

DISABILITY IS DIVERSITY

ReelAbilities

VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020

OCTOBER 16-18, 2020



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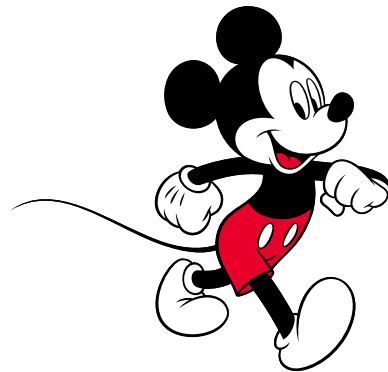
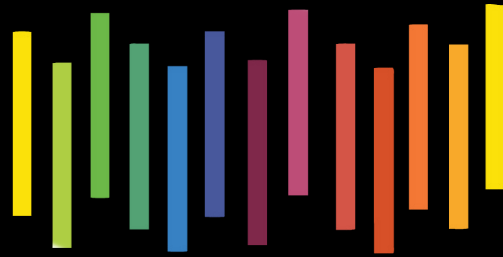
We congratulate the
**ReelAbilities Film
Festival** on changing
the narrative for people
of all abilities.

Proud to support the
ReelAbilities Film Festival

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Entertainment Diversity
& Inclusion



The *WALT DISNEY* Studios

is honored to support the ReelAbilities Film Festival
and all of the filmmakers taking part this year.



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

October 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, welcome to the 3rd Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Los Angeles.

While we cannot gather in person this year, the messages and stories portrayed in this year's films and panels truly speak to the trials of these times. In the midst of a global pandemic and calls for racial justice, this year's festival includes stories about the flaws in our healthcare system and a discussion on intersectionality in the Black Lives Matter movement.

Over the next three days, you will have the privilege of viewing more than a dozen films and get the chance to participate in several panel discussions that will challenge your perspectives and better inform your future actions. Most importantly, these films will give you a powerful understanding that representation on and behind the screen matters, and reinforce how vital it is that authentic storytelling reflects the talents of people with diverse abilities and experiences.

I send my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Garcetti", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor



ABOUT

ReelAbilities

ReelAbilities Film Festival is the largest film festival in the United States dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with disabilities. Founded twelve years ago in New York, ReelAbilities Film Festivals are now held annually in multiple cities throughout North America.

ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles is working together with the diverse and varied public of Los Angeles to gain a greater appreciation of quality cinema across abilities. We seek to engage entertainment industry executives, filmmakers, and the film-going public in a meaningful way to:

- Highlight the challenges and opportunities for artists with disabilities.
- Provide a forum for filmmakers and artists with disabilities to gather, share their experiences, and connect to a wider audience.
- Showcase technologies which make movie-going more accessible.
- Feature excellent films from around the globe that are fully inclusive and re-imagine the role of people with disabilities in film.

ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles provides entertainment industry leaders the opportunity to:

- Highlight their efforts to promote an inclusive, welcoming, and diverse workforce.
- Engage with stakeholders in the community to improve the visibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.

ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles is produced by the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Commission on Disability and ReelAbilities North America.

This will be the third year of ReelAbilities Film Festival Los Angeles. Although we have worked to ensure our festival is as inclusive and accommodating as possible, we realize there is still work needed to be done to ensure a fully accessible experience for all. Please join with us in helping to achieve the vision of a city that is fully inclusive and provides everyone, regardless of ability, a sense of belonging in the City of Angels.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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October 16, 2020

Welcome, my friends, to the ReelAbilities Film Festival LA2020.

Only a year has passed since the last ReelAbilities Film Festival in Los Angeles, but it seems like a lifetime ago. Throughout the extraordinary experiences we have all shared – from health crises, to social crises, to climate crises – one thing has remained true: the need for Disability and Accessibility to be infused in all diversity, equity, and inclusion movements is more important now than ever.

To that end, RAFFLA2020 continues to build on the successes of our first two years. Our film selections, from shorts to features, are as powerful in presentation as they are wide-ranging in vision. Our panels address conversations that happen far too infrequently and must be a fundamental part of today's social discourse.

We also continue our tradition of filmmaker discussions throughout the festival, and have added “schmooze zooms” where you can have intimate small group discussions with some of the movers and shakers behind the magic that is Hollywood.

As our communities continue to grow in visibility and adaptability, ReelAbilities continues to evolve. If you are new to the ReelAbilities family: welcome. If you are a ReelAbilities veteran: welcome back. Either way, thank you for taking this journey with us, wherever it may lead.

