The First Baptist Church of Venice was founded in 1910 in Oakwood, an early African American neighborhood in Los Angeles. When the church outgrew its space, congregants helped raise $250,000 for a larger building where they could worship and discuss shared community goals. The new building was designed by African American architect George R. Williams and opened with a great party in 1968. In 2017, the church was sold and the congregation moved to a different location. Though the building is empty, it continues to be an important place and it even received a street mural from the city in honor of its history in the Oakwood neighborhood! On June 3, 2021, the church was recommended for a Historic-Cultural Monument listing given its important history in the neighborhood. Learn more at laconservancy.org/locations/first-baptist-church-venice.