



# LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY NEWS



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This 1934 image of what is now Koreatown shows many landmarks that are still standing today, including the Wilshire Theatre, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and in the distance, the Bullock's Wilshire building. Image courtesy Security Pacific National Bank Collection/Los Angeles Public Library.

## Coming This Fall: A Weekend in Koreatown

by Sarah Lann

This year, the Conservancy's special fall tour is going big—spanning a full weekend on **November 3, 4, and 5**. We're excited to work with residents on a guided exploration of L.A.'s Koreatown, a fascinating neighborhood with a rich history and bright future.

### Where Is Koreatown?

Ask a resident of Los Angeles—or a resident of Koreatown, for that matter—to define the boundaries of the neighborhood, and you'll get conflicting answers. The official boundaries set by the City of Los Angeles place Koreatown from Olympic Boulevard to Vermont Avenue on the south, Vermont Avenue to Third Street on the east, Third Street to Western Avenue on the north, and Western Avenue to Olympic Boulevard on the west.

Yet neighborhoods can blur outside official boundaries, and many consider Koreatown to extend as far east as Virgil Street, as far West as Wilton, and as far south as 12th Street. Within those boundaries, neighborhoods studded with Art Deco gems stand alongside the busy strip malls of recent development, a testament to the well-to-do past of the central Wilshire area.

### Layers of History

Just three miles from downtown Los Angeles, what is now Koreatown was bucolic farmland at the turn of the twentieth century. Most of the area belonged to French immigrant Germain Pellissier, who used it to grow barley and graze sheep. As the city grew westward, buildings now iconic to the neighborhood were built in service to a blossoming, upscale clientele. Wilshire Christian Church and Wilshire Boulevard Temple paved the way for religious

*Please see KOREATOWN on page 5*

## Coliseum Renovations Will Respect Historic Features

On March 7, the Los Angeles City Council approved the University of Southern California's (USC) plans to renovate the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and its facilities. The project will preserve and maintain the Coliseum while stabilizing the structure, improving site infrastructure, and modernizing existing facilities.

The State of California, County of Los Angeles, and City of Los Angeles jointly own the property under the authority of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission. Yet USC holds a long-term lease on the historic stadium and is responsible for day-to-day operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

The stadium will primarily function as the home of USC's football team, but it will ultimately also serve as a multipurpose facility. The Coliseum has three character-defining features: the peristyle, the exterior wall, and the bowl itself. The peristyle and exterior will be restored. A new seating tower will be inserted into the south side of the bowl to accommodate new seating, suites, concessions, and a press box. While this tower will interrupt the sweep of the bowl, ninety-three percent of the bowl will be preserved and eighty-seven percent of the bowl will be visible.

Some previous alterations (such as signage and jumbo screens) will be removed, improving the appearance. The addition of club seating and luxury suites will provide

*Please see COLISEUM on page 5*

## I N S I D E

Conservancy News	2
Issues	3
Programs	4 - 5
Membership	7



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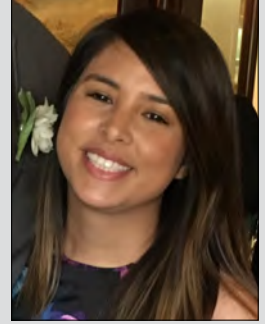
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Major funding for the Los Angeles Conservancy's programs is provided by the LaFetra Foundation and the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation.

## Welcome Kate Andersen, Salesforce Administrator

Please join us in welcoming Kate Andersen to the Conservancy. In 2007, Kate served as a summer intern at the Conservancy through the Getty Multicultural Internship Program, and we are thrilled to have her back!



A native Angeleno, Kate grew up in the San Fernando Valley. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from UC Santa Barbara in film and media studies, art history, and Renaissance studies.

Previously, she worked in development and donor relations for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and the Orange County Museum of Art. She learned database management in these jobs, then worked as a data manager at KCRW, where she mastered Salesforce.