Sincerely,

Stephen David Simon
Executive Director

REELABILITIES VIRTUAL FILM FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES 2020 | OCTOBER 16-18, 2020

****ALL FILMS ARE PRESENTED WITH CAPTIONING AND AUDIO DESCRIPTION****

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

6:00PM - Festival Opening Remarks & Check-In



GIVE ME LIBERTY (OPENING NIGHT FILM)

7:00 PM

In this freewheeling comedy, medical transport driver Vic risks his job to shuttle a group of rowdy seniors and a Russian boxer to a funeral, dragging clients like Tracy, a young woman with ALS, along for the ride. (Multiple Disabilities)

USA/2019/110 mins/English

Director and Producer: Kiril Mikhanovsky

***9:00PM - Please join us for a live Q&A Session.**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

11:00AM - 12:45PM - NARRATIVE SHORTS - 54 minutes

SHORTS SHOWCASE



This series highlights a selection of disability films from around the world.

THE MAN OF THE TREES

The life story of Daniel Balimá, a horticulturist with a disability in Burkina Faso. (Physical Disability)

Italy | 2018 | 19 minutes | French

Directed by Andrew Trivero

BUBE MAISES

A daughter uses postcards to re-create past moments for her mother, who is living with dementia. (Dementia)

Israel | 2019 | 6 minutes | Hebrew

Directed by Or Levy

BOLDLY GO

A young gay man is hiding a secret. When a long-term crush tries to seduce him at a party, he is forced to expose the truth. (Physical Disability, LGBTQ)

Australia | 2019 | 6 minutes | English

Directed by Christopher Cosgrove

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE

This flipbook-style animation demonstrates the emotions of people who hear voices. (Mental Illness)

UK | 2018 | 3 minutes | English

Directed by Steven Fraser

ANGEL'S MIRROR

A group of young boys are fascinated by a girl who spends her days looking out the window. (Physical disabilities)

China | 2018 | 14 minutes | Chinese

Directed by Cheng Chao

REVEL IN YOUR BODY

Experience the joy of flight with Alice Sheppard and Laurel Lawson. (Multiple Disabilities)

USA | 2018 | 6 minutes | No Dialogue

Directed by Katherine Helen Fisher

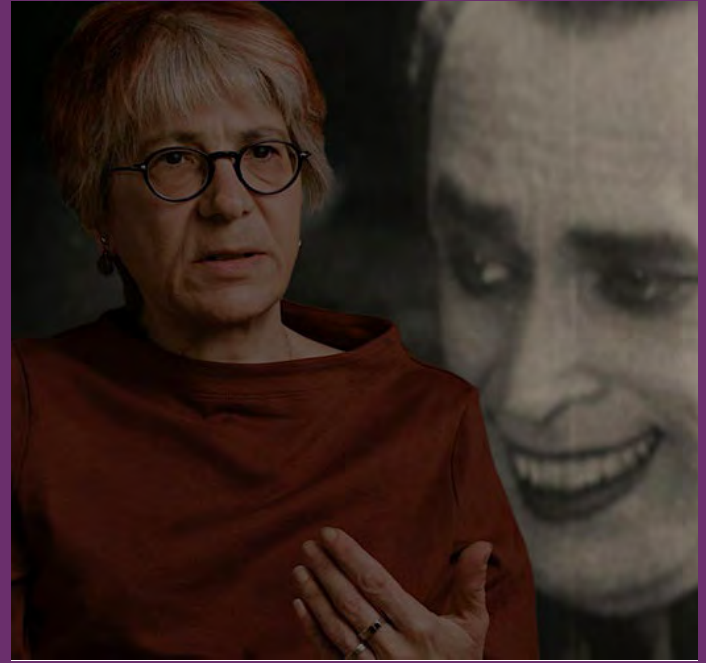
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION

MOMMY, WHY DOES THAT MAN NOT HAVE LEGS? *Talking to Children About Disability and How Disability is Represented in Children's Films*

The path to normalization starts at a young age, yet the subject of disability remains taboo. People often fumble when faced with awkward questions about disability. This panel will explore how to effectively speak to children about disability and how film can facilitate the conversation with children.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17



3:00 PM

BEDLAM

Through intimate stories of patients, families, and medical providers, *Bedlam* immerses audiences in the national crisis surrounding the need for better care of people with mental illness, and demands this critical situation be viewed through an intersectional lens. (Mental Illness)

