

**2022 Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee Report**  
**Presented to the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems**

Submitted by  
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**Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award: History and Description**

The Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award, established in 1991, is awarded to a local grassroots social justice organization in the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Census) in which the annual meeting is held that year. The 2022 award will be presented at the 72nd Annual Meeting, August 5-7, 2022 in Los Angeles, California.

While the recipient can be an organization in the Los Angeles area that engages in direct service work, preferred recipients for the Social Action Award will be organizations that also work at the level of systems change. The organization may not be a local or regional chapter of a national or international organization, and must be one that will benefit significantly from the award. The nomination of organizations that include directly impacted people and communities in leadership positions and decisions are also encouraged.

The award, which carries a stipend of \$5,000, is a fitting expression of the overall purpose of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, which is concerned with applying scientific methods and theories to the study of social problems. SSSP aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and advocates to examine and understand social problems in order to further solutions and develop social policy based on knowledge. Past award winners can be found [here](#).

**List of 2021-2022 Committee Members**

Stephanie A. Limoncelli, Chair (2021-2022) Loyola Marymount University slimonce@lmu.edu	Rashmee Karnad-Jani (2021-2022) University of Toronto rashmee.karnad.jani@mail.utoronto.ca
Lauren Dana Olsen, Chair-Elect (2021-2022) Temple University lauren.olsen@temple.edu	Anna Y. Leon-Guerrero (2021-2022) Pacific Lutheran University guerreay@plu.edu
Meghna Bhat (2021-2022) Independent Scholar & Consultant megbhat@gmail.com	Heather K. Sanchez (2021-2022) North Carolina State University hksanche@ncsu.edu

## Selection Process Details

This year, the committee received eight nominations and met via Zoom to discuss them on May 2, 2022. Heather K. Sanchez, whom the chair was not able to reach despite several attempts and multiple methods over several months, was not present. Meghna Bhat and Rashmee Karnad-Jani sent regrets at the last minute.

The chair went ahead and convened the meeting, during which the committee vetted each nomination according to the criteria established in the award call for nominations. Based on these criteria, three organizations were disqualified:

The Kinsey Institute nomination was for a person rather than the organization and the organization was not in the Los Angeles Area in any case

CASA of Los Angeles is a local chapter of a nationwide program

Reimagine LA is a coalition and it has a coordinating committee and members that are local chapters of national organizations.

In order to ensure full participation of committee members who were not at the meeting, the chair opted to hold off on having a vote. All members were sent meeting minutes and discussion was continued via email. The chair also offered to convene another meeting, but all members were satisfied with further email discussion and having the actual vote sent via Qualtrics.

The Qualtrics survey was sent on May 20 via anonymous link asking members to rank the five remaining nominations. All five members voted.

### 2022 Thomas C. Hood Social Action Winner: Downtown Crenshaw

The selected winner is Downtown Crenshaw (3 people ranked it first, 1 person ranked it second, and 1 person ranked it third). CultivaLA and Safe Place were close, but CultivaLA did slightly better, so it came in second (1 person ranked it first, 2 ranked it second, 1 ranked it third, and one fifth). Safe Place is 3rd, with 2 second place rankings, 1 third place rankings and 2 fourth place rankings. New Way of Life was 4<sup>th</sup> (2 third place and 3 fourth place rankings) and OCJF was 5<sup>th</sup> (all fives except one person who ranked it first).

Organization Name	Ranking
Downtown Crenshaw	1
CultivaLA	2
Safe Place for Youth	3
New Way of Life Reentry Project	4
Orange County Justice Fund	5

Downtown Crenshaw is a Black-led, anti-racist, locally-driven, grassroots group working on their community's right to self-determination by challenging outside developers and gentrification. They are people-driven and community focused, with impacted people in leadership positions on their board. They are trying to create system change through community land trusts. They are small and they would likely benefit significantly from the support.

**Note of Appreciation**

As chair, I thank the other members for serving on the committee and Michele Koontz, Héctor Delgado, and SSSP for the opportunity to serve on the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee.