



CICLAVIA

A NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE
TO THE HEART OF LA

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WELCOME TO CICLAVIA Today CicLAvia travels through the historic center of the city, which throughout its long history has been a site of tremendous changes and demographic shifts. The “heart of LA,” like the rest of the city, is a dynamic place, with a history of intersections (some civil, some not) between the people and places that created our utterly unique and multiethnic city.

Many of the neighborhoods along today’s route are in the midst of development or gentrification, shifting culturally and economically, with the loss of some elements of the past as buildings are refurbished or restored and new residents move in. Hopefully, these shifts inspire the birth of new cultural movements or lead us to recognize the value of our storied past and its forgotten people. But whether we like it or not, circulation is what keeps a heart alive. Along with its functionality, the heart is also the place where we put things we hold dear. The same might be true of this 6-mile swath of our city—its vitality is key to the entire city’s well-being and its preservation a matter not just of survival, but also affection.

It’s appropriate that today’s route begins and ends within two of LA’s historic public parks—MacArthur and Hollenbeck. Established in the early days of modern LA’s existence, they were projects that involved then mayor William Workman, who believed that the booming population needed healthful and attractive oases in the growing city. Workman, a real-estate entrepreneur, was also a savvy developer—his investments were declining and he used the parks to make his own land holdings more attractive. It worked: MacArthur Park—then known as Westlake Park—soon became a popular destination for LA residents and visitors alike. Deemed “the most popular open-air resort in the city,” the park hosted Sunday concerts that

drew crowds of thousands. Hollenbeck was also a great success, both in civic function and as an anchor to the neighborhood's development. Allowing LA's public to enjoy the city's greatest assets—the incredible climate and natural beauty outside—these sites for recreation permitted a free place for a mix of the city's population to commingle on its lawns, boat together in its (man-made) lakes and sit together to picnic or enjoy music.

Later, the two parks would suffer the same fate, being bisected by roadways (Wilshire Blvd. and the 5 Freeway) that marred the scenery and destroyed some of their valuable resources. Still, these parks remain as important and beloved mainstays of the neighborhoods. (Today's route also includes the latest of the city's essential parks, Grand Park.) Whether it be as a place to celebrate a quinceañera, eat a quick lunch or engage in some vice, the parks continue to offer what all people in LA need more of—open spaces for gathering together in protest (all three parks have been important rally sites) or pleasure. CicLAvia, an event that essentially turns parts of the city into a park—if only for a day—is pleased to passionately promote the value of such shared civic space.

Special thanks to the LA Conservancy (laconservancy.org) for their assistance with this guide. For more information on the historic preservation of our city, please visit their website or take one of their terrific walking tours.

CicLAvia transforms LA's streets into a safe, fun, car-free space for walking, bicycling, skating, jogging and seeing the city in a whole new way.

**WESTLAKE/
MACARTHUR PARK 4**

DOWNTOWN 10

CHINATOWN 24

LITTLE TOKYO 32

**ARTS DISTRICT &
LA RIVER 38**

BOYLE HEIGHTS 46

NEIGHBORHOOD EXTRAS—LEGEND



CULINARY LA



INSTAGRAM SPOTS



SEEN IT: FILM LOCATIONS



LITERARY LA

WESTLAKE/MACARTHUR PARK has a dynamic history, its landscape and inhabitants—and even its name—changing over the years. The neighborhood's main landmark, MacArthur Park, has as its origin the real-estate boom of the early 1880s, when the city's development expanded to what was then its western boundary. Led by the 18th mayor of Los Angeles, William Workman, a swath of swampland that was being used as a dump was transformed into one of the city's most popular parks.

With a beautiful park as an attraction, Westlake developed into one of the city's first affluent suburbs, serving as both a vacation destination and a prestigious residential address. The popularity of the fashionable district led to a high concentration of mid-rise luxury apartments and courtyard housing, which boasted a well-integrated network for streetcar routes. Then, as is the case now, Westlake had the highest residential density in the city.

After WWII, many of the area's moneyed dwellers moved away. The razing of Bunker Hill displaced a population who moved into MacArthur Park, finding much-needed affordable housing in the newly neglected area. This change also brought immigrant families from Central America, Mexico, Korea and the Philippines, and the area became an important entry point for refugees fleeing the civil wars in Guatemala and El Salvador.

By the 1970s and '80s the civic neglect made the neighborhood more than just rough around the edges. MacArthur Park became known for its criminal activity. The arrival of the Metro in 1993 was the first step in the area's redevelopment, reconnecting it to downtown. As downtown real-estate heats up and developers expand out from the city center, some look westward, just as Workman did 135 years ago.



A paleta from a cart in the park



Killer Bait (1949),
MacArthur Park (2001),
Volcano (1997)



In front of Portraits of Hope's
2,500 hand-painted spheres
currently floating in the lake.



The Choirboys by Joseph
Wambaugh, *The Tattooed
Soldier* by Héctor Tobar

1 MacArthur Park

Developed in the 1880s on the site of what was once a naturally occurring alkali lake, this city park was opened to the public in 1890 and boasted a fresh-water lake fed by the zanja system, a Victorian boathouse and a bandstand (now Levitt Pavilion). In 1934, the lake was effectively split in half by the extension of Wilshire Blvd., and the northern section was drained. In 1942, the city changed the park's name to honor Douglas MacArthur (reportedly due to a request from William Randolph Hearst). Long a center for civic gathering and protest, the park was the site of 2007's May Day Melee, where protesters rallying for immigration reform (and some of the news teams covering them) clashed with the LAPD.



1. MACARTHUR PARK, c. 1970

Courtesy of LA Conservancy Archives

2 Westlake Theatre

636 S. Alvarado St.

While today this grand movie palace sits empty after decades of serving as a swap meet, it was once the swanky theatre of choice for the Westlake community, offering 2,000 seats for first-run films and plays. Built in 1926, it was later updated by architect S. Charles Lee (who designed downtown's Los Angeles Theatre and the Tower Theatre). Today, the beautiful neon sign located on the building's roof is an iconic part of the neighborhood and a bright reminder of its past.



