



CICLAVIA

A NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE
TO THE HEART OF LA

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Written by Andrea Richards

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THE HEART OF LA Try as you may—and many have—there's no pithy way to sum up Los Angeles. Those of us who live here like it that way. It's an eclectic place with a dynamic history of intersections (some civil, some not) between people who have created an utterly unique and multiethnic city.

Many of the neighborhoods along today's route through the historic center of the city—the "heart of LA"—are changing. From gentrification and development to new waves of immigration and demographic shifts, there are elements being lost, buildings being renewed, and cultural movements being born. That's the thing about a heart: if it stops circulating, you die. The same might be true of a city: if it stagnates, its vitality suffers.

But the heart is more than just an organ. It is the center of our affection, of what we love. We heart people, places, even certain taco trucks. When you know something by heart, you've memorized it. And hearts have layers (three in humans). So does this city. The minute I think I know some tiny section of it, it opens up to reveal a layer I'd never seen before. That's part of the flow, the lub-lub-dub beat that keeps it alive and keeps life here interesting.

CicLAvia is a one-day opportunity to travel the city's heart without a car. As you do, think about what you "heart" about this place, from landmarks, dive bars, murals, unexpected parks, and far-out spiritual centers to the people who give the city its heart—say, the paddle boaters and paleteros in Echo Park or the mariachis of Boyle Heights. But above all, as you move about the city today, have a heart—for your fellow riders and walkers, for the neighborhoods you are passing through (show respect!), and for this great moving city.



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.

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NEIGHBORHOOD EXTRAS—LEGEND



CULINARY LA



INSTAGRAM SPOTS



SEEN IT: FILM LOCATIONS

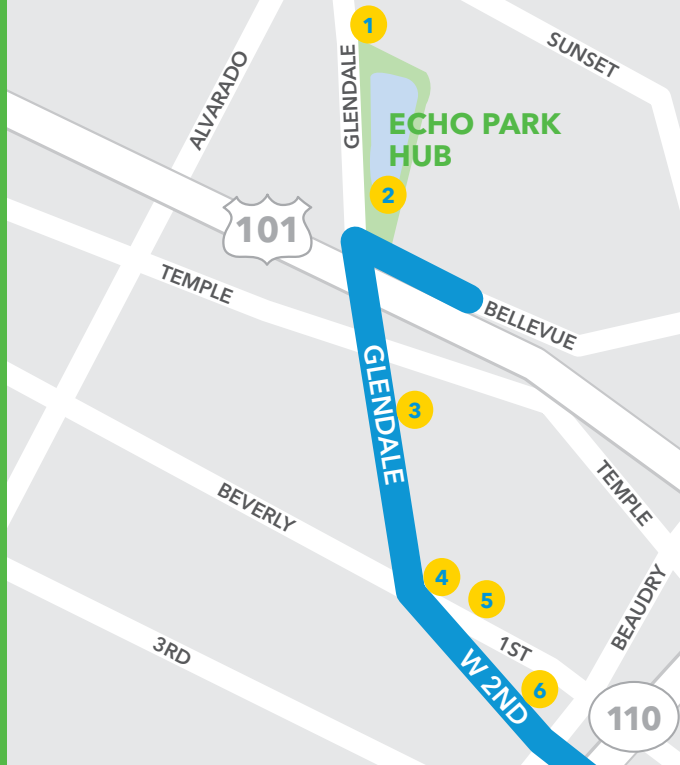


LITERARY LA

ECHO PARK One of the oldest neighborhoods in Los Angeles, Echo Park's reputation as a bohemian enclave for an ethnically diverse population continues, despite ongoing gentrification concerns. Like many of the other "Heart of LA" neighborhoods, a variety of immigrants have long made the area home: Latinos, Jews, Asians, and European expats among them.

Since the development of its bucolic landscape in the early 20th century thanks to streetcar lines that connected one of the city's first suburbs, Angelino Heights, to Downtown, Echo Park has been home to oil fields, Victorian and Craftsman homes, silent-film studios, and a significant number of socialists and communists (which earned the neighborhood the nickname "Red Hill"). Today, it boasts the city's second-largest park (Elysian); the home of the Dodgers (the stadium controversially built on the site of Chavez Ravine); some of the city's steepest streets (Elysian Heights is where early carmakers once tested their wares); and an eclectic batch of small businesses along its main commercial streets: Sunset Blvd., Glendale Blvd., Alvarado Ave., and Echo Park Ave.

Rich in history, Echo Park has long supported creative spirits. From innovators in architecture who changed the look of our city to activists and progressive politicians who changed its laws, and religious leaders that grew its spirit, Echo Park residents have helped shape the larger city—and cultural trends around the world. Back when Hollywood was still mostly an orange grove, it was all happening here. And as many residents would argue, it still is.



Paleta from a cart in the park



By the Lady of the Lake statue in front of the lake's fountain



Chinatown (1974), Mi Vida Loca (1993), Quinceñera (2006)



The Madonnas of Echo Park by Brandon Skyhorse, Spontaneous by Diana Wagman

1 Angelus Temple

1100 Glendale Blvd.

Opened in 1923 by evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson (known as “Sister Aimee” to her followers and the press that covered her many colorful exploits), this historic building holds more than 5,000 people with double balconies and 30-foot windows inside. A pioneering radio evangelist and charismatic minister who drew thousands to her highly theatrical services, McPherson founded the Church of the Four Square Gospel, a Pentecostal denomination that brought conservative Protestantism into mainstream culture. Today, The Foursquare Church has more than 66,000 churches and meeting places in 140 countries and territories.

2 Echo Park Lake

751 Echo Park Ave.

Known as Reservoir No. 4, this man-made lake was built in 1868 to store drinking water for the developing homes and businesses around it. In 1895, the area became a public park, named, as the legend holds, for the echoes builders heard coming off canyon walls. Since 1971, the park has served as the home of the Lotus Festival (the historic beds of these beloved floating flowers was recently restored), the city’s first multicultural festival, which celebrates the contributions of Asian Americans to Los Angeles.

