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A Reflection Of Painted Brain's Work For The Community

LOS ANGELES, Calif.- Positive impacts for the Los Angeles community can be seen through dedicated, zealous organizations such as Painted Brain. Painted Brain is a nonprofit started in Los Angeles by people who have the drive to change the stigma of mental health by finding long-lasting effects through art, technology, and advocacy. This year alone, Painted Brain has created a ripple of changes for the community through its activities such as Art Cart and its involvement in the Neighborhood Justice Program.

Studies show that art is a therapeutic way for individuals to express emotions that can be uplifting to one's emotional, spiritual and mental health. Therefore, art is one of the Painted Brain's main focus on finding a long-term solution to help people struggling with mental health. The Art Cart is a mobilized cart filled with stationary and art supplies that are free of use for the community. It was brought to life by Angela Tuckerman, who saw a surge on the numbers of homelessness and decided to do something about it. The Art Cart is wheeled around MacArthur Park, where there's a dense homeless population, in hopes of making connections. Through a piece of paper and some coloring utensils, many people open up to Painted Brain members about their story.

The Community Justice Initiative (CJI) is an effort made by LA City Attorney, Mike Feuer, in order to reduce the number of incarcerated persons by having them participate in programs such as the Neighborhood Justice Program. Painted Brain has recently been involved in this cause. Individuals who are first-time, nonviolent offenders can volunteer at Painted Brain instead of going to jail/juvenile detention. The offenders are given an opportunity to participate in helping the community with the program's hopes of deriving their choices in a more positive direction.

Painted Brain is a nonprofit organization that is heavily focused on creating changes for those dealing with mental health. By starting within the LA community and helping uplift our neighbors, Painted Brain yearns to cause social change within our society. For more information on the Art Cart please visit www.paintedbrain.org/artcart or contact Kevin Naruse at kevin.naruse@paintedbrain.org. To learn more about the CJI and the Neighborhood Justice Program, visit www.lacityattorney.org/community-justice.

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