



**ANGELS WALK<sup>®</sup> LA**  
SELF-GUIDED HISTORIC TRAILS

# Boyle Heights



**Metro**

THE TRANSIT & WALKING DISTRICTS OF HISTORIC LOS ANGELES



FROM LOS ANGELES MAYOR

**ERIC GARCETTI**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Angels Walk Boyle Heights.

There are many ways to explore the diverse fabric of our communities and neighborhoods—but one of the best ways is on foot. Over the years, thousands of Angelenos and visitors alike have strapped on their walking shoes, pulled out their Angels Walk maps, and taken themselves on authentic, self-guided tours of the cultural hotspots of our city.

Now, it's time to celebrate the incredible legacy of Boyle Heights.

I hope you will use this guidebook to learn more about Boyle Heights' unique treasures—from the Boyle Hotel and Breed Street Shul, to the vibrant heritage of local Chicano arts and activism. These thriving hubs of architecture and culture are essential threads in the rich tapestry of L.A.'s remarkable history.

Enjoy your walk, and thank you for celebrating the spirit of Los Angeles!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink, consisting of the initials "E.G." followed by a long horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Eric Garcetti  
*Mayor of Los Angeles*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Welcome .....</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>Getting There .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Walk Info .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## ANGELS WALK BOYLE HEIGHTS

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>6-7</b>
---------------------------	------------

### SECTION 1

<b>1st Street » Soto Street .....</b>	<b>8-27</b>
---------------------------------------	-------------

### SECTION 2

<b>Soto Street » Cesar E. Chavez .....</b>	<b>28-29</b>
--	--------------

### SECTION 3

<b>Cesar E. Chavez » Breed Street .....</b>	<b>30-35</b>
---	--------------

<b>FARTHER AFIELD .....</b>	<b>36-52</b>
-----------------------------	--------------

<b>Restaurants + More .....</b>	<b>53-55</b>
---------------------------------	--------------

<b>Walk Map + Sites .....</b>	<b>inside back cover</b>
-------------------------------	--------------------------

Hollenbeck Presbyterian Church



## WELCOME

## FROM COUNCILMEMBER, JOSÉ HUIZAR



Greetings! On behalf of the residents of Boyle Heights, I would like to welcome you to our community. I walked these same streets as a boy—and frankly, I can't imagine a more interesting place to grow up.

Boyle Heights has always been the heart of Los Angeles. For thousands of years, indigenous people lived along the banks of the Los Angeles River. An early settler described the area as “a land made ready by God for human hands to embellish.”

Truer words couldn't have been spoken. By the 1920s, the neighborhood had transformed from farmland and vineyards into a bustling and vibrant neighborhood. The diversity in Boyle Heights was unparalleled—Russians, Italians, Japanese, Mexicans, Jews, Armenians, Poles, Koreans, Germans, and African Americans—anyone and everyone could find their place in the community.

This interplay of people gave birth to a range of important movements. Early activism involved groups as disparate as Mexican railroad workers, the Ladies' Garment Workers Union, and Japanese-American physicians. The thread continued through the second half of the 20th century. Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, beloved labor leaders, made Boyle Heights their headquarters. It wasn't long afterward that the neighborhood became the epicenter of Chicano pride and culture.

I hope you have a wonderful time exploring Boyle Heights. You'll find that it remains as interesting and dynamic as it ever was. My family and I continue to live in the neighborhood. This is the place we are proud to call our home. It will forever live in our hearts.

Sincerely,

José Huizar

*Councilmember, Fourteenth District*





## WELCOME TO ANGELS WALK BOYLE HEIGHTS

We're proud to present Angels Walk Boyle Heights, our 13th walking trail. With it, we celebrate the rich history of this unique Los Angeles community. The walk consists of two elements: this user-friendly guidebook, and the on-sidewalk historical stanchions that highlight the area's most notable people, places, and events.