ANGELES TEMPLE c.1935

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection



LADY OF THE LAKE STATUE
AT ECHO PARK LAKE

Photo courtesy Aaron Paley

3 **Bernie's Teriyaki**

318 Glendale Blvd.

In honor of the large Filipino community that settled the area in the early 20th century, the southwest section of Echo Park is designated as part of Historic Filipinotown, a district that extends into neighboring Silver Lake and Westlake. Don't be fooled by the name; a family-owned staple since 1977, Bernie's serves delicious Filipino-style BBQ.

4 **Bob Baker Marionette Theater**

1345 W. 1st St.

A designated historic-cultural monument, this is the oldest children's theater company in Los Angeles—a family entertainment institution that is still run by visionary founder Bob Baker. Baker and his team of talented puppeteers perform shows and build their magical marionettes here, to the delight of children and adults. Now in its 53rd season of shows, get your ticket and travel back in time.

5 **Vista Hermosa Park**

100 N. Toluca St.

This hidden gem of a park designed by Mia Lehrer & Associates transforms 10 acres of formerly developed land in the city's urban core back to nature with walking trails, streams, meadows, a picnic area, a playground, and a soccer field. With spectacular skyline views and few crowds, this beautiful park is a testament to how a toxic landscape—it's built on the former site of the failed Belmont Learning Center—can be turned around.

6 **DWP/Boylston Facility**

Between 1st St., Baudry Ave., 2nd St. and Bixel St.

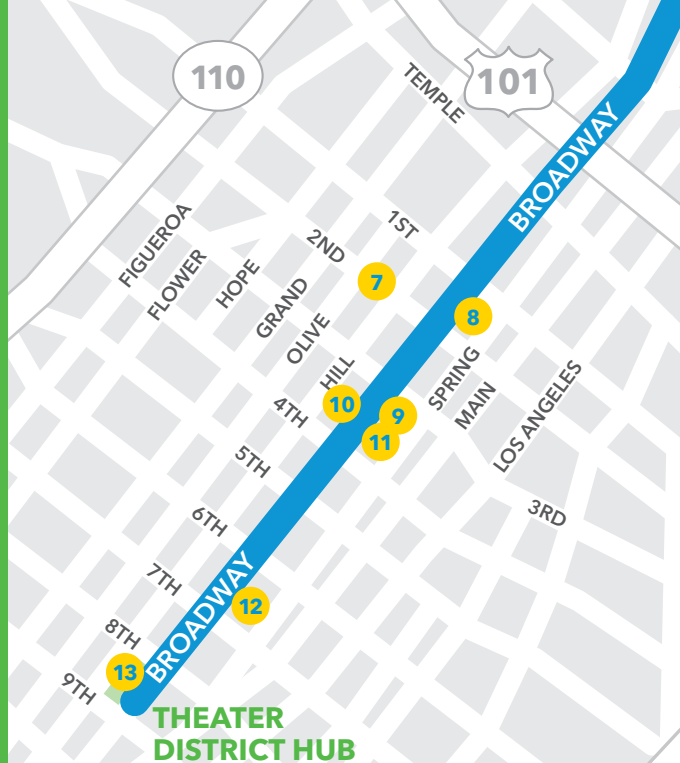
Looking somewhat ominous thanks to the perimeter wall—restricted access, so don't enter—this super-block contains various buildings (one built in 1911, another in 1927, many in the 1940s, and several post 1950) that service the city's Department of Water and Power. Originally established in 1910 as Los Angeles Municipal Power & Light, according to Survey LA, this property "has operated as the 'nerve center' of Los Angeles' municipal electric system for over 100 years."

DOWNTOWN Proving the old adage that everything old is new again, Downtown (DTLA) is currently the city's fastest-growing neighborhood. Of course, "Downtown" as a district is actually about 15 different neighborhoods; each has a distinct identity.

Unlike other parts of the city, Downtown has been fairly well preserved, with many of its historic buildings still existent. In the Historic Core, you can find the remains of opulent hotels, beautiful department stores, and grand movie palaces, as well as the impressive bank buildings along Spring St., once known as "Wall Street of the West." Thanks to the preservation of these structures, it's easy to imagine life during Downtown's golden age—the first half of the 20th century, when the area was the center of the city's business, entertainment, and transport services.

Sadly, there is one very important part of Downtown that has been lost, but on today's route you'll mostly be riding beneath it: Bunker Hill. The stately Victorian mansions that once composed the largely residential district were all destroyed in the 1950s and replaced with today's skyscrapers. As the city's skyline underwent drastic change, so too did Downtown, which unfortunately plummeted into decline as the postwar suburban boom led many businesses and residents to seek cheaper (and more convenient) real estate elsewhere. Downtown became only an occasional destination, known for expensive parking and near-empty streets after dusk.

But an adaptive-reuse ordinance put into place in the 1990s made it easier for developers to transform vacant commercial buildings into residential "lofts," which brought new life to the area. Since then, it's been a slow but steady rebirth—the result of which is evident in the vibrancy of the streets once again.



Bacon wrapped hot dog served on the street



Backlit by glow of 2nd Street Tunnel



500 Days of Summer (2009), Blade Runner (1982), The Exiles (1961), Kiss Me Deadly (1955)



Ask the Dust by John Fante, Echoes in the City of Angels by Helen Hunt Jackson

7 2nd Street Tunnel

2nd St. between Figueroa St. and Hill St.

Opened in 1924 to relieve the congestion of the earlier 3rd Street Tunnel (yes, traffic woes in the city's center are nothing new), this underpass is situated directly beneath Bunker Hill. The tunnel's white tiles and neon lights, which create startlingly well-lit photography, makes it a popular location for film shoots—car commercials, in particular, are frequent users. But you've seen it in *Blade Runner*, *The Terminator*, *Gattaca*, and *Kill Bill* too.

8 Los Angeles Times Building

Spring St. and 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.



