its budget to bring California closer to true economic and racial equity.

IMPACT LITIGATION
Western Center files litigation across California to ensure the laws to protect and support Californians with low incomes — laws we often sponsor in Sacramento — are upheld by government and private entities. Good laws mean nothing without enforcement.

POLICY ADVOCACY
Western Center’s state policy work centers on advancing legislation that gets to the heart of the issues causing California’s massive income inequality, unsustainable housing market, lack of access to health care, and destructive systems of justice.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Western Center attorneys and advocates assist hundreds of legal services and community-based advocates throughout the state and nation. Community-based advocates and legal aid attorneys are often the only line of defense for people with low incomes when they are forced to navigate complex legal issues. In that way, Western Center’s support of and collaboration with local advocates and legal aid attorneys, ripples across the communities we all serve.
OUR IMPACT LITIGATION YIELDED SIGNIFICANT WINS TO KEEP CALIFORNIANS HOUSED AND FOOD SECURE.

In *Warren v. the City of Chico*, we won a preliminary injunction where the city agreed to build individual shelters for unhoused residents and people can no longer be arrested or cited for sleeping outside when shelter is unavailable. We secured a preliminary statewide injunction in *Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Action v. California Housing and Community Development*, pausing emergency rental assistance application denials until the program can meet constitutional standards of due process. We also secured a permanent injunction in *Hunger Action Los Angeles, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.*, requiring the county to process and approve emergency CalFresh food applications within 3 days.

Our lawsuits filed in 2022 include *Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice v. County of San Bernardino*, which challenges approval of a huge warehouse project that will increase pollution and displace residents of a predominantly Latinx neighborhood already over-burdened by bad air and lack of affordable housing; and *Tesfai v. Dept. of Health Care Services*, challenging the practice of denying replacement prosthetics to Medi-Cal Dental beneficiaries under conditions more restrictive than the governing statute allows. Additionally, we filed an appeal in *Abney v. Dept. of Health Care Services*, seeking to reverse a superior court decision that restricts Medi-Cal eligibility.

Fourteen of our co-sponsored bills were signed into law, including groundbreaking legislation like *SB 972*, modernizing street vending licensing and *SB 923*, a first-in-nation bill on gender affirming health care. Our administrative and budget advocacy resulted in Medi-Cal expansions for immigrants of all ages, seniors, and persons with disabilities and the largest increase in CalWORKs cash assistance grants since the program’s inception in 1998.

As California’s largest legal resource support center, we provided 90+ trainings to over 7,000 participants in subjects that ranged from litigation skills to legal topics like trauma-informed housing advocacy and Medi-Cal eligibility. We also responded to more than 1,300 requests for technical assistance from legal services and community-based advocates, legislative staff, government agencies, and other organizations throughout the state and nation.

**2022 AT A GLANCE**

Documenting disparities is key. If there is a disparity, it must be because of something structural.

— Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
THE process is profoundly unfair, doesn’t meet due process standards. The court later reaffirmed its ruling, stating that “you can’t make it impossible for somebody to participate in an adjudication by continuing to put the burden on them and hiding the ball about the reason that the answer is no. You just can’t do that. That’s not fair, and in legal terms, it doesn’t satisfy due process of law.”

“Tenants are being denied rental assistance that they need to stay housed without being told the reason, or getting a fair chance to contest the denial,” said Madeline Howard, Western Center’s senior attorney. “The process is profoundly unfair; doesn’t meet constitutional due process standards, and fails to meet its most basic function – keeping Californians housed.”

“The past few months, I’ve worked with hundreds of tenants who received a denial with little to no explanation and are terrified about losing their homes. I’m just so relieved to see the judge take action to address this problem, and to give families a fighting chance to receive the rent relief they are due,” said Patricia Mendoza, Organizer at Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE).
WHEN I DARE TO BE POWERFUL — TO USE MY STRENGTH IN THE SERVICE OF MY VISION, THEN IT BECOMES LESS AND LESS IMPORTANT WHETHER I AM AFRAID.

— AUDRE LORDE
SB 923 (WIENER)
SB 923 is a first-in-nation bill that creates a workgroup to establish quality standards for transgender, gender diverse, and intersex (TGI) patient experience and recommends related training curriculum, mandates health plans to require TGI cultural competency training for their staff and requires plan provider directories to identify providers who offer gender affirming services.

SB 644 (LEYVA)
SB 644 requires the Employment Development Department to share with Covered California information about those who have recently applied for or lost income-replacing benefits to allow Covered California to reach out and help enroll these individuals in Medi-Cal or Covered California.

SB 972 (L. GONZALES)
SB 972 modernizes vending policies and fully legalizes food street vending, providing pathways for vendors to obtain health permits and build their small businesses.

