



For Immediate Release  
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## **Despite Sheriff's Objections Summer Pop-Up Series to Bring the Arts and Wellness to Los Angeles County Jails to Still Take Place Outside of Twin Towers**

*After three years of hosting 'Freedom Harvest', which sees volunteers offering massages, yoga, crafts, tea making and more to families and friends visiting those incarcerated, Dignity and Power Now says Sheriff's Department is trying to shut them down*

- WHO:** Dignity and Power Now, local artists and families of loved ones incarcerated in Los Angeles County jails
- WHAT:** 'Freedom Harvest' Summer Pop-Up Arts and Wellness Series
- WHEN:** Saturday, July 15, 2017  
9AM to 1PM
- WHERE:** Twin Towers Correctional Facility  
450 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Los Angeles, CA** – Despite objections from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department that the outside of their jails is private property, Dignity and Power Now says that they plan to host their Freedom Harvest summer pop-up arts series in front of Twin Towers Correctional Facility on Sat., Jul. 15 as previously planned—but this time with attorneys to monitor the situation.

Now in its fourth year, the DPN Freedom Harvest continues to offer free



massages, bodywork, yoga sessions, herbal tea making, flower and herb bundle making, crafts, listening stations and performance and movement art outside of L.A. County jails for families and friends visiting those incarcerated. The event is scheduled to come to the Twin Towers Correctional Facility on July 15 and August 19, and July 29 at the Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood. All events are free to the public and will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“We need events like this outside of the jails,” **said past Freedom Harvest participant Martha Camacho-Rodriguez.** “Visiting someone in jail is mentally and physically draining not to mention it can be traumatic for both the adults and children. Events like Freedom Harvest break up the monotony and change a bleak atmosphere into one that is more inviting and welcoming to those who are just trying to visit their loved ones. When we come down here to visit someone who is in jail, we’re treated like we are criminals from the moment we enter the door. Instead of harassing organizations that are just trying to help, the sheriff’s department needs to be welcoming Dignity and Power Now and thanking them.”

"Freedom Harvest is the culmination of a multifaceted, trauma informed, healing, motivated movement to end state violence and mass incarceration," **said Dignity and Power Now's Director of Programs Guadalupe Rocio Chavez.** "Black, Brown and poor communities need a Los Angeles that will fight for our health and well-being instead of our incarceration."

Freedom Harvest is facilitated by Dignity and Power Now's Building Resilience project and will feature collective of artist and healer volunteers who will engage the community on issues of incarceration, trauma and collective strength.

“This is a response to the lack of services for the families and loved ones on the inside. What we’re offering is a response to the violence and violent culture that is L.A. County jails. Our intention with Freedom Harvest is to disrupt the oppressive and shaming environment created by the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department and to provide a space for families with incarcerated loved ones to heal, create and organize.”

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**DIGNITY AND POWER NOW (DPN)** is a grassroots organization based in Los Angeles that fights for the dignity and power of incarcerated people, their



families, and communities. In doing so, DPN wages a fight for everyone because the prison industrial complex forms an imaginative limit on everyone's capacity to envision freedom and liberation. More at [www.dignityandpowernow.org](http://www.dignityandpowernow.org)