

SUMMER OF SOLIDARITY 2023 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Celebrating a Summer of Solidarity



Artist Cloe Hakakian, pictured with the mural she designed, titled "The Common Thread."

In response to the increase in hate violence, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations (LACCHR) recently launched the **Summer of Solidarity**, a summerlong celebration of the County of Los Angeles' (County) cultural diversity. LA vs Hate, led by the LACCHR, is a community-centered system designed to support all residents and communities targeted by hate acts of all kinds in the County. Through partnerships with community-based organizations, LA vs Hate's festivities will uplift and celebrate cultural moments and traditions – all to showcase that unity is stronger than hate. This new campaign of events will utilize culture, open dialogue, and connection to address the root issues of hate and division and will include monthly art-led, and community-centered events that will run throughout the County all summer long.

As part of the Summer of Solidarity, LA vs. Hate will unveil monthly murals that celebrate cultural diversity in all five County districts. In the creation of each mural, LA vs Hate and its partners collaborated closely with each district, involving community-representing artists, selecting anchoring locations, and hosting public workshops to collectively determine the desired content and themes. Each mural unveiling throughout the summer will celebrate each community's respective rich cultures and histories, featuring live music, dancing, and food; all bringing diverse people together through the unifying power of art. These events will also serve to promote the services LA vs Hate provides to the public, including the ability to call 211LA to report hate and receive resources to heal. For young people and their families, LA vs Hate partnered with 211LA to create Explore Justice, a video series that shares current and historical perspectives that shape social justice.

The first Summer of Solidarity mural (pictured above) honoring the Jewish community was unveiled on June 4, 2023, in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood, in partnership with the Los Angeles chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. The mural, titled "The Common Thread," was designed by Cloe Hakakian; an Iranian-Jewish muralist and native Angeleno; and weaves a vision of Jewish history and tradition together with the collective memories of Jews in Los Angeles.

Continued on page 4

Calendar of Events

Gloria Molina Grand Park

Sunday Sessions

Sunday, July 23, August 20, and September 17, 2023
from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM



A celebration of L.A.'s contributions to the global art form of dance music — specially curated with DJs, themes and experiences unique to the house music genre and cultural community — Gloria Molina Grand Park's Sunday Sessions is simply the best way to enjoy the park, sip cocktails, picnic and dance your heart out. Gloria Molina Grand Park's Sunday Sessions will celebrate the 20th anniversary of longtime collaborator Fusicology, a platform credited with introducing an eclectic mix of local and global DJs who have made significant contributions to the Club House scene over the past two decades.

For more information visit:
https://grandparkla.org/event/grand-parks-sunday-sessions-2023/.

The Music Center

Dance DTLA

Fridays, June 23 — August 18, 2023 from 7:00 to 11:00 PM



Join the thousands who love the chance to learn new dance styles and dance the night away under the stars! The Music Center's Dance DTLA returns this summer for nine consecutive Friday nights of free in-person beginner dance lessons. Join us for the next installment with Salsa Night featuring easy-to-follow steps so guests can hit the dance floor and practice some new moves. No dance experience necessary!

For information visit:
https://www.musiccenter.org/experience-learn/experience-learn/for-all-ages/dance-dtla/.



Visit *http://hr.lacounty.gov* for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles

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Calendar of Events (Continued)

Grand Performances



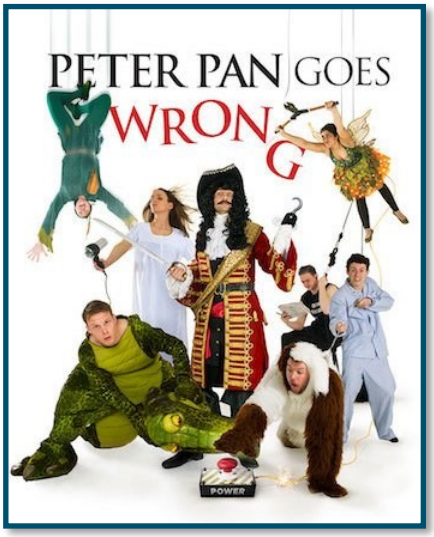
Martha Redbone

Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM

Native & African-American vocalist/songwriter/composer/educator, Martha Redbone, is known for her unique gumbo of folk, blues, and gospel rooted from her childhood in Kentucky infused with the eclectic grit of pre-gentrified Brooklyn. Drawing influences from her indigenous ancestry, multidisciplinary artist Martha Redbone fuses sounds from the deep south musical genres of gospel, bluegrass, and soul for a knee-tapping, hand-clapping musical experience.