2. WESTLAKE THEATRE, c. 1920

Courtesy of LA Conservancy Archives

3 Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro

660 S. Alvarado St.

Located across the street from the park, this heavy-rail subway station serves Metro's Red and Purple lines, linking the San Fernando Valley, Hollywood, Koreatown and Westlake to downtown. (Eventually, when the Purple Line expansion is complete, it will also link these areas to the Westside!) Public arts projects at the station include murals by Francisco Letelier and Sonia Romero's *Urban Oasis*, which portray local landmarks in ceramic mosaic tile.

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4 Langer's Delicatessen

704 S. Alvarado St.

For nearly 70 years, the Langer family has been at the helm of this James Beard award-winning deli, which is known world wide for its #19 (pastrami on rye with coleslaw, Swiss cheese and Russian dressing). One of the few remaining Jewish delis not on the Westside, its signature pastrami has earned praise from luminaries such as Jonathan Gold and Nora Ephron. After serving in the army during WWII and working in a variety of delicatessens around Boyle Heights (and briefly, Palm Springs), founder Al Langer opened a 12-seat shop here; today, it seats 135 and is a vital part of a vibrant neighborhood.

5. YOUNG'S MARKET BUILDING

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



5 Young's Market Building

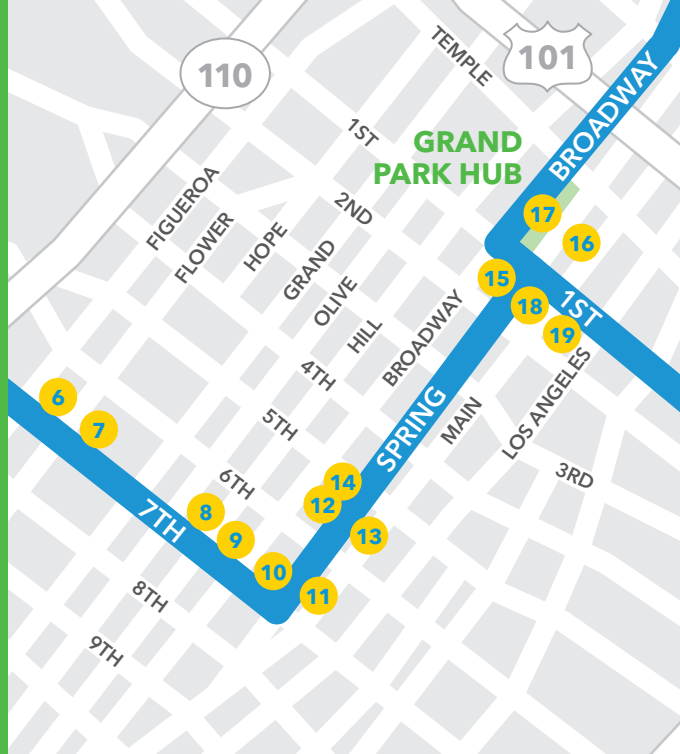
1600 W. 7th St.

Founded in 1906, the Young's Market Company eventually expanded to a chain of 60 markets until becoming a strictly wholesale purveyor of wine, spirits and food. In 1928, the company opened its headquarters in this Spanish Renaissance Revival building designed by Charles F. Plummer, the interior of which was modeled on a Pompeian marketplace. In 1958 the company moved, and during the 1992 LA Rebellion/Riots the building sustained serious damage (it then housed a hardware store). Today it has been restored and houses a branch of the shoe store WSS, as well as lofts.

DOWNTOWN LA Today's route spans three distinct sections of downtown—Civic Center, the Spring Street Financial District and the 7th Street Corridor. As the city expanded rapidly after the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1876, it moved south from the original pueblo to establish commercial districts first along Main St., and then by the 1900s along Spring St. For much of the 20th century, Spring Street served as the hub of business for the entire city and was known as "Wall Street of the West" because of all the financial institutions. Many of these buildings, with their intimidating facades and massive, marble lobbies, were designed by prominent LA architect John Parkinson, whose office was conveniently located on Spring Street.

Also incredibly well preserved is the strip of 7th Street between Figueroa and Los Angeles Streets; some 75 percent of the buildings you'll see along it today were built before 1929. This area, an upscale shopping district during its heyday, has returned with a bustling retail and restaurant scene and today transverses through no less than four commercial districts (financial, jewelry, theatre and fashion).

It's the city's civic heart, the Civic Center, that's actually seen the most change over the years. Entire hills were removed (Pancake and eventually Bunker) to create the space for a grand civic center built in the 1920s. Though some of the Art Deco buildings that resulted remain marvelous, the redevelopment changed the urban environment and ruptured the historical continuity with surrounding areas. (The arrival of the Hollywood Freeway certainly didn't help matters.) Still, like the city itself, the Civic Center is an evolving and exciting space, a mosaic of unique architecture and alive with yet another new development plan, The Grand Avenue Project, which is also mutating and changing as the city is.



Jell-O from Clifton's; a bacon-wrapped hot dog on the steps of City Hall



Splashing in the Grand Park fountain with City Hall in the background



(500) Days of Summer (2009), War of the Worlds (1953)



The Last Bookstore (453 S. Spring St.) for Bukowski, Chandler, Connelly and Fante

6 Fine Arts Building

811 W. 7th St.

The precursor to today's downtown gallery and loft scene, this beautiful 1927 building was the first designed with artists in mind—it was created specifically to house artists' residencies, workshops and galleries (sadly, that idea didn't last long and by the 1930s, it housed an oil company). Designed by Albert R. Walker and Percy A. Eisen, who also designed the nearby Oviatt Building, the 12-story building was lovingly restored in the 1980s. The figures on its ornate façade were made by sculptor Burt Johnson and the dazzling 3-story lobby features tiles by Arts & Crafts master Ernest Batchelder.

7 Roosevelt Building/ 7th St. Metro

727 W. 7th St.

Built in 1927, during the peak of development for the 7th St. Corridor, this building (named for President Theodore Roosevelt) was designed by the prominent firm of Curlett and Beelman and was reported to be the largest office building in Southern California at the time. According to the Los Angeles Conservancy, "A sensitive renovation has allowed this classic Italian Renaissance Revival beauty to house one of the busiest stations on the Metro Red Line, while maintaining its historic integrity."

