

PLAYANESE

Periodical



Resources City Council Agendas, Upcoming/Ongoing Events and Projects..

A Call to Action by the Editor

Dime Alley Restoration Program

*Tastefully Hateful: into the mind of
Dross's Tom on the LB Music Scene*

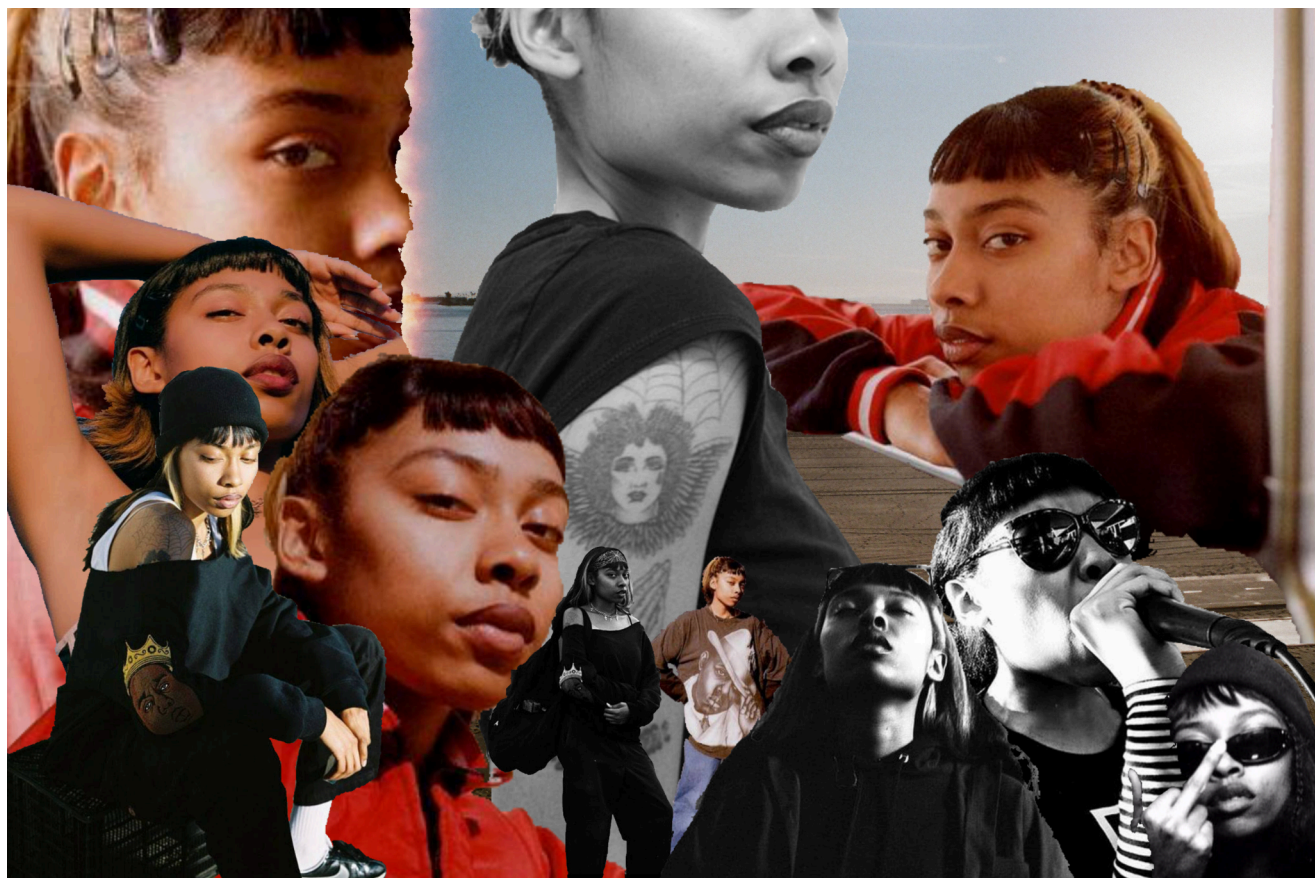
PLAYANESE

Periodical

A Long Beach Publication by Long Beach County in partnership with One Current Ebbing All Nations and Members of the LB Community.