BRADBURY BUILDING INTERIOR

Photo courtesy Aaron Paley

9 Bradbury Building

304 S. Broadway

One of LA's most unique architectural treasures, the Bradbury building is a bit like the city itself: modest to the outside world, but full of light and beauty should you travel inside. Built in 1893 and inspired by the utopian Socialist sci-fi novel *Looking Backward*, it is the oldest commercial building in the central city and its wrought-iron railings and open-cage elevators are instantly recognizable to *Blade Runner* fans.

10 Grand Central Market

317 S. Broadway

Recently revamped, some snazzy new stalls have been added to this open-air market opened in 1917 and in operation ever since. A historical landmark and beloved LA institution, this dynamic space continues to reflect the changing population of DTLA. In 1984 it was purchased by real estate developers Ira and Adele Yellin, who also bought and restored the adjacent Million Dollar Theater and the Bradbury Building across the street.

11 Bidy Mason Park

331 S. Spring St. (also S. Broadway and 3rd St.)

Born a slave in Georgia, Bidy Mason worked as a nurse and midwife in Los Angeles after earning emancipation in 1860 (she literally ran for her freedom). A philanthropist, educator, and businesswoman, she was one of the first African Americans to purchase land in the city and the cofounder of LA's first black church, which once occupied this site. Today, two works of art pay homage to her life here, a timeline wall by Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and a piece by Betye Saar. The park and its monuments mark a site where nothing of Mason's life remains—a testament to the power of place and memory in the "City of Forgetting."

12 Clifton's Brookdale Cafeteria

648 S. Broadway

Currently closed for renovations, Clifton's is the last of the region's largest cafeteria chains 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. Clinton, 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 one of the oldest buildings remaining on Broadway, dating back to 1904.

13 Eastern Columbia Lofts

849 S. Broadway

A general rule: anytime you pass over a chevron terrazzo sidewalk, look up. This spectacular landmark with its turquoise terra cotta, impressive clock tower, and signature neon sign can't be missed. Built in 1930 as the lavish headquarters for the Eastern Outfitting Company and the Columbia Outfitting Company, the 13-story structure was one of the largest buildings constructed Downtown until after WWII. In 2006 it was converted into luxury condominiums, many of which were sold to celebrities (Johnny Depp owns a penthouse).

Broadway Theater District

ROXIE THEATRE

518 S. Broadway



SPRING ARCADE BUILDING

541 S. Spring



DOWNTOWN PALACE THEATRE

630 S. Broadway



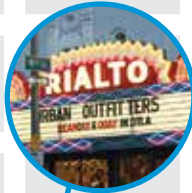
TOWER THEATRE

802 S. Broadway



RIALTO THEATRE

810 S. Broadway



ORPHEUM THEATRE

842 S. Broadway



BROADWAY

BROADWAY



MILLION DOLLAR THEATRE

307 S. Broadway



LOS ANGELES THEATRE

615 S. Broadway



STATE THEATRE

703 S. Broadway



EASTERN COLUMBIA BUILDING

849 S. Broadway



UNITED ARTISTS (ACE HOTEL)

929 S. Broadway

3RD

4TH

5TH

6TH

7TH

8TH

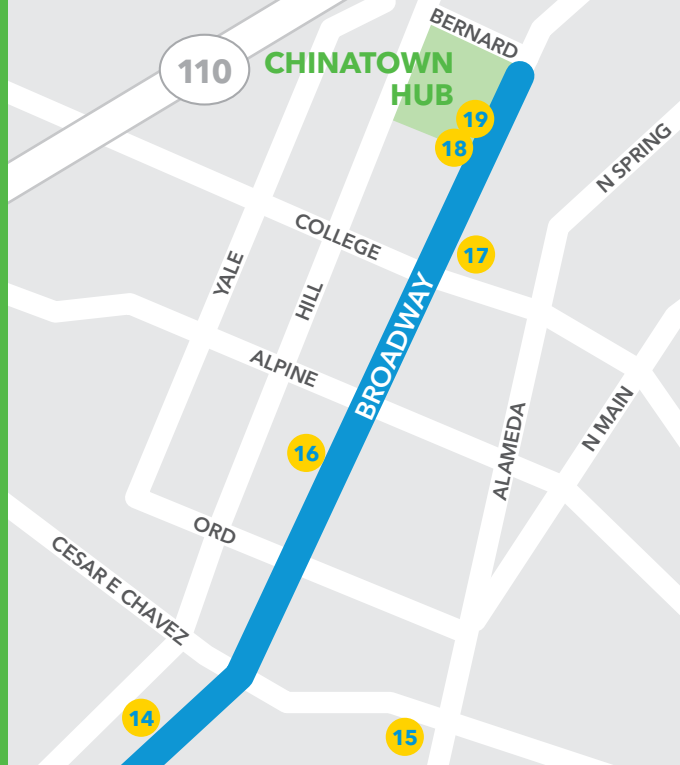
9TH

10TH

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 "the 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.



Hop Louie (the old)
Chego (the new)



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



In front of Hop Louie pagoda
(built in 1941) or tossing coins
in Central Plaza's wishing well



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

14 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.

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

Area bounded by Cesar Chavez Ave., 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.

16 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.

17 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.



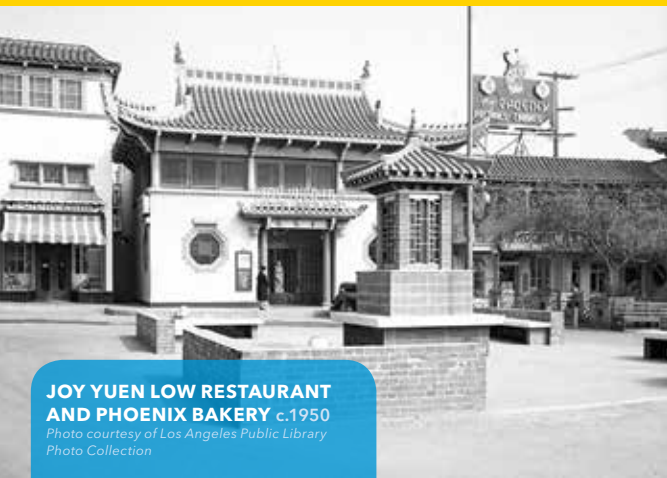
THE NEW CHINATOWN MAIN GATEWAY AND CENTRAL PLAZA, 2000

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

18 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) and visit the West Gate, composed of 150-year-old camphor wood and decked out in gorgeous neon.



