









Sep/Oct 2018 · Volume 40 Number 5



LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY 40TH ANNIVERSARY



Join us for a day of exploration of the Fashion District on October 20! Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy.

People & Places: The Historic Fabric of L.A.'s Fashion District

Join us on **October 20** for a special single-day event exploring downtown L.A's Fashion District! This event offers several docent-led walking tours throughout the day.

Register for one of three schedules to get a holistic view of the neighborhood. Each schedule (Blue, Green, and Yellow) offers the same three tours in three different orders. Each allows for an hour-long lunch break and a 30-minute break between afternoon tours. See sidebar for full list of tours.

For a fuller experience, add one of our two additional mini tours to your schedule. If you're looking for a shorter time commitment, don't feel locked into the schedule—take as many of the three tours included in your schedule. Or just take a mini tour!

Once known as the Garment District, the area was the epicenter of textiles, clothing, and accessories production in L.A. It grew substantially in the 1920s and 30s, becoming the nexus of the apparel business that it is today.

The Fashion District also houses other well-known commercial centers. Within its borders are Santee Alley, the famous openair bazaar, and the country's largest flower market.

With the many changes taking place in the Fashion District, now is the perfect time to explore this neighborhood's rich history.

Tour schedules are \$35 for Conservancy members, \$45 for general public, and \$20 for youth 17 and under. Additional tour prices vary, \$10-15 for members.

For full details and to register, visit *laconservancy.org/fashiondistrict*. Proceeds from these tours support our mission to preserve historically and culturally significant places throughout L.A. County.

We hope to see you there!

Fashion District Tours on Saturday, October 20

Tours included in People & Places

Historic Buildings, Modern Lofts: Residential Living in the Fashion District

Visit some of the best architectural examples of newly-converted industrial spaces, and see the revitalized places they've become and the communities they serve.

High Fashion in the Fashion District

See historic buildings where hundreds of fashion companies cultivate fresh ideas in design.

Building a Legacy: People of the Fashion District

Visit the heart of the Fashion District and learn about the men and women who created the garment industry.

Mini Tours

Seed to Flower: The Growth of L.A.'s Flower Markets

Learn how some of L.A.'s earliest immigrants established one of the largest flower markets in the world.

City Market and L.A.'s Forgotten Chinatown

Learn about the history, development, and cultural significance of this former Chinese business district.

All tours are subject to change.

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Los Angeles Conservancy

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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.

Stay connected!

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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, Summer Interns!

This summer, our advocacy and education departments benefited from the hard work of two amazing interns from the Getty Multicultural Internship Program.

Our education intern, Margaret Muñoz, earned a bachelor's degree in urban studies and a minor in film studies from Haverford College this past May. This summer, Margaret conducted research for a new student tour focused on the histories of women in Los Angeles, and assisted in our Adventures in Architecture program with Heart of Los Angeles (learn more on page 5).

Our advocacy intern, David Castro, earned a bachelor's degree in history and minors in



Interns David Castro and Margaret Muñoz made lasting contributions to the Conservancy this summer. Photo by Douglas Hill.

archaeology and digital humanities from UCLA this year. During his internship, David researched neighborhood issues and community organizations, and identified opportunities for new collaborations. He assisted in developing a neighborhood storytelling project focused on Lincoln Heights, and identified ways to improve the Neighborhoods section of our website at laconservancy.org/la-neighborhoods.

The two of them also collaborated on a project to create history-rich activities for a community fair in Boyle Heights.

Thank you, Margaret and David! We'll miss you, and wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Welcome Lisett B. Chavarela, Director of Communications

Please join us in welcoming the Conservancy's new director of communications, Lisett B. Chavarela.

Lisett has nearly twenty years of experience in marketing and communications, devoting fifteen of those years to nonprofit communications and fund development. Most recently, she was vice president of marketing at Junior Blind of America (now known as Wayfinder Family Services).

Lisett earned dual bachelor's degrees in sociology and Chicana/o studies at UCLA. She later returned for her MBA from UCLA Anderson School of Management. Lisett also holds a certificate in Marketing and

Fundraising for Nonprofit Organizations from California Lutheran University. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Lisett holds L.A.'s history dear to her heart.

"I have been very fortunate to have Los Angeles' historic places be part of my story and am passionate about preserving them for future generations to come."

We're thrilled to have Lisett join the Conservancy team!

11 Most Endangered Places in America: Walkout Schools of Los Angeles

by M. Rosalind Sagara

In June, the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed the "Walkout Schools of Los Angeles" on its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, highlighting the threat to these important examples of our nation's cultural and architectural heritage. While the 11 Most listing alone does not guarantee protection for these historic places, it raises public awareness about the significance of the Walkout Schools to our nation's history and the current threats they face.

