

## **Community Art Build: ROSE in Collaboration with Kaos Network and LA Commons**

ROSE SLA leads third community event to honor victims and call for a public memorial

**By Jasmyne Cannick**

Los Angeles, CA — Under clear blue skies and warm spring sunshine, Leimert Park was alive with rhythm, color, and community on March 30, as residents from across Los Angeles gathered for the third event hosted by Reclaiming Our Sisters Everywhere South LA (ROSE SLA). A project of the Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders, the gathering continued a growing grassroots campaign calling for a permanent public memorial honoring the victims of the Grim Sleeper.

The event brought out families, elders, artists, youth, and activists—some who have been part of this fight for decades, and others newly joining the cause. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, love, and a quiet power. The Leimert Park drummers opened the day, grounding everyone in the legacy of South LA's Black cultural and political organizing.

"We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day," said Margaret Prescod, who hosted the event. Prescod, a longtime activist, journalist, and founder of the coalition, has led the charge in bringing attention to the Grim Sleeper's victims since the 1980s. "The sun was shining, the children were painting, the drummers were playing—it was the kind of day that reminds you why we keep fighting. Because this community deserves joy, and these women deserve to be remembered with dignity."

The event featured interactive art stations including fan-making, banner painting, poster collages, and a children's project, allowing attendees to create while also processing the grief and history surrounding the case. The energy throughout the park was vibrant yet intentional—an expression of collective memory and purpose.

The day also included a special performance by hip-hop legend Medusa, who electrified the crowd with her words and presence.

Filmmaker Nick Broomfield, director of *Tales of the Grim Sleeper*, attended the event and spoke with participants throughout the afternoon. "This story shocked the world when people finally heard it, but the community here has been living with it for decades," Broomfield said. "This memorial is a critical step in making sure these women's lives are remembered and respected."

The event was held in partnership with Ben Caldwell, founder of Kaos Network, a longtime Leimert Park institution dedicated to arts and multimedia training. "Leimert Park has always been the heart of Black creative resistance in this city," Caldwell said. "When we gather here in honor of these women, we're doing more than remembering—we're reclaiming space and narrative."

The event was presented in partnership with LA Commons, and the ongoing series of workshops and gatherings is supported in part by Arts in California Parks.

ROSE SLA and its partners are calling for a public memorial in South Los Angeles, rooted in the community where these women lived and died.

“These women were ignored while they were alive. They were failed by law enforcement, by the media, by the city,” Prescod said. “We need a memorial in South LA to honor who they were.”

The Grim Sleeper, identified as Lonnie Franklin Jr., murdered at least ten Black women between 1985 and 2007, though the actual number of victims is believed to be far higher. Most of the women were Black, poor, some were unhoused, and many battled addiction—making them easy targets in a city that has historically devalued the lives of Black women. Franklin was convicted in 2016 and died in prison in 2020.

The event was both a rallying cry and a reminder that this movement is rooted in love, not just loss. The day closed with children playing, elders reflecting, and artists cleaning up supplies under golden light—evidence that even in the face of tragedy, community care endures.

For more information about the memorial campaign and ways to get involved, follow @rose\_southla and visit [rosesouthla.com](https://rosesouthla.com).