The Conservancy has used Salesforce as our constituent relationship management system since 2013. Kate will continue to train staff and customize the system to help us use Salesforce to its full advantage in advancing our mission.

## Welcome, New Board Members!

On July 1, we welcomed two new members to the Conservancy's Board of Directors:

- **Joy Forbes** is Vice President of Planning & Development at NBCUniversal. Joy previously worked for twenty years for the City of Burbank, in the Planning Department and in the Office of the City Manager. She lives in a historic loft in Old Pasadena.
- **Roella Hsieh Louie** served on the City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission from 2008 to 2014. She also served as Director for Public Art and Cultural Planning for the City of L.A.'s Cultural Affairs Department, where she created the Percent for Public Art Program.

The Conservancy's Governance and Board Relations Committee nominated these two new board members, who were elected at the May board meeting. The board also approved a second three-year term for:

- **Mike Deasy**, Chief Executive Officer, deasy/penner&partners
- **Bill E. Roschen, FAIA** – Principal, Roschen Van Cleve Architects

For their outstanding service, we offer our deepest thanks to outgoing board members Andrew Meieran, Eric B. Moore, and Ted Tanner, AIA.

## Preservation Issues

by Laura Dominguez, Adrian Scott Fine, and Marcello Vavala

For more information about these and other preservation issues, please visit [laconservancy.org/important-issues](http://laconservancy.org/important-issues).

### Donate by August 5 to the Conservancy's First Crowdfunding Campaign

Visit [laconservancy.org/lgbtq](http://laconservancy.org/lgbtq)

Each June, cities around the world celebrate the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities during Pride Month. Here in Los Angeles, the Conservancy has been working for more than two years on a project to document, recognize, and preserve important places associated with LGBTQ history.

During Pride Month, the Conservancy kicked off our first ever crowdfunding campaign to expand our efforts. With a donation of \$10 or more, you can help us put L.A.'s groundbreaking LGBTQ history on the map!

Earlier this year, we released the first three installments in our short film series, LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A. They featured on-site interviews with community members



Over a thousand people have watched our first three short films online or at one of our recent screenings. Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy.

at The Black Cat in Silver Lake, The Woman's Building in Chinatown, and the Great Hall/Long Hall at West Hollywood's Plummer Park. The films help shine a light on these important places and their stories. Unfortunately, places like these increasingly face the risk of disappearing before they are fully understood.

More than a thousand people have watched the films online or at one of our recent screenings and panel conversations. We are thrilled by the strong, heartfelt response from our members and supporters, and our work is just beginning.

#### Help Us Raise \$5,000 by August 5

To make sure the film series represents the full breadth and diversity of LGBTQ experiences in L.A., we need your help!

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 by August 5 to produce one or more new short films in partnership with local media studio FORM follows FUNCTION. If you see this on or before August 5, **please donate now at [laconservancy.org/lgbtq](http://laconservancy.org/lgbtq)** – any amount makes a difference.

Campaign donors can choose from a range of perks, including downtown walking tours, recognition in the film credits, and an invitation to an upcoming special event.

Preserving these places and honoring true stories about real people helps us understand how far we have come, who and where we are today, and the struggles that lie ahead.

We hope this project inspires people to take action to preserve and protect the places they love most. To learn more and donate, please visit [laconservancy.org/lgbtq](http://laconservancy.org/lgbtq). Thank you!

## Metro Abandons Proposed 710 Freeway Tunnel

Great news! The L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board voted on May 25 to abandon plans for the proposed 710 Freeway tunnel. Through a unanimous vote and broad public support at the meeting, including from the Conservancy, the Board passed a motion stating that Metro “defers a decision on any other alternative for future consideration by the Board until the community collectively agrees on the value of that investment and funds are identified to implement the project.” In addition, the motion reallocates hundreds of millions of dollars from the tunnel to local transportation and surface-route alternatives.