USA | 2019 | 86 minutes | English | Feature Film
Directed by Kenneth Paul Rosenberg

5:30 PM

25 PROSPECT STREET

A look at the sparkle and struggles of the Prospector Theater—a nonprofit movie theater in Connecticut with a mission of meaningful employment for people with disabilities. (Multiple Disabilities)

USA | 2018 | 100 minutes | English | Feature Film
Directed by Kaveh Taherian and Andrew Richey

8:15 PM

CODE OF THE FREAKS

Taking its title from Tod Browning's classic film, this radical reframing of how characters with disabilities are represented looks at a century of Hollywood favorites with a fresh perspective. Disability activists imagine a cinematic landscape that takes people with disabilities seriously. (Multiple Disabilities)

USA | 2020 | 68 minutes | English | Feature Film
Directed by Salome Chasnoff

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

11:00AM - 12:30PM - Easterseals Disability Film Challenge - Home Edition



THE FISH DON'T CARE WHEN IT RAINS (WINNER BEST FILM)

With humor and heart, autistic artist Jen Msumba demonstrates what the simple life of a fish can teach us about accepting our circumstances. Jennifer is a musician and filmmaker who loves creating and telling the stories of her small community in Wauchula, Florida. Although having autism has made a lot of things harder in her life, she believes it makes her look at things in a unique way. She has fallen in love with writing and crafting films so that the audience is moved or entertained.

USA | 2020 | 5 minutes | English
Directed by Jennifer Msumba

AUTISM ABILITY (WINNER BEST EDITOR)

Autism Ability displays the positive ways that autism has impacted my life. Documentary filmmaking is one of those positive impacts that gives me the opportunity to highlight my disability, as well as highlighting my abilities as a filmmaker. This project portrays the behind the scenes impact that autism has on my filming and filming has on my life.

USA | 2020 | 3 minutes | English
Directed by Scott Michael Klumb



HOW MUCH AM I WORTH? (BEST AWARENESS)

This stirring documentary explores the failings of the U.S. health system through the lens of four women with disabilities. Rachel Handler is an actor and filmmaker based in NYC. Since joining the disabled community she's found a passion for writing, producing and directing; advocating for inclusion in every project she creates.

USA | 2020 | 6 minutes | English
Directed by Rachel Handler

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



1:00PM - 4:00 PM

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS – 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, Tim Burton's classic – about a boy with scissors for hands who enters suburbia and changes it forever – is a seminal work in disability narrative.

USA | 1990 | 105 minutes | English

Directed by Tim Burton

PLEASE JOIN US AND THE FILM'S SCREENWRITER, CAROLINE THOMPSON, FOR A DISCUSSION OF HER WORK ON THIS GROUNDBREAKING FILM.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18



4:30PM

A PATCH OF BLUE - 55TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

Elizabeth Hartman ("The Fixer") is a warm-hearted impoverished blind girl who falls in love with a black man and refuses to make an issue of their racial differences. Poignant and touching Oscar-nominated romantic drama co-stars Oscar-winner Sidney Poitier ("In the Heat of the Night," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"). Hartman received an Oscar-nomination and co-star Shelly Winters ("The Poseidon Adventure," "Lolita") won for Best Supporting Actress.

USA | 1965 | 105 minutes | English

Directed by Guy Green

6:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION BLACK DISABLED LIVES MATTER:

Intersectionality Between Movements and Lessons to be Learned

There is a history of synergy between the civil rights movement and the disability rights movement. Today more than ever, there are lessons to be learned from Black Lives Matter and perhaps Black Lives Matter could learn from the disability movement as well. This panel will provide a historical perspective of the civil rights movement and disability rights movement, and how they have intersected each other. It will also examine why disability is often left out of conversations focusing on diversity. Panelists will explore lessons learned and how both movements may be strengthened by the other.

REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL PANELS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 1:00-2:30 PM

“MOMMY, WHY DOES THAT MAN NOT HAVE LEGS?” TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT DISABILITY AND HOW DISABILITY IS REPRESENTED IN CHILDRENS’ FILMS

The path to normalization starts at a young age, yet the subject of disability remains taboo. People often fumble when faced with the awkward questions about disability. This panel will explore how to effectively speak to children about disability and how film can facilitate the conversation with children.



