



LOS ANGELES COUNTY WOMEN'S HEALTH  
EQUITY COALITION 2025 CONFERENCE

# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY RESISTANCE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY



THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2025. | 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

 LA LGBT CENTER | 1118 N. MCCADDEN PL. LOS ANGELES, 90038

## CONFERENCE HOSTED BY:



# Agenda

2025 Los Angeles County Women's Health Equity Coalition Conference  
THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2025 • 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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9:30-10:00 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

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10:00-10:15 AM **Opening Remarks**

- **Susie Baldwin (she/her), MD, MPH, Office of Women's Health, LA County Department of Public Health**  
Welcome
- **Congressmember Laura Friedman (she/her), California's 30th Congressional District**  
Opening Remarks
- **Lindsey P. Horvath (she/her), Los Angeles County Supervisor, District 3**  
Opening Remarks (Video)

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10:15-11:45 AM **Emerging Issues in a Changing Political Landscape**

- **Frankie Darling-Palacios (they/them), LA LGBT Center**  
Moderator
- **Celinda Vázquez (she/her), Planned Parenthood Los Angeles**  
Reproductive Health: Federal Policy
- **Dipti Singh (she/her), JD, Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley**  
U.S. Supreme Court Cases: An Overview
- **Terra Russell-Slavin (she/they), JD, LA LGBT Center**  
Federal Policy Updates And Implications For The LGBTQ+ Community
- **Connie Chung Joe (she/her), JD, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California**  
Addressing the Intersections: Anti-Immigrant Actions, Health Care Access, and Domestic Violence/Gender-Based Violence
- **Sylvia Castillo (she/her), California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom**  
Policy Updates on California Protections and Investments

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11:45-12:45 PM **Lunch with Self-Care and Community Resilience Building Activity**  
Misty Powell (she/her), MA, RYT, MT-BC, Wholistic Healing Arts

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12:45-2:15 PM **Activation and Resistance: Policy, Programs, and Social Justice Movements**

- **Xochitl Lopez-Ayala (she/her), ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**  
Moderator
  - **Rigo Reyes (he/him), LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs**  
Supporting Immigrants: LA County and Partners in Action
  - **Héctor Trinidad Plascencia (they/them/we/us), Plascencia Consulting and LA County LGBTQ+ Commission**  
Empowering Voices: Advocating for Reproductive Justice in TGI Communities
  - **Jasmine Young (she/her), JD, National Health Law Program**  
Access to Essential Medications in California  
Mifepristone and Opill<sup>®</sup>
  - **Imani Wilson-Shabazz (she/her), MPH, Plan C**  
Plan C Self-Managed Abortion 101 Information Session
  - **Tyla Adams (she/her), MPH, CHES<sup>®</sup>, Black Women for Wellness**  
Fierce Aunties
- 

2:15-2:30 PM **Closing Remarks & Call to Action**

- **Ellen Eidem, MS, Office of Women's Health, LA County Department of Public Health**  
Closing Remarks
- **Nomsa Khalfani, PhD, Essential Access Health**  
Call to Action

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Special Guest

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**Laura Friedman (she/her)**

**Congressmember**

**California's 30th Congressional District**

Representative Friedman has lived in California for over 30 years and currently lives in Glendale with her husband and daughter. She represents California's 30th District, which includes Burbank, Glendale, West Hollywood, and parts of Los Angeles and Pasadena. Friedman is committed to making housing more affordable, safeguarding access to clean water, protecting communities from wildfires and other disasters, and creating an economy that works for everyone. Before joining Congress, Friedman represented the 44th district in the California State Assembly, where she built a reputation for advocating environmental, housing, and transportation issues. During her time in the Assembly, she secured more than \$60 million in funding for local projects in Glendale and led the charge on landmark legislation to improve road safety, invest in zero-emission vehicles, and promote water conservation. She also served on the Glendale City Council and as the Mayor of Glendale. In the state legislature, she held several leadership roles and one of them being Chair of the Joint Rules Subcommittee on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response where she led a historic bicameral and bipartisan reform of the legislature's response to sexual harassment that's become a model for other states and local governments.