JOY YUEN LOW RESTAURANT AND PHOENIX BAKERY c.1950

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library
Photo Collection

19 Phoenix Bakery

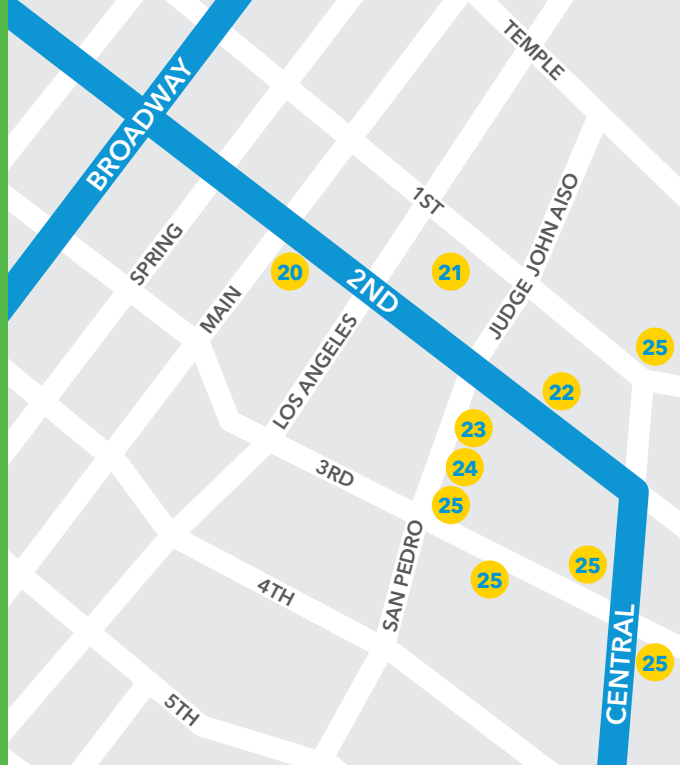
969 N. Broadway

Founded in 1938 by the Chan family (who still run it) to make traditional Chinese pastries like sticky sugar butterflies and wintermelon cakes, as well as western sweets, this beloved bakery's signature product is its strawberry cream cake. Invented by Lun Chan in the 1940s, the whipped cream cake with fresh strawberries and almonds has become a staple of birthdays, weddings, and celebrations across the city. To meet demand, the popular bakery expanded to its current location in 1977. Stop in for a slice or mini-cake.

LITTLE TOKYO *With roots going back to the 1880s, LA's Little Tokyo—one of only three remaining Japantowns in California—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 World War II. 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.)



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



In front of the wood yagura (tower) in Japanese Village Plaza



Death in Little Tokyo by Ken Tanaka, Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston

20 St. Vibiana's

Northwest corner of Main St. and 2nd St.

Located just to the west of Little Tokyo, this former cathedral is more than 111 years old and was named after a Christian martyr whose relics were placed inside. It was used as a parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles until the 1994 Northridge Earthquake caused extensive damage. Thanks to the efforts of Los Angeles Conservancy preservationists, Vibiana was not torn down (the Archdiocese made a deal with the City and built Our Lady of the Angels instead). Today, it is a privately owned event venue.

21 Weller Court/ Friendship Knot

123 Astronaut E S Onizuka St.

Symbolizing unity between two cultures, the Friendship Knot sculpture by Shinkichi Tajiri, a Los Angeles native and *nisei*, stands at the 2nd St. entrance of this multi-level shopping mall. Along with restaurants serving ramen, Japanese curry, shabu shabu, and sushi, there are also karaoke clubs, tea cafes, and a branch of Kinokuniya, the Japanese bookstore chain. In the plaza is a memorial to astronaut Ellison Onizuka, who died aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger. The unusual diagonal configuration of Onizuka St. is because it was a shortcut on a 21-mile stagecoach route from San Pedro.

22 Japanese Village Plaza

335 E. 2nd St.

Opened in 1978, the creation of an open-air mall of shops and eateries was 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 *imagawayki* (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.

23 Azusa Street Mission

312 Azusa St.

Right next to the JACCC is Azusa Street where more than a century ago, African American minister William J. Seymour birthed an entirely new Christian denomination in a former stable. Seymour preached that the Holy Spirit could grant believers spiritual gifts of healing, prophecy, and the ability to speak in tongues. His boisterous services drew huge, multiethnic crowds who met on the sawdust-covered floor of the Apostolic Faith Mission. Dismissed as “holy rollers,” by the press, the Azusa Street Revival birthed the worldwide Pentecostal Movement, which today has more than 800 million members.



**DEDICATION OF NOGUCHI PLAZA
IN JACCC COURTYARD, 1983**

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

**24 Japanese American Cultural
& Community Center
(JACCC)/Noguchi Plaza**

244 S. San Pedro St.

Located just a block off the route, this plaza designed by sculptor and designer Isamu Noguchi (of the famed table) is a one-acre open space that hosts cultural events. Crowning the space is the monumental “To the Issei” Noguchi sculpture, a tribute to the first generation of Japanese immigrants. Founded in 1971, the JACCC is the largest Asian American cultural center in the US; its facilities also include the beautiful James Irvine Japanese Garden.

25 Temples & Churches on 3rd St.

Just south of where the Pentecostals met, we find many other religious institutions. There are two Christian churches started by *issei* immigrants, **Centenary United Methodist Church** (300 S. Central Ave.) and **Union Church of Los Angeles** (401 E. 3rd St.). **The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple** (505 E. 3rd St.) was the first Japanese Buddhist temple built in LA, in 1904. **The Jodo Shu Betsuin Buddhist Temple** (442 E. 3rd St.) was first established in 1936 on 1st St. but moved to its present location in 1992. Finally, the Japanese American National Museum (1st and Central) is in the renovated 1925 **Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**.



