Discouraging News About Homelessness Surprises No One

This is an excerpt from a longer article that appears on the blog Only in Hollywood. This will be the first in a series of blogs on the impacts of homelessness in Hollywood and the organizations that are involved.

The headlines confirmed what we all have been experiencing. The official homeless count results were issued by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) on May 11 and the next morning the frontpage of the LA Times declared, “Homelessness in LA is everywhere.” Homelessness is up 12 percent in the city and in the county since January 2013. Despite great efforts the past four years to house over 25,000 people (as documented by the Home for Good campaign), the numbers have increased.

So what is going on? There are several theories floating. Let me share them with you, because they still need to be researched.

1. There is an increase in the presence of mentally ill people who are homeless. The LAHSA count documents an increase of 23 percent in the number of homeless individuals suffering from mental illness: 12,253 in the county. While there has been much progress in housing individuals who are homeless (Hollywood 4WRD collectively has housed over 400 people since 2010), the remaining victims are those who are “super-chronic,” or the “most vulnerable.” It is very difficult to secure help for the severely mentally ill and without a concerted effort these individuals

BID Voices Express Concern Over Sidewalk Vending

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s reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the city council’s Economic Development Committee has tasked the city’s Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) office to seek public input on the pros and cons of instituting a city-wide sidewalk vending program.

Before an ordinance is drafted, the CLA staff presided over a series of public hearings to gain input from the community. Staff representing both BIDs, along with board members, attended each of these hearings and expressed the concerns of the business community. However, members of the business community were outnumbered easily 10:1 at these hearings.

Hollywood board member Alyssa Van Breene and staffer Devin Strecker attended the first meeting on May 28 in Boyle Heights. When they tried to share their concerns the audience booed. Though there were no boos or hissing at the second hearing on June 11 in Van Nuys, the audience was unruly and disrespectful to those testifying against the ordinance or speaking on behalf of small business. Appreciation is expressed to HPOA board members John Tronson and Mark Stephenson who joined Kerry Morrison at the Van Nuys hearing.

The key concerns raised by the business and BID community are fourfold:
• Small businesses in our community pay rent, utilities, property taxes, and payroll taxes. They also pay their share of the BID assessment which helps keep the sidewalks clean and safe. Legalizing street vending would undercut these small businesses by letting vendors set up shop on the public right-of-way without paying their fair share.
• Public health will be compromised because sidewalk food vendors are not subject to the same level of scrutiny as restaurants who are subjected to a county restaurant rating. Food handlers on the sidewalk have no access to hot water or restroom facilities and often food is left unrefrigerated.
• The city cannot enforce the street vending laws that currently exist, so it is hard to imagine the city could effectively enforce an expanded presence of vendors. (It is estimated that there are over 50,000 street vendors that currently operate illegally in the city. Attempts to enforce the existing law is viewed as “harassment” by vendors, which was a common theme of the public hearing.)
• Street vending is disruptive to city sidewalks, especially in busy neighborhoods (such as Hollywood) which are already heavily im
Greetings fellow property owners! In this quarter’s newsletter, you’ll see evidence of some “back to basics” projects and new projects undertaken by HPOA Committees. Under the leadership of board member Mark Echeverria, our Streetscape & Planning Committee members, along with staff and CleanStreet representatives, walked every street in both BIDs this past April to evaluate opportunities to fix, maintain, or seek city assistance to improve the physical realm (see related article on the next page).

The committee shared a punch list of nearly 250 items with the HPOA Board last month with projects to be tackled in every corner of the District. Already work is underway to look at improvements to street lights, bring consistency to tree wells, consider public art opportunities, and remedy maintenance deficiencies where problems were noted.

Our ad-hoc Communications Committee led by board member Jan Martin, has been busy formulating a four-night festival slated for November this year to celebrate music and the arts in Hollywood. They are taking seriously the key goal of our communications plan created by Haines & Co which is to “change the conversation about Hollywood.”

These are just a couple of the many areas of activities guided by the board. The challenge has been how best to communicate with stakeholders about the good work that has been accomplished and is underway, as well as longer-range activities that require planning. This year I’ve made it my commitment to explore every method available to communicate with stakeholders, including property owners, tenants, and community leaders, and additionally between the board and staff, knowing that a “one size fits all” approach doesn’t work. Some people are comfortable visiting a website or following social media, some read email newsletters, some make a phone call to inquire, and others prefer face to face conversation.

