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LOS ANGELES

Graphic design by Eric Lynxwiler.

## Announcing the 2022 Preservation Awards: Los Angeles at Its Best!

We're delighted to announce the L.A. Conservancy's 2022 Preservation Awards winners! From the gleaming Streamline Moderne magnificence of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures to Apple's stunning adaptive reuse of the Tower Theatre, these nine projects reflect a wide range of efforts to preserve L.A. County's cultural and architectural heritage.

Since 1982, the Conservancy has recognized some of Los Angeles County's most remarkable historic preservation projects at our annual Preservation Awards celebration. After last year's successful return to an in-person ceremony at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, we're excited to host the Preservation Awards show once again at the historic L.A. icon. The festivities will take place on Thursday, October 13th, 2022.

The 2022 winning projects celebrate everything that makes Los Angles such an incredibly diverse, culturally significant city. From creative affordable housing solutions to the adaptive reuse of neglected historic buildings, the projects demonstrate how historic preservation in Los Angeles is strongly future focused.

Preservation Award recipients are selected by an independent jury of leading experts in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, and community development. We are grateful to the 2022 jury for their service!

### **2022 Preservation Awards Jury**

CHAIR: Linda Griego (Trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation) / Jenna Hornstock (Deputy Director of Planning for Land Use at the Southern California Association of Governments and member of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission) Christine Morris (Senior Field Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation) / Grant Sunoo (Director of Community Building & Engagement, Little Tokyo Service Center) / Helen Tocco (Senior Project Engineer, GBX Group; Palms Neighborhood Council)

### Read about this year's winning projects on page 6.

## Preservation **Perspectives: Meet** the 2022 L.A. City **Candidates**

The L.A. Conservancy is pleased to present "Preservation Perspectives: Meet the 2022 L.A. City Candidates"-a series of live, virtual interviews with run-off candidates in the November general election. Get to know the candidates and hear their views on historic preservation and its role in their vision for Los Angeles. The series includes forums with:

City Council District 11: Erin Darling (Commissioner for L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors) and Traci Park (municipal law attorney).

City Council District 5: Katy Young Yaroslavsky (environmental attorney) and Sam Yebri (community and nonprofit leader).

City Council District 15: Danielle Sandoval (community organizer and entrepreneur) and Tim McOsker (attorney and nonprofit leader).

City Council District 13: Hugo Soto-Martinez (lead organizer for UNITE HERE Local 11) and Mitch O'Farrell (CD-13 Councilmember)

Please note: the Conservancy does not endorse political candidates. Instead, we provide information to help voters make informed decisions.

You can watch all of our candidate interviews on our YouTube page at: youtube. com/laconservancy.

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### LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY

The Los Angeles Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization that works through education and advocacy to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the historic architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County.

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Major funding for the Los Angeles Conservancy's programs is provided by the LaFetra Foundation and the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

# Thank you, L.A. Conservancy Interns!

Each summer, the L.A. Conservancy is lucky to welcome interns from across L.A. county. Rebecca Louie joined us in June, just in time to help Conservancy staff with *Last Remaining Seats*! She is currently pursuing a social justice-themed project in partnership between her school and the Los Angeles Conservancy. She has been working with the Conservancy's Education and Advocacy departments on a variety of projects. Rebecca is a current senior in high school and plans on pursuing a double major in English and Art History in college.

In August, we said goodbye to our 2022 Getty Marrow Summer Intern, Emily Kwok. Emily, who is studying Communications at USC, joined the Education department earlier this summer and left a memorable impression on all who had the pleasure of working with her: "I loved learning about the historical locations throughout my research, participating in hands-on projects where I could create my own activities for the Student Programs, and engaging with the local community at events like *Last Remaining Seats* and Adventures in Architecture." Thank you to all of our interns for all of your hard work for the Conservancy!

# Raymond Girvigian, FAIA (1926 - 2022)



The Conservancy is saddened to learn of the loss of Raymond Girvigian, FAIA. He was one of the most influential forces in historic preservation, not just in L.A. but across the state of California.