Without Metro's support for the tunnel option, it is unclear how the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will respond. While the tunnel option may not proceed, we expect sales of Caltrans-owned properties to continue. We are very encouraged by Caltrans' intent to release surplus properties and return them to the private housing market, which will strengthen and stabilize neighborhoods long affected by the proposed 710 Freeway extension. The Conservancy is pressing to ensure that protections are in place for identified historic properties that will ultimately transfer out of Caltrans' hands and into private ownership.

For more than thirty years, the Conservancy has been involved with issues surrounding the 710 Freeway extension, and its impacts on historic resources in San Gabriel Valley communities and El Sereno. Many cities and organizations worked diligently over the years to stop the 710. We are especially grateful to Pasadena Heritage, the No710 Action Committee, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for their leadership.



For decades, the Los Angeles region and its residents have played a vital role in bringing the experiences of LGBTQ communities into the public consciousness. In 1967, The Black Cat Bar in Silver Lake was home to one of the earliest known demonstrations in support of LGBTQ civil rights. Image courtesy Box 1, Folder 95. Advocate records, Coll2012-030, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JULIE DRINKARD

In her own words: "A couple of years ago, while taking a business class, I made a presentation about an article I had read, 'The Evolution of a Corner: Downtown L.A. at Figueroa and Seventh,' by Nathan Masters. Even though my presentation was longer than the allotted time, my instructor and classmates commented that they could feel my enthusiasm so much that I was allowed to finish and take questions."



Later, I guess with the same enthusiasm, I was telling Julie, my friend of 43 years, about my presentation. She reminded me that I was always interested in and passionate about historic architecture, places, and just about everything Los Angeles. She suggested I volunteer for the Conservancy. The very next day, I called to offer my volunteer services. My first volunteer assignment was the 2014 special tour, We Heart Garden Apartments.

I am a proud Angeleno who enjoys coordinating customized personal tours of Los Angeles and nearby cities for my family and friends. I enjoy collecting dolls; listening to classic jazz, big band, and swing music; watching classic films; and driving through historic neighborhoods, which sometimes feels like driving through the pages of *Architectural Digest*.

After many years of working as a manager of a nonprofit resale shop, I am now retired. I do not have words to express my excitement, working as a volunteer with others, to support this great organization's work to preserve and revitalize our gems of historic places."

## Summer Nights with the Conservancy



Kick off your weekend with one of our Friday night Modern by Moonlight tours! After exploring Bunker Hill's gleaming skyscrapers and hidden plazas, join us at the rotating BonaVista Lounge at the top of the Bonaventure Hotel for no-host cocktails and amazing nighttime views of downtown. Photo by Douglas Hill.

By Alex Inshishian

If increased electricity bills are any indication, summer has arrived. Nights are warmer, kids are out of school, and everyone is looking for something to do. Well, look no further, because the Conservancy's summer evening tours are back!

This summer features tours not available during the rest of the year: City Hall, Modern by Moonlight, and Past Meets Present.

On Thursday evenings through August 17, join us for Past Meets Present tours. You'll discover how the historic sites of Los Angeles' past are shaping its future. Take a nighttime stroll through L.A.'s old financial district as our wonderful docents show you how these architectural treasures have become unique sites for a growing urban population.

Thanks to Project Restore, we will once again tour City Hall this summer. These Wednesday evening tours sold out within a week of their online announcement. To be the first to know about all of our upcoming events, be sure to subscribe to our Events email list. Click "Subscribe" at the top of any page on our website to update your email subscriptions.

On Fridays from August 11 to September 22, Modern by Moonlight is back! This nighttime twist on our Modern Skyline tour begins at 7:00 pm to capture the spectacle of spending a summer evening in L.A. The tour

### Summer Evening Tour Schedule

#### Past Meets Present

Thursdays, July 13 – August 17  
5:30 p.m.

#### City Hall - SOLD OUT

Wednesdays, August 2 – 23  
5:15 & 5:30 p.m.

#### Modern by Moonlight

Fridays, August 11 – September 22  
7 p.m.

ends at the BonaVista Lounge at the top of the Bonaventure Hotel for no-host cocktails, dining, and spectacular nighttime views. It is the perfect way to spend a beautiful Friday evening in downtown.