The five campuses include Belmont High School, Garfield High School, Lincoln High School, Roosevelt High School, and Wilson High School (now El Sereno Middle School). Some of these campuses currently have historic buildings at great risk for demolition or significant alteration under the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) comprehensive modernization projects.

Earlier this year, we partnered with other community organizations, including the grassroots Committee to Defend Roosevelt, to raise awareness of LAUSD's demolition plans for Roosevelt High.

Our calls for modernization and historic preservation gained widespread support, including from California State Assembly Member Wendy Carillo and L.A. City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, who urged LAUSD to consider these alternatives.

Ultimately, LAUSD's Board of Education voted to demolish nearly all historic buildings at Roosevelt High School. Included in the next round of modernization projects is Lincoln High School. We will continue to raise public awareness about the significance of the Walkout Schools to L.A.'s history, and urge LAUSD to give serious consideration to preservation alternatives that enable students to benefit from modernized and historic state-of-the-art facilities.

To stay up-to-date on the Lincoln High School project, sign up for our Action Alert email list at *laconservancy.* org/subscribe.

To learn more about the Walkouts, visit *laconservancy.org/walkouts*.

Thank you for your support of our important advocacy work in the community!



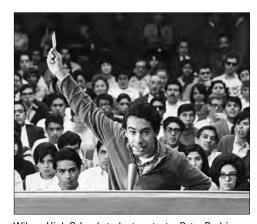
Roosevelt students protest during the 1968 East L.A. Chicano Student Walkouts. Photo from UCLA Digital Library.



LAUSD's Board of Education voted to demolish nearly all historic buildings on the Roosevelt High School campus. Photo by Adrian Scott Fine/L.A. Conservancy.



Police handcuff a Brown Beret and photographer from the Free Press outside Belmont High School, March 8th 1968. Photo from Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collections.



Wilson High School student protester Peter Rodriguez at a 1968 LAUSD Board of Education meeting. Photo from Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collections.



Picket line outside of Lincoln High School in September 1968. Photo from Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collections.



Lincoln High School is next on LAUSD's list of modernization projects. Photo by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy.

Youth Walking Tours Make History Fun

by Sana Ahmed

It's back-to-school season and our newly updated Student Walking Tour program is in full swing! But we still need your help spreading the word.

Do you know a teacher, youth leader, or parent with children in grades three through twelve? If so, please let them know about this wonderful program offered to schools, community groups, and anyone working with youth.

Earlier this year, we introduced updated versions of our Historic Downtown and Union Station walking tours to student groups. The tours incorporate place-based learning and align with California State standards in History and Social Studies.

Led by docents trained in youth engagement, these 90-minute tours take students on a journey of L.A.'s vibrant past. They learn about the stories of buildings, their design, and most importantly, the people involved with those buildings. Interactive activities throughout the tour encourage engagement and help students view historic places through a preservationist's eye.

Questions elicit inquiry and help students build connections to their own neighborhoods. At the Bunker Hill stop in the Historic Downtown tour, for example, the docent asks students to picture a place in their neighborhood that no longer exists. Then they ask, "Did that change have a positive or negative impact in your community?"

Both tours end with the same question: Why is historic preservation important? In ending with this question, we hope to inspire students to share what they learned on the tour, and to seek out more information about the historic places in their neighborhoods.

Tours last approximately two hours and cost \$10 per student (twelve person minimum required). We offer scholarships upon request for groups with financial need.

For more information on the program, visit laconservancy.org/student-tours.

Student Walking Tour Docents Lead the Way

The Conservancy is committed to bringing history, architecture, and a passion for preservation to young people, because they are our future leaders. One of the ways we reach them is through our Student Walking Tour Program. Education Specialist Sana Ahmed recently interviewed Joseph and Marcie Gresko, a married couple who volunteer as Student Walking Tour docents.

What inspired you to become a docent for student tours?

Marcie: We're retired and were looking for a volunteer activity we could do together... Joe is a former engineer. We both are interested in architecture and have been involved in education as teachers... This docent opportunity seemed to be a nice melding of our two interests: architecture and education.

How has your experience been volunteering as a pair?

Marcie: The benefit of being a pair is you can study the scripts together. We can customize our own tours with extra research. We anticipate questions that students commonly ask and research accordingly.

Joseph: There are tons of different ways to split up the tour in terms of co-facilitating... many ways to incorporate two people...

Marcie: We've also found that by coming as a pair, we find ourselves exploring downtown L.A. (DTLA) more often. We never used to visit the city as often as we do now!

Can you share some highlights from leading student tours?

Marcie: I've found that groups with background knowledge of the history of DTLA from their teachers are the most engaging and excited on the tour. It is extremely rewarding to have groups that are prepped beforehand.

