



# LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY NEWS



July / August 2020 · Volume 42 Number 3



On July 23, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted for nearly wholesale demolition of the historic district, Rancho Los Amigos. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy

## The Erasure of Rancho Los Amigos, and L.A.'s Public Health Care Story

by Adrian Scott Fine

At a time when societal inequity is heightened, places like Rancho Los Amigos Historic District remind us of our humanity and the importance of providing medical care to those who are most vulnerable. Yet, the road to health care in the United States and Greater Los Angeles is a complex story with highs and lows throughout history.

Communities have generally adapted, and our built environment evolved, in response to public needs—establishing new types of hospital facilities, zoning laws to ensure access to fresh air, separation of incompatible land uses, and sanitation infrastructure providing clean water and sewer systems.

Various health scares over the years have also left their physical imprint, whether it be the polio epidemic or tuberculosis (TB), both contagious and infectious diseases. The 1902 Barlow Sanatorium and Respiratory Hospital, for instance, provided patients with TB a slow recovery treatment centered on the clean, dry air of the West. Tucked in the Elysian Park neighborhood of Echo Park, Barlow continues today in its original location and historic bungalows, which are listed as an L.A. Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM).

One of the oldest places representing local public health care is the currently endangered Rancho Los Amigos in Downey. From poor farm to a nationally renowned medical facility, Rancho's campus tells the stories of the thousands of people who passed through its doors—people who have been traditionally marginalized and forgotten, including those with medical and mental health issues, and those who are elderly or experiencing destitution.

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## 2020: A Historic Six Months

As the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded and deep racial and socioeconomic issues and disparities have become more pronounced, the L.A. Conservancy is strengthening its commitment to preserving the places—and amplifying the stories—of Greater Los Angeles' richly diverse heritage. We see this as an opportunity for more comprehensive conversations about our collective history.

Just as preservation can help safeguard the past, reinforce our shared values, and protect the places we care about, it can also be a powerful tool in telling complicated—often difficult—histories. Too many times, these stories are undervalued, forgotten, or not documented, erasing the histories of generations of Angelenos.

The recent fire at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel is a vivid reminder of the complex challenges of some historic places. Founded in 1771, Mission San Gabriel was the fourth, and one of the largest, of twenty-one mission settlements established by Father Junípero Serra. Racist settler colonialism and religious assimilation came at the expense of the Tongva and other Indigenous people.

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

## Announcing New Board Leadership

July marks the beginning of the Conservancy's new Board term. Chair **Alice Carr** and Board member **Bill Roschen** retired from the board at the end of June after reaching the maximum term limits. We are grateful for their invaluable contributions and leadership over the years and appreciate their continued support.

The board appointed the following slate of officers: **Mike Deasy**, chair, **Eric Needleman**, treasurer, **David Cocks**, secretary, **Linda Brettler**, chair of the advocacy committee, and **Joy Forbes**, chair of the development committee.

Joy Forbes and **Roella Hsieh Louie** were both elected for their second term on the Board, and **Kelly Sutherlin McLeod** and **Tyler Ohanian** were unanimously elected for their first term.

Kelly Sutherlin McLeod, FAIA founded her architectural practice in 1988: Kelly Sutherlin McLeod Architecture. The firm's design for new construction, adaptive reuse, and preservation encompasses a wide variety of project types, and includes the preservation of many of the most important 20th century design masterworks in Southern California.

Tyler Ohanian is a Shareholder at the law firm Buchalter where he focuses his practice on real estate transactions and community economic development, specializing in tax credit finance, real estate finance, opportunity zone investment and general real estate transactions.

We're pleased to welcome our new and continuing Board members and thank them for their leadership!

## Welcome Summer Interns!

The Conservancy is pleased to welcome our summer interns **Cindy Quach** and **Cynthia Sanchez**. While remote internships are not what anyone expected, Cindy and Cynthia are rising above the challenging environment brought on by COVID-19.