A Part of the L.E.A.H Publication Program

In Memory of
Leah "GraveDigga" Norwood



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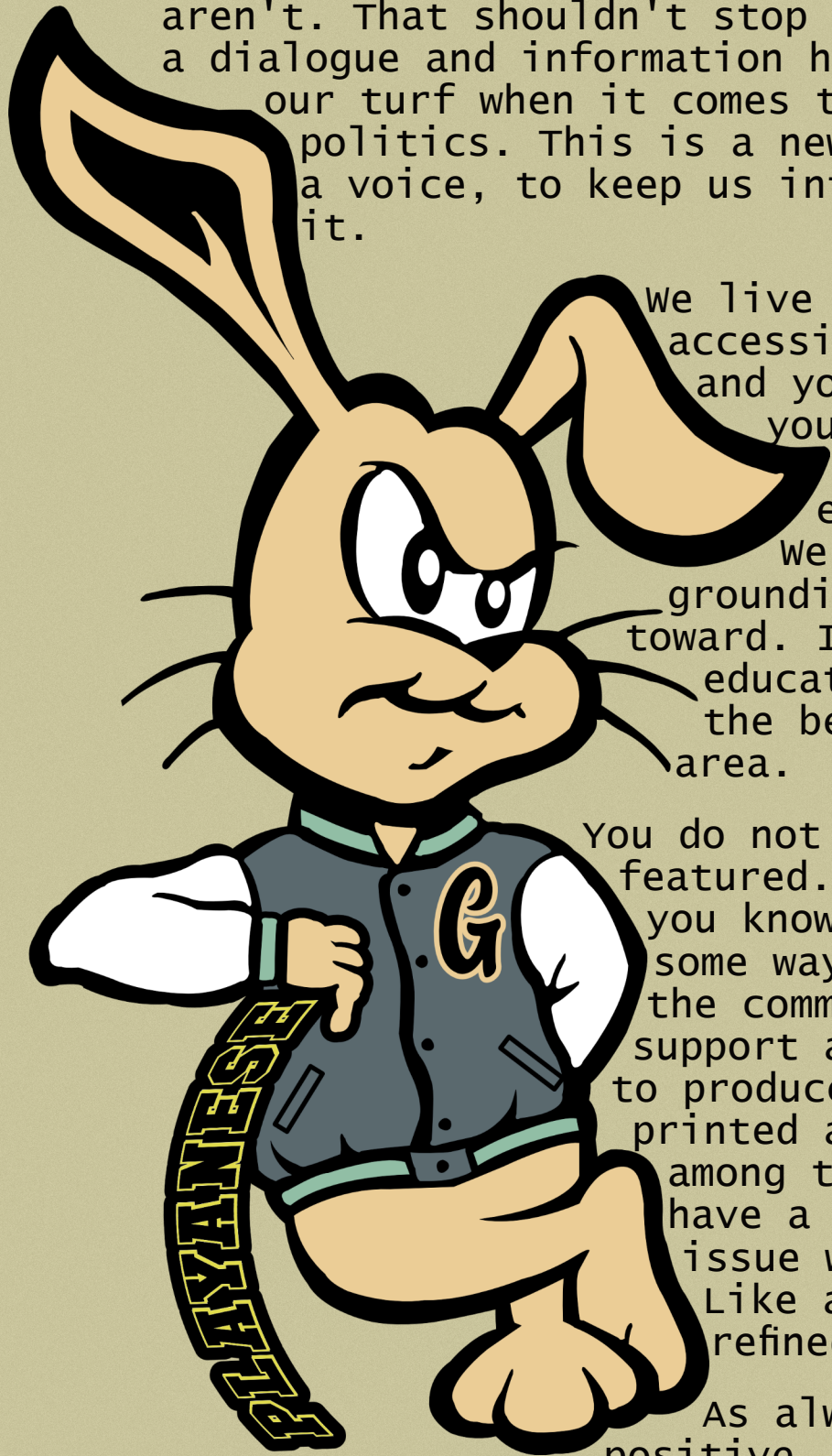
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Welcome, congratulations. You are now reading the new Official Long Beach Periodical focused on local-ism in the place we love most. I want to start by pointing out that I am by far no professional, most of us aren't. That shouldn't stop us as a people from having a dialogue and information hub on things happening in our turf when it comes to arts, culture, and politics. This is a new way of giving the people a voice, to keep us informed. I want you to use it.



We live in an age where accessibility is all around us and you have it here. Send us your art, your articles, ads for your business, experiences, and discourse. We need a sense of security, grounding, and connection to move toward. In these pages we aim to educate, inform, and debate for the betterment of the Playanese area.