HEART OF LA – 10 miles

1 mile

CicLAvia Route

Crossing Points for Cars

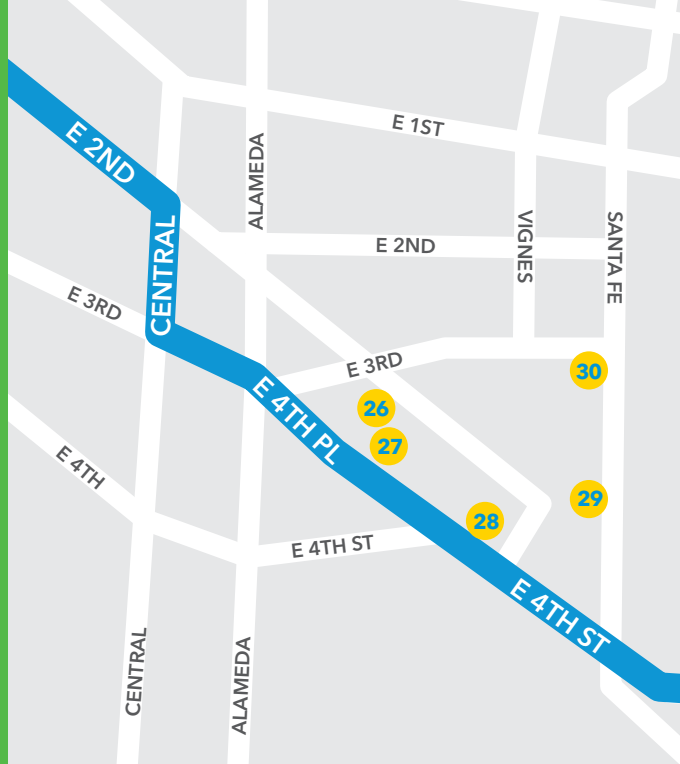
Metro Rail Stations

ARTS DISTRICT *Between Alameda St. and the river, and bordered by the 101 and 10 freeways, is an old industrial area of Downtown that has recently become one of LA's most booming neighborhoods. Known as the Arts District for the artists who (mostly illegally) moved into the area's vacant warehouses in the 1970s, many important remnants of the city's industrial and transportation past remain here, alongside a still-thriving arts scene.*

In the 19th century, much of what you see 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. 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 World War II, many of the warehouses and manufacturing plants, lured by more space and cheaper real estate, moved to outlying cities, and the neighborhood began to decline.

That is why, in the late 1960s and early '70s, artists began to move in—priced out of other parts of the city, here they found massive but illegal live/work spaces for affordable prices. Of course, the scene then was mostly underground—residents hid during the fire inspections of the abandoned buildings they lived in and dealt with some difficult situations, like the lack of amenities (a 20-minute drive to go to the grocery store) and a surplus of drug activity. These artists created a community and started galleries, performance spaces, and hangout spaces like LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, now located in Hollywood), the Wallenboyd Theater, and the legendary Al's Bar.



A coffee from either Blue Bottle Coffee (formerly Handsome) or Stumptown



In front of any mural



The Dark Knight Rises (2012),
Transformers (2007),
Young Turks (1981)



Heartland Drive In Coke
by Linda Frye Bunham,
High Performance magazine
(1978-1988)

26 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.



ART INSTALLATION OUTSIDE AL'S BAR, 1986

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

27 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.

28 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. Recently purchased—in an all cash sale for \$19 million, which goes to show how hot properties are in the area—plans are in the works for a mixed-use development.

29 Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc)

960 E. 3rd St.

One of the nation's few independent architectural schools—and a much 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.

30 One Santa Fe

300 S. Santa Fe Ave.

If this narrow mixed-use development looks massive, that's because it is—a quarter-mile long, in fact—its form meant to echo that of the rail lines and river nearby. Designed by LA-based architect Michael Maltzan and opened in 2014, it houses more than 400 luxury apartments and The Yards, an upscale retail area. Considered by some as the linchpin in the district's revitalization, it is also maligned by many who dislike the megadevelopment and the area's ongoing gentrification.

MURALS bring art into the public sphere and to passersby, who from the street or the sidewalk can enjoy it, free of charge. Los Angeles has a long tradition of murals; they are an essential part of our urban landscape and an aesthetic presence that improves our city. Today's route offers a close-up look at several of the city's most important—and most beautiful—murals. We are also glad to coincide—almost to the day—with the one-year anniversary of “Mural Day,” which celebrated the passage of a resolution that ended a decade-long moratorium on murals on private property. The 2013 mural ordinance not only allows the creation of new murals but also insures the survival of already existent ones.

Celebrating these works of art with us today is the Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles, a non-profit organization formed in 1987 by a coalition of artists, public art advocates, city and state officials, and restoration specialists. MCLA works to protect the legal rights of artists and to prevent the loss of significant works of public art. Most importantly, MCLA is committed to preserving the artistic heritage of Los Angeles as one of the mural capitals of the world.

We asked MCLA to handpick a few notable murals along our route; be sure to stop and have a look at these historic artworks. And, of course, expect to see even more wonderful murals along the way—the city's full of them.



Celebrate the City's Murals

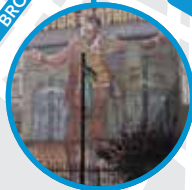


GOVERNMENT KILLS

1500 Colton St. and Glendale Blvd.
by Marka 27, 2013
Photo © Ian Robertson-Salt

THE CONTAINER YARD
828 E 4th St. Untitled murals
by various artists including
Christina Angelina, Ease,
Mar, and Sek

Photo © Ian Robertson-Salt



VICTOR CLOTHING BUILDING

240-242 S. Broadway

The Bride and the Groom
by Kent Twitchell, 1972-76

Gateway to Manifest Destiny
by East Los Streetscapers, 1982

Niño y Caballo
by Frank Romero, 1984

The Pope of Broadway

by Eloy Torrez, assisted by
Bob Grigas, 1985

Referencing his famous role in the film *Zorba the Greek*, this portrait of Chicano actor Anthony Quinn shows the Bradbury Building behind the dancing Academy Award winner.

