

# The Manhattanization of Venice

By Jim Smith

The tallest building ever proposed in Venice is on the drawing boards and planning committee agendas. At 31 stories, the building will tower over anything for miles around. It will be a landmark for approaching airliners and ships at sea. It will be reviled by motorists struck in gridlocked traffic on Lincoln Blvd.

The official "Project Description" gives an idea of just how big it is:

The proposed project is the development of a mixed-use residential development consisting of up to 158 condominium units and approximately 3,178 square feet of ground-floor retail space, along with 408 parking spaces, related improvements and landscaping. The project consists of a podium structure, containing the ground-floor retail uses as well as internal parking, from which rises a narrow residential tower reaching up to a maximum of 366 feet in height. Thirteen percent of the condominium units will be affordable to persons of families of very low income.

A Venice Neighborhood Council informational meeting on the tower attracted more than 50 locals on Jan. 23. Nearly all were opposed. A spokesperson for the yet-unknown developers said the project will rely on the city awarding them more density than would normally be allowed. Buildings are allowed three square feet of floor space for every buildable square foot on the lot. This project would need at least 4.5 square feet. The developers are also banking on a density bonus from the recently passed bill, SB 1818, which provides for bonuses

if a certain amount of affordable housing is included. Even with this bonus, they'd have a hard time reaching 31 stories. At least one Venice activist believes it may be the old "scare and switch" routine where something outrageous is proposed, the community rallies to the barricades, and the developers "retreat" to a more modest building that they had planned for all along.

Even so, this project may renew calls – like Lori LeBoy's plea at the meeting – for a building moratorium. More than a year ago, petitions for a moratorium were gathered, but organizers ran into a brick wall with the pro-development L.A. City Council (except for Bill Rosendahl).

**What's Your Opinion? Take Our Poll at: www.freevenice.org**

As a symbol of the "let's build it because we can" mentality, the building will house the wealthy and a couple of low-income families - that is, if low-income families can afford to buy a condo, no matter how cheap it is. The law requires at least 10 percent of units to be "affordable" in the coastal zone.

There is no data as to how long the units would remain affordable.

The new Tower will join - and dwarf - the existing three 17-story luxury condo buildings next door. The Channel Gateways project of the 1990s spawned these out-of-place creatures

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## Law Abiding Citizens Vow Crime Spree Over Fencing Regulations

By Georgie Gravel

Always, just always, it amazes me how people will move to Venice, attracted by the openness, airy, loose lifestyle, and freedom of expression, and then put up fences to keep all that good stuff out.

I am an innocuous-looking gent that observes, asks questions and listens. Listening is key. Listened to people at the Farmers' Market discussing the upcoming Venice Neighborhood Council Board meeting on Fences and Hedges. Checked out the proposed motion on the VNC web site – noted that the last two paragraphs of the draft recommendations describe the city action that is requested and there is a special section on retaining decorative gates.

Read the many emails and flyers I got about it. So I went. Well, ol' Georgie here got a lesson in participatory democracy gone stark, raving mad at that meeting. Definitely world class ranting and raving.

If you didn't go, you missed quite a show. Out of almost 200 locals attending, 90 percent were screaming and hollering, "...How dare

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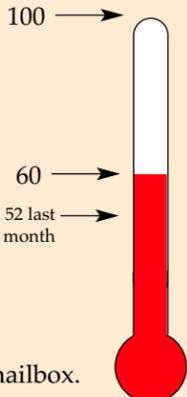
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Sources: antiwar.com • justforeignpolicy.org

Cost: \$491+ Billion Source: costofwar.com



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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large.

The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

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Dear Beachhead:  
Just want to thank you for being you, the very valuable voice o' Venice. You are so much part of our town as the walk street and the palm trees. Bless you.  
Love XXX *Suzy Williams*

Dear Beachhead,  
I just picked up the recent January copy of the "Beachhead" and really enjoyed it! It is nice to see this paper grow. And still, you give so much space to poetry!!! I love it!  
My husband and I have been living in Venice for almost 10 years. We love the area and work at time as tarot readers on the Boardwalk. So I thought I would submit one of my Venice poems.  
*Krista Schwimmer*

Dear Beachhead,  
Please accept my contribution as an annual sustainer. Happy New Year and keep up the good work.  
*Pegarty Long*

Dear Beachhead,  
Keep up the great work, the splendid tradition. The Beachhead was alive and kicking when I first arrived in Venice in 1973 - here's to many more years of covering our neighborhood.  
All the best, *Michael Linder*

### In My Perfect World

Dear Beachhead,  
Here are potential political solutions (in my perfect world):

#### PAY A TAB

Let homeless and poor "run a tab" at restaurants and grocery stores, and either the establishment itself picks up the tab, as a tax write-off, or a wealthy Samaritan or non-profit organization pays for the food.

#### GREEN SPACES FOR GARDENS

Take 1/4 to 1/8 of every park and green strip, dedicate it to growing foods, plant fruit and nut trees, vegetables and herbs; instead of ornamental landscaping. Allow anyone to gather and eat the free, fresh food! Some may over-pick, but nature will take its course and grow back.

#### BEYOND THE GARDENS

Section off a corner or end of all parks, about 1/6 of the land, and allow homeless to live there in tent cities, but with the stipulation that they must maintain the edible gardens, and keep the parks clean and safe, thus imbuing the residents with the responsibility of caring for the land itself, and themselves and their neighbors. This would be minimally supervised by the Parks Department, and/or environmental and citizen action groups (such as those who monitor city gardens or provide for the poor). Key homeless personnel would be authorized to become resident leaders and groundskeepers. In addition, the restrooms would be enlarged to include showers and running water for drinking and watering the gardens.

#### ADOPT A CONTINENT, COUNTRY, CITY, TOWN, MOUNTAIN, RIVER/BAY/OCEAN

Put humanitarian leadership in private hands (such as Angelina Jolie, Oprah and President Clinton have been doing with Africa). Those with wealth and heart can adopt those places and people who are poor, downtrodden, sick, polluted, lacking resources, etc...

Huge tax relief (or no tax at all, for every year of charitable service) that a charitable foundation or humanitarian individual with the resources and wherewithall (such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which could adopt an entire continent), "adopts" the land/river/mountain/stream/people (at whatever level is financial feasible), and pours money and resources directly into that region (bypassing its government, in some cases), not altering the area to become culturally different or "white-washed," but to be supported through providing the basic needs: irrigation and clean water systems, alternative environmentally-friendly fuels, food, refrigeration, farming and industrial tools, medicine and hospitals/clinics with adequate trained staff and needed items, education, clothing, roads and transportation, and training and employment in all areas listed. (Based on the simple premise that "if you give a fish, he eats for a day; if you teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime").

*Rebecca Moore Frey*

## Kathy, RIP

Kathy - sister of Pat, Dennis, Timmy, Milly and Petey, Auntie of David. Passed away on January 19.

She was a part of Venice and Ghost-Town USA from the 60s (our mom lived on Breeze Ave). Remembering "The-forty-thieves club" and so much more. Older beach people will especially miss her.

She was a sweetheart, loads of fun - and most of all - she was a very loving and nice lady with a cute little grin.

*Pat Troy (her sister)*

## Results of the January Beachhead Poll

What should be done with the Venice Circle? Mark as many choices as you like.

- ☛ Fill with water – 21%
- ☛ Close to traffic – 16%
- ☛ Add more statues – 17%
- ☛ Leave the Circle as it is – 19%
- ☛ Remove the present statue – 37%
- ☛ Add a fountain – 51%
- ☛ Comments:

- \*Create a giant Peace sign shaped as walkway
- \*Put up permanent displays about Venice history
- \*Make a garden or park with benches!
- \*Have a really cool fountain with some kind of animal figures
- \*Put in an interactive info point
- \*Italian fountain, statues (not sexist) at least one gondola
- \*Chess tables and chairs or benches
- \*A large arch (like Washington Square, NY)
- \*No more victim women, and loose that clown on Rose
- \*Statue of Abbot Kinney. Little cafes and shops around the circle
- \*A collective of Venice artists combine forces to create multiple works
- \*Please more art is nice, but less sexist
- \*Add more paper mache heads to statue
- \*Live music
- \*Giant windmill to generate electricity
- \*Have a contest for redesign
- \*Bring back the canals

### NEW

## Beachhead Poll

Do you support or oppose the proposed 31-story tower on Lincoln Blvd?

- \_\_\_ Support
- \_\_\_ Oppose
- \_\_\_ Unsure
- \_\_\_ Don't have enough information
- \_\_\_ Comments:

Go to: [www.freevenice.org](http://www.freevenice.org) to vote.  
Poll ends Feb. 25

## Playing Piano is a Blast!



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## Los Angeles practices LCP interruptus

By John Davis

The City of Los Angeles is flouting the law, to the detriment of all of us coastal dwellers.

Chapter 1, Section 30006, of the California Coastal Act reads as follows: "The Legislature further finds and declares that the public has a right to fully participate in decisions affecting coastal planning, conservation and development; that the achievement of sound coastal conservation and development is dependent upon public understanding and support; and that the continuing planning and implementation of programs for coastal conservation and development should include the widest opportunity for public participation."

Los Angeles is doing something different. The Coastal Act requires local governments to create Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) to ensure maximum public participation in the planning process. The LCP must also be designed to reflect and implement the stringent environmental and access protections of the Act.

The City has completed only half of the Venice LCP, but is allowing development at such a rapid rate that it will prejudice the Coastal Commissions ability to certify a LCP consistent with the Coastal Act.

The City plan is a rush to change the face of our fair community forever without letting the public participate. Huge luxury apartment complexes and angular buildings called "artists lofts" are going up all over Venice and the City is allowing other buildings to exceed the legal heights required by the certified Land Use Plan.

Development sprung up before a Land Use Plan for Venice was ever certified.

Until a Land Use Plan is certified by the Coastal Commission, all permits for coastal development must be approved by the Coastal Commission.

The two condo towers, euphemistically known as the Regatta and Water Terrace, stand as a developer's view of what Venice should be. They were approved by the City years before the certification of the Venice Land Use Plan. The Coastal Commission turned a blind eye to this huge problem and let the City get away with it.