Born in 1926 to Armenian immigrants, Girvigian would receive his masters in architecture from Berkeley in 1951 and, by the late 1950s, his lifelong dedication to historic preservation began in earnest. He authored the language that would later be adopted by the Los Angeles City Council as its first preservation

ordinance in 1962. Girvigian's career was barrier-breaking, and he served as everything from a "Freeway Fighter" to a State Senate consultant on matters of historic preservation.

Here in Los Angeles, perhaps his most lasting contribution is his work in establishing the Mills Act: a milestone piece of statewide legislation that he co-authored and is currently a topic of great importance among preservationists. The Conservancy sends its deepest condolences to Girvigian's family and remain grateful for all of his extraordinary accomplishments in helping make preservation in L.A. what it is today.

# **Call for Walking Tour Guides!**

The Los Angeles Conservancy is currently accepting applications for new volunteer guides for our Walking Tour Program. Guides play an integral role in engaging and educating the Los Angeles community about the value of historic places and spaces. Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers lead students (K-12) and the public on a variety of weekly tours of Downtown Los Angeles. No prior experience is necessary, but we are looking for volunteers interested in working with students as well as the general public, and who have a passion for Los Angeles history, heritage, and learning.

Applications are due **October 11th, 2022**. For full details on how to get involved, visit: <u>*lacon-servancy.org/about/volunteers*</u> or email Lia Schifitto at: <u>*lschifitto@laconservancy.org*</u>.

## Save the Date for our 2022 Special Fall Tour!



Westwood Village, photo courtesy Dreamstime.

The Conservancy is excited to announce our 2022 special Fall tour: "All Roads Lead to Westwood!"

For Angelenos, the word "Westwood" sparks images of Mediterranean style architecture. Students poring over books and coffee. Beautiful homes. Museums. And of course, historic theatres.

But the neighborhood we know as Westwood, with its historic Village at its vibrant core, has a complex and layered history. From its early inception as a planned shopping village to becoming a haven for immigrant communities, Westwood is more than just a pretty face.

Join us Saturday, November 12th and Sunday, November 13th, to see firsthand the way this intentionally planned neighborhood has influenced and been influenced by the developments around it. Explore four distinct areas via guided or self-guided tours, and learn how each contributes to the greater sum of Westwood's identity. You'll meet the community, explore legacy businesses, and see ongoing efforts to preserve Westwood's historic places—not to mention become a Bruin for the day!

"All Roads Lead to Westwood" will explore:

**Westwood Village:** Developed in 1929 by the Janss Investment Company, the Village is full of historically significant structures. See the original buildings that influenced the Village's development and design, and learn about ongoing efforts to preserve its character.

**UCLA:** The Westwood UCLA Campus opened in 1929, the same year that Westwood Village was built. Tour UCLA's campus to see original grand Romanesque structures, with Mid-Century and Modern buildings added through the years, and learn how the University and Westwood Village are inextricably linked.

**Little Holmby:** This residential neighborhood adjacent to the UCLA campus and Westwood Village was developed in tandem with both. Walk this bucolic neighborhood to see single family homes built in a variety of revival styles.

Tour dates: Saturday, November 12, and Sunday, November 13. Member sale starts September 28. For the most up-to-date information on all of our tours, subscribe to the Conservancy's email newsletter at: *laconservancy.org/subscribe.* 

# Back to School ... is Back!



Hard to believe, but it's already back-toschool time in L.A. County and the Conservancy is ready to make Los Angeles history come alive for students of all ages! Act now to take advantage of the Conservancy's inperson and virtual student programs and let us help connect cultural heritage with historic places throughout Los Angeles.

Our place-based approach to education means that students get a hands-on experience inside L.A.'s historic spaces while learning about the incredible people behind them. By connecting current events with historic places, our innovative programs show kids just how relevant—and important—historic preservation is for *all* Angelenos.

