

POSITIVE
vibes

presents

2nd Annual

REUNION
JAZZ & BLUES
FEST

Riverside White Park

Sunday, September 4, 2022

Gates Open @ 12:00 PM

Concert: 2:00 PM — 10:00 PM

MARK TAKANO

41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2022

Dear Friends,

As the Representative of California's 41st District, it is a pleasure and honor to send my greetings to you as you gather in Downtown Riverside for the 2nd Annual Reunion Jazz & Blues Festival.

The Reunion Jazz & Blues Festival was created to bring together the Riverside community with local artists, businesses, and organizations. Amidst the pandemic, this sold-out event was hosted by the local nonprofit, *Positive Vibes Musicians Movement*. *Positive Vibes* is a nonprofit organization aimed to bring communities together while raising awareness and resources for neighborhood-based organizations and events. Through numerous events, *Positive Vibes* has raised funds to support musicians and other local nonprofits, donated money to local scholarship programs, and boosted the revenue of community businesses. I thank you for your work in our community and for putting together The Reunion Festival.

Last year, this festival delivered a much-needed service to our community through public service booths, such as COVID-19 vaccinations, Fair Housing Authority, Office of Civil Rights, health screenings, civic and historical information, and other nonprofits. Additionally, the event delivered support for a range of food vendors and merchandise including local businesses, hotels, restaurants, and other retail stores. This successful event boosted the Riverside community economy and positively impacted the lives of many Riversiders. I am excited for the impact that the festival will have on our community this year.

Again, I am honored to send my best wishes on a successful event and thank you all for supporting local vendors and artists at the 2nd Annual Reunion Jazz & Blues Festival.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano".

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



City of Riverside, California
Office of the Mayor
PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON



June 25, 2022

Greetings,

As Mayor of Riverside, California, it is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome attendees to the 2nd Annual Reunion Jazz & Blues Fest to be held on September 4, 2022. I extend a special greeting to East Side Reunion Group, NAACP- Riverside Chapter, Dell and Carmen Roberts Foundation and the musician-led movement and non-profit organization Positive Vibes. We thank you for hosting The Reunion Festival.

This signature event was created to bring together local artists, businesses, and organizations that have the desire to make an impact in their respected communities. The support and services that are provided to the attendees will impact the lives of many Riversiders.

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks supporting local vendors and artists. Best wishes on a successful event!

Sincerely,

Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson

POSITIVE Vibes

Our Story

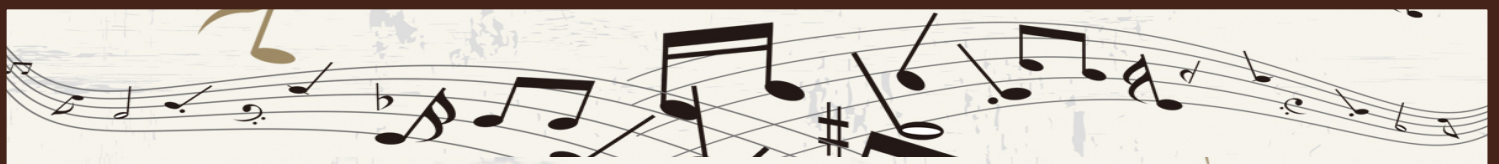


About the Reunion Fest

- This is a multi-generational event that aims to reunite local artists, community leaders, and small business owners who share common roots within Eastside Riverside.
- We aim to bring awareness to COVID Vaccine Education, membership, enrollment, and voter registration. We also plan to raise money for much needed scholarships that benefit our city's future young minds.
- Lastly, we are dedicated to jumpstarting our city's economy by employing local vendors and artists who were greatly impacted by the pandemic.

Event Organizers

Positive Vibes Musician's Movement
Riverside Neighborhood Reunion Committee



Who Are the Positive Vibes?

We are a musician-led movement committed to using our platform to raise awareness to support those in need.

How We Vibe

- * Educate viewers on cause awareness and resources.
- * Encourage followers to share the music and message with others.
- * Empower community enrichment and outreach.

Our Giving Back History

Since 2020, Positive Vibes has supported the community through donations and partnerships. As the pandemic ravaged America, performing artists were the first to feel its impact. This industry was the first to close its doors and the last to open. Although this local team of musicians was experiencing first-hand what it was like to lose income due to canceled gigs, postponed events, and general lockdown restrictions, they knew they could make a positive difference in the lives of others. And make a **POSITIVE** difference, they did.

