



JCOD and County Partners Host “Origin” Film Screening and Panel Discussion



Origin Film Screening and Panel Discussion

On March 6, JCOD in collaboration with the Anti-Racism, Diversity, & Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative, Department of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Mental Health, hosted a film screening of “Origin” at Cinemark Baldwin Hills Crenshaw and XD.

More than 150 employees from various LA County Departments attended the private screening of “Origin,” a film written and directed by Ava DuVernay. The movie is based on the life of Isabel Wilkerson as she wrote the book “*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.” It delves into the concept that race may not be the sole factor in bigotry, but rather explores significant events throughout history in Germany, India, and the United States that caste systems played a significant role in shaping societal divisions.

Following the screening, ARDI hosted a panel discussion that explored themes presented in “Origin.”

Panelists shared their reaction and insights about the movie, recounted personal experiences and discussed broader strategies for uplifting and providing support to community members.

The event was a great way to explore the important issues that we face as a society today and put in perspective the mission we are committed to here at JCOD.

Support of Senate Bill (SB) 987



Judge Songhai Armstead (ret.) and Senator Caroline Menjivar

On March 12, JCOD Director Judge Songhai Armstead (ret.) testified before the Senate Public Safety Committee in Sacramento in support of Senate Bill (SB) 987. Sen. Caroline Menjivar authored SB 987, which seeks to reimagine the justice system and includes allowing independent pretrial agencies like JCOD to provide a wide range of pretrial client services.

The Senate Public Safety Committee voted unanimously 5-0 in favor of SB 987. The bill will be reviewed by the Senate Appropriations Committee at a future hearing to assess its fiscal implications.

JCOD On the Air



Director Judge Armstea (ret.) and EJ at iHeart Media



Director Judge Armstead (ret.) and Tammi Mac at KJLH

On March 4, Director Judge Armstead (ret.) spoke to EJ at iHeart Media and Tammi Mac at KJLH to discuss our new call center and website. Her full interview with EJ is available [here](#). A portion of her conversation on [The Tammi Mac Show](#) can be found on our [Instagram page](#).



Staff Spotlight

Melissa Espiritu - Data Analyst in the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department.



Melissa works with JCOD to analyze data and build dashboards that measure the success of the department's work. She also offers the same service to the department's community service providers. Recently, she created the [JCOD Sector dashboard](#) which includes an equity page.

It measures whether JCOD's services are being distributed equally. Anyone can see how many JCOD participants are connected to training, how many obtain employment, their average hourly wage, and more.

Melissa loves that data is about “storytelling of what’s actually happening in the community.” The community can click open JCOD’s data dashboards any time and see how the department is doing. Initially, Melissa worked in fashion, and then she studied social work, getting a job doing frontline service delivery for people with system involvement. Then she went to work for a startup and found that she enjoyed working with data, and then JCOD came to her with the perfect opportunity to combine her passions for creativity, social justice, and data analysis.

“Culture and community are the most important thing to me,” she said. “I like using data in the most creative way to make a positive difference here in L.A. County. And we are making a difference here, now, because of the leadership of organizations like JCOD. This job represents my passion and who I am.”



Organization Spotlight

Inglewood Wrapping Arms Around the Community (IWATC)



[Inglewood Wrapping Arms Around the Community \(IWATC\)](#) is a local community nonprofit that helps marginalized individuals who have been affected by poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, criminality, and incarceration. Founded in 2019, IWATC aims to reduce recidivism, combat inequalities, and reconnect families, all with the aim of inspiring positive change and revitalizing the community.

Executive Director Reginald Laudermill took the organization through JCOD's Incubation Academy, and credits the technical assistance received with rescuing the organization when it faced a funding crisis. "They helped us with our infrastructure, and they helped us with grants, and it has been a blessing," he said. "Our food program feeds more than 4,000 people every month, and a lot of people come in through our transitional housing program. We also have a resource center where we offer training, job referrals, and give classes. A lot of people benefit from our help."

Another pioneer program for the center is using virtual reality headsets to work with young people who are returning to the community from jail. "We take them through a variety of scenarios from dealing with a difficult roommate to applying for their driver's license. It's an opportunity to help prepare people for their new life and it's been very effective."



Upcoming Meetings & Events

[JCOD's Public Convening, Wednesday, 3/20/2024, 9am](#)

The next Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) public convening meeting will be Wednesday, March 20th from 9 am – 10:00 am.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 287 086 747 108
Passcode: XuSDKm

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

[CFCI Advisory Committee Regular Meeting, Thursday, 3/21/2024, 4pm](#)

Agenda and supporting documentation will be provided at a later date.

Meeting Location:

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381-B

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

To participate via computer or smart phone: [Click Here For Access](#)

To participate via telephone only: Dial-In: +1 669 900 9128 Meeting ID: 861 0182 2883#
Passcode: 437765

Second Chance Month Events



Supervisory District: 1

Event: Community Resource Fair

Name of Provider: Homeboy Industries

Date: Friday, April 5, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Address: 130 W. Bruno St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Supervisory District: 2

Event: Community Resource Fair

Name of Provider: Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)

Date: Friday, April 26, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Address: 10950 South Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90059

Supervisorial District: 3

Event: Opening/Meet and greet of the Reentry Women's Housing (JCOD POWR program)

Name of Provider: Center for Living and Learning

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Address: 9712 Arleta Ave., Arleta, CA 91331

Supervisorial District: 4

Event: Community Resource Fair (In Partnership with Long Beach City College, Probation Department, and the City of Long Beach)

Name of Location: Long Beach City College

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Address: 1305 E Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach, CA 90806

Supervisorial District: 5

Event: Grand opening of their wellness center for reentry population

Name of Provider: Paving the Way

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Address: 1729 W. Ave J, Lancaster, CA 93534

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