For more information visit:
https://www.grandperformances.org/events/martha-redbone.

Ahmanson Theatre



Peter Pan Goes Wrong

August 8, 2023 through September 10, 2023

Audiences are in for an awfully big adventure as the team behind the Tony Award-winning global hit “The Play That Goes Wrong” brings its trademark comic mayhem to the J.M. Barrie classic “Peter Pan.” Co-written by Mischief Company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields, “Peter Pan Goes Wrong” is a highly physical comedy packed with finely-tuned and inspired slapstick, delivered with split-second timing and ambitious daring stunts. The Cornley Drama Society returns to the Ahmanson, battling technical hitches, flying mishaps, and cast disputes as they attempt to present J.M. Barrie's much-loved tale. But will they ever make it to Neverland?

For more information visit:
https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2022/peter-pan-goes-wrong/.

Douglas Theater



Our Dear Dead Drug Lord

August 20, 2023 through September 17, 2023

In this fierce and feverish comedy from breakout playwright Alexis Scheer, a gang of teenage girls gather in an abandoned treehouse to summon the ghost of Pablo Escobar. Are they messing with the actual spirit of the infamous cartel kingpin or are they really just messing with each other?

For ticket information visit:
https://www.centertheatregroup.org/tickets/kirk-douglas-theatre/2022-23/our-dear-dead-drug-lord/.

LA vs Hate
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Many more events and resources will be available to the public this summer, as LA vs Hate: Summer of Solidarity has been fortunate to have the partnership and support from many County agencies and organizations including The Music Center and the Departments of Human Resources, LA County Library, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works.

In its third year of collaboration, the LA County Library is supporting the Summer of Solidarity by creating and sharing an anti-hate booklist, along with distributing LA vs Hate: Summer of Solidarity merchandise throughout the library network.

LA vs Hate is collaborating with the Department of Parks & Recreation on a series of events. This includes previous LA vs Hate grantees (GetLit, No Easy Props, A Window Between Worlds) to lead inclusive programming at more than 20 *Pride in the Park* events celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride month and select Juneteenth events. LA vs Hate and the Human Relations Commission has also provided training to park staff on how to use the 211 reporting hotline as part of their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training and to ensure park staff promote inclusivity for all.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) provided LA vs Hate with access to its advertising network. During the summer, posters focused on alerting transit riders to their ability to report hate with 211 are being displayed at 30 select bus shelters and on buses for DPW-operated routes.

The Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources provided several opportunities to promote Summer of Solidarity, including sending information via “Did You Know?” which is sent to all County employee emails, as well as within this County Digest.

Throughout the summer, LA vs Hate will attend several of The Music Center’s Dance DTLA events. Each of these Friday night events are themed to celebrate popular cultural music and dance, and LA vs Hate will be building awareness of its services while also activating an anti-hate coloring station and a Wishing Tree, where residents can make a wish for the future of their community.

LA vs Hate invites all employees to attend Summer of Solidarity events throughout the season. For more information on LA vs Hate: Summer of Solidarity, to inquire about partnerships, or to request for your event be added to the calendar, email info@lavshate.org. To view the entire LA vs Hate: Summer of Solidarity schedule of events, visit www.lavshate.org/community-events-calendar.