Donations

Adrian Dell and Carmen Roberts Foundation
NAACP-ACTSO Awards
Riverside Peacemakers Ministry
Feed Dem Kids
California Jazz and Blues Museum

Highlighted Events

- Fed 85-100 individuals with housing insecurities (homelessness).
- Provided 20-30 toys for children during a Christmas toy drive.
- Assisted 13 other musicians in addition to those in Positive Vibes in meeting their needs during pandemic.
- Soothed 5,000-10,000 people as they attended various music jam sessions in parking lots, doorways, private serenades, backyards, parks, virtually, and other available spaces.

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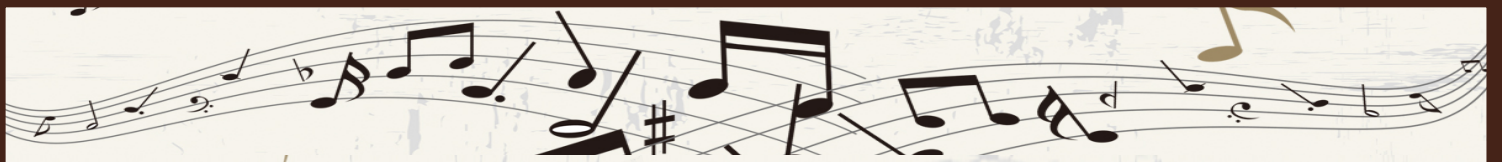


ConFunkShun

Over 50 Years of Funk!!!

ConFunkShun is a star-quality attraction delivering a superb, high-energy show with electrifying choreography, glistening six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the heroes of Funk with romantic ballads and dance-party hits galore! Memorable melodies, inventive horn arrangements and clav-guitar woven grooves, makes the group absolutely essential to the evolution of funk. They charted four consecutive Golds and one Platinum album. Their 20 hit singles included eight Top Ten R&B Hits and one #1 R&B smash between '77-'86.

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JUDITH HILL

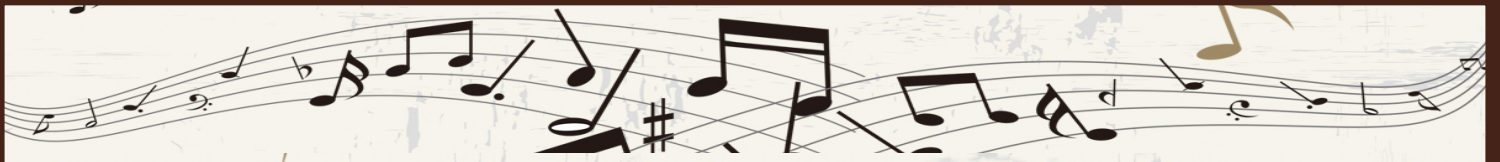


Judith Hill

Grammy Award Winner for Best Music Film!

Judith Hill has released four solo albums and collaborated with countless well known artists. She has provided back up for Michael Jackson and Josh Groban. Judith has toured with John Legend on the UK leg of his "All Of Me Tour". Her debut album *Back in Time*, recorded at Paisley Park with Prince as co-producer. When asked about her album, "The Funk and The Fire" she says, "Funk is the party in the midst of a burning fire." Her newest album, "**Baby, I'm Hollywood!**" is acclaimed as talent personified!!

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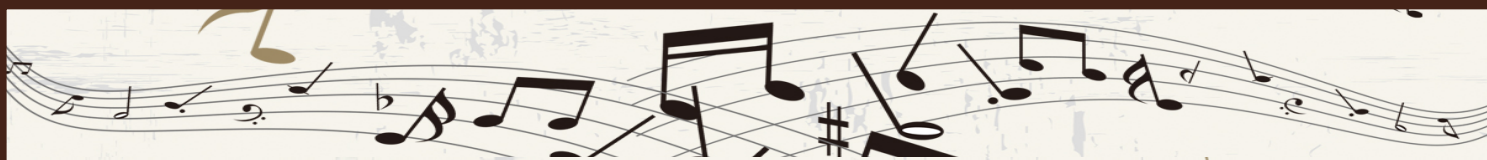