AB 2277 (REYES)
AB 2277 requires counties to provide good cause to CalWORKs program requirements, including work participation, when a recipient identifies themselves as a survivor of domestic violence.

SB 1008 (BECKER)
SB 1008 makes phone calls from prison and juvenile facilities free.

AB 2004 (C. GARCIA)
AB 2004 strengthens the California Dream Loan Program and establishes a loan forgiveness program for program borrowers.

SB 1200 (SKINNER)
SB 1200 reduces the interest rate applied to unpaid government and private debt. The bill will reduce the interest from 10 percent annually to 5 percent. It also limits creditors to one renewal of a judgment against a debtor. There is currently no limit on how long creditors can try and collect old debt.

AB 2300 (KALRA)
AB 2300 allows CalWORKs recipients to have good cause from not meeting work requirements if their employer violates state labor laws including the Crown Act, sexual harassment, and many other labor provisions.

SB 1055 (KAMLAGER)
SB 1055 is the first of its kind in the nation and eliminates the use of license suspension when a low-income non-custodial parent is in arrears on making child support payments. The bill repeals license suspension for people with incomes at or below 70 percent of the area median income.

SB 1447 (WIECKOWSKI)
SB 1447 increases protections to income from wage garnishments to 48 hours times the minimum wage or 20 percent of disposable income.

SB 1017 (EGGMAN)
SB 1017 expands the rights and protections of survivors of domestic violence in landlord/tenant proceedings, including clarifying when landlords can evict tenants if the perpetrator returns to the property.

AB 2339 (BLOOM)
AB 2339 strengthens housing element law to ensure zoning encourages and facilitates the production of emergency shelters and transitional and supportive housing.

AB 1355 (LEVINE)
AB 1355 expands applicant protections related to alternating decisions in state fair hearings, including requiring transcripts to be read before directors issue alternate decisions and allowing additional evidence to be entered after an alternated decision was returned to the administrative law judge.

SB 1083 (SKINNER)
SB 1083 makes numerous changes to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program including expanding the definition of homelessness to include an eviction notice and to reduce verification requirements for pregnant persons.

WESTERN CENTER CO-SPONSORED BILLS SIGNED IN 2022

EVERY STORM RUNS OUT OF RAIN.
— MAYA ANGELOU
As a result of a groundbreaking advocacy campaign, Medi-Cal will begin covering undocumented adults ages 26 to 49 starting January 1, 2024. Until this policy can be fully implemented there is a coverage gap for approximately 40,000 young adults. Western Center along with other health and immigrants’ rights advocates, successfully advocated for California to protect Medi-Cal eligibility for this group to ensure those 40,000 people will keep their full-scope Medi-Cal until at least 2024.

**Civil Assessments Reform**
Western Center continued to lead advocacy with counties to implement civil assessment reforms, to (1) discharge hundreds of millions of unpaid civil assessment debt; (2) reduce the maximum civil assessment; and (3) restructure the use of civil assessment funds so that courts no longer keep revenue. Western Center and partners successfully pushed Marin County to implement the changes more quickly so they do not illegally collect money from individuals.

**Rental Assistance Advocacy**
Western Center negotiated with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to get detailed information about 47,000 tenants who requested legal aid referrals when applying for rental assistance and also supported efforts to connect with legal aid organizations to assist the tenants.

**Reimagining Child Safety**
Western Center drafted a policy brief on behalf of the Reimagine Child Safety Coalition to demand Los Angeles County implement changes to protect the parental rights and relationship of incarcerated parents. The coalition met with policymakers and stakeholders to discuss the policy paper and recommendations.

**Ending Medi-Cal Premiums**
Starting in 2021, Western Center led advocacy through co-sponsored bill AB 1900 (Arambula) to eliminate monthly premiums for Medi-Cal, which eventually became part of the budget. In an administrative advocacy win, Western Center successfully convinced DHCS to forgive all past-due Medi-Cal premiums, thereby canceling state-sanctioned debt for families with Medi-Cal.

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*THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IS NOT THE CAUSE OF A RACE OR A SECT, A PARTY OR A CLASS — IT IS THE CAUSE OF HUMANKIND, THE VERY BIRTHRIGHT OF HUMANITY.*
— Anna Julia Cooper
CIVIL ASSESSMENTS
This year’s budget advocacy led to substantial reforms of the court practices that result in tens of millions of dollars in unjust penalties imposed on people who fail to pay traffic and criminal court fines on time or who fail to appear in court. The current $300 civil assessment is being reduced to $100. Through budget advocacy civil assessment debt that accrued prior to the change in law were discharged for tens of thousands of people.

TAX INTERCEPTS
The budget included a provision that the state’s Franchise Tax Board will no longer intercept Earned Income Tax Credits and Young Child Tax Credits for unpaid debts, except in cases of child support or restitution.