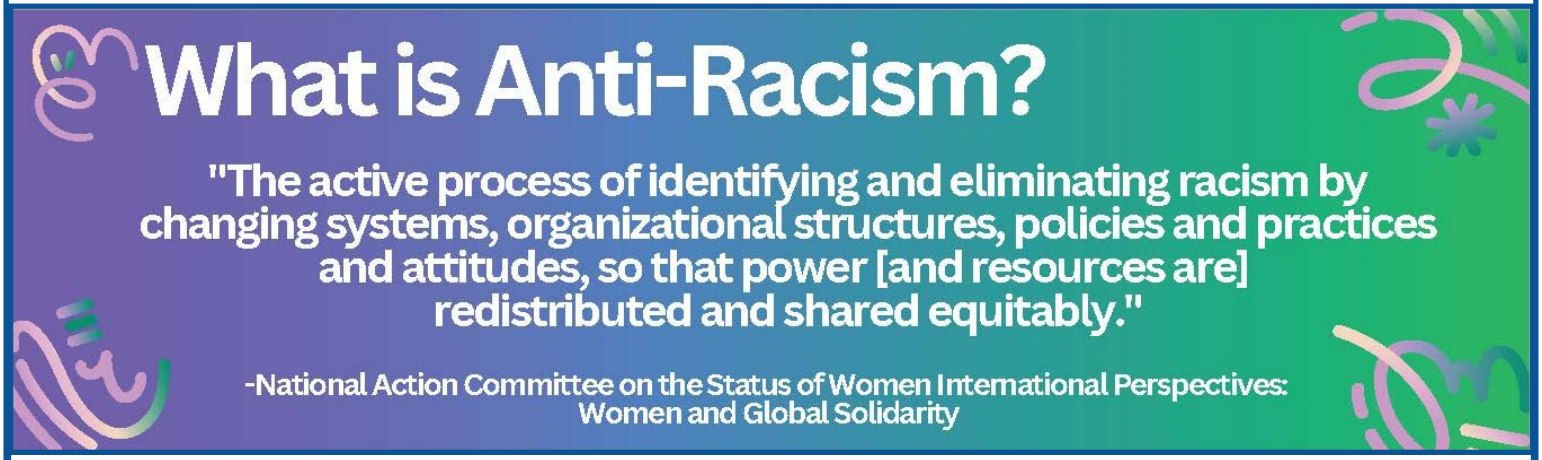


Chief Executive Office.

Establishing the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative



On July 21, 2020, the County of Los Angeles (County) Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a motion to establish the 8th Board-directed priority, known as the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative. The motion calls for an anti-racist County policy agenda; recognizing, affirming, and declaring that "racism is a matter of public health in Los Angeles County and that racism against Black people has reached crisis proportions that result in large disparities in family stability, health and mental wellness, education, employment, economic development, public safety, criminal justice, and housing." The motion specifically called for a strategic planning process and policy agenda to address disparate outcomes in the areas of physical and mental health, housing and housing stability, meaningful employment opportunities, public safety, and justice. Dr. D'Artagnan Scorza currently leads the ARDI Initiative as the Executive Director of Racial Equity for the County.



What ARDI means for the County workforce

ARDI has developed four Countywide departmental workgroups that focus on the following: *Culture and Climate, Narrative and Communications, Planning and Data, and Stakeholder Engagement*. The purpose of these workgroups is to focus on their respective areas and implement the Countywide strategic plan, its 99 strategies, and enable environmental efforts to help move us toward an anti-racist policy agenda. The goal is to implement sustainable policy change in order to improve life outcomes and close inequities and disparities. ARDI has designed and delivered trainings and facilitation support for Director-identified members who comprise Departmental Equity Action Teams (EAT). EATs participate in the Countywide workgroups and are charged with developing your Departmental Equity Action Plan in order to set goals, track progress, and maintain accountability. Additionally, ARDI created the Policies, Procedures, and Practices (PPP) assessment tool in order to analyze programs, procedures, and practices through a lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Departments are expected to use the PPP assessment tool to identify and analyze the top policies, procedures, or practices that function as systemic barriers to achieving racial equity goals. What all of this means for the County workforce is that ARDI is actively working with County departments to advance an anti-racist policy agenda and ensure that we strengthen inclusion, belonging, and acceptance in the workplace, as well as programs, policies, and procedures for the workforce and the people we serve.

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Muslim American Heritage Month



Muslim American Heritage Month celebrates the contributions of those Americans of Muslim heritage to the United States (US), from its founding through the present day. More than 65,000 Muslim Americans make up one of the ten largest religious groups in Los Angeles County.

Muslim Americans identify racially as white, black, Asian, and Arab in roughly equal proportions with more than half born in the US. Many Muslim Americans pursue the American dream and contribute to the nation's economy as business owners and entrepreneurs. Their service to the community and country is often motivated by the values of their faith, which are: care, compassion, and concern for humankind. These are major themes found in the Quran.

