



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER

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Downtown Women's Center Hosts Pathbreaking Women's Homeless Forum with Mayor Karen Bass

Los Angeles, CA – Today, The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) hosted a critical dialogue with Mayor Karen Bass, DWC CEO Amy Turk, homeless advocates and local leaders, discussing ways to solve the women's homeless crisis. Women are one of the city's fastest growing homeless populations and the group discussed the best path forward to eradicate homelessness among women.

"Homelessness is one of the most significant issues facing this city, with women being one of the most vulnerable and oftentimes overlooked populations, said Turk. "It's critical for organizations like DWC, that have spent more than 40 years serving the needs of women experiencing homelessness, to work with elected officials to come up with viable solutions to this crisis."

Participants discussed key findings from the most recent women's needs assessment and how the data could point to solutions. Other topics included the need to renew funding by July 1 for DWC's Every Woman Housed program to permanently end homelessness for all women and unsheltered families residing in Skid Row as well as DWC's campus expansion to house additional women and families. There is a great need for housing justice and housing retention efforts like LA:RISE, a partnership between Los Angeles city and county workforce agencies to help people overcoming high employment barriers get jobs, stay employed, and build better lives.

"There are more than 40,000 Angelenos who sleep on the street every night in our city," said Mayor Karen Bass. "The only way we can fully confront this crisis is if we take different approaches to house different populations of Angelenos. The homeless population is not a monolith so our plans to confront the crisis can't be one size fits all. Thank you to the Downtown Women's Center for hosting today's forum and for continuing to do the work needed to help save lives."

Event participants included:

- **Mercedes Marquez** – Chief of Housing and Homelessness Solutions, Office of Mayor Bass
- **Carolyn Hull** – General Manager, LA City Economic Workforce Development Department
- **Kelly Lobianco** – Director, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity
- **Cheri Todoroff** – Executive Director, LA County Homeless Initiative
- **Wendy Greuel** – Commissioner, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- **Connie Llanos** – Interim General Manager, LADOT
- **Abigail Marquez** – General Manager, Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department
- **Sofia Herrera** – Director of Research, Planning, & Policy, Hub for Urban Initiatives
- **Stephanie Wiggins** – Chief Executive Officer, METRO

- **Lara Drino** – Deputy City Attorney
- **Jessica Lall** – Managing Director, CBRE
- **Nella McOsker** – President & CEO, CCA
- **Louisa Ollague** – Director of Planning and Development, Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis
- **Che Ramirez** – Deputy Mayor, City Homelessness Initiatives, Office of Mayor Bass
- **Jarvis Emerson** – Director, Skid Row Strategies, Office of Mayor Bass
- **Brad Fingard** – State & County Affairs Manager, Office of Mayor Bass
- **Sarah Tanberg** – Senior Homelessness Deputy, CD 4
- **Emma Taylor** – District Director, CD 4
- **Lily Sofiani** – Assistant Deputy, Homelessness, Office of Supervisor Holly Mitchell
- **Fabian Cuevas** – Field Representative, Office of Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer
- **Amy Perkins** – Senior Deputy, Housing & Homelessness, Office of Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
- **Greg Comanor** – Partner, Daylight Community Development
- **Sonya Falcone** – Partner, Daylight Community Development

Photos of the event can be accessed via Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zqZipJiAWAcLRfYfbLDVtBGpmLHTt5zs?usp=share_link

Renderings of DWC’s campus expansion can be accessed via Google Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GiffLrnwRVJ-CW0RhYanvImiqzkPC5R5?usp=share_link

About The Downtown Women’s Center

The Downtown Women’s Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Our mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.

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