*It is not too late to preserve our unique coastal heritage.*

It appears that the original project should not have been permitted until the Venice Land Use Plan was certified. Perhaps new hearings are in order.

And now as a further insult to the good citizens of Venice, the City is again cutting the public out of the process. According to Theresa Henry of the Coastal Commission, Los Angeles has not submitted the final part of the LCP to the State.

In fact the City has not even submitted a draft of the required Implementation Plan to complete the Venice LCP in over two years. And it is no wonder, the City has not held one required workshop or public hearing.

Recently the local Sierra Club Regional Group filed and won a lawsuit against the City to stop it from illegally destroying one of the only original wetlands in Venice. The City had planned to use heavy equipment to dam and dig up the wetlands, letting the sea life die slowly in the sun. We won and still have our wetland.

But the fight is not over, the City is still appealing the interests of large scale developers and hanging the community out to dry.

We are all watching a movie about Venice. Special effects are being used to transform small homes and businesses into a huge gated luxury community of bizarre trophy homes overnight. And we the people are just watching.

It is not too late to preserve our unique coastal heritage. People of all walks of life have a right to live in Venice. We are a Renaissance culture of free thinkers perfectly capable of protecting our own interests.

So it is time to demand that the City begin holding public workshops and hearings on the final component of the LCP, the Implementation Plan. Those of us who call Venice home will settle for nothing less.

## California's Raging Health Care Crisis

By Seth Sandronsky

Big California papers such as the San Jose Mercury News and The Sacramento Bee have been urging the state Senate Health Committee to pass the Núñez-Perata health-care reform bill, ABX1-1. Gov. Schwarzenegger backed the speaker and senate leader's bill, which the state Assembly passed in late Nov.

The 11 members of the Senate Health Committee, which Democratic Sen. Sheila Kuehl of L.A. chairs, held a hearing on ABX1-1 Jan. 23. The speaker, a legislative analyst and governor's health secretary were three of those who commented on the bill.

The committee voted the bill down on Jan. 28. A yes vote would have paved the way for Californians to decide the bill's financing mechanism in the Nov. election.

But ABX1-1 lacked the votes. The bill failed in Kuehl's committee. Núñez has two options. He can return with amendments and request a reconsideration of the vote. Or he can request a new vote on the health-care reform bill with no amendments, according to Carol Wallisch, Sen. Kuehl's chief of staff.

A Jan. 25 unsigned Sacramento Bee editorial blamed Big Tobacco and the California Nurses Association for the sacking of ABX1-1. Under ABX1-1, the former would see its tax bill hiked.

That would likely cut cigarette sales. What horror!

The CNA wants to boot private insurers from the health-care system. Consider this. ABX1-1 limits insurers to spending no more than 15 cents of every premium dollar on administrative costs. Such costs were 28 percent of California's projected health expenditures in 2003, reported Drs. David Himmelstein, Steffie Woolhandler and Sidney Wolfe in the International Journal of Health Services.

Meanwhile, Kuehl's SB 840 for a system of single-payer health care instead of the current system of multiple insurers is waiting to be heard in the Assembly appropriations committee. That process will begin this summer.

And, grass-roots support is building for a California constitutional ballot initiative in which voters can decide the fate of a single-payer health care measure this Nov. The California Health Security Plan is a single-payer system to provide every California resident with medical care: "no co-pays, no deductibles, and no premiums."

And the Plan does specify a funding source: the state's general fund and other sources like the federal treasury. To qualify the measure for the ballot, backers need 700,000 valid voter signatures.

Visit [www.CaliforniansforHealthSecurity.org](http://www.CaliforniansforHealthSecurity.org) for more information.

## RV Crackdown Coming Soon?

By Peggy Lee Kennedy

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 80.69.4 revving up to be enforced in Council District 11 as a "pilot program."

**Question:** What is LAMC 80.69.4?

**Answer:** A city law written to target those living in RV's or other vehicles deemed "over sized." Two areas in Los Angeles are being used as pilot programs for enforcing the law. An area in Council District 11 is one of the pilot programs for the law.

**Question:** Why don't the people living in RV's just go live at the RV Park?

**Answer:** The only RV Park in the area is Dockweiler, which happens to be closed until March 2008. When it is open it costs around \$30 per day, has rules regarding maximum time stayed per year, requires a reservation with a credit card one week in advance, and often the park does not have spaces available. Dockweiler RV Park is geared for those RVers who are on vacation and also for those who have a certain amount of discretionary money.

**Question:** Then why don't the people living in RV's just go into housing somewhere?

**Answer:** Los Angeles is having an affordable housing crisis and most people living in vehicles have an extremely low income. They cannot afford both food and rent. In fact, people living in vehicles are technically considered homeless. There are an estimated 91,000 homeless people in Los Angeles County.

**Question:** Why don't they go into a shelter?

**Answer:** The number of shelter beds is severely low compared to those who are living without housing. Shelters are usually only open at night. Most winter shelters do not have walk-in access and do not have parking places for those living in vehicles. If an un-housed person has a vehicle to stay in, it is much better than going to a shelter most of the time.

**Question:** OK, What does the law LAMC 80.69.4 say?

**Answer:** Well, this law affects any vehicle considered "oversized" in an area where the city has put up signs:

- No vehicle over 22 feet long or 7 feet high may park on a signed street between 2 AM and 6 AM without a permit.
- A permit costs \$10 per day.
- A permit is granted only with two forms of identification with your residential address.
- A permit is purchased from a Department of Transportation Service Center M-F during office hours.
- Permits can only be purchased for 3-days maximum.
- Permits cannot be purchased if any outstanding parking tickets are in the system.

Enforcement of LAMC 80.69 is similar to the recent city law creating Overnight Permit

Parking Districts (LAMC 80.54), which is swiftly covering our city with restricted parking districts being used to eliminate the poor from our streets, district by district. See our Justice Committee web site at <http://www.justice.wet-nostril.net> for more information on LAMC 80.54, the Overnight Parking

Permit District law.

The Los Angeles City Council seems to keep crafting local laws that simply make it illegal to be homeless! These are Public Streets. These kinds of laws are hurting the poor and they are turning public streets into private or rented space.

Please call on the City Council to have more compassion for those living without housing. Until we can actually house people, lets HELP the unhoused to be safe, warm, fed, and given hope that they too may someday have a better quality of life - Not treated like criminals or treated less than human.

Please send an email or call to oppose this anti-homeless law, LAMC 80.69.4:

District 11 - Bill Rosendahl  
councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org

<None>District 11 Chief of Staff Mike Bonin  
mike.bonin@lacity.org (213) 473-7011



# Interview with Venice Poet Frank Rios – Part 2

Interview with the Venice Poet Frank T. Rios  
Part 2 (see January Beachhead for Part 1)

By Hillary Kaye

**Beachhead:** Is there anything else about Philomene Long you'd like to share?

**Frankie:** When she did *The Beats, An Existentialist Comedy*, I was involved in that. She was always a strange bird. She was outside the tip, even though she was with Stuart [Perkoff]. When he died she went to John [Thomas] ...well I think that relationship was the best relationship she could have, they had this connection, she started to see that the poem, that thing where she came from having been a nun, like she was in revelation too. She had that experience. John was very knowledgeable and was dedicated like Stuart. And I think that's where she got her voice. So that was really good. And we got very close because me and John were close, well John was like my poetry sponsor. I'd go down to Venice to their pad and we'd talk about poetry and I'd take my work. So it was important. And then when John died I got very tight with Philomene and we carried it on.

**Beachhead:** So you stayed in contact.

**Frankie:** Oh yeah. We were supposed to do this reading & collage show at Sponto Gallery.

**Beachhead:** That never came about?

**Frankie:** Oh yeah it did. We were supposed to do it together, we were talking, you know Frankie there's really no one that I'd like to read with but you. Yeah that's a great idea. Me too, I'm reading with nobody. We could do a collage show too. I was working on these collages. I had some already because I previously did collage shows and readings. I had some left, but I did about forty others for this reading.

That Tuesday we were supposed to meet for lunch and talk about what we were going to do and kind of finalize it and she died that day or that night. Too weird, too sad. I had called her the night before. Yeah, okay I'll see you tomorrow. So she must have died during that night or that morning.

**Beachhead:** Do you want to talk about your writing?

**Frankie:** Sure. How I go about writing a poem. It's still the same way. Usually I have the line, the opening line. And I'm receiving it. If it don't come all out, if I get stuck, it don't work. I'm good enough where I could --

**Beachhead:** Fiddle with it.

**Frankie:** Yeah I could make it right, but it's not satisfying, it's not really the way it should be. Everything I write has to come out clean, as I receive it. If I follow it and it has to do with trust. But usually it's the opening line, unless of course I'm on a blow then one poem follows the other, then I don't have to think about the opening line, you know what I mean.

**Beachhead:** Yes I do. I saw that you were very moved at the memorial for Philomene the other night. Is that why you left?

**Frankie:** Yeah. I left for the other one too, for Tony.

**Beachhead:** Yes I noticed

**Frankie:** Can't handle it.

**Beachhead:** I understand.

**Frankie:** Can't handle it, there are too many of them, the next one I'm going to do is for me.

Shit. Well you know how it is. You can't really dictate that stuff.

**Beachhead:** Right. How is your health?

**Frankie:** Very good Very good  
**Beachhead:** That's great.

**Frankie:** With this new kidney, very good.

**Beachhead:** How many books have you written?

**Frankie:** I've written eleven books.

**Beachhead:** Are these books available?

**Frankie:** Some, here's how it goes. You write a book, you get the money to publish it. You publish your book and then you do the reading. And you sell a bunch of books and you get some of the money back. And the rest you just give them out or sell them here or there, and that's the way we always did it

**Beachhead:** Right, right, the life of a poet.

**Frankie:** Yeah you know what I mean.

**Beachhead:** Do you think about your mortality?

**Frankie:** No

**Beachhead:** Do you think about your poetry being read?



Frank T. Rios

**Frankie:** Because I'm using drugs and I'm fogging the mirror, I'm fogging the window, I've forgotten the poem. I'm fogging the flow I'm trying to write the poem. See you don't write the poem, you receive it. It's like way different. So now when I look at my notebooks, every page is clean.

