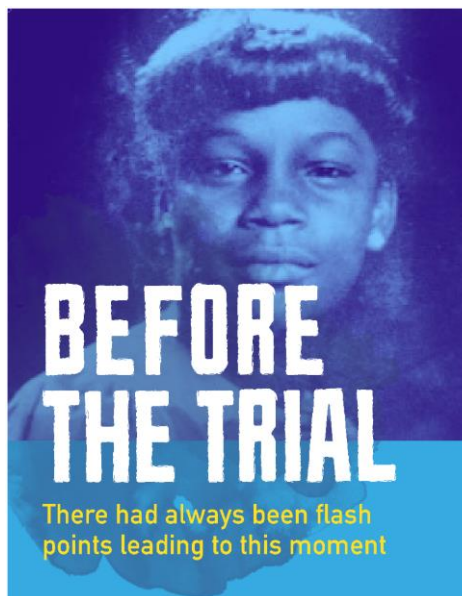




1950S - 1980S

- Housing laws designed to systematically marginalize people of color from living in certain neighborhoods and other zoning actions displaced residents for industrial development or building of USC properties.
- August 1965 - Uprisings in Watts over police brutality of an African-American motorist highlight ingrained LAPD racism
- Deindustrialization in South Los Angeles means tens of thousands of good paying jobs left South LA, giving rise to huge levels of unemployment.
- 1980s War on Drugs - Operation Hammer gave license to militarized police forces using tanks to bulldoze homes in the community. By 1990, 50,000 people had been arrested. The Dalton Street raid in 1988 was one of the most egregious violations of rights using these tactics. *(Source: Wikipedia)*



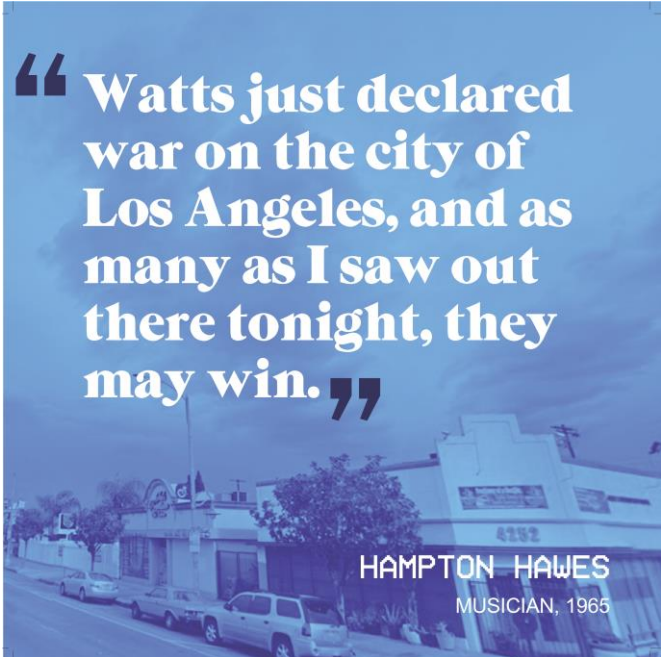
BEFORE THE TRIAL

There had always been flash points leading to this moment




MARCH 3 1991

- Rodney King Beating: Video shot by amateur cameraman George Holliday shows a group of police officers beating a man with nightsticks and kicking him; the clip aired on KTLA. *(Source: LA Times)*
- March 16, 1991 - Latasha Harlins is Fatally Shot: Soon Ja Du, a Korean-American grocery store owner, shoots and kills Latasha Harlins, a fifteen-year old African-American girl, after Ms. Du accused the girl of trying to steal a \$1.79 bottle of orange juice. Soon Ja Du is placed on probation with no time spent in prison. *(Source: KCET)*
- April 1992 - Gangs establish truce days before the riots, rival street gangs in Watts declared a truce in a bloody war that had killed hundreds of young men. *(Source: KPCC)*