Cindy is a UCLA student and our Getty Marrow Undergraduate Intern in our Education department. A history and political science major, she is bringing fresh ideas to the Adventures in Architecture and Summer Camp youth programs and the '70s Turn 50 Initiative.

***"I believe that historic preservation is crucial to sustaining communities and their culture. There are some identities that are no longer present in their original locations, but through historic preservation those identities can be represented. It is important to learn and acknowledge the people that built a space even if it is no longer intact." - Cindy Quach***

Cynthia is a UCLA alumna and history graduate student at CSUN interning in our Communications department. She's transforming her passion for L.A. history into content for social media and the Conservancy's website, including our Legacy Business initiative and architect biographies.

***"I am excited to be part of the L.A. Conservancy's effort to encourage other people to uncover the stories and places contributing to our sense of the city's history and community." - Cynthia Sanchez***

The Conservancy is fortunate to be able to continue providing valuable learning and leadership opportunities to local college students and we are thrilled to have Cindy and Cynthia on board this summer!





# The '70s Go Virtual!

THE CONSERVANCY'S LINEUP OF 1970S TOURS AND DISCUSSIONS ARE BACK!

## '70s Turn 50 Tours: Panel Discussions Go Virtual!

The Conservancy's lineup of 1970s tours and discussions are back! Earlier this year, the emergence of COVID-19 and mandated closures prompted us to cancel or put on hold our '70s Turn 50 series exploring the decade's lasting impact in Los Angeles. We're excited to announce these live stream presentations you won't want to miss! *Special thanks to our '70s Turn 50 Sponsors: The Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust, Kit Boss, and Frederick Fisher and Partners.* **Members \$20, General Public \$25**



Andy Lipkis during the early days of TreePeople. Photo courtesy: TreePeople

**Thursday, 9/24 - 6PM**

### WHERE IT ALL WENT DOWN: MOVEMENTS OF THE '70S

During this live stream, panelists will discuss both the lasting legacies of the social movements of the '70s as well as the current efforts to recognize and preserve the places associated with them.

**Moderator:** Jane McFadden, Department Chair, Humanities and Sciences, ArtCenter College of Design

**Panelists:** Cindy Montanez, Chief Executive Office, TreePeople; Rosalio Munoz, Chicano activist, journalist, and historian; Sheila Levrant de Brettville, graphic designer, artist, educator, Founder of the Woman's Building

**Following the panel discussion, join us for a docent-led virtual tour of Craig Ellwood's 1976 ArtCenter College of Design!**

**Thursday, 10/15 - 6PM**

### CHILDREN OF THE '70S: PRESERVATION ON THE RISE

Hear from leaders of preservation institutions like Pasadena Heritage and Hollywood Heritage and learn how the '70s informed how we feel about architecture and preservation. This event is hosted in partnership with Pasadena Heritage.

**Moderator:** Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Office

**Panelists:** Margaret Bach, Founding President of the Los Angeles Conservancy; Christy Johnson McAvoy, Founding Principal of Historic Resources Group and Co-Founder of Hollywood Heritage; and Susan N. Mossman, Executive Director of Pasadena Heritage.

**Following the panel discussion, join us for a docent-led virtual tour of Craig Ellwood's 1976 ArtCenter College of Design!**

**Thursday, 11/19 - 6PM**

### THE '70S AND BEYOND: LOOKING FORWARD.

What can be learned about prevailing attitudes concerning the aesthetics of the '70s, and how do we apply that knowledge to the coming decades—and to preserving the buildings that come with them?

**Moderator:** To be announced soon

**Panelists:** Christopher Hawthorne, Chief Design Officer, City of Los Angeles; Tom Mayes, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel for National Trust of Historic Preservation

**Following the panel discussion, join us for a docent-led virtual tour of César Pelli, Victor Gruen Associates, and Norma Merrick Sklarek's 1975 Pacific Design Center!**



View of the Los Angeles Central Library, 1979. Advocacy to preserve the library led to the formation of Los Angeles Conservancy in 1978. Photo courtesy: Everett Collection



Norma Sklarek in 1975. Photo courtesy: National Museum of African American History and Culture

## RANCHO LOS AMIGOS *continued from page 1*

Today, Rancho Los Amigos (south campus) is threatened with nearly wholesale demolition, as the County seeks to fast track its effort to use portions of the site for a massive expansion of operations for the county and a Probation Headquarters. Please help us preserve this part of L.A.'s history before it is too late.

