



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Advocates For Bail and Criminal Justice Reform Send Message on Eve of Christmas Using Jail Beds**

*JusticeLA and L.A. artists team up to place over 50 jail beds  
around Los Angeles to call attention to those incarcerated for the holidays*

**LOS ANGELES, CALIF.** – Twas’ the morning before Christmas and *JusticeLA* and L.A. area artists collaborated to place over 50 jail beds throughout L.A. County as a reminder of the thousands of people incarcerated in L.A. County jails during the holiday season. Kicking off #JailBedDrop, *JusticeLA* co-founder **Patrisse Cullors** joined new media artist **Jasmine Nyende** in the historic Los Angeles African American community of Baldwin Hills at the intersection of Crenshaw and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvds. in an effort to remind Angelinos getting in their last day of shopping before the Christmas holiday that for millions of people in America and thousands in L.A. County, Christmas will be spent in a jail cell and without their families loved ones simply because they are poor and cannot afford the high cost of bail. The jail beds are also being used to further the conversation around the County’s decision to invest \$3.5 billion dollars into expanding the world’s largest jail system instead of community-based alternatives to incarceration.

“Los Angeles County is embarking on one of the largest jail construction projects in the history of jails and prisons,” **said JusticeLA co-founder Patrisse Cullors.** “JusticeLA has come together in our latest art action to highlight those who are most impacted by incarceration over the holidays. This holiday season millions of incarcerated people

won't see loved ones, enjoy a holiday dinner with family or spend time with their children. Instead they will sit in a jail cell. This jail bed action is to remind to all of this holiday season about what we should be investing in and that is community-based alternatives to jails that keep families together.”

*JusticeLA* advocates for funding to go into community-based alternatives and not jails to address the communities with the highest rates of imprisonment. Those communities tend to be primarily poor and working class communities of color that are also disproportionately high in unemployment, home foreclosures, school cutbacks, inadequate access to healthcare and lower-than-average life expectancies.

New media artist **Jasmine Nyende added**, “This project is about showing love and compassion to my family. Our community has been separated, caged and sold off for generations. I hope this bed inspires people to write and think of their loved ones in prison or jail.”

In addition to Baldwin Hills, jail beds were placed in over 50 other locations by local artists throughout Los Angeles County including Inglewood, Compton, Palmdale, Lancaster, San Fernando Valley, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Manhattan Beach. Each artist worked with different topics around incarceration including mental illness, women, People of Color, youth, LGBTQ and more.

“This project provided a way for me to express my feelings about the prison industrial complex from the perspective of a loved one,” **explained Cole James, one of the featured artists whose jail bed is on display in Carson at the South Bay Pavillion.** “The loss, longing and destruction caused by the system of penitentiaries extends far beyond their bars. It is shredding the happiness of families.”

**Artist Qwazi added**, “My brother is an inmate at Wasco State Prison. A brother’s bond is unexplainable, but the distance set between us is fully tangible. The thin glass that separates our conversation is endless and the anxiety of it gets the best of both of us. His children will be teenagers the next time they hold and hug their father and I will be in my 40's when I can finally have a beer with my brother. I am not proud of the reasons for which he is there, but I do know he needs rehab instead of incarceration. I fear he will lose his humanity and loving heart in a place so lonely and dark. My feelings of helplessness grow daily and my heart has been heavy since the day he was arrested. This was an opportunity for me to express the oppression which has been laid upon my brother and myself.”

Qwazi's jail bed will be on display in South Gate at the Azalea Regional Shopping Center.

Alabama native, **Ciara Green** is a self-taught artist and a business owner who fosters her craft in Los Angeles. Her brother Dewey has been wrongfully serving a sentence of life without parole at Smith State Prison in Georgia since 2015. During his time there he has written her many letters of which excerpts have been taken to be used as a part of her jail bed project on display in Beverly Hills. Ciara says the words that are harsh and painful to read, but it is the reality of those who are incarcerated.

"This bed represents an innocent man in prison," said **Ciara Green**. "A man who is serving a life without parole sentence for having a seizure while driving and accidentally killing someone. This bed represents our justice system in America failing us. This bed represents a man who at the age of 23 had his entire life stolen from him because of a medical condition. This bed represents my brother. This bed represents the lives who have been wrongfully incarcerated."

In L.A. County, 40 percent of female inmates are Latino while 32 percent are Black. The men's facilities' population is currently 50% Latino and 30% Black – over 80% people of color. While Black people make up less than 9% of L.A. County's population, they are almost a third of the county jail population. The most impacted districts in L.A. County are Districts 1 & 2 represented by Supervisors Hilda Solis and Mark Ridley-Thomas and encompassing the larger areas of East L.A. and South L.A.—neighborhoods that are predominantly low-income/working class, migrant, Black and Latino. More than half of those imprisoned have not been convicted of a crime and cannot afford bail.