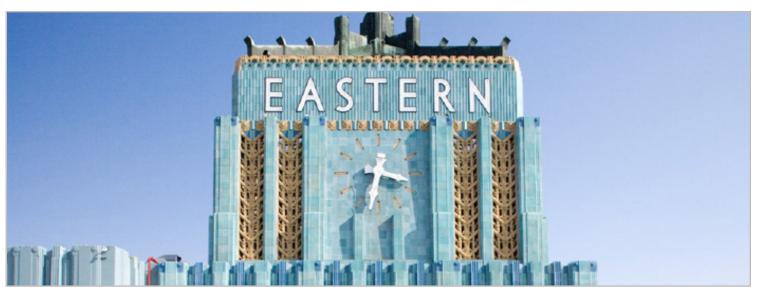
In-person walkng tours: "Historic Downtown," "Union Station," and "A Woman's Place"

Virtual field trips: "Historic Downtown," "Union Station," "A Woman's Place," "Building Community," and "Celebrating Griffith Park."

**Student workshops:** "Adventures in Architecture," "Discover L.A.'s Broadway," and "Celebrating Griffith Park."

<u>PLUS</u>: Check out our on-demand resources! Enjoy activity videos, printables, and other educational resources that bring L.A. history directly to your classroom.

Sign up for our Student Program email to stay up to date on our programs: *laconservancy.org/studentprograms* 



The Eastern Columbia building, a Mills Act recipient. Photo courtesy Historic Resources Group.

## The Mills Act: A Powerful Preservation Tool

The Los Angeles Conservancy recently submitted recommendations on the City of Los Angeles' Mills Act. The City began the process to assess a series of independent consultant recommendations in order to determine which ones might move forward through a formal update to the Mills Act program, which has been on hiatus and not accepting new applicants for two years.

The Mills Act program is one of the most powerful historic preservation incentives for property owners. Enabled by state legislation in 1972 and adopted by the City of Los Angeles in 1996, the Mills Act offers a property tax abatement through a 10-year contract between the City and the property owner, with automatic renewal each year.

Today, combined Mills Act property owners in Los Angeles save over \$20M in taxes. These savings are meant to be reinvested into rehabilitating and maintaining historic properties. Due to the success of the program, the total number of contracts has expanded beyond the capacity of City staff to properly administer the program.

In 2020, Los Angeles City Planning contracted with a historic preservation consultant to conduct a comprehensive assessment to evaluate the program and provide recommendations for future viability. The assessment analyzes staffing requirements, revenue streams to support the program, and the allocation of property tax savings among existing Mill Act contracts.

Intended goals are to better sustain the operation and provide a more equitable distribution of the Mills Act program across the city.

In August, the City's Office of Historic Resources (OHR) hosted two Mills Act workshops, providing an opportunity for the general public to hear OHR's presentation of the series of independent recommendations. During this workshop, the public was able to provide verbal public comments.

The Conservancy is focusing on several core areas of the Mills Act program and recommendations from the assessment that we believe warrant further consideration and attention. Below is a general summary of our position:

- It is critical to strike a balance and ensure any amendments to the Mills Act program are fully contemplated, in terms of potential, unintended consequences.
- Program equity is important to ensure this program is capable of benefitting all, from participation to achieving property tax savings.
- Establishing mechanisms by which fees are collected, tracked, and set aside is

critical and generated funds should be specifically allocated within the City budget for the management and operation of this program.

- Cancelling existing Mills Act contracts, reducing the length of period, and capping the total number of properties will leave many historic resources vulnerable in the future, and goes against the original intent of the Mills Act program; this will also likely result in irreparable harm and adverse, unintended impacts.
- Increasing the pre-contract assessed value limit for both single-family and multifamily properties, and eliminating this for Adaptive Reuse Ordinance (ARO) properties will enable additional eligible historic places to participate in the program.
- Greater flexibility for the Los Angeles Mills Act program and to be more intentional and focused on priorities that matter, including DEIA and affordable housing, is a positive direction.

As a fundamental incentive tool, the Conservancy hopes the City will establish a process by which draft amendments can be provided in a timely manner while still allowing for meaningful public input and participation.

Our understanding is this program may not be up and running again until possibly late 2023 or the beginning of 2024. For more about the Conservancy's position, visit *laconservancy.* org/mills-act.



