



LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2026

LANDMARK

LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP QUARTERLY



MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

What happens when a community loses the places that hold its memory? We lose more than buildings. We lose the settings for shared experiences and multigenerational memories. Erased is the evidence of who came before us, and the stories that help us understand Los Angeles—and connect with one another.

The Central Library's Centennial is a powerful reminder not only of what it means to save a historic place, but of what it means for that place to endure and thrive. Its preservation is the Conservancy's origin story and our founding, and an early proof of concept for advocacy. By bringing people together to solve problems and find constructive, win-win solutions, we affirm that historic places are not relics of the past. They are essential parts of a living, ever-changing city and county.

Places do not survive by accident. They endure because people care enough to speak up, organize, and act. The excitement surrounding the imminent return of Hollywood's Cinerama Dome and the reopening of Leimert Park's 1932 Vision Theatre shows what is possible when communities insist on a future for the places that matter.

Still, many historic places remain at risk. Through our new L.A. Watch List, we are drawing attention to places threatened by neglect, weak enforcement deterrents, and eroding protections. First on the Watch

List is Frank Lloyd Wright's 1939 Sturges House in Brentwood, and the public response has been an encouraging early sign.

Preservation is ultimately about experiencing Los Angeles. Thank you for supporting our tours, events, The Heritage Project, advocacy, education, and special programs—such as *Last Remaining Seats* and *Last...Remains*—that keep these irreplaceable stories alive and connect both kids and adults with historic places.

Until next time,

Adrian Scott Fine

ADRIAN SCOTT FINE, PRESIDENT AND CEO



This year's *Last Remaining Seats* welcomed nearly 7,500 moviegoers to L.A.'s Broadway! Pictured here: Christine Madrid French (right), friend, colleague, and author of 'The Architecture of Suspense', introduced our closing night screening of Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*.

(L-R) Central 100 Co-Chairs Madeline Peña and Christina Rice, President & CEO of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles Stacy Lieberman, and City Librarian of Los Angeles Public Library John F. Szabo explore the Central Library's history and its future, and share how you can join in the centennial celebrations throughout the year. Read more on page 6. Photo by Dalton Fisher.



**LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY**

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

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Members enjoy exclusive access and first dibs on special events, tours, and experiences, like our popular tour of L.A.'s General Hospital.



DALTON FISHER

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NAMED DTLA'S *BEST TOUR*

L.A. Conservancy tours earn top honors as the best way to explore downtown.



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Our new L.A. Watch List puts a light on demolition by neglect and its threat to historic landmarks and their stories.



KELSEY SMITH/L.A. CONSERVANCY

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DISCOVER CLAREMONT

Take a day trip to Claremont with local member, Patricia A. Lobello. A ride on the Metrolink drops you directly at your first location!

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Follow us @laconservancy on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

Comments? Questions? Get in touch at:
info@laconservancy.org





Above: Cinerama Dome by Jessica Hodgdon/L.A. Conservancy. Below: Cinerama Dome's opening night premiere of 'It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World' on November 2, 1963. Courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library, Security Pacific National Bank Collection.

IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD RETURN FOR THE CINERAMA DOME

IN JULY 2026, ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RESTORE AND REOPEN THE LEGENDARY CINERAMA DOME AND THE ADJACENT FORMER ARCLIGHT HOLLYWOOD MOVIE COMPLEX IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT. Construction begins this summer and both theatres are expected to reopen in 2028.

Designed by Welton Becket & Associates in 1963, the Cinerama Dome was the world's first concrete geodesic dome, built to showcase the innovative Cinerama process. Few of these theatres were ever built, making our cherished Hollywood dome a rare surviving example.

In 1998, then-owner Pacific Theatres proposed encasing the dome, removing the theatre's plaza, box offices, marquee, and curved screen, while excavating the auditorium for stadium seating and converting the lobby into a restaurant.

Fearing the plan would erase the theatre's iconic character, the Conservancy's Modern Committee joined Friends of the Cinerama Dome, Hollywood Heritage, and many other community members in pressing for preservation-focused solutions. This included landmark designation in 1998 and the construction of sensitive infill that still exists today. The theatre closed in 2021 and its future remained uncertain until now.

"We have a history with Cinerama Dome and were relieved to connect with Sony and Alamo Drafthouse about their plans to restore and reopen the theatre," says Adrian Scott Fine, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Conservancy. "The 'Cinerama' name and Modern exterior branding will remain intact and we're working with project representatives to review project plans."

The Cinerama Dome's reopening will bring back more than a theatre. It will restore a treasured landmark where families, friends, and communities gather, create memories, and celebrate the magic of the movies.



AWARDS

L.A. CONSERVANCY EARNS TOP HONORS

LOS ANGELES DOWNTOWN NEWS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED THE L.A. CONSERVANCY FOR HAVING THE BEST DOWNTOWN TOURS AND A READER RECOMMENDED NONPROFIT.



DALTON FISHER

These awards are especially meaningful because they were chosen through community voting, which reflects the support and appreciation from those who visit, engage with, and believe in the Conservancy's mission and work.

