



Dear ARC Family,

I write to you with exciting news about the future and direction of ARC. In mid-May, I transitioned to serve as full-time President and Chief Executive Officer of 'Good Films', a film and television production company focused on developing projects that promote social, cultural and political change. I plan to make huge movies and TV shows that change the way people across the country see people in prison, as well as change the way they vote. Get ready!

With guidance from our Board of Directors, ARC spent a year conducting a worldwide search for the right person to run this organization. We gathered valuable insight and direction from our staff and formerly incarcerated members to find a candidate who is committed to ARC's values of redemption, social justice, and empowerment of system-connected individuals. When I started ARC, I wanted for the organization to ultimately be run by those who had experienced incarceration. There are no better experts on the planet to end mass incarceration, than those who have personally experienced it and know what is needed to help people change, as well as end years of unjust and inhumane laws. After scouring the world, I along with ARC's Board and staff are thrilled to announce Shaka Senghor as our new Executive Director!

Shaka is a gifted artist, an unbelievable writer, a passionate leader, and a strategic advocate for criminal justice reform. He possesses a deep and unyielding compassion for the men, women, children, families, and communities who have been impacted by the juvenile and criminal justice systems, grounded in his own experience of having spent 19 years in the Michigan Department of Corrections, much of it in solitary confinement.

He has shared his story, both in his *New York Times* best-selling memoir "Writing My Wrongs: Life, Death and Redemption in an American Prison" (GET THIS BOOK!) and in news articles, television pieces, and lectures around the world, including through one of the most powerful TED Talks of all time. In doing so, Shaka has contributed to our understanding of the inner workings of the U.S. prison system and the changes that need to take place in order for those who become involved in it to reach their fullest potential. Shaka is a beast!

Shaka has spent the last few years living in Los Angeles, and working as the Head of Strategy and Innovation at #Cut50. Most importantly, he is the father of two adult children and a six-year-old son, Sekou, who lives with him in Los Angeles. Shaka is also my brother and my family. We spent a week together in Germany running through German prisons and studying European models of rehabilitation. I realized on that trip that Shaka is a REAL ONE, and will be a lifelong friend.

Shaka's appointment as Executive Director is particularly exciting for ARC's formerly incarcerated staff members. ARC's Inside Coordinator Jose Gonzalez shared, "The fact that the title 'Executive Director' and 'formerly incarcerated' can be in the same sentence describing one person, gives those of us with similar experiences hope." ARC's Director of Inside Programming, Sam Lewis, added, "It's really great that the new Executive Director of ARC is a formerly incarcerated person. This definitely demonstrates that our organization believes in the leadership of the men and women we serve."

When you call or come to the office, please know that now over 80% of our staff are formerly incarcerated, while also attending school at community colleges, Cal State LA, UCLA, USC, Sacramento State, Long Beach State and Loyola Marymount. We currently have over 50 men and woman out of prison and YA/DJJ living in ARC Housing. In the last 16 months, we have placed over 100 men and woman out of prison, into the construction unions, and dozens into the entertainment industry. In the fall, we start the first ARC computer coding/web development cohort for 20 returning men and woman, and will also start the first-ever training for formerly incarcerated men and woman into Cal Fire and LA County Fire. Whether you are interested in housing, mentoring, working with youth, career training and placement, or working together to heal from past traumas, the ARC staff and members are here to welcome you home. With Shaka running the organization, prepare to see massive growth in all of these areas.

For my Day One homies, don't worry. Those of you who have known me since I started this work in 1996 will know that I will never stop until we have a fair and just system, and our family is home. I will continue to teach InsideOUT Writers on Saturday mornings in the juvenile hall, I will continue to sit on the Board of Directors overseeing ARC, I will continue going to Sacramento to fight for new laws and system reform, and I will never stop coming into the prisons to show love and bring hope and opportunity to my fam inside. Prepare to see me and Shaka together in your prison soon.

I am thrilled to welcome Shaka to the ARC family and look forward to continuing our work of changing lives and creating safer, healthier communities together.

With love and appreciation...no goodbyes, see you soon!

