

THE GR818ERS

# UNITE

CULTURAL CENTER



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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**AWOKE**

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The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of the UNITE Cultural Center, but AWOKE used the opportunity to innovate and continued program efforts virtually. The GR818ERS hosted the world's first virtual international street dance campaign and livestream competition which reached over 15,000 people globally.

AWOKE served as the West Valley Co-Chair of the SFV Complete Count Committee which sought to promote Census 2020. In addition to pop-up outreach events, the West Valley Subcommittee organized a Census Car Caravan of over 30 vehicles to focus efforts in Canoga Park's hard-to-count communities.

At the height of the social uprising, The GR818ERS convened community members to dialogue and organize around public safety reform, including serving as a foundational member of CAT 911 SFV which seeks to establish and promote community alternatives to law enforcement.

Through their continued involvement as a Core Member of the Invest in Youth Coalition, AWOKE's Executive Director and Intern Coordinator were appointed to the City of LA's Executive Task Force on Youth Development to develop a roadmap for the establishment of the City's inaugural Youth Development Department.

AWOKE supported the relief and recovery of local nonprofit organizations through their leadership in the Campaign for Nonprofit Resilience and ongoing participation in Alliance United, a collaborative of Northeast SFV nonprofits focused on integrating Anti-Racism principles and practices.

Ryan Alvarez and Melina Sardar joined the ranks of AWOKE's Board of Directors



# DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT



AWOKE, The GR818ERS and the UNITE Cultural Center stand in solidarity with people whose lives have been impacted by systemic racism and generational poverty. As an organization grounded in the values of culture, creativity and service, we are committed to racial, gender and economic equity both internally and externally. Our mission and work are rooted in the lived experience of our founding members and their families whose lives have been impacted by colonial systems of oppression. As such, we are committed to remaining embedded in the needs of those most vulnerable by uplifting leadership from communities of color.

We believe there is space for everyone in the movement and a role for everyone to play. When our founders first started The GR818ERS, people in power would turn their back on them because of where they came from and what they represented—grassroots youth power from the hood. Quickly, they learned that in order to win this uphill battle they had to be persistent, innovative and unapologetically themselves. Their collective power as young people of color was far greater than the antiquated ideals that prevented individuals from seeing undeniable truths of injustice and inequity.

Racism and bigotry remain pillars of American society that we must tear down so our country can rest on the columns of peace and justice that communities of color have worked for decades to build. We resolve to continuing our foundational work of improving racial and human relations in the Greater Los Angeles County and globally through arts, athletics, and activism. We commit to holding safe, brave spaces at the UNITE Cultural Center and beyond to heal trauma, organize against injustice and build community. As one of our youth leaders exclaimed, “THIS IS HISTORY! It’s our time to use our voice and serve our community.”