### A Rarely Told Chapter

In Los Angeles County, the public health system traces its roots to 1878 with the opening of the first county hospital. Ten years later, the County opened a Poor Farm—later renamed Rancho Los Amigos.

The poor farm system was based on the simple idea to offer people experiencing destitution access to work, housing, and medical care. Throughout the U.S. various state and county administrations assumed this role and responsibility, especially prior to the establishment of the Social Security safeguard.

While some are unfamiliar with poor farms, there are many others for whom 'ending up on the poor farm' has negative connotations. One reason is that poor farms shared the County's responsibility for treating patients with psychiatric diagnoses, something they were ill-equipped to handle. Poor farms established themselves as early examples of sustainable, self-sufficient living, with residents—then referred to as "inmates"—providing the labor to run the agricultural operations, raising livestock, and growing food. In many ways, poor farms were early forms of the American welfare system.

With its initial 124.4 acres of rural farmland, Rancho operated as a classic poor farm. As its medical operations and the number of people served grew, its agricultural roots and farming operation decreased. The farm became more of a convalescent hospital than a traditional county poor farm. In the early 1930s, the L.A. County Poor Farm officially changed its name to Rancho Los Amigos ("ranch of the friends").

### Contagious Outbreaks, Now and Then

By the late 1940s and early '50s, the U.S. was experiencing a surge in polio outbreaks. Like COVID-19, there was no known vaccine at the time for the infectious disease. Polio was also referred to as the "invisible enemy" with the virus spreading through person-to-person contact. Social distancing was employed, as were travel and commerce restrictions in hot zones.

The difference between now and then is polio primarily affected the young. Children could catch the virus and ultimately experience death or paralysis and a lifetime of crutches, wheelchair, or being placed in



*Due to neglect, buildings have been destroyed from vandalism and arson fires. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy*

an iron lung (respirator allowing them to breathe). During the summer season polio flared up with swimming and wading pools feared especially as transmitters for the virus. Concerned parents pressed on civic leaders to drain or fill in the pools. Today you can still find remnants of this remedy.

To address the growing epidemic, Rancho adapted its focus and operation in the mid-1940s as a polio respiratory center. By 1955, polio was finally addressed through a vaccine developed by Jonas Salk. Rancho would then slowly transform itself into a respected rehabilitation center.

Throughout its history, Rancho Los Amigos ebbed and flowed in terms of its operation, with a constant theme of overcrowding, expansion periods with new facilities, and evolving its focus and mission. It would grow to well over 500 acres in size and serve nearly

3,000 patients at its peak. By the late '40s, it was primarily operating as a hospital with minimal agricultural operations, prompting the selling off of some of the property.

### Planned Demolition of a Historic District

By the early 1990s Rancho's south campus was whittled down to 74 acres and effectively abandoned with most of its 100+ buildings vacant. For well over a decade, the Conservancy has been working closely with various County representatives in regards to Rancho and its future, with numerous reuse and redevelopment proposals coming and going. During this time Rancho has been listed on the California Register and determined eligible as a national historic district.

Without adequate security and maintenance Rancho has been allowed to deteriorate and buildings fell into accelerated disrepair. In recent years, contributing buildings within the historic district have been destroyed due to neglect, vandalism, and a recent spate of arson fires.

The current deteriorated conditions and neglect which have occurred under the County's stewardship are now cited by the County as a health and safety concern and justification for the proposed demolition of the historic district. Despite not planning to redevelop the entire site, the County is planning to essentially demolish it all.

Under a new proposal by the County, the historic district would be lost; 105 structures and resources, including 61 historic buildings. Even buildings not impacted by the proposed project are planned to be demolished. Overall, the project would retain just five contributors to the current historic district: the 1926 Administration Staff building; 1930 Casa Consuelo patient ward; 1913 water tower; 1909-26 Power Plant building; and a Moreton Bay fig tree.