The face-to-face is a priority for me, and I enjoyed the opportunity to have a conversation with familiar Hollywood friends and other neighbors as well as individuals concerned about Hollywood in the BID office on March 13. I am making myself available for a second “coffee with the president” on Friday, July 10. Please plan to join us at the BID headquarters at the Taft Building, Suite 600 at 9 a.m. that morning. There is no set agenda – just bring ideas, suggestions, complaints, observations. We will listen and try to problem-solve, where possible (and often, it is possible!).

We’ve kept a list of all of the items discussed in our March coffee and shared it with the board. This list provided us with new information and ideas, while resurrecting and stimulating other activities such as the Streetscape & Planning Committee walk-through. Thank you Duke Dulgarian, David Gajda, Mike Harkins, Karen Kent, Tricia La Belle, Don Mushin, Robert Schurr, and Jimmy Shaw for your participation, and to others with whom I spoke individually who could not make the coffee. Your participation is very much appreciated as our collective goal is to improve our community.

As Hollywood continues to evolve into a thriving entertainment district where we can live and work, the board strives to evaluate and balance all its activities alongside the core tenets of the BID: To pursue a clean and safe Hollywood and to promote the positive news about what is happening here. This changing environment brings new opportunities in addition to new challenges, and with the many directions we have, your input is so critical. But inasmuch as we can do a better job listening to our stakeholders, we also encourage you to stay informed. Read the newsletter, attend the president’s coffee if your schedule permits, attend a board meeting if you can spare two hours on a Thursday afternoon. Come to the annual all property owners meeting which will be in August (date to be determined). We value hearing from you, and your support is critical to the future of this BID in Hollywood.

I hope to see you on July 10, and please always know that I have an open door, and am readily accessible through email, myamada@cimgroup.com.

-Monica Yamada
President, Hollywood Property Owners Alliance
District Maintenance: Walking the Walk

As a part of the Streetscape & Planning Committee’s ongoing dedication to maintaining a clean and attractive Hollywood, stakeholders contributed nearly eight hours of their time walking the Hollywood Entertainment District and Sunset & Vine BIDs. The walk-thru, conducted in late April, served to identify both immediate maintenance fixes as well as opportunities for longer-term special projects, setting forth the committee’s work program for the remainder of the year.

The team donned their walking shoes and set forth with cameras in-hand to document current conditions. During their field reconnaissance, committee members were tasked with noting the low-hanging fruit, or routine maintenance items, like graffiti, dirty sidewalks, and landscaping that could be remedied quickly with existing resources.

In addition, stakeholders identified a number of maintenance projects that will take greater coordination with community and city partners to address over the long term. Longer term projects included light pole refurbishment, tree well maintenance, tree replacements, and sidewalk/curb repair, all of which were prevalent through both districts.

The walk-thru also brought to the light the need for consistency; whether it be consistent trash receptacles or light post colors, the group agreed that a more unified look within each BID would help to enhance each district’s unique identity and brand.

Outside of immediate and long term maintenance projects, the Committee highlighted a number of opportunity sites for special beautification projects. A consensus among the group was the need for increased greenspace in both BIDs. Other identified projects included potential sites for public art, new street furniture, gateway landscaping, and public gathering spaces.

Matthew Severson, HPOA; Mark Echeverria, Musso & Frank Grill; Gary Peterson, Landsco; and Joe Mariani, HPOA; on the HED Walk-Through.

BID Maintenance Service Center Now Open

Have you visited Cherokee Avenue lately? If so, you may have noticed our new and improved service center! Located in Suite C at 1710 Cherokee Avenue, the new service center houses our CleanStreet maintenance team, who are tasked with cleaning and maintaining the Hollywood Entertainment District and Sunset & Vine BIDs.

Over the past few months, the storefront’s façade has undergone some minor changes to enhance the aesthetics of the block and to highlight the BID’s positive presence on the street. First, existing security bars were removed from windows and doors to help improve the perception of safety in the neighborhood. Heavy pressure washing followed to spruce up the storefront, increasing window transparency, brightening up tilework, and priming stucco for paint and installation of a new sign.