Scott Budnick

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ARC's new Executive Director Shaka Senghor

**Feature Two Meet ARC's New Executive Director**

Dear ARC Family,

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Shaka Senghor, eight years ago, I was released from prison after serving 19 years.

I was excited to return home to my community, family, and friends. I was optimistic, curious, hopeful as I trust many of you are. I was also anxious, nervous, and uncertain about re-entering a world that was vastly different from the one I left behind.

Despite this complex recipe of emotions, I was up for the challenge of walking a new path and living a life of meaning and purpose.

It's an honor to lead an organization that works tirelessly on behalf of system-impacted men, women, and children, to ensure they return home healthy, whole, and employable. I am looking forward to helping grow ARC's programs, continuing the leadership development of its members, and working closely with our partners to transform the system and create safer communities.

As the Executive Director, I along with the incredible ARC staff are excited to support you

when you transition back into the community.

Our goal is to ensure you have all the resources, support, and encouragement possible for you to succeed in life. We are an organization that believes anything is possible and our members can reach the goals they set for themselves. We are intentional about nourishing the potential of our members and celebrating the genius, intelligence, and creativity of all who walk through our doors. We are excited to have you home and look forward to embarking on this journey with you.

Shaka Senghor, Executive Director.



ARC Executive Director, Shaka visiting the ARC Sacramento office.

**Feature Three**

**2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*ARC works with several local and statewide advocacy organizations to create opportunities for members to lend their voices to justice reform efforts. This work has led to several important improvements in California's justice system. Below are measures ARC is co-sponsoring this year.*

Family,

I am proud to introduce to you all a dear friend of mine, Michael Mendoza, who has taken the position of ARC Policy Director. I have tremendous confidence in his ability and courage to continue our work on reforming policy. We will all continue to advocate for all of our incarcerated brothers and sisters. As we continue fighting for fairer policies that recognize the dignity and humanity of all incarcerated men, women and children., we appreciate your patience and resilience and I look forward to you all coming home and joining us in our advocacy efforts.

– E. Nunez

The ARC Policy Team would also like announce that Bikila Ochoa is transitioning out of this position as ARC's Policy Director to his new role as ARC Deputy Director, where he will continue to broaden ARC's impact in all areas, including public policy. Any policy related correspondence can now be directed to: **Michael Mendoza at the Sacramento Office: The Anti-Recidivism Coalition, 1414 K Street, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95814.** Below is a note from Mr. Mendoza, introducing himself further:



*Esteban Nunez on left and Michael Mendoza, Policy Director, on right*

My name is Michael Mendoza and I am very excited about being the new Policy Director for ARC. Growing up in prison left me with a sense

of urgency to truly live life once I was released. However, I quickly learned that sense of urgency had to be focused and directed towards positively contributing to society and giving hope to all those who have been and continue to be impacted by the criminal justice system. ARC has given me the opportunity to do just that. I started as an ARC member advocating for important policy changes while I was working odd jobs and attending school. During those years, I made a lot of tough choices and sacrifices to build on my career while sending a message to the rest of the world that says - people affected by the criminal justice system are more than the negative stereotypes that society has given us. As we continue to move forward with our policy agenda, it is important that we continue to represent the needs of the population we serve and be of service to the public as a whole. I am excited and ready to contribute.

– M. Mendoza

Thank you for all of your letters and ideas for policy change. Although it sometimes takes us a while to answer them, we read and record every single one, and are busy trying to make your ideas a reality. While we would love to make all of the reforms we want to see at once, they are not all politically possible at this time. Some reforms are more difficult than others, and they require more time and background work. Even if you don't see a change happening right now in a particular area, that does not mean that we aren't moving towards that reform. We don't have a lot of chances to convince someone to make change, and it's important for us to do it correctly, and implement change that actually works. Sometimes, we think we've laid the groundwork for a particular area of reform, but legislators need to see more research or do some of their own background work before they can agree to author the bill. Please do not lose hope, and know that we are hearing your thoughts and doing our absolute best to see them through.