BOOK NOW & EXPERIENCE OUR AWARD-WINNING TOURS FIRSTHAND!



THE LOS ANGELES LEGACY BUSINESS PROGRAM RECEIVED THE 2026 AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN THE OPPORTUNITY AND EMPOWERMENT CATEGORY BY THE L.A. SECTION OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION.



NATHAN HANSON

The Conservancy was invited to join the City of Los Angeles in accepting the award as longtime advocates and a proud partner of L.A.'s citywide program. In 2025, the Conservancy created the City's Legacy Business Toolkit, a free digital resource to help 'mom and pop shops' safeguard, strengthen, and grow their businesses. In its first seven months, the toolkit was downloaded nearly 5,500 times, providing a critical resource to Los Angeles business owners.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEGACY BUSINESS PROGRAM & GET THE FREE TOOLKIT



Postcards from a Historic Los Angeles Summer



LEONEL LEYVA

THE HERITAGE PROJECT

THIS SUMMER, THE CONSERVANCY WRAPPED UP THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE HERITAGE PROJECT SUMMER INTENSIVE—a life-changing experience for fifteen high school students from across L.A. County, including South L.A., Glendale, Westlake, Pico Union, Mid-City, and more.

Over three weeks of field trips and hands-on workshops, students explored Los Angeles County's history and met the people and communities who shaped and protected its natural and cultural heritage. They visited more than 30 historic sites, from Altadena, still recovering from the 2025 Eaton Fire, to the 1945 Wilfandel Club in Mid-Wilshire, the oldest Black Women's Club in Los Angeles, to Catalina Island, where they camped overnight and learned about Indigenous histories and local efforts to preserve the culture and land.

Along the way, they uncovered stories often left out of the history books and explored their personal relationships to where they live and their identities as Angelenos. Most importantly, they came away seeing local historic and natural places in a new light and understanding why protecting these places and stories matters.

The Heritage Project is provided free to students and is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture, the Getty Foundation, Libby Motika, Curtis & Jill Scheetz, and incredible members like you. Thank you!

THE VISION REOPENS

THE VISION THEATRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN LEIMERT PARK VILLAGE IS SHINING AGAIN!

Its iconic Art Deco marquee has returned as a beacon of creativity, community, and Black cultural heritage.

Opened as the Leimert Theatre in 1932, the historic venue was built by Howard Hughes and later became the Watchtower before actor Marla Gibbs purchased it and renamed it the Vision. The City of Los Angeles acquired the property in the late 1990s and invested \$40 million in its restoration.

This summer's grand reopening filled the theatre with music, joy, pride, and celebration. Now beautifully rehabilitated, the Vision is ready for its next chapter, welcoming new generations to experience performances, storytelling, gathering, and artistic expression.

Cheers to the artists, advocates, preservationists, community members, and the City's Department of Cultural Affairs for bringing this beloved landmark back to life!