DW3

The Hardest Working Band in Soul Business

They work fans into a dance and romance frenzy with their R&B, old school funk, jazz and Latin-fired magic via a whirlwind of nearly 250 live performances a year throughout the U.S. and beyond. Since 2003, DW3 has set the high energy mood on cruises (Smooth Jazz Cruise, Dave Koz Cruise, Soul Train Cruise & 80's), at jazz festivals, showrooms, clubs, as well as their longtime **home base at Spaghetini** in Seal Beach, CA. They played a key role on Dave Koz and Friends' Grammy nominated *Summer Horns* project.

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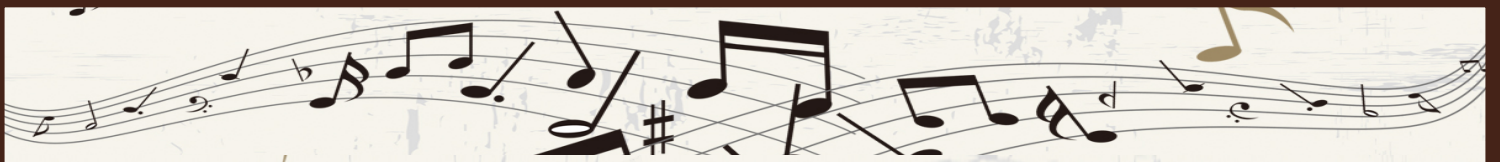


J Boykin

International Saxophonist, Philanthropist, Producer

Millennial Saxophonist J. Boykin, affectionately known as the "**Sax Sensation**" has played with and opened for Frankie Beverly & Maze and Ledisi, John Legend, Take 6, Koinonia, Kirk Whalum, Doc Powell, and Brian Culbertson. J. has appeared on Fox Television's "Glee" and J.'s "Happy" sax version video was spotlighted when Oprah interviewed Pharrell on Oprah Prime. J.'s unique performance style has captured the hearts of fans everywhere.

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Michael Haggins

Experience the Music of Michael Haggins

Michael's latest single "**Gift to the World**" features a buoyant bass melody and dreamy synth harmony line over a playful funk groove. "It reflects where I'm at in my life now," he says. "What times we're in now. Everything is a gift to the world. Our focus should be on health, happiness, a smile and treating each other well." His song "**Daybreak**" (the title track to the album) has been featured many times on the NBC hit series *Community* and elsewhere and has nearly 2.5 MILLION streams on Spotify.

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Z'Looke

Featuring - Mike Cee (Carpenter) & Eric Jerome (Strickland)

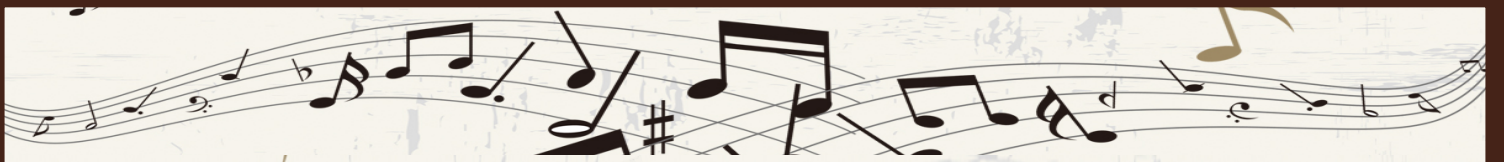
In 1988, Riverside natives Michael Carpenter (keyboards) and Eric Strickland (bass guitar), along with Art Zamora (lead guitar - Pasadena) and the late Wayne Cockerham (lead vocals - Louisiana) signed with Capitol/Orpheus Records as the R&B/New Jack Band, Z'Looke.

Their first single, "Can U Read My Lips," reached #2 on the *Billboard* R&B charts. Successive hits followed before the band members moved on to pursue other musical endeavors. They each remain busy touring, writing for and producing various major artists and projects.

Joining the original surviving members are celebrity vocal coach, Romeo Johnson (lead vocals), and drummer, Les Falconer (Robert Cray, Evelyn King, Keb Mo), both of whom performed with Z'Looke back in the 90's.

You will want to witness their personal Riverside Reunion!!