Left:The Metro Area Plan Map. Right: GoodyearTire & Rubber Co. in 1957, courtesy Los Angeles Public Library

# L.A. County is Preparing for Metro Area Plan with Historic Preservation in Mind

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is currently updating its Metro Area Plan (MAP). The Metro Area is one of eleven planning areas in the County. It includes seven unincorporated Los Angeles communities: East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence-Firestone, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, West Rancho Dominguez, and Willowbrook.

The MAP project will shape physical land use development of these communities over the next 15 years. Among the goals of the MAP project is updating existing policies and regulations to address community needs and promoting community identity and historic preservation. To this end, the County has commissioned a MAP Historic Context Statement which will present the history of the built environment of the seven communities within the Metro Area from the rancho period under Spanish rule to the present day.

This report will identify important themes, events, patterns of development, and will describe the different property types, styles, builders, and architects associated with these important periods and themes. This report will also provide requirements for the evaluation of historic resources eligible for local designation and recommendations for future study and action by the County to facilitate its historic preservation program.

In addition to the MAP Historic Context Statement, the County commissioned a Historic Resources Survey Report for the community of Florence-Firestone.

The need for this report was identified during community engagement for the recently completed Florence-Firestone Transit-Orientated District Specific Plan. The Florence-Firestone Historic Resources Survey Report will identify historic places constructed before 1977 with high levels of integrity that are eligible for historic designation under the themes set forth in an associated Historic Context Statement. This report will be used to inform future historic preservation planning efforts in Florence-Firestone.

The Los Angeles Conservancy is encouraged by the County's current efforts to expand its preservation planning tools to help save and bring greater recognition to the Metro Area's cultural and historic resources.

We encourage the collaboration between the County and community groups to nominate properties in the Metro Area. The County should examine the feasibility of lowering or removing the fees associated with submitting a County landmark nomination as this remains a significant barrier in increasing designations in the Metro Area.

In addition, we believe the County should examine the feasibility of adopting a County Adaptive Reuse Ordinance and County Legacy Business Program. The MAP update is scheduled for adoption in Summer 2023. For more information about the Metro Area Plan update, visit *planning.lacounty.gov/site/metroareaplan*.

### Membership Matters: Pillar Society Member Leslie Heumann



Recently, our Development Manager Derek Richardson checked in with long-time member Leslie Heumann! She is a preservation professional and an early L.A. Conservancy board member, and we were delighted to speak with her to learn

more about her history with the Conservancy. (*Note: this interview has been edited for brevity. To read Heu-mann's full interview, visit our blog at:* **laconservancy. tumblr.com**)

### DR: When did you get involved with the Conservancy?

LH: I first became involved with the Conservancy at its birth in 1978. I, like many others, had become increasingly concerned that Los Angeles did not value its historical buildings and that many masterpieces, such as the Dodge House in West Hollywood and the Atlantic Richfield Building were being lost. Without public pressure, it was obvious that redevelopment would continue to decimate the historic legacy of the City. I joined the Board in 1992 and enjoyed having a voice regarding the direction of the Conservancy, including the hiring of Linda Dishman as Executive Director, and supporting legal action to preserve the St. Vibiana building.

# DR: How have you seen preservation evolve in L.A. over the years?

LH: Preservation has gone from being an almost counter-culture movement to mainstream. One of the most telling demonstrations of that widespread respect and acceptance is the Conservancy's wildly successful annual Preservation Awards, where the very people who fought us in the beginning—politicians and developers—have become participants. We even have an Office of Historic Resources in City Hall—unthinkable back in 1978! Preservation has gone from mostly an architectural beauty contest to understanding the importance of historic context.

**DR**: What compelled you to leave a legacy with the Conservancy as a Pillar Society member?

**LH:** The Conservancy matters. It makes a difference in the future of Los Angeles and in its members' lives. I would like to be part of its future even if I am not here to see it. My hope is that the Conservancy continues to play an expanding and constructive role in determining the future of Los Angeles.