POLICY ALERT

SECTION 106: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

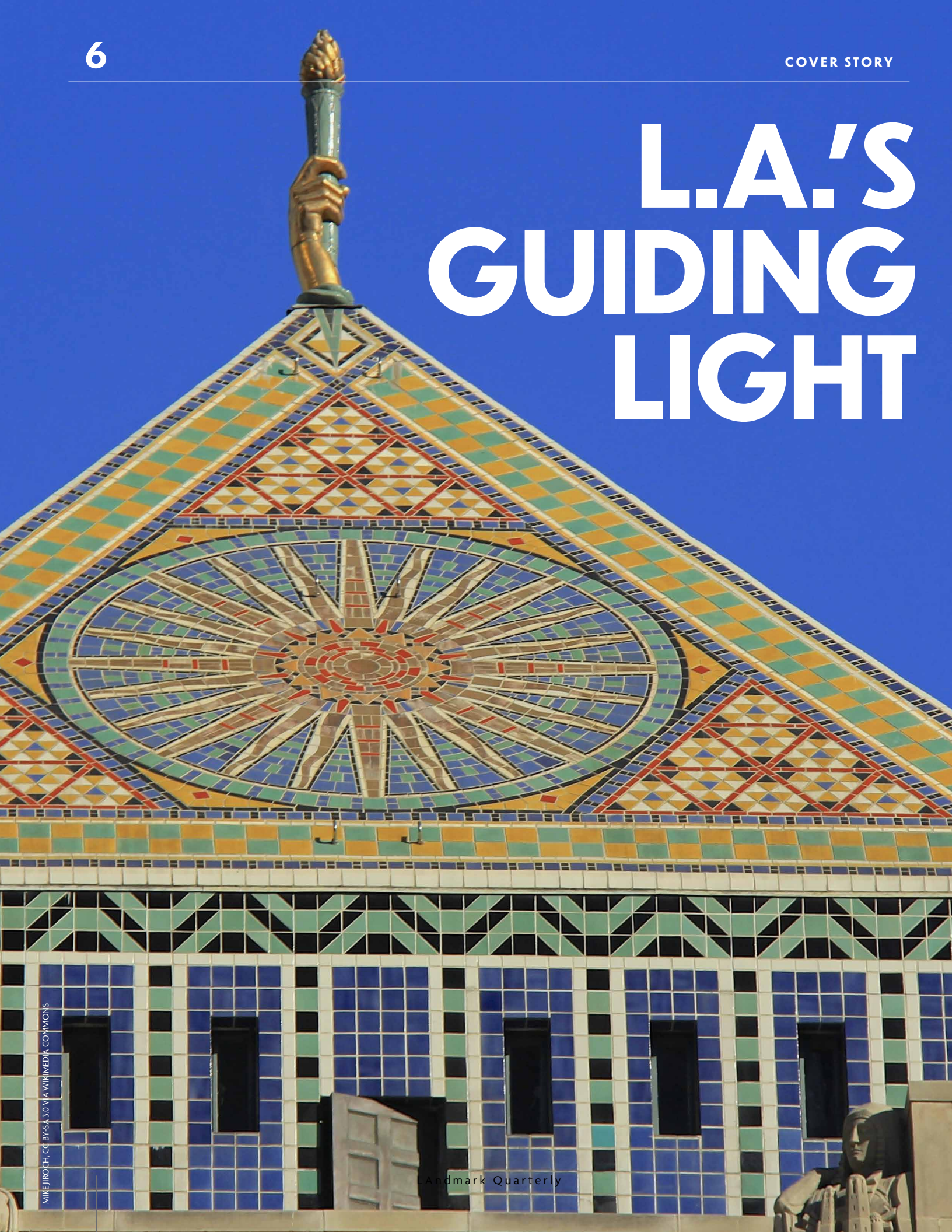
THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS PROPOSING MAJOR CHANGES TO RULES PROTECTING HISTORIC AND CULTURALLY IMPORTANT PLACES UNDER THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT. For 60 years, Section 106 has required federal agencies to consider how projects may affect historic buildings, archaeological sites, and cultural places. It also gives the public, local governments, and Tribal communities a voice in decisions and a chance for independent review. The proposed changes would weaken these protections, limit community participation, and potentially increase delays and lawsuits by eliminating a consultation process that often finds workable solutions. Preservation advocates nationwide, including the L.A. Conservancy, are mobilizing to oppose these changes and protect our heritage.

Learn more about Section 106 in Los Angeles and beyond at laconservancy.org/section-106



ADRIAN SCOTT FINE/L.A. CONSERVANCY

L.A.'S GUIDING LIGHT



100 Years of the Central Library

The Los Angeles Central Library has been a defining architectural landmark at the heart of downtown L.A. for one hundred years, illuminating the city's promise with its iconic golden torch. In its architecture lies the story of the city, its people, cultures, ambitions, and progress. And, as we reflect on the library's extraordinary milestone, we also celebrate its enduring imprint on Los Angeles in the next century.

"What a privilege it is to celebrate 100 years in this glorious building!" says John F. Szabo, City Librarian. "Central Library has grown and changed through the last century along with the City it serves, but our core values to serve and share the stories of all Angelenos remain unchanged."

At the heart of the library's year-long Centennial Celebration is the story of a place that has endured, adapted, and is intrinsically connected to the people of Los Angeles. New exhibitions in library galleries, a time capsule reveal, and a year's worth of engagement across the library's network of branches celebrate the history and evolution of the Central Library.

When the Central Library opened its doors in 1926, Los Angeles was a city in the midst of a remarkable change. The last work of the major American architect

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the library's distinctive blend of Art Deco style with ancient Egyptian, Roman, Byzantine, Spanish Colonial and other revival influences instantly made it one of downtown's most iconic architectural treasures.

The tower's colorful pyramid, mosaics, cultural details, and torch loudly declared that this was a civic monument designed to inspire. From day one, the Central Library's architecture spoke to a young city moving boldly into the future.

But, by the mid-1960s, functional problems with Central Library were mounting, including inadequate space, outdated electrical and mechanical systems, deferred maintenance, and limited onsite parking.

Despite its undeniable importance and designation as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, the Central Library would soon be threatened with demolition and insensitive alterations to solve its operational needs.

And, so a decades-long debate ensued: *How does a city make room for the future while preserving the places that tell its story?*

The library's survival would ultimately become an extraordinary chapter in Los Angeles history, shaped by preservationists, civic leaders, librarians, and Angelenos who believed Goodhue's library building was worth saving.



ABOVE: Stacy Lieberman (L), President & CEO of the Library Foundation of L.A., and John F. Szabo (R), LAPL's City Librarian.
BELOW: Atrium, Tom Bradley Wing. Photos by Dalton Fisher.



Among them were members of the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (today's AIA-LA) who, in the early 1970s, formed a study group to offer possible alternatives to rehabilitate and expand the library. By end of the decade, proposals and funding had come and gone, as the resistance against losing the library grew. And, so in 1978, an impassioned group of concerned citizens banded together as the Los Angeles Conservancy to save the Central Library and more.