Just east of the Los Angeles River, Boyle Heights possesses what is undoubtedly the most impressive history of diversity and inclusion in the city. Known in its early days as the "Ellis Island of the West," this neighborhood welcomed first-generation Angelenos from around the world. Japanese, Mexican, Jewish, Armenian, African American, Russian, and Italian culture and commerce flourished among these streets, embodying the ethnically and culturally diverse Los Angeles identity we know today.

As you explore Boyle Heights, you'll come face to face with the distinct stories that make this Los Angeles neighborhood such a treasure. Learn about the Cummings Block and Mariachi Plaza, the birth of the Chicano Arts Movement, the bustling intersection of Brooklyn and Soto, the struggle of Japanese Americans during World War II, and much more.

Be sure to enjoy a meal or treat from one of the many local restaurants and eateries. Boyle Heights is known to have some of the most authentic (and delicious) Mexican food in the city; don't miss out on the opportunity to experience these local gems.

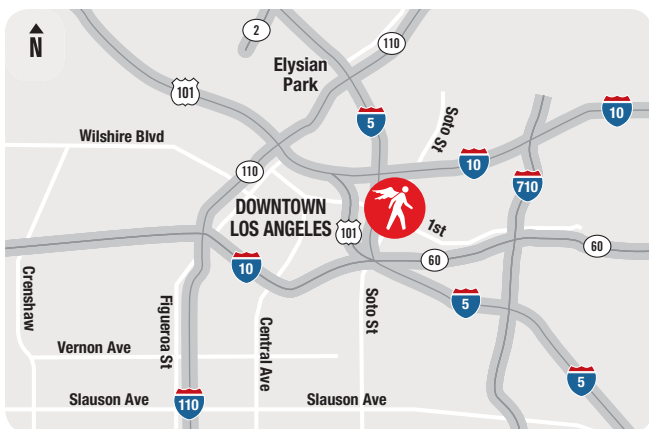
Today, Boyle Heights maintains an important identity in the history of Los Angeles, and it continues to uphold a long-standing mission of diversity, activism, and historic preservation. Angels Walk LA is proud and privileged to celebrate this community!



Deanna Spector Molloy  
Founder, Angels Walk LA



## GETTING THERE



## GETTING TO BOYLE HEIGHTS

Boyle Heights is located directly east of downtown Los Angeles, across the Los Angeles River.

## M Metro

Visit [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net) to help plan your trip and for detailed transit information, including downloadable maps and timetables. Metro also has a mobile app available for Android and iOS devices.

### BY RAIL

Board any Metro Gold Line train and disembark at the Pico/Aliso Station to begin the walk. You may also disembark at the Mariachi Plaza Station if you want to begin the walk at Stanchion #4, or at the Soto Station to begin the walk at Stanchion #10 (see map on back cover).

### BY BUS

Metro bus lines 30 (E. 1st St.), 68/770 (Cesar E. Chavez Ave.), and 251/252/605/751 (Soto St.) run throughout the day.

Check the Metro website ([www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net)) for maps, connecting lines, additional routes, and fare information, or call: **323-GO-METRO** (323-466-3876), M–F from 6:30 a.m.–7 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. For the hearing-impaired, use the California Relay Service, 711, then dial the number you need.

### BY CAR

There are metered and free parking spots along the walk route, as well as on adjacent and parallel streets. Please take note of posted hours and restrictions. There is also a pay parking lot behind Mariachi Plaza.

### ACCESS



All public sidewalks on the walk have wheelchair access by ramps.