6. FINE ARTS BUILDING

Courtesy of Annie Laskey/LA Conservancy



8 Los Angeles Athletic Club

431 W. 7th St.

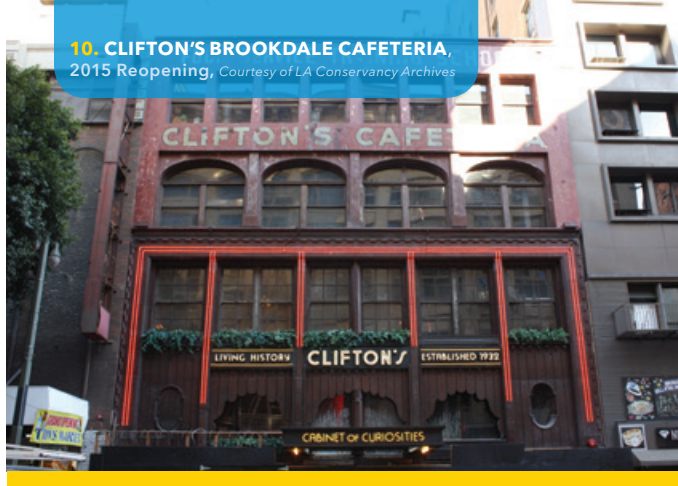
Founded in 1880, the Los Angeles Athletic Club was LA's first private club, and in 1911 members hired prominent downtown architects John Parkinson and Edwin Bergstrom to design this Beaux-Arts Style building. Opened in 1912, the club featured top-notch athletic facilities including boxing rings, handball courts, a ballroom, a dining room and a bar, plus living quarters on the upper floors. But the main attraction was the sun-filled swimming pool on the sixth floor—the first building in Southern California to feature a pool on an upper floor. Over the years the club's membership boasted a who's who of the city's power players, excluding any women, who were not allowed in until the late 1940s.

9 St. Vincent's Court

Alley off 7th St. between Broadway & Hill

This small, picturesque alley runs through the center of what used to be the 1906 Bullock's department store, which closed in 1983 to become today's St. Vincent Jewelry Center at 319 W. 7th. A popular lunch spot among the building's 500 tenants, among other downtown denizens, the restaurants here reflect the district's diversity. The alley itself dates back to the 1860s, when the site was occupied by St. Vincent's College (now Loyola Marymount University) and the alley was the main entrance into campus.

10. CLIFTON'S BROOKDALE CAFETERIA,
2015 Reopening, Courtesy of LA Conservancy Archives



10 Clifton's Brookdale Cafeteria

648 S. Broadway

Recently reopened after a \$10 million restoration, Clifton's is an iconic part of downtown and a little slice of kitsch heaven, featuring a full-blown forest inside complete with a waterfall and stream. Opened in 1935 by Clifford E. Clifton, a man who embodies "the heart of LA" (he instituted a "pay what you wish" policy that nearly bankrupted him during the Depression), Clifton's also happens to be in one of the oldest buildings remaining on Broadway, dating back to 1904.

11 Los Angeles Stock Exchange Building/Pacific Coast Stock Exchange

618 S. Spring St.

Opened in 1931, during the height of the Depression, this imposing building—the façade is made of granite—suggests through its architecture great financial stability. The Classical Moderne-style building features relief sculptures by Salvatore Cartaino Scarpitta above its massive bronze doors, portraying elements of capitalism, for which Scarpitta won an award from the American Institute of Architects. After the Stock Exchange moved out in the 1980s, the building became a nightclub. Today, it is Exchange LA, a venue for special events including filming (parts of *The Big Lebowski* and *The Social Network* were shot here).



12 Broadway-Spring Arcade/Mercantile Arcade Building

541 S. Spring St.

A gem built in 1924, this shopping arcade (now full of a diverse array of restaurants including the downtown branch of Boyle Heights' Guisados) connects two 12-story office towers, one on Broadway, one on Spring—be sure to walk the full length so you pop out onto the bustling street. Modeled after London's Burlington Arcade, the glass-roofed skylight is especially beautiful.





13. LOS ANGELES THEATRE CENTER

Courtesy of Annie Laskey/LA Conservancy

13 Los Angeles Theatre Center/Security National Bank Building

514 S. Spring St.

It's almost impossible to miss the massive Greek Revival-style Ionic columns that front this 1916 building, another designed by John Parkinson. Inside, the beautiful lobby with a stained-glass ceiling has been preserved. Since the 1980s the former bank has served as the home of the Los Angeles Theatre Company. Today the space is leased by the Latino Theater Company, which offers a wide array of multi-disciplinary programming.

14 Alexandria Hotel

501 S. Spring St.

Yet another building designed by John Parkinson, the Alexandria Hotel (named for its original owner, Harry Alexander), built in 1906, was the city's premiere hotel until the nearby Biltmore brought in the Jazz Age. The elegant 500-room hotel, famous for its Palm Court banquet room (added in 1911), hosted movie stars including Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford, as well as three US presidents (Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson). Star Claire Windsor once recalled that she and Rudolph Valentino, back in their early days as film extras, used to take the streetcar from the nearby Westlake district to dance in the Palm Court.

15 Los Angeles Times Building

202 W. 1st St.

This impressive 1935 Moderne building, designed by Gordon B. Kaufmann (Hoover Dam, Santa Anita Park), is the fourth home of the daily newspaper. The other three were located across the street on the northeast corner of N. Broadway and W. 1st St., an area that is being developed by the city as an adjunct to Grand Park and was the *Times'* location when the newspaper's offices were bombed in 1910. Before the *Times* moved to this side of the street, this was the site of LA's two previous City Halls.

16 Los Angeles City Hall

200 N. Spring St.

Often used as the emblem of Los Angeles, this iconic building serves as the center of the city's government, housing the mayor's office as well as the offices of the City Council. Opened in 1928, it was designed by three of the city's leading architects (John Parkinson among them) to be "Modern American" in its style—incorporating classical elements and monumental styling with Art Deco to create a unique (and eye-catching) architectural expression—how perfect for LA, a hybrid and modern city if there ever was one!

.....