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**Lindsey P. Horvath (she/her)**

**Los Angeles County Supervisor**

Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 8, 2022, and assumed office on December 5, 2022. Before this, she served as a City Councilmember and the longest-serving Mayor of West Hollywood. Known for tackling tough issues, she has built diverse coalitions and delivered results for her community. Horvath is the youngest woman and first millennial on the Board, offering a unique perspective as the only renter. She has a strong background in social justice, spearheading policies like making West Hollywood an "Age-Friendly Community" and leading the city to impose financial sanctions on Arizona over its anti-immigration law. Horvath also created the West Hollywood Community Response Team to Domestic Violence and led the Bicycle Task Force, earning the city the title of "Most Walkable" in California. A champion for women's and LGBTQ+ rights, she has served as Global Coordinator for One Billion Rising, President of Hollywood NOW, and as a board member of the Victory Fund and NOH8 Campaign. Horvath served nine years on the West Hollywood City Council and has held leadership roles in several state and national organizations.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH, FACPM (she/her) Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health**

Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH, FACPM is a preventive medicine specialist who works as Medical Director for the Office of Women's Health (OWH) at the LA County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH). Her team works to improve gender health equity, including access to abortion care through the

LAC Abortion Safe Haven Project. Dr. Baldwin has a long history of work supporting marginalized populations, including as medical director of Planned Parenthood of Southern AZ and California Family Health Council (aka Essential Access Health), as an abortion provider at Southern California Planned Parenthood affiliates, and as a member of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America National Medical Committee. She ran the nation's first specialized clinic for human trafficking survivors from 2005 -2012 and co-founded the international organization HEAL Trafficking, serving as President from 2013 -2020. Dr. Baldwin has led work developing trauma informed protocols for health care settings and currently advocates for inclusion of sex workers, immigrant workers, and harm reduction approaches in public health-based anti-trafficking strategies. She has published numerous articles and book chapters and received many awards for her work, including the Felicia Stewart Advocacy Award from the American Public Health Association's Sexual and Reproductive Health Section.

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## **Frankie Darling-Palacios (they/them)**

H. Frankie Darling-Palacios is a proud L.A. native that is part of the vibrant Salvadoran diaspora that has helped shape L.A. County. Frankie holds a B.A. from CSUN where they majored in Gender & Women's Studies with a minor in LGBTQ Studies and has a Certificate in Cybersecurity from UC Berkeley. They have worked for more than ten years in supporting the LGBTQ+ community by helping create spaces such as the CSUN Pride

Center, the TransWellness Center and served on various other planning bodies that address health inequities L.A. County. In 2017, they were recognized by the City of Los Angeles for their work as a community leader. Currently, they manage the Audre Lorde Health program at the L.A. LGBT Center; a 'For Us, By Us' queer healthcare program dedicated to prioritizing wellness and healing amongst LGBTQ women, trans-masculine, and nonbinary folks receiving medical services at the Center.



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## **Celinda M. Vázquez (she/her)**

Celinda M. Vázquez, the proud daughter of Puerto Rican parents, was born in New York and moved to Inglewood, California as a child. She became aware of injustices in her community early on, ignited by the 1992 Los Angeles riots and later . California’s Proposition 187, which propelled her into activism, mobilize and organize her community, and advocate. for social justice. As a first-generation college student, Celinda organized farm workers with the United Farm Workers and made

history as the first Latina elected student body president of San Diego State University (SDSU). Celinda worked for the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) State Government & Community Relations, where she secure state funding for cutting edge research initiatives, by advocating before the State Legislature. Her background in California Legislature includes serving as a former Aide to California State Senator Martha Escutia, a California Senate Fellow, and Principal Consultant to the Legislative Women’s Caucus. Celinda has extensive experience in public policy research, proposing and analyzing legislation, coalition building, electoral campaigns, designing strategic community outreach efforts and interacting with various levels of government, and has served on many boards and commissions. She currently serves as the Chief External Affairs Officer for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA) and the Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project LA County (PPAP) LA County. She has her bachelor’s degree from SDSU in Social Work and Chicano Studies. She is raising two young activist children alongside her husband, fellow SDSU alum, George Avalos, while co-caring for her elderly, disabled mother.