**Beachhead:** And that's because why, because you're clean now?

**Frankie:** Yeah, because I'm clean.

**Beachhead:** So it's just coming out clean.

**Frankie:** Yeah, I don't have to change anything. Once in a while when you transfer it, type it, you might see oh if I take this line out the leap would emphasize the next image really good. See with craft you make that choice because now I'm into craft, not the poem.

**Beachhead:** Now you're into craft, not the poem?

**Frankie:** Yeah.

**Beachhead:** How's that possible when your into receiving it?

**Frankie:** Craft is after you receive the poem.

**Beachhead:** I thought craft is like when you perfect something.

**Frankie:** That's what I'm doing. That's the craft. Exactly. So there's little stuff, oh I want to break it here, or this is the form, I see that the form it was written in, and I didn't complete that, it broke itself somehow, because it's automatic, your hand goes and sometimes you break the poem where you shouldn't, so you do that. Sometimes you take the word, oh I need to emphasize that one. So that kind of craft thing.

**Beachhead:** Are you sorry you don't live in Venice?

**Frankie:** Yes, I wish I did. See when I was living in Venice on Cabrillo next to "The Temple of Man." I loved it, I was clean, and walking and writing. I love Venice.

**Beachhead:** Who started "The Temple of Man"?

**Frankie:** Bob Alexander.

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Drawing by Frank T. Rios

**Frankie:** Well yeah my poetry is read.

**Beachhead:** Yes I know. What I mean is do you think about it going on after you, and people still knowing who you are and wanting ---

**Frankie:** Some will, some won't. That's the way it is. What did Tony say, "There won't be no parade for us". (Frankie laughs) So it's all about right now, it's all about what you do now, every time the chance comes up I present it and usually I get a very good response whenever I do a reading.

**Beachhead:** I thought your reading was beautiful the other night.

**Frankie:** Yeah, and the one I did at Sponto Gallery, with the collage show reading was excellent. The place was packed. And the people just loved it. Man they just start taking the collages off the wall. Cause I sell them real cheap so people can buy them, you know \$25.00, \$50.00 for the big ones. So they just went nuts. It was really cool. Yeah good stuff.

**Beachhead:** This is a funny question, if you don't want to answer, please feel free not to. Were there things you liked better about yourself when you were on dope? And are there things not being on dope that you like better about yourself now? I'm trying ---

**Frankie:** Yeah I did everything right to get here. And I've done everything right to stay. I was good at it.

**Beachhead:** So you enjoyed your time being ---

**Frankie:** Well it wasn't about joy. That's who you are, that's it. I did the best I could.

**Beachhead:** Right, I see.

**Frankie:** When I look at my old notebooks, I see across the page, pain and black, all the images of my mind, leaked out, the angel, the death, the metamorphosis, pages and pages and then blop the poem falls out.

**Beachhead:** The poem falls out?

**Frankie:** Yeah a perfect poem on the page.

**Beachhead:** Right, okay.

**Frankie:** Dig, cause that's the way, The Perfect Poem, but the insanity of the drugs you dig, the mind into the dark side, the drug- life, in truth, the Lady is pissed at me.

**Beachhead:** Because?

## Swami Speaks

By X Swami X

If everyone realized that they are creating their own lives with their every thought and feeling, that the life they are goes on forever and that their essential nature is creative ecstasy, no one would be watching television.

What is man (embracing woman) anyway? Man is conscious intelligence, imaginative will and creative compassion, regardless of how momentarily limited, misdirected and/or myopic he may be. That soul of intelligence, will and love will inevitably merge in Consciousness Existence, Bliss Absolute, aka God or OWow.

If people really understood that "ye reap what ye sow," perhaps they wouldn't be kicking and robbing each other, or being mesmerized by television. Is reincarnation that difficult to grasp and accept, or has religious dogma contagion what's left of society with rabies in their belief systems?

The idea that keeps occurring to me, in spite of being distracted by those men in uniform who keep insisting that I purchase reams of tickets to the Policeman Ball, or go to jail on trumped up charges of jay walking, is that all I really have access to is in this moment and that I would be wise to utilize it for its ultimate potential of self-realization.

My heart goes out to those without a clue, nevertheless, I am still reluctant to open the door for Harry Krishmans, Jehovah Witnesses and Klansman.

I just realized I have not yet made a sexual reference, joke, observation, fantasy, wish or prediction. Fortunately, it is not too late.

I predict sex will become more popular with ages between 12 and 16, news commentators will perform naked to prove they have nothing to hide and Hillary will streak around the White House, if elected, and maybe, even if not elected.

## Obama Campaign Office on Abbot Kinney

By Karl Abrams

Barack Obama's campaign for US President now has a donated campaign office up on the second floor at 1410 Abbot Kinney Blvd. in Venice, just across the street from Abbot's Habit. The Beachhead visited them on a busy Friday afternoon while volunteers worked the phones to contact voters from San Pedro to Venice to Calabassas and spread their message. They are open from 10 AM to 9 PM, appear confident and upbeat and, of course, encourage more volunteers to join up.

Every room has numerous hard working people, beautiful posters, computers and phones, T-shirts and bumper stickers and smiles for all questions about their candidate. While speaking with one of the volunteers, the Beachhead learned that just minutes before, the LA Times had endorsed Obama (and McCain). Everyone was understandably excited.

Volunteers are already "hitting the streets" and knocking on doors right here in Venice. Their campaign office may be contacted at 396-4656.

The Clinton campaign has a different approach that allows volunteers to work from their computers at home. Their headquarters are located at 600 South La Fayette, downtown LA, 213-908-0190.



Photos by Venice Paparazzi

## Campaign Notebook

By Jim Smith

No I haven't been on the campaign bus with any of the candidates, but I can say with some assurance that nearly all of them would do a better job as President than George Bush. And that's true even for **Mad Max** Riekse, who's running on the American Independent Party. Did you vote for him?

**The Return of the King.** The Keeper of the Flame, Count Teddy, has anointed the Black Prince with the mantle of Camelot and sent him on a Quest to Redeem the Throne from the Clintonian Usurpers. Will the rightness of his mission be revealed to the commoners of the realm, or will the Queen of Hearts have her way? Black Prince, be wary of old King Billy who would see his family rule for generations more. He will brook no interference just as he is about to snatch power back from Darth Vader and the Decider.

By now you probably know the names of the Democrat and Republican who won their **California primary**. It was likely the candidate with the most money. You probably don't know the names of the other parties' candidates who won their primaries. Doesn't matter, all of the primaries are non-binding. They only elect delegates, who can change their minds at any time. Voting doesn't mean that anyone pays attention.

Many people don't know it, but there are six parties that are qualified to run candidates in California. **This is a secret that the mass media doesn't know.** Most Californians don't know it either. Can you name all six parties? You're bound to get two right, the Democratic and Republican parties. The others are the American Independent, Green, Libertarian and Peace and Freedom parties.

One reason more people don't vote is there is no party identification with a car. That's right, millions of us spend hours a day in our cars but we don't know which ones symbolize the political parties. Here are my nominations:

- Republican Party** - Stretch Limo - Color: Black
- Democratic Party** - Stretch Limo - Color: White
- American Independent Party** - Hummer - Color: Yellow (The AIP was founded by George Wallace, the arch-segregationist, in 1968. How embarrassed you must be if you registered with them thinking it was "no party.")
- Green Party** - Hybrid Prius - Color: Green
- Libertarian Party** - Mercedes sedan with secret cargo compartment - Color: Tan (Libertarians are sometimes called Republicans who smoke pot.)
- Peace and Freedom Party** - 1967 VW Microbus - Color: Rainbow

In addition to no one paying attention to voting, many states now use voting machines which means that even the machine may not pay attention to how you vote. Was the New Hampshire Democratic primary rigged? That's the one where more than 10 pre-election, and exit polls all called it for Barack Obama, but Hellary Clinton came out the winner. Have the Democrats learned from the Republicans?

The day after the primary, Obama said, "I come from Chicago politics. We're accustomed to rough and tumble." And just what are Chicago politics known for? Could it be rigging elections, having dead people cast ballots, etc. Surely, the Clintons would never do anything underhanded just to win an election.

Primary Colors was Newsweek's Joe Klein's fictional account of Bill and Hill's 1992 campaign. This book should be assigned reading for all voters, if in fact, the coronation proceeds on schedule (you know: Bush, 88-92; Clinton, 93-00; Bush, 01-08; Clinton, 09-16). The movie by the same name is much toned down, due to efforts by the Clinton White House, according to insiders.

**Last one out at the Clinton HQ turn off the lights.** So now the New York Times and the L.A. Times have endorsed Obama. These two papers aren't the whole ruling class, but they do reflect what the billionaires, the old money tycoons, are talking about at their clubs. My guess is that a lot of the high rollers are running scared. Bush and Cheney scared the shit out of them on Iraq, and more so on Iran. Then Hellary castigated Obama for ruling out nuking Iran! They probably peed in their pants. And now they're facing a recession, or depression, that is going to cause riots all over America. Time for a Black President.

## Venice Neighborhood Council Town Hall on Homelessness

The VNC Invites You to Help Answer the Question:

**"What can the VNC do to address homelessness in Venice?"**

Join us on Tuesday, February 26th, for a Town Hall Meeting with members of the community, homeless individuals, and service providers.

Help the VNC begin a community dialog on homelessness & related issues  
*Every attendee will have an opportunity to speak.*

- We'll learn what we agree on.
- We'll explore local solutions and regional partners.
- We'll work to develop a strategy to address homelessness.
- Most of all we'll talk to each other!

**Date:** Tuesday, Feb 26, 2008 **Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** Westminster Elementary School Auditorium,  
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291

Snacks and coffee will be provided. There is no charge for this meeting.

For additional information, write [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) or call 310-606-2015.



It's YOUR Venice!  
[www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)



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# The Manhattanization of Venice —continued from page 1

despite community opposition. Some community organizations, including the Venice Town Council and the Venice Community Housing Corporation threatened a lawsuit, but reached a settlement for some low-income apartments in the building on Lincoln Blvd., an affordable housing trust fund, a fund to mitigate negative impacts on the Oxford Triangle (the nearest Venice neighborhood), and the establishment of a Native American museum.