All tours are \$10 for Conservancy members and youth 17 and under; \$15 for the general public. Reservations are required. Space is limited, so reserve now! Visit [laconservancy.org/tours](http://laconservancy.org/tours) or call (213) 623-2489.

## KOREATOWN continued from page 1

institutions to flourish in the area. Elegant hotels and shopping centers, such as Bullock's Wilshire department store and the landmark Ambassador Hotel, cemented the neighborhood's position as a posh commercial district.

In the early twentieth century, L.A.'s Korean and Korean-American population lived primarily on downtown's Bunker Hill, one of the few places that allowed non-white residents. Over the next few decades, the community began to shift to a part of downtown adjacent to the University of Southern California. The new Korean community near Jefferson Boulevard became a hub for organizations that provided Korean immigrants and families with services such as medical and financial assistance, as well as political and religious support.

By the 1950s, a second wave of Korean immigrants reeling from the Korean War made their way to the United States and Los Angeles. The population of what is now called "Old Koreatown" swelled with newcomers. A decade later, thanks to relaxed federal immigration rules, it grew even more.

Meanwhile, the central Wilshire area was growing by leaps and bounds. In 1957, the city lifted building height restrictions and high-rise commercial buildings sprouted up along the corridor. Original residents of the area, lured by the siren song of affluent postwar suburbia, migrated west and to the suburbs, leaving the neighborhood free for denser development.

Lower rents and abundant commercial real estate drew the burgeoning Korean community to the area, many of whom set up storefronts and eateries. In and between the pastel terra cotta of some of Los Angeles' finest examples of its early architecture, Korean immigrants, along with Latinx and other communities, made their homes.

The 1992 Los Angeles riots rocked Koreatown in ways which, twenty-five years later, still have an impact today. Despite the damage the riots left in their wake, the neighborhood has continued to thrive, cultivating the densest and one of the most diverse populations in Los Angeles.

Koreatown's built environment reflects these changes, layering new onto old and using the past to encompass the present. As *Los*

*Angeles Times* Architecture Critic Christopher Hawthorne wrote in his article "Koreatown's Cool Old Buildings Point to L.A.'s Future,"

*Koreatown suggests more directly than any other neighborhood what the city's next phase—post-immigrant, post-suburban L.A.—will look like. K-town uses the past without venerating it.*

### See It Firsthand

This fall, in partnership with members of the Koreatown community, the Conservancy will spend a weekend exploring this unique neighborhood. Join us to learn about stunning landmarks like the Chapman Park Market, Wiltern Theatre, Hotel Normandie, as well as historic shops, eateries, and watering holes.

See the buildings that contributed to Wilshire Center's heyday of posh development, which now play a central role in cementing the community's identity. Trace the story of the Los Angeles riots through the stories of the buildings and the people who live and work there, and hear from local residents about the well-known and best-kept secrets of their streets.

As with so many of the Conservancy's special tours, better understanding Koreatown's balance between its history and its present, and how that reflects the city as a whole, has never been more timely or more relevant.

This special exploration of Koreatown will take place the weekend of **November 3, 4, and 5**. Participants will have three days of events to choose from, including tours of neighborhoods and buildings pre- and post-Los Angeles riots, panel discussions, food and drink opportunities, and more.

Reservations for this weekend full of events will be available **Wednesday, September 20**. Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for updates.

## COLISEUM

continued from page 1

funding for the restoration of the Coliseum itself and ensure its viability as a sports facility.

Since late 2013, the Conservancy regularly met with USC to review and provide feedback on the project plans. USC listened to our comments, and it has been a positive partnership. We are pleased that USC is taking on this much-needed initiative to reinvest in one of the most significant landmarks in Los Angeles.

The grand structure is a masterwork of pioneering architects John and Donald Parkinson, who were responsible for shaping much of the city's urban fabric before World War II. The Coliseum has hosted USC home football games since 1923, as well as two Olympic Games, two Super Bowls, and a World Series.

