



2020

AN EXTRA-ORDINARY YEAR IN REVIEW



*An extraordinary year for extraordinary
safe street community organizing.*

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

A walkable LA is a just LA.

Los Angeles Walks is a community organizing non-profit dedicated to making sure **ALL Angelenos** can go anywhere they need by foot, wheel, or transit with **ease, freedom, and dignity**. Through partnerships with local communities, we secure life-saving, community-shaping safe street infrastructure (i.e.: speed humps, crosswalks, road diets, signals...etc.). Together, we're building a movement of safe street advocates and organizers, creating a future where **#EveryoneWalksinLA**.



Step 1. Win safe streets we needed yesterday.

Securing safe street infrastructure in LA is an herculean job for any Angeleno. It's constant lobbying & petitioning, mainly through underfunded, unreliable City programs. **We partner with neighborhoods as we co-navigate City bureaucracies to secure life-saving street infrastructure.**

In 2020, we ran six campaigns; led engagement on LA Metro's Purple Line extension; supported two Great Street projects; 4 rainbow halo campaigns; and nearly half a dozen walk audits.

Speed humps can reduce injury or death among neighborhood children by 53% to 60%.

American Journal of Public Health



Step 2. Exercise community power.

Successful safe street campaigns require building & showing public support to City leaders, which we build through actions like community workshops, walk audits, & creative public actions. **We partner with neighborhoods on hyper local safe street campaigns, building local support as partners build & leverage their social and political capital.**

We hosted our popular #LA4Corners public walk series, met with LAPD Chief, rallied at the Presidential primary debate, pushed for repeal of CA's 85th percentile rule, and built a 10-month PedPower training for promotoras.



Step 3. Build a long-term movement.

What's the point in fixing one street block when our larger transportation and street management system is broken? **We partner with neighborhoods as they secure positions of power to influence long term City design. They include appoints to LA's Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) and running for neighborhood council.**



Our community members got 6 appointments to PAC, which since moving to Zoom, 40+ Angelenos regularly attend.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Our Two COVID Lessons

In many ways, the pandemic has highlighted **critical lessons** already well known by our community. First, after years of disinvestment and political de-prioritization of pedestrian access in LA, **our sidewalks, our public spaces, and public transportation** are failing to serve our essential workers and quarantining families. Many of our essential workers are still face crowded buses and broken sidewalks. And despite many working from home, an Angeleno is still killed every 36 hours from traffic violence. Second, the inequities of how we build and manage our City and its streets have only increased in the time of COVID-19. Basic democratic engagement required for generations-lasting infrastructure and transportation projects are now even further out of reach for many communities, especially those without technology or language access. **We cannot build a City until we can equitably hear from all her residents**, especially during a time of such employment and housing instability and rapid development.



How to do **democracy** during a pandemic.

Much of our work is connecting community with City resources and power. In a way, we make sure City-level democracy works. Here's how:

✓ **Language + Cultural Competency**

Even before the pandemic we made sure to provide all the support community members needed to engage fully as themselves. This includes providing simultaneous translation support, child-care and travel subsidies (pre-pandemic), leveraging intergenerational family tech support, and setting up meetings when most convenient for working parents.

The leading cause of death for LA's elementary and middle school children are car crashes.

LA Department of Public Health



Community Promotora Program

In 2020, we hired two experienced promotoras, Nancy & Gaby. Together they built our 10-month PedPower training curriculum for a dozen promotoras-in-training. Like their counterparts in public health, they provide the skills and know-how to wizardly navigate City systems and leverage elected officials for safe street infrastructure.

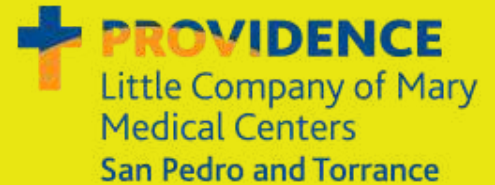


WhatsApp + SMS Texting

Meet the community where they're at. That rings true even in the digital space. Our communities preferred tools like SMS texting, WhatsApp, and Facebook for organizing while social distancing. We we made sure to invest money and time into these tools.

OUR PARTNERS & IMPACT

*Thanks to our funders
and partners in this
work!*



Social & Earned media



7,165 followers
+960



5,611 followers
+1,315



1,620 followers
+560



18 earned
media pieces

Our extra-ordinary vision of Los Angeles

We know how bold a vision #EveryoneWalksinLA actually is. But it's a vision that anchors our work. Here are some of our long-term goals that we believe will make our City truly a just and walkable LA.