Last year, ARC saw five of the bills it co-sponsored pass, which is an extraordinary accomplishment, and thanks in large part to everyone who wrote to their legislators, visited the Capitol, or had friends and family visit the capitol to share their stories and experiences. This year, we are co-sponsoring more bills that we hope will continue the trend of providing hope to thousands of incarcerated Californians and swiftly bring an end to draconian policies and mass incarceration. We're about half-way

through the legislative season. Although there is NO GUARANTEE, there are reasons to be cautiously optimistic.

**Bills ARC is Co-sponsoring**

**SB 10**

The California Bail Reform Act will ensure that people are not held in dangerous, overcrowded jails after an arrest simply because they cannot afford to post bail. The effect of the Act will be to ensure that people return to court as required and that the public is protected, while ending the current bail system's cruel discrimination against low-income Californians and people of color.

**Status:** Has been signed into law by the Governor and will be implemented in 2020.

**SB 1391**

This bill would repeal the authority of a district attorney to make a motion to transfer a minor from juvenile court to an adult court of criminal jurisdiction in a case in which a minor is alleged to have committed a specified serious offense when he or she was 14 or 15 years of age. It proposes to instead keep 14 and 15 year-olds in the juvenile system where they can receive the specialized education and rehabilitation services that they need.

**Status:** This bill is currently on the Governors desk awaiting his signature and if signed it will be implemented 2019.

**AB 2550**

This bill would prohibit male correctional officers in female prisons from conducting a pat down search of an incarcerated woman unless she presents a risk of immediate harm to herself or others, and there is not a female correctional officer available to conduct the search. The bill would also prohibit a male correctional officer from entering an area of the institution where females may be in a state of undress, unless the person in the area presents a risk of immediate harm to herself or others or if there is a medical emergency in the area and there is not a female correctional officer who can resolve the situation in a safe and timely manner without his assistance. The bill would require documentation of a male correctional officer conducting a pat down search or



ARC Members advocating for SB 1391

entering a prohibited area within 3 days of the incident and would require the documentation to be reviewed by the warden and retained.

**Status:** Has been signed into law by the Governor and will be implemented in 2019.

**AB 2138**

This bill would prohibit a person from being denied a license solely on the basis that he or she has been convicted of a nonviolent crime and would make conforming changes.

**Status:** This bill is currently on the Governors desk awaiting his signature and if signed it will be implemented 2019..

**SB 825**

This bill paves the way for stable employment for those reentering into society, thus supplementing their successful transition back to the community. Under SB 825, California can give formerly incarcerated men and women a second chance for a productive and meaningful life, by providing them with the training necessary to begin developing a career path.

**Status:** This bill was passed as a trailer bill, which means it passed as part of the budget appropriation. These bills are generally negotiated as part of the entire budget package each fiscal year.

**AB 1940 - Community Reintegration Credits**

This bill would have allowed people on parole supervision to earn an early discharge by earning achievement credits through education or vocation.

**Status:** This bill did not receive enough votes on the Assembly floor to pass this year. We do plan on returning to it next year.

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**SB 439**

This measure would establish a minimum age for prosecution in juvenile court in California, protecting children under 12 years old from the harms and adverse consequences of justice system involvement and encouraging more effective alternatives to court involvement.

**Status:** This bill is currently on the Governors desk awaiting his signature and if signed it will be implemented 2019.

**SB 1437 - (The Fair and Equitable Sentencing Act)**

This bill would prohibit a participant or conspirator in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of one of a list of specified felonies in which a death occurs from being liable for murder, unless the person personally committed the homicidal act, the person acted with premeditated intent to aid and abet an act wherein a death would occur, or the person was a major participant in the underlying felony and acted with reckless indifference to human life. This bill would also provide a means of re-sentencing a defendant when a complaint, information, or indictment was filed against the defendant that allowed the prosecution to proceed under a theory of first degree felony murder, 2nd degree felony murder, or murder under the natural and probable consequences

doctrine, the defendant was sentenced for first degree or 2nd degree murder or accepted a plea offer in lieu of a trial at which the defendant could be convicted for first degree or 2nd degree murder. It's important to note that the bill would provide that the court cannot, through this re-sentencing process, remove a strike from the petitioner's record. Basically, if you were charged with first or second degree murder as an accomplice under the Felony Murder Rule, and you are NOT serving LWOP/ Felony Murder Special Circumstances, you may be eligible for resentencing under the bill. SB 1437 made it through the California Senate, and is on its way to the Assembly floor for consideration.