In September, JusticeLA launched their campaign to fight back against the L.A. County Board of Supervisors plan to spend \$3.5 billion on jail construction and expansion by coordinating the largest display of jail beds ever used in a demonstration when the set up 100 jail beds in the middle of downtown Los Angeles.

**To follow and see all of the artists and their jail beds on display Christmas Eve, follow @JusticeLANow on social media and the hashtag #jailbeddrop.**

## **About JusticeLA**

**JusticeLA** was formed in 2017 by Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and Dignity and Power Now along with anchor organizations: **Californians United for**

**Responsible Budget (CURB), Community Coalition, Dignity and Power Now, Immigrant Youth Coalition, TransLatin@ Coalition, Revolve Impact and Youth Justice Coalition.** In partnership with a coalition of community organizations working with directly impacted communities affected by incarceration, JusticeLA's mandate is to reclaim, reimagine and reinvest what L.A. County could do with the \$3.5 billion allocated to building a 3,885-bed replacement for the downtown Men's Central Jail and to renovate the now-vacant Mira Loma Detention Center into a 1,600-bed women's facility in Lancaster—replacing the Lynwood facility.  
More information at [www.justicelanow.org](http://www.justicelanow.org).

**List of Jail Bed Drop Sites (in alphabetical order by city)**

**Agoura Hills**

Whizin Market Square  
28914 Roadside Dr, Agoura Hills  
Artist: Bea Lamar

**Alhambra**

Alhambra Place  
100 East Main St., Alhambra  
Artist: Maytha Alhassen

**Arcadia**

LGBT Center of San Gabriel  
2607 S Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia  
Artist: David Chen

**Arcadia**

Westfield Santa Anita  
400 S Baldwin Ave., Arcadia  
Artist: Ana Carolina Estarita Guerrero (as  
Guadalupe Bermúdez)

**Azusa**

Edgewood Shopping Center  
153 E Gladstone St., Azusa  
Artist: Micol Hebron

**Baldwin Park**

Police Station  
14403 Pacific Ave., Baldwin Park  
Artist: Kevin Flores

**Bell**

Bell Shopping Center  
5029 E Florence Ave., Bell  
Artist: Brandon Thomas

**Bellflower**

Intersection of Bellflower Blvd. and Belmont  
St.  
Artist: Cinthia Marisol Lozano

**Beverly Hills**

Rodeo Drive and Dayton Way  
Artist: Ciara Green

**Boyle Heights**

Mariachi Plaza  
730 Pleasant Ave, Boyle Heights  
Artists: Brittany Estrada and Nelly Zagury

**Calabasas**

Calabasas Commons  
4799 Commons Way, Calabasas  
Artist: Bea Lamar

**Carson**

South Bay Pavillion  
Near Target  
20700 S Avalon Blvd., Carson  
Artist: Cole James

**Cerritos**

Cerritos Station - Sheriff's Department  
18135 Bloomfield Ave, Cerritos  
Artist: Julio Trejo

**Compton**

Intersection of Willowbrook Ave. and  
Compton Blvd.  
Artist: Ana Ruth Castillo

**Culver City**

Veterans Memorial Park  
4177 Overland Ave., Culver City  
Artist: Josh Sugiyama

**Downey**

Stonewood Mall  
251 Stonewood St., Downey  
Artist: Mariella Saba

**Downtown Los Angeles**

Main St. between Temple St. and Aliso St.  
Artist: Kim Robertson

**Downtown Los Angeles**

Fig and 7th  
Artist: Matt Miyahara

**Downtown Los Angeles**

Little Tokyo  
2nd St. and San Pedro Ave.  
Artist: Tazer

**Downtown Los Angeles**

Little Tokyo Galleria  
333 S Alameda St.  
Artist: Alan Glover

**Downtown Los Angeles**

Twin Towers Correctional Facility  
450 Bauchet St, Los Angeles  
Artist: Giancarlo Campos

**El Monte**

Intersection of Santa Anita and Valley  
Artist: Martina Aguilar

**Glendora**

Lone Hill Shopping Center  
1836 E Rte 66 Glendora  
Artist: Shannon Pollak

**Hawthorne**

Intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and El  
Segundo Blvd.  
Artist: Michael Massenburg

**Hermosa Beach**

Plaza Hermosa  
715 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach  
Artist: Anna Evans-Goldstein