## ANGELS WALK BOYLE HEIGHTS

WALK LENGTH: 1.4 MILES / 2.5 HOURS

15 ON-SIDEWALK STANCHIONS

55 GUIDEBOOK SITES + 37 FARTHER AFIELD SITES

STARTS: PICO/ALISO METRO STATION

*Angels Walk Boyle Heights is designed as a continuous self-guided walking trail that can be joined anywhere along the route; however, it is recommended that you begin at Stanchion #1: Paredón Blanco, which is located near the intersection of E. 1st Street and Anderson Street (see map on inside back cover).*

*The walk is approximately 1.4 miles long and, depending on your pace, takes about 2.5 hours to complete. There are many eateries and small markets along the walk; however, there are no public restrooms, so plan accordingly.*

### WALK SMART!

Check local weather (90033) before heading to the walk and be sure to bring drinking water. Also, please use common sense and be aware of your surroundings.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL

Emergency Fire, Paramedic, Police (24-hour dispatch): **911**

Non-Emergency Police (24-hour dispatch): **877-ASK-LAPD**

## USING THE GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook takes you through important historical highlights of the Boyle Heights neighborhood. Our hope is that it brings a deeper appreciation and understanding of the community, its distinctiveness, and how it has contributed to the development of Los Angeles as a whole. Please keep in mind that this guidebook is not intended to be a comprehensive directory of the area's businesses.

### WALK MAP

A foldout map in the back of the guidebook, with featured sites and on-sidewalk stanchions clearly indicated, will help direct you along the walk route.

### SECTIONS

Numbered tabs at the top of each walk page help divide the route into smaller sections.

### 1 SITES

These numbered icons indicate all the points of interest along the walk route.



### ➔ DIRECTIONS

The light green boxes with arrows found throughout the guidebook offer directional guidance along the walk.

### FARTHER AFIELD

Farther afield sites are points of interest beyond the walk that may require travel by car.

### STANCHIONS

Fifteen on-sidewalk markers (stanchions) along the Boyle Heights walk provide additional historic perspective and help guide you along the route.

# INTRODUCTION



Looking west across the Los Angeles River, c. 1880.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BOYLE HEIGHTS

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples lived in Yang-na, adjacent to the Los Angeles River, which provided the water, plant life, and animals for their subsistence. In 1769, the Portolá expedition of Spanish explorers came through the area. Many factors, including the occupation under Spain and Mexico, the founding in 1781 of the Pueblo de Los Ángeles, and the establishment of nearby missions, wreaked havoc on the native population—though descendants of the Kizh Nation survive to this day.

Settlement of Los Angeles did not move east of the river until about 1835—the year that city officials granted Estévan López, son of the former mayor of Los Angeles, Claudio López, the land below Paredón Blanco (White Bluff). In 1841, Estévan gifted land in Paredón Blanco to several of his children, including Francisco (“Chico”), who received a plot adjacent to the river, where he built two homes, raised sheep and planted orchards and vineyards.

A few years after Chico’s death in 1852, his widow, Petra Varela, sold the land to an Irish immigrant named Andrew Boyle, who

built a home there in 1859 and maintained

the López orchards and vineyards. When

Boyle died in 1871, the land passed to

his daughter Maria and her husband,

Missouri-born businessman (and

future mayor) William H. Work-

man. Workman saw the potential

for subdividing the hills over-

looking the growing city into

residential plots, and in 1876 the

community of Boyle Heights was

announced to the public. Lots were

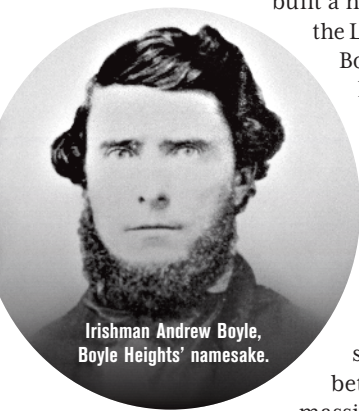
slow to sell until a fare war erupted

between railroads that resulted in a

massive population boom felt across the

region. By the end of the 1800s, Boyle Heights

had developed into one of the premier residential neighborhoods in Los Angeles.



Irishman Andrew Boyle,  
Boyle Heights’ namesake.