You do not have to wait to be featured. Create and submit. All of you know something, someone, or some way that can be shared with the community. We need the full support and engagement of the city to produce these pages that will be printed and distributed for free among the people (we currently have a joog going). This first issue will be a little rough. Like all things it will be refined over time.

As always..stay safe, stay positive, keep yo shit on 90°, and don't let these punk mfs discourage you..

-JackDawg (so called editor).

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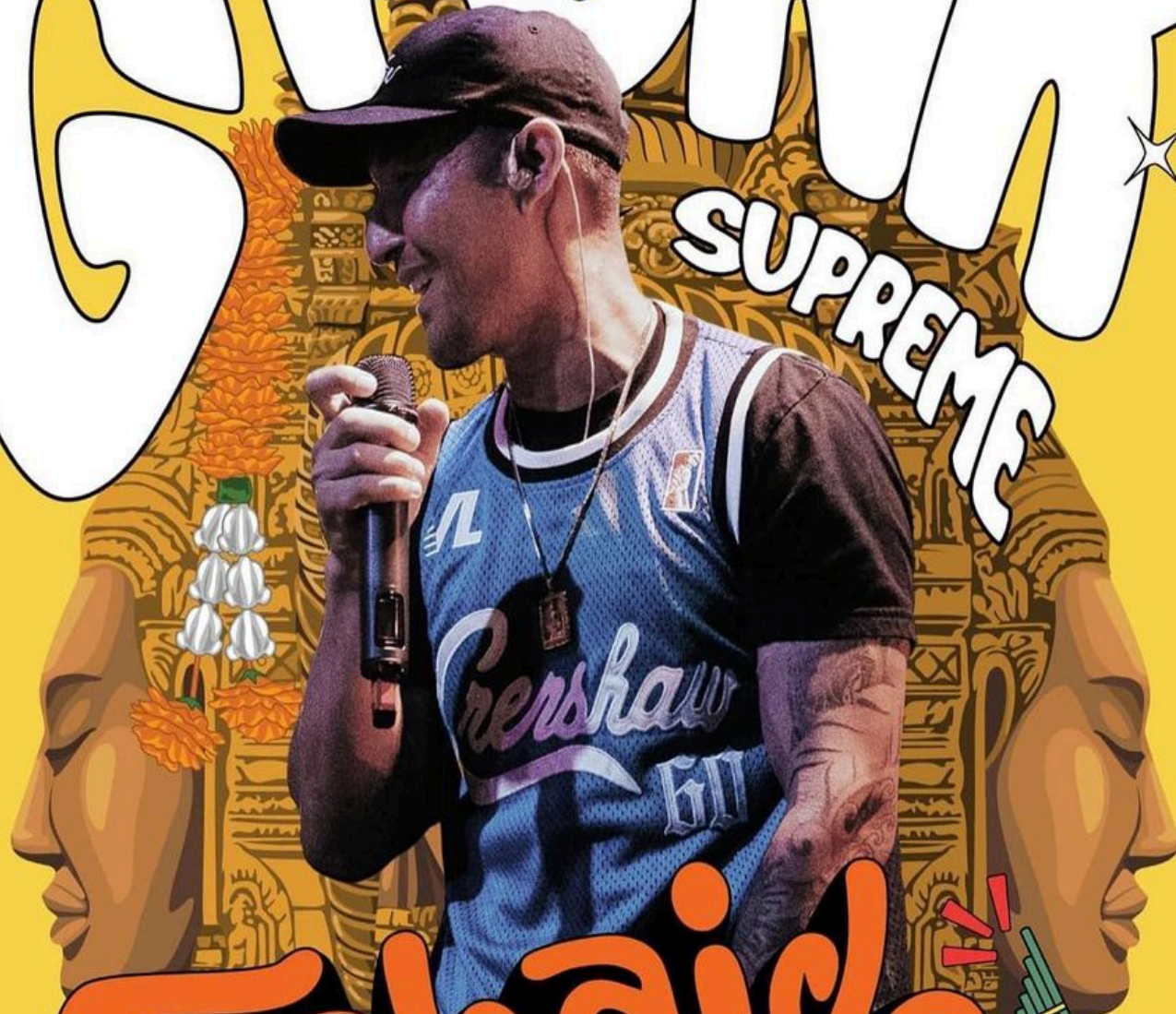
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CAN ADD IT TO THE
DIRECTORY.**









There's a guy in the community that many of us have watched rise in the scene from being just an all around supportive homie to what I believe is one of the driving forces in the city, booking and supporting hip-hop and rock acts alike. I wanted to interview him so I sent a DM and he was in front of my house under an hour. We walked downtown, shooting the shit until we landed on a bar he used to work at. We sat outside and he noticed the table was dirty so before we began he went back inside to grab a squirt bottle and rag to bust before we got into the discussion:



K: Tell the people who you are and what you do.