The Coliseum has the rare distinction of being one of only twelve National Historic Landmarks in the City of Los Angeles. The project underwent environmental review to ensure that the structure's historic designation remains intact.

We thank USC for working so closely with us on this issue.



The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum will retain its National Historic Landmark status after its renovation project is complete. Image from 2015 by Los Angeles Conservancy staff.

## SUNSET AT SILVERTOP TO BENEFIT THE CONSERVANCY



Photo by Iwan Baan.

by *Liz Leshin*

The Conservancy is delighted to announce that our fall benefit will take place **Thursday, October 5** at Silvertop (1963/1976), the iconic Silver Lake residence designed by master architect John Lautner. An aesthetic and engineering marvel, the home embraces the curve and vista of its surroundings. It features a huge, arching concrete roof over a wall of glass that opens the interior to stunning views.

John Lautner (1911 – 1994) was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's original Taliesin Fellows. He adopted and reinterpreted Wright's philosophy of "organic architecture," which promotes harmony between man and nature by exploring the interplay of people, spaces, and the natural and built environments.

Fundraising events like this one are crucial in making the Conservancy's other programming possible. This very special evening will help us continue to recognize, celebrate, and protect historic places in Los Angeles County.

Interested in sponsoring or attending? Please contact [silvertop@laconservancy.org](mailto:silvertop@laconservancy.org).

To learn more about Lautner and some of the other local landmarks he designed, visit [laconservancy.org/architects/john-lautner](http://laconservancy.org/architects/john-lautner).

## Why I Support the Los Angeles Conservancy: Q&A with Jim Heimann

We recently interviewed longtime member Jim Heimann about the variety of ways in which he supports the Conservancy, and why he feels it is important to do so.

**Los Angeles Conservancy (LAC):** Tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Jim Heimann (JH):** I am a second-generation Angeleno and have researched, written, lectured, and published numerous volumes on varied historical aspects of the city and its culture. A freelance graphic designer and illustrator for thirty years, and instructor at Art Center College of Design for thirty years, I am now, and have been for seventeen years, the executive editor of Taschen America publishing.



**LAC:** You've been a Los Angeles Conservancy member since 2001. What compelled you to join, and why have you remained a member?

**JH:** Ever since the Conservancy began, I was impressed with its ability to catalogue and preserve Los Angeles' built history. So many historically significant buildings have evaporated from the Southland that I felt I needed to be part of the advocacy for their preservation. I continue to support the Conservancy because the destruction of the city's buildings and landmarks continues at an accelerated pace.

**LAC:** What do you feel the Conservancy brings to the preservation conversation in Los Angeles?

**JH:** In the past, when a significant structure was threatened, there was no recourse to its destruction. Now, through the Conservancy, Los Angeles' past has a strong supporter.

**LAC:** Why have you chosen to be a member of the Conservancy's Pillar Society (planned giving program)?

**JH:** As part of a family of four generations that have lived and are living in Los Angeles, it is important for my support to benefit not only my immediate family but all Los Angeles residents, so our collective history will be preserved to share in the future.

**LAC:** What would you say to encourage others to support the Conservancy with a planned gift?

**JH:** If you care about this city and want to have it intact in the future, you need to support the institutions that preserve those elements that have made this city one of the major metropolises in the world. By having the past visible and accessible, it puts us on par with the leading cities of the world that have preserved their architectural treasures. With no past there is no future.

**LAC:** Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**JH:** As certain developers and politicians continue to alter the city without considering its history, I believe the Conservancy has maintained its position to engage and educate their mindset. It is only through the process of investing in those who are responsible for the city's history that Los Angeles will continue to be a magnet for economic advancement and social stability. Outreach to Los Angeles' large immigrant population is critical so that their third and fourth generations will become engaged in maintaining a past that they will inherit.

Thank you Jim, and all of our members, for making our work possible!

# APRIL 8 / JUNE 13

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Los Angeles Conservancy would like to acknowledge the generous contributions of our new or upgrading Supporting members, and the new and renewing members of our Sustaining, Benefactor, and Cornerstone groups.

