

Annual Report 2009

Dear VPC Members,

On behalf of the Steering Committee and staff of the Violence Prevention Coalition, Happy New Year and welcome back to a new year and a new decade. We have much work to do in the coming year. Although law enforcement is talking about the incredibly low levels of violence and crime in Los Angeles, in the same breath they talk about a possible cooperation among gangs in an effort to assure that the gangs can go about their businesses of crime, identity theft, intimidation, etc. without bringing law enforcement's attention on them.

This time provides an opportunity to demonstrate that community safety with a focus on prevention can facilitate long term public safety. It also is an opportunity to demonstrate the community efforts that each of you are involved in are the real work that is successfully and sustainably reducing violence.

We look forward to working with you in the VPC network to show that by working together the change can be long lasting and that we have provided an environment in which all of our young people can thrive and reach their full potential.

Sincerely,
Frank Blaney, Chair
Billie Weiss, Founder

Quarterly General Membership Meetings

On March 6th, we sponsored a panel discussion titled: "How to Communicate with your Legislators". Our panel included Taylor Mitchell, Field Deputy to Congress member Lucille Roy-

Frank Blaney, Chair, Addressing VPC Members



bal-Allard; and Tessa Charnofsky, Special Assistant, and Patrice Marshall, Field Deputy to Speaker of the Assembly

Karen Bass. Also, Paul Freese, Director of Litigation and Advocacy for Public Council, discussed the guidelines for advocacy by nonprofit agencies.

Our spring meeting May 11 was highlighted by a presentation from Peter Greenwood, the Executive Director of the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-based Practices regarding the growing need for promoting evidence-based programming. This meeting was also the occasion for electing our new Steering Committee, who will serve for the next two years.

The July 8th meeting included the panel discussion, "Ancient

Solutions to Modern Problems." Moderated by Chris Henrickson on Street Poets, the panelists Luis Rodriguez (Tia Chucha's), Luis Ruan (Beyond Limits), Tony LoRe (Youth Mentoring Connection), and Fidel Rodriguez (Divine Forces Media) engaged in a conversation on healing the human spirit.

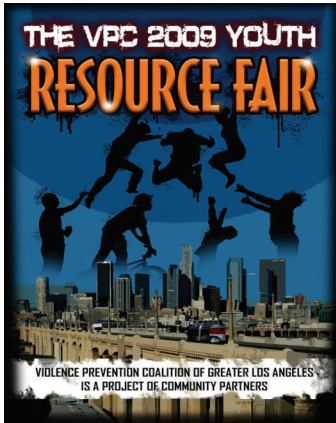
The fall meeting, held November 7, was actually a youth resource fair sponsored by the VPC's Youth Committee. Thirty organizations ranging from arts and education to legal support were on hand to work with approximately 200 young people and their families.

Special points of interest:

- > Youth Resource Fair
- > Program Evaluation Workshops
- > Book Talk with Josh Horowitz
- > VPC Intern: Vicente Lara
- > VPC Hosted Event with Hospital Administrators, LAPD and Gang Intervention Workers

Inside this report:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Working Group Activities | 2 |
| Ambassadors Council Event | 2 |
| New Partnerships | 2 |
| Program Evaluation Workshops | 3 |
| Steering Committee Update | 3 |
| Youth Challenge Grants | 4 |



The VPC hosted a Youth Resource Fair on November 7 at the Los Angeles State Historic Park

"In an effort to increase the effectiveness of our work in Los Angeles County, we have reached out to our compatriots from the Inland Empire and Orange County Violence Prevention Coalitions."

On November 11, the VPC hosted "Book Talk with Josh Horwitz"

Book Talk

YOU ARE INVITED

Come share in the debate as Josh Horwitz and Casey Anderson discuss the intricate details of their new book "Guns, Democracy, and the Insurrectionist Idea". Hear Horwitz and Anderson speak on the heavily debated topic:

This book is an informative story that challenges the proposition that more guns equal more freedom. By exposing insurrectionism—not government oppression—as the true threat to freedom in the U.S. today.

Joshua Horwitz
received a law degree from George Washington University and is currently a visiting scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is Executive Director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence.

Casey Anderson
holds a law degree from Georgetown University and is currently a lawyer in private practice in Washington, D.C. He has served in senior staff positions with the U.S. Congress, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and Americans for Gun Safety.

Wednesday, November 11, 2009 @ 4 PM
Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater LA
1000 North Alameda
Los Angeles, Ca 90012
(@The Endowment Building)
*free parking and refreshments served

To RSVP or for more info contact:
Bill Martinez at 213-346-3265 or billmartinez@vpcga.org

Hosted by:
vpc
Violence Prevention Coalition
A Project of Community Partners

This event is provided through the generous support of the California Violence Prevention is the California Endowment

Working Group Activities

Our committees were very active this year. Highlights include:

The Youth Committee successfully managed our Youth Challenge Grants, and their culminating Youth Resource Fair. The committee continues to offer youths a place to express their opinions and identify solutions to the violence that they encounter every day.

The Re-entry and Employment Committee said goodbye to

former Chair Carla Hill, and welcomed new co-Chairs Batima Conerly and Lorraine Dillard. This year, the committee produced a generic survey of re-entry support programs that they have promoted among current re-entry projects.

In addition to redefining their mission, the Legislation and Policy Committee was very effective at addressing various legislative initiatives that impact violence. Among the highlights of this year's legislative

session was pass age of Kevin de León's bill, AB 962 to regulate gun ammunition sales.

The Conversations on the Nature of Violence Committee has developed the outline for a five-session speakers series that will help us better understand the personal and societal influences that cause us to use violence in our daily lives. Among the topics that will be included are gender, religion, sports, the economy and the environment.