#1

Treat our sidewalks like we treat our freeways

The City should take its sidewalks more seriously and that means creating a City-wide Sidewalk and Pedestrian Plan and Capital Improvement Plans for the public right of way.

#2

LA City Charter Reform: Department of Mobility

We seek to consolidate the maze of piecemeal transportation agencies into one department and mandate that department fundamentally rethink movement and freedom in LA.

#3

Today's Advocates, Tomorrow's Elected Officials

We're certain that amongst our community partners is the next City Council member and the next City Mayor.

OUR WORK IN PICTURES

Two speed hump canvassing campaigns in Westlake and South LA. (January 2020)



The third of our #LA4Corners Walk Series, the East leg. (January 2020)



Los Angeles Walks co-hosted with StreetsblogLA a candidates' forum for the LA City Council District 12 race. (February, 2020)



SoCal Families for Safe Streets & Board Members out for a "Walk for Safe Streets" event with Neighborhoods United for Safe Streets. (January 2020)

Every 36 hours an Angeleno is killed in a car crash.

Los Angeles Police Department



During a rainbow halo ceremony for a victim of traffic violence and their families, our parents do an impromptu slow jam at the corner where the victim was killed. (February 2020)

We concluded our successful #LA4Corners walk series with our final walk, the north leg. We gave prizes out to those who joined us for all four walks! (February 2020)



Los Angeles Walks was a partner on community engagement for two neighborhoods' Great Streets project, Little Ethiopia and Del Rey. (March 2020)

The Los Angeles Walks team was out in the community providing information about our upcoming workshops and volunteering at a drive through community fair in Wilmington. (May 2020)

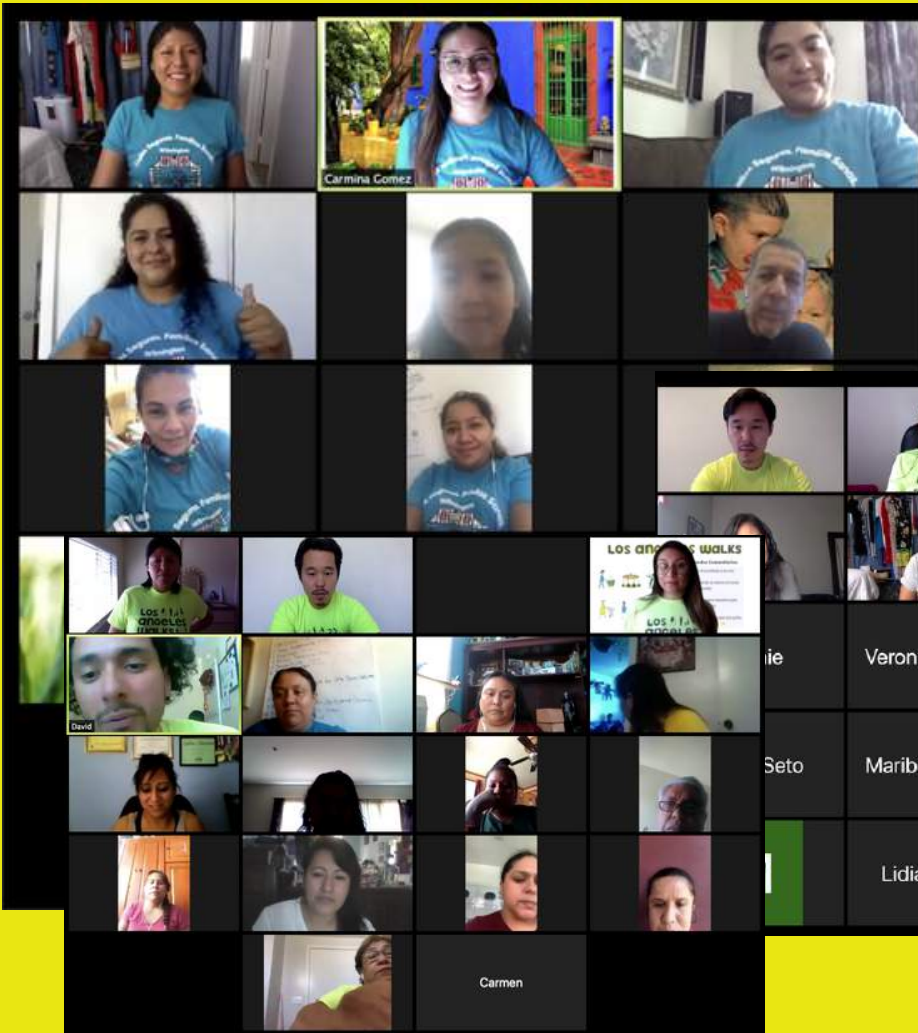


We held our first rainbow halo ceremony during the pandemic, this time for Valentina, daughter of a SoCal Families for Safe Streets member. (September, 2020)



Los Angeles Walks is often asked to speak on panels and webinar. In April, Daisy spoke at UCLA's Interactions LA virtual event. In July, John spoke at the American Planners Association's When Everything Breaks webinar.