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## **Dipti Singh, JD (she/her)**

Dipti Singh is the Chief Legal Officer of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley, Inc. (PPPSGV). She joined PPPSGV in 2021, after helping to found and launch the Lawyering Project, a nonprofit organization focused on using the law to improve abortion access. As Senior Counsel & Director at the Lawyering Project, Dipti litigated in federal and state trial courts across the country challenging restrictions on abortion. She has also worked as a Director for Bet Tzedek

a Legal Services where she oversaw the organization’s impact litigation, policy advocacy, and medical-legal partnership work. Dipti previously clerked for Judge Christina A. Snyder in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California; served as a litigation associate at Williams & Connolly, LLP; held a litigation fellowship at the Center for Reproductive Rights; and identified and addressed Medicaid and private health insurance barriers that interfere with people’s abilities to make their own reproductive decisions in various roles at the National Health Law Program. Dipti currently serves as Chair of the California Abortion Alliance Advisory Board and on the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Board of Governors.



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## **Terra Russell-Slavin, JD (she/they)**

Terra Russell-Slavin is the Chief Impact Officer at the Los Angeles LGBT Center - The world's largest provider of programs and services for LGBTQ people. As Chief Impact Officer, Terra works to advance LGBTQ rights and participates in strategic and organizational decision-making as a member of the senior executive team. Terra has specific responsibilities for executive oversight of a broad range of policy, legal, and programmatic areas. They are also actively engaged in expanding the Center's

women's health services and oversee the Center's National LGBTQ Intimate Partner Violence Institute. In their 19 years at the Center, Terra has also served as the Director of Policy and Community Building and Lead Staff Attorney. Terra is a subject-matter expert on issues related to LGBTQ domestic violence and chairs the LGBTQ Subject Matter Committee for the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence. She was a leader in the efforts to obtain the first ever non-discrimination provisions in federal law based on sexual orientation and gender identity as part of the 2013 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). She also serves on the California Office of Health Equity's Advisory Commission and is the second vice chair on LA County's LGBTQ+ Commission. Terra received the Los Angeles County Betty Fisher Award for phenomenal leadership in the field of domestic violence and has been recognized by the National LGBT Bar Association as a Best Attorney Under 40. Terra has a bachelor's degree from Pitzer College and J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law.



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## **Connie Chung Joe, JD (she/her)**

Connie Chung Joe, JD, is the Chief Executive Officer of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL), the nation's largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). Prior to joining Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California in August 2020, Connie served as the Executive Director of the Korean American Family Services (KFAM) for 11 years. Under Connie's leadership, KFAM nearly quadrupled its budget and staff, with

culturally and linguistically responsive services to immigrant families, particularly those struggling with mental health, domestic/family violence, and acculturation stresses. Prior to joining KFAM, Connie was a public interest lawyer for seven years. She worked at the Housing Rights Center in Los Angeles representing clients in fair housing cases and the American Civil Liberties Union in Chicago working on immigrant's rights, reproductive rights, post-9/11 racial profiling, police accountability and First Amendment cases. Connie received her BA in Spanish and International Relations from USC and her JD from Georgetown University Law Center.



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## **Sylvia Castillo (she/her)**

Sylvia joined California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (CCRF) as Executive Director in 2024 after participating as a Coalition member for nearly 10 years and having served 6 years on the Executive Advisory Committee. She is a seasoned leader and a champion for reproductive health, rights and justice, with more than a decade of experience in coalition building. Sylvia has successfully led efforts to expand access to sexual and reproductive health care in California, and her work resulted in

the enactment of public policies that have served as models in other states. During her tenure as Director of Government + Community Affairs at Essential Access Health, Sylvia shaped and advanced the organization's state policy platform and developed patient education and consumer awareness initiatives. She also oversaw the Women + Health Care Reform Coalitions in Sacramento County and the Bay Area. Additionally, she served on the steering committee for the End the Epidemics coalition, which convenes 75 California partners to bring an end to STIs, HIV, viral hepatitis and overdose. A native of Los Angeles, she received her Bachelor of Arts in History and Latin American Studies from UCLA and attended the University of San Francisco Public Affairs graduate program.