In the early 1900s, most of Boyle Heights’ first residents started moving west to new neighborhoods. In their place, a wave of Eastern European Jews arrived, transforming the area into a vibrant, working-class Jewish suburb. In fact, the Jewish community during that time made up 40% of the population of Boyle Heights. By the mid-1920s, there was a mix of Russians, Italians, Japanese, Poles, Germans, Armenians, Koreans, African Americans, and many others, making Boyle Heights the most multiethnic, multiracial, and multifaith neighborhood in Los Angeles until the end of World War II. Out of this “melting pot” community developed a history of working-class solidarity and activism that remains even today.





A Japanese education class at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Boyle Heights, c. 1925.

After World War II, many Japanese residents, who had been forcibly taken away to internment camps, never returned. Doors were opened elsewhere in the city for ethnic groups previously excluded by racially-based housing restrictions, and over the next several decades, Boyle Heights' diversity shifted until ultimately, it became the city's most overwhelmingly Mexican-American neighborhood. Accordingly, the community's activist traditions, political influence, and cultural expressions continued to grow and thrive. In 1949, Edward R. Roybal was elected to the ninth district seat (which included Boyle Heights at the time), as the first Mexican American on the city council. The late 1960s and 1970s brought the Chicano Blowouts (student walkouts), the emergence of Chicano arts, and the Chicano Moratorium (anti-Vietnam War protests). These movements, and others galvanized the Los Angeles Mexican-American population to wield its voice for civil rights and representation.



Councilmember  
Edward Roybal,  
c. 1959.

Between 1949 and 1965, five freeways would push their way through Boyle Heights, and over 17,000 housing units were destroyed, displacing many local families, often more than once. Today, new struggles are playing out as gentrification and displacement creep into this neighborhood—one of the most historic, resilient, and vibrant communities in Los Angeles.



East Los Streetscapers' 1983 mural, *El Corrido de Boyle Heights* (detail).



### START THE WALK:

Start the walk at Stanchion #1: Paredón Blanco, located on the north side of E. 1st Street, opposite the Pico/Aliso Metro Station. From here you can either head west two blocks to see the 1st Street Bridge, or cross at Anderson Street to see Self Help Graphics & Art. Head east on the north side of E. 1st Street to continue the walk. *Use the map in the back of the guidebook to help direct you.*

## 1 1st Street Bridge

1100 E. 1ST STREET



In 1889, through the efforts of former mayor William H. Workman and others, a steel trestle bridge was built on 1st Street, spanning over the Los Angeles River. It was much-needed as, up until then, residents of Boyle Heights were virtually isolated from downtown, particularly when floods washed out the early wooden, covered bridge. The railroad track crossing under the bridge became an impediment and danger to the cable railway traffic, and it was quickly deemed a priority to erect a new bridge that could travel over the railroad tracks and the river. In 1923, a series of bonds were approved, allowing for the construction of ten new viaducts across the Los Angeles River. In the following decade, several bridges were built under the City Beautiful Movement—a national architecture and urban planning philosophy that sought to beautify United States cities by constructing grand civic monuments, incorporating both building and public work projects.

Among these projects was the 1st Street Bridge, designed in the Neoclassical style by city engineer, Merrill Butler, and erected by the North Pacific Construction Company in 1927. Through the decades, the bridge has undergone various modifications, receiving several significant alterations and seismic retrofits to its design. Its most recent upgrades occurred in 2009 during the construction of the Gold Line Eastside Extension, where it was widened by 26.25 feet. Today, this historic 1,294-foot-long bridge stands, along with the other Los Angeles River bridges, as a historic link to our past and as a testament to the advancements of 20th century design.



The Yellow Car on the 1st Street Bridge, c. 1958.

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## 2 Felicitas & Gonzalo Mendez High School

1200 PLAZA DEL SOL

Felicitas & Gonzalo Mendez High School was built to alleviate overcrowding at Roosevelt High. Designed as a joint venture between Nadel Architects and Barrio Planners Incorporated, construction began in 2006, and the school opened its doors in 2009. It was the first new high school built in Boyle Heights in 23 years. The

school is named for the parents of civil rights activist Sylvia Mendez, who, when eight years old, played an instrumental role in a landmark 1946 desegregation case: *Mendez v. Westminster*.