T: My name is Tom. I'm the vocalist in Dross and also a promoter for Que Sera down on 7th and Cherry. Um I'm also a bartender, not an extraordinaire or anything just a bartender.

K: I know that's a big part of your journey. We're at 4th Horseman right now and you used to work here. You bar tend in Lakewood now right?

T: Technically still Long Beach right off of Bellflower and Del Amo, just right on the cusp. Yeah cuhs when shit goes down we still get LBDP. But yeah it's called B's, formally Boomer's. Little bit of a rebranding.

K: OK I see. I remember when you started out now you're really in the industry. How'd that even happen?

T: I was working a retail job where everyday I was showing up and I just hated it, just an

absolute drag. I was fucking hating it and I never had a sense of like 'damn I get to go to work today'. I just put out some feelers. .and then I was recommended by the homegirl Denise that got me the job at Que Sera and from there I just fell in love with it. I remember the first show there I saw someone get knocked out and I was like 'I'm not in retail anymore' [laughs]. Been there 2 years and it feels like I have 10 years worth of stories there.

K: You done seen me in a few altercations there.

T: I can neither confirm nor deny [laughs]. Yeah but after that the manager over here {4th Horseman} saw me at Que busting my ass and offered me a job here. I was just in here probably a week prior like 'damn. This feels like a place I'd like to work', and a week later that motherfucker was like 'come work' and I was like 'here we go'.

K: All of this plays a big part in your position now cuhs you're doing a lot for the scene brotha. How you feel about it though?

T: Oh Dude, it opened so many doors. Oh man I've met so many cool people and so many amazing bands being able to work at a venue. Especially at a spot where it's not the same shit all the time, it's different every night. You can go there and it's a strip show, you can go there and its a fuckin metal show, psychedelic, you never know what you're about to walk into and I love that shit. Because of that I've been able to get close to these bands that are incredibly fuckin talented and at the end of the day it just shows me that they are all just normal people, cool dudes.

K: If the local scene was a video game I feel like Que Sera is one of those starting points where you can level up at but still return for bonus points later. Let's talk about that, it's a staple in my eyes for sure.

T: Yeah, having that safe space, I don't know it's like really an opportunity friendly place where.. you wanna play your first show, dude? Get on stage, fuck it. When I very first got the opportunity to start working shows that was absolutely my intention is to..you hit me up and you wanna get on that stage, we gotchu. We are really working towards getting more local acts while tryna get more touring shit. If you're reading this, hit me up, I'll book your ass.



K: Sploosh. Long Beach has a scene but we don't have spaces like "The Roxy" or "The Viper Room", however Que Sera seems like the closest thing to that cuhs it's the only place I can think of where local artists perform next to artists like Anderson Paak. My question to you is what do you think about getting more acts like that out here and also now that I think about it, do we want that in the city?

T: Exactly there also is that too. Lowkey I don't wanna say gatekeep but at the same time we need it. It's cool to have local shit but it's also cool to have homies open for some big shit and that's what I'm tryna gear towards. Really put people on, really get them into some bigger shit. Playing a show for 30 of your homies is cool but why not play with your favorite artist?

We took a break and Tom went inside to grab round two and a calzone that looked so good I had to take a corner just to taste that bread. Fire. After a few bites we got back into it.

K: Ok, let's get into Dross real quick. Tell me how it all started. What's the legend?

T: I'm not 100% sure. We now have Michael drumming it, I believe he founded it. At one point we had Droozie from... Can't tell you how many bands I can name of his. Then the pandemic happened. Brent was in it for a little bit but they were just coming to practice. But I was playing a show with a band whose name I will not mention and The Dross Boys were there (Michael

Malinowski and Adam Barnes). They approached me after the set and was like 'are you looking to do something else as well' and I was like 'I'm tryna do something else forsurrre'. About a month later we did our first practice and Chris Baker showed up. I was really excited to play with him and man...that first practice we fuckin synced up...This is it, and its been a lot... a lot. We've only been a band for less than two years and we've gone through a lot. Lot of heartache, trial, shit to work through emotionally. If you don't know Chris had passed away, he was our bassist. We were only able to get three recordings before he passed. It became our mission to get those out, a memorial for him as the last thing he recorded.