"The Conservancy's founders galvanized community members who not only wanted to save the Central Library; they wanted to advocate for all historic buildings," says Adrian Scott Fine. "They were very ambitious. They didn't just say the City of Los Angeles. They said all of Los Angeles County, which is over 4,000 square miles!"

The nascent nonprofit spearheaded a Citizens's Task Force for Central Library Development to find common ground

that met the needs of the librarians, but retained and carefully expanded the historic library. The task force included representatives from downtown corporations such as ARCO, as well as librarians, developers, architects, and city officials.

In 1985, City Council approved an innovative win-win solution that included Transfer Development Rights. A wing would be added to complement and be compatible with the original Goodhue Building thanks to a creative financing package that included transferring the library's air rights, so the Library Tower (now US Bank Tower) and the Gas Company Tower could be the tallest buildings in Los Angeles at the time.

A series of disasters, including an arson fire in 1986 and the Whittier

Narrows earthquake in 1987 delayed the renovation plan until 1989. The Central Library finally reopened in 1993 with a grand community celebration. The new expanded East Wing more than doubled the library's size, and the re-established historic West Lawn became the Maguire

Gardens. Other components of the project, known as Library Square, included the Lawrence Halprin-designed Bunker Hill Steps and a return of a landscape area to the Flower Street side of the library.

"From the beginning, win-win solutions and collaboration have been a part of the Conservancy's core values," Fine continues. "It's vital to hear divergent viewpoints and work together to find a solution that meets modern needs without compromising the historic character of the places we care about."

Born out of this effort to save the





LOOKING FORWARD: THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY

As Los Angeles Public Library plans for its next one hundred years, its public programs and services continue to serve Angelenos and the City's ever-evolving needs. Resources such as Central Library's Octavia Lab and Pio Pico Koreatown Library's Koreatown Media Lab offer free access to state-of-the-art creative technology, including 3D printing, photography, podcasting, sewing, and more.

(L-R) The Octavia Lab, 2026 graduates of LAPL's Career Online High School, and the Koreatown Media Lab. Photos courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library.

library, the Conservancy has continued recognizing, preserving, and revitalizing the historic, architectural, and cultural resources of Los Angeles and is now the largest membership-based local historic preservation organization in the country.

"Our work is always evolving in response to what is relevant today and tomorrow," says Fine. "What started with the Central Library is now a community-fueled effort to preserve the heritage of Los Angeles County through our advocacy and education programs."

A value central to the library's legacy, its architecture has endured not because it remained frozen in time, but because it has continued to adapt. For a century, this exceptional place has welcomed new generations, new technologies, and new ideas while retaining the historic fabric that made it an icon in the first place. It stands as a reminder that the most enduring historic places do more than serve a practical purpose, they connect people over a collective sense of place, memory, and identity.

And, at the Central Library, they do so much more! Together, Angelenos invent, create, preserve, discover, and learn together.

"Central Library has always represented opportunity for our city, providing access to knowledge, creativity, and connection for everyone," says Stacy Lieberman, President and CEO of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. "As we mark the anniversary of this storied

landmark, our Centennial Celebration honors that legacy by looking decisively toward the future. With this initiative, we're helping write the next chapter for LAPL—unlocking an even more powerful tomorrow for our city's libraries, one as limitless as Los Angeles itself."

On page 14, meet Central 100 Co-Chairs, Madeline Peña and Christina Rice, to explore how you can join in the library's celebration. >>

SAVE THE DATE: A CENTENNIAL PANEL ON CENTRAL LIBRARY

BUILT FOR THE FUTURE—SAVED FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Wednesday, October 28 at 7 p.m. | Mark Taper Auditorium - Central Library

Join us for a dynamic discussion on Central Library's past, present, and bold look ahead at its next one hundred years. Moderated by **Madeline Brand**, host of KCRW's Press Play, the conversation will examine the library's legacy and what it means to preserve, steward, and reimagine the role of this civic monument in L.A.'s future. Panelists include the Conservancy's **Adrian Scott Fine**, author **Susan Orlean**, and journalist and longtime Conservancy supporter **John Welborne**. *Co-presented by ALOUD, a program of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and the L.A. Conservancy.* **This panel is FREE and open to the public!**



RSVP HERE

PRESERVATION AT A TURNING POINT:

WHAT'S AT RISK IN LOS ANGELES AND BEYOND

The Los Angeles Central Library. The Wilmett Theatre. The Ennis House. Angelino Heights. The Cinerama Dome. All once threatened. All now treasured and an inextricable part of L.A.'s backdrop and future.

Los Angeles has always been a place of evolving histories, communities, and possibilities. And, for decades, preservation advocates, including the Los Angeles Conservancy, neighborhood groups, historians, and community members have worked hard to protect the places and stories that hold this heritage—from historic homes and neighborhoods to commercial buildings, legacy businesses, and cultural landscapes.

And, yet, many of our victories are increasingly vulnerable as we see historic resources deteriorating, protections unenforced, and public policies prioritizing development over stewardship, even when preservation solutions are potent, viable, and in the public's best interest.