We strongly believe there is a "win-win" scenario available to the County where both



preservation and new construction is possible. The opportunity exists to modify the County's plans by pairing new construction with adaptive reuse, and a potential public-private partnership.

Our job in preservation is to unpack and better understand how places like Rancho help make this story real. When the physical place is lost, the stories of our past are so much more difficult to comprehend and appreciate. If we do not stand up for the places and people that represent our public health care past and show us how we got here, we stand the risk of forgetting where we have been and how far we have come.

Rancho Los Amigos and all it represents to our public health care past and present is deserving of a better fate than demolition.

On June 23, 2020 the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted in full support of a plan for nearly wholesale demolition and redevelopment of Rancho Los Amigos.

We encourage you to contact Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors and express your disappointment in their decision and lack of accountability to L.A.'s heritage. You can find their contact information here: <http://bos.lacounty.gov/About-Us/Boardof-Supervisors>.



Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy



Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy

## Preservation Snapshots



Photo credits: Taix - Gary Coronado; Redevelopment rendering - Togawa Smith Martin

### Environmental Reviews Continue: Hollywood Center Project

Project planning and environmental reviews have not stopped during COVID-19 and the Conservancy continues to respond and press for preservation-based outcomes. A recent example is the Hollywood Center Project, which directly impacts the iconic 1956 Capitol Records building and adjacent National Register-listed Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment Historic District.

In 2006, the Conservancy's Modern Committee successfully nominated the Capitol Records Building for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM). Since initial environmental review in 2011-2012, then known as the Millennium Hollywood, the developer worked closely with the Conservancy and made significant improvements to the project to accommodate the area's historic resources.

The Conservancy is encouraged by the applicant's willingness to make historic preservation a priority in its project design, in this case on how to incorporate new construction carefully and respectfully adjacent to the Capitol Records Building. Through the use of setbacks, visual buffers, and open space between the proposed project and the Capital Records building, significant viewsheds are maintained from the 101 Freeway to the north and the intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street.

The Conservancy, however, continues to believe the project to be out of scale with the surrounding historic built environment. The project proposes two residential towers at 595-feet and 469-feet tall, dwarfing the 165-foot tall Capitol Records building and adjacent Historic District. The buildings within the district's boundaries are primarily between 1-2 stories with taller buildings reaching 14 stories.

### Demolition Proposed for Taix Legacy Business

In May, new owners (Holland Partner Group) of Taix unveiled project plans that call for the demolition of the existing Taix restaurant building. As proposed, a six-story housing development with 170 apartments (86% market rate) and a 220-space parking garage will replace the current building and surface parking lot.

In Echo Park, Taix is an important legacy business and a long-standing community anchor where neighbors connect, memories are made, and our sense of community is nourished. First opened in 1927, Taix has been at its present Sunset Boulevard location since 1962.

The Conservancy had been in communication with the owner of the restaurant and representatives seeking to redevelop the site. However, we were not a part of the latest planning process and proposed project design.

There should be a way to design sensitive infill construction in a manner that incorporates the Taix building through meaningful preservation and continued use, whereby the old and new work together in a thoughtful, compatible design. Compromise is likely needed on both sides, through a partial preservation approach and a reduction in scale of the proposed new project.

The challenge is how to provide new housing without losing the authentic and real Taix that so many Angelenos know and love. We do not think it's an either/or scenario, such as provide housing or preserve this legacy business. Through creative design and compromise both are possible to achieve a result that everyone can celebrate.

To learn more about how you can help us preserve Taix, **please visit [laconservancy.org/SaveTaix](http://laconservancy.org/SaveTaix)**.



Exterior of the International Institute's administration building in Boyle Heights, 2017. This Spanish Colonial Revival style building debuted in 1932. Photo by Laura Dominguez

## The International Institute of Los Angeles: On Its Way to Becoming a Historic-Cultural Monument

by M. Rosalind Sagara

In April, the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously to take the nomination of the International Institute of Los Angeles located at 435 South Boyle under consideration for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument. This beloved local landmark has had a presence in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles since 1915.

