

# TEEN COURT PROJECT FOR JUSTICE

*Together we can help educate our youth to be responsible community members.*





- The Teen Court program is a juvenile diversionary program for youthful offenders who commit non-violent offenses.
- Over 40 high schools with more than 50,000 students in Los Angeles County participate in the Teen Court Program, and over 80 Superior Court judges volunteer their time to the program.
- The youth who has been diverted to the program is placed on trial with participating high school students asking the youth as well as his parents critical questions.
- From this information the participating high school students, the jurors, determine the culpability of the youth and recommend diversionary conditions that contain restorative justice concepts.
- The judicial officer then imposes the diversionary conditions.
- If the youth complies with the terms of the diversionary conditions then he is deemed to have successfully completed the program and the youth avoids having a criminal record.

# Teen Court Program

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# Traditional Route – Juvenile Court

- Feel like criminal – interact with other criminals – Less individual attention

Great Risk of reoffending

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# Teen Court – Diversion Program

- Reevaluate Conduct – Interact with peers – More individualized attention – Restorative Justice

Less chance of reoffending

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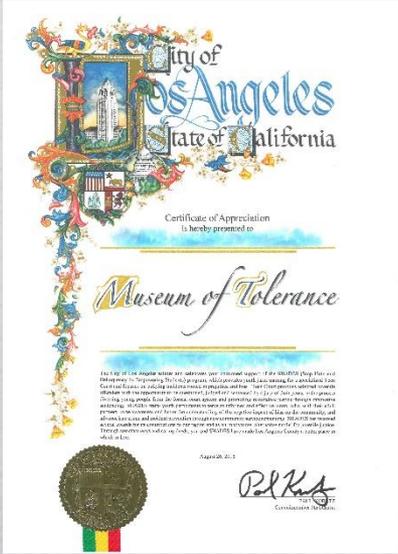
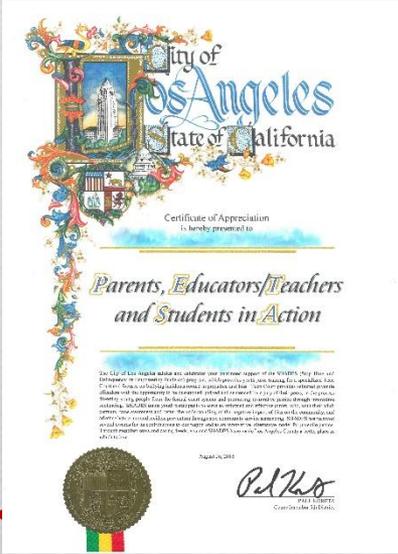
- Youth are diverted from the juvenile delinquency system.
- Criminal convictions are not part of their record.
- It creates an opportunity to work with local law enforcement and school administrators to develop protocols identifying youth who are involved in criminal conduct as well as in trouble for hate-based incidents and bullying
- One of the major benefits of these programs is that it makes a positive impact on offenders and their communities through a specialized experiential learning process that addresses root causes of behavioral issues including incidents of hate and bullying.
- It also provides school counselors with additional options to promote safety and tolerance, while reducing the number of students punished through traditional means (expulsions, suspensions, opportunity transfers', etc.) .
- It provides students participating in the program the opportunity to develop their interpretative learning skills and become aware of the legal process.

## **Teen Court Benefits our schools & our community**

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Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action (PESA) is the non-profit that supports the Los Angeles Superior Court Teen Court Program as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Superior Court and PESA.





**Parents, Educators/Teachers and Students in Action, The Los Angeles Superior Court and the Museum of Tolerance have joined together to create a specialized Teen Court program recognized by City Council to address the growing climate of intolerance in the City of Los Angeles, this program is SHADES.**



## SHADES

- SHADES is an acronym for Stopping Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students (SHADES)
- Students involved in the program receive a week-long tolerance training at the Museum of Tolerance that assists them in developing an understanding of issues related to diversity and problems created by prejudice, hate, and bullying.
- In order to participate in the SHADES program, a student must first be a participant in the Teen Court program.
- Minors committing hate incidents are referred to the Teen Court Program to be tried by a SHADES trained jury and if found culpable are placed on informal probation to be mentored by a Superior Court Judge.
- Then those participating in SHADES engage in community outreach to educate others on what they have learned.