Taking Action: Barry Building & Sturges House

Last June, the Los Angeles Conservancy and Angelenos for Historic Preservation filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles and the owner of the historic Barry Building in Brentwood, challenging the City's unlawful approval to replace the designated landmark with a vacant dirt lot.

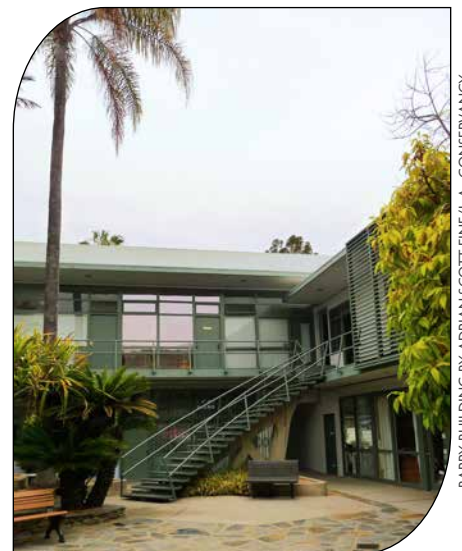
Specifically, the lawsuit seeks to overturn the City Council's approval to demolish the iconic Barry Building (Historic-Cultural Monument #887), contesting the City's misapplied environmental protections and local preservation laws to allow the demolition of a landmark without any replacement project proposed.

"By greenlighting this demolition, the City is establishing a perilous loophole that rewards intentional 'demolition by neglect,'" said Adrian Scott Fine, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Conservancy. "Allowing a developer to clear out tenants, ignore mandatory maintenance, and then use the resulting deterioration to claim preservation is 'infeasible' sets a dangerous precedent for every designated landmark in Los Angeles."

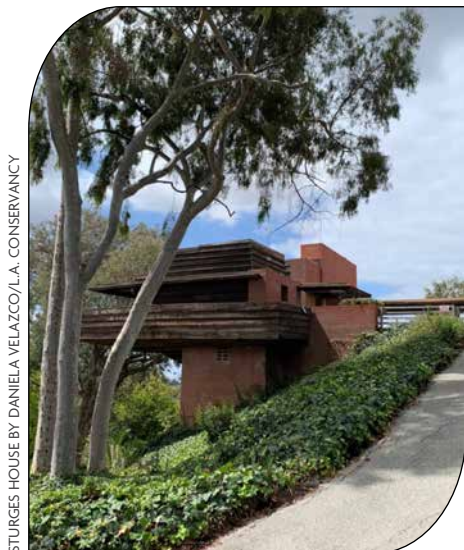
The Barry Building was a cultural touchstone for West Los Angeles for nearly fifty years, first housing Brentwood Books and subsequently Dutton's Books. Its courtyard hosted readings and book signings attended by hundreds of prominent authors and public figures, making it an important part of Los Angeles's cultural history.

Designed in 1951 by renowned architect Milton H. Caughey, the building is also a rare surviving example of California Modern architecture, distinguished by floating pilotis, curved cantilevered staircases, and a central garden courtyard. Its developer, David Barry, Jr., also championed the historic Coral trees along the San Vicente median (HCM #148), tying the building to Brentwood's identity.

Since 2012, the property's owner has sought to raze the Barry Building. Just as long, the Conservancy and local community members have advocated for a win-win preservation solution. The owner has allowed the building to deteriorate while claiming it cannot be preserved, citing inflated cost estimates and unsupported claims of infeasibility.



BARRY BUILDING BY ADRIAN SCOTT FINE/L.A. CONSERVANCY



STURGES HOUSE BY DANIELA VELAZCO/L.A. CONSERVANCY

'Demolition by neglect' isn't a new strategy, but we're seeing much more brazen contempt for the policies and protections put in place to preserve designated landmarks—places the City has already deemed significant through designation.

It's one of the reasons why the Conservancy created the L.A. Watch List, spotlighting historic places in need of greater public attention and action.

First on the Conservancy's priority list is Frank Lloyd Wright's 1939 Sturges House (Historic-Cultural Monument #577), also in Brentwood. We partnered with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and community members to help raise awareness about this issue.

Wright's 1,200-square-foot Sturges House is the only example of his Usonian Style in Los Angeles, which focused on the creation of efficient, modern homes through the use of natural materials and a common kit of parts.

Like the Barry Building, the Sturges House is a designated landmark that has been left to decline. The deteriorating original redwood is visible from the street, along with widening gaps

in the siding that leave the striking 21-foot cantilevered structure vulnerable and could accelerate further damage to the property.

It is clear that Los Angeles lacks strong tools and effective deterrents to prevent 'demolition by neglect,' allowing historic places, and even Historic-Cultural Monuments to deteriorate beyond repair.

Angelenos have had enough. We made the call and you responded, joining the rally for action and voicing your concerns about the future of the Sturges House.

Three weeks after the L.A. Watch List dropped, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) issued a Notice of Code Violation to the Sturges House owner. The Notice, effective August 24, gives the owner 30 days to achieve compliance with the building code or submit a plan to LADBS on how they will correct the issues.