The new “BID Service Center” sign, installed last month by the Sign Studio, reflects the “old Hollywood” motif of our LAPD neighbors. The sign’s backdrop was painted several coats of deep maroon to contrast with the gold-plated letters. To top it all off, vinyl letters were installed above the doorway to identify our suite number.

We hope you agree that our changes have made a marked improvement to this store-front! These enhancements help show Hollywood property owners the transformation these types of small, and relatively inexpensive, changes can make.

Matthew Severson, HPOA; Mark Echeverria, Musso & Frank Grill; Gary Peterson, Landsco; and Joe Mariani, HPOA; on the HED Walk-Through.
Board Elections Coming Up

The Nominating Committee for the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance will be seeking applicants to serve on the board for a three year term, beginning November, 2015. The committee consists of board members John Lyons and Michael Gargano, and large property owner Greg Beck.

Letters will be sent to all property owners in early July announcing five vacancies on the board. Applications will be due to the HPOA office on July 30, 2015 at 5 p.m. Applications will also be available online.

Please direct any questions about this process to Kerry Morrison at kerry@hollywoodbid.org.

Help Demolish the Center!

The Center at Blessed Sacrament has served adult homeless individuals in this community for over a decade. On Thursday, July 16 The Center is holding a Demolition Party to celebrate the long-awaited launch of a total facility renovation. Please be the guest of the board and the staff at The Center to learn about the plans for the renovation and the work they are doing to break down the walls of isolation and end homelessness. This will be a garden party friend-raiser from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at 6636 Selma.

For more information or to RSVP, please email kerryhmorrison@gmail.com.

Small Plates in Hollywood

Make sure to check out our blog at OnlyInHollywood.org, where our guest blogger Esther Tseng, of the blog e*starLA, keeps up with the latest restaurants, retail and events going on in Hollywood.

When it comes to eating out in Hollywood, there are plenty of places to go to indulge on an all-out feast, but sometimes you just want to concentrate on a few prize dishes. Here are a few recommendations:

Birch (Cahuenga): The Hamachi Crudo is a beautiful yet perfect choice for this weather, with fresh, thinly sliced fish adorned with slices of grapefruit, grated horseradish, olive oil and olive oil.

Butchers & Barbers: Their B&B Burger is a sure thing, with a luxurious chuck blend topped with gruyere, arugula and red onion.

Cleo: The Cauliflower, vadouvan and cashews are a great way to spice up the beginning of your meal.


Bisnow LA Looks to the Future of Hollywood

On April 29, 2015 Bisnow LA hosted the “Future of Hollywood” summit at the W Hotel. The event was a great success with nearly 350 real estate professionals in attendance. The day began with a keynote address from our very own Kerry Morrison, Executive Director of the Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. Ms. Morrison walked the audience through a history of Hollywood and the positive changes she has seen occur during her time with the BIDs. Morrison also talked about the paradigm shifts that have occurred with Millennials entering the district, and expressed the continued opportunity for investment in our growing neighborhood/community.

Following her remarks, two “all-star pan-

els” shared with those in attendance some insights into the residential and office development markets in Hollywood. Bob Champion, Champion Development; and Frank Stephan, Clarett West; led the way on the residential panels. Mr. Champion shared with the audience his experience working on five projects in Hollywood (with a sixth in escrow), while Mr. Stephan discussed the recent completion of Clarett West’s Eastown Apartments at 6200 Hollywood Blvd.

On the office front, JH Snyder’s Senior Vice President, Kacy Keys, talked about the significant interest the company’s two office projects (Hollywood 959 and 1601 Vine) have been receiving from entertainment and media-related tenants looking for large space. Executive Vice President for Hudson Pacific Properties, Chris Barton, explained the company’s newest ICON project at Sunset Bronson Studios. The 14-story, 323,000 SF creative office tower started construction in January of this year. Hudson is also working on a 300,000 SF creative office high-rise at the northwest corner of Sunset Boulevard and Bronson Avenue.

The event, which was one of the largest Bisnow LA has done this year, provided real estate professionals with a great explanation and update on the burgeoning Hollywood development market. The area has seen continued growth and interest and as Ms. Morrison said in her remarks, “when it comes to the Hollywood market, you don’t want to miss the boat.”