K: Oh shit so the three tracks are "Sanitize", "Sludgy Wudgy" and-

T: "That's Not an Ikea but Damn These Edibles Sure are Good" [laughs]. That was said on the way to a show and I was high as shit off edibles. I thought I said it in my mind but apparently I said it out loud and the boys were like 'that's a song title'. Aye but on some real shit.. Your homies can be smiling everyday and you never really know what there going through and I feel like Chris was a huge eye-opener to that cuhs..I was with bro the day before he committed suicide and I got the biggest hug from him. He told me how stoked he was to play this show the next week and then... the next day that shit happens and like you really never know. If you think you're checkin in on the homies, really do so cuhs that shit is important... "Sludgy Wudgy" is about my own mental health problems and shit, tryna navigate life, ADHD, all the shit with comes with that so, yeah, mental health is important.

K: My condolences bro. You know, a band member leaving let alone dying can bring the whole house down. It seems like his passing

brought you guys closer.

T: Way tighter! And it made the shows not just more meaningful but more intense. Before we gave it 100%, now we're going 200% for him because he'll never be able to do that again, putting forth that effort. This is why I'm going so hard, getting ten stitches in my hand and dislocating shit like, I gotta go hard for the homie, every. Single. Time.

K: Aight let's get into that. Lets get into this new genre "HurtCore". How'd that come about?

T: I wanna say our first shows I played in a wheelchair and our first show after Chris passed away, we played at Vine. That was a fucking insane show and I broke my hand punching the ground, you know Adam fucked up his hand at some point.. We're just constantly getting injured and we were like 'yo we aren't even hardcore anymore, were hurtcore' cuhs we keep getting fucked up. That goes back to putting in that 100%. Except for one show I always fuckin throw up. All that energy, all that shit, I have nothing left after that.

K: What is hurtcore philosophically?

T: It's a double thing. Not just physical but also.. All of us, we are all hurting inside. Through my 29 years of life I've been though so much fucking shit. Maybe one day I can get therapy but right now I'm not so all I got is this music shit...Definitely a double meaning. Yeh we're gonna fuck you up, but Its also okay to cry bro...

K: When I think of hurtcore I think of the spectrum you just mentioned. I'm on the side of givin the hurt. I'm gonna hurt you before you hurt me... You've seen it [laughs] is that aight? Can I punch a muthafucka sometime... justifiably?

T: Under the proper circumstances and it aint on some personal shit like 'I wanna fuck this fool up', you gotta let out what you gotta let out and you bonk a couple people? It is what it is, You know what you signed up for coming to the show. Ain't no hiding in the back, imma come find you dude. Just like in the world, we're sitting here right now and some shit could just happen. It's all an illusion.

K: Okay boom, got this concept... Jagged Edge, no relation [laughs]. It's for people who are kinda in the grey. Might have done coke for years, don't now, doesn't bother you when others do type shit. Kind as hell but still kicks ass. Anti-hero type shit. You think jagged edge could be what straight-edge is to hardcore? Like 'We don't care that you slang but better not be no fentanyl in this shit or else' vibes. You can game up the homegirl but if you're harassing her we're on your ass.."

T: 100%. Especially when it comes to the homegirls. We really need to do a better job of protecting them and if you're reading this, make sure you watch out for your homegirls. It's the cool thing to do. You got a weird homie? Stop kicking it with that fool. It's this thing going on where we excuse toxic behavior for personal gain or because you've known the person a long time. That doesn't mean shit bro. That mutherfucker you know is a piece of shit.

[We shake on it]

K: Swell... Now hard hitting questions. There's a bunch of literal clowns from OC claiming East Side LB Punk. Clowns... How do you feel about that? Would you ever move to another city and just start claiming?

T: I knew it was coming dude. Here's what I'll say about this: I lived in OC for a little bit and never once did I say I was from there. People would look at me and could tell I wasn't from out there and I'd be like "Naw Cuhz I'm from Long Beach", get that shit outta here. Absolutely not. But look, I'm all for self expression, you wanna put on clown makeup, cool. It's when you start bringin in these fuckin out of town tainted weirdos that are using drugs as a mean of hanging out and shit like that.