The Barry Building and the Sturges House are not isolated cases. Los Angeles needs a demolition-by-neglect ordinance with stronger, proactive protections and earlier intervention. By the time code enforcement can take place, it is often too late. The only available remedy may be limited to demolition orders issued for public safety.

Historic-Cultural Monument status alone cannot prevent ongoing neglect or ensure that a historic place is maintained.

Without enforceable maintenance requirements, more of the City's historic places will remain vulnerable to deterioration and potential loss—not by intent, but by inaction.

That is why the Conservancy advances preservation through policy and early action: shaping decisions at the table, protecting historic resources through tools like easements, and mobilizing when places are at risk.

Your membership makes this work possible, and we're grateful to count on your support.

Stay updated on the Conservancy's advocacy efforts by visiting our website, following us on social media, or signing up for our e-newsletters at laconservancy.org/subscribe.



ABOVE: MCKINLEY BUILDING IN 1977. BELOW: DEMOLITION OF MCKINLEY BUILDING IN 1998. L.A. CONSERVANCY ARCHIVES

MCKINLEY BUILDING: A CAUTIONARY LESSON IN DEMOLITION BY NEGLECT

The 1920s McKinley Building was one of the best interpretations of the Spanish Revival Churrigueresque style ever built on Wilshire Boulevard, yet it spent its last years vacant and deteriorating, vulnerable to demolition by neglect. Despite intensive efforts by the L.A. Conservancy, its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, and two viable purchase offers to rehabilitate the building, the McKinley Building was demolished in 1998.

MEMBERS CORNER

MEMBER FAVORITE

THAT'S A WRAP ON ANOTHER LAST REMAINING SEATS

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED us for our 2026 *Last Remaining Seats* season! You filled L.A.'s majestic movie palaces with laughter and gasps, oohs and aahs, and a wonderful sense of community that makes our classic film series in historic theatres so special. We screened six films across three weekends for nearly 7,500 moviegoers, *a third more than in 2025!* We're especially grateful to our marvelous team of volunteers, members, hosts, community groups, series regulars and newcomers, and our series sponsors, the Golden Globe Foundation and the Walter J. and Holly O. Thomson Foundation, all of whom combined make this spectacular annual series possible. Let's do it again next summer! But, first, we'll see you at our special Halloween event, *Last...Remains*, on October 17th for a matinee screening of *CLUE* and an evening screening of *THE SHINING* at the Million Dollar Theatre!



DALTON FISHER

🔍 Get your *Last...Remains* tickets for only \$20 at laconservancy.org/LRS



L.A.'S GENERAL HOSPITAL!

ADRIAN SCOTT FINE/L.A. CONSERVANCY

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS

The Jonathan Town Club in downtown Los Angeles. Lloyd Wright's Bollman House in the heart of Hollywood. And, most recently, a final return to L.A. County's General Hospital before its adaptive reuse. While this tour was one day only with limited spots available, this is exactly the kind of opportunity we love sharing with members.

Last Remaining Seats is another great example. All members enjoy discounted tickets, early entry on the day of screenings, and early presales for the films and our limited behind-the-scenes theatre tours.

Then, there are our weekly Saturday tours, available to all members at a discount, and are great to take solo or with friends, family, or colleagues! You can even schedule a private group tour for up to 12 people using your member rate of \$20 per person (or \$240 minimum).



ADRIAN SCOTT FINE/L.A. CONSERVANCY



We are always looking for new ways to open doors, offer memorable experiences, and give our members a little something extra for being part of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

MEMBERSHIP Q&A

BILL COUNTER

Supporting the Conservancy, Now and in the Future

Conservancy volunteer and supporter Bill Counter understands that a fiscally healthy organization needs to plan both short-term and long-term. Development Director Liz Leshin checked in with Bill about why and how he supports the L.A. Conservancy, and Bill shares an easy way for retired folks to make tax-free donations.

LIZ LESHIN: *Bill, can you tell me a little bit about yourself and why you're interested in preservation?*

BILL COUNTER: I've been fascinated by commercial architecture for decades. I got started doing tech theatre work in high school and quickly became obsessed with how theatre buildings were put together, how they differed depending on use and other factors, and how they were equipped. I've worked as a projectionist, electrical contractor specializing in theatre renovations, and as a theatre consultant helping old movie palaces convert to performing arts centers, including the Wiltern.