-Joe Mariani, @GoodNewsJoe

We’re looking for guest bloggers for our website, OnlyInHollywood.org! We want your stories. Call Devin Strecker at 323-463-6767 today!
Celebrating Hollywood’s Creative Culture

Hollywood is well known as the motion picture capital of the world, but almost equally well known is its music scene. Recently, LA Weekly included several Hollywood establishments in their list of the top 50 music venues in Los Angeles: Amoeba Music (#40), Avalon (#37), Hotel Cafe (#20), The Palladium (#10), and the #1 spot, The Fonda Theatre.

To celebrate not only the great music and historic venues that are here in Hollywood, both the HED and SVBID are planning a festival to take place in Hollywood this fall, tentatively set for November 5-8.

The music and arts festival will be a walkable neighborhood open house and point of access to Hollywood's established and emerging artistic talent in a four-day event. Live music, performances, and artistic expression will embody the energy, vibe and authentic Hollywood cityscape.

Huge thanks to those who have volun-
teered, including this year's planning com-
mittee: Board members Jan Martin (AMDA, chair), Melissa Logan (Amoeba) and Alyssa Van Breene; Johnny Arakaki (Saint Felix), Chadwick Hemus (The Record Parlour), Beth Marlis (MI), Dylan Greer (Live Nation), David Gajda and Jose Malagon (EaCa Alley).

Save Energy (and $) with LADWP

Through LADWP's Small Business Di-
rect Install incentive program, property and business owners can take advantage of free efficiency upgrades. If your average monthly electrical demand is 30 kilowatts or less, you may qualify! Save water, energy, and money by upgrading lighting and water systems, free of charge. Businesses throughout Hollywood, like the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, are taking advantage of this energy and cost savings program.

Eligible upgrades include:
- Lighting systems
- LED exit signs
- Pipe/water heater insulation
- Pre-rise spray valves
- Low-flow showerheads/toilets
- Faucet aerators

How's it work? Simply contact LADWP’s dedicated Small Business Direct Install division at (877) 714-1252 or visit their website www.ladwp.com/sdbi to schedule a site visit with an Energy Service Representative (ESR). The ESR will evaluate existing sys-
tems and make upgrade recommendations. The representative will then schedule your install, which will be done without signifi-
cant disruptions to your daily business opera-
tions. It’s that simple!

- Matthew Severson

The 311: City Service Requests

There’s an easier way to submit city service requests! Through the MyLA311 mobile app, you can instantly submit requests from your smartphone or tablet. This innovative tool enables citizens to submit and track service items, empowering Angelenos to act as stewards of their communities.

Service types include (but not limited to):
- Bulky Item Pickup
- Illegal Dumping Pickup
- Pothole Repair
- Sidewalk Repair
- Street Resurfacing
- Street Light Out/Damaged

“With MyLA311, City of Los Angeles information and services are just a few taps away. MyLA311 puts the power of City Hall in the palm of your hand. MyLA311 links Angelenos with the services and information they need to enjoy their city, beautify their community, and stay connected with their local government.”

Hollywood Safe Sidewalks

Those of us who live and work in Hollywood are well versed in the nuances of our sidewalk life. While it can be a challenge even for us, it can be downright intimidating for tourists and visitors. Hollywood Safe Sidewalks is an initiative to educate visitors on how to help the homeless often encountered on our sidewalks and to avoid being harrassed.

Visit the website, a work in progress, at www.hollywoodsafesidewalks.com.

Devin Strecker, Kerry Morrison, Alyssa Van Breene, Chad Lewis, Jan Martin and President Monica Yamada at Running Goose checking out venues in preparation for November festival.

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Sunset & Dine Returns September 24!

The Sunset & Dine planning committee, in cooperation with BuzzFeed Motion Pictures, is pleased to announce that the fourth annual Sunset & Dine will be held on Thursday, September 24 at BuzzFeed's Hollywood campus, 6322 DeLongpre Ave. This marks the event’s return to its original location, formerly known as Academy Hollywood, where it was held in 2012 and 2013.