Muslim American contributions to arts, culture, science, engineering, and medicine have inspired, expanded understanding, and enhanced the quality of life for all who live in the US.

How is LA County Library commemorating Muslim American Heritage Month?

In support of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors' Proclamation of July as Muslim American Heritage Month, explore the booklist with titles for children, teens, and adults. Our digital resources allow you to explore the Muslim American culture by streaming music through Freegal, watching movies and films on Kanopy, and learning languages with Mango.



ARDI Initiative

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How to get involved with ARDI

Spread the word! Read and talk to your co-workers, family, and friends about the Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan and get an understanding of why we are doing this. On July 11, 2023, the Board unanimously adopted the groundbreaking Countywide Racial Equity Strategic Plan with five strategic goals intended to measurably improve the lives of residents and communities throughout the County. These strategic goals include *increasing post-high school education, reducing first-time felony convictions, increasing stable full-time employment, increasing the number of families in middle class, and reducing infant mortality.* This strategic plan is the culmination of a months-long strategic planning and community engagement process. By implementing the strategic goals outlined in the plan, the County will be able to improve the lives of our residents and aim to uplift all communities, improve life outcomes, and reduce disparities and inequities throughout the County. Together, we can build a future where all residents are healthy, experience justice, and thrive! We also invite you to learn more, and stay informed and engaged, by visiting our website at ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi and sign up for our newsletter to stay updated on the latest Countywide diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. For more information about the ARDI Initiative or to find out who is on your Department's EAT, email us at ardi@ceo.lacounty.gov.

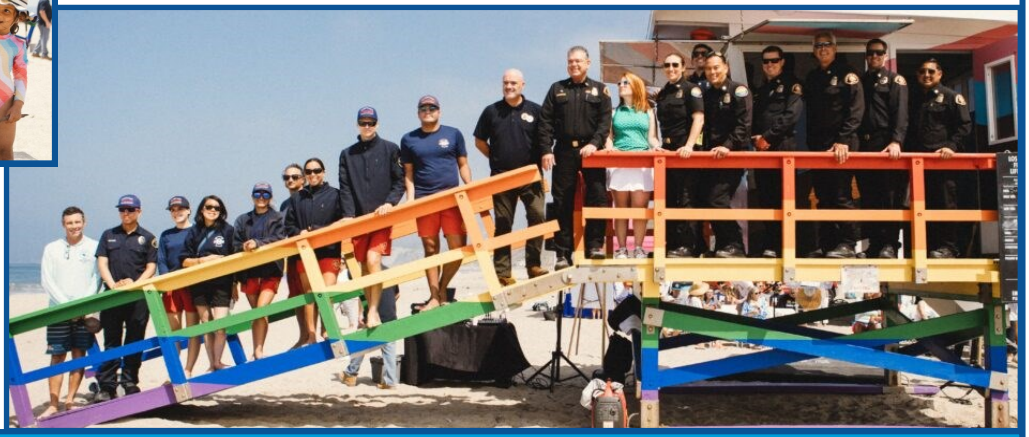
Pride Towers Unveiled at Ginger Rogers Beach

On Saturday, June 17, 2023, the County of Los Angeles' Third District Supervisor, Lindsey P. Horvath, along with the ONE Archives Foundation, hosted an event to present the newly painted lifeguard Towers 17 and 18 at Ginger Rogers Beach in celebration of Pride Month.

Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone joined team members from the Fire Department, Beaches and Harbors, and the community to witness the unveiling of the Progress Pride flag art installation that was painted onto the towers by artist Katherine Bingley.



For decades, Ginger Rogers Beach has been a refuge and safe haven for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The painting of the towers and placard installation celebrate the historic beach, LGBTQIA+ community, and honors its advocates and leaders.



You belong.

A Statement from LA County Library and Los Angeles Public Library



As two of the largest public library systems in the nation, we are committed to offering welcoming and safe spaces where everyone belongs. During Pride Month and beyond, our staff, our programs, and our services proudly include and reflect our LGBTQIA+ community. It is the tapestry of all our backgrounds and sharing our diversity that gives Los Angeles. its beauty and strength. At our libraries, always and in all ways, we welcome everyone.