**Note:** We understand that there are many people serving unfair LWOP sentences under the Felony Murder Rule. This bill lays the groundwork for further fair and equitable sentencing reform including more people, and we hope to address those serving LWOP in the near future.

**Another Note:** Many people currently serving first or second degree murder helped us get this bill to the floor by telling us about your experiences. If you are one of those people, thank you so much for your help! That research will help us not only get this bill passed, but future bills regarding the Felony Murder Rule here in California, and hopefully in other states across the nation.

**Status:** This bill is currently on the Governors desk awaiting his signature and if signed it will be implemented 2019.



ARC Members partnering with #Cut50 and Assemblymembers Carillo and Jones-Sawyer during #cut50's Day of Empathy

**Feature Four**

**Working Outside the Box**

*ARC Members discuss their experiences of navigating employment upon returning home. The challenges of pursuing their desired career paths, the devotion it took, and how they began their preparation while still inside.*



*Adrian V working on a set with Manifest Works.*

I found myself frustrated, confused and hopeless as I sat staring at the online Ralphs job application for over 20 minutes trying to figure out what to fill in for previous employers, references and whether should I check the box for a prior felony or should I lie and not check it? This was the reality of being released from prison after 20 years on a life sentence and not being prepared for the realities of real life. Many of us who are released after prison will undergo a similar experience. Prison taught us many things about inner personal development and preparing for the

BPH, but not life skills or survival in the job field. The truth is, life in society will be difficult and particularly challenging to obtain employment with a felony. However, you can prepare yourself while serving your sentence to help overcome these challenges and not be caught off guard when you are released.

Here at ARC we have developed a partnership with numerous employers who will look beyond a person’s background and give a “second chance”. The “second chance” can only be accomplished if you present yourself in the best light possible. That means being prepared.

Under California’s new rule, thanks to Governor Brown, there is no longer a box to check if you have been convicted of a felony and employers are forbidden to ask if you have a background at a job interview. The only time an employer may ask if you have a background is if you have been offered a tentative job offer. They are looking for a “nexus” between the job you applied for and your crime.

As for references, employers are looking for credible people who can speak upon your

character and work performance. Do not use your immediate family as references - these do not count. Seek out people such as clergy, school, college teachers, and instructors. They have worked around you and can speak about you in a positive manner.

Once released, do your research and seek help. There are several non-profits, WorkSource and community colleges that will provide assistance and help in creating your resumé and editing it. Do your foot work and be proactive. This is about you and being self-sufficient.

– Adrian V



*Adrian V. helping ARC Members learn more about career paths*

**From the Yard to the Lots**

*ARC member Jose Gonzalez’ reflective journey on a new career path*

Let me tell you a story about a kid who was walking home from elementary school, taking the alleys for the short cuts. His backpack filled with comic books and Pee Chee folders that were stuffed with sketches and the beginnings of short stories. These were writings of an adolescent trying to interpret the world around him. A metal Star Wars lunch box with pens, pencils, and full of hope. Loitering on neighbors’ stoops this boy would blast music through his headphones wondering about the world far away. Yet far away was literally just a few miles over the hill. This is where movies, cartoons, and comic books were created.

The trash cans and the spray-painted walls were the background for the beginning of countless ideas and dreams. Dreams of imagining a world that was different from the one he lived in, ideas of one day making art that would entertain, give him wealth, and change the world.