The Venice community has long fought hi-rise building schemes along the beach, and more recently, at Lincoln Place. No developer, until now, has had the audacity to suggest a 31-story tower in an ecologically-sensitive coastal area that is also a liquefaction zone.

The location of the tower, south of the "Marina" Ralphs may lead people to believe the building would be in Marina del Rey. It is in Venice. Many of us have a cloudy idea of exact where Venice is located (geography not being suited to the American temperament). The rule of thumb is this: the Marina is in the county, Venice is in the city. This distinction is lost on many, particularly on newer residents.

The reasons for the confusion are multi-fold. In addition to the problem of being geographically challenged, the city of L.A. seems unwilling to erect street signs informing travelers when they enter Venice. The U.S. Post Office further confused matters when they divided Venice into two zip codes and lumped south Venice in with the Marina as 90292. Small wonder that many in the south-of-Washington Venice neighborhoods of the Oxford Triangle and the Peninsula wrongly believe they live in the Marina.

Finally, there is the snob appeal of the Marina. In spite of the rampant gentrification of Venice, it still doesn't have the cachet of a Marina del Rey address. Hence the abundance of Marina signs on Venice businesses.

## The Incredible Shrinking Venice

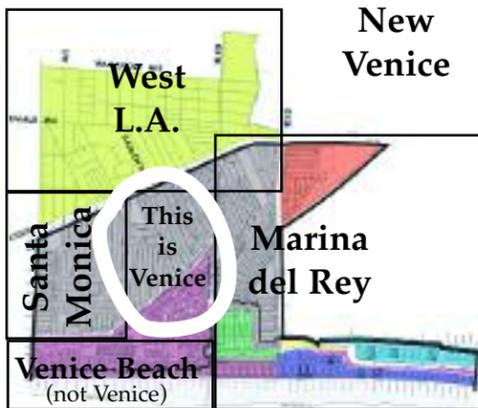
In the good ole days when Venice was its own city, and Los Angeles was

still below the eastern horizon, Venice was much larger. Everything from at least Centinela west and north of the Westchester bluffs was considered part of Venice. What is now Mar Vista was farm land owned by Venice farmers, many of whom were Japanese. The Maxella shopping center was a dairy farm and bottling plant. Playa del Rey below the bluffs was the south end of Venice. It still uses the Venice street numbering system. When the Marina boat harbor was dug, this tail of Venice was severed and cast adrift.

### Old Venice



### New Venice



When the Venice neighborhood council's boundaries were laid out a few years ago, the job was in the hands of newcomers who had only a foggy idea of what was Venice and what was not. Up until that time, the main source of industrial jobs for Venetians was on Glyndon Avenue, below Washington, at Revell Plastics and about a dozen other manufacturers. This area was not included in the neighborhood council's borders, and some time later came under the sway of the Del Rey Neighborhood Council, which is much more development friendly than is Venice. A trip down Glyndon today will reveal the eradication of the job-producing manufacturers and the erection of big apartment and condo buildings which add thousands of auto trips to our streets.

It was during the creation of the boundaries and bylaws of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council in 2001 that a minority of participants tried to include Playa Vista in the Venice boundaries. Had they been successful, the fight against this small city being built on wetlands and a Native American cemetery would likely have been more forceful. On the other hand, it would have opened the door to meddling in the Venice Neighborhood Council by Playa Vista, Inc., as undoubtedly will the residents of the 31-stories, if in fact, it gets built.

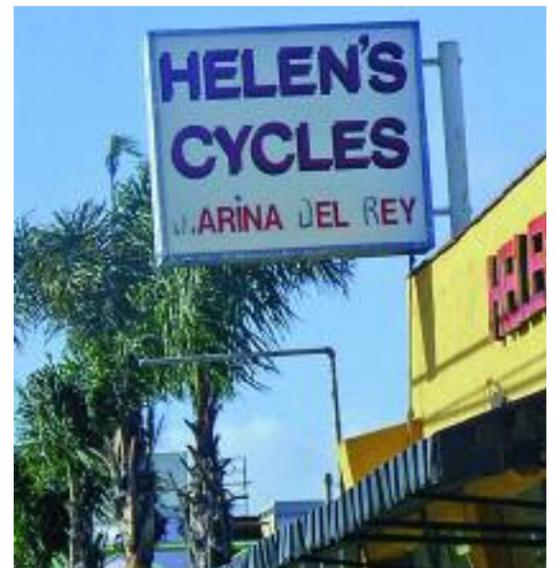
But now Venice seems to be shrinking to north of Washington and possibly, west of Lincoln. The previous

owner of Lincoln Place - just east of Lincoln - erected signs advertising the place as being in West Los Angeles in hopes of higher rental prices. Lincoln Blvd., like Washington Blvd., sports its share of Marina signs on businesses. And with many of those who inhabit Ocean Front Walk thinking they live or work in someplace called "Venice Beach," just where is Venice?

A few years from now will Venice fade from memory as 20 and 30 story hi-rises crowd the coast? In that case, why not call it the Marina or West L.A.? Years from now will naive foreign tourists come here looking for the haunts of the Beats, Jim Morrison and the dream of Venice but will only find more of Los Angeles? Or will they find a city that honors its past and promotes its uniqueness, but most of all, comes together when it counts to say no to developers who would destroy Venice to build Manhattan?



Official city sign says Marina del Rey on Venice bike path, north of Washington Blvd.



Helen's Cycles - in Venice, not Marina del Rey - on Lincoln.



Marina Liquor - in Venice on Washington



Marina Animal Hospital - in Venice on Lincoln



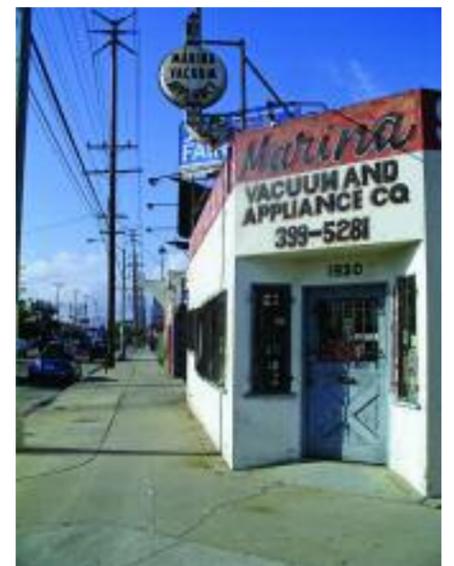
Marina Car Wash - in Venice at Venice Blvd. and Lincoln Blvd.

photo by Alexandria



Once, the sign said Venice Peninsula, then without fanfare...

But now Venice seems to be shrinking to north of Washington and possibly, west of Lincoln. The previous



Marina Vacuum - The Winner of the Creeping Marina Award - in Venice, blocks north of Venice Blvd.

**"Your Local Shop for Scrumptious Food and Sinful Chocolates"**

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Mardi Gras came to Venice, Feb. 2. Or was it just another typical day at the beach?

Three photos by Alexandria.



Stevie Wonder didn't come to Venice, but lots of Venetians went to see him and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the annual parade, Jan. 21 in South Central.

*In Memorium*

***Teresita (Teri) Vestal***  
 December 8, 1939 - December 20, 2007

*Sister of Light  
 Daughter of Darkness  
 An idol of strength and perserverance  
 during a life of adversity.*

*We love you Teri  
 Carol Fondiller and Emily Winters*



## Paula Ross, Venice Artist

On December 19, long-time Venice resident and artist, Paula Ross, passed away. Paula's life was art. There wasn't one thing she touched that didn't become more beautiful because of her talent.

She is best known for her hand-tinted photographs of famous jazz icons. Her vast library of work includes everyone from Billie Holiday and Chet Baker to Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie and Sarah Vaughan.

Her work has been displayed in Hal's for many years, has been exhibited in galleries and museums and is part of many private collections.

Paula is survived by her daughter Pam Ross Hull and granddaughters Eliza Jazz, Zoe Skyz, and Adizen Izabella.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

A memorial will be held sometime in the near future. If you would like more information about it, please send your e-mail address to <gailvenice@yahoo.com> and details will be forwarded to you when they are finalized.

## Venice Neighborhood Council Community Improvement Funds Available

Apply now for up to \$5000!  
 Deadline: March 1, 2008

**All Venice Stakeholders may apply!**

If you have a great idea to improve a Venice neighborhood and you need up to \$5,000, the VNC is the place to start!

[www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)



Community improvement funds from VNC helped make new sign possible photo courtesy of Todd van Hoffman

Project Applications **MUST** be submitted by March 1, 2008. The VNC will award contracts in June 2008. All contracts must be completed by June 2009. Applications are available at [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) and the Venice library. For additional information contact Ivan Spiegel at [parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org](mailto:parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org) or (310) 606-2015 Ext. 5.



*It's YOUR Venice!*  
[www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)



## Interview with Venice Poet Frank Rios – Part 2

—continued from page 4

**Beachhead:** And what was he like?

**Frankie:** He was a character, an original, an original cut. He was with all those guys, David Meltzer, George Herms, Altoon, Artie Richard, the San Francisco tip, the jazz clubs. Then he had this vision of the temple, Art is Love is God, which is Wally Berman's sound. And for the sentient being, the free being, the one outside the society, because the whole concept of it fit me perfect cause I never worked, voted, paid taxes or drove a car. Till only a few years ago, five years ago, something like that. Seven years ago. So that was the whole idea, not to be involved with the society, but only in the creative act.

**Beachhead:** So are you political now would you say?

**Frankie:** No I listen to it, but I only voted once for Bill Clinton because his brother was a recovering addict so I thought oh man maybe he'll do something for us. I don't think he ever did anything, but that's why I voted, once so far. The whole thing about the political thing is it's all big business. They control the whole thing. You know 5% of the people own 95% of the world, and 95% of the people own 5% of the world. And they got it controlled. And our government is selling everything to China and they're selling America. Everything's from China. You can't find American products. So the middle class is out and there's going to be rich and poor, and that's how they want it, and they control the whole thing.