PANELISTS

LINDA BOVE ACTOR

Linda Bove garnered the longest-running series regular role by a deaf actor on television as Linda the Librarian on “Sesame Street,” becoming an icon to millions of children around the United States. Linda also published books and videos that teach ASL to children. Linda was a founding member of Deaf West Theatre along with Ed Waterstreet (Founder/Artistic Director) in Los Angeles. She produced, directed, translated (ASLMaster), taught, and starred in numerous productions.



PANELISTS

CHRIS SANDERS & DEAN DEBLOIS WRITER / DIRECTOR

Both veterans of the film industry, Chris Sanders and Dean DeBlois co-wrote and directed the original Academy Award-nominated HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON, which DeBlois continued with the acclaimed sequels.



PANELISTS

SELENE LUNA COMIC/VOICE-OVER/HOST/ACTOR

Selene Luna, voice of Tía Rosita in Disney-Pixar’s Academy Award & Golden Globe Awards’ Winner COCO; an established presence in Hollywood with multiple roles in movies and TV shows such as Celebrity Wife Swap, Lionsgate’s My Bloody Valentine 3D, and Margaret Cho’s The Cho Show. In 2019, Luna filmed her first standup comedy special, directed by Margaret Cho. Later that year, Luna took to Capitol Hill alongside U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer to speak on behalf of Southern California Resource Services for Independent Living (SCRS-IL) and disability rights.



PANELISTS

ORI ZADOK EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

Ori Zadok has worked in early childhood education for over 20 years and is the director of the ROSE ENGEL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER in Valley Village, CA. Ori holds a M.A. in Theatre Education from Emerson College. He loves his wife and two children in case you were wondering.



MODERATOR

SHAINA GHURAYA UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA’S MASTER OF FINE ARTS PROGRAM IN FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Shaina is a graduate of the University of Southern California’s Master of Fine Arts program in Film and Television production. She jokes that she is a triple threat (disabled, Punjabi, and a woman), and is a fierce activist for people with disabilities. At USC Shaina has developed her style as a director - bold, unrelenting, and quirky - and hopes to make comedies that promote diversity and inclusion.

REELABILITIES FILM FESTIVAL PANELS

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 6:30-8:00 PM

BLACK DISABLED LIVES MATTER: INTERSECTIONALITY BETWEEN MOVEMENTS AND LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Disability is often excluded from conversations around inclusion; however, disability cross cuts all diversity groups. Disability is a club that everyone can join, and may likely join, making it the great unifier. There is a history of times of synergy between the civil rights movement and the disability rights movement. Today more than ever, there are lessons to be learned from Black Lives Matter and perhaps Black Lives Matter could learn from the disability movement as well.

This panel will provide a historical perspective of the civil rights movement and disability rights movement, and how they have supported each other. It will also examine why disability is often left out of conversations focusing on diversity. Panelists will explore lessons learned and how both movements may be strengthened by the other.



PANELISTS

SHARON BARNARTT RECENTLY RETIRED PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

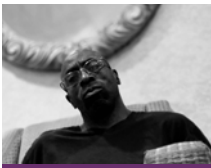
Sharon Barnartt taught Sociology at Gallaudet University for 37 years. Co-author of The Deaf President Now! The 1988 Revolution at Gallaudet University and Disability Protests; Contentious Politics 1970-1999, and editor of Research in Social Science and Disability. She has also published articles, chaired academic disability groups, and won awards for her scholarship.



PANELISTS

ANITA CAMERON ACTIVIST, SPEAKER, WRITER, CONSULTANT

Anita Cameron is a seasoned Rochester, NY-based nationally-recognized Disability Rights Activist, longtime-ADAPTer, speaker, writer, consultant whose work and insight over nearly 40 years has helped inform and disrupt policies that impact quality of life. Her lens and expertise from lived experience gives to her credible grassroots organizing perspective and knowledge.



PANELISTS

KEITH JONES CEO OF SOULTOUCHIN' EXPERIENCES

As an African American community activist and entrepreneur with cerebral palsy and as a strong advocate for independent quality living in the community, Mr. Jones has participated actively in various issues that face people with disabilities. These areas include, but are not limited to housing, education, and voting access.



PANELISTS

TATIANA LEE ACTOR, MODEL, ACTIVIST

Tatiana A. Lee is an actress, model, & Hollywood influencer. She serves as Hollywood Inclusionist at RespectAbility & Disability Advocate for WOC Unite. Growing up in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Lee didn't see herself reflected in media and had a passion for being in front of the camera. She moved to Los Angeles to pursue her career and advocate for accessibility & inclusion in mass media through her brand AccessibleHollywood.com.