The International Institute was founded under the umbrella of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) as part of a national International Institute movement which aimed to provide immigrant women and girls access to social services, English language classes, and opportunities for jobs, civic growth, and cultural expression. In 1930, the YWCA announced that the Institute's multilingual staff and over 100 volunteers had served more than 29,000 people

representing 28 nationalities through casework, classes, social clubs, and events. To expand services and meet growing needs, the YWCA's leadership announced plans to construct a new administration building in 1931 and entrusted the design to architects Walter Webber and Sumner Spaulding.

The architects designed a one-and-two-story complex rendered in a Spanish Colonial Revival style, featuring a forecourt and central courtyard. Decorative ironwork, brick bench seating, and tile work enriched the courtyard atmospheres, while providing pleasing views from the surrounding office spaces. The building debuted to the public in 1932.

The Institute's central courtyard played a significant role in the organization's cultural activities and social gatherings, including its annual International Day Festival, an oppor-

tunity for members to showcase traditional handicrafts, performing arts, attires, and cuisines.

In addition to providing needed social services and programming, during World War II, the organization lobbied against the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry and assisted with resettlement efforts after the war ended. The Institute continued to support cultural activities after the war by providing space for clubs, classes, dances, and sports, all of which were understood to complement the Institute's casework program. In the 1960s, the Institute's offerings were expanded to include legal assistance, resettlement of refugees and asylum applicants, survivors of human trafficking, and free or low-cost child care and transportation.

In April 2019, the property was listed for sale, leaving its future uncertain. The Histor-



ic-Cultural Monument nomination of the International Institute was submitted by Boyle Heights Community Partners with support from the Los Angeles Conservancy in 2019.

When the nomination was submitted, there were 1,185 Historic-Cultural Monuments citywide in Los Angeles. Of these designated landmarks only 57 (5%) have known associations with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) heritage. The Boyle Heights Community Partners and the Conservancy aim to increase the number of HCMs which represent a more inclusive Los Angeles.

In August, we will feature a conversation on our blog with Laura Dominguez, PhD Candidate in History at the University of Southern California and Board member of Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and Vivian Escalante, Founder and CEO of Boyle Heights Community Partners. We will discuss how the preparation and nomination of the International Institute helps make our City's monument program more inclusive and equitable.



Courtyard of the International Institute, 2017. Photo by Laura Dominguez



Street view of the International Institute, 2017. Photo by Laura Dominguez

## The International Institute of Los Angeles: Personal Stories, Historic Connections

In April, the Conservancy invited members of the public to share their stories and reflections of the International Institute of Los Angeles. These personal testimonies enhance our understanding of the International Institute and the ways historic places anchor our neighborhoods and foster a sense of belonging and community. Reprinted with permission are some excerpts of these stories:

*"I played basketball in a league that used its courtyard on a team we called the Karnalles. The make-up of the team was Japanese, Mexican and Jewish. We loved the Institute. It was a welcoming and safe place to be. It is worthy of recognition and preservation for the many stories that live there."*

-Judy Averbuck Tuwaletstiwa

*"My mother, who was born in 1916 in Los Angeles, worked at the International Institute after graduating from college. One day after work, my mother and her friends decided to go to a mixer for returning servicemen where she happened to meet my father who had just returned from serving in World War II. If it weren't for the Institute, I wouldn't even be here."*

-Anonymous

*"I consider the Institute a reflection of all that I love about this city. It welcomes those from other countries and cultures and invites them to join our beautiful, diverse community. With so much exclusion creating fear throughout our country, we need the International Institute more than ever - as is, so that past meets present and guides us into the future."*

-Kim Fay

*"As a youth in the 1950's, the International Institute was a prominent cultural center for the community...used by many different groups—a truly multicultural gathering place. Post-World War II was not easy for Americans of Japanese descent, and the International Institute provided nurturing for youth like myself during that era."*

-Lillian Utsumi

If you have a story or reflection about the International Institute to share, or would like to learn more about how you can support this project, contact M. Rosalind Sagara at [rsagara@laconservancy.org](mailto:rsagara@laconservancy.org).



