

Turning Vision into Action

An overview of what 'getting it done' looks like as ABLA moves into the city and onto the streets... to make LA better.

NEWSLETTER -- IN BRIEF

May 2007

Our Board
We have welcomed Brian Center to be our new Executive Director. Under his direction, the Board will continue to be a force of change and a source of hope within the community of LA.

Our Founders
We are poised for success with the continued active leadership of founders Coach Pete Carroll, Lou Tice and the Pacific Institute.

Our Resources
The Pacific Institute continues to donate its world-renowned curricula; we are raising millions of dollars; and we have strong partnerships with numerous government and non-profit agencies.

Our Goal
We will dramatically reduce crime and increase educational outcomes in targeted neighborhoods over the next 7 years.

Our Mission
Our mission is to establish and implement a national model for transforming communities in need.

Our Strategy
We will meet the individual needs of the community with a comprehensive, whatever it takes approach: utilizing community organizations, research-based programs, and economic development.



The Campaign

Our Philosophy

Dramatic change is possible. Extensive research and experience back us up. So does common sense. If we can change the lives of 10 families, we can do the same for 10,000 families. It just takes the leadership to implement key elements of success.

Connecting The Dots

A Better LA serves to "connect the dots" or "bring the pieces together" for targeted neighborhoods in Los Angeles. If gang members need a mediator to lower the level of violence, we make the connection. If mothers need to network with other mothers or find services for their children, we help connect them. If a non-profit needs to learn research-based practice to be more effective, we will provide it. We recognize that the elements for success already exist. They just need to be brought together.

Where We Have Been

A Better LA has been laying the groundwork for long term success and has already made a tremendous impact on Los Angeles.

- *Teaching The Tools Of Change*

Over 5,000 adults and kids in Los Angeles have gone through classes donated by the Pacific Institute. The proven curriculum gives people concrete tools to become leaders and create change. The result is a large network of people who all have a common vision of hope and new skills to help implement our plan.



We are going for it, taking this leap into action without hesitation.

- *Transforming Schools*

Principal Ed Robillard put over 150 staff members at Manual Arts High through the curriculum and dedicated himself to creating change. The results were dramatic. The large school, with an extremely poor population and dangerous gangs, had LA's second lowest performance index (API) score - 408. 4 years later:

- The API increased 104 points, the highest increase in LA and more than 3 times the average increase for California high schools.

- The number of kids graduating increased by 150; 56% of the graduates went to college; and the number of kids in Advanced Placement classes nearly doubled to 1,000 - almost 25% of the school.

Where We Are Now

A Better LA has teamed up with Sheriff Lee Baca; Casey Family Programs; investor Ron Burkle; California Wellness Foundation Peace Prize recipient Bo Taylor; Deloitte & Touche; the LAPD and dozens of other community and government agencies to create a national model for transforming communities in need into safe and vibrant places to live.

- *Peace Of LA*

ABLA has launched its newest project in partnership with Bo Taylor's Unity One: Peace of LA. Building on Unity One's extraordinary work through ceasefire agreements, "peace squads," and "impact sessions" with at-risk youth, Peace of LA's mission is to defeat gang violence and bring peace to the streets of LA.

By merging Unity One's front line work with ABLA's unique resources, Peace of LA brings a groundbreaking approach to instilling long-term success in our neighborhoods.

If you have questions or would like to support ABLA, contact Coach Pete Carroll at (213) 740- 4191, or Executive Director Brian Center at bcentercenter@yahoo.com, or 626.590.4388. ABLA's website is www.abetterla.com.

More information about the Pacific Institute can be found at www.loutice.com. Bo Taylor can be heard on V100 Sunday nights. His website is www.unityonenow.com.