“We are proud to carry on the tradition of this award-winning event, which showcases not only the culinary scene here at Sunset & Vine, but also the community that we have been building between the residents and the businesses in the area,” Fabio Conti, committee chair, said.

In addition to food, beer and wine from local restaurants, and exhibits from local merchants, there will also once again be a live music concert.

The committee is once again partnering with The Center at Blessed Sacrament as the beneficiary of the proceeds for this year’s events. Last year’s Sunset & Dine raised $4,000 to help the Center in its mission to end homelessness in Hollywood.

Vendors, exhibitors and sponsors are now being sought for the event. For more information, visit www.sunsetanddine.org or contact Devin Strecker at 323-463-6767.

- Devin Strecker, @ Devin Tait

Homelessness Numbers Increase

...Continued from Page 1

are left to fend for themselves; or worse, perish on our streets.

2. The fall-out associated with the economic downturn has caught up with many people. Housing costs are soaring while wages are remaining stagnant. A recent New York Times article touches upon how gentrification and housing conversions have placed pressure on the affordable housing stock in Los Angeles. People who were barely holding on have lost their grip. This might explain why there was an 85 percent increase in the category of “tents, encampments, and vehicles” in the most recent homeless count. Though there hasn’t been a direct correlation between the fairly recent loss of an apartment and one being relegated to sleeping in one’s car, it seems like a logical journey.

3. Statutory changes, whether implemented by the legislature (AB 109) or the voters (Proposition 47) may be resulting in more individuals who otherwise would’ve been “sheltered” in the criminal justice system ending up on our city streets. This is not a statement on the merits of these two laws, but rather an observation on the “unintended consequences.”

4. People may be lured to California for opportunity. Many people come to California in search of a job or “making it” in the entertainment industry. Those dreams sometimes backfire and people become stranded.

5. People may be lured to the LA area to live the “homeless lifestyle.” There is concern that word of mouth news that ACLU-driven laws in LA have made it easier to “camp out” on our city streets, under overpasses, along the LA River and at the beach makes this city more attractive. This coupled with the mild weather and the misdemeanor status of drug use and possession makes our streets the place of choice to “hang out.”

6. The relative generosity of visitors and pedestrians who give to panhandlers in Hollywood make it easier for individuals to continue their lifestyle of living on the street. In Hollywood, you will not starve and you will not freeze to death. Giving to panhandlers enables this lifestyle. It would be far more impactful to give to organizations who help homeless individuals leave the streets once and for all.

Against this background there are bright spots on the horizon. As mentioned above, significant progress is being made in ending veteran homelessness. A system change is in the works in LA County that will help to match people to the right housing opportunities. A countywide database of all homeless individuals is in the works. The recent attention payed to this issue is generating a good deal of soul-searching about how to best invest time and resources to help people off the streets.

Its important that people do not accept this 12 percent rise as the “new normal” and view this as the human crisis it is. Please check in with the Only In Hollywood website to follow my blogs on this topic.

-Kerry Morrison, @KerryHMorrison

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Homelessness: Facts at a Glance

- Homelessness in LA County increased 12% - to 44,359
- Homelessness in LA City increased 12% - to 25,686
- Total # of homeless individuals in Council District 13: 2,270
My three girlfriends and I enjoyed a very special afternoon tea at Chado Tea Room at the Hollywood and Highland Complex. The food was beyond good. We each selected our own pot of piping hot tea from the over 200 different flavors offered. Two of us warmed up with a delicious tomato cream soup while the others enjoyed a refreshing salad. Then, beautifully presented on a three tier rack, were warm scones fresh from the oven with orange marmalade and Chado’s special homemade cream on the side. Another tier offered yummy half sandwiches on toasted breads:

- Limerick - English cucumbers served on buttered bread and decorated with cream cheese and green onions,
- Punjab - eggs marinated in our Lapsang Souchong Smoked Tea then combined with Mayonnaise and green onions
- Smoked Salmon - served open faced on dark rye bread with cream cheese and topped with baby dill and a slice of lemon
- Souchong Chicken - shredded smoked chicken breast combined with mayonnaise and Cranberry Lingonberry sauce

The dessert tier included slices of old fashioned pineapple upside down cake, white cake with berry filling and creamy icing, and Madeline cookies decorated with sliced strawberries. Lastly we enjoyed ice cream with a tea sauce. Incredible! But even better than the food was the excellent service we received from Jay and Enrique. Their friendly, attentive manner made us feel at home. For me, this is the best tea room by far of all the tea rooms I’ve visited.