K: The alleged sex cult stuff and just using people in general for gain. Personally had to deal with multiple issues because of the "leadership" in that area.

T: Yeah and like, Once I know you're on some foul shit Imma call you on it and not let you be too comfortable around the scene. That doesn't mean I'm going after every single person. I'm just going after the muthafuckers that are on some fuck shit. We gotta regulate, We're from Long Beach.

K: Sometimes I feel like it's our fault. I cosigned a few people back in 2020 but that was before they were clowns. Can't say I didn't have a part to play. They get labeled as LB Punks but they really don't stand for anything except literally clowning around. On top of that... being called a clown growing up in the city.. worse than being called a weirdo. Meant you don't belong on the streets at all. It's a Playanese slur.

T: Really been a trip seeing the transition in clownism, the rise of that shit. Imma watch my wording but, it gets a little culty sometimes... I don't know I get it, I'm all for expression.

K: Do you feel like some people are followers or don't know what they are getting into?

T: Forsure. A lot of this shit is at underage shows and a lot of the clown shit is sexualized, you get me?

K: Yeah bro, when we were kids we were drinking and smoking at shows but when it comes to that sexual shit.. There wasn't any older cats swingin dicks or anything like that. Lets be honest here, we're grown as fuck. Maybe I can't stop little dude from smoking or drinking but you know what I can do? Not whip my dick out.

T: That's real bro, honestly.. Fuck.

K: Mhm, but look enough on the bozos. Let's get to this track "Sanitize". That's you on that screech bro? Insane. Do you know how many times I played that BACK?!

T: Yeah man it was such a long process of recording that, not so much the recording but after. Making sure it was perfect because this project means so much to us, we couldn't just toss it out there. We had it mastered by Alan Douches. Knowing that you'd think it was an arm and a leg but it was totally affordable and it was an honor to get that shit done by him.

K: Whole project fux but Sanitize is definitely my favorite. Godly vocals. Sploosh Mode.

T: I just wanna put it out there. If you wanna get into vocal find your favorite album, find something you really fuck with or what your going for and listen to that shit over and over and over. Make that shit into your daily routine. Know it like that back of your hand cuhs that's the main thing that got me started.

K: You do the Deathcore Karaoke too. Did that help get you practice in?

T: That is LITERALLY my practice bro. You find different ways to do different songs, what works, what doesn't.. Especially with pop songs and stuff that were never meant to sound like that, you know. That's just for fun though. I first did it for the old people at the karaoke spot. I did Crank Dat Soulja Boi. Then I did it at a bowling alley. Kept going from there. I did Brian McKnight last night, Back at One. No bullshit.

K: Aight mane. Few more before we get out this muhfucca. Long Beach before, during, after 2020. How do you feel about the state of the city?



T: So, that day [LB Riots 2020] was such a community response. Everyone was out the house that day. For the record, protesters never broke the line. The people that were looting, breaking shit wasn't the people that came out to support that day. We were on some real shit. I don't wanna say the city lost a little bit of that but it's not as strong. I definitely feel like the mayor and the city aren't focused on the right things. They're more focused on making more high-rises we don't need. We need real affordable housing, more for the homeless, for this crisis you claim we have but you're not really going to do anything except keep arresting them and I think that's fucked up. Hopefully in the near future we see change coming directly from us and not letting out-of-town fools run our shit cuhs that's what we are heading towards. More local shit. More local-ism.

K: To close this muthafucka up. What's next? What can we expect to see?

T: We got vinyls on the way. We just released the EP "Baker Forever". Pre-orders are gonna be scheduled soon. After the vinyls we wanna go on tour..hit up local bands, start branching out. Hopefully head up north..but definitely keep playing local shows as well. Pretty sure you'll see us at Que Sera soon. Also got a re-brand coming with the logo. People keep saying "Dross for Loss" when it's just a design not the logo so... yeah.

We left and headed back to my house and smoked a couple spliffs on the porch. As we were talking we seen a dude tryna push a car while another steered. We stopped what we were doing to push it up a block. They thanked us and as we walked away I said, "White, Brown, And Black Dude push a car down the street... where they at?". Tom responded, "Exactly". Long Beach.