## **Misty Powell, MA, RYT, MT-BC (she/her)**

Misty is a Psychologist, Global Wellness Facilitator, Ancestral Healer, and Certified Yoga Instructor, who walks the path she teaches guiding others to transform by offering modalities that heal. Misty is an authentic healer that speaks from the heart center. She will take you on a journey back to your inner wisdom in such a way that you are embodied and resilient to external forces. By applying holistic formulas, Misty teaches you how to manifest your best life. Her offerings provide a safe

space to explore oneself, all while reflecting a high level of integrity, devotion to personal growth and freedom. Embodied in ancient wisdom, with a genuine soul, Misty is passionate about philanthropy, reproductive justice, neuroscience, & wellness retreats. Misty inspires people from all over the world on how to access and use the power of their heart and soul connection. Her clients say she activates their own inner knowing, she guides them to find their own heart-center balance and her presence brings them peace. Misty is honored to share the value of this living tradition and encourage people to experience their infinite potential. She is on a quest to empower others to discover a greater awareness and clear perspective in their everyday lives.



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## **Xochitl Lopez-Ayala (she/her)**

Xochitl is the Policy Advocacy Coordinator at ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, working to advance legislation for affordable, safe, and inclusive reproductive health care. Raised in Los Angeles on occupied Tongva lands, she spent 16 years in Alaska, balancing a corporate career with advocacy in social, racial, and Reproductive Justice before transitioning full-time to policy work. She has served on the boards of the Northwest Abortion Access Fund and Kachemak Bay Family Planning, contributed to Homer Pride, and is a graduate of the National Network of Abortion Funds' Movement Makers and the Women's Foundation Solis Policy Institute. A dynamic speaker, Xochitl engages in discussions on justice, inclusivity, and diversity. Supported by her spouse Don and their dogs, Laika and Charlie, she is committed to building communities rooted in wellness and learning.



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## **Rigo Reyes, (he/him)**

Rigo Reyes has dedicated nearly 30 years to advancing equity and inclusion for marginalized immigrants and consumers. At the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, he served as Acting Director, Chief of Consumer Protection, and Supervising Investigator, developing impactful programs to protect vulnerable populations, including immigrants, seniors, and children in foster care. In 2017, Rigo was appointed to lead the County's Office of Immigrant Affairs, supporting the 3.5 million immigrants in LA County. He ensures access to essential services across 40 departments and a \$50 billion budget, collaborating with public and private partners to create policies and initiatives that improve the wellbeing of immigrant families, including legal support, policy development, language access, and capacity building for community organizations. Rigo serves on the Board of Directors for the California Consumer Motor Vehicle Recovery Corporation and Neighborhood Housing Services, focusing on consumer protection, community development, and revitalizing underserved areas. He also created an annual scholarship and small library for his village in northern Mexico, where he was born and raised, to inspire the value of education despite limited opportunities. Rigo holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Southern California



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## **Héctor Trinidad Plascencia (they/them/we/us)**

Héctor Trinidad Plascencia, is the Executive Director of Plascencia Consulting, a social justice action firm and Chair of the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission. As a movement consultant, community builder and social justice advocate, Plascencia worked with and for multigenerational undocumented Californians, communities of color and transgender and queer communities for more than 20+ years. Through public policy, campaign advocacy, coalition building and research justice, Mx.

Plascencia expanded access and protections for immigrant and LGBTQIA2S+ populations through the #Health4All campaign in California, the 2023 and 2024 San Gabriel Valley Pride Tours, the TransMasculine Health Justice: Los Angeles report, the #TransPolicyAgenda and Undocumented and Uninsured reports. Beyond justice and advocacy, Héctor loves to dance in the mornings, visit the woods and ocean, and pays homage to their Transcestors by existing in joy.



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## **Jasmine Young, JD (she/her)**

Jasmine Young is a Staff Attorney at the National Health Law Program in Los Angeles, California. Jasmine engages in a broad range of policy and administrative advocacy on California's health care programs and policies. Her advocacy work focuses on improving access to Medi-Cal mental health and reproductive services, with a particular focus on foster youth, formerly incarcerated individuals, and other systematically impacted individuals. Prior to working at NHeLP, Jasmine has

dedicated herself to using her community organizing, legal, and policy advocacy skills to achieve racial and economic justice. Jasmine has dove into research and writing about issues concerning reproductive oppression, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income and systematically impacted individuals, and police violence. She also worked and volunteered for various social justice and grassroots organizations, where she developed a passion for building and sustaining advocacy coalitions around addressing systemic issues.