**Beachhead:** I know. It's horrible.

**Frankie:** Terrible.

**Beachhead:** Fascism.

**Frankie:** Yeah, America is going to be gone.

**Beachhead:** America is gone.

**Frankie:** Almost. There's still pockets.

**Beachhead:** Do you ever think of leaving the country?

**Frankie:** No.

**Beachhead:** You're here for the ride.

**Frankie:** Oh yeah. I only got ten or fifteen left. Eighty seven I'm probably out, Think I'm going to become independent or free.

**Beachhead:** Is there anything you'd like to cover in this article that I haven't asked about?

**Frankie:** Well just the importance of Stuart Perkoff, Tony Scibella, Jimmy Morris, John Thomas, Philomene Long who kind of carried the torch there. Just the idea that she was present. And I just hope that that's part of history, stays part of the history.

**Beachhead:** I'd like to get the library in Venice to carry all of the Venice West poets' books. You go to the Venice library and there's nothing there. I think it's a disgrace that they aren't there. Maybe there could be some kind of grant to do this or have something done.

**Frankie:** Well I'd like the history to be remembered whenever anything is happening they would be able to come up. Like being put in a library and that kind of stuff. I think we have a lot of the art work we've done through the years at UCLA. I think so. It's always been a problem. We always talked about it. Larry Lake ---

**Beachhead:** That's so funny, I knew Larry Lake so many years ago. In fact Larry Lake and I did a poetry reading together twenty five years ago. Maybe twenty eight years ago now that I think about it. Is he still alive?

**Frankie:** No

**Beachhead:** What happened to him?

**Frankie:** He stepped out of the tub and died of a heart attack.

**Beachhead:** Where was he living?

**Frankie:** Denver. Now his kid, I just talked to him yesterday, he was going back to Denver for the holidays, he'll be back the beginning of the year. He has the trunkload full of original copies of our work.

**Beachhead:** Of art work?

**Frankie:** Of all the poetry we've done through the years. Of course Marsha Getzler has the stash and I have some of it. But he has the original copies, untouched.

**Beachhead:** So what's going to be done with them?

**Frankie:** He's a writer, he loves poetry. He read at Tony's thing, he's good. He's with us.

**Beachhead:** What's his name?

**Frankie:** Yama Lake

**Beachhead:** I notice you have a book of Diane Di Prima? Did you know her?

**Frankie:** Yeah she's a heavyweight, She's done some great stuff. I was never that tight with her. Tony was tight with her. She loved Tony, they all loved Tony. All the girls loved Tony.

**Beachhead:** Did the girls love Stuart?

**Frankie:** Yeah, they all loved Stuart too. I mean they loved me too, but different. I was more reserved. I was always looking for love.

**Beachhead:** So Diane Di Prima was crazy about Tony?

**Frankie:** Oh I'm sure they did it together, but they weren't lovers or anything like that. Called free love.

**Beachhead:** Yeah that was going on at the time.

**Frankie:** Yeah I was in prison all those years anyway. From 61 to 68.

**Beachhead:** You were in prison that long?

**Frankie:** Yeah, probably did about ---

**Beachhead:** Where were you in prison?

**Frankie:** Federal joint. Terminal Island.

**Beachhead:** How did you handle your time?

**Frankie:** Oh I did good time.

**Beachhead:** What does that mean?

**Frankie:** It means I knew how to do time. I probably did eleven years all together.

**Beachhead:** So when you said you did good time you mean you read....

**Frankie:** Yeah read, wrote. I had a good tip, a good job, I knew how to jail.

**Beachhead:** And what gave you that kind of ---

**Frankie:** Experience.

**Beachhead:** To be able to handle it in that kind of way.

**Frankie:** Going to jail. I'm a guy, stand up and all that. I got all the history, I got the credentials.

**Beachhead:** Right. But somebody can do time and go insane, and somebody can do time and really use it as a period of real growth and learning. You can do time in a lot of different ways.

**Frankie:** That's right. Like when Stuart came he didn't know how to do time.

**Beachhead:** So he was really suffering.

**Frankie:** Yeah when I got there I just took him under my wing and brought him into the tip and everything changed.

**Beachhead:** So you guys were there together?

**Frankie:** Yeah we walked the yard together for a long time.

**Beachhead:** That's incredible.

**Frankie:** Yeah it was great. We had conversations that were unbelievable about poetry and the Lady Muse, what to read and all that stuff. Yeah we had a nice trip. That was a good time.

**Beachhead:** Because you could really focus.

**Frankie:** Yeah there are people that really dig each other, and we guard each other's backs. When it's a Federal joint it's a lot easier than if it's a State. There aren't too many gunsels. Guys that are trying to make a reputation. Everybody in a Federal joint got a heavy beef. And you know they were older and they were there just to do their time.

**Beachhead:** Where can people get your poetry?

**Frankie:** You want to take some things to Beyond Baroque?

**Beachhead:** I'd be happy to do that.

## Obituary of Man - Exit Homo

By John Kertisz

Rain is on its way...  
Stillness persists in icicle cold  
As boulders await a tumbling  
On pulsating path...in rhythm to the sea

The cat sits astride, one moment in time  
The dog sleeps...eternally sublime  
The elephant mourns each death of its kind  
While man destroys all, for power in crime

Now to speak as voice of Mother-Earth-Nature  
Telling all men...no wars can be won  
All battles are lost...until Man can see  
Futility incarnate...engorged with power

You came from me...will return to me  
Sooner or later...an absolute certainty

Chances are...your extinction will be soon  
another species will appear...perhaps in tune

You were clever fellows...made it to my moon  
Yet never could see...my flowers in full bloom

Sadly, I must say...though life can be fun  
Only the misery...seems to have won

Thanks for the memories...such as they are  
Think while you can...I don't need Man.

DUH...UM...FEH

## Fences and Hedges

—continued from page 1

VNC tear down my fence...Draconian measures to enable the few to dictate to the many....Over my cold, dead body....Fight to the last stake in my fence.....you are evil, EVIL and a curse on you and your family...How dare there even be a LUPC task force on this...of all the things wrong in Venice you focus on our fences..." A list of sex offenders in two communities of Venice was submitted with instructions as to how VNC could address that problem. And my favorite, "...you antichrists you, how dare you spring this on us at the last minute like this."

Sorry folks, even the most casual look at VNC/LUPC web site over the past year revealed a draft copy of the report with an email reply address for public comment through July 25, 2007. There was many an opportunity to read and comment on this report before January 29th.

My, my, my. Makes one wonder if the creationists are right and we sprung full blown into life four thousand or so years ago without the benefit of learning to live together, acquiring good manners and/or eschewing foul behavior.

Attendance was seriously slanted to people wanting to keep their illegally high fences and damnation to anybody that wanted to reduce them for any reason. The few that spoke in favor of the LUPC paper were booed and hissed until the VNC president, Mike Newhouse, reminded the audience that civil behavior was expected.

On Tuesday, February 19, the VNC Board will consider recommendations on the LUPC paper. If anybody out there is in favor of low or no fences in our fair city they had better show up and be heard. I drove slowly through most of Venice last week and IMHO only about 30 percent of our homes have over high fences. That means that 70 percent observe the law.

Perhaps it would be a good idea for the 70 percent majority to testify at the next VNC Board meeting, Tuesday, February 19 at Westminster Elementary School auditorium.

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## ALLEN GINSBERG

By Hal Bogotch

Howl busted the yawn wide open, broke it down into the screaming hysterical hip hop city streets, ran naked over the Golden Gate Bridge at dusk and plunged into the icy cool stream of consciousness of America worldwide.

Go Daddy!, big Daddy, go Sky Father of the tiny pieces of paper with wings Yo! Pop Daddy of the wide round mouth, big and tall books, and large magazines.

Yo! Give it up for the Grandmaster, the luminous name of the poet Allen G., the man, the one who laid it down and laid it all out, yeah, the man, Ginsberg, he who sang with a big voice, a huge brain, and a giant heart, who sang for sex and pain, for madness and truth, for life and the death that spikes that crazy immortal paradoxical elixir,

yeah, who else could sing and rave, rage and shake his fist at the tight-ass Five Stars who overcompensate with Greek god missiles for what they can't give to their women at night, yeah, Mr. A.G., that's who (look it up in Who's Who, page 4 - 1 - 1), he who knew what time it was, yeah, he who knew when to 'dis' the establishment, when to throw a bucket of splash on the wicked witchy parliamentarians,

yeah, Allen G., that's who, who else had the funk to freak the system, to speak up and speak out for peace, to open the eyes of the masses and not pander to the pandemonium, nobody else said it like him, with wisdom, serenity, stone cold chutzpah, and a harmonium.

**this paper is a poem**

## The Ladybugs of Venice Beach

By Krista Schwimmer

We met in a huge parking lot off the beach forgetting to tell each other exactly where, but it was alright & then we walked south towards the Marina, out two men gradually moving ahead as men will do sometimes. Lisa was quiet & observant the first to notice the ladybugs along the shore. at first, it was one or two, then hundreds right where the tide has been. Further up I spotted 2 small crabs the first I had even seen in 6 years & we watched them, making sure they returned safely to the water. We walked & walked the men pulling ahead more & more & just before we reached the Pier Lisa & I decided to rest laying down before a flock of sandpipers & plovers sleeping. it was gray then & I felt a trance upon me, the men now at the Pier gazing at the passing sailboats. Ladybugs crawled on is as we looked out to the sea, the two women born a day apart—lucky ladybugs calling forth our deepest wishes.

We caught up to the men & returned home via the canals where there was a golden eyes haron fishing on a row boat & a lone egret tickling the water of catch fish. he was at the end of the canals & let us watch his hunt until 2 loud girls startled him with their enthusiasm. Still we had seen enough—enough beach enough birds enough ladybug magic for one day.