# BY THE NUMBERS

## FUNDRAISING







## PARTICIPATION

**15,000+**  
PEOPLE  
REACHED

**100+**  
YOUTH  
ENGAGED

**500+**  
ARTISTS  
ENGAGED

**34**  
ARTISTS  
PAID

**5,000+**  
NEW  
FOLLOWERS





# PROGRAM TIMELINE

## January

**UNITE Clubs**  
(Dance/Art/Wrestling/DJ)

**UNITE Sessions**

**Sheila Kheul Show**

**Volunteer/Intern Program**

## February

**FOTM Open Styles**  
(In-Person)

**Citywide Youth Leaders in Action**  
Convening at UNITE

## March

**GR818ER Photoshoot**

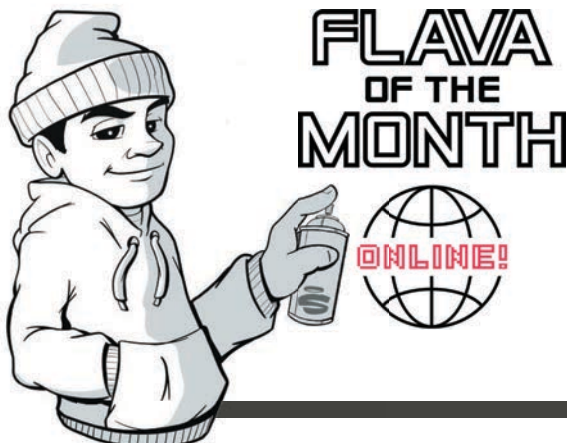


## April

**UNITE Lessons**

## May

**FOTM: Online | Volume I**







**June** □

**UNITE Lessons**



□ **July**

**Census Car Caravan**

**FOTM: Online I Volume II**

**August** □

**Graff Yard Boogie  
10**

**A Family Affair 10**

□ **September**

**UNITE Center Rental**

**October** □

**Western Center on Law & Poverty  
DJ Performance**





## November

Police-Community Relations  
Community Roundtable

Festival Kairos  
Panel

Breakin' Bread



## December

Flava of the Year 10

Pierre's 30-for-30 Campaign

Bayanihan  
Typhoon Ulysses Donation Drive







**AWOKE would like to thank our global community of donors for their unwavering support that carried us through 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Together, we will continue embracing those most impacted by inequity through our quilt of commUNITY.**

## **Foundations**

Versa Style: Performance-Education-Community  
Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles  
United Latinx Fund

## **Corporations**

Pacoima Beautiful  
Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership  
Soggy Bottoms Production

## **Government**

Canoga Park Neighborhood Council  
LA County Supervisorial District 3



## Individuals

Taylor Lomba  
Olivia Isabelle Diaz  
Alan Harlam  
Saye Kevin Kehyei  
Vanessa Serrano  
Brandon Romo  
Celyna Cortez  
Benito Mendez  
Pedro Arreola  
Jane Tanimura  
Jasmine Wu

Monique Lopez  
Tom Zhang  
Diana Avendano  
Nathan Roy  
Tony La  
Rosa Aguilar  
Susanna Lin  
Jenny Lin  
Paula Tran  
Melisanais Salazar  
Do Phan Hoi  
Shantel Urena  
Magdalena Bordeaux  
Vanessa Thompson

Monika Mehta  
Jennifer Miller  
Erica Friend  
Diani Salazar  
Maria Jimenez  
Karen Flores  
Katherine Aguilar  
Garrett Lee  
Natalie Rachel Benamou  
Ives Viray  
Oscar Pelayo

Ana Maria Garcia  
Justin Valles  
Harry Weston  
Sharon Williams  
Harrison Tross  
Aiyah Josiah-Faeduwor  
Lauren Killedjian  
Carlos Gutierrez  
Michelle Benavides  
Gabe Doss  
Tina Zeng  
Gene Viloria  
Alejandro Flores  
Leann Chapman

Philip Kuon  
Martha A. Rodriguez  
Clifton Lee Trotter  
Mario Vega  
Mayra Valadez  
Jackie Lopez-Foaad  
Leigh Foaad  
Kwame McCain  
Elizabeth Perez  
Ehekalli Sanvicente  
Rosa Lopez Lazarte

Maura McLaughlin  
Gustavo Guerra-Vasquez  
Matthew Fienman  
Antonio Hicks  
Suzetty Shen  
Katrina Rayco  
Ed Pruitt  
Omar Moreno  
Elizabeth Renteria  
Ernesto Galarza  
Kevin Taylor  
Hysby Ramirez  
Wendy Tran  
Tuan Tran





## Individuals

Kenneth Estrellas  
Mary Diaz  
Karen Hernandez  
Karen Flores  
Eric Nishimoto  
Ivette Pineda  
Harold Soo Hoo  
Ninette Ayala  
H. Broersma  
Jan Holek  
Tia Christopher

Anthony L. Lawang  
Alfonso Pule  
Kiersten Willis  
Wess Gonsalves  
Amanda Öberg  
Melanie Leck  
Toshiyuki Watanabe  
Ben Clarke  
Diane Elliott  
Mikko Tamminen  
Sritheren M.  
Keiko Ito  
Christian Zacharas  
Kaston Wakeling

Nelson Castro  
Maren Wittig  
Keith Dang  
Mykyta Dudkin  
Marvy Tosi  
Adrian Miramontes  
Filimonov M. Mikhailovich  
Mateusz Dragan  
Kevin Theagene  
Hiroki Tanishima  
Ricky Cahyadi