Of course, he did not know that those same alleys and stoops would help him assume a lifestyle that



*Jose Gonzalez enjoying his new internship with Warner Brothers*

would sidetrack him from these dreams for a very long time. While on this left turn in life, corners were cut, and false doors opened that made the

journey back difficult and at times instilled the belief of it being impossible. An impossibility that overcame logic and dictated decisions made in haste. Yet miraculously a beacon of light pierced that inner darkness and eventually maturity set in, thus allowing corrective thinking that began the process of corrective behavior. Once all that distractive and energy consuming negativity began to dissipate, the dreams slowly began to resurface and this time, that boy who was now a man began to truly live. By now you can deduce that the boy is me, and for those who know me or of me, know that I was once serving a life sentence. To be a lifer is one thing, to be in prison at 17 is another altogether. One could imagine that those dreams I once held were very raw and undisciplined.

Post release, outside of my work for ARC, I somehow found myself back on that path, the path towards that hill where the stories were created. I chose to participate in programs like Manifest Works, that much like Hollywood CPR, immersed me in the language of production life. Although Hollywood CPR is a school where you must enroll, be accepted, and maintain your grades.

## Unscripted Developments: Navigating a Career in Hollywood

*ARC members M.M. and A.G. tell how to make it in the entertainment industry*

Manifest Works is a workshop that begins the process of instilling within you the understanding of how to navigate a life within the entertainment world. I was blessed. Thanks to my connections, not just through ARC, but also with the founders of Manifest, to have the opportunities that I have had. I am writing this article from my desk at Warner Brothers Studios, where I am currently working on the production team in the animation department. I am not finished achieving my goals and recapturing that dream I had as a kid, but I think I am getting closer. The road is long and very difficult, and I am learning a lot on the way despite the obstacles. One thing I would like to say is that although in the entertainment field they may not care about your past, they do care about your present, meaning your present behavior and critical thinking abilities. If you are still always hanging around or talking instead of working, you will not make it. If you want to aim higher, then you have to learn how to network correctly in order to have the opportunity to be in the right place at the right time. Manifest also gave me some pointers in that field. I understood and maintained the idea of what I wanted to do, but also in the process I became the person that they wanted to have work for them. It doesn't mean be a kiss ass, it means to come across as a dependable and honest worker. Let me tell you: the competition in the real world is intense. I realized that when I was in my orientation class at Warner Brothers, I noticed that there are people from all over the world who had applied for these positions, all competing for the same opportunity. These were individuals working on their master's degrees from universities like NYU or Harvard.

I do my best to maintain my humility regardless of my job description. I do not mind running for coffee for my coworkers. I smile every time I walk through the main gate and get to look up at the WB water tower. The only time that anyone notices me, is to comment on my kicks, and I feel so blessed. I have gone from working on concerts and commercials, to reshoots of films, which have all led me to now, working on the third season of "Young Justice" animated series. I can remember watching the first season of this very exact cartoon while I was housed at Centinela, sitting on my bunk eating chips. I sometimes wish I could talk to the kid in the alley, just to tell him the journey, and how in the end he would have the opportunity to follow his dreams.

*Tell us about how you got involved in entertainment?*

I became involved with Manifest Works, an immersive workforce development organization; turning real-world experience into learning opportunities for those impacted by foster care, homelessness and incarceration, after being made aware of it at an ARC Annual Retreat in 2016. After the retreat, I filled out the application

and interviewed I was accepted and participated in the spring session. I have since gone on to become a member of the Board of Directors of the program. – A.G.

I wanted to be involved in entertainment since I was in juvenile hall. I didn't feel like I was represented on TV. There always seemed to be these one-dimensional African American bad guys. I knew that even though I broke the law there was more to my story and I knew I wasn't all bad. I wanted to represent myself in a more positive light along with those who came from my background and community. I knew I wanted to direct movies but I couldn't do that from inside. I started inside by studying screenwriting and writing really helped me throughout my whole time in prison. Writing helped prepare myself. – M.M.

*What skills did you learn about the entertainment industry?*

Networking is especially valuable in the industry. The ability to connect with individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, developing connections and relationships with industry professionals, leads to consistent job offers. – A.G.

Once I came home, my process began with going to school for film production. I ended up getting an internship with a film company and Manifest Works at the same time. I learned how to edit. I became a full-time employee with that company and got to work on a couple of films that made it to theaters and Netflix, which gave me a lot of experience in editing which I began going to school for and studying very closely. And due to this experience, I was able to begin producing. –M.M.

