

g. Sample Press Packet

Distributed for first press conference with City Attorney Burt Pines

NEWS RELEASE
MAY 4, 1977

THREE WEEKS IN MAY

OFFICIALS ENDORSE RAPE AWARENESS PROJECT

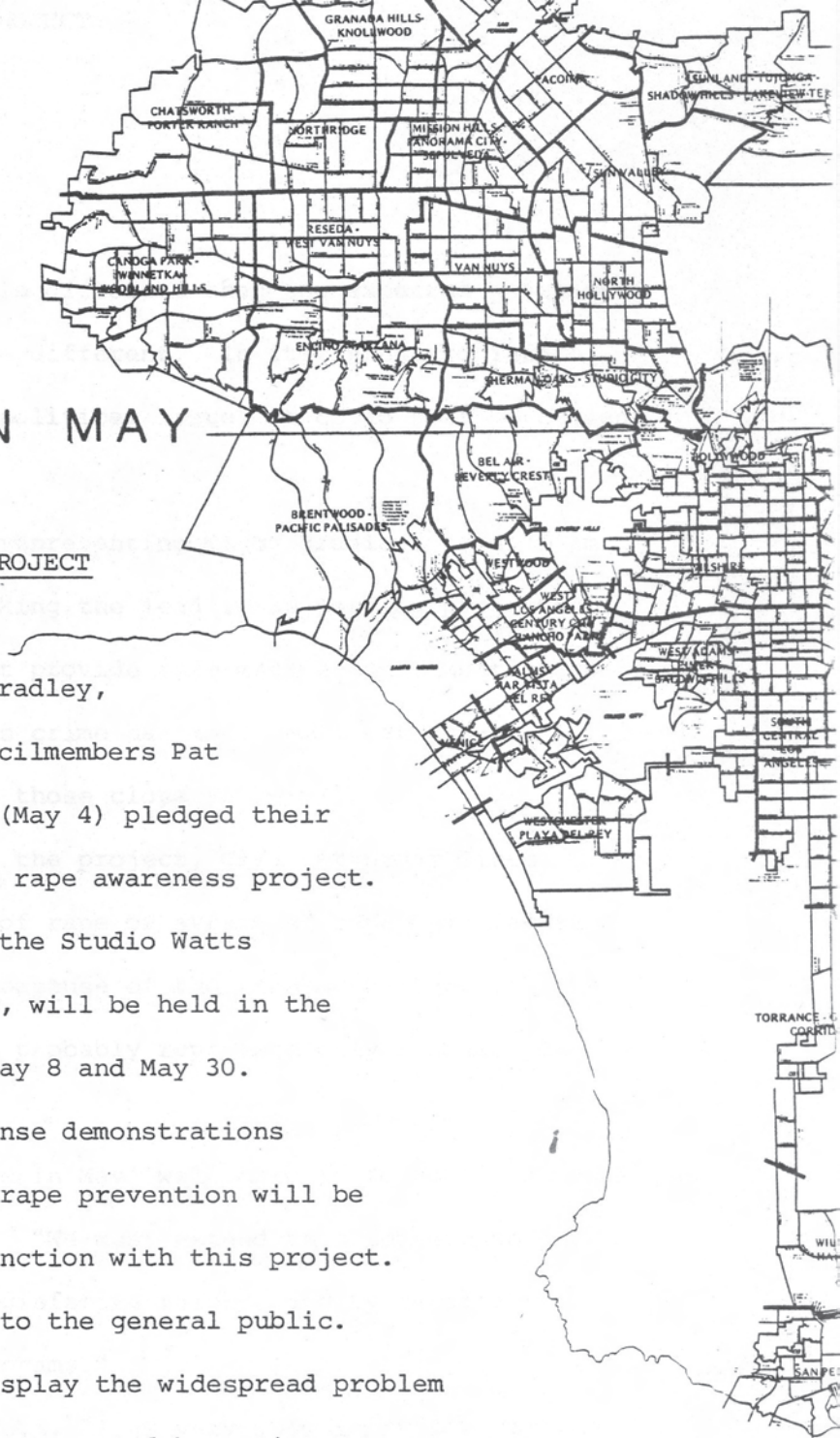
LOS ANGELES -- Mayor Tom Bradley, City Attorney Burt Pines, and Councilmembers Pat Russell and Peggy Stevenson today (May 4) pledged their support of "Three Weeks in May," a rape awareness project.