## The Empty Blues

(circa 1960)

By John Thomas

hitchhiking  
46 hours no sleep no  
food either  
except for chocolate pie & coffee in San Luis Obispo  
I'm up in the empty hills now  
north of Paso Robles  
(always a badluck town for me)  
eating dexedrine smoking cigarettes  
up in the hills & empty cold  
cold cold & the night  
slams in my face cold  
now the big tandems come barreling by  
ZOOM BAM gone in the night  
hours & hours & I curse them for not stopping  
finally get the  
Blues the true  
Empty Blues

what is it  
46 hours no sleep no food just leapers  
so I feel cold & dry & empty  
not bad quite  
but I know  
nothing will be right I  
KNOW all I have to do is hope something  
& it won't ever happen—these  
are the Empty Blues

oh, the trucks don't stop  
on El Camino Real  
no  
so I'll never get there  
no no  
& when I do  
no  
(big diesel rig  
ZOOM BAM)  
knew it  
they never stop on 101  
be here all night I know  
Got the Empty Blues

what is it  
a kind of knowing  
-I know all about it  
don't even care  
just know  
I know I'll never get to San Fran  
& when I get there  
it'll be just like here, I'll stand  
till two in a bar  
watching the barkeep drink Bromo  
he'll drink Bromo all nite  
with a stiff arm  
& the Bulova on his wrist  
won't it shine? Oh yes  
I know  
I'll stand in the bar & watch those  
girls blasé-ing down the street  
they never stop  
no  
& when they do  
oh no  
I'll even sound the barmaid  
& she won't  
& when she will  
she'll live in some Filipino hotel  
doormat shackled to the wall  
bathroom way down the hall  
don't tell me  
I know it all  
these are the Empty Blues

## So Odd Is Venice

By Jim Smith

What an odd city  
we have.  
Where poems seep out of our  
city hall.  
And murals run round the walls  
of our jail.  
Our main street has no cars,  
only people.  
And to the west  
we can see eternity.

## The Venice Beat Poets —The Great River Outside the Mainstream— JOHN THOMAS

By Jim Smith

Charles Bukowski – who should know – called John Thomas, “The best unread poet in America. He is the invisible genius of American poetry.”

Referring to John Thomas when he died, the London Independent quoted Lawrence Lipton, author of *The Holy Barbarians* about the Venice Beat “scene,” as follows: *How does one review the work of a poet who mocks the societal role of the poet, who has no desire to publish his poetry and says that he has no interest in the familiar moral values of poetry and poets?*

Thomas, in true Beat fashion, seemed to care not about fame. For him, the creative process of writing the poem or the essay was sufficient in itself. The work didn't have to be reviewed in the *New York Times* to gain validation.

He quit writing poetry for 15 years, until 1983, when the love of his life, Philomene Long, inspired him to begin again. Much of his writing for the rest of his life had either a direct, or indirect, connection with his wife. Books in which Thomas

appears are collaborations with Long, including *Bukowski in the Bathtub*, *The Ghosts of Venice West*, and *The Book of Sleep*. An exception is *Feeding the Animal*, published by Lummo Press in 2001, which is all John Thomas poetry.

Thomas was a descendent of Meriwether Lewis, of Lewis and Clark fame. And like his ancestor, Thomas was an explorer in his own right, but of intellectual pursuits. As an explorer, he traveled far from his beginnings in Baltimore and his stint as a cryptographer in the Air Force (he lost his security clearance by developing a friendship with the poet, Ezra Pound, who was in jail for treason). He then became a programmer for UNIVAC, one of the world's first computers. Fired in 1959 for growing a beard, Thomas ended his association with the corporate world, and hitchhiked to Venice.

In Venice, Thomas declared himself a poet and found work as the cook and manager at Venice's first coffee house, The Gas House, on the Ocean Front at Market Street. He collected donations and provided up to two meals a day, free of charge, to poets and artists who made up the growing Beat community (They also got a free room at the misnamed Grand Hotel on Market Street, later destroyed by the city of L.A.).

After the Gas House closed, Thomas, who had fallen in with other now-famous poets including Stuart Perkoff, Tony Scibella, Frankie Rios, and Jimmy Ryan Morris, hung out at the Venice West Espresso Cafe and the Potpourri coffee house, both on Dudley Ave. Later, Thomas developed a close friendship with Charles Bukowski, who went on to become not just a well-known poet, but a cultural idol to many.

Without a doubt, the most significant person in Thomas' life was Philomene Long, the Poet Laureate of Venice. They met after a reading by Long at the old Venice Jail in 1983, and were together for the next 19 years. Most of that time was spent at the Ellison Apartments at 15 Paloma Ave. #31, whose cramped quarters and view of the ocean, became a topic of many of their poems. John Thomas died on March 29, 2002 at age 71, and Philomene Long died on August 21, 2007. They are interred side by side at Holy Cross Cemetery. On their marker are some lines from one of his poems: *Our Life: The One Secret that Surprises Death*.



John Thomas

Even the barrel of my pen  
is full of the ghosts of uncouth poets.

In case you wondered,  
they are the wild kidney. They are  
the bitter crackling sound I hear  
when Philomene brushes her hair.  
In case you wondered,  
they are the small transparent parasols  
all of us stroll beneath.

—John Thomas

Excerpt from *The Ghosts of the Poets*  
reproduced on the Venice Poetry Wall,  
west of Ocean Front Walk at Horizon  
Avenue.

Douglas Eisenstark salutes  
the Beachhead for its coverage of  
the Lincoln Place crisis.

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# DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR OCEAN FRONT

## ORDINANCE NO. SEC. 42.15. VENDING AND EXCESSIVE NOISE ON BEACHES PROHIBITED.

A. Except as specifically allowed in this section, no person shall engage in vending upon any public beach lands or beach properties adjoining the waterfront of the Pacific Ocean, or upon any immediately adjacent boardwalk, sidewalk or public way between the southerly boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the northerly boundary of the City of El Segundo and between the northwesterly boundary of the City of Santa Monica and the northwesterly boundary of the City of Los Angeles.

**1. Findings and Purpose.** The City Council of the City of Los Angeles finds and declares as follows:

(a) The Venice Beach Boardwalk is a major tourist attraction in the City of Los Angeles. The Venice Beach Boardwalk is historically significant as a traditional public forum for its performance and visual artists, as well as other free speech activity. Unregulated vending adversely affects the historic character of the Venice Beach Boardwalk resulting in an economic and cultural loss to the City. Therefore, the Venice Beach Boardwalk requires reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions to restore its unique historic character as a center of performance, art, and other free speech activity, preserve its status as a tourist attraction, to protect the local merchant economy, and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of residents, visitors, advocates, artists, performers, and vendors alike. Due to its unique historical, geographical, and physical characteristics, the Venice Beach Boardwalk requires its own set of rules and regulations different from other public parks in the City;

(b) Unregulated vending harms the Venice Beach Boardwalk, and therefore must be regulated because:

- (i) Tourists are deterred from visiting or shopping at the Boardwalk as they are constantly approached, solicited, and sometimes harassed by unregulated vendors. It is therefore necessary to regulate the time, place, and manner of vending on the Boardwalk, in order to ensure that tourists are not deterred from visiting or shopping at the Boardwalk;
- (ii) The amount of space on the Venice Beach Boardwalk that is available for performing and visual artists and for political advocacy is limited due to the size of the Boardwalk and the large crowds of visitors that the Boardwalk attracts. Due to the limited amount of space, unregulated vending along the Venice Beach Boardwalk prevents many persons from engaging in performance, art, advocacy or other expressive activities. Prior to the City's Board of Recreation and Parks Commission establishing a program for assignment of spaces, unregulated vending resulted in conflicting claims for the available space. There were numerous altercations over the locations and amounts of space that any one person or organization could use. Frequently, the altercations became violent requiring law enforcement response to preserve the public peace. Persons wishing to secure spaces often arrived prior to dawn and created loud noises in setting up their displays, thereby disturbing the public peace and requiring a law enforcement response. Unregulated, the Boardwalk became a place where only the strongest and earliest arrivals could secure space to exercise their rights of free expression without threat of intimidation. It is, therefore, necessary to regulate the use of the limited space on the Boardwalk to prevent conflicting claims for the space and to allocate the limited space available fairly to all who desire to use it for lawful purposes.
- (iii) Tables, pushcarts, stands, or equipment of persons engaged in vending impedes the orderly movement of pedestrian traffic and may make the Boardwalk unsafe for pedestrians by limiting the City's ability to effect crowd management and control. It is therefore necessary to regulate the use of equipment by vendors to manage the orderly movement of pedestrian traffic and avoid injuries to pedestrians;
- (iv) The vendors and their equipment may impede the ingress and egress of emergency and public safety vehicles by creating physical obstacles to emergency response and administration of aid to those in need of immediate medical attention and to victims of criminal activity. It is therefore necessary to regulate vendors and their use of equipment to avoid interference with emergency response vehicles that provide assistance to individuals with medical needs and victims of criminal activity;
- (v) Unregulated vending undermines the Boardwalk's commercial life by reducing sales by local merchants operating on private property abutting and adjacent to the Boardwalk, thereby eroding the City's tax revenues due to unfair competition, and by offering additional opportunity for the sale of stolen, defective or counterfeit merchandise. It is therefore necessary to regulate vending to protect the local merchant economy and revitalize the Venice Beach Boardwalk, which requires a vibrant and stable merchant, artist, performer and free speech advocacy community;
- (vi) Unregulated vending causes visual clutter/blight along the Boardwalk, impeding views of the beach and the Pacific Ocean, and threatening the City's ability to attract tourists and preserve businesses along the Boardwalk. It is therefore necessary to regulate the number of vendors, the size of their equipment, and displays, and the location of vending activity;
- (vii) Unregulated vending creates unnecessary, excessive and annoying noise on the Venice Beach Boardwalk, detrimental to the public health, welfare and safety, and contrary to the public interest, harms residents, businesses, and the historic character of the Boardwalk, diminishing the quality of life for those who visit, live or work on or near the Boardwalk. It is therefore necessary to establish restrictions on noise at the Boardwalk;
- (viii) The Recreation Area between Horizon Avenue and 20th Avenue is a site that frequently holds special events. It is the location of a police substation where vehicles require the ability for unobstructed ingress and egress. It is also where many people engage in skateboarding, tennis, and other sports and exercise. The Recreation Area between Horizon Avenue and 20th Avenue, therefore, requires a special permit system to regulate activity in that area, and prevent incompatible uses of space.