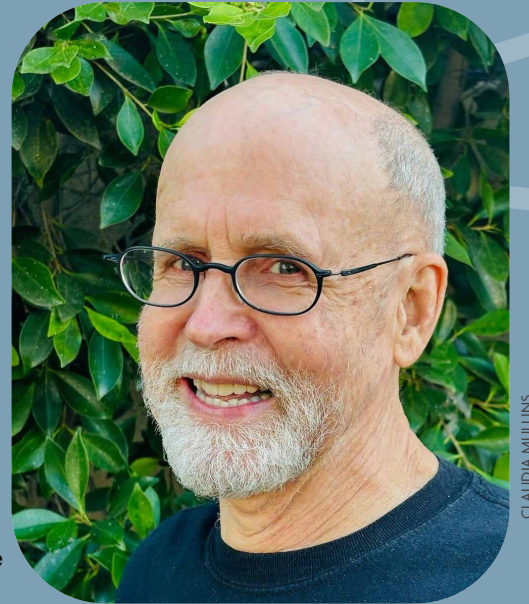
Now I'm retired and just play all day looking at vintage photos and exploring hundreds of L.A. area theatres in a documentation project that includes the website losangelestheatres.blogspot.com and a Facebook page: [facebook.com/losangelestheatres](https://www.facebook.com/losangelestheatres). Being obsessed with theatres, I help out with *Last Remaining Seats* because it's a vital project for the health of Broadway. And, of course, it's fun exploring all the theatres and answering questions about their construction and history.

LL: *You're a Pillar Society member, which means putting the Conservancy in your estate plans. What motivated you to do this?*

BC: If you believe in the mission of an organization, I think it's important to support them on a long-term basis. Of course, at my age of 78, that doesn't mean just during the next couple of years while I can still write that annual check. Being serious about this means support after I die, by putting the Conservancy and other organizations as death beneficiaries on various accounts. It's easy to do.

LL: *Last year, you made a generous gift to the Conservancy's Preservation Annual Fund from your Qualified Charitable Distribution. Can you please describe briefly, in layman's terms, what that is – and what tax benefits you get by making a gift in this way?*

BC: As an old guy, I'm obligated to take Required Minimum Distributions from IRA accounts each year. That number keeps going up as account balances grow and the multiplier used to figure the distribution, based on age, results in having to withdraw more money each year. It's all taxable as current income. I don't need it all for my current expenses, so why pay taxes on it? A better option is giving a chunk of it to organizations like the Conservancy as what the IRS calls a QCD – a Qualified Charitable Distribution. It goes directly from your account administrator to the charity you choose – and that amount is deducted from your taxable income.



CLAUDIA MULLINS

LL: *This year you offered to use some of your QCD - \$25,000 – as part of a matching fund to encourage others to support the Conservancy's Preservation Annual Fund. Why?*

BC: I've been increasing my annual membership level for the last few years but a larger gift makes more of an impact. People like matching funds, and putting money in that pot is one way to encourage people to make a donation beyond their annual membership because it goes farther with a match.

LL: *Anything else you'd like to share?*

BC: Yes. See you at the Million Dollar Theatre for *Last Remains* on October 17.

Q WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CONSERVANCY
You can support the Conservancy **now** via a Qualified Charitable Donation or a Donor Advised Fund, and **later** by joining the Pillar Society and leaving a planned gift. To learn more about ways to give now and in the future, contact our Director of Development, Liz Leshin, at llestin@laconservancy.org.

Celebrate Central's Centennial Your Way

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



Central 100 Co-Chairs, Madeline Peña & Christina Rice

Looking for the best way to celebrate Central Library's centennial? We've got you covered! We've enlisted the help of Los Angeles Public Library's Director of Engagement and Learning Division, Madeline Peña, and Senior Librarian of the Photo Collection, Christina Rice, to share some of their favorite ways to commemorate this 100th anniversary year.

Christina and Madeline share, "As Co-Chairs, we have been the face of Central 100, but we need to highlight the work of the very talented team of the library staff who have helped make this year so special. In fact, committee members spearheaded two activities that have proven popular with the community."



EXPLORE L.A.'S ARCHITECTURAL EVOLUTION: COLLECTING CARD CATALOG STAMPS

"Central Library is the headquarters for the entire library system, so we wanted to meaningfully involve all LAPL branches in Central 100 celebrations. Another goal was to give away eleven pallets of old library catalog cards, left over from David Bunn's 1993 Central Library art project.

Marian Ekweogwu, Librarian in Literature & Fiction, combined both goals when she created stamps of every branch library in the system, using artwork from Jasmin Flores in our Library Store. Now, patrons can visit different branches to have catalog cards stamped. The response has been incredible, and it's wonderful seeing our branches shine during Central 100."



SHARE YOUR LIBRARY STORIES & MEMORIES: RECORDING AN ORAL TESTIMONIAL

"Michael Sokol, Librarian in Teen'Scape, has been the driving force behind an oral history project to record how Central Library has impacted the lives of Angelenos.

We have attempted collecting testimonials in the past, with limited success, so we challenged Michael to gather at least 100 submissions. As of this writing, 91 people have shared their insights and recollections, so now we'd like to raise the bar and try for 200 by year's end. We invite you to share your stories and memories of Central Library over the years via a short video recording that will become part of the LAPL Archives. Visit lapl.org/central-100/oral-history to share your own testimony!"



Pssst. Did you know you can get your very own Mold-A-Central Sphinx for just \$5?

WANT MORE WAYS TO CELEBRATE?