Aerial view of the fire damage sustained at Mission San Gabriel.  
Photo: Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times

On the day of the fire, Yve Chavez, an assistant professor at UC Santa Cruz, whose ancestors lived at the mission, helped build it, and are buried in its cemetery told the Los Angeles Times, “the news of today is quite devastating because this is something that our ancestors made.” She said, “The structure itself is a reminder of our ancestors who sacrificed their lives and their labor to make these missions possible.”

The L.A. Archdiocese has vowed to restore the mission. When they do, we hope the mission represents more inclusive histories, especially those of Indigenous experiences, which must be told.

Historic places are shaped by layers of connections to people, many of whom are unjustly marginalized or excluded. In June, the Conservancy created an internal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force (DEI) to reflect and identify ways to make our work to preserve the heritage of Greater Los Angeles more inclusive and just. We assembled an internal DEI Task Force and, together, we listened, learned, reflected, and then codified our intentions.

On June 30, the Los Angeles Conservancy Board of Directors adopted a Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion developed by the Task Force.

Years from now, the proverb ‘hindsight is 20/20’ will take on a new meaning. It will remind us of the year 2020. When we look back, we want to recognize this as the year we faced our past, moved forward with integrity, and helped build a platform for telling L.A.’s full history through our built environment.

## The L.A. Conservancy’s Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Los Angeles Conservancy strengthens its commitment to preserving and amplifying a more inclusive history that represents the diverse people of Greater Los Angeles.

Since the death of George Floyd and public protests led by Black Lives Matter, we have been listening, learning, and reflecting. We acknowledge systemic racism persists in historic preservation. From George Washington’s Mount Vernon and the California Missions to historic house museums and designated historic landmarks, the field of historic preservation has often promoted a White narrative and failed to tell inclusive stories about historic places.

Preservation has caused harm to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) by excluding their voices and connections to these places. The Conservancy was founded in 1978 and has saved some of Los Angeles’s most iconic historic buildings. In recent decades, we have expanded our ongoing advocacy and education work to include places of cultural significance.

We recognize this is a start and understand that there is more work to be done. We commit to becoming an anti-racist preservation organization. As the largest preservation organization in Los Angeles, we must ensure that our work better serves and reflects our communities.

We commit to holding ourselves accountable in the following ways:

- Create an internal Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force dedicated to ongoing, transparent dialogue and examination of issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the aim of creating an anti-racist preservation organization.
- Integrate a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens into our current strategic plan update.
- Conduct an organization-wide audit to ensure processes, projects, and policies reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion objectives.
- Expand outreach efforts in BIPOC communities and increase support for community-driven preservation.
- Increase the representation and engagement with BIPOC in our membership base, volunteers, staff, and board.
- Increase representation and visibility of BIPOC on our website, publications, and social media platforms.
- Create content, provide resources, and develop programs that confront issues of systemic racism in preservation.

Will this be enough? No, this is just the beginning. We will continue to listen and learn with a steadfast commitment to becoming a more just organization. Thank you for your continued support.



## Back to School Resources

Let's bring L.A. history and heritage to life for kids this back-to-school season. The L.A. Conservancy has expanded its youth programs and resources to support at-home learning this fall. We make it easy for teachers, at-home educators, parents, and anyone working with kids to provide quality lessons and enrichment opportunities.

