



**For Immediate Release**

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## **South LA Art Festival Celebrates Conductors of Modern Day Underground Railroad**

**Research has shown that 7 out of 10 California inmates were former foster care youth**, in LA County alone there are over 36,000 youth with open cases in the Department of Children and Family Services. South LA alone has the highest percentage of that foster care population.

Community Coalition understands this and is bringing artists and musicians together to bring attention to the foster-care-to prison pipeline and the people on the frontlines who work to disrupt it. Join us Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> at Community Coalition's **Third Annual South L.A. Art Festival** from 10:00AM-2:00PM at the Algin Sutton Recreation Center and meet the conductors of the 21<sup>st</sup> Underground Railroad.

Relative caregivers are the disruptors of the foster-care-to-prison pipeline. They are our uncles, aunties, grandmothers, grandfathers and older siblings. When they come together under extraordinary circumstances to care for the child of a relative they are known as relative caregivers. Data shows that children do better when they stay with relatives.

Aviana Mason, a former youth under the care of a relative, states, "I couldn't imagine my life without my grandmother Arlean. My parents couldn't be there, but she was. She kept a roof over my head, made sure I went to school on time, she did a lot that she didn't have to do and I'm thankful for that".

Attendees will enjoy live music from smooth jazz act Impact, Mexican folk singer Gloria Arjona, sounds from the Afro-Caribbean, The World Stage African Drum Circle and the Olo Itotiani Aztec Dance Group. Artists will be selling their wares on site and will have the chance to compete in a live art contest to win a cash prize of \$300. Join Community Coalition as we continue to build and celebrate resilient communities.

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