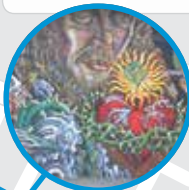
Photo © Kelly Hilker

EL CORRIDO DE BOYLE HEIGHTS

245 N. Soto St.

by East Los Streetscapers, 1983

The East Los Streetscapers are David Botello, Wayne Healy, and George Yepes. Assisted by Paul Botello, David Morin, and Ismael Cazarez. A corrido is a traditional, ballad-style Mexican song and this mural features several prominent local musicians. Restored by MCLA in 1990. Photo © Robin Dunitz



HOMENAJE A SIQUEIROS

3818 E. Cesar Chavez Ave. and Gage Ave. by Eva Cockcroft and Alessandra Moctezuma, 1998

Located at the former location of Self Help Graphics, this mural is a reconstruction of David Alfaro Siqueiros' "América Tropical," which he painted in Olvera Street in 1932. Photo © Robin Dunitz



THE GREATEST LOVE

E. Cesar Chavez Ave.
and Soto St.

by Paul Botello, 1992

Photo © Robin Dunitz

HOMAGE TO THE MEXICAN MASTERS

346 N. Arizona Ave. by John Zender Estrada, with Nuke, Chose, Siner, Zuco, Scud, Cahli, Shandu, and Duce, 2004 Features many of the great Mexican muralists and painters including Siquieros, Orozco, Rivera, Kahlo, Tamayo, Posada, Camarena, and Dr. Atl.



GLENDALE

W 2ND

BROADWAY

BROADWAY

E 2ND

E 4TH

E 4TH

BOYLE

CESAR E CHAVEZ

CESAR E CHAVEZ

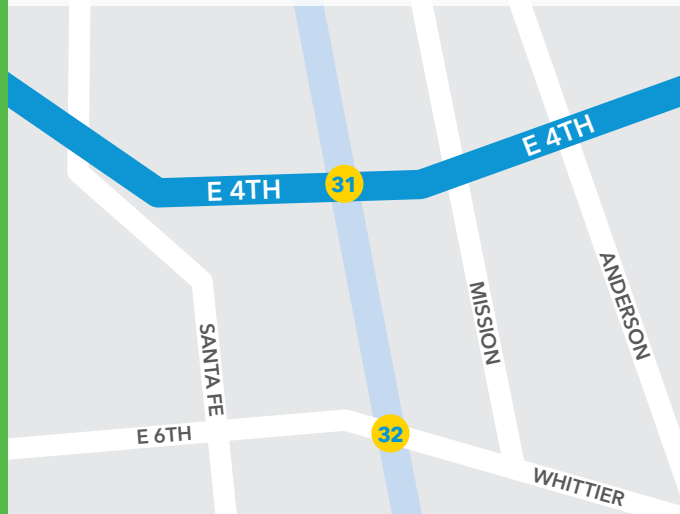
MEDINIK

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER Long before any Europeans arrived, settlements of Tongva people lived along this river, creating what is thought to have been some of the most culturally advanced and prosperous of Native American communities. The 51-mile river, flowing from the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills to the Pacific Ocean, was central to their lives and provided the food and water needed for survival. It's hard to imagine, in its current form, that this thin trickle of water encased in a "concrete coffin" could sustain so many communities, but it's true. Even after the Spanish established the Pueblo de Los Angeles, the river was central to survival, providing water for farmlands and domestic needs via the Zanja Madre, the aqueduct that ran from the river to the main plaza.

But the rapid growth of the city at the turn of the 20th century proved too much for the Zanja system, and the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct changed the city's relationship with the river forever. No longer needed as a primary water source, the river was essentially discarded, and the 100 years since have not been kind to what was once a thriving ecosystem. After two disastrous floods in the 1930s, the US Army Corps of Engineers began an ambitious construction project to control the river's path. Over the course of 30 years, 3 million barrels of concrete were poured to create immovable banks, transforming a once meandering river into the world's largest storm drain.

But thanks to the ongoing efforts of environmentalists, community organizers, city officials (Mayor Garcetti among them), and real-estate investors, the Los Angeles River has a second chance. Efforts are under way to turn it back into a greenway, and in April 2014, the city proposed an ambitious \$1 billion plan to restore the river and add civic amenities such as parks and recreational centers along its route.

"As we begin to encounter the river as a place, not an abstraction, we encounter each other. The riverbank is not the perfect place for this meeting, but it's the only place we have that extends the length of metropolitan Los Angeles and along nearly all the borders of our social divides. Think of the river we're making as the anti-freeway—not dispersing LA but pulling it together." —D.J. Waldie, "As We Gather at the River," Los Angeles Times, July 23, 2000



Foraging by the river; edibles include California black walnuts, chickweed, elderberries, nettles



Selfie in front of soon-to-be-demolished Sixth St. Bridge



Grease (1978), Repo Man (1984), Terminator 2 (1991), Them (1954)



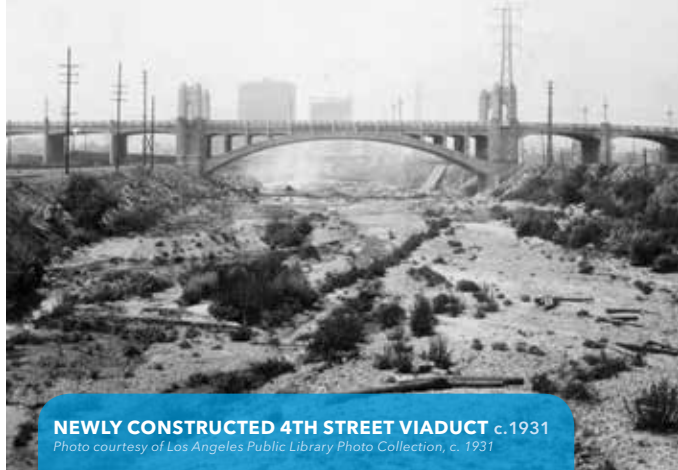
The Concrete River by Luis J. Rodríguez, *The Education of Hopey Glass (Love & Rockets)* by Jaime Hernandez