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Gilbert Esquivel

Uniquely Clean, Urban, and Edgy!!

Gilbert is a stand-up comedian who shares stories about himself and the world around him. His humble upbringing and life experiences have taught him to see others as he believes God views them, "precious in His sight". Gilbert won his first comedy competition just one year into his stand-up career at the world famous Ice House in Pasadena, California. He has been seen on many television shows that include Que Locos and was one of the first Latino semi-finalists on BET's ComicView.

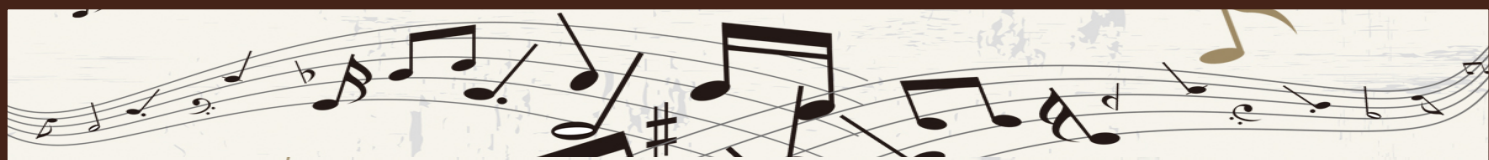
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Lamont Bonman *(AKA Rev. Monty B. Sharpton)*

A versatile clean comedian who will have you rolling on the floor laughing (ROTFL). His quick wit and hilarious antics have earned him a loyal following. He has performed from churches to comedy clubs and from prisons to fundraisers as well as many television programs. He's been featured on TBN's Praise the Lord, (comedy specials) shown in over 80 countries. His hilarious character (Rev Monty B Sharpton) has performed in churches all over the U.S. Get ready to laugh!!

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In Memoriam

Barbara Morrison

Legendary Renowned Jazz & Blues Singer

Barbara Morrison always delivered when she came to town. Spinning yarns and sharing jokes, she inhabited a stage like it was her living room, leaving each audience member captivated. She will truly be remembered.

**We Love you
Barbara!!!**

In Memoriam

PASS THE MANTLE...CARRY ON

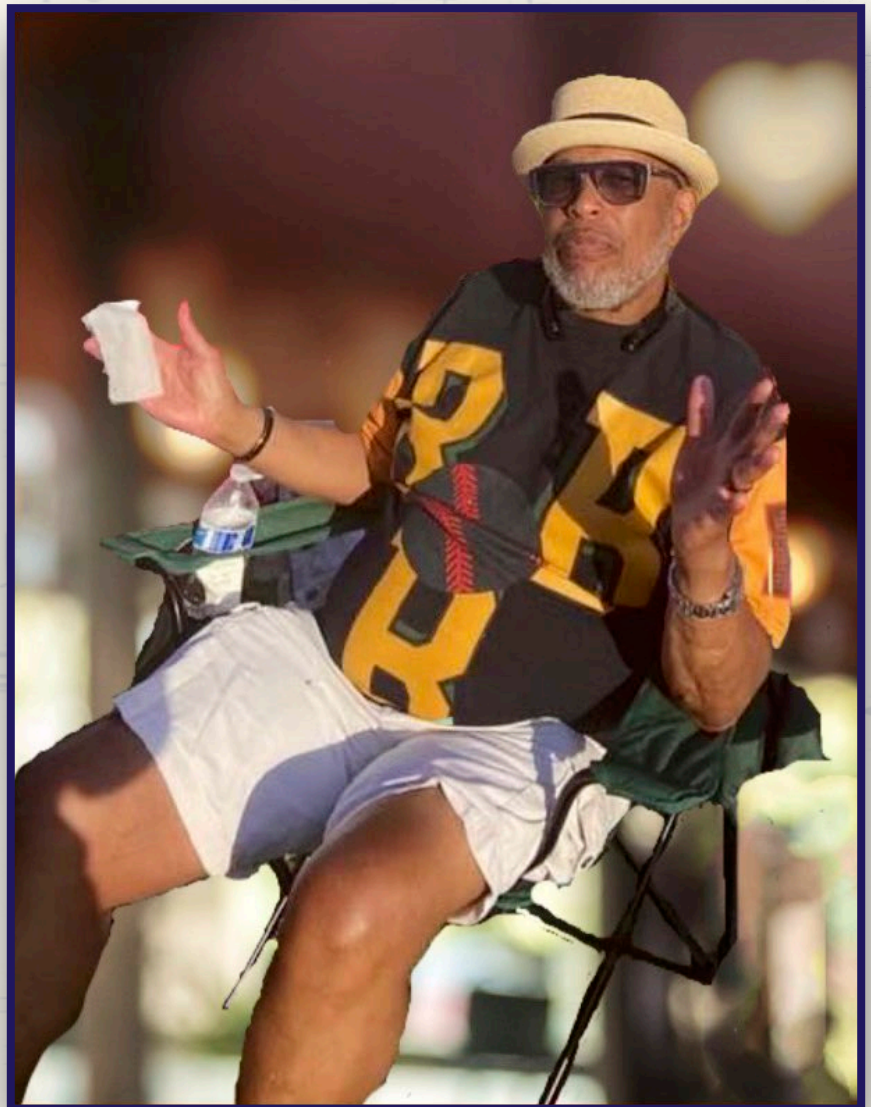
In late June 2021 James (Butch) Mathews and the Riverside Neighborhood Reunion Committee met on these very grounds to discuss the possibility of this event. His dream of bringing this family type reunion to fruition was overwhelming. He wanted the community to feel the love and connectedness he had experience growing up here. He wanted neighbors to get to know each other, make new friendships, talk with one another, and see each other as family... a modern day neighborhood reunion.

