



Pete White, Founder & Executive Director, Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN)

Pete White is the Founder and Executive Director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LA CAN), a grassroots organization working to ensure the human right to housing, health, and security are upheld in Los Angeles. Committed to the fight for human and civil rights, Pete believed he could do more for his community by becoming a community organizer

and civil rights advocate to fight the social injustice and disparate treatment of Black and other marginalized communities of color. Pete's activism has linked him with various local, national, and international causes.

Pete has educated and organized thousands of low-income people on a multitude of issues and human rights campaigns. A lifetime resident of South Central Los Angeles, he is committed to fight for a Los Angeles that does not tolerate racial injustice, promotes an equitable distribution of resources, and includes everyone. Pete believes that organizing and leadership development are essential tools needed to achieve social change and racial justice.

Pete's success as a community organizer, speaker, and strategist has led to numerous television and radio appearances as an analyst and commentator regarding civil and human rights issues. Pete is featured in the critically acclaimed film 'Lost Angeles: Skid Row Is My Home' and HBO's docu-series: Wyatt Cenac's Problem Areas. He also appears in numerous other documentaries investigating housing justice, food justice, criminal justice reform, and broad-based human rights. Notably, he co-produced 'Operation Skid Row,' a community festival linking cultural giants like Chuck D and Public Enemy with the work of local artists and organizations to expand the collective bandwidth to produce change.

Pete's work in the international human rights arena has led to him hosting three UN Special Rapporteurs and informing their reports on U.S. compliance with international standards. His testimony, both oral and written, has led to United Nations action meant to address the human rights grievance he presented.

Pete serves on a variety of Boards and Advisory Committees related to homelessness, organizing, and grassroots funding. He often appears as a guest lecturer and dispenses knowledge and community organizing techniques to students throughout the country. One of his specialties is strategizing community impact litigation rooted in a model he helped ground known as 'community-based lawyering.'

As one of Los Angeles' steadfast organizers and strategists in movement work, Pete has facilitated and coordinated actions against police brutality and helped develop policy around bail reform in many of the 50 United States, including: Atlanta, Baltimore, California, Chicago, Detroit, Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Massachusetts, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington. His work has been exported and replicated all

across the nation and has assisted in changing the material conditions for those adversely impacted by organized abandonment.

Accomplishments:

- Built a long-standing poor-people's organization comprised of directly impacted people and secured historic victories.
- Secured the Residential Hotel Ordinance that protected low-income people living in residential hotels from becoming homeless as a result of real estate speculation, market rate development and gentrification. Noted as the strongest tenant rights protection in the history of Los Angeles.
- Created numerous state and local laws protecting the rights of poor people facing housing displacement and discriminatory policing.
- Built a highly acclaimed community-watch system that allows residents to monitor, document and report the lack of public health infrastructure and policing interactions experienced. Additionally, using that information to develop organizing campaigns and ultimately public policy.
- Created rooftop gardens and neighborhood pop-up markets to address healthy food access and food insecurity experienced in low-income communities of color. To date our pop-up markets provide one-ton of organic and locally grown fruits and vegetables.
- Developed strategy and deployed community-based teams to pass two local ballot measures HHH and H resulting in a nearly \$5 billion infusion of resources to build housing and provide services to houseless people.
- Co-created two books, 'Freedom Now' and 'Downtown Blues' that focus on housing and gentrification and the role of modern day policing. The books are used as core curriculum in universities in the US and abroad.
- Produced numerous, large scale, community arts and music festivals to help spotlight the idea that "art has no address" but without art and culture we cannot change neither hearts and minds nor plot a new "North Star".