17 Grand Park

200 N. Grand Ave.

Stretching between City Hall and the Music Center, this 12-acre park connects Bunker Hill to the Civic Center and is a dream for pedestrians. Part of the Grand Avenue Project, it opened in 2012 and includes a popular interactive fountain, several performance areas and signature fuchsia park furniture, which is moveable so you can always find a shady spot to enjoy. Located on the site of what was formerly a mostly unused civic plaza (and a parking lot), Grand Park's terraced public spaces support a variety of activities, from cultural festivals to kicking back with a book against a backdrop of cultural landmarks (Disney Hall, MOCA and the new Broad Museum are easily within walking distance).

16. CITY HALL

Courtesy of Annie Laskey/LA Conservancy





18. LAPD HEADQUARTERS

Photo via Wikipedia Commons

18 Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters

100 W. 1st St.

Opened in 2009, the LAPD's new headquarters is a radical departure from its former home—Welton Becket's 1955 Parker Center, at 150 N. Los Angeles St.—a place familiar to many a *Dragnet* viewer. As critic Christopher Hawthorne attests, the new digs are a much more neighborly piece of civic architecture, featuring a one-acre public park, a restaurant and a 420-seat auditorium for public events. Sure, it's friendly but still secure; the odd window pattern along Spring St. is for protection—it's sniper-proof.



19. CALTRANS DISTRICT 7

Photo via Wikipedia Commons

19 CalTrans District 7

151 E. 1st St.

It's impossible to miss this futuristic building designed by LA-based starchitect Thom Mayne and his Morphosis firm. Completed in 2005, the block-sized headquarters for the state's Department of Transportation boasts a public plaza with a café and a public art piece entitled, appropriately enough, "Motordom." The building also features an innovative "double skin" of glass behind perforated aluminum panels, which open and close based on the movement of the sun. Based on the time of day, the surface of the building's façade changes, shielding the interior from the rays and offering office workers changing views.

CHINATOWN Today's Chinatown is, in fact, New Chinatown, and some old-timers still refer to it that way. Like residents of several of the city's other ethnic enclaves (Chavez Ravine and Little Tokyo), LA's Chinese American community has dealt with multiple displacements and flourished despite historic injustices and civic complications.

An 1870 census shows that of the 5,728 citizens in Los Angeles, 172 were Chinese. Most of them lived on Calle De Los Negros—infamous for its history of violence, including the 1871 Chinese Massacre, in which 18 Chinese American people were murdered—which was renamed Los Angeles St. in 1877. As the Chinese American community began to flourish and expand, so did Old Chinatown's boundaries, eventually encompassing 15 streets and about 3,000 people.

The easterly half of Chinatown was demolished for the construction of Union Station in the 1930s. Because of exclusion acts and other racist laws at the time, Chinese Americans were not allowed to own land and had little recourse to challenge the plan that would combine the passenger terminals for the three major railroads that served Los Angeles. There was no compensation for Chinatown displacees. Instead, some residents and businessmen, led by Peter Soo Hoo, Sr., banded together to acquire property as a California corporation and build on a site that, unlike the old, they could control. From the onset, New Chinatown, the first planned Chinatown community in the US, was built to be a tourist attraction and ethnic residential community, with an entertainment complex of restaurants, shops and other open-space attractions that might be considered a precursor to popular "theme" developments and outdoor malls like The Grove.



A slice of strawberry cake from Phoenix Bakery (969 N. Broadway)



Dragon Seed (1944),
Freaky Friday (2003),
Rush Hour (1998),
Lethal Weapon 4 (1998)



In front of Hop Louie pagoda (built in 1941) or tossing coins in the Wishing Well in Central Plaza

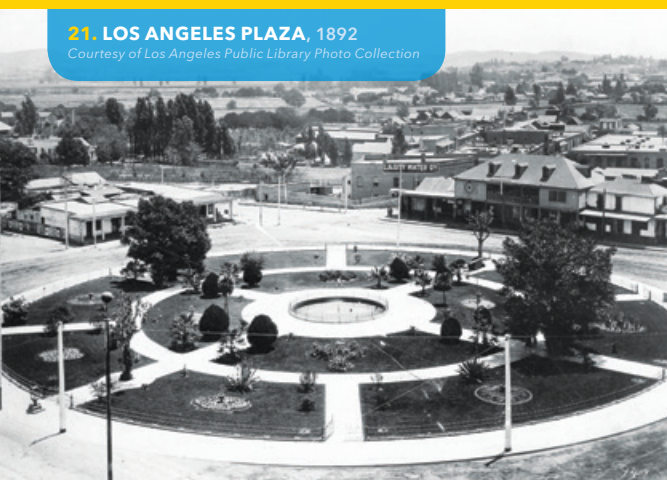


On Gold Mountain by Lisa See,
Mr. Fong's Toyshop by Leo Politi



20. FORT MOORE PIONEER MEMORIAL, 2002

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



21. LOS ANGELES PLAZA, 1892

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

20 Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial

430 N. Hill St.

Known historically as Fort Hill, this site served as a military garrison during the Mexican-American War. It was important during the 1846 Siege of Los Angeles when US troops were forced to withdraw from it, and a year later when it was fortified by the Mormon Battalion. The fort's namesake hill, which once stretched from Cesar Chavez Ave. to Temple St., was carved back—first in 1930 to expand Spring St., and then for the development of the Hollywood Freeway.

21 View of Plaza, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

Area bounded by Cesar Chavez Ave. and Los Angeles, Arcadia, New High and Main Sts.

From Broadway, take in the view of the city's birthplace: the site of the Pueblo established in 1781 that would become Los Angeles. Historically, the Plaza here has always been the center of the city, whether it was under Spanish, Mexican or American rule. Surrounding it are 27 historic buildings and Olvera Street, the world-famous outdoor Mexican marketplace. The Chinese American Museum, Avila Adobe (LA's oldest residence), the Italian Hall and the Siqueiros Mural are important historic sites.

22 Far East Plaza

727 N. Broadway

Perhaps the first ethnic food court built in the US (opened in 1976), today this plaza remains an outpost for good eats. Historic restaurants here were among the first to introduce foods like dumplings, Chinese BBQ and pho to Chinatown, including the first Ten Ren Tea shop, which is still in operation. Other tenants include Wing Hop Fung Ginseng & China Products Center, the largest department store in Chinatown; Kogi-truck founder Roy Choi's flagship eatery, Chego; and cult favorite ice-cream shop Scoops.