# 2021 PRESERVATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

### **CHAIR AWARD: Academy Museum of Motion Pictures**

The former May Company Wilshire store is the grandest example of Streamline Moderne architecture remaining in Los Angeles. Built in 1939 by A.C. Martin and Associates, it was one of the city's largest and most elegant department stores and symbolized L.A.'s ascent as a major modern metropolis. After closing in the early '90s, and threatened with demolition, the Conservancy jumped into action, engaging neighbors and elected officials, culminating in late Councilmember John Ferraro's support to landmark it in 1992. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences leased the building in 2014 and began an extensive adaptive reuse project to transform it into the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Since opening in 2021, the Museum has helped solidify Museum Row in the Miracle Mile as a major cultural institution and visitor destination.

# CHAIR AWARD: The Herald Examiner Building

Designed in 1913 by Julia Morgan, California's first licensed female architect and one of the most influential architects in *her*story, the Herald Examiner was the first large-scale project Morgan designed for William Randolph Hearst. A newspaper office until 1989, the L.A. Conservancy led a loud call-to-action when plans to demolish it for a parking lot were announced. The City designated the Herald Examiner as a HCM but the building languished for years serving as a filming location. In 2015, Georgetown Corporation partnered with the Hearst Corporation to bring back its architectural glory. After an \$80 million rehabilitation, the Herald Examiner reopened in 2021 with Arizona State University as its major tenant. It now actively contributes to the revitilization of downtown's historic Broadway district.

**Apple Tower Theatre.** The Tower Theatre opened in 1927 and was the first theatre designed by renowned architect S. Charles Lee. After sitting vacant for decades, a plan to adaptively reuse the building by Apple emerged in 2018 and in June 2021, the Tower Theatre was officially reopened as a flagship Apple store. The project's scope was comprehensive, including seismic strengthening, reconstruction of the previously removed clock tower, restoration of terra-cotta, and more. Apple worked closely with the Conservancy, the Office of Historic Resources and the L.A. Historic Theatre Foundation to review proposed plans and ensure important character-defining features were retained.

**Beverly Laurel Hotel.** The 1967 Beverly Laurel Motor Hotel, a beloved legacy business in the Fairfax District, is one of the few remaining intact roadside motor hotels left in L.A. Designed by architect Arthur Smith, it features an attractive courtyard pool and an eye-catching Googie-style corner diner. But by 2014, deferred maintenance had weakened its Mid-Century pedigree. The design team set out to improve the hotel's strengths while making subtle reconfigurations that kept its spirit intact. The renovation was relatively small-scale but greatly enhanced the neighborhood by re-establishing itself as an essential part of the vernacular streetscape.

**Casa de Rosas Campus.** For more than 100 years, the historic Casa de Rosas campus has served the needs of the community. Designed by Sumner P. Hunt in 1893, the four-building Mission Revival style complex has been everything from a private kindergarten to a fancy hotel to a mission for unhoused women. The campus sat vacant for years, exacerbating existing damage from arson fires, vandalism, and the 1994 Northridge earthquake. An \$18-million restoration effort successfully rehabilitated the four historic buildings into 37 residential units—studios, one and two-bedroom units—providing long-term affordable housing for veterans.

**Chase Knolls Garden Apartments.** Designed by architects Heth Wharton and Ralph Vaughn, Chase Knolls is a historic garden apartment community that was built to meet the population boom in postwar Los Angeles. When a plan emerged in the year 2000 to demolish it, the Conservancy and then-councilmember Michael Feuer strongly opposed it, leading to its Historic-Cultural Monument status. New owners undertook rehabilitation of the residential buildings and added new units where garages had stood creating 140 units of new housing. Completed in 2021, this project demonstrates how to add housing units to existing complexes while retaining the historic character.











**City of San Gabriel Citywide Historic Context Statement.** The City of San Gabriel has historically been a local historic preservation movement leader, adopting its first preservation ordinance in 1965. The City strengthened the ordinance in 2017 garnering a Preservation Award. To implement the new ordinance, the City prepared its first historic context statement to aid in the identification and protection of its historic and cultural resources. The document identifies important themes in the City's layered history, beginning with the indigenous Gabrieleño / Tonga / Kizh people and culminating in post-WWII suburbanization. The City of San Gabriel remains an excellent model for stewardship of its cultural and historic resources!