**LIVE WORKSHOPS | Flexible programs that support California's Common Core State Standards in History and Social Studies, taught by Conservancy staff and docents. Fees vary by program. (Scholarships are available.) Live workshops have a maximum capacity of 30 students.**

### Virtual Field Trips (Grades 3-12)

We've adapted our student walking tours to live stream presentations designed for at-home learning! Take your kids on a virtual stroll through Historic Downtown L.A. and Union Station. For middle and high school students, we also offer A Woman's Place, which uncovers the untold stories of women influential to Union Station and Chinatown.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Cost:** \$50.00 per tour (scholarships available)

### Discover L.A.'s Broadway (Grades 3-12)

This virtual workshop is more accessible than ever before. Introduce your students to the Historic Broadway Theatre and Commercial District in Downtown Los Angeles, home to the largest concentration of historic theatres in the country. The workshop includes interactive activities and a virtual tour on Broadway.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Cost:** \$50 per workshop

### Adventures in Architecture (Grades 3-12)

This live workshop series empowers students to explore the history of their communities. During the course of this multi-session program we introduce students to historic and culturally significant sites, take them on guided virtual explorations of the community, and lead activities related to community history, architecture, and preservation.

We currently offer Adventures in Architecture spotlighting L.A.'s historic Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood in Central Los Angeles but can customize the curriculum to focus on your neighborhood, depending on your needs.

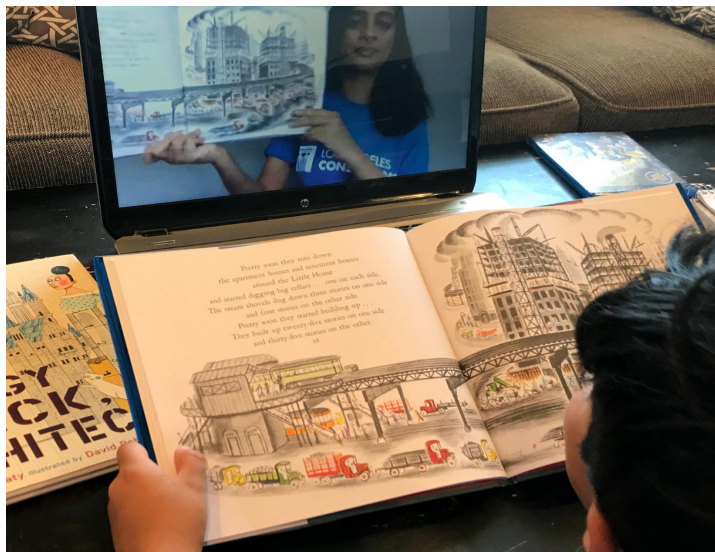
**Duration:** 1 hour per session. (Frequency can be customized to meet your schedule.)

**Cost:** \$50.00 per session

**RESOURCES | Available on demand on our website, Free**

### Places + People: A Book List for Kids (Grades 1-5)

Introduce students to stories about places, architecture, and preservation with this specially curated book list.



Downloadable Reading Guides contain discussion questions to elicit feedback, vocabulary words for better comprehension, and activities to further learning. For early readers, Storytime for Kids read aloud videos of our book list are a great way to instill the love of history and architecture in even the youngest students.

### Summer Camp Videos (Grades 3-8)

Discover what makes Los Angeles and your neighborhood special with engaging activity downloads and craft videos. Kids can learn about L.A.'s neighborhoods and have fun making things like picture postcards or books to celebrate their own neighborhood, all in one afternoon!

### Curating the City: Wilshire Boulevard (Grades 6-8)

The sites and stories of Wilshire Boulevard delight kids of all ages and offer teaching opportunities, from local history to math. Mix and match from our Kids Guide to Wilshire Blvd., lesson plans, and guide to religious spaces along Wilshire Blvd, to fit your students' needs.

### Immersive 360° Virtual Tour of L.A.'s Historic Places (Grades 9-12)

Supplement or teach quick lessons about L.A. history with the Conservancy's virtual tours on Google's Poly platform. You can zoom in, zoom out, look up, and around on these exciting tours. Explore Culver City, Koreatown, Millard Sheets' mosaics, Chinatown, and L.A.'s Broadway.

**To learn more about the Conservancy's resources and programs, please visit [laconservancy.org/students](https://laconservancy.org/students).** If you're interested in bringing one of our live or virtual programs to your school, contact email our Education Specialist, Sana Ahmed, at: [sahmed@laconservancy.org](mailto:sahmed@laconservancy.org).