23 Little Joe's Restaurant (Site)

904 N. Broadway

Before this area became Chinatown, it was Little Italy, and a beloved Italian restaurant occupied this site from 1927 until 1998. Popular with Hollywood stars in the 1940s, Little Joe's became an informal clubhouse for the Dodgers after they moved west. The abandoned restaurant was demolished in 2014 to start construction of a \$100 million mixed-use development that will link Broadway to the Chinatown Metro station. Recently, workers unearthed a segment of the Zanja Madre, or "Mother Ditch," the original aqueduct that brought water to the Pueblo de Los Angeles.

24 Central Plaza

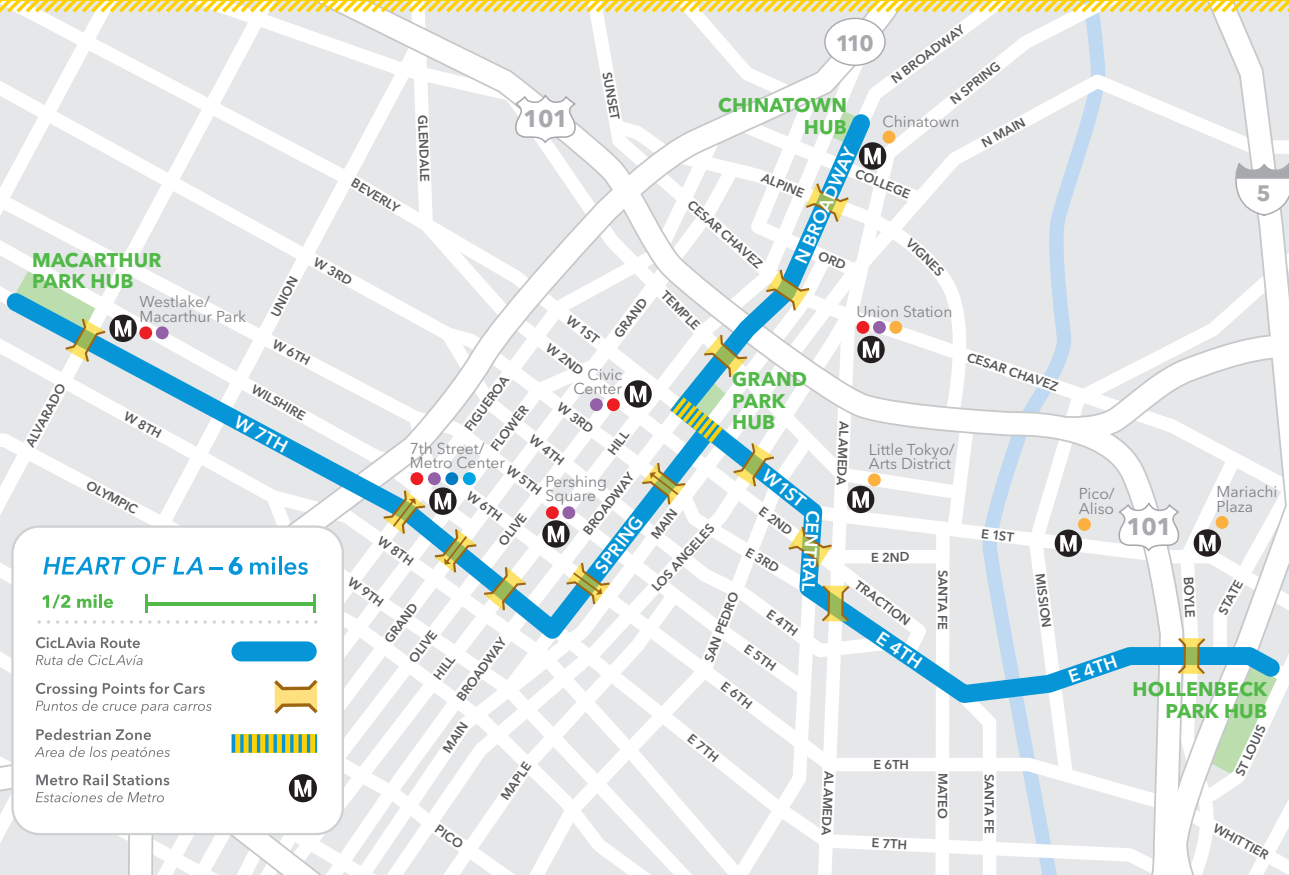
947 N. Broadway

Walk through the East Gate, a traditional *pailou* and enter the centerpiece of 1938's New Chinatown, where many cultural festivities occur. Along the pedestrian streets are curio stores, antique shops, art galleries, restaurants and fortunetellers. All of the funding for "New Chinatown" was from Chinese American investors, some of whom were displaced from Old Chinatown. Be sure to toss coins in the wishing well (modeled on the Seven Star Caverns in Guangdong Province).