Joseph: We had one school group that knew DTLA's history before coming on the tour. They were each assigned a place along the tour, and were supposed to get a picture of themselves in their assigned space. They came with an ownership of a certain place beforehand! Sharing ownership in the tour engages students.

What advice would you give to those interested in becoming a Student Walking Tour docent?

Marcie: The more concrete you can make something the better. For example, "The chandelier in the library weighs as much as a small car." Present information in ways that will grab children's



attention, rather than abstract facts. Concrete and odd facts get the most excitement from kids!

Which building is your favorite on the tour?

Joseph: The L.A. Central Library! During the tour we stand outside the library and talk about it. Then we go inside and... tie the outside of the library to the inside of the library.

Marcie: The Bradbury Building! The outside does not look very special; you would never guess what it looks like inside. It's a nice surprise for the kids—a revelation.

Another Summer of Adventures in Architecture

by Margaret Muñoz

Every summer for the past ten years, the Conservancy has hosted Adventures in Architecture, a program in partnership with Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), a nonprofit that works with youth in the Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. This summer we had the pleasure of hosting middle school students.

The Adventures in Architecture program introduces students to historic and culturally significant sites in their neighborhood. This year's program focused on community. Conservancy staff and volunteers led students on tours of significant sites in the neighborhood, such as the American Cement Building, the Hayworth Theatre, Bullocks Wilshire/Southwestern Law School, and MacArthur Park.

Through visits to these sites, students learned about preservation, adaptive reuse, community, architectural styles in their neighborhood, and the work of the Conservancy. One activity involved students creating their own adaptive reuse project for their community fifty years in the future. They had to consider how their community's needs might evolve in the next fifty years.

The variety of final projects—such as a Chipotle restaurant-turned-community garden greenhouse and a job center to serve the homeless/low-income community—revealed the creativity and potential of the students to solve the issues their community might face in the future.

The students also visited the Conservancy's office to share their adventures with staff, and to talk with them about their roles in preserving historic sites in Los Angeles. The program ended with a visit to OUE Skyspace, the observation deck atop the US Bank Tower, from which students were able to iden-



Students create a map of places in their community, the MacArthur Park/Westlake neighborhood of L.A. Photo by Sana Ahmed/L.A. Conservancy.

tify their neighborhood and the sites visited during the program.

We look forward to working with HOLA again next year. We're grateful for the opportunity to empower these future preservationists!

L.A. Neighborhoods Conference Looks at Preservation and Housing

As the housing crisis worsens and new development rises, historic neighborhoods are increasingly vulnerable to demolition and loss of community character. This year's L.A. Historic Neighborhoods Conference focuses on the intersection of historic preservation, affordable housing, and the challenge of increasing housing supply.

We hope you can join us on **Saturday**, **October 13** at Lincoln High School in Lincoln Heights for this day-long forum hosted in partnership with the City of L.A.'s Office of Historic Resources. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., and the program ends at 4:00 p.m.

The conference kicks off with a keynote panel of housing experts moderated by Saul Gonzalez, KCRW reporter and host of the podcast, *There Goes the Neighborhood: Los Angeles.* Participants will then attend morning and afternoon sessions.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1968 East L.A. Chicano Student Walkouts. Lincoln High School played a major role in the Walkouts, which were a milestone in L.A.'s Chicanx history, and a catalyst for the Chicano Civil Rights Movement (learn more about the Walkouts on page 3). This is also a great opportunity to see the historic campus.

After a brief closing program, guests will end the day with one of four walking tours.

To see session descriptions and register for the conference, visit *laconservancy.org/neighborhoods*. Be sure to register by Friday, September 28 to take advantage of our \$20 early bird rate, which includes conference materials, morning refreshments, and lunch. After September 28, tickets will be \$25.

Morning Sessions

Multi-Family Housing: Balancing the Need for New and Old Housing

Preservation Architecture:
Designing Infill
Housing and Affordable
Housing in Historic
Neighborhoods

L.A.'s Legacy Businesses: Challenges and Opportunities

Power Sessions

Preservation 101: Office Hours with the OHR

Building Materials: Reuse and Repair Old Windows

Aftermath of Senate Bill 827: What Should We Expect Next?

Where Students Made History: 1968 East L.A. Chicano Student Walkouts

Afternoon Sessions

"Granny Flats" in Historic Districts: Achieving Housing and Preservation

Engaging Young People in Preserving Historic Places

Beyond SurveyLA: Using L.A.'s Historic Resource Inventory for Community Planning

Walking Tours

Lincoln Heights Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ)

Lincoln Heights Discoveries

Lincoln High School Tour

El Sereno Berkshire Craftsman District HPOZ

A Conservancy Love Story: Mary Alice Wollam & Bob Brennan

by Liz Leshin

We interviewed two longtime Conservancy volunteers, Mary Alice Wollam and Bob Brennan, a husband and wife team who met while volunteering on a Conservancy special tour.