*What is it like to be on set? What is your role in production?*



ARC Member Myrell Miner on his career path

Being on set is definitely an experience like no other! It is not easy work. However, in exchange for that, you are gifted with a job that allows you to get paid for being a part of the process of creating. I have many roles in production, at this point. Mostly, I am a Production Assistant with experience in both On Set and Office settings. I started out as a Set Dresser before deciding to come down to the level of PA, which put me on the path I needed to be on to reach my long-term goals. In this industry, you will find yourself in many roles during the journey. – A.G.

I have been working on multiple projects lately. I have been producing my first feature, shopping around my TV pilot in the industry, and am also an assistant editor at a production company. This year I interned in the post-production department at Sony pictures for a show called "Silicon Valley" which was an amazing experience. – M.M.

*What opportunities and challenges does the entertainment industry provide as a career?*

The greatest external challenge, in my opinion, is getting to a point where an individual with the power and capacity to elevate you will actually take the time (and risk) to invest in you. This is tougher than it sounds to someone outside of the industry. It can be quite frustrating, which, of course, is a challenge in and of itself. You must have the passion and confidence to power through, for sure. The industry is not for the breakable spirit. – A.G.

I think some of the disadvantages in the entertainment field are that Hollywood is a very tight-knit community and it takes time to get in the inner circle and become accepted. However, once you're in, you don't have to work as hard to get your name around and your reputation means everything. Regardless of background, if you're known for

**Feature Five**

**The Blueprint for Success**

*Sam Lewis shares his experience working with the Mayor's Office to create second chance jobs.*

working hard on set and put in a lot of effort, that is all that matters. – M.M.

*Where are you at in your career and what is your ultimate goal?*

I have co-created a TV show with a good friend. The Pilot (First Episode) for our show is currently being read by a big director we are hoping will attach as a Showrunner on the project. If all works out, I will soon be Co-Creator and Producer of my own show, which is my ultimate goal in the industry. This is a long process, however. In the meantime, I have been seeking opportunities to elevate to a Producer's Assistant or Associate Producer, as this would afford me the opportunity to learn the ins-and-outs of producing from someone who has attained my goal. I am always seeking mentors, always humble enough to understand that I will never stop learning. – A.G.

I feel as if I am in a great place in my career. It is a lot of hard work being on the producer side of entertainment. Starting off as a producer isn't very lucrative when you are starting out, but building on the relationships and networking has been extremely helpful. Being able to see the fruits of your labor is a very satisfying experience. I just shot a visual treatment of my story that I got to screen at a film festival. – M.M.

*What was the most fun project or shoot you worked on?*

Of all the projects I have worked on so far, the most fun has been the TV show "Snowfall" on FX. One of my favorite memories from that show was the time I spent driving one of our lead actors home every night. We would listen to music, have great conversations about the show, its writing, and cinematography. Sometimes we would even miss an exit and just keep on having a good time. Good times! On this show, I had the pleasure of being able to stand right behind legendary director, John Singleton, and watch him direct. That was definitely something inspiring and fun to watch! – A.G.

My best moment was when I worked on a movie called *Mully*, and we actually got to go inside San Quentin, which I spent a few years inside, and screen the film. It was great to go back to screen an inspiring movie and speak afterward about my experiences in the same prison. The film I am making now is trying to create heroes that represent people from my background and with my experiences. – M.M.



*ARC's Director of Inside Programing, Sam Lewis*

*What was your first job after incarceration?*

When I came home, I saw myself as the rookie on the bench who had potential but was untested. I went online and started applying to everything I knew I could do. I had applied to over 100 companies. My first job after was at PetCo, the food and supplies for pets. I was making \$8.15 an hour. The manager of Petco called me in for an interview. I went to this interview the way I thought a person was supposed to: I went in with a button up shirt and tie. In my hand I held a neat copy of my resume. Unbeknownst to me I was the only interviewee who showed up dressed professionally. I got the job.