CALWORKS
Our decades of advocacy resulted in a 21 percent increase in CalWORKs grants, the largest since the program began in 1998. It eliminates deep poverty for CalWORKs households of families of four or more.

CHILD SUPPORT PASS THROUGH
The budget included a major change in child support policy by allowing families that receive child support to receive the entire payment and not have the payment re-directed to reimburse the state and federal government for the cost for public benefits. California is only the second state in the country to do so, a change that will take place in 2025.

MEDI-CAL AFFORDABILITY
Along with our aging and disability rights partners, Western Center led the effort to reform Medi-Cal share-of-cost so that eligible elders and people with disabilities can afford necessary Medi-Cal services without paying over half their monthly income on an onerous deductible. This reform is expected to begin in 2025.

COOL AND HEALTHY HOMES
Western Center’s AB 2597 would have both updated the state’s habitability code and required an update of state building standards to ensure that all rental units can maintain a safe maximum indoor air temperature. While AB 2597 died this legislative session, AB 209, a budget trailer bill was signed into law, requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to submit policy recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2025 that are designed to ensure that all residential dwelling units can maintain a recommended maximum safe indoor air temperature. A budget appropriations bill, AB 179, included $5 million to complete the work.

FEDERAL ANTI-HUNGER ADVOCACY
During 2022 Western Center engaged members of the California Congressional delegation and other relative policy makers including the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on the issue of skimming. As a result of our advocacy and advocates we joined across the nation Congress took action in December to provide a path for states to restore electronically stolen benefits and funding for the restoration of stolen benefits.
We also responded to more than 1,300 requests for technical assistance from legal services and community-based advocates, legislative staff, government agencies, and other organizations throughout the state and nation. Technical assistance can range from legal research help to advice on litigation strategy to task forces that create systemic solutions. Some of the highlights of our technical assistance and trainings include:

**TRAUMA INFORMED LAWYERING & HOUSING JUSTICE**

As California’s housing justice field continues to carry the weight of meeting an unprecedented demand for eviction defense representation, Western Center partnered with Trauma Informed Los Angeles to host a three-part training series on trauma informed lawyering, vicarious trauma, and the impact of frontline housing work. Over 200 housing attorneys and advocates were provided with the education and tools available to promote regulation and self-care, with workshop presentations setting the foundation for understanding trauma informed approaches to our work, how we hold trauma in our bodies, and the ways we can care for ourselves so we can care for others through our legal practice.

**TITLE XI PROTECTIONS FOR PREGNANT, PARENTING, AND LACTATING COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS**

In light of the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, Western Center and California Community Colleges CalWORKs Association provided a Title IX Refresher training for approximately 200 community college CalWORKs counselors and Title IX administrators. The training identified that most community colleges have not implemented Title IX policies to protect pregnant, parenting, and lactating students from discrimination, nor have colleges developed policies and procedures to provide accommodations to pregnant, parenting, and lactating students. As a result, Western Center will be working to add an exemption and/or good cause for pregnant, parenting, and lactating CalWORKs welfare-to-work participants who have to drop a class or not make satisfactory progress in a college class because of discrimination and/or a lack of accommodations.

**TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

In 2022, Western Center provided 90+ trainings to over 7,000 participants in subjects that ranged from litigation skills to legal topics like trauma-informed housing advocacy and Medi-Cal eligibility.

**MEDI-CAL UPDATES**

Over 750 health attorneys and advocates attended Western Center’s training with Justice in Aging on the Medi-Cal Asset Limit Increase for Older Adults. Our Health Attorneys covered the basics about this key Medi-Cal improvement that will allow more people to save assets/resources and still qualify for Medi-Cal. Phasing out of the Medi-Cal assets test is a result of Western Center’s state budget advocacy and our co-sponsorship of AB 470 (Carillo).

**TOWING TRAINING**

Western Center hosted a statewide webinar on reducing harm caused by poverty tows. The training provided an overview of towing issues that disproportionately impact low-income Californians and explained the basics of representing clients at tow hearings. This training is part of our campaign to build momentum for statewide advocacy, including litigation and legislation.

**SUMMER TRAINING SERIES**

In 2022, we presented our summer training series that focuses on litigation and advocacy skills for summer interns and new lawyers. We hosted four sessions that covered topics such as legal research and writing, writs of mandamus, and administrative advocacy.