MODERATOR

ANDREA JENNINGS VICE-CHAIR OF THE CITY OF PASADENA ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY COMMISSION & FOUNDER OF SHIFTING CREATIVE PARADIGMS ENTERTAINMENT AND PRODUCTIONS™

Andrea Jennings envisions a world where underrepresented people in media, such as people with disabilities, will one day be depicted as leaders in substantial roles. The key focus of her production company is to promote an accurate portrayal of marginalized groups and to produce inclusive and diverse content.

OUR SPONSORS

The ReelAbilities Film Festival: Los Angeles 2020 Steering Committee extend their heartfelt thanks to those who have made this third annual festival possible through their generous financial and promotional support.

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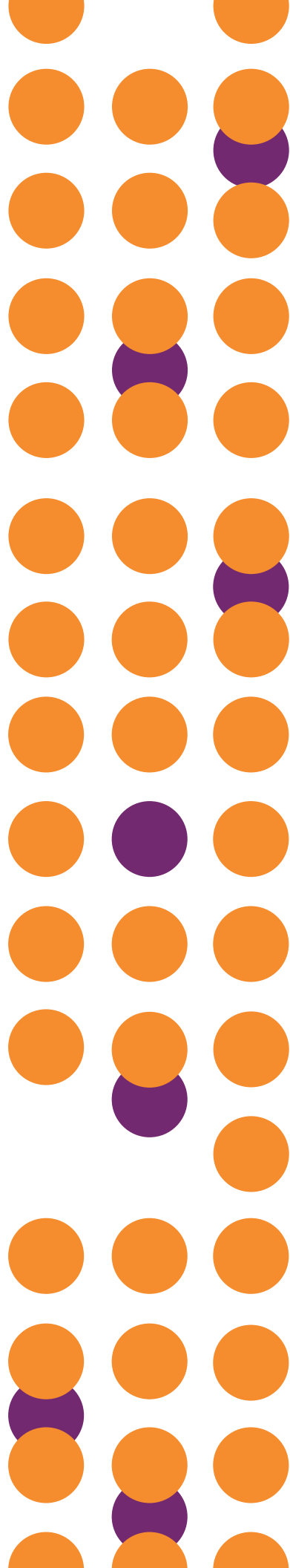
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STEPHEN DAVID SIMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 16, 2020

Myrna G. Cabanban, President
Los Angeles Commission on Disability

RE: ReelAbilities Film Festival LA2020

WELCOME!!

It is with great privilege to welcome you all to the 2020 City of Los Angeles Department on Disability's **3rd Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival**. While these are new and uncharted times, we will rise and conquer the challenges ahead of us all. Yes, this is the 3rd year; however, it is also our **1st Virtual ReelAbilities celebration**.

In the next few days, we will witness the talents, skills, hearts and souls of People with DisAbilities as their stories are revealed. So, let's sit back and enjoy.

Lights. Camera. ACTION!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myrna G. Cabanban".

Myrna G. Cabanban
President

DAVID RYU
COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 4



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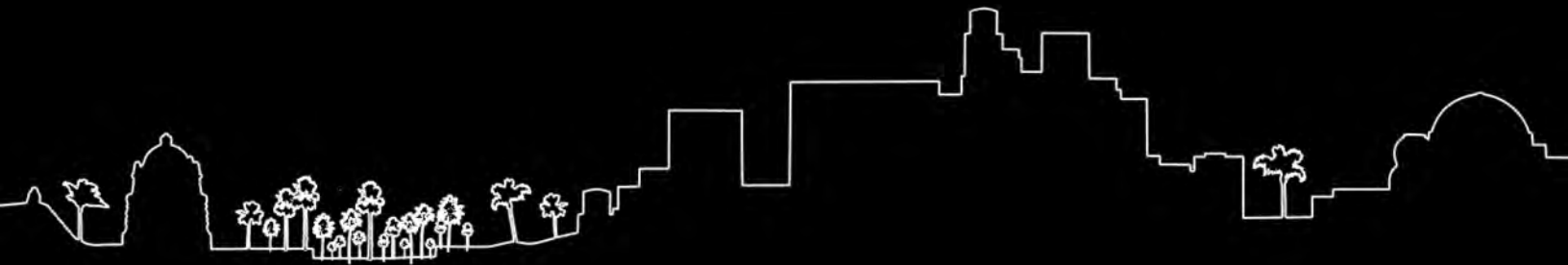
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