24. CENTRAL PLAZA, 1988

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library
Photo Collection



HEART OF LA – 6 miles

1/2 mile

CicLAvia Route
Ruta de CicLAvia

Crossing Points for Cars
Puntos de cruce para carros

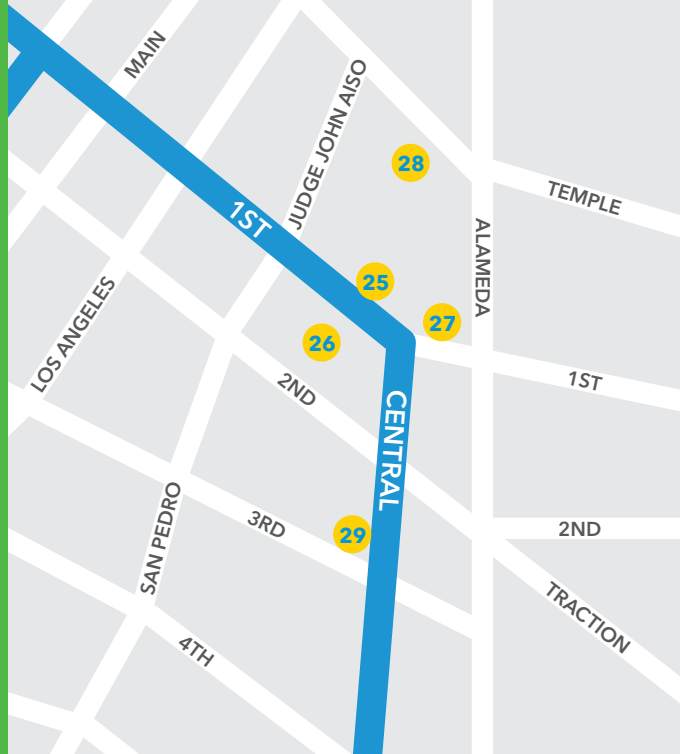
Pedestrian Zone
Area de los peatones

Metro Rail Stations
Estaciones de Metro

LITTLE TOKYO With roots going back to the 1880s, LA's Little Tokyo has survived turbulent times. In the early years, the Japanese American population in the area consisted mostly of single men, many of whom established the region's wholesale produce markets. But by the turn of the 20th century, Japanese immigrants, or Issei, included women and families too. As the Issei established businesses, community organizations, churches and temples along San Pedro St., First St. and Central Ave., they created a haven for other immigrants from Japan and gave birth to Nisei—a generation of Japanese Americans born in the US.

The racist Exclusion Act of 1924 barred further migration from Japan; however, the vibrant community (at its peak 30,000 Japanese American people lived here) continued to thrive until WWII. As the US government unconstitutionally interned citizens in domestic concentration camps, Little Tokyo was all but abandoned, its once lively streets empty. During the internment, the area was rechristened "Bronzeville" as African Americans, Native Americans and some Latinos moved into vacant properties.

After the war, some residents returned to Little Tokyo, but because of housing shortages many opted to settle further afield in nearby Boyle Heights or in other cities such as Torrance and Monterey Park. Since then the area has been less a residential district for Japanese Americans than a place of significant historic and cultural importance—threatened with eradication first by the internment, and later because of land-use issues (the encroachment of the Civic Center to the north and the Arts District to the east). Investment in the 1970s led to some redevelopment of the area, but its continued success as an ethnic enclave owes much to activism from community organizations that believe in preserving this special place.



Wagashi (confections) from Fugetsu-Do (315 E. 1st St.)



In front of the cube at JANM's plaza



Lil Tokyo Reporter (2012), Scarface (1983), Showdown in Little Tokyo (1991)



Death in Little Tokyo by Dale Furutani, Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

25 1st St. Historic District

1st St. between Judge John Aiso St. and Alameda St.

Long the commercial center and heart of Little Tokyo, this block was declared a National Historic Landmark District in 1995 for the number of historic buildings along its path. A living museum for sure, many of the current shops and restaurants have been here for generations. Be sure to look down—embedded in the sidewalk is a public art project by artists Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Sonya Ishii that includes a timeline of the neighborhood's history.

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26 Japanese Village Plaza

335 E. 2nd St.

Opened in 1978, this open-air mall of shops and eateries was created as a community effort to help revitalize the neighborhood—and it worked. It's a hub for cultural events and street performances, as well as a great place to get a snack. Eat *takoyaki* (fried octopus balls) and the famed *imagawayaki* (griddled red bean cakes) at the Mitsuru Café (you can watch both being made through the window) or try the mochi from Mikawaya, a century-old traditional bakery that introduced the dessert to the US.



26. JAPANESE VILLAGE PLAZA, 1984

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



27. FUTURE SITE OF JANM, Groundbreaking ceremony for the Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin, 1925
 Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

27 Japanese American National Museum (JANM)

100 N. Central Ave.

Not only is this the largest museum in the US dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry, it's also housed in an important historic building—the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Built by Japanese immigrants in 1925, this was the first structure in Los Angeles designed specifically as a Buddhist temple. The temple was a vibrant community space, and during WWII, it was used to house the belongings of Japanese American citizens interred in concentration camps.

28 Go For Broke Monument

361 E. 1st St.

This is the first monument in the mainland US that commemorates the heroic role of the segregated Japanese American units of WWII. Its name comes from the motto of the 100th Battalion, who like other Japanese American soldiers served in battle even as fellow Japanese American citizens were being incarcerated in concentration camps back home. Designed by architect Roger Yanagita, the monument was dedicated in 1999 and is inscribed with the names of 16,126 Nisei soldiers.

29 Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

505 E. 3rd St.

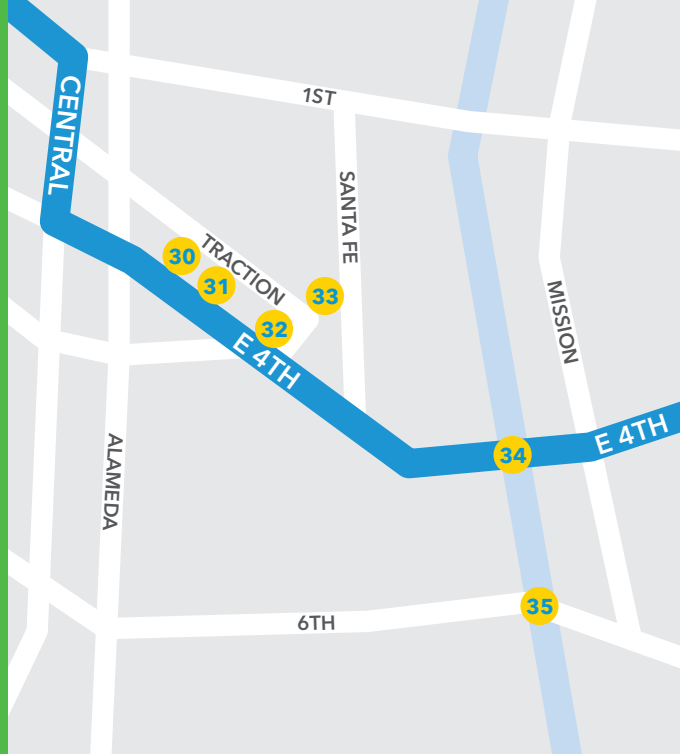
For more than 100 years, this temple has served Los Angeles' Buddhist community—in fact, it was the first Japanese Buddhist temple in LA. Founded in 1904 by Rev. Junryo Izumida, the temple not only served as a valuable center of religious and cultural life for Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans, it also introduced Jodo Shinshu Buddhism to all interested Angelenos. Originally located on 4th St., the temple relocated several times in its early days to various sites in Little Tokyo and finally to Boyle Heights in 1926, where it remained for the next 50 years. The present temple, built in 1976, returned this important congregation to its roots in Little Tokyo.