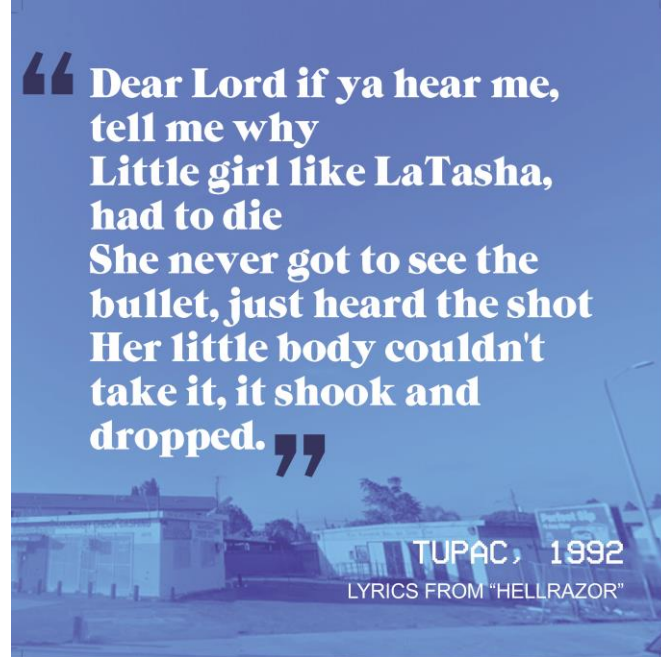
“Watts just declared war on the city of Los Angeles, and as many as I saw out there tonight, they may win.”

HAMPTON HAWES
MUSICIAN, 1965



“It made me feel like I was back in slavery days.”

RODNEY KING, 2006
NPR INTERVIEW



“Dear Lord if ya hear me, tell me why Little girl like LaTasha, had to die She never got to see the bullet, just heard the shot Her little body couldn't take it, it shook and dropped.”

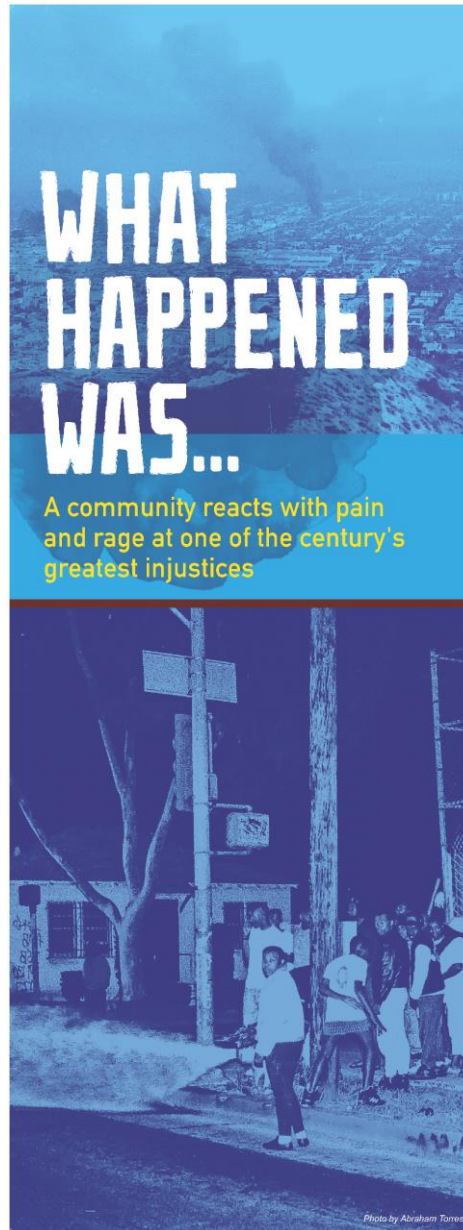
TUPAC, 1992
LYRICS FROM “HELLRAZOR”



APR 29 1992

Rebellions Erupt

After the police who beat Rodney King were found 'Not Guilty,' the community is upset. Police respond to their first report of trouble at the intersection of Florence and Normandie avenues but quickly retreat and don't return for almost three hours. The rebellion escalates and spreads to areas throughout the city. *(Source: LA Times)*



WHAT HAPPENED WAS...