**2. Action.** To address these findings and purposes, the City has created reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on vending. To preserve the Venice Beach Boardwalk's rich history of fostering new artists, performance, and other free speech activity, the City has divided the available space on the Boardwalk between performers, advocates, artists, and those vending items inextricably

intertwined with a political, philosophical, religious or ideological message. Therefore, the City has:

- (a) Created an area where persons can perform, engage in traditional expressive speech, and petitioning activities, and vend the following items: newspapers, leaflets, pamphlets, bumper stickers, patches, or buttons, or books or recordings (The P-Zone);
- (b) Created areas where persons may engage in activities permissible in the P-Zone, and also engage in vending of expressive items created by the vendor, or the vending of items which are inextricably intertwined with the vendor's message (The I-Zones); and
- (c) Created reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on activities outside those areas.

### B. P-Zone.

1. Vending any item in the P-Zone not exempted by subdivision 2 of this subsection is a violation of this section and is subject to the penalties described in subsection H.

2. P-Zone Exemptions. Subject to the permit requirements of subdivision 4 of this subsection:

- (a) Any person may: (i) Vend newspapers, leaflets, pamphlets, bumper stickers, patches, or buttons; and (ii) Vend books created by the vendor.
- (b) Performers may vend audio, video, or other recordings of their performances; and
- (c) Any person may give away food, goods, merchandise, services, or performances, free of charge, and may ask for a donation subject to the condition that they shall display, visible to the public, a placard provided by the City stating "Donations appreciated. No contribution required."

3. P-Zone Spaces. The Board will designate spaces on the Venice Boardwalk for allocation in the P-Zone according to rules promulgated by the Board consistent with this section. There shall be at least 120 spaces designated in the P-Zone.

4. P-Zone Permit System. The allocation of spaces shall be determined according to the following permit system:

- (a) Permits required for assigned spaces in the P-Zone during Peak Season. During the "peak season," defined as the Saturday before Memorial Day through November 1 of each year, any person desiring to occupy an assigned space shall obtain a permit, and spaces shall be assigned to persons possessing a permit according to the rules promulgated by the Board consistent with this section. P-Zone permits shall not be valid in the I-Zone.
- (b) Exception: During peak season after 12:00 p.m. (noon) any person, whether or not a permit holder, may use any unoccupied space in the P-Zone subject to all other provisions of this section; provided that if the permit holder to which the space was assigned arrives after noon and asks to use his/her assigned space, the person not assigned the space shall immediately relinquish the space to the assigned permit holder.
- (c) Permit Applications for the P-Zone during Peak Season. An application requesting a non-transferable peak season permit for the P-Zone shall only require the applicant's name.

5. Unallocated Spaces in the P-Zone. Ten of the 120 designated P-Zone spaces shall be made available on a first-come, first serve basis for persons engaged in activity that is not vending and does not use amplified sound. Two of those spaces shall be made available for persons giving away food.

### C. I-Zones.

1. Vending any item in the I-Zones not exempted by subdivision 2 of this subsection is a violation of this section and is subject to the penalties described in subsection E.

2. I-Zone exemptions. Subject to the permit requirements of subdivision 4 of this subsection:

- (a) All activities permissible in the P-Zone are also permissible in the I-Zones; and
- (b) Any person may vend the following items: expressive items which have been created, written or composed by the person, or are inextricably intertwined with the message of the person vending the items. Such items may include, but are not limited to, books, cassettes tapes, compact discs, video digital discs, paintings, photographs and sculptures. For purposes of this paragraph, expressive items shall be deemed to have been created by the vendor only if they have been predominantly authored, performed, recorded, filmed, or otherwise made or assembled by the vendor.

3. I-Zone Spaces. The Board will designate spaces on the Venice Boardwalk for allocation in the I-Zones according to rules promulgated by the Board consistent with this section. There shall be at least 100 spaces designated in the I-Zones.

4. I-Zone Permit System. The allocation of spaces shall be determined according to the following permit system:

- (a) Permits required for use of space in the I-Zone. I-Zone permits shall not be valid to vend in the P-Zone. No person shall occupy space in the I-Zone unless that person possesses a valid permit issued by the Department of Recreation and Parks. After 12:00 p.m. (noon), any permit holder may use an unoccupied space in the I-Zone subject to all other provisions of this section; provided that if the permit holder to which the space was assigned arrives after noon and requests to use his/her assigned space, the person not assigned the space shall immediately relinquish the space to the assigned permit holder.
- (b) Permit Applications for the I-Zone. Any person desiring to occupy an assigned space to vend items in the I-Zone shall file an application for a non-transferable permit with the Department of Recreation and Parks. The application shall require:
  - (i) The applicant's name and a mailing address at which the City may provide notice to the applicant;
  - (ii) A description of the goods or merchandise for which the applicant seeks a permit;
  - (iii) A declaration that the goods or merchandise for which the applicant seeks a permit are expressive items of the applicant's own creation or are inextricably intertwined with the message

of the applicant

### D. Special Rules for Areas on the Boardwalk outside the P-Zone and I-Zone.

#### 1. Areas Outside the P-Zone and I-Zones

(a) Activities allowed without equipment on the Boardwalk outside the P-Zone and I-Zones. The following activity may occur in all other areas covered by this section, provided that no person may set up a display table, easel, or other furniture, use a pushcart or other vehicle or place any item on the property defined in subsection A except as provided in subdivision 1.b of this subsection.:

- (i) Any person may vend newspapers, leaflets, pamphlets, bumper stickers, patches, or buttons, and recordings or books or recordings created by vendor.
- (ii) Any person may vend any other item that is inextricably intertwined with speech.
- (iii) Any person may engage in any activity permissible in the P-Zone.

(b) Activities allowed with limited equipment on the Westside of the Boardwalk outside the P-Zone or I-Zone. Any activity permitted in the P-Zone may occur on the Westside of the Boardwalk outside of the P-Zone or I-Zone so long as such activity is not vending, does not substantially impede or obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and subject to reasonable size and height restrictions on any table, easel, or other furniture in connection with that activity, as set forth in the Program Rules.

2. Special Permit System for the Recreation Area between Horizon Avenue and 20th Avenue.

- (a) A permit is required for any activity in the Recreation Area that involves more than 15 people.
- (b) No permit is required for an activity in the Recreation Area that involves less than 15 people. Such activity shall not interfere with any other activity in the Recreation Area.
- (c) No vending, no amplified sound, and no display tables, easels, pushcarts or other vehicles, or structures in the Recreation Area without a permit.

**E. Use of City Property for Vending, Performance, or Display Prohibited.** No person shall use any City-owned or maintained street furniture or structure for vending, performance, or display of anything whatsoever, including but not limited to, use of any bench, planter or trash receptacle installed on public property.

### F. Noise Regulation for the area described in subsection A.

1. No person, group or business shall create any noise, or allow the creation of any noise, which causes the noise level to exceed the following Lmax levels between 9:00 a.m. and sunset:
  - (a) 75 dBA, when measured at a minimum distance of twenty-five feet from the source of the noise; or,
  - (b) 96 dBA, when measured at a minimum distance of one foot from the source of the noise.
2. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the City from enforcing other provisions of this Code relating to noise.
3. Between sunset and 9:00 a.m., the provisions of Chapter 11 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, Sections 111 through 115, inclusive, shall apply. In addition, at all times, Los Angeles Municipal Code Sections 41.42, 41.57, 53.63, 63.44 relating to noise shall also apply.
4. No person or business shall interfere with or resist the taking of any noise measurement authorized by this section.
5. Amplified sound may be generated in the following areas subject to the other requirements of this section, and as long as any speaker or sound reproduction system is placed on the ground and is no more than three feet in height:
  - (a) Between Windward and Clubhouse Court, with the exception of Space Number 37 (specific address to be added)) and off Market Street;
  - (b) Clubhouse Court to Wavecrest Court;
  - (c) Between Breeze Court and Brooks Court;
  - (d) Between Brooks Court and Park Court;
  - (e) Area North of Windward. (specific address to be added)
6. Amplified Sound is prohibited in the following areas:
  - (a) At the intersection Market Street and the Boardwalk (specific address to be added);
  - (b) Between Horizon and Westminster;
  - (c) Between Wavecrest Court and Breeze Court;
  - (d) Between Park Court and Thornton Court;
  - (e) Between Thornton Court and Sunset Court;
  - (f) Between Sunset Court and Paloma Court;
  - (g) Between Paloma Court and Dudley Avenue;
  - (h) Between Dudley Avenue and Rose Avenue.
7. Notwithstanding the regulations regarding amplified sound, the City may issue special event permits.

### G. Enforcement

1. Conduct subject to administrative enforcement. The Board may adopt rules consistent with this section for space allocation and reasonable time, place and manner regulation of the I-Zone and the P-Zone. Except as provided in subsection H, violations of rules promulgated by the Board shall be subject to administrative enforcement by the City as follows:
  - (a) A permit may be revoked in accordance with the Program Rules adopted by the Board for violations of any provision of this section or the Program Rules. Revocation shall occur upon a third violation of a Program Rule, a third violation of the conditions set forth in this section, or a combination of any three violations of the Program Rules or conditions set forth in this section. A notice of violation of the Program Rules may be appealed to the Department of Recreation and Parks District Supervisor. Revocation of a permit may be appealed to the Panel of Vending Permit Appeals. No action of the Panel of Vending Permit Appeals may be taken by less than a majority of its members. The conclusion of the applicable appeal process shall constitute an exhaustion of administrative remedies pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5.
  - (b) Only those persons who obtain I-Zone permits may invoke the administrative appeals process described in subparagraph (a) of this subdivision. Persons vending without a permit in the I-Zone shall be subject to the penalties described in subsection H.
2. Conduct subject to criminal penalties. Conduct in the P-Zone or

—continued on page 11

**Take this with you  
to the Town Hall  
Meeting on the  
Ordinance:  
Thursday, Feb. 7  
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
at the Oakwood  
Recreation Ctr,  
767 California Ave.**

the I-Zone that is prohibited by the following paragraphs shall be subject to the penalties described in subsection H:

- (a) No person shall place or allow anything in any designated space that extends beyond the boundaries of the designated space.
  - (b) No person shall place or allow any item (except an umbrella or other sun shade) exceeding four feet above ground in any designated space, nor shall any person cause or allow a designated space to be enclosed on more than two sides.
  - (c) No person occupying a space shall leave such space for a period longer than 45 minutes without first removing all items therefrom.
  - (d) No person shall occupy more than a single space at any given time, nor shall any person, business or group solicit another person to obtain or occupy a space on their behalf.
  - (e) No person shall purchase, sell, barter or exchange any assigned space with any other person.
3. No person shall alter or reproduce any permit issued pursuant to this section, nor shall any person possess an altered, reproduced or falsified permit document. A violation of this paragraph shall be subject to the penalties described in subsection H.