He always knew that "good jazz music" would be the platform and set the mood.

He also worried that the upcoming generation would not have an opportunity to hear and appreciate jazz if his generation never introduced it to them. As they walked this park that day, he talked...and talked...and talked. Some would say he gave a speech to remember...his lasting call for action.

"We are getting older, who's going to pick up this mantle. We need to hand this off to the younger generation. If we don't do it now, then when! We may not be here next year. Let's show them how. Let's pass the mantle, so they can carry on!!"

Today, we "Carry On..."





Blinky Allen

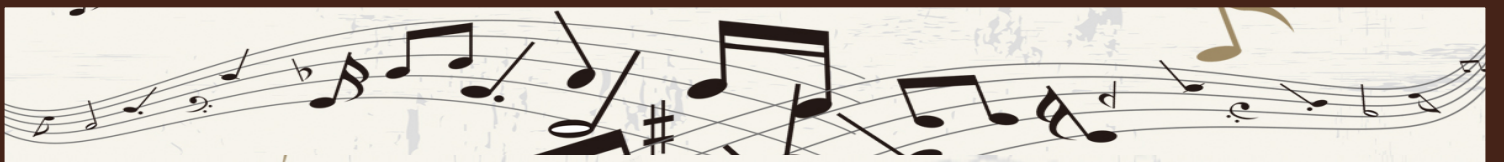
Bryant Wesley “Blinky” Allen was born in Riverside California on January 14, 1919. After returning from WWII Bryant formed his own groups—The Starliters and the Blinky Allen Group. Allen earned the nickname of “Blinky” because he used to blink his eyes when he played the drums. Another honoree, Reggie Strickland, also a native of Riverside, was also member of his band. Bryant always stipulated that there was to be no discrimination against Blacks in the clubs in which he performed. Blinky died in Los Angeles in 1969.



Reginald & Susan Strickland

Reginald “Reggie” Errol Strickland was a talented tenor saxophonist, with a true appreciation for music. He loved music so much that he and his beloved wife, Sue, shared his love of music, and her love of teaching with their children, as well as with the children in their Riverside neighborhood. Both Reggie and Sue were active members of the Riverside NAACP. They were very supportive of ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural Technological Olympics) a program of the NAACP intended to promote academic and cultural achievement in high school students.

This year’s Reunion Donation to ACT-SO is in honor of the late Reggie Strickland and his wife Susan.



Our Honorees



Charles Bibbs

CHARLES A. BIBBS and STUDIO B ART PUBLISHING

Charles Bibbs is an internationally recognized artist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist noted for his beautiful artistic renderings that convey deep senses of spirituality, majesty, dignity, strength, and grace. He attended Los Angeles Harbor College, Long Beach City College, and Cal State Dominguez Hills, where he studied studio arts and fine art printing.