"In 1989, I was helping to organize the Case Study House tour, and we needed a volunteer photographer," recalls Mary Alice. "A staff member called me with a name, which I wrote down as 'Bob Somebody' on a work memo pad." That note, now framed, hangs in Bob and Mary Alice's utility room.

Brought together by the Conservancy and a love of great architecture, the couple married in 1991.

Mary Alice, who still actively volunteers with the Conservancy, adds, "I never tire of being a docent and sharing local architecture. It always thrills me to visit a new building."

Why did you join the Conservancy?

Bob: Ironically it was a mail solicitation... that was the genesis of me joining, I wanted to be part of the solution, not the problem, and the Conservancy's mission to preserve worthwhile architecture and history was then, and is now, of fundamental importance.

Why is Conservancy membership important?



Mary Alice: There is so much about Los Angeles to appreciate—the history, the people, the architecture, visiting buildings and neighborhoods... and the fact that Los Angeles, whether in person or via books, continually unfolds to reveal new surprises.

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

Mary Alice: Conservancy education

programs serve as a gateway for people to think about preservation. Docents give tourgoers the tools to see and understand buildings, neighborhoods, architectural styles, and social and cultural history, all of which inspire people to think about the vital role that the built environment plays in their lives and the life of the community.

Why have you chosen to be a member of the Conservancy's planned giving program, Pillar Society?

Mary Alice: Between us, Bob and I have spent about sixty-five years as Los Angeles Conservancy members. We belong to the Pillar Society so our interest in preservation will continue in the future.

Bob: I have always wished that more Angelenos would find out about our history and culture, and cherish it. And be active Conservancy members! May the Conservancy always be the foremost advocate of preserving our architecture, our history, our culture!

Read the full interview at *laconser-vancy.tumblr.com*.

Become a Pillar: Join the Pillar Society

Just as pillars support buildings, members of the Conservancy's Pillar Society substantially support our efforts to protect L.A.'s historic and culturally significant places.

The Conservancy established the Pillar Society to acknowledge those who have executed estate plans to leave the organization with a legacy gift. These legacy gifts will make a significant and lasting contribution to our cultural heritage by allowing the Conservancy to continue to recognize, preserve, and revitalize the architectural and cultural resources of Los Angeles County for generations to come.

To learn more, please contact **Director of Development Liz Leshin at (213) 430-4213 or** *Ileshin@laconservancy.org*. If you have already made provisions to support the Conservancy in your estate plan but have not notified us, please let Liz know so we can appropriately acknowledge you and invite to Pillar Society events, including an annual luncheon.

Thank you again for your important support of the Conservancy, and for your help in building the preservation movement in Los Angeles.

MAY 30 / JULY 26

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.

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IT'S MEMBER SEPTEMBER!

Our work wouldn't be possible without our members. YOU are the reason many of L.A. County's historic gems still stand. As a thank you, we're once again offering our popular Member September perk!

Throughout the month of September, members can book any of our weekly tours for only \$5! That's half off the regular member price of \$10 (limit four spots per tour). This is the perfect time to finally take that tour you've always wanted to take, and a great opportunity to bring a friend or a loved one.

This special price applies to all weekly tours taking place through November 2018, as long as you register by September 30.

No need to worry about special codes—the discounted price will show up automatically when you log in to your *laconservancy.org* user account. It's that easy.

If you have any questions about your account, please contact us at *info@laconservancy.org* or (213) 623-2489.

To learn more about the tours and to register, visit *laconservancy. org/tours*. This members-only perk is just one small way for us to express how much we appreciate your support. Thank you!



Explore downtown L.A.'s history and architecture on a walking tour! Tours are \$5 for members who register in September. Photo by Larry Underhill.

CONSERVANCY WALKING TOURS

During Member September, tours cost \$5 for Conservancy members, \$10 for 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*. Questions? Contact us at *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 Wednesday and Saturday

Millennium Biltmore Hotel Every Sunday

Union Station

Every Saturday

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



Los Angeles Conservancy

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UPCOMING EVENTS



L.A. HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 13

Join us for a day-long forum on all things historic neighborhoods! Presented in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources. Details on page 5.



PEOPLE & PLACES: THE HISTORIC FABRIC OF L.A.'S FASHION DISTRICT

Saturday, October 20

Join us at this special one-day event exploring downtown L.A's Fashion District! Details on page 1.



PRESERVATION AWARD APPLICATIONS

Due Friday, November 9

Each year, we honor some of the best in recent preservation work at our Preservation Awards Luncheon. Nominate a completed project by November 9. Learn more at *laconservancy.org/awards*.