**H. Violations.** Except for the administrative enforcement provided in subdivision 1 of subsection G, any person violating a provision of this section shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. First offense. Infraction.
2. Second offense. Infraction.
3. Subsequent offenses. Misdemeanor. The violation of any provision which would otherwise be an infraction shall be a misdemeanor if the person who has violated such provision has previously been convicted of two or more violations of this section within the 24-month period immediately preceding the current offense. For this purpose, a bail forfeiture shall be deemed to be a conviction of the offense charged.

**I. Opening and Closing Hours.** No person shall engage in activities not otherwise prohibited by this section between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

**J. Posted Notice.** The City shall post signs in the P- Zone and the I- Zone providing notice of the rules of use of each Zone consistent with this section.

**K. Severability.** If any provision or application of a provision of this section is held invalid, the remainder of the section and application of its provisions will not be affected.

**L. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

1. Performance/Free Speech Zone (P-Zone). An area on the Venice Boardwalk designated by the City, located south of Paloma Avenue and north of 17th Street, in which the City will allocate spaces for performers and speakers. Vending shall be prohibited in this area except as provided in subdivision 2 of subsection B of this section.
2. Inextricably Intertwined Speech Zones (I-Zones). An area on or near the Venice Boardwalk designated by the City, located at the Windward Plaza area and on the Boardwalk south of Navy Street and north of Paloma Avenue, in which the City will allocate spaces for the vending of goods that are created by the vendor or inextricably intertwined with speech. Vending shall be prohibited in this area except as provided in subdivision 2 of subsection C of this section.
3. Board. The City's Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.
4. City. The City of Los Angeles, a municipal corporation, acting by or through any of its officers, employees or agencies, including, but not limited to, the City's Department of Recreation and Parks.
5. Donation. A gift; a voluntary act which is not required and does not require anything in return.
6. Food. Any type of edible substance or beverage.
7. Goods or Merchandise. Any items that are not food.
8. Panel of Vending Permit Appeals. A three-person board consisting of: a representative from the Park Advisory Board designated by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners; a community member designated by the City Councilperson; and the General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks or the General Manager's designee.
9. Person. An individual or an organization composed of two or more individuals.
10. Program Rules. Rules adopted by the Board consistent with this section.
11. Pushcart. Any non-motorized mobile device that holds food, goods or merchandise as defined in this subsection, and is used to vend.
12. Recreation Area between Horizon Avenue and 20th Avenue. This is the area that includes a police substation, Muscle Beach, tennis courts, other recreational facilities. This does not include the Westside of the Boardwalk immediately adjacent to this area.
13. Vend or Vending. To sell, offer for sale, expose for sale, solicit offers to purchase, or to barter food, goods, merchandise or services in any area from a stand, table, pushcart, motor vehicle, bicycle, or by a person with or without the use of any other device or other method of transportation, or to require someone to pay a fee or to set, negotiate, or establish a fee before providing goods or services, even if characterized by the vendor as a donation.
14. Vendor. A person who vends. This includes a vendor who is an employee or agent of another.
15. Westside of the Boardwalk. The area on the ocean-side of the Venice Beach Boardwalk.

# CommUnity Events — day by day



**Tuesday, February 5**

- **Election Day** - Don't forget to vote! Find your precinct at 800-815-2666 or LAVote.net
- **10:30am - Toddler Storytime** - Rainbow Colors - Abbot Kinney Library. FREE

**Wednesday, February 6**

- **6:30pm - Trespassing.** Compelling documentary showing the risks indigenous people and other environmentalists take to protect sacred Native American lands. Live Music by Greg Cruz's Venice Street Legends. SPONTO.

**Thursday, February 7**

- **5pm - Open reading** with Ray Lanthier, Mariano Zaro and Jeanne Marie Spicuzza. Open sign up 4:45pm. 2 poem limit. FREE. Beyond Baroque.
- **6:30pm - 9:30pm** - Bill Rosendahl to hold **Town Hall Meeting** on draft Ocean Front Walk Ordinance. Oakwood Recreation Center. 767 California Ave.
- **7:30pm - Sander Hicks** - writer, publisher, editor and activist. Opening musical act with Jason Heath. Beyond Baroque.

**Saturday, February 9**

- **1-5pm - Celebrate Mardi Gras** - New Orleans Jazz with T-Lou and his Zydeco band. Benefit for ReUnite America and Make It Right foundations. Uncle Darrow's, 2560 Lincoln Blvd. Free Admission.
- **7:30pm - Beyond Music** - Damion Romero, Zbigniew Karowski, Ulrich Krieger, Joe & Joe, Monsturo and Daniel Menche. \$10. Beyond Baroque.

**Sunday, February 10**

- **3-8pm - Valentine's Tea Festival.** Featuring teas and flavors of China. Electric Lodge. \$10 in advance. \$15 at door. FREE for kids under 12.
- **7:30pm - Philly-LA Jazz and poetry** with Heat Press. Night of poetry and jazz. Beyond Baroque.

**Monday, February 11**

- **6:30pm - Magic Show.** Tony Daniels is back, dazzling us with his magic, humor and fun. Venice Public Library. FREE.

**Wednesday, February 13**

- **7pm - Our Gang Comedies Revisited** - Venice Historical Society - at the Abbot Kinney Library - 967-5170

**Friday, February 15**

- **7:30pm - Poets,** James P. Lenfestey, Charlotte Innes and Jackson Wheeler. Beyond Baroque.

**Saturday, February 16**

- **7pm - Jazz Funk Festival.** Live music with Black Shoe Polish, Freddie Ginns and Eric Ahlberg. SPONTO. FREE.
- **7:30pm - Spirit of Southern California Poetry series:** Suzanne Lummis. Teacher, author, founder of the Los Angeles Poetry Festival. Beyond Baroque. FREE.

**Monday, February 18**

- **6-8pm - PXL THIS 17.** Celebrate the 20th year of toy video camera filmmaking at the Unurban Coffeehouse. FREE.

**Tuesday, February 19**

- 7-10pm - **Venice Neighborhood Council meets** - Westminster School Auditorium - Enter on San Juan, off Abbot Kinney Blvd. **Fences and Hedges** on the Agenda. www.grvnc.org

**Wednesday, February 20**

- **7pm - Magic of Market.** One of the most influential radical sci-fi films ever made by Chris Marker. SPONTO. FREE.

**Friday, February 22**

- **7:30pm - Ellen Bass and Eloise Klein Healy.** Beyond Baroque. FREE.

**Saturday, February 23**

- **7:30pm** - The collected poems of **Philip Whalen.** Poet Philip Whalen was a key figure in the San Francisco Renaissance. Guests and other readers. Beyond Baroque. FREE.

**Sunday, February 24**

- **10am-1pm** - The **Backboners** will perform music at the Santa Monica Farmers Market at the corner of Main and Ocean Park. FREE.
- **7pm - Beyond Music** - Party People, Tobias Jelinek, Sea Otter, Geneva Jacuzzi, Jason Yates and special guests. Join us for an evening of experimental audio-visual collaborative works. Beyond Baroque.
- **7pm - In The Project Room:** "One chord Wonders." A show focusing on ideas about collaboration at the intersection of art and music. Beyond Baroque.

**Tuesday, February 26**

- **10:30am - Toddler Storytime.** On the go! Abbot Kinney Library. Free.
- **6:30pm - Town Hall on Homelessness** - Venice Neighborhood Council - Westminster School Auditorium (see advertisement in this Beachhead).

**Thursday, February 28**

- **7:30pm - Beyond Music** - Thomas Ankersmit, Mitchell Brown, Phil Niblock and Tom Recchion. \$12. Beyond Baroque.

**Friday, February 29**

- **7:30pm - Sharon Doubiago and Lenore Weiss.** Poets and authors. Hosted by Richard Modiano. Beyond Baroque.

**Ongoing Events**

- **7:30-10pm. First Friday** of every month. Abbot Kinney Blvd. is open!
- **5-7pm, Wednesdays** - Eat Sushi and **Dance Salsa** at the Canal Club. 2025 Pacific Ave. 7:30pm- Salsa lesson with Ana Maria Alvarez. Six session salsa workshops \$75/6 classes or \$15 per-class. Dancing and DJ afterwards.
- **8pm, Thurs., Fri., and Sat.** - 3pm Sundays - **Alice Sit-by-the-Fire** written by J.M. Barrie - Pacific Resident Theater, 705 1/2 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - \$20-\$25
- **8pm, Thurs., Fri., and Sat.** - 3pm Sundays - **The Time of Your Life** by William Saroyan - Coop Theater, 707 Venice Blvd. 460-2508 - \$12.
- **8pm, Fridays & Saturdays** - 2pm Sundays - **@Heart at the Ruskin Theater**, 3000 Airport Ave., S.M. 305-7888.
- **Live Music at The Good Hurt**, 12249 Venice Blvd, Check out week of events at -events@goodhurt.net
- **10am - 12pm, Sundays** - "The People's Voice" - Stand up for freedom of speech. At Santa Monica Palisades Park. Ocean Ave at Santa Monica Blvd.

**Location Guide**

- Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd, 821-1769
- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
- Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave, 306-1854, max10@electriclodge.org
- Hal's Bar and Grill, 1349 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 396-3105 - www.halsbarandgrill.com
- Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 - www.pacificresidenttheatre.com
- SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. 822-9560 x 15.
- Sponto Gallery, 7 Dudley Ave, Free, 306-7330, pfsuzy@aol.com
- Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from San Juan Ave.) 606-2015

**The**



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Don't let them pay for our mistakes...



STOP GLOBAL WARMING