## 3 Self Help Graphics & Art

1300 E. 1ST STREET

In 1970, a group of artists and printmakers including Sister Karen Boccadero, Carlos Bueno, Frank Hernández, and Antonio Ibáñez, were working together from a garage in East Los Angeles, calling themselves Art, Inc. Within several years, they relocated to a larger space on Cesar E. Chavez Avenue (then Brooklyn Avenue), made possible by a gift from the Order of the Sisters of St. Francis, and Self Help Graphics & Art was born. Throughout the 1970s, SHG offered workshops, exhibitions, and artist residencies, with



a focus on printmaking. By the 1980s, the programming slated at the venue became increasingly experimental, crossing into other media. SHG also took art out of the studio and into the community with its innovative Barrio Mobile Art Studio. In 1973, SHG produced its first public commemoration of Día de los Muertos—a now beloved tradition in Los Angeles and across the nation. SHG moved to its current

space at 1st and Anderson streets (a former seafood packing plant) in 2011, where the legendary community art center continues to serve Boyle Heights and beyond. Along the building facade is a mural created by 15 different artists who were invited to create pieces representing their experiences at SHG, and their visions about the future of art, culture, and community. This mural is a temporary work, as SHG will be embarking on a new design for the building in the coming years.



**4 Pico/Aliso Metro Station (*About Place About Face*)**

E. 1ST STREET, BETWEEN ANDERSON STREET AND UTAH STREET

Metro's Pico/Aliso Station opened in 2009 as part of the Gold Line Eastside Extension. Nearby destinations include Felicita & Gonzalo Mendez High School, Pecan Recreation Center, Purgatory Pizza, Self Help Graphics & Art, Tacos El Hermano, Weller Street Missionary Baptist Church, and Dolores Mission Church. A sculptural work of art installed within the overall design and fabrication of the station by artist Rob Neilson, *About Place About Face*, incorporates 27 larger-than-life cast-iron faces drawn from images gathered through outreach to local schools and organizations. The faces are frozen in various expressions and mounted underneath the station canopy. They suggest a diversity of faces observed through the windows of a passing train.



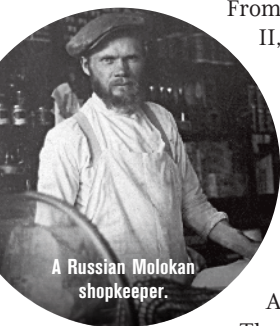
**WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:**

Continue east on E. 1st Street about half a block. Stop to read Stanchion #2: The Russian Flats. Then, continue until you reach Gless Street. At this point you may either continue the walk along E. 1st Street (skip to site 8), or take a one-block Side Stroll south on Gless Street.

**Note:** the distance between Stanchions #2 and #3 is a .3 mile uphill walk. Alternatively, you can catch a Metro train at the Aliso/Pico station and travel east, one station, to Maricahi Plaza. From there you can continue the walk.

**5 The Russian Flats/Aliso Village (former site)**

BETWEEN THE LA RIVER, BOYLE AVENUE, ALISO STREET, AND 4TH STREET



A Russian Molokan shopkeeper.

From the early 1900s until just before World War II, the section of Boyle Heights bounded by the eastern edge of the Los Angeles River, Boyle Avenue, Aliso Street (largely replaced by the I01 freeway), and 4th Street was known as the Russian Flats. The first Russian immigrants arrived to the mostly industrial district in 1904, but, by 1920, it was a diverse and bustling neighborhood populated by Italians, Japanese, Mexicans, Armenians, African Americans, and others.

The Russian Molokans remained, however, the single largest immigrant group in the area. As members of a close-knit sect of Eastern Christianity, they did not abstain from dairy during traditional fast days, hence the term Molokans (milk drinkers). Employed mostly in local canneries, nut factories, and lumberyards, they soon established their own churches, markets, and cemeteries while achieving the highest rate of home

The newly built Aliso Village housing project, c. 1942.