ARTS DISTRICT & LA RIVER In the 19th century, much of what is now called the “Arts District” was an agricultural area. Railroads and manufacturing companies soon emerged to support and transport the agricultural goods. By 1905, all three major railroads had depots, warehouses and rail yards in the area. (Today, Metro’s Red Line Yard is still located here.) The rise of the railroads encouraged population growth as people moved in for jobs and created a working-class residential area.

In 1922, the city re-zoned downtown to make room for more manufacturing and eliminated residential housing in favor of factories, offices and retail space. By the end of WWII, many of the warehouses and manufacturing plants, lured by more space and cheaper real estate, moved to the outlying cities, and the neighborhood began to decline.

That is why, in the late 1960s and early ‘70s, artists began to move into the area—priced out of other parts of the city, here they found massive (but illegal) live/work spaces for affordable prices. The scene then was mostly underground—residents hid during fire inspections of the abandoned buildings they lived in and dealt with some difficult situations, like the lack of amenities and a surplus of drug activity. These artists created a vibrant community and started galleries, performance spaces and hangouts such as LACE, the Wallenboyd Theater and the legendary Al’s Bar.

Located along the 51-mile Los Angeles River, which is undergoing an ambitious restoration plan, this once-abandoned industrial area is being transformed by gentrification into a more prosperous neighborhood, with fancy restaurants and trendy boutiques. But like the river on its eastern boundary, the Arts District is a place of contradiction (a “concrete” river, a \$5 cup of coffee) where the only constant is change.



A coffee in the “Napa Valley of Coffee Roasting” from either Blue Bottle Coffee or Stumptown



The Dark Knight Rises (2012),
Terminator 2 (1991)



Of the 6th St. Bridge, from the 4th St. Bridge



The Concrete River by Luis J. Rodríguez, *The Education of Hopey Glass* by Jaime Hernandez

30 The American Hotel/Al's Bar

303 S. Hewitt St.

Built in 1905 as a first-class hotel for African Americans, this building was designed by Morgan and Walls, one of the city's oldest architectural firms. Pullman car porters who worked at the nearby rails were a large portion of the hotel's guests. In the 1970s, Al's Bar, widely considered the epicenter of LA's punk scene, opened on the ground floor; it closed in 2001. Bloom's General Store, the first grocery store in the area, was here in the '90s but was similarly forced to close in 2009 due to rising rents.

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31 Arts Share LA

801 E. 4th Pl.

This massive warehouse, formerly a rag shop built in 1928, now houses a nonprofit that provides subsidized lofts for artists and offers community exhibitions and events.



30. AL'S BAR, 1986

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

32 Coca-Cola Building/T.T. Toys

963 E. 4th St.

Almost a century old, this 123,600-square-foot building was the soda maker's production facility and West Coast headquarters until 1929, when the company moved to the Streamline Moderne "ship" on Central Ave. Today, the building is mostly referred to by the name of its most recent tenant, a toy company that is no longer there. The building was recently purchased—in an all-cash sale for \$19 million, which goes to show how hot properties are in the area—and plans are in the works for a mixed-use development.



32. COCA-COLA BUILDING, 1922

Photo courtesy of CBRE | Capital Markets

33 Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)/Shadows Structure

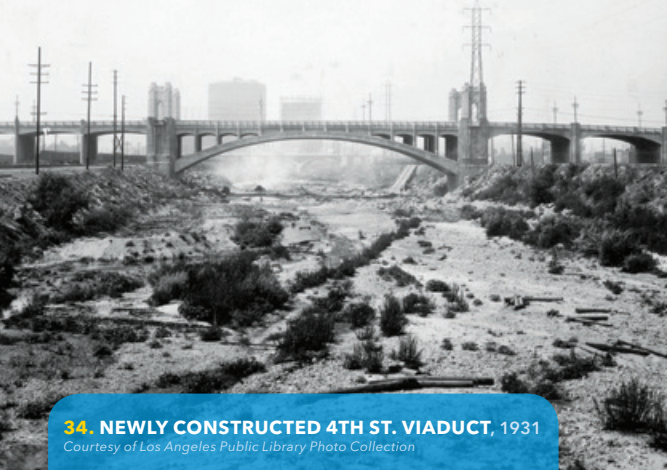
960 E. 3rd St.

One of the nation's few independent architectural schools—and a very respected one—uses this 100-year-old freight house as its home. Originally constructed by the Santa Fe Railroad, this is the last remaining structure from the railroad company that operated here for more than a century. After Santa Fe moved its operations, the building became a warehouse and was abandoned by the time SCI-Arc rehabilitated it. The "League of Shadows" structure at the corner of 4th and Merrick St. is a semi-permanent event pavilion built by students.



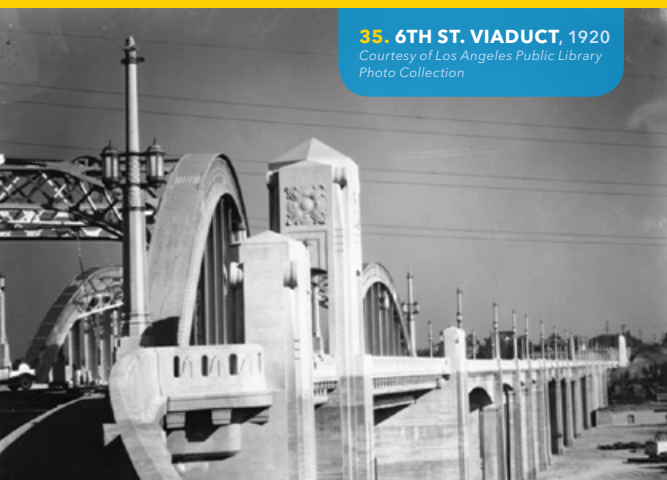
33. SANTA FE FREIGHT DEPOT, 2008

Photo via Wikipedia Commons



34. NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 4TH ST. VIADUCT, 1931

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



35. 6TH ST. VIADUCT, 1920

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

34 4th St. Viaduct

Designed by Merrill Butler, who was responsible for many of the city's most spectacular historic bridges, this 1931 reinforced concrete bridge replaced an older, wooden one that was built in 1903. Butler was the city's engineer for bridges and structures from 1923 to 1961 and designed nine of the 14 historic bridges that cross the Los Angeles River, each one with a different architectural theme and style. Adorned with Gothic Revival details (railings, porticos), the bridge was retrofitted in 1995 and is a Historic-Cultural Monument.

