

CHOICES

Hector Sanchez profiled by **Maryah Parker**

Hector Sanchez was born and raised in South Central. His parents were already here. He started at Community Coalition as a young high school student. He has stayed ever since and played multiple roles both as a volunteer as a young student, and then as one of the first parent organizers. He also helped build their first leadership council there at the organization involving residents and trying to figure out how they know or think about South LA differently. His favorite thing about the job is the diversity, they are a diverse community. It was predominantly Black and it moved to predominantly Latino.

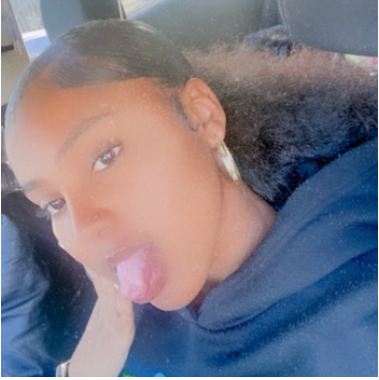
Hector doesn't live in South Central. He lives in South Gate which is east of here. One reason he moved from South Central is because he couldn't afford it here. He couldn't afford the housing and also trying to build a family so he moved to where it was a little affordable. He stayed in South Central because there is unfinished business that they are doing. Hector and his crew are making sure that they are continuing to build a generation of next leaders making sure that they continue to promote.

Hector said that when he was going to school, there was no Ethnic Studies and no one talked about the history of our community, where we live, and where we grew up. He also said we need more resources in school. When he was in school they were actually fighting and voters had passed an initiative that brought in \$2.8 billion to address the physical structure of the schools. When he was going to school they had four tracks and the school was all year round, summer school etc. was good for them when he was going to school. He said the external factors that impact that creates more community.

He also said that he thinks the community in 10 years is still going to continue to build consciousness, continuing to ensure that people are aware that conditions that we currently live in are not what they should be. But bringing more resources, being able to ensure that they don't just take it for granted that things are the way they are but rather that they have agency and they can change that. So sometime after the 10 years they are able to have people come back, people that left that were kicked out, that were pushed out come back. Build a consciousness that this is our home. This is where we grew up and the fact that we were being pushed out is not right.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maryah Parker



My name is Maryah Parker. I am a high school student that goes to Mann UCLA Community School. My family has been out here their whole lives. I was back and forth from Lancaster to South Central most of my life. I started fully living out here when all that stuff happened with Covid. What stood out to me the most was when my interviewee

said that bringing more resources and being able to ensure that people just don't take it for granted that things are the way they are but rather that they have agency to change things. I really liked when he said that because basically he kind of said don't give up like keep trying and keep going. That really gave me some advice to not give up on anything. South Central's greatest strength is their Cultural Diversity. What I hope for is South Central to actually start getting together and helping the homeless out and get them the help they need. I hope I finish school and graduate and have something going for myself in the future. My plans for after high school is to graduate and start really focusing on doing hair or actually go to college and study cosmetology.