31 Fourth Street 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.

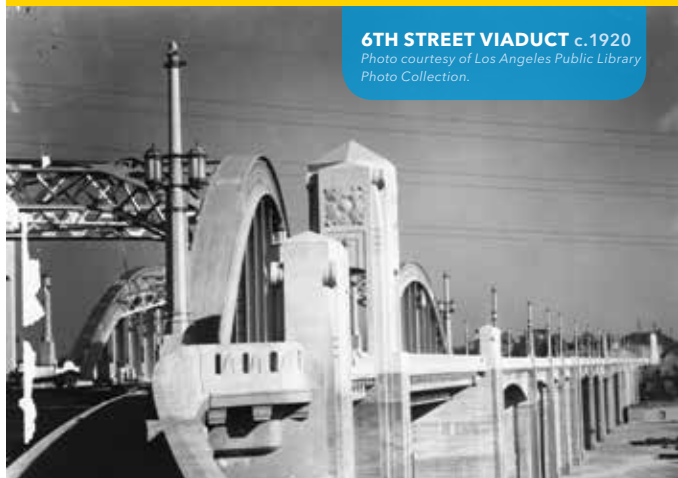
32 Sixth Street Viaduct

The last-built of Merrill Butler's many monumental river bridges, the 1932 Sixth Street 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 because of a chemical reaction (alkali-silica reaction) the structure is slowly deteriorating and vulnerable to collapse in an earthquake. Sadly, it will soon be replaced; demolition is scheduled for spring 2015.



NEWLY CONSTRUCTED 4TH STREET VIADUCT c.1931

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection, c. 1931



6TH STREET VIADUCT c.1920

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection.

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 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 World War II, 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



In front of Mariachi Plaza with a mariachi band



Boyle Heights (2010),
Breakin 2 (1984),
Men O’ War (1929)



Border Correspondent by
Ruben Salazar, *Real Women
Have Curves* by Josefina Lopez

THE BOYLE HOTEL c. 1942

Photo courtesy of Los Angeles
Public Library Photo Collection



33 Mariachi Plaza de Los Angeles

First St., Boyle Ave. and Pleasant St.

Named for the musicians who have gathered here since the 1940s, this is the city's center of mariachi culture and a place of pride to the area's thriving Mexican-American community. Today's plaza evolved from a traffic triangle with a donut shop where musicians would wait for work, to the outdoor space complete with a kiosk donated from the Mexican state of Jalisco (birthplace of mariachi), and a Metro Gold Line station. The 1889 Boyle Hotel on the corner is often called the "Mariachi Hotel" for the many musicians who live there.

34 Libros Schmibros

1711 Mariachi Plaza

This used bookstore and lending library was started by writer and LA native David Kipen and "champions the pleasures of literature and its power to change lives." From hosting events, salons, and classes, the store has become a fixture of Boyle Height's 1st Street arts district, along with the Casa 0101 Theater and Corazón del Pueblo. In the works at Libros Schmibros is a plan for a fleet of bicycle libraries!

35 Breed Street Shul

247 N. Breed St.

The largest and most ornate of the many synagogues that were once in Boyle Heights, this 1922 landmark building, along with a smaller 1915 structure, housed the Congregation Talmud Torah from 1915 to the early 1980s. It was the largest Orthodox synagogue in the West and could accommodate 1,100 people. The Shul served as the center of the area's Jewish community, which included Brooklyn Ave.'s business district and the educational and medical establishments along Breed (including LA's first Jewish day school as well as Mount Sinai Clinic—forerunner to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center). Today, it is being restored as a cultural center.

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.

37 Evergreen Cemetery & Jogging Path

204 N. Evergreen Ave.

A 70-acre cemetery founded in 1877, Evergreen was the first privately owned burial ground to serve the city. Like the neighborhood that surrounds it, Evergreen boasts a multiracial population, albeit a segregated one with sections for Armenians, Chinese, Japanese, Anglos, African Americans (Biddy Mason is interred here), and Latinos. With so few public parks serving the area, in 2003, the Latino Urban Forum and neighborhood residents rallied support to create a soft jogging path around the cemetery for the surrounding community to use.

38 Jim's Burgers #10

1901 E. 1st St

This family owned, midcentury-style diner with its stunning neon sign has been serving burgers and pastrami sandwiches, as well as tacos and burritos since 1972. An institution in Boyle Heights for four decades, it's the go-to joint for Anglo food. Like other diners in the area, the availability of pastrami is a reminder of the area's one-time Jewish population (the original Canter's was at 2323 Brooklyn Ave.).

39 Cinco Puntos

E. Cesar Chavez Ave./Indiana St..

Also known as "Five Points," Cinco Puntos is the junction where Cesar Chavez Ave., Indiana, and Lorena Streets meet and weave around a landmark veteran's memorial (3300 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.) and two traffic islands. Located where the City of Los Angeles meets County territory—at the border of Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles, the All Wars Memorial, built in 1947, honors Mexican Americans who fought in wars. Currently, plans are in the works to transform the intersection into a roundabout, which would relocate the memorial.

EAST LOS ANGELES Located just east of the city of Los Angeles's boundary line, East Los Angeles is an "unincorporated" area, meaning it does not have a local municipal government but instead falls within Los Angeles County's governances and services. In the first half of the 20th century, like its neighbor Boyle Heights to the west, East Los Angeles was home to many recent immigrants, with a highly diverse population.