No pandemic is slowing us down! This year we began a 10-month training PedPower training program led by our promotoras with over a dozen families in Wilmington. We've also been hosting bi-monthly Chat Comunitarios with partners across the City. (June 2020 - present)



Of Los Angeles City's 7,900 bus stops, fewer than 1,900 are equipped with shaded structures.

Los Angeles City Bureau of Street Services

One of our biggest accomplishments this year was the hiring of our two safe street community promotoras! (June, 2020)



ONLINE • AUG 3-7, 2020

Los Angeles Walks served on a panel discussion at the Walk Bike Places conference on the topic of building a national walking movement. (August, 2020)

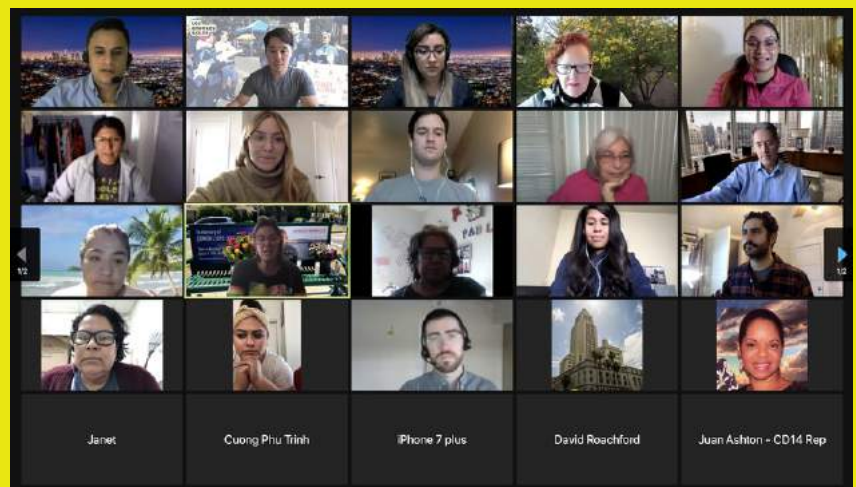


Los Angeles Walks was part of SVP-LA's Fast Pitch event where John gave a Ted-talk like explanation of our work and vision.



Being a partner means doing work beyond our scope. We were out volunteering for a street cleanup event in Wilmington. (September, 2020)

Even before the pandemic, the LA Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) was growing. As we've moved onto Zoom, 40+ Angelenos have been calling in with their pedestrian issues. (September, 2020 to present)



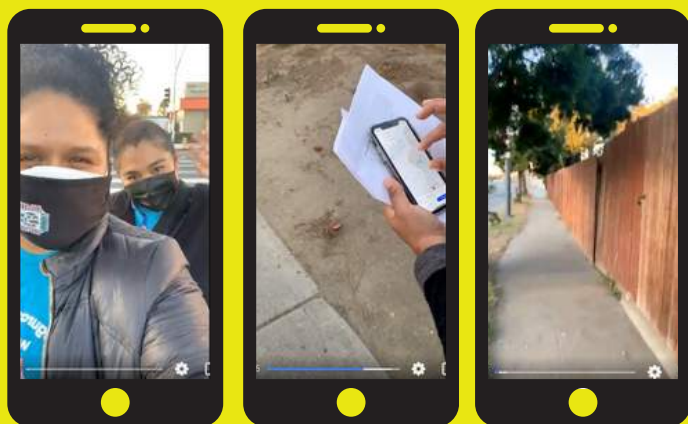


According to the City, nearly 40% of the our sidewalks have a D or F rating, more than 8,700 miles need rehabilitation

City of Los Angeles



We hosted a bi-lingual Twitter Chat with partners literally across the globe. In collaboration with Camina (Mexico City) and Transportation Alternatives (New York City), we hosted #3CitiesforSafeStreets Twitter Chat. The event attracted 30,162 impressions and 688 interactions on Twitter. (May, 2020)



As a part of a workshop on walk audits, our community promotoras conducted a virtual walk audit of their own to teach and show example to our community members. (December, 2020)