35 6th St. Viaduct

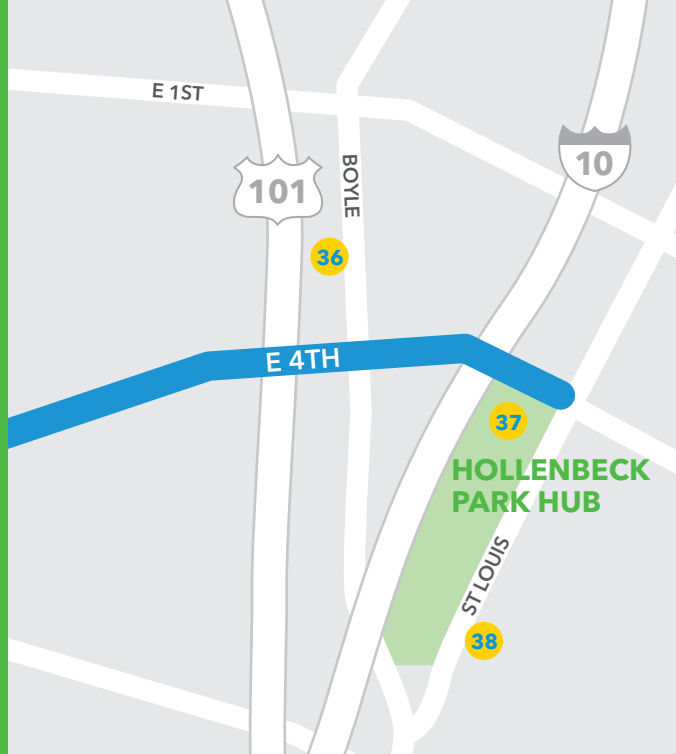
The last-built of Merrill Butler's many monumental river bridges, the 1932 6th St. Bridge (as it is more commonly called) is the longest concrete bridge of its kind in California and the longest city-owned bridge in Los Angeles. Its graceful Classical Moderne design and sweeping, riveted steel arches make it one of the city's iconic landmarks, featured in many photographs, films and commercials. As well as being beautiful, it provides a vital transportation link between the Arts District and Boyle Heights. But the structure is slowly deteriorating and vulnerable to collapse in an earthquake. Although it will soon be demolished, the replacement bridge by Michael Maltzan promises a vibrant pedestrian-and-bicycle friendly 21st-century version linking the left and right banks of the river.

BOYLE HEIGHTS Unlike many parts of Los Angeles, Boyle Heights never had restrictive covenants limiting who could reside here, and so Mexicans, Japanese, Jews, Molokan Russians, Filipinos, Italians and African Americans came together to create a vibrant mixed neighborhood.

Between the World Wars, Boyle Heights boasted the largest Jewish community west of Chicago—and the West Coast's largest Yiddish-speaking enclave. These Jewish residents lived alongside the area's substantial Mexican community, many from families who had fled the Mexican Revolution in 1910 or had long roots going back to the rancho days when Boyle Heights was Mexico. Along with restaurants, businesses, synagogues, Buddhist temples and churches, there was a slew of movie theaters throughout the area, some showing films in Spanish, some in Yiddish.

After WWII, the demographics of Boyle Heights shifted. Most of the Japanese American residents who had been forcibly interned did not return to the area, and almost all of the Jewish families moved to the Westside or the San Fernando Valley. The reasons for this shift are complicated and not just a matter of ethnic secession. Instead, the segregation we see here, like in many of the city's neighborhoods, occurred because institutional forces were behind it. Postwar bank policies made it easier for many to move out of rather than return to mixed neighborhoods. At the time, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation City Survey Files described Boyle Heights as "hopelessly heterogeneous," a negative rating that redlined homes.

Today, Boyle Heights is 94 percent Latino and one of the most high-density neighborhoods in the city. Reflecting this demographic shift, Brooklyn Ave., the anchor of the central business district, was renamed Cesar E. Chavez Ave. in 1993. It continues to be a bustling retail area with great restaurants, small businesses and some of the city's best murals.



Pastrami burrito



Laurel & Hardy's *Men O' War* (1929), *Real Women Have Curves* (2002)



In front of Hollenbeck's lake, with the fountain



Check out the Libros Schmibros lending library (1711 Mariachi Plaza)

36 Keiro Senior HealthCare/ Jewish Home for the Aging

325 S. Boyle Ave.

This residential facility for elderly Japanese Americans is located on five acres of land that served as the Jewish Home for the Aging from 1916 to 1976. The importance of elders is deeply rooted in both Jewish and Japanese cultures, and the two share a history of suffering under internment and bigotry. In 2012, a seder honoring the site's history and the Jewish Home's 100th anniversary was held where food and rituals from both cultures were shared.

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37 Hollenbeck Park

415 S. St. Louis St.

This 21-acre park has been one of Boyle Heights' most recognized attractions for more than 120 years. Built on land given to the city in 1882 by two of the era's most prominent landowners—former mayor William Workman and Elizabeth Hollenbeck (the park is named for her husband, John, who is buried in nearby Evergreen Cemetery)—the popular recreation site contains a man-made lake, a skateboard park and numerous picnic spots. The natural beauty of the site, which is located in an arroyo, was somewhat obscured by the construction of the 5 Freeway along the park's western boundary in the 1950s.

37. HOLLENBECK PARK, c. 1904

Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



38

Linda Vista Community Hospital

610-30 S. St. Louis St.

Originally opened in 1905 by the Santa Fe Railway as a hospital for its employees, this historic (and some say haunted) site was closed for two decades before a \$40 million restoration transformed it into affordable housing for seniors. During that time, it was one of LA's most popular filming sites (*True Blood* and *ER* were shot here). The original Moorish building was razed, and in its place this 6-story Mission-style building was built in 1924. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is a city Historic-Cultural Monument.



38. LINDA VISTA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Courtesy of Manuel Huerta/LA Conservancy

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