Find your place at one of our libraries and visit us at LACountyLibrary.org and LAPL.org.

Community Mural Unveiling "Unity Under the Sun"

A new 200-foot mural entitled "Unity Under the Sun" was unveiled at the Watts Historic Train Station on Saturday, March 4, 2023, presented by LA vs Hate in partnership with nonprofit Build Plus Community Marketplace. The mural, created in collaboration with local Los Angeles artists **MisterAlek** and **Showzart**, spans the walls surrounding the train station and conveys a message of diversity, love, and honoring the cultural history of the Watts community.

The mural unveiling was celebrated at a community event with over 250 attendees where representatives from LA vs Hate gathered with County leaders and several Watts community leaders to share insight on the history and culture of Watts. Among the speakers at the event were Tim McOsker, LA City Councilmember, District 15; Robin Toma, Director, and Fidel Rodriguez, Senior Human Relations Consultant of the LA County Commission on Human Relations and LA vs Hate; Daude Sherrills, CEO of Joblot and Board Member of Build Plus Community Marketplace; Ms. Wajeha Bilal, Executive Director of Build Plus Community Marketplace; Mr. Arturo Ybarra, Executive Director of the Watts Century Latino Organization; Dr. Lani Cupchoy and Dr. Dawn A. Lewis from California State University, Los Angeles; and Ron Wilkins, Historian. The celebration also featured performances by a group of African drummers, Inu Olorun; Aztec dancers, Danza Mexica; Zhe, a professional violinist, and live music by DJ Orator.

"Unity Under the Sun" depicts many cultural and historical symbols that showcase a global, multicultural narrative of resilience, integrity, and dignity in pursuing harmony with the Earth, ourselves, and one another. The illustrations reflect the arduous yet beautiful human journey toward our collective unity under the sun.

The mural features celebrated members of the Watts community like Simon Rodia, builder of the Watts Towers; Wajeha Bilal, a celebrated community leader who has dedicated her work to advocating for the people of Watts. LA Mayor Karen Bass is also depicted in the mural, celebrating her legacy as a community activist in South Central as the founder of Community Coalition. The mural highlights diverse members of the Watts community and reflects back the remarkable accomplishments of a region now led by an all-female County Board of Supervisors and Mayor.

We are grateful for the partnerships and work that was done to bring this mural to life and we hope it serves as a reminder of the power that art has in representing our past, inspiring our future, and uniting us despite our differences.



"Sirens of Silence"
Lifeguard Tower Promotes Autism & Special Needs Awareness



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in 36 children (2.8%) is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Individuals with ASD are each unique and have a range of challenges, including communication and social skills. Some may be limited in verbal communication or nonverbal which accounts for nearly one-third of people with autism.

Nearly half of those with autism also wander or bolt from safety. Seeing a fully suited first responder or stranger can also provide a sense of uneasiness. Additionally, for some children with ASD, lights and sirens become an overwhelming sensory overload.

To help familiarize and expose individuals with ASD to first responders, the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Sirens of Silence program will work with local organizations, so children with ASD and their parents/caregivers can meet firefighters and lifeguards to see and touch the equipment and various types of apparatus in a quiet and less stimulating setting.

The Sirens of Silence program features:

1) **Education and awareness** for the Department's first responders though a mandatory training module as well as access to visual aids and informational materials with advice and practical tips on how to approach, respond, and communicate.
2) **Special needs-friendly events** for residents to meet and interact with first responders in a welcoming and sensory-sensitive space.
3) **Safety-related items** (i.e., seatbelt covers, sensory toys, etc.) for special needs patients.

Story Behind "Sirens of Silence" Tower of Kindness

On March 27, 2023, Fourth District County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fire Chief Anthony C. Marrone, Department of Beaches and Harbors Director Gary Jones, Ocean Lifeguard and Artist Scott Snyder, and Sirens of Silence Creator/Fire Department Communications Manager Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, kicked-off the painting of a permanent Sirens of Silence lifeguard tower that is dedicated to promoting autism and special needs awareness and inclusion. Throughout the week, autism and special needs individuals and their families, therapists, educators, advocates, and community groups volunteered their time and effort to hand-paint the tower's colorful mural (designed by Scott Snyder) which represents a flurry of vibrant hearts that exemplifies an exuberance of joy, love, and kindness while embracing all abilities. Thanks to the community's help, and a generous donation from the Behr Paint Company, the Sirens of Silence lifeguard tower's permanent art installation was completed on April 2, 2023, which is celebrated as World Autism Awareness Day.