Chado Tea Room
(323) 472-8111
www.chadotea.com

-Ginnie Gallo

BID’s Sidewalk Vending Concerns

Afternoon tea at Chado Tea Room

Chado Tea Room has three locations in the Los Angeles area, including the Hollywood and Highland store. (Courtesy Photo)

BID’s Sidewalk Vending Concerns

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-Ginnie Gallo

BID’s Sidewalk Vending Concerns

...Continued from Page 1

pacted by tour hawkers, CD vendors, and street characters. We simply cannot accommodate more activity on the sidewalks while also promoting a safe pedestrian experience.

At the June 11 hearing, the CLA staff running the meeting asked three questions of those testifying: First, should the city maintain the status quo and continue to enforce existing laws which prohibit vending on streets and sidewalks (largely a complaint-driven enforcement)? Second, should the city continue to prohibit sidewalk vending and increase proactive enforcement and fines/penalties? Third, should the city allow sidewalk vending, create new rules and regulations, and provide training and education for vendors?

The position of both BIDs at present is to oppose the creation of a new ordinance that would extend sidewalk vending opportunities throughout the city. Because the city is so diverse, it does not make sense to adopt a “one-size-fits-all” approach to vending. Therefore, if the city chooses to pursue this activity, Hollywood would respectfully ask to “opt-out” of a sidewalk vending framework. Conversely, if the city moves toward a community-driven ordinance, then other parts of the city would be empowered to seek these activities in their neighborhoods, but this would not be a desire of the core part of downtown Hollywood.

The “Coalition to Save Small Business” has been formed to articulate the concerns of BIDs and the business community about a sidewalk vending ordinance. Information can be obtained on the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/SaveSmallBusinessLA. There is also a way to sign a petition on the group’s Facebook page. For more information, please email Kerry@hollywoodbid.org.

-Kerry Morrison, @KerryHMorrison

Installation of the sign at the new BID Service Center on Cherokee.

Minions have taken over the Arclight’s Cineramadome! The new animated movie, Minions, opens July 10.

- Derrick Moore, Avison Young; Kerry Morrison, HPOA; and Dixon Slingerland, YPI, participate in a panel at the Chamber’s Economic Summit on June 24.

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-Derrick Moore, Avison Young; Kerry Morrison, HPOA; and Dixon Slingerland, YPI, participate in a panel at the Chamber’s Economic Summit on June 24.
America’s premier comedian, Jerry Seinfeld, will bring his signature stand-up routine to Hollywood Pantages Theatre for two nights – four performances only. The dates are Friday and Saturday, **October 9 and 10**, at 7:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are available for purchase at by phone at (800) 982-2787, online, and at the Hollywood Pantages Box Office, 6233 Hollywood Boulevard. The box office opens daily at 10:00 a.m. except for holidays. Children under five will not be admitted to the theatre.

One of the truly iconic voices of the 1980s, Belinda Carlisle received a star on the Walk of Fame with her bandmates from The Go-Gos in 2011. The star is located at the former site of The Masque, the club where the all-female band played their first show. Now, Belinda is coming back to Hollywood for one night only at the Fonda Theatre on **Friday, September 11**. She’ll be performing her hits such as the classic “Heaven is a Place on Earth,” “I Get Weak,” “Mad About You,” and “Circle in the Sand.” Of course, there may be a tune from the Go-Gos thrown in here and there!

Opening **Wednesday July 1** (reception 7:00 -10:00 p.m.) at LACE, “A Storefront Installation: Photography by Ave Pildas” takes a look at Hollywood history. Forty years ago Angelenos wandered the sidewalk with the stars under their feet. Pildas spent more than two years walking up and down Hollywood Boulevard taking photos of the homeless, the star obsessed, the old ladies and the prostitutes that all walked the same street. Between 1972 and 1975, he shot thousands of black and white photos on Hollywood Boulevard’s “Walk of Fame.”


**www.fondatheatre.com**

**www.welcometolace.org**