**Museum of Neon Art (MONA).** What began forty years ago with two artists and a few discarded signs has flourished into MONA: a well-respected museum, preserving and celebrating the rich cultural history of L.A. through its neon lights. Today, the museum continues educating the public and advocating for the preservation of neon signs throughout Los Angeles. MONA not only works to preserve neon art but also offers neon bending classes with hands-on instruction to carry on this craft! Using neon as an entry point, MONA advocates for the rich historic and cultural legacies of L.A by providing communities with the tools to see their neighborhoods in a new ... *light*.

**Save As – NextGen Heritage Conservation Podcast.** In recent years, challenging questions around why saving historic places matters have become hot topic issues. Why do we save historic places? Who decides what's worth saving? Can preserving cultural heritage help foster healthy communities? *Save As: NextGen Heritage Conservation* is a bold podcast from the USC Heritage Conservation Program that sets out to explore these issues and more. All with the help of the people who will take the lead in shaping the future of historic preservation: students. The grassroots effort is a model for spreading knowledge about preservation and amplifying new voices.

# JUNE 2 / AUGUST 1 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Conservancy acknowledges the generous contributions of our new and upgrading Supporting members, and the new and renewing members of our Sustaining, Benefactor, and Cornerstone groups.

#### Marble Cornerstone

Rodney Kemerer and Lindsay Doran Janet and Laurence Watt

#### Granite Cornerstone

AIMCO deasy penner podley Melissa Jones Kelly Sutherlin McLeod, Architecture Inc Janet Louie and George Braunegg Park & Velayos LLP Jill and Curtis Scheetz Michiko Shepherd and Dave Allen Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP Ed Trosper and David Raposa

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Linda Kallan

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### CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

Walking tours are back! \$10 for Conservancy members and children seventeen and under; \$15 for general public. Reservations required: *laconservancy.org/tours*.

### Art Deco:

Learn how Art Deco became a defining architectural style in the city. **Saturdays**, **10:15 a.m.** 

### Broadway Historic Theatre and Commercial District:

Explore L.A.'s magnificent movie palaces and learn about Broadway's revitalization. **Saturdays**, **10:00 a.m.** 

### Historic Downtown:

Get a look at the iconic Bradbury building, step inside Grand Central Market, and more! **Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.** 

#### Union Station:

See the beautiful architecture of this iconic L.A. landmark up close and personal. **Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.** 

#### Past Meets Present:

Explore how the historic sites of Los Angeles' past are shaping its future. **Every Fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m.** 

### Modern Skyline:

Think skyscrapers aren't historic? See our iconic skyline in a whole new way. **Every Second Saturday at 10:30 a.m.** 



Los Angeles Conservancy 523 West Sixth Street, Suite 826 Los Angeles, CA 90014 Nonprofit Organization **US Postage Paid** Santa Barbara, CA Permit #1215

### TIME VALUE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Support Legacy Businesses!** Fall is coming and L.A.'s legacy businesses are ready! From pumpkin patches to spooky excursions, consider supporting a local legacy business for all of your seasonal needs. Do you have a favorite legacy business in your neighborhood? Share it with us on social using the hashtag **#ISupportLegacyBusinesses**.



FORNERIS FARMS 15299 Rinaldi Street Mission Hills, CA 91345 (818) 361-0714

Forneris Farms in Mission Hills has been "growing greatness" since 1966! In addition to its dependable seasonal offerings, this family-owned business is a harvest-time favorite with families looking for good old-fashioned fun at the farm's frightening Corn Maze and festive pumpkin patch. **fornerisfarms.com** 



FRED'S BAKERY 2381 S. Robertson Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90034 (310) 838-1204

A Beverlywood institution for 70 years, Fred's Bakery is a go-to destination for everything from babka to bagels. Priding itself on taste and tradition, Fred's is perennially popular but especially around Rosh Hashanah. (Two words: raspberry rugelach!) **fredbakeries.com** 



BOB BAKER MARIONETTE THEATER 4949 York Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90042

For many Angelenos, Bob Baker Marionette is a rite of passage. Since their founding in 1963, the oldest children's theater company in L.A. has delighted more than 1 million kids with their whimsical puppets. Don't miss their annual "Halloween Spooktacular" ... if you dare. **bobbakermarionettetheater.com**