Charles Bibbs' work displays a unique, robust, and stylized quality done in a combination of abstract and realistic interpretations of contemporary subjects that are fused into beautiful, multifaceted ethnicity, larger-than-life images. His technique and style are distinguished from most artists by how he combines layers of acrylic paints and inks to obtain rich undertones of line textures.

During his 47 years as an artist, Bibbs has received over 100 recognition and awards for his art and philanthropic spirit, including the "Key to the City" awards in 7 major cities across the United States. His work has been featured on many commemorative posters across the United States and in major films, such as the "The Secret Life of Bees (he created the "Black Madonna" image for this movie)," television, notable books and CD covers including cover designs for the Urban Knight Collection; featuring legendary musicians Ramsey Lewis and Grover Washington, Jr. One of Bibbs career highlights was his collaboration with Nelson Mandela on art drawings created by Mandela during his imprisonment.

Bibbs' work has been displayed in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the country and abroad and has been collected worldwide.

Charles Bibbs quote:

"My most important goal is to make profound aesthetic statements that are ethnically rooted, and at the same time arouse spiritual Emotions within us." Charles Bibbs

www.cbibbs.com

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Maurice Howard

Maurice Howard was born in Waco, Texas. When he was three years old, his family moved to France, where his dad served in the military. When they returned to the United States they moved to Riverside California.

At the age of 19, Howard became inspired to paint. He attended several independent art schools, and later enrolled into Cal State Fullerton College, where he majored in fine art studies. After completing college, he was hired by Hanna-Barbera Production Studio, as an In-Betweenner in the animation department.



Following his employment at Hanna-Barbera, he worked as a Dental Technician in Pasadena, California. Inspired by Salvador Dali, M.C. Escher, and African-American graphic artist and painter Charles White, Howard's style of work can be viewed across the board, from realism to surrealism. Using a mixture of pencil, acrylic, and oil, he creates rich images and stunning abstracts that are exceptionally unique, such that, once you view them for a period of time, a mysterious image is revealed under his continuous layers of lines and curves.

Today, Maurice credits much of his success to renowned artist Charles Bibbs, who has supported and motivated him. "I am extremely grateful to have this opportunity to work under an artist of his caliber and one who is highly respected in the art community." Maurice serves as a member of the Art 2000 Visual Artists Association, founded by Charles Bibbs to help support young and emerging artists.

Email: mauricehowardabstractart@gmail.com

Instagram: [@mauricehoward1951](https://www.instagram.com/mauricehoward1951)

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Mauryce Kennon

Mauryce Kennon, a 52 year residence of Riverside, is **CEO of FEED DEM KIDS** nonprofit. To him, it is more than a slogan. The organization believes in living a life of service to others. Their mission is to improve the health and living conditions of the disadvantaged families within the Riverside community. **FEED DEM KIDS** procures and distributes supplementary resources, food, and other household essentials. In addition, they provide minor home repairs and modifications for local senior citizens in need.



The action team takes their mission even further! They train and educate local youth with a wide range of work and maintenance skills to aid and support our elderly and disabled residents. Their support services have greatly enhanced their quality of life.

Mauryce is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of children and the elderly. If you would like to provide mentorship and/or donations, please contact the organization.

Email: @Feeddemkids20@gmail.com
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/FeedDemKids>

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Pastor Ruben Guitron

When there was unrest in the Riverside community and the city was looking for ways to promote peace, suppress tension, and make a positive difference, the **Riverside Peacemakers** street-ministry lead by Ruben Guitron would provide that necessary leadership and inspiration. Since 1993, The **Riverside Peacemakers** has become the go-to-ministry in Riverside whenever crises arise with our youth, parents, and community. This ministry has

worked with the Mayor, City Counsel, Parole, Probation, Riverside Police Department, Riverside City College (RCC), University of California Riverside (UCR), and Riverside Unified School District (RUSD).

Pastor Ruben Guitron has change the lives of not hundreds but thousands of youth throughout the City of Riverside. The Riverside Peacemakers Ministry has been recognized and received numerous awards for their work including proclamations from the Mayor of Riverside, NAACP, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressmen Rod Pacheco, Assemblymen Jose Medina, City of Riverside Councilmen Ameal Moore and Andy Melendriz and Riverside Unified School District.