In the 1920s, increased immigration from Mexico helped to swell the area's Mexican American population, which often found the city outside their vibrant East LA community to be hostile (between 1931 and 1934 half a million Mexicans, many of them US citizens, were forced to repatriate to Mexico). The labor shortage caused by World War II eased the deportations only so Mexican citizens could help with the war effort—at home, the discrimination and prejudice continued unabated, as the "Zoot Suit Riots" attest.

The construction of the freeways in the 1950s and '60s devastated the community. Despite many protests from residents, the Division of Highways laid siege to the neighborhood. Along with the channelization of the Los Angeles River, the freeways further cut East Los Angeles off from the rest of the city, a devastation Helena María Viramontes, a writer who grew up in East Los Angeles, characterized as follows: "the bulldozers resembled the conquerors' ships coming to colonize a second time..."

After these injustices, East Los Angeles became the birthplace of the Chicano movement in the 1960s and '70s. Along with inspiring ethnic pride (the Brown Berets originated here) among the largest Latino community in the US, the fight for civil rights made the area a bastion for political activism and the center of Chicano art, literature, and intellectualism—a legacy that continues to this day.



Raspados



Born in East L.A. (1987),
My Family/Mi Familia (1995),
Stand and Deliver (1988),
Walkout (2006)



In front of lake at East LA Civic Center



The Republic of East L.A. by Luis J. Rodriguez, Their Dogs Came with Them by Helena María Viramontes

40 Self Help Graphics & Art Building

3800 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

Home and birthplace of this important community arts center from 1979 until 2005, the beautiful mosaic work of embedded ceramics on this building are the work of artist and long-time East LA resident, Eduardo Oropeza. Formed in 1970 by printmaker and Franciscan nun Sister Karen Bocalterro along with other Chicano artists amidst the cultural renaissance of the Chicano movement and incorporated as a non-profit three years later, Self Help, now located in Boyle Heights, promotes socially engaging art. They also organize the city's popular annual celebration of Día De Los Muertos, hosting this year's 41st event that will bring thousands to East LA.



SELF HELP GRAPHICS EXTERIOR

Photo courtesy of Aaron Paley

41 Anthony Quinn Library

3965 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

Built on the site of the family home where actor Anthony Quinn grew up, this public library is operated by the County of Los Angeles. Quinn, who was also a writer and painter, was the first Mexican American actor to win an Academy Award—first, in 1952 for *Viva Zapata!*, and again in 1956 for *Lust for Life*. Before his acting career, he studied architecture under Frank Lloyd Wright, worked as a professional boxer, and was a child apprentice to LA evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson (see Echo Park).

42 Bagües & Sons Mortuary

4221 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

This Spanish-style building is an 80-year-old icon along Cesar Chavez Ave.; it was built in 1936, back when the street was known as Brooklyn Ave. Since 1928, this family owned and operated business has been serving the Latino community.

43 Esteban Torres High School

4211 Dozier St.

This high school is named for the Congressman Esteban Torres, who represented the 34th district in the US House of Representatives, which includes East Los Angeles, from 1983 until 1999. Torres, a leader in the labor movement, founded the East Los Angeles Community Union in 1968, which became one of the nation's largest anti-poverty agencies. This school was built in 2010 to ease crowding at Garfield High School, one of the high schools that participated in the 1968 Chicano Blowouts.

44 Old Town Maravilla

E. Cesar Chavez Ave. between Ford Ave. and Mednik Ave.

Located at the heart of East Los Angeles, Old Town Maravilla is on the eastern end of E. Cesar Chavez Ave. (formerly Brooklyn Ave.) extends from Ford Ave. to Mednik Ave. As part of the Maravilla Redevelopment area, this corridor was recently enhanced and renamed "Old Town Maravilla" for branding and exposure purposes. This vibrant strip of Cesar Chavez is home to small businesses, family-run restaurants, art boutiques, churches, service providers, and the Maravilla Businesspersons Association.

45 East LA Civic Center

4780 E. 3rd St.

Initiated by Supervisor Gloria Molina in 1999 and finalized in 2007, this \$30 million civic complex includes a library, landscaped park and lake, nearby skate park, childcare center, courthouse, County Hall, as well as a Gold Line Metro station. The Civic Center was built to centralize county services and revitalize and enhance the surrounding area. The County Hall, within the Civic Center, serves as a "City Hall" to East Los Angeles residents and is home to various County Departments, as a Supervisorial Office. Apart from bringing local politics closer to ELA residents, this center also serves as a meeting space for the community and hosts numerable events throughout the year.

46 Belvedere Park

4914 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

On August 29, 1970 more than 30,000 people gathered to join a protest march that started in this park and ended at what was then called Laguna Park in East LA. Part of the Chicano Moratorium, a series of anti-war protests from 1969-71 that sought to bring awareness to issues of discrimination and police brutality as well as the disproportionate number of Chicanos dying in Vietnam, the demonstration devolved into a riot after police responded to the peaceful protest with tear gas. Journalist Ruben Salazar was one of four people killed as a result of the police violence. Laguna Park was renamed in his honor.

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when you are living in the moment

your outlook on life
is a direct reflection of how
much you like yourself



live near the ocean and inhale the pure salt air
that flows over the water (Vancouver will do nicely)

LOVE
dance, sing, floss and travel

nature wants us to be mediocre
because we have a greater chance
to survive and reproduce.
mediocrity is as close to the
bottom as it is to the top, and
will give you a lousy life.

that which matters the
most
should never give way
to that which
matters the
least

this is not your
this is all there is

practice yoga
so you can remain active
in physical sports as you age

do not use cleaning chemicals on your kitchen surfaces.
someone will inevitably make a sandwich on your counter.

**friends
are more
important than
money**

a daily hit of athletic-induced
endorphins gives you the power
to make better decisions, helps you be
at peace with yourself, and offsets stress

practice life.

**10-15
friends
allows for
real
relationships**

**sweat
once a day
to regenerate
your skin**

the perfect
tomato
would be
all
ased
up

children are the orgasm of life.
just like you did not know what
an orgasm was before you had
one, you won't know how great
children are until you have them.

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