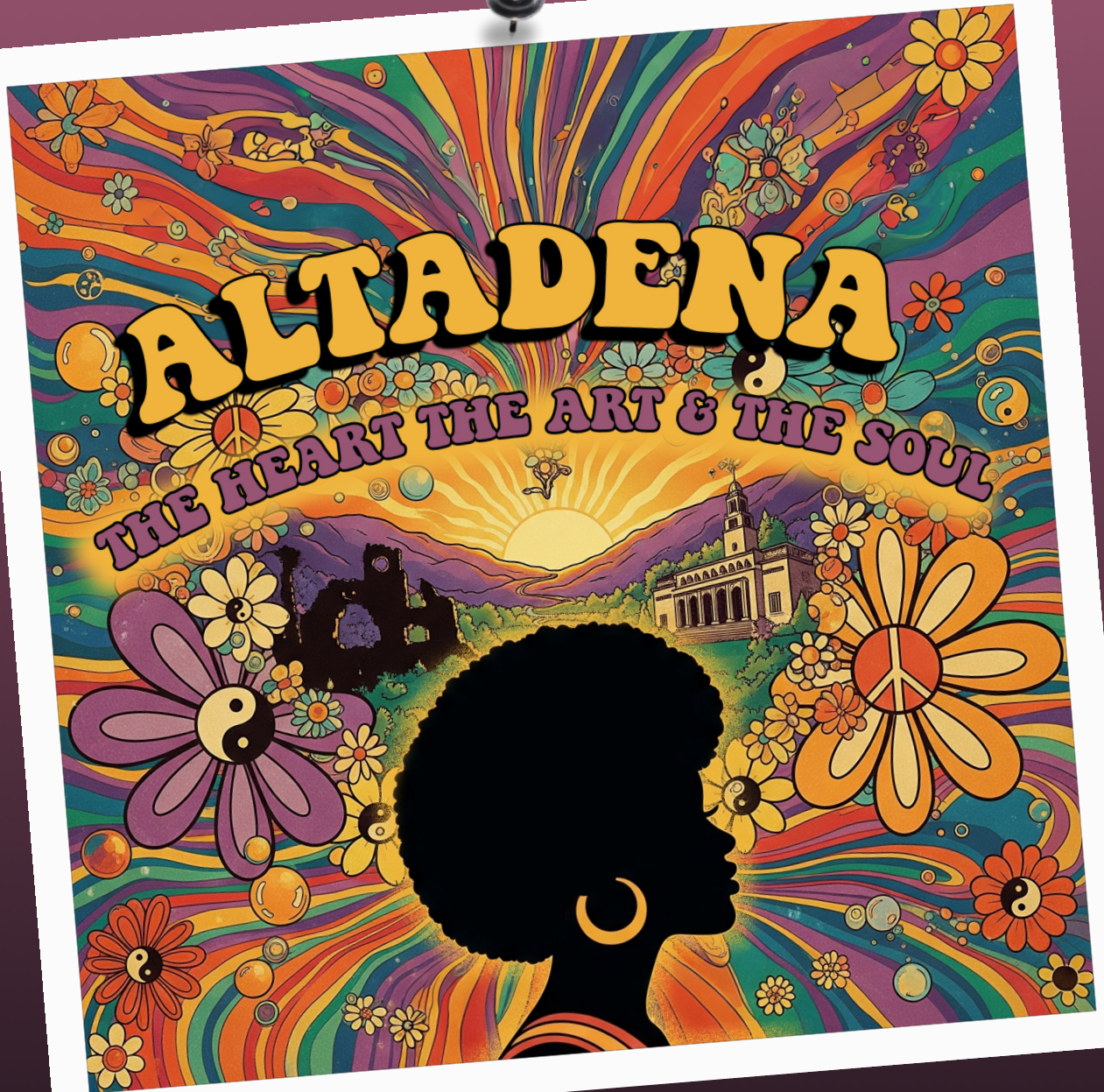
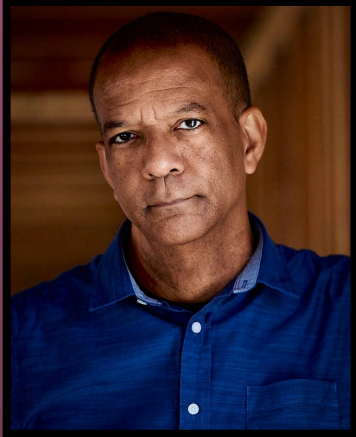