**SHADES**



SHADES trained participants educate the community by illuminating our residents about the value of accepting and interacting with a diversified community by:

- Presentations at schools.
- Presentations at Community Festivals.
- Presentations to Community groups.

At all these activities they distribute a handout that emphasizes what they have taught.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

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**PESA**



**PARENTS, EDUCATORS/TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN ACTION**

**HATE CRIMES ARE ON THE RISE IN LOS ANGELES**

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP REDUCE THIS TREND**

**PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR QUEST TO RESTORE OUR COMMUNITY TO ONE THAT CARES FOR EACH OTHER**

### Rise of Hate Crimes in Los Angeles

Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations reports...  
 Hate crime in Los Angeles rose **24%** from **390 to 483**, the highest since 2011

**LAPD data reports three different hate crimes**

- 64%** violent aggravated assault
- 18.5%** Racially-motivated crimes
- 24.5%** Crimes against LGBTQ community

Most hate crimes occur in  
 San Fernando Valley  
 Boyle Heights  
 West Los Angeles



Also happens via electronic devices

### Importance of Showing Kindness

According to research done by UCLA and University of Groningen :



**Cross-ethnic friendships**

- Predict less vulnerability (i.e. feeling safer, less lonely)
- Being empathetic to those who have witnessed mass shootings (i.e. Columbine, Las Vegas)
- Reduce the chances of having mass shootings

### Simple Tasks to Reduce Hate Crime



Saying "hello" to someone



Not saying offensive words (i.e. "fagot" "you don't belong here") in person or on social media



Have discussions with friends and family about racism, prejudice and diversity



Collaborate with teachers and administrators at school on facilitating activities to bring awareness to others about racism and discrimination



Educate yourself on current issues and learn what you can do to promote tolerance in person and online



Be friends with someone who does not look like you and hear their story

*The wave of change starts small, but it can have a bigger ripple effect onto others as we spread kindness to them.*

# TOLERANCE HANDOUT



The Teen Court Program including the Community Outreach programs receive substantial support from the Teen Court Alumni Association, who are college students that participated in the Teen Court program when they were in high school.

# **TEEN COURT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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In addition PESA conducts Student workshops, Parent Workshops, Teacher and Educator workshops that are designed to enhance the educational opportunity for students, address behavioral issues before they occur, and educate parents about how to be responsible, respectful participants in their child's education.

## **STUDENT, PARENT, TEACHER AND EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS**

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## PUBLIC BENEFIT

Teen Court through PESA provides a demonstrable benefit to the community in many ways.

- Education – Addresses issues of importance to our community, the increase of hate crime and incidents, through educating the community about the values of a diversified community.
- Community Improvement – Youthful offenders learn why they should not commit crimes, and are provided the skills to address the cause of their behavior.
- The Arts – Participants in the program engage in artistic endeavors as a result of the SHADES program at the Museum of Tolerance, as well as participating in community festivals at places such as the Museum of the Holocaust.
- Community Support – The project supports the community by helping to reduce crimes such as shoplifting and vandalism.
- Beautification – Teen Court students are able to help beautify the community by participating in other activities that PESA is involved in such as the Vision Zero Program, and the NSSP program.
- Overall Public Benefit – The Teen Court program educates all those involved on how to be responsible members of their community and the value of giving back.



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# The Public Benefits in multiple ways.

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Support for Teen Court Session and Club & Data Collection	\$1,500.00
Support for Events and Field Trips & Data Collection	\$1,500.00
Monitoring Youthful Offenders and Data Collection	\$2,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,000.00

**AMOUNT REQUIRED MULTIPLIED BY  
40 TEEN COURT SITES**



**Together we can continue to make a difference in our community.**

**To Find out more information, please contact:**

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**PESA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit**

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