

WE WANNA KEEP SOUTH CENTRAL

Nancy Camacho profiled by **Londyn, John Hernandez Alexander Rojas, & Aniya Jones**

Nancy was born in 1986 in Inglewood. She then moved from Inglewood to South Central when she was young and attended school in South Central. However, Nancy and her family moved after the LA Riots. In the article, "What Were the LA Riots" by Walter Thompson-Hernandez from the New York Times said, "The 1992 riots ultimately led to quick and slow deaths all across the city. More than 60 people were killed over the course of five days. Thousands of people were critically injured." After this, her mother moved her and her family to South Gate because her mom thought it was safer.

Nancy mentioned her experience attending a school in South Central. During the interview Nancy said, "They would target you if you ditched or whatever—yell at you or call your parents—just make a bad record of you". During this time it would've been around the 1990s, meaning that the School to Prison Pipeline was still currently going on. The School-to-Prison Pipeline is what critically affects a student's school life, morale, and also comfort/safeness in their school. In the article "The School-To-Prison Pipeline" by Learning from Justice, it explains that School-To-Prison Pipeline were policies that encouraged police to be on campus. Police were legally allowed to use brutal force and arrest students. Most of the arrests from students were "nonviolent offenses" and the vast majority were students of color; by Nancy telling us this, gives us an image of personal experience in school during the School-to-Prison Pipeline from her personal perspective.

Nancy highlights racial profiling and misconduct in South Central: "The police want to criminalize you—put charges on you for whatever or for acting out or your behavior or dressing some type of way or wearing certain types of colors or because you're Black or Mexican, and, "Let me run your fingerprints. If you don't have no record, I'm going to give you a record." Nancy's experiences are not unique. In a report by the ACLU of Southern California, it's revealed that "Over the last five years, the LAPD has received nearly 1200 citizen complaints alleging racial profiling." This is significant to Nancy because she believes that racial profiling is one of South Central's biggest concerns.

Nancy states that one of her favorite things about South Central is the history behind everything. She states that "the land and the properties have a lot of history behind them and we want to keep them that way."

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Aniya Jones



I am Aniya Jones. I've been in South Central for most of my life. What stood out to me from my interview was that most of the things that she said after the interview kind of reminded me of things my mom has told me. I feel like one of South Central's greatest strengths is that we are a community and we have a lot of people of color here that

have/understand a lot of the same struggles. I hope we can still have the community and that we have just less violent things around to be safer. I hope I never forget where I came from. After high school I plan to go to college.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

John Hernandez Alexander Rojas



My name is John Hernandez, I'm a Hispanic 16 year old male living in South Central. I've lived in South Central for 3 and a half years so far. We came to South Central since we knew family members that lived here when moving from Michigan.

Something that my interviewee pointed out that stood out to me was when she talked about living with single parents. This relates to me because she talks about struggles that a child has to go through while having single parents like financial struggles, and being the child your parent relies on to graduate and putting this immense pressure on you just to make them proud and not disappoint them, knowing the task is extremely difficult. I learned that the majority of people struggle through it as well. It makes me feel glad but disappointed as well, since I don't feel alone through this but also hate the fact children have to suffer through this in the first place and being unable to change anything about it. Something I hope for South Central is to change the image they are defined on because this community has so much potential and I'd hate it all to go to waste. Lastly, my plans are to graduate and move on to college and hopefully get my dream car any time soon.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Londyn



Hi my name is Londyn, I was born in Los Angeles California on December 19th, 2006. My family has always been in South Central. I myself have lived in South Central since I was born. Something that stood out to me from Nancy's interview is the way bad students were treated in schools. This matters because it shows that at this time, they

hose to focus more on getting children in trouble with the authorities because of their ethnicity instead of taking action and disciplining them as students. I myself have witnessed this. This negatively affects South Central because instead of trying to understand the viewpoint of Black and Brown students and our experiences, they automatically assume that we are doing something bad and that we have nothing going for ourselves. I feel like punishment wastes our time when we could be using that time to use our voices as people of color to express how discriminatory the school system is when it comes to colored students. I feel that one of South Central's greatest strengths is the culture. The reason why is because we have a unique way of expressing ourselves through our fashion and the way we do certain things. Our uniqueness is what brings us together as family. Something I hope for South Central is that it'll get cleaner. I hope that I get to know myself more than I already do. I'm learning to not meet others' expectations because it's not always about other people's opinions. My plans after high school are to be a designer of my own clothing brand, and to become a successful actor.