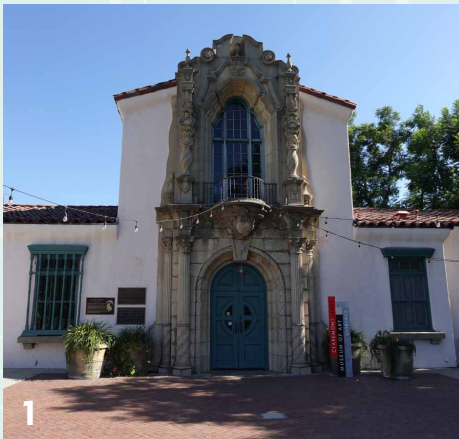
Visit lapl.org/central-100 for the latest centennial festivities!


WITH PATRICIA A. LOBELLO

L.A. Conservancy Member and Supporter,
Partner in the Probate & Estate Planning
Attorney Law Firm of Lobello Lamb Lewis
& Riley LLP

Claremont Village

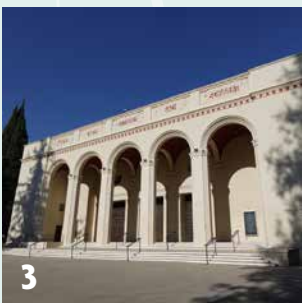
"Known affectionately as the 'City of Trees and PhDs,'" shares longtime Claremont resident and Conservancy supporter Patricia A. Lobello, "Claremont is a community where magnificent tree-lined streets, historic architecture, and academic excellence exist in remarkable harmony. At the heart of the community lies The Village, the city's walkable downtown district. Within only a few compact blocks, visitors discover locally owned shops and more than thirty-five restaurants representing over twenty international cuisines. One of the pleasures of visiting Claremont is that a car is almost unnecessary. Arriving aboard Metrolink places visitors directly behind the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art, making the historic downtown easily explored on foot exactly as it was intended."



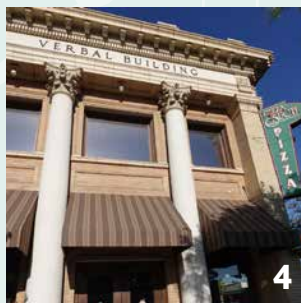
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CLAREMONT LEWIS MUSEUM OF ART

200 West First Street, Claremont

Housed in the beautifully restored Santa Fe Railway Depot, the museum provides the perfect introduction to Claremont's artistic heritage. The Spanish Colonial Revival depot itself is a landmark worthy of admiration before visitors even step inside. Dedicated to preserving and celebrating the work of artists with ties to the city, the museum presents changing exhibitions throughout the year while offering hands-on workshops that encourage visitors to create art themselves.

CRÈME BAKERY

116 Harvard Avenue North, Claremont

Only half a block north of the museum stands Crème Bakery, occupying a charming brick storefront distinguished by its stained-glass windows. The building formerly housed the offices of the *Claremont Courier*, the city's longtime award-winning newspaper. Today, owner Erica Hartig Dubreuil has transformed the historic space into an inviting French bakery filled with the aroma of authentic pastries, artisan breads, and expertly prepared coffee, making it an essential morning stop.

CLAREMONT COLLEGES

Bridges Auditorium, 450 North College Way

Continue one block north and one block east, where The Village blends almost imperceptibly into the Claremont Colleges. The consortium consists of five undergraduate colleges and two graduate institutions, each possessing its own architectural identity while contributing to a unified academic environment. A leisurely walk leads to the 1931 Bridges Auditorium or "Big Bridges" which has welcomed distinguished lecturers, celebrated musicians & renowned performing artists for generations.

THE VERBAL BUILDING

202-204-206 Yale Avenue, Claremont

A short walk west returns visitors to The Village and the handsome 1912 Verbal Building. This beautifully preserved Classical Revival commercial structure has remained in the Verbal family since its construction and remains one of downtown's most recognizable landmarks. Today it houses Pizza N Such, a longtime favorite serving pizza, sandwiches, and fresh salads.

PACKING HOUSE WINES AT THE CLAREMONT PACKING HOUSE

540 West First Street, Claremont

Continue west along First Street to one of the city's finest examples of adaptive reuse: the historic Packing House. Constructed during Claremont's citrus era, the building once played an important role in preparing locally grown fruit for shipment and has been thoughtfully transformed into a collection of specialty shops and restaurants, including one of my favorite Village destinations, Packing House Wines.



500 S. Grand Ave., Suite 1640
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Nonprofit Org.

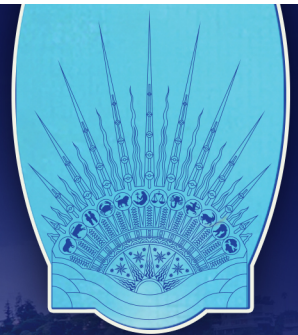
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PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS'S MAGNIFICENT PALEY HOUSE



An extraordinary estate. A legendary architect. A rare invitation.

Join us for an exclusive evening at the Jay Paley House (1936), a crown jewel in Paul Revere Williams's celebrated career and the longtime home of Barron and Marilyn Hilton. Discover its elegant interiors, storied grounds, and iconic Zodiac pool, largely unseen by the public until now.



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