The program, sponsored by the Studio Watts Workshop, and the Woman's Building, will be held in the downtown City Hall Mall, between May 8 and May 30.

Lectures, films, self-defense demonstrations and art performances dealing with rape prevention will be held throughout the City, in conjunction with this project. All activities are free, and open to the general public.

In order to graphically display the widespread problem of rape in Los Angeles, a large map, created by artist Suzanne Lacy, will mark the approximate locations of the previous day's rape incidents as reported to the Los Angeles Police Department. A second map will list the locations of organizations and agencies which deal with rape intervention.

MORE



Lacy explained, "Its form is different than the expected painting or sculpture, and its purpose quite different. In its intent to inform and create social action around a political issue, it could best be called political or social art."

Deputy Mayor Grace Davis, representing Mayor Bradley, said "I am pleased that City officials are taking the lead in supporting projects like 'Three Weeks in May.' We must provide information and education to the residents of Los Angeles. This crime has many ramifications-- affecting not only the victim, but those close to her."

In pledging his support of the project, City Attorney Pines said, "Last year over 2,000 cases of rape or attempted rape were reported in the City of Los Angeles. Yet, because of the treatment given to rape victims in the past, these figures probably represent only a small percentage of actual occurrences.

"Projects like 'Three Weeks in May' will help to focus on the rape victim's plight," Pines continued. "We must extend this concern to all victims of crime, through major legislative reform, and by setting up more victim/witness assistance programs."

Councilwoman Pat Russell said, "I am very much in support of the 'Three Weeks in May' project. I am hopeful it will focus attention on the victims of rape and inform the public of the crisis intervention facilities available to help the rape victims."

"I am pleased to give my support to the 'Three Weeks in May' art and information project on rape," said Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson. "We are all concerned with crime here in Los Angeles, and throughout the

United States. It is most important that the public be aware of what is going on and how we can work together to solve our problems."

Sponsoring agencies have combined forces to support this project. James Woods of the Studio Watts Workshop said, "Studio Watts is a community development corporation which works with artists. We feel the best way to begin community development is to focus on the problems of that community through the eyes of the artist."