**MEET THE ADVOCATES**

Western Center launched a new quarterly, interactive webinar series led by advocates addressing pressing policy issues affecting Californians with low incomes. Attendees engaged with Western Center Advocates presenting our policy positions through thoughtful conversations centered on current legislation in our issues spaces. Topics included Western Center’s opposition to CARE Court, community mobilization to pass SB972, modernizing street vending licensing in the State, and a career retrospective conversation with retiring Policy Director, Mike Herald.
2022 GARDEN PARTY

ON OCTOBER 11TH, OVER 300 GUESTS IN PERSON AT THE WILSHIRE EBELL (AND HUNDREDS MORE ONLINE) GATHERED TOGETHER FOR A JOYFUL, MULTIRACIAL EVENT, EMCEED BY MICHAEL TUBBS CELEBRATING WESTERN CENTER’S 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUILDING A MORE JUST CALIFORNIA. FROM INSPIRING SPEECHES, MODERATED CONVERSATIONS, AND MOMENTS TO NETWORK AND CONNECT — GARDEN PARTY 2022 WAS NOT ONLY A CELEBRATION, BUT A REMINDER OF THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF BREAKING BREAD, COMMUNING, AND BUILDING POWER TO ADVANCE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

THE EVENT RECOGNIZED WESTERN CENTER’S GARDEN PARTY 2022 HONOREES:

MAYA WILEY
President and CEO, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
THE BRINSLEY AWARD

TATYANA ALI
Actor Activist
ARTS AND ADVOCACY AWARD

RICHARD ROTHSCHILD
Director of Litigation, Western Center on Law & Poverty
THE EARL JOHNSON EQUAL JUSTICE AWARD

ROBERT NEWMAN
General Counsel, Western Center on Law & Poverty
THE EARL JOHNSON EQUAL JUSTICE AWARD

MAYRA JIMENEZ
Community Organizer, Padres Buscando el Cambio
THE EMERGING ADVOCATE AWARD

SARAH STEINHEIMER
Regional Counsel, Legal Services of Northern California
THE MARY BURDICK ADVOCATES AWARD

WE WILL HAVE TO REPENT IN THIS GENERATION NOT MERELY FOR THE VITRIOLIC WORDS AND ACTIONS OF THE BAD PEOPLE, BUT FOR THE APPALLING SILENCE OF THE GOOD PEOPLE.

— REV. DR. MLK, JR.
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YOU CAN’T SEPARATE PEACE FROM FREEDOM BECAUSE NO ONE CAN BE AT PEACE UNLESS HE HAS HIS FREEDOM.
— MALCOLM X
THE RIGHT ATTITUDE CAN TRANSFORM A BARRIER INTO A BLESSING, AN OBSTACLE INTO AN OPPORTUNITY OR A STUMBLING BLOCK INTO A STEPPING STONE.

— SENATOR CORY BOOKER
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Donaldson & Callif, LLP

HOWARD J. STEINBERG
Greenberg Traurig LLP

LARRY TITLE
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

DIANA TORRES
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

MICHAEL L. TURRILL
Hogan Lovells US, LLP

REVENUE

GRANTS & CONTRACTS 3,968,150
CONTRIBUTIONS 922,231
ATTORNEYS’ FEES 493,626
INTEREST & INVESTMENTS (44,804)
OTHER 183,812

TOTAL REVENUE $5,523,015

EXPENSES

PROGRAM 4,112,187
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE 609,213
FUNDRAISING 355,374
CARRY OVER 446,241

TOTAL EXPENSES $5,523,015
WESTERN CENTER STAFF

BE THE REASON SOMEONE FEELS WELCOMED, SEEN, HEARD, VALUED AND LOVED.
— THE POETICS
KAYLA SALISBURY

“My Art is Black and that’s it. I create Black people for the Black public. I comment on how we are represented, where we are going, where we have been and where we are now. I love to capture the beauty and tenderness of the people of South Central and re-present them with the value and grace we deserve. I comment on our responses and the responses to our being, and I try to artfully share our resilience, strength, our stories and culture and how they are absolutely beautiful. The good and the bad — how I share these stories are very key to me, so I dedicate all of my artwork, who I reference and photo, community work and my life to my people. I have a love for very illustrative styles, so my work is a fusion of graphic characters and oil realism, being we have so many sides to our being — we deserve a range of visuals to accurately communicate soul, our essence, to truly do it justice.”

LAS FOTOS PROJECT

Las Fotos Project’s mission is to elevate the voices of teenage girls and gender-expansive youth from communities of color through photography and mentoring, empowering them to channel their creativity for the benefit of themselves, their community, and future careers. Las Fotos Project was launched to provide opportunities for those who are both systemically and socially silenced to make themselves heard and, in the process, advocate for social change and create their own pathways to successful, creative futures. Their program model further reinforces photography’s inherent ability to spark introspection, evoke deeper meaning, and serve as a catalyst for change by placing students at the heart of social justice efforts in their respective communities.

WE ARE HONORED TO FEATURE THE POWERFUL AND JOYOUS WORK OF SOUTH-CENTRAL LOS ANGELES BASED ARTIST AND TEACHER, KAYLA SALISBURY AND THE YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHERS OF LAS FOTOS PROJECT IN THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL REPORT.