Concept

Altadena: The Heart, the Art & the Soul is a documentary that explores the rich origins of Altadena, tracing its roots as a community shaped by resilience and creativity. Through the lens of Black culture, music, and the arts, the film captures the vibrancy and legacy of a town that has long been a haven for expression and community pride. With the Eaton Fire as a turning point, the story moves from life before the disaster — where traditions, artistry, and heritage thrived — to the challenges and rebirth that will follow in its aftermath. A love letter and a testimony, this documentary weaves history, culture, and lived experience into a powerful narrative of loss, endurance, and renewal.

Team



Producer/ Director

Eric Dyson is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and director whose work delves into themes of addiction, trauma, and healing within the African American community. A longtime Pasadena resident, he draws deeply from personal experience to craft emotionally resonant, socially conscious stories. When evacuation orders were lifted after the Eaton Fire, Eric was compelled to document its aftermath—capturing the voices, memories, and resilience of friends and neighbors determined to rebuild.



Producer/ Writer

Hank Lambert has been creating award-winning work for over 15 years, driven by a keen eye for underdog stories that uplift the human spirit. His projects invite viewers to form their own interpretations rather than presenting ready-made answers. While displaced from his home and production hub for three months, Hank, along with Eric, began to document both the tragedy and the unshakable spirit of resilience in Altadena.



Composer

This marks the sixth collaboration between composer **Aaron Shows** and filmmakers Eric Dyson and Hank Lambert. Based in Pasadena and originally from Montgomery, Alabama, Aaron is a versatile composer, organist, and pianist whose work spans film, web series, commercials, and live performance. In addition to serving as organist at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, Aaron has collaborated with many artists to create emotionally resonant music.

Interviewees



Keni Arts is more than a painter—he's Altadena's visual historian and a community beacon. Through watery hues and gentle brush strokes, he preserves the soul of changing streets, remembers what has been lost, and envisions a hope-filled future for a resilient community.



Liliana Awori, a longtime resident of Altadena, is a dedicated single mother of two and a talented professional architect. Drawing on her expertise and vision, she is now designing her family's "forever home"—a place built not just of walls and beams, but of love, resilience, and hope for the future.



Patrick Gothard is a self-taught painter and longtime Altadena resident whose vibrant, surreal works blend fine art with found objects. Co-founder of the Open Studios Alta/Pasa/Dena art tour, he has been a cornerstone of the local arts community. In January he lost over a thousand works of his art. Patrick remains using art to inspire



Zaire Calvin, a high school football coach and devoted Altadena native, endured profound loss when the Eaton Fire claimed his sister's life and destroyed his home. In the wake of this tragedy, he has become a vocal advocate for his community—championing fair recovery, and ensuring that Altadena's cultural legacy of resilience, artistry, and pride endures for future generations.



Dr. Alison Rose Jefferson, Ph.D. is a California-born independent historian and heritage conservation consultant. Dr. Jefferson's work brings forgotten African American histories of Southern California into public view. Her research bridges the Jim Crow era, spatial justice, and public history, earning awards and media recognition that amplify her impact.



Pastor LaKeith Kennebrew is the devoted leader of Hillside Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Altadena. A guiding presence in the community, he lost both his home and church in the 2025 Eaton Fire, yet continues to shepherd his congregation with unwavering faith—providing spiritual care, practical support, and hope as Altadena works to rebuild.



Sunwhoa Love is a multifaceted gospel hip-hop artist and entrepreneur, originally rooted in Pomona and now connected to the broader Altadena creative scene. Starting out in a secular rap group, he rediscovered his spiritual calling around 2010, blending gospel, hip-hop, and R&B with heartfelt poetry and lyricism.



Alan Zorthian, son of artist Jirayr Zorthian, is the caretaker of Altadena's iconic 45-acre Zorthian Ranch, a bohemian landmark since 1946. For decades, he has preserved its eclectic spirit through art, farming, and cultural events. In January 2025, the Eaton Fire