A community reacts with pain and rage at one of the century's greatest injustices



APRIL 30 1992

Photo by Abraham Torres

Everyday Life is Shattered

Looting and fires reported across LA County. Liquor stores are targeted. Korean community forms armed community teams in absence of police presence. A dusk-to-dawn curfew is imposed in large portions of the city of LA and the surrounding county. *(Source: CNN)*



MAY 1 1992

Troops Deployed

About 4,000 federal troops, Marines and soldiers begin to arrive at Marine Corps Air Stations in Tustin and El Toro. By 6 p.m., most of the National Guard troops are deployed. Bus service, major freeways and LAX are shut down. *(Source: LA Times)*

“ I have vivid memories of my mother and I looking out our window at news helicopters in the sky, then turning around and seeing the images they were shooting of our neighborhood on the television screen. I remember the anxiety on my mother's face because my older brother wasn't home from football practice yet. ”

JORGE RIVAS
COLORLINES, "TWO DECADES LATER," 4/30/12

“ There were people in Beverly Hills who were nervous; people in the big pink hotel on Sunset that were nervous, because the riot wasn't confining itself just to the ghetto. ”

ARSENIO HALL, 2012
NPR

“ People, I just want to say ... can we all get along? Can we get along? Can we stop making it horrible for the older people and the kids? ”

RODNEY KING, 1992



MAY 2 1992

Cleaning & Marching

Cleanup crews take food and clothing to some of the hardest hit neighborhoods. An estimated 30,000 people march for racial healing. (Source: LA Times)

HEARD
6 DAYS
55 DEATHS
2,000 INJURED

UNHEARD
16,000+ ARRESTS
1200 UNDOCUMENTED
40% HANDED TO INS

**\$1 BILLION
IN
PROPERTY
DAMAGE.**



MAY 3 1992

City Slowly Returns

Mayor Tom Bradley reassures the public that the city is under control. Curfew is lifted. Harbor freeway off ramp reopened. Limited bus service resumes. (Source: LA Times)



Los Angeles Returns to Work

Thousands line up at state employment offices. Economists estimate that 20,000 to 40,000 people were put out of work when their places of business were looted or burned. (Source: LA Times)

“ We had moved beds, chairs, TVs and stereo sets into the middle of the street and we slept here. 4 to 5 days. Every [black] store owner was here [to protect the block]. ”



“ To feel as a Salvadoran who had just fled violence only to encounter another form of violence here and the military [presence] brought back a lot of memories. ”



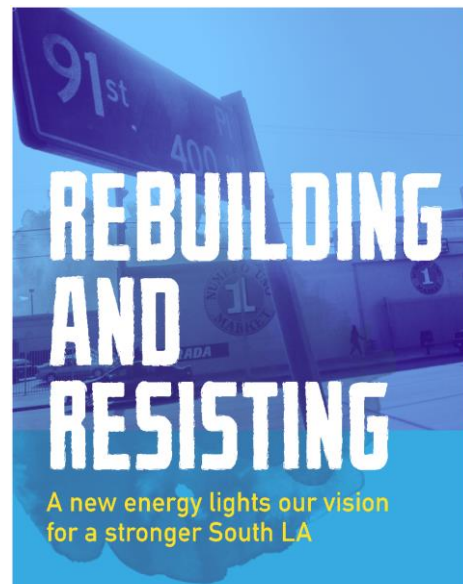
“ The only evidence that we are battle-scarred are buildings that are standing like wounded soldiers. ”





Rebuilding Efforts

- Rebuild LA initiative established to coordinate post-Uprising public private response.
- Organizations like SCOPE, LAANE, Labor Community Strategy Center, and UMMA Community Clinic take shape, complementing the work of newly formed Community Coalition in 1990, generating a new wave of service, accountability, advocacy and activism around health care, job growth, and equity in housing.
- Community Coalition leads groundbreaking “Rebuild South Central Without Liquor Stores” campaign, which resulted in the closure of 150 liquor stores in South L.A. after the 1992 Civil Unrest.