Ruben Guitron is Pastor of the Riverside Faith Temple Ministries located 2343 Pennsylvania Ave, Riverside, CA 92507.

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James E Mathews II Award

Kenneth Dixon

Kenneth Dixon is a saxophonist from Carson, California. He began playing the saxophone at age 13. After listening to music by Charlie Parker, he developed a love and appreciation for jazz and by his senior year at Bishop Montgomery High School, he began playing in bands within and outside of school. He later attended El Camino College and achieved an Associate of Arts Degree in Music. He now attends California State University Long Beach and is the 2022-2023 chosen recipient of the James E. Mathews II Award for Jazz Studies. He will receive his Bachelor of Music Degree in Jazz Studies in 2023.



Miss Riverside City's Outstanding Teen

Love d'Encarnacao Bradley



Love is known as a youth leader, who is inspiring other youth to become community leaders. Her social impact Initiative is : "Youth Today, Future Leaders of Tomorrow".

Her family describes her as a go-getter, someone very focused, and a fashionista! They consider her a little bossy at times, but very loyal and kind. But, Love describes herself as "self-driven". Her Leadership highlights include 2nd District of San Bernardino County Youth Council, ASB/student government, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, BSU mentor, Link Crew Leader, Varsity Tennis Team, VP of Medical Professions Club, 1st Place La Ropa Sucia-Directing Change film award and Christmas Elf, (for homeless shelter).

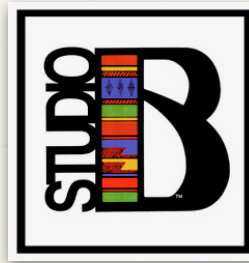
Love is a 4.2 Honor graduate of Rancho Cucamonga High School. She is planning to pursue a career in the medical field to further serve her community. After graduating from UCI as a Biomedical Engineer major, she plans to attend medical school and become a doctor of medicine, specializing in oncology. Go ahead Love,...Be A Boss!!



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CHARLES A. BIBBS and
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At Amazon, we believe harnessing the power of art can **help build strong, healthy neighborhoods.**

We're proud to partner with **Positive Vibes Musicians Movement** as they contribute to a more inclusive and accessible local arts community for all.

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"TOASTED" SUBS

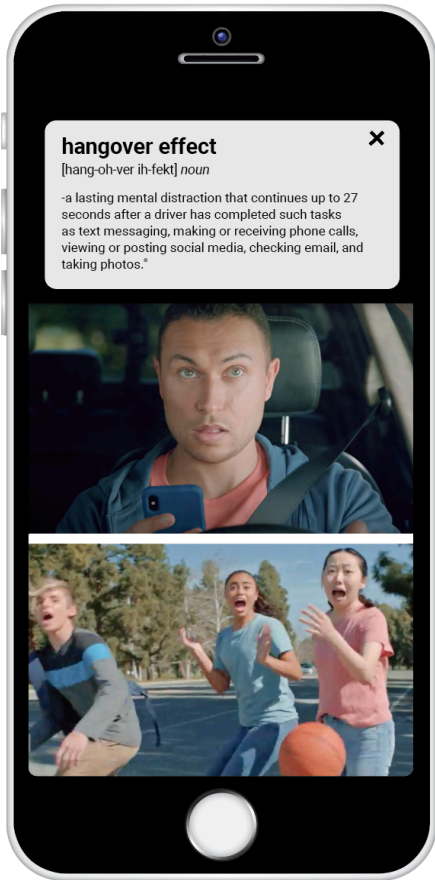


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Don't drive intoxicated.

A sobering message from AAA

AAA.com/DontDriveDistracted
Tell us why you #DontDriveIntoxicated



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Special Thank You!!!

Positive VIBE for your hard work and dedication in making the event a success and being exactly as your name states...a positive vibe.

The **Volunteers and Community Workers** who are supporting our efforts behind the scenes. Your support has been vital and much appreciated. We could not have done this without you.

The **Riverside Neighborhood Reunion Committee**, your blood, sweat, tears and lack of sleep made this day possible. You are incredible. Rest up. Next year is fast approaching.

Thank You from



See You Next Year!!!

Book Designed by:

Another GeMM

... *When your memories are priceless!*



Gail Martin-Mathews

gail.martin.mathews@gmail.com