JULY

DID YOU KNOW

Discover resources and information from across our **six wellness focus areas** that relate to key observances in July.

physical | emotional | social | financial | occupational | intellectual

Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, gender, age, identity, or economic situation. Many marginalized communities find access to mental health treatment much more difficult because of a lack of insurance coverage, insufficient financial resources, or limited culturally competent care. Under-represented groups, including racial/ethnic, gender, and sexual minorities, face unique struggles when it comes to accessing quality care for mental health treatment. **National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** brings attention to the issues Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities face regarding mental health, such as inaccessibility to quality treatment, cultural stigma, and discrimination.

CALL TO ACTION



Learn more about the importance of **National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month** by visiting Mental Health America's website. Take a mental health screening and encourage others to do the same. Advocate for yourself by discussing your results with your healthcare provider. Ask for culturally responsive providers with experience working with individuals of similar identities to you. Explore this Mental Health America publication for a wealth of information and resources on mental health in the BIPOC community. If you need counseling services, the County's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available at (213) 433-7202 or by emailing EAP@hr.lacounty.gov. The Life Assistance Program (LAP) also provides counseling services and crisis intervention free of charge to all County employees at (800) 538-3543.

LA vs Hate

The County's system to address and resist hate, **LA vs Hate**, just launched the *Summer of Solidarity*, a summer-long celebration of the County's cultural and community diversity. Throughout the *Summer of Solidarity*, **LA vs Hate** will commission and reveal new murals celebrating different communities and cultures across the County through partnerships with community-based organizations.

CALL TO ACTION

Learn more about **LA vs Hate** and the *Summer of Solidarity* series taking place across the County, including monthly art-led and community-centered events. Each event aims to uplift and celebrate cultural moments and traditions – all to showcase that unity is stronger than hate. The *Summer of Solidarity* also seeks to remind residents of the County's hate reporting system, where anyone can report an act of hate and receive free and confidential support by calling 2-1-1 or by filing a report online at www.LAvsHate.org.

UV Safety

UV Safety Month in July reminds us to take proactive measures to safeguard our skin and eyes from the sun's rays. Overexposure to UV radiation can increase the risk of skin cancer and cause long-term skin damage such as wrinkles.



CALL TO ACTION

Protect your skin from UV rays and #PracticeSafeSun all year round by wearing sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 30. Seek shade during peak daylight and wear a hat or sunglasses to minimize the risk of sunburns and sun damage. Learn how to take a skin self-exam and ways to protect yourself from the sun on the American Cancer Society's website.

Social Wellness Month

Social Wellness Month aims to encourage individuals to nurture and enhance their social connections and relationships. Developing positive social habits through self-expression and interactions with others leads to improved mental and physical health. Connecting with others can improve an individual's ability to recover from stress, anxiety, or depression. Having a strong support system has also been associated with healthier cardiovascular functioning and an enhanced immune system.



CALL TO ACTION

Check out 6 Strategies for Improving Your Social Health here. Engage in outdoor activities at a local park or beach. Build connections through hobbies or volunteering in your community. Connect with fellow County employees and participate in wellness activities at the Countywide Wellness Challenge in-person, outdoor, Destination: Wellness event on July 15th at Dockweiler Beach. You can register for the event here.

Sandwich Generation Month

The Sandwich Generation refers to individuals responsible for raising children and caring for aging parents at the same time. **Sandwich Generation Month** highlights the unique challenges and responsibilities caregivers may face around the demands of providing care, financial assistance, and emotional support for more than one generation. This month is a time to show understanding and empathy, and to assist caregivers of older and younger loved ones.



CALL TO ACTION

The Sandwich Generation often struggles to strike a balance between meeting the needs of their parents and children and prioritizing self-care. This month, explore resources, learn how the whole family can pitch in, explore time-management, stress-management tools and self-care webinars to better manage the challenges that come with this challenging role.

Los Angeles County DEPARTMENT OF Human Resources