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### **Imani Wilson-Shabazz, MPH (she/her)**

Imani Askew-Shabazz is a graduate of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, earning an MPH in Community Health Sciences with a certificate in Population and Reproductive Health. She is currently a PhD Candidate in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Temple University. Her research focuses on transforming family planning systems and institutions to empower queer individuals of color to make informed and affirmed reproductive choices.

Ms. Askew-Shabazz currently works at Plan C as their Partnerships

Director, facilitating partnerships to increase awareness of abortion pill access around the country. She also provides lectures, webinars, and educational videos on how to advocate for, and promote medication abortion access in diverse communities.



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### **Tyla Adams, MPH, CHES (she/her)**

Tyla Adams is the Reproductive Justice Program Manager at Black Women for Wellness (BWW), where she oversees the coordination, expansion, and evaluation of programs and research within the Sisters in Control Reproductive Justice department. Tyla has dedicated her career to addressing reproductive health inequities and advocating for systemic change. She previously served as the Communications and Advocacy Program Manager at First 5 Ventura County,

working to advance early childhood policies and tackle systemic inequities affecting children and families. She also contributed to maternal health research as a Research Assistant, developing communication strategies and applying expertise in social determinants of health to reduce maternal mortality in Georgia. Tyla holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, where her research focused on sexual education and reproductive health outcomes among adolescents. At BWW, she continues to champion health equity and community-driven initiatives through collaboration and evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes for Black women and girls.



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### **Ellen Eidem, MS (she/her)**

A longtime proponent of women's health, Ellen serves as the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Office of Women's Health (OWH). The OWH works at the community, and systems level to improve health equity, decrease health disparities and improve the health status of women in LA County through education; advocacy and policy recommendations; program planning and promotion; data analysis and reporting; facilitating and building county and community collaborations; promotion of evidence-based and community-driven interventions, programs and policies; and increasing access to services for low income and underserved women, LGBTQI+ and gender non-conforming people. She is responsible for the Women's Health Policy Council, the advisory body to the OWH. Current priorities include abortion access, sexual and reproductive health, healthy aging, and domestic and sexual violence. Prior to the County, Ellen served as the Director of Programs and Administration for the Los Angeles Free Clinic (dba: The Saban Community Clinic) and as the Director of Quality Improvement for the California and Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Councils, (dba: Essential Access Health), and an administrator and instructor at Planned Parenthood Alameda/San Francisco and the Berkeley Women's Health Collective. Protecting, preserving and advancing women's health and rights continues to be a passion and commitment, especially during these uncertain times.



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### **Nomsa Khalfani, PhD (she/her)**

Nomsa Khalfani, PhD, is a co-CEO of Essential Access Health and provides leadership and guidance to advance Essential Access Health's mission and strategic priorities. Nomsa oversees the organization's federal and state programmatic and capacity-building efforts, finance and audits, people and culture, and new strategic business initiatives. Before joining Essential Access, Nomsa held several leadership roles at St. John's Community Health, a network of federally qualified health centers in Los Angeles County. Nomsa is an alum of the Southern California Coro Women in Leadership Program, the Blue Shield of California Foundation Clinic Leadership Institute Emerging Leaders Program, and the Women's Foundation California Dr. Beatriz Maria Solis Policy Institute. She currently serves as 1st Vice-President of the Los Angeles (LA) City Health Commission, Board Chair at Community Asset Development Re-defining Education (CADRE), Board of Directors at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, and a member of the LA County Community Prevention and Population Health Taskforce. In 2020, Nomsa was one of Southern CA's 50 Diverse Leaders.

# Presented by Los Angeles County Women's Health Equity Coalition



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# Planning Committee

## **ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE**

Xochitl Lopez-Ayala

## **Black Women for Wellness**

Arnedra Jordan

Esjire Lynch

Madison Beckett

## **California Black Women's Health Project**

Natalie Matos

## **California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom**

Sylvia Castillo

## **California Latinas for Reproductive Justice**

Camila Camaleón

## **Los Angeles LGBT Center, Audre Lourde Health Program**

Frankie Darling-Palacios

## **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health**

Adjoa Jones

## **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health**

Dr. Susie Baldwin

Ellen Eidem

Blanca Garcia Silva

Erika Martinez

Isabella Russell

Jaelen Owens

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