### TRAVERTINE CORNERSTONE (\$10,000+)

Wesley Phoa and  
Margaret Morgan

### MARBLE CORNERSTONE (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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Benjamin Salomon and  
Karen Tran  
Tyler Savage  
Cathy Stephens  
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Michael Strand  
Robert L. and Anita Taylor



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by Liz Leshin

In addition to thanking you for being one of the Los Angeles Conservancy's nearly 6,000 members, I'd like to share why your membership matters so much:

1. Memberships make up about a third of the Conservancy's annual budget. This support allows the organization to be self-sufficient and responsive, and not overly reliant on either major donors or government funding.
2. Nearly forty years ago, the Conservancy's founders decided to make it a grassroots membership organization to provide an accessible, empowered voice for preservation to the residents of L.A. County.
3. Every person who joins gives a stronger voice to preservation, allowing us to continue to advocate for the places that matter to you.

Please help amplify the Conservancy's voice even more by reaching out to your friends, colleagues, and others who might not know about us, or might not have joined yet, and encourage them to become L.A. Conservancy members.

Not only will they help make Los Angeles a place that values our past and considers it an essential part of our present and future, but they can take advantage of the great benefits that come with membership, such as discounts on walking tours and Last Remaining Seats film screenings.

For more information, visit [laconservancy.org/join](http://laconservancy.org/join) or contact us at [member@laconservancy.org](mailto:member@laconservancy.org) or (213) 430-4201.

Thank you!

## CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

Tours cost \$10 for Conservancy members and youth 17 or younger; \$15 for the general public.

Most tours require reservations. We accept walk-ins on some tours, subject to availability.

For details and reservations, visit [laconservancy.org/tours](http://laconservancy.org/tours). Questions? Contact us at [info@laconservancy.org](mailto:info@laconservancy.org) or (213) 623-2489.

### WALKING TOURS

#### Angelino Heights

First Saturday of each month

#### Art Deco

Every Saturday

#### Broadway Historic Theatre & Commercial District

Every Saturday

#### Historic Downtown

Every Saturday

#### Millennium Biltmore Hotel

Every Sunday

#### Union Station

Every Saturday

Customized group tours available by special arrangement. For details, visit [laconservancy.org/tours](http://laconservancy.org/tours) or contact us at [info@laconservancy.org](mailto:info@laconservancy.org) or (213) 623-2489.



### Los Angeles Conservancy

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[laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org)

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For the latest updates and hundreds of historic places to explore, visit [laconservancy.org](http://laconservancy.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Photo by Larry Underhill.

### PAST MEETS PRESENT WALKING TOURS

Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

Through August 17

Back by popular demand! Explore the history and recent changes on Spring Street, one of downtown's most exciting and unique streets. Details on page 4.

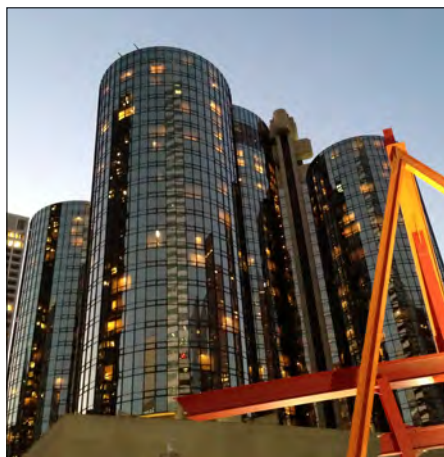


Photo by Flora Chou/L.A. Conservancy.

### MODERN BY MOONLIGHT WALKING TOURS

Fridays, 7:00 p.m.

August 11 – September 22

Only offered in the summer! Discover the beauty of Bunker Hill's soaring skyscrapers, hidden plazas, and public art at twilight. Details on page 4.



Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.

### PLEASE DONATE TO LGBTQ HISTORIC PLACES IN L.A.!

By August 5

Please donate by August 5 to our first-ever crowdfunding campaign. We're raising funds to create more short films focused on L.A. County's LGBTQ historic places. Details on page 3.