He looked at the time and it was 4:18. He was headed to meet the bros up for a trip to Knott's Scary Farm. He dapped me up, we hugged, and the fool skated off...





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Handwritten text in white ink on a dark, textured background. The text is highly stylized and appears to be a mix of letters and symbols, possibly representing a name or a signature. The characters are interconnected and flow from left to right.

Handwritten text in black ink on a light-colored, textured surface. The text is highly stylized and appears to be a mix of letters and symbols, possibly representing a name or a signature. The characters are interconnected and flow from left to right. Below the main text is a large, horizontal oval shape, possibly a signature or a decorative element.













Dime Alley Restorative Project

Dime Alley Resident Community
Long Beach Community Design Center
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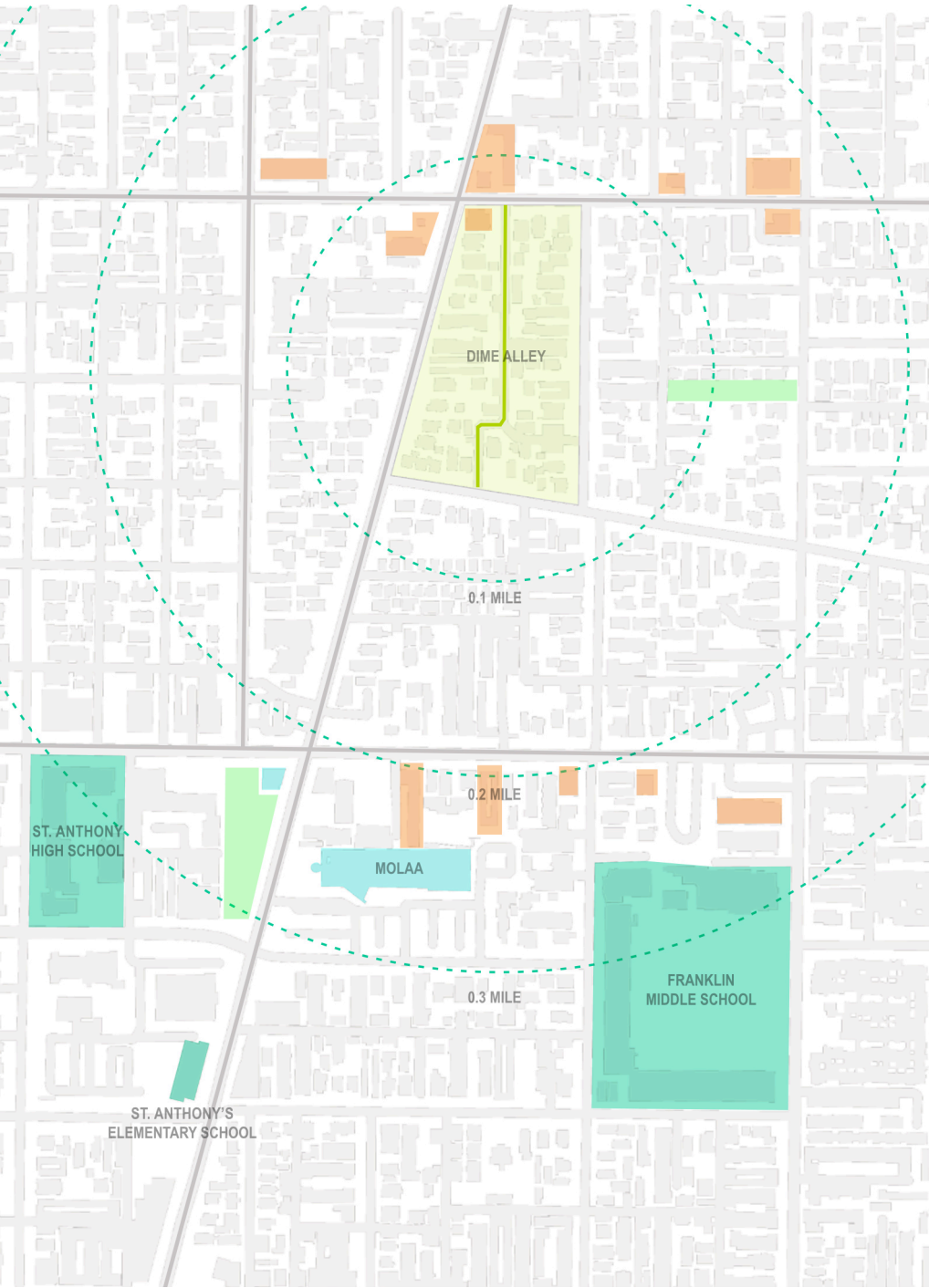


The Dime Alley Project is something special we've been working in conjunction with community members and organizations for some time now to bring a community space to the heart of the Eastside of Long Beach.

