

Aniya: Okay, the first question is where and when were you born?

Nancy: I was born in 1986. I'm thirty seven years old.*Laughs* Actually I was born in Inglewood and resided right here on 83rd and vermont—that's literally down the street.

Londyn: The next question is when and how did your family come to south central?

Nancy: Um, when I was born. Uh, my mom relocated from Inglewood to South Central because it was a low cost of living out here, that's the main reason why she moved here.

John: How has South Central changed over the years?

Nancy: Um...it just got worse...the situation, we moved out of South Central when um when they did the...when they burned down the liquor stores and that thing during that crack epidemic and that's when my mom decided to relocate for my safety and my brothers safety so we moved out to South Gate.

Londyn: What do you think are South Central's greatest strengths

Nancy: Greatest strengths? Um the history behind it, you know? the lands, the properties are quite big, you know? That's basically the properties..um and then there's history behind certain buildings you know especially on Vermont and certain streets you know there's like history behind it so we wanna keep it that way.

Aniya 2:41 - Why did you choose to work/live in South Central?

Nancy 2:46 - I always keep coming to South Central just because it's the cultural, the people you know, South Central has a variety of people, you know, I always choose to do my work around South Central because I feel that we're the ones that are most impacted by everything that goes out there, low cost of living and living with single parents, parents with addictions, you know, started applying to school and colleges and stuff. You know, it's just, it just caught my attention a lot, because I know that we need to help here. We need to change. We need to make a lot of changes in schools, in our streets, in our homes You know, and we need resources, we need help out here, you know, and sometimes, it just feels homey, it just feels like, you know, to other park area their like certain individuals turning race only. So it's, you don't feel comfortable. For here, like, you feel comfortable, like you fit in, you're able to have multiple friends of color like, you know, like out in other cities, it's not like, if you don't fit in one spot. You know, or you gonna fit in another spot. So South Central this whole like, you know, kinda has that feeling or touch behind it.

Londyn 4:19 - What's something you love and hate about South Central?

Nancy 4:24: I love that fact that um it's just big, you know, I love the fact that south central has the palm trees behind, It's not long beach *laughs*. It's actually in South Central like most of the

movies you know most of the characters you know, 80s late 70s, even 90s has a lot of history in these streets, you know? Yeah they would fall into the [inaudible].

Nancy: What I do hate about South Central is that there's not enough resources. There's not enough help. You know South Central is being classified as—if you're dealing with some type of mental disorder or mental challenge, there's no help for you. So instead of helping you out, **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."** That's just that thing that South Central does have, and it would fall back into the police, you know? The system affecting and targeting us for being in the wrong places at the wrong time. Period. Especially around liquor stores and stuff.

John: Did you attend school in south central and if so how was your experience?

Nancy: So i did attend school in south central i went to elementary um Manchester elementary thats where i started uh then i got transferred um i did south gate after words for- after elementary middle school high school and then i- i after high school i got kicked out and ended up at Jefferson you know so i was back in south central *laughs* um dont get me wrong i like it because i'm not gonna lie i'm back where i felt comparable like i guess this is just my area its just in me you know it's like you can't take certain things you know when your parents might take you out or whatever this is so you know so it just felt- it felt (inaudible)one because you know i got friends there and i had a lot of mexican friends so we all used to like vibe together and like go out to eat and all the but that didn't happen in sal gate you know in sal gate i had to be in a certain popular crowd you know like if i wanted to friends with everyone i had to pretty much be my own loner self stopping in every group. The thing about um the different schools was that the teachers dedicate more time to students and you know in other cities Jefferson didnt have the best schools- the best teachers. The notebooks- the books were out of date and the teachers didn't really care. So there wasn't enough tutoring and counseling. They would target you if you ditched or whatever—yell at you or call your parents—just make a bad record of you. So it was just, you know, it was hard graduating and trying to get your credits. I had to attend adult school and Trade Tech to finally graduate out of there, but the violence—it was bad. A lot of affiliation, a lot of gun shooting, and that didn't happen in South Gate. I was there, you know. I had moved with my brother out to Central and 43rd. So, I had to go to that school—I had no other option.

Aniya: Are you comfortable living in South Central, and do you feel safe?

Nancy: Um, that's a good question. Am I comfortable? I don't live in South Central right now. I'm currently living in Compton, but it's about the same, it's still a part of LA. I could say that I'm out of my comfort zone because I'm just accustomed to the deputies, the helicopters, the shooting, the tagging—you know, it's just the same thing out here. So I don't feel safe at times, but it's like I can't do nothing about it, you know at that point. I know that a lot of things are changing now that I'm older. You know advocating, uniting, changing, reforming laws, changing measures,

Senate Bills, and you know all that plays a part in it. All of it is about educating our individuals and our residents to make those changes, and those changes are slowly changing. So, I could say that the violence presently in Compton, I've been there for ten years, the violence has minimized because of the education and the resources that they're putting out there. So I'm a little bit more comfortable, you know?

I have children. I have a 16 year old and a nine year old. I don't let them out you know, because I'm afraid for them. When I was like 14/15, I was walking to the grocery store so it was different because I was raised in the hood. Even though they live out there with us, we don't give them the feeling that it's different for them.

But I definitely know that if we had been here in South Central, and if we were low income, no cars, you wouldn't have a choice, but if you take public transportation, you would be able to visualize everything around.

Londyn: What's something you'd like to change about South Central?

Nancy: The homeless—the unhoused individuals. I know that we are working on a lot of campaigns also with Karen Bass to house certain individuals. **And I don't understand why the rent has increased so much when the city—when the community doesn't stand out for the price change. It's like your opinion doesn't matter as much as someone living in Santa Monica, and the city is not fixing these streets how they're supposed to.** Yes, they might have the employees, but the employees are not being accountable for doing their jobs right. We're dealing with a lot of situations that make our community look not its best. So definitely, rebuild LA, starting with the streets and lower the housing cost so that families can have housing stability and being able to raise their children. I mean it's hard. A lot of people in South Central are single parents. A lot of parents in South Central are system impacted. And a lot of them are because of what's out there—drugs, violence, gangs, and stuff—it affects the family. So that's very common. If we were to change things around, it would minimize all of those barriers and factors.

Londyn: What's something you would like to always remain in South Central?

Nancy: What to always remain? CoCo! I guess for the most part, the Slauson Mall is still there, and we want to keep it there, but it's Leimert Park and the Crenshaw Mall. I don't like that—the Crenshaw Mall does not look like how it did, and they're shutting it down and closing some stores, so it just makes it different. So I would definitely like for that to stay there because there's a lot of history behind it. And there's many other parts of LA and South Central that have history behind it, so we want to keep it like that. Like just help those businesses grow.

John: What do you hope for the future of South Central?

Nancy: For the future of South Central... for families to be somewhat wealthier than what they are. For them to have more job opportunities. For the rent to be affordable at a certain percentage out of their checks—not three or four times than what they gain. Most definitely

because most of our parents are working two or three jobs to pay the rent and get our children through. And our children need expensive shoes, you know? [Laughs]

Londyn: Right!

Nancy: Like I mean—it's either pay the bills or buy some shoes. So definitely minimize the cost of living and give a reasonable wage.

Londyn: Well that's about it, thank you for giving us your time.