Raymund Vince Mendoza  
Dimitrios Koutsogiotas  
Yu Zhenpeng  
Jenni Tuunainen  
Luis Marquinez Caro  
Saul Nunez  
Yayoi Higashi  
Erina Yamamoto  
Ruby Castaneda  
Brandon Martinez  
Rudy Lopez  
Charlie McCarty  
Michael Warren  
Noah Gutierrez

Sara Di Gravio  
Jonathan Sarcos  
Nahuel Parra  
Bence Jossa  
Miroslav Olšovský  
Atsuko Otomo  
Erik Tomas Valero Gonzalez  
Wijaya Soewito-Martin  
Erika Nuno  
Sasha Omer  
Alfonso Pardo

Ruby Perea  
Katerina Kvasnicova  
Chau Nguyen  
Zhang Wen  
David Shi  
Haitao Tang  
Lisa Nye  
Brian Redondo  
Samuel Tan  
Victor Gomes  
Nadia Kheireddine  
Marianne Hauri  
Yuka Kurita  
Dennis Ly



## Individuals

Aj Kambere  
Jack Wardana  
Luke Feeney  
Lee Nicholas Kevin  
Keanu Wardana  
Kristina Tutina  
Oscar H.  
Kaori Shibata  
Ellen Átala  
Jelmer Tolboom  
Lawson Le

Gerardo Guzman  
Claudia Perez  
Artie Angelo Pascual  
Elizabeth Quintero  
Audrey Tseng  
Mariapaola Santacruz  
Vibren Rathman  
Amber Alonso  
Diego Tellez  
April O'Connor  
Steve Sungulyan  
Isabelle Gunning  
George Lefian  
Melissa Gutierrez

Cecilia Egidi  
Kaenan Williams  
Owen Martinez  
Jonathan Lopez  
Robert Herrera  
Shez Rahman  
Michelle Sanchez  
Shomari Shanks  
Oliver Arias  
Troy Romana  
Mikey Hanna

Ivonne Paulino  
Desiree Sanchez  
Julio Saran  
Rosie Alvarado  
Jon Jimenez  
Robert Vega  
Benjamin Donner  
Allison Dubose  
Tanya Armendariz  
Artem Tcivirko  
Melissa Soules  
Nicole Mae Martin  
Jesse Sykes  
Tam Thanh

Cassie Stratton  
Jorge Coria  
JP Creative  
Jim Ryan  
Jonathan Bayani  
Twitch  
Adrian Fuentes  
Dyana Roldan  
Lisa Tovar  
Melissa Wiesner  
Silvia Bermudez

Jake Kim  
Jake Gellis  
Dolores Chavez  
Christina Lim  
Mark Turner  
Deborah Lopez  
Alexis Elazegui  
Randi Freitas  
Akiko Patterson  
Jacob McClellan  
Samantha Torres  
Dorian Woodward  
Francisco Cruz  
William Luetkehans





## Individuals

Katya Goth  
 Freddy M.  
 Aaron Gilbert  
 Deran Ramirez  
 Flavio Chacon  
 Madeline Rodriguez  
 Charles Okonkwo Jr.  
 Mike Chung  
 Branden Powell  
 Joey Arias  
 Tyler Brown

Marcus Loreda  
 Karina Rivera  
 Theresa Villa-McDowell  
 Sandra Ramirez  
 Cynthia E. Hernandez  
 Ella Hushagen  
 Abdullah Danishwar  
 X-Plotion'  
 Yuisa Gimeno  
 Charlie Alegria  
 Addy Gonzalez Renteria

Melissa Rebeca  
 Susan Flores  
 Joshua Parr  
 Vanessa Martinez  
 Michelle D. Hernandez  
 Walter Garcia  
 Rahil Rojiani  
 Julie Rivera-Coo  
 Oliver Arias  
 Monica Lomeli  
 Gloria Cuevas

Pierre Ivan Arreola  
 Lorenzo Apolonio Chapman  
 Eric Anthony Chapman  
 Corilee Racela  
 Samuel Rhee  
 Helen Tran  
 Daniel Sickler  
 Austin Bradley  
 Alvaro Ibarra  
 Grace Lowenberg  
 Breeze Jenkins  
 Jose Carranza  
 Elaine Arreola