**Hollywood**

Hollywood United Methodist Church  
6817 Franklin Ave, Hollywood  
Artist: Anna Mkhikian

**Huntington Park**

Intersection of Pacific Blvd. and Gage Ave.  
Artist: Austin Fenton

**Inglewood**

Inglewood Park Cemetery  
720 E Florence Ave., Inglewood  
Artist: Tyler Hicks

**Inglewood**

Intersection of Crenshaw Blvd. and Century  
Blvd.  
Artist: Rosie Shields

**Lakewood**

Lakewood Mall  
500 Lakewood Center Mall, Lakewood  
Artist: Ayesha Waraich

**Lancaster**

Mira Loma Detention Center  
45100 60th St W, Lancaster  
Artist: Michelle Navarrete

**Larchmont**

Larchmont Ave. between 1st St. and  
Beverly Blvd.  
Artist: Dwora Fried

**Lawndale**

Alondra Park  
850 W. Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale  
Artist: Tracee Johnson

**Lincoln Heights**

Former Lincoln Heights Jail  
421 N Ave 19, Lincoln Heights  
Artist: Gabriel Gutierrez

### **Long Beach**

Long Beach Pike  
95 S Pine Ave., Long Beach  
Artist: Joe Miramontes

### **Los Angeles - South**

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall  
3650 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Baldwin  
Hills  
Artist: Jasmine Nyende

### **Los Angeles - UCLA**

Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden -  
Hammer Museum  
UCLA  
245 Charles E Young Dr E, Los Angeles,  
CA 90095  
Artists: Isabella and Ben

### **Los Angeles - Westside**

Beverly Center  
Beverly and La Cienega  
Artist: Andre Simmons

### **Lynwood**

Plaza Mexico  
3100 E Imperial Hwy., Lynwood  
Artists: Marlene Tafoya and Cindy Vallejo

### **Malibu**

Malibu Country Mart  
3835 Cross Creek Rd, Malibu  
Artist: Todd Bank

### **Manhattan Beach**

Manhattan Village Shopping Center  
3200 N Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach  
Artist: Brianna Mims

### **Monrovia**

Monrovia Shopping Center  
300 W Huntington Dr., Monrovia  
Artist: Yasamin Safarzadeh

### **Montebello**

Montebello Mall  
2134 Montebello Town Center, Montebello  
Artist: Joel Garcia

### **Norwalk**

Norwalk Town Square  
11633 The Plaza, Norwalk  
Artist: Aida Ghorbani

### **Palmdale**

Antelope Valley Mall  
1233 Rancho Vista Blvd., Palmdale  
Artist: Samuel Mokelu

### **Paramount**

Paramount Park Plaza Shopping Center  
8540 Alondra Blvd., Paramount  
Artist: Gloria Sanchez

### **Pasadena**

Paseo Colorado  
300 E Colorado Blvd., Pasadena  
Artists: Tim and Rachel

### **Rancho Palos Verdes**

Beachside  
Artists: Asli Semizoglu and Asli Tusavul

### **Redondo Beach**

South Bay Galleria  
1815 Hawthorne Blvd., Redondo Beach  
Artist: Maya Mackrandilal

### **Rosemead**

Rosemead Place Shopping Center  
3500 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead  
Artist: Mark x Farina

### **San Fernando**

San Fernando Mall  
1021 San Fernando Rd., San Fernando

Artist: Irina Contreras

**San Fernando**

Intersection of San Fernando Rd at  
Magnolia Ave.  
Artist: Sheila Pinkel

**Santa Clarita**

The Plaza at Golden Valley  
19001-19415 Golden Valley Rd., Santa  
Clarita  
Artist: Joe Galarza

**Santa Monica**

Third Street Promenade  
Downtown Santa Monica  
Artist: Claudia Borgna

**South Gate**

Azalea Regional Shopping Center  
4635 Firestone Blvd., South Gate  
Artist: Qwazi

**South Pasadena**

Main Shopping Street near Gold line station  
Artist: Mary-Linn and Reginald

**Torrance**

Del Amo Fashion Center  
3525 W Carson St., Torrance  
Artist: Kingsley Ume

**Westlake Village**

Village at Westlake  
Artist: Todd Bank

**West Covina**

West Covina Mall  
112 Plaza Dr., West Covina  
Artist: Graciela Lopez

**West Hollywood**

Melrose and Crescent Heights, West  
Hollywood  
Artist: Chandra Anderson

**Whittier**

Quad at Whittier  
13502 Whittier Blvd., Whittier  
Artist: Andrea Castillo