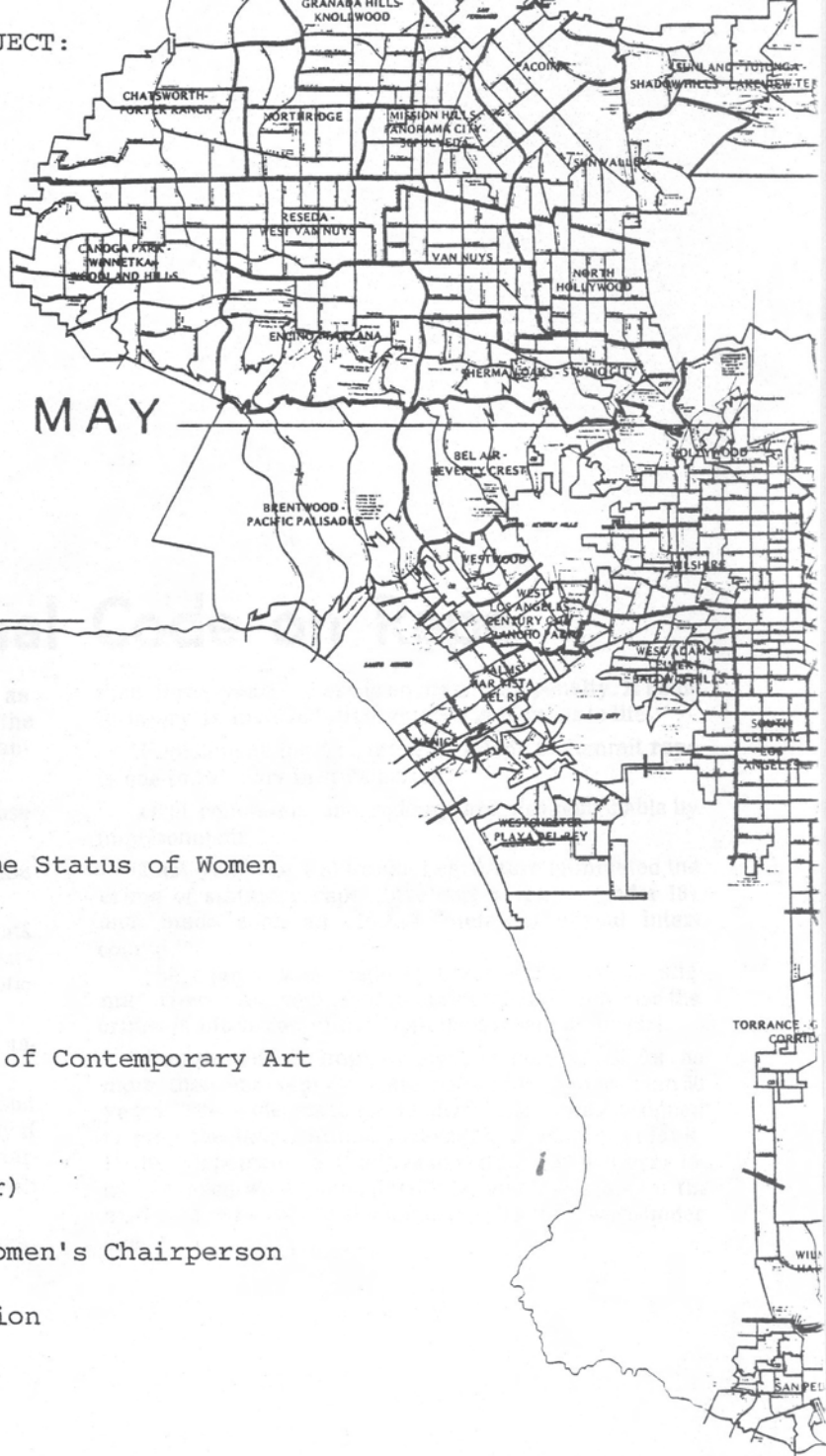
The Woman's Building, an educational institution for the creation and maintenance of women's culture, encourages social activist art which directly addresses the problems of women.

"We are very excited about this project, which will bring to greater public awareness issues of ongoing concern to the women's movement," said Dana Chalberg, director.

One of the participating rape intervention agencies, the Rape Hotline Alliance, is an organization of representatives from six of the major crisis lines in Los Angeles County. "We offer phone numbers all over the county where women can call in times of crisis and receive immediate help and referrals," said Joan Robbins of the East Los Angeles Rape Hotline.

"We know there is a need for any victim to be looked upon as a person," Robbins continued. "We deal mainly with the psychological aspect, letting her get her feelings out."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Attached is a list of the groups and individuals endorsing this project, and a schedule of the activities during "Three Weeks in May."



THREE WEEKS IN MAY

PARTIAL LIST OF THOSE ENDORSING
THREE WEEKS IN MAY

- Mayor Tom Bradley
- Councilman Gilbert Lindsay
- Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women
- City Attorney Burt Pines
- Councilwoman Pat Russell
- Bob Smith, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art
- Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson
- Studio Watts Workshop (Sponsor)
- Alice Travis, State Democratic Women's Chairperson
- Watts Community Housing Corporation
- The Woman's Building (Sponsor)