Ambassadors Council Event

On January 30th, Steering Committee member Jerry Factor and his wife Loraine hosted the VPC and our Ambassador Council for a presentation by Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith. Dr.

Prothrow-Stith discussed the changing environment around violence, and the role of the new administration in Washington to further violence prevention.



New Partnerships

The VPC was actively engaged in partnership relations with a variety of organizations throughout the year. Some of the highlights included:

Co-sponsoring public hearings on the Youth PROMISE Act (Scott, D, Va), along with Los Angeles City Councilmember Tony Cardenas; Participating in a State-wide network of gun safety advocates to examine and advocate for solutions to gun violence;

Working with the Mayor's office of the City of Los Angeles to stage the Mothers' Day Gun

Buy-back Program, that helped to take 1,700 guns off the streets in exchange for gift cards to grocery stores and other locations;

Participating in the Gun Violence Summit, co-hosted by the federal Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Institute for Community Peace. The three sessions yielded a number of policy options to further reduce the availability, and increase the safety of guns; and

Working with representatives from the Trauma Center at

Cedars Sinai Hospital and gang intervention programs to develop toolkits that will help Gang Intervention Specialists cope with the traumatic nature of their work.

In an effort to increase the effectiveness of our work in Los Angeles County, we have reached out to our compatriots from the Inland Empire and Orange County Violence Prevention Coalitions. Our work is focused on public education around violence prevention, such as gun safety.

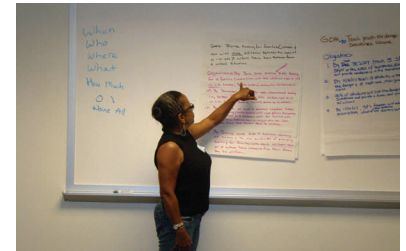


Program Evaluation Workshops

The Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center at the UCLA School of Public Health in collaboration with the VPC continued to provide the four-week program evaluation workshop sessions during 2009. Participants in the final session included representatives from Teen Line, 350 Degree Enterprises, Inc., The City of Long Beach Role of Men Academy, Community Service Programs, Inc., Mansa Consulting Group, and USC's Community Diabetes Initiative. Since

the VPC began offering these trainings in July 2007, 122 representatives from 65 different organizations have participated, and of those, 95 representatives from 58 different organizations have completed all sessions of the training thus far. Results from a follow-up survey conducted with participants were presented at the 2009 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on November 10th. The staff of the SCIPRC is submitting an article

on the findings from the follow-up survey for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The staff of the SCIPRC is also submitting proposals to secure funding to continue the workshops. The VPC also continued its partnership with Berkeley Media Studies Group to offer Media Advocacy training to members. The most recent session on September 22nd focused on framing a message for the media.



Evaluation workshop participant presents her work

Steering Committee Update

The Steering Committee of the VPC has undergone change this year, as we elected new officers to the governing body. In May, we elected four new members, including Gale Feldman, Jimmy Valenzuela, Adriana Molina and Adela Barajas to the Steering Committee. And in November, Batima Conerly and Lorraine Dillard were elected by the Re-Entry Committee to co-Chair that Action Group. We

also said goodbye and thank you to Carla Hill for the years that she spent as Chair of the Re-entry Committee.

In addition to new officers, the Steering Committee is wrapping up a set of "Network Planning Priorities" that will help define and guide the work of the VPC over the next three years.



The Steering Committee discussing upcoming VPC events

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VPC Hosted Event: LAPD/Hospitals/Gang Intervention

On August 25, the VPC and Los Angeles Police Department partnered to help bridge the gap between gang intervention programs and several hospitals across the County. Over eighty representatives attended the meeting that included presentations on the

various services provided by gang intervention agencies, and particularly how these services impact hospitals. A working lunch allowed the hospital and gang intervention representatives to begin opening lines of communication. The City of LA has become an active

partner in this process, promoting a formal relationship, coupled with training for intervention workers regarding the unique aspects of working in and around a hospital or trauma center.



Gang Intervention Workers at a VPC hosted event with Hospital Administrators and LAPD.

We're on the Web!
www.vpcgla.org

The mission of the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles is to effect the reduction of violence and its impact on the health and well being of the residents of Los Angeles County through participation and collaboration of a multi-disciplinary network. The Coalition was formed by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Services in May 1991. The Coalition serves as an informal network for community service providers and a strong advocacy force, producing informational resources, events and effectuating policy issues.



Violence Prevention Coalition
of Greater Los Angeles

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VPC Intern: Vicente Lara

The VPC was happy to host Vicente Lara, a Student Intern and second year Masters candidate from the UCLA School of Public Health. Vicente focused his efforts on the works of the Youth Committee and the Challenge Grants. His work resulted in an assessment of the grant process and how the VPC can provide additional support to youths and youth-serving agencies.

Youth Challenge Grants Program

The VPC awarded eight Youth Challenge Grants to partnering agencies across the County to provide programs designed by and for youths. Grant recipients included: Teen Line and Total Family Support Clinic; Inner City Struggle and United Students; Peace Over Violence and Homeboy Industries; Street Poets and Youth Mentoring

Connection; Project Cry No More and L.A.U.R.A.; Watts Century Latino Organization and Youth Opportunities Charter High School; the Flintridge Operating Foundation and Northwest ECHO Program; and Kavanaugh Community and Belmont High School. Together, dozens of young men and women influences thousands of

their peers regarding various forms of violence and how each has responsibility for reducing the damages to our communities.

Youth-led events sponsored by VPC Challenge Grants