*What motivated you to join the Blue-Ribbon Commission and what is your involvement in it?*

The Blue Ribbon Commission would serve as an opportunity for the city to provide an example to other employers of what they should be doing and maybe the city can be an example to the county. My reason for joining Blue Ribbon Commission is that we could be honest about the reality for people who were incarcerated. One, employment instills confidence in individuals who may have been in the system for a while or have never held a job before. Two, if you're working full time there is no time to get involved with criminal activity. Three, if I'm making enough money to support my family there is no reason to sell dope, steal, etc. or do other things that lead to recidivism, because you're making ends meet.

*What progress has this commission made and what challenges still remain to open more jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals?*

The Mayor's Office supports it and presents it to different employers. During the commission, we

invite employers who may not have hired formerly incarcerated people before and they are able to actually hear the voices of formerly incarcerated people and organizations that represent formerly incarcerated individuals. When an employer sees both the loyalty and work ethic of a formerly incarcerated person who really wants a job and sees an organization that stands behind that individual to give them that support that is necessary they are more willing to offer an opportunity and stop believing in the stereotypes. Once an employer is exposed to a person who works hard that is formerly incarcerated, this opens the doors for more people. The commission has been instrumental to bringing more employers to the table through the city's connections and as we move forward we will expand and be able to knock down the percentage of Los Angeles employers unwilling to hire formerly incarcerated individuals. I think that the best way to solve that is to work with the commission and work within ARC and other organizations and demonstrate that this is an untapped population, who will work hard and probably be the best workers you will have, and seeing if we can create more opportunities.

*What has been your most rewarding moment/experience working with the commission?*

The best experience was when ARC and a bunch of our members were invited to a Clippers game and we went to the Staples Center and saw so many of our members who were formerly incarcerated who were the ushers and ticket takers who welcomed us in and seated us.

*What advice would you give to someone still inside about the job process?*

For the men and women that are still inside, the best advice I can give them is while inside prepare yourself, whether educationally or vocationally, introspection is necessary to understand what real change is. Once you are released plug into orgs like ARC that will

assist and support you. Most importantly, a strong work ethic one of the best tools you can have. Also, you don't realize how much the things you learn inside are going to translate.



*ARC's Director of Inside Programing, Sam Lewis*

**Anti-Recidivism Coalition**  
1320 E. 7th Street  
Suite 260  
Los Angeles, CA 90021



The mission of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) is to change lives and create safe, healthy communities by providing a support and advocacy network for and compromised of, formerly incarcerated men and women.

Founded in 2013, with offices in Los Angeles and Sacramento, ARC provides services and support to formerly incarcerated individuals while advocating for fairer criminal justice policies. ARC provides its membership with mentorship, mental health services, supportive housing, access to jobs and education, and opportunities to advocate for criminal justice reform.

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## Write to the Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Los Angeles: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, 1320 E. 7th Street Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Sacramento: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, 1414 K Street, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95814

If you write ARC a letter, please include some general information that will assist us in determining how to best serve you, and that will aid ARC with their advocacy efforts. Please answer the following questions:

- Are you serving a determinate sentence, serving a life sentence, or a life without the possibility of parole sentence?
- Do you fall all under SB 394, SB 260, SB 261, AB 1308, or Prop. 57?
- Have you had a suitability hearing? If so, how many have you had?

Also please keep ARC updated if you happen to transfer out of your current institution. This will ensure you continue to receive the ARC quarterly newsletter.

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## Learn How You and Your Family Can Get Involved

The bills that ARC and other community-based groups throughout California are supporting this year are significant in that they help provide many of you with chances to return to your families, remove barriers to your employment once you return home, and ensure that young people never enter the juvenile / criminal justice systems.

California legislators need to know that these bills are extremely important to their constituents. One of the ways that you can help these bills become reality is to encourage your families to contact their representatives and voice their support. They can find out who their representatives are by using the following website: [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov)

Once they find out who their representatives are, they simply have to contact them and voice their support. Your family members, loved ones and friends can contact their representatives through phone calls and social media, as well.

Please encourage your friends and loved ones today!