# Thank You For Three Decades And More of Support!

On behalf of all of us at the Conservancy to our members of 30 years and more, thank you for your unwavering dedication to preserving Los Angeles' historic resources. Members like you ensure that the places that tell the stories of Los Angeles—and Angelenos—persist for generations to come. (If you have been a member of the Conservancy for thirty or more years and do not see your name listed below, please let us know so we can correct our records. *Contact Liz Leshin, Director of Development at: lleshin@laconservancy.org, or (323) 270-4334.*

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## Proud Pillar: Bud Coffey

Interview by Gabriella Philo,  
Development Manager

Meet one of our longstanding supporters, and new member of the Pillar Society, Bud Coffey. Bud has worked for 15 years as the first and only Production Manager of Last Remaining Seats (LRS).

### How did you first get involved with the Conservancy?

A friend of mine knew about the walking tours of the old movie palaces. We came downtown, and back then all the theaters were still operating, so we stuck our heads in all of them. It motivated me to book a Conservancy tour. In the middle of the tour I said to myself, "This is what I want to do." I started as a docent in 2003. Then the LRS job came around in 2005, because there had never been a production manager before.

### You have been critically involved in running Last Remaining Seats for many years. What do you enjoy about it?

When I came to Last Remaining Seats, it had already been going for 15 years. What I enjoy most about it is what I do, the logistics for theatrical productions and stage managing the screenings. What I like is that we're in these old movie theaters that have lots of history in them.

### What do you love about downtown Los Angeles theatres?

They're historic; some of them go back to the days of vaudeville. It was all the craze and it's exciting to think about all the performances that went on in those theaters. It all goes back to those early TV stars that we would watch came from those theatres and from vaudeville, because they knew they had an audience. That's the magic for me.

### You love old theatres so much that you live in the Orpheum Lofts. What's special about that building?

I love living in the history of the building. You walk in the front entrance



Long-standing supporter, Bud Coffey, turns his passion for L.A.'s historic theatres into his legacy.

of the building and it's the original marble on the walls. It's an adaptive reuse building that used to be offices for years. Just outside my window is the neon blade sign that says "Orpheum Theatre."

### What compelled you to become a member of the Pillar Society?

I'm a big fan of the Conservancy. The walking tours are what drew me to the Conservancy; it just exploded my love of the buildings. Looking at the bigger picture, the Conservancy has been around and fighting for the historic core and DTLA. All that hard work over the years has paid off. So I wanted to give some money when my curtain comes down.

• • •

The Conservancy established the Pillar Society to acknowledge those who have made plans to leave the organization a legacy gift in their wills or estate plans. These gifts make a significant and lasting contribution to our cultural heritage by allowing us to continue our mission to preserve and revitalize L.A.'s architectural and cultural resources for generations to come.

**If you would like to become a Pillar Society member, or for more information, please contact Liz Leshin, Director of Development, at: [lleshin@laconservancy.org](mailto:lleshin@laconservancy.org), or (323) 270-4334**



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Photo by Sue Hwang

**OTOMISAN**

2506 1/2 E 1st Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90033  
 (323) 526-1150

Otomisan Japanese Restaurant (formerly Otemo Sushi Cafe) is the last remaining Japanese restaurant in Boyle Heights and believed to be one of the oldest Japanese restaurants in Los Angeles. Otomisan is open for take-out.



Photo by Steven Drew

**SIMPLY WHOLESOME**

4508 W Slauson Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90043  
 (323) 294-2144

Simply Wholesome has provided healthy, affordable food since 1984. Located in the iconic Googie Wich Stand since 1992, Simply Wholesome is currently open for take-out service only.



Photo by Stephen Schaefer

**PANN'S RESTAURANT**

6710 La Tijera Boulevard  
 Los Angeles, CA 90045  
 (310) 670-1441

Designed by the legendary firm Armet & Davis, with signature details from Helen Liu Fong, Pann's has been owned by the same family since opening day in 1958. During COVID-19, Pann's is currently open for takeout service only.