Black Lives Matter Movement

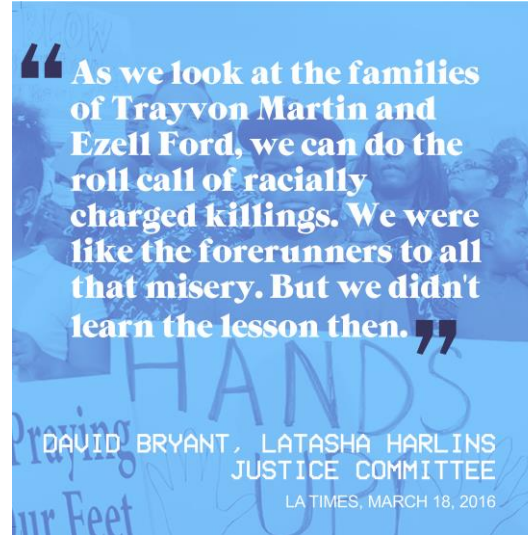
With the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media, after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African-American teen Trayvon Martin in Florida, a movement is born that sweeps across the country. Founders are three black women, Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi and Los Angeles's Patrisse Cullors. The death of Ezell Ford in the Florence neighborhood of LA is among the hundreds of black people killed by police that are lifted up.



1992-2017

LA's Progressive Renaissance

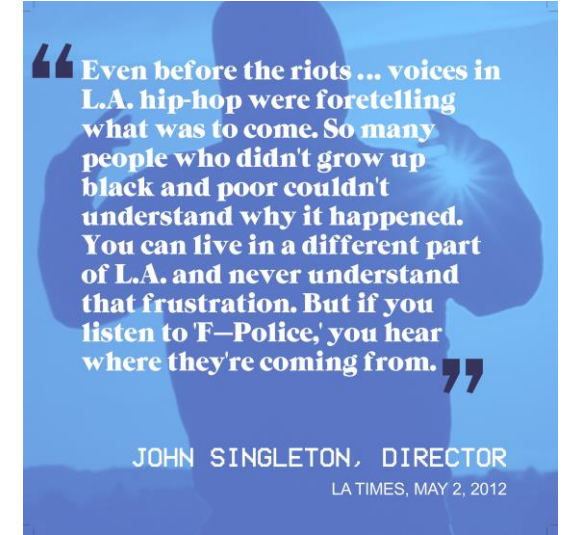
Since 1992, over two dozen people's organizations formed to build a resistance against injustices confronting the community. Preventing the rebuilding of 150 liquor stores, making access to college prep classes a civil right in Los Angeles, reforming California's criminal justice system (passage of Propositions 47 and 57) and raising the minimum wage.



“As we look at the families of Trayvon Martin and Ezell Ford, we can do the roll call of racially charged killings. We were like the forerunners to all that misery. But we didn't learn the lesson then.”

DAVID BRYANT, LATASHA HARLINS
JUSTICE COMMITTEE

LA TIMES, MARCH 18, 2016



“Even before the riots ... voices in L.A. hip-hop were foretelling what was to come. So many people who didn't grow up black and poor couldn't understand why it happened. You can live in a different part of L.A. and never understand that frustration. But if you listen to 'F-Police,' you hear where they're coming from.”

JOHN SINGLETON, DIRECTOR

LA TIMES, MAY 2, 2012



“Not only are precocious 11-year-olds watching the news, but they are also listening and waiting for adults to facilitate positive conversations around race relations. Don't change the channel. Instead, talk about it.”

ERICA AYISI

NBC NEWS, APRIL 29, 2012