The Dime Court that connects Hellman to 10th St is used everyday by local residents and children getting out of school. Local resident, community leader, and @oceanorglb member Alejandra Perez-Serrato (@aps.777) along with @lbc_design and HED Los Angeles are currently working with residents to revitalize the pathway and make it a space for the immediate community.

Learn more and download a PDF Document on the project at OceanLB.Org

Project Overview



- Dime Alley Community
- Residential
- Commercial
- Schools
- Museums
- Parks

Project Goals

The restoration of Dime Alley is part of the Long Beach Community Design Center’s Restorative Pathway Project initiative. The initiative is focused on holistic placemaking that cultivates community empowerment and stewardship where creative design, safety, open space, public art, and culture intersect. The goal is to repurpose alleys to address neighborhood equity, connectivity, and community well-being. The voice of the community is integral to the success of the initiative. Residents are thoughtfully engaged throughout the process to provide input on the vision.

About Dime Alley

Dime Alley is bound by Alamitos and Cerritos Avenues to the west and the east and by 10th and Hellman Streets to the north and south. The one-way alley is accessible at the north end from 10th Street. The length of the alley is approximately 730 linear feet and 19’ wide. The alley experiences pedestrian and vehicular traffic throughout the day. Secure parking for residents along the alley is access through the alley. Amigos Market on 10th Street is a neighborhood anchor and nearby residents use the alley to access the store and students from Franklin Middle School walk through the alley to get to and from school. The alley serves several important neighborhood connections. Unfortunately, the alley also serves as place where people dump trash. Poor lighting and lack of “eyes on the street” make Dime Alley an attractive target for undesirable activities. Primary concerns expressed by the residents are lack of lighting, trash, crime, and safety.

Process & Timeline

Use QR Code To see more and Download full PDF



Project Initiation

HED and the representatives of the Long Beach Community Center met onsite in April 2023. Together, with a resident from Dime Alley and a local artist, we toured the alley. We learned more about the community, adjacent uses, primary concerns, and a preliminary wish list of changes they would like to see.



Community Engagement

In May, an informal charette-style exercise was hosted in the front yard of a nearby resident. Participants were asked to design their ideal alley with building blocks representing green infrastructure, public art, and safety enhancing measures. It was a great opportunity for the neighbors to engage with one another to share ideas in a safe space. The exercise built trust and created common ground from which the design team could make more definitive recommendations.



Draft Design

Preliminary design recommendations focused on integrating feedback from the community. Illegal dumping of trash, lack of lighting, standing water, and loitering outside of Amigos Market were among the primary concerns. Secondary areas of focus centered on beautification of the alley with green infrastructure and public art. Residents were invested in the idea of the alley becoming a community destination.



Ongoing Engagement

A second community meeting in mid-July brought residents back together around a physical model and inspired vignettes of the design potential of the alley. The depictive imagery and the physical model gave residents the tools to be more specific about what they want to see and understand how the solutions could be implemented.



Next Steps

HED will continue to be a resource to test ideas and implementation strategies. The Long Beach community will work together to identify funding sources and priorities to make Dime Alley a safe place for residents of all ages.



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death occurs unexpectedly, suddenly.
here one minute, physically gone the next
lost at war,
accidents leaving behind trauma
and destruction.

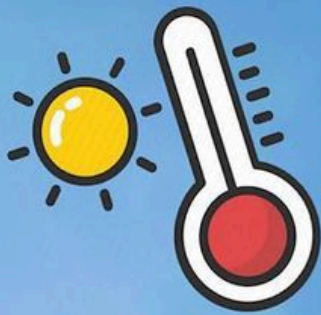
consumed by the void
those at war with themselves
lose the battle.

death is a transition,
a transcendence from the physical world
to the spiritual.
The body is left behind, energy is forever.
everyone including you will become an ancestor.

souls depart when purpose is fulfilled,
leaving behind a trail to follow.

love as you can while people are present in life.
emotional pain behind their absence.
reminiscing on the memories..

death is the giver who never returns it's gifts.
-Eduardo Reyes



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