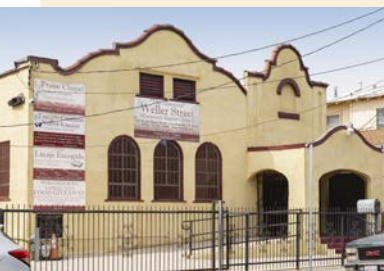


ownership in the area, all as they maintained an unwavering devotion to their customs and traditions. Nearby Utah Street Elementary School was originally built to serve the children residing in the Flats. In 1921, the original single-room schoolhouse was replaced with a new building and auditorium, both designed by the notable Los Angeles architectural firm of Walker & Eisen. In 1926, a third building, also designed by Walker & Eisen, was added to accommodate the area's rapid population growth. In 1940, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles began razing most of the homes in the Flats for the development of the Aliso Village and Pico Gardens housing projects. In the late 1990s, these housing projects were demolished and replaced with a newer housing development called Pueblo del Sol.

## GLESS STREET SIDE STROLL (0.15 MILES) →

### 6 Weller Street Baptist Church

129 S. GLESS STREET



In 1944, under the leadership of Reverend Fullwood, Lily of the Valley Baptist Church was established on Weller Street in what was then the neighborhood of Bronzeville, a Black neighborhood that thrived in Little Tokyo during the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. After the

Japanese returned, Weller Street was eventually erased by redevelopment. The church outgrew its downtown location and moved east of the river to 154 Gless Street (now Pecan Park) in 1948. Quickly outgrowing that location within a year, the church moved again, just up the block to 129 Gless Street, where it is still an active congregation. Built in 1919, the building had been home to a Russian Baptist church, but in 1949 they relocated to a new church near Wyvernwood (see page 52).

### 7 Dolores Mission Church

171 S. GLESS STREET



This Spanish Colonial Revival-style church was constructed in 1935. Ten years later, it became La Mission of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores when a small Mexican-American congregation moved into the Flats. The congregation itself was established in 1925 when it formed with support from nearby St. Mary's Parish. The Flats were then still mostly Russian, but, as more Mexicans moved in, Dolores Mission focused on serving that community. The church has been in continuous operation since and is especially noteworthy for its activist causes, dedicated service to the poor and to

immigrants, and to social justice. The Canonness of St. Augustine (later named the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart) from Belgium came in 1946 and served the parish for 45 years. In 1952, a new three-story school building was dedicated across the street—the first Catholic school the neighborhood ever had. In 1980, care over the parish transferred to the Jesuit order. From 1986 to 1992, the church’s pastor was Father Gregory Boyle, a well-known Jesuit priest who went on to create the world’s largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program, Homeboy Industries. Homeboy grew out of a program at the church, called Jobs For a Future, launched in 1988. The unofficial motto of Dolores Mission is “Just Start,” and it has, over the years, been deeply involved in launching numerous social causes and organizations, including Imaginando Mañana Pico-Aliso Community Team Outreach (IMPACTO), Comunidad en Movimiento (CEM), Guadalupe Homeless Project, Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission, the East Los Angeles Housing Coalition, and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), among others.



**WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:**

Return to E. 1st Street and head east on the north side of the street for four blocks (past the 101 Freeway). At the corner of Boyle Avenue and Pleasant Avenue, stop and read Stanchion #3: Cummings Block.

**8 Boyle Hotel–Cummings Block**

101–105 N. BOYLE AVENUE

The stately brick building rising from the corner of 1st Street and Boyle Avenue is the Boyle Hotel–Cummings Block, and its origins link back to the earliest days of the neighborhood’s development.



In 1835, city officials gifted Estévan López—a former councilmember, and the son of former Los Angeles Mayor Claudio López—with the land that would soon become Boyle Heights, then known as Paredón Blanco (White Bluff). In 1869, María del Sacramento (Sacramenta), the granddaughter of Estévan, married George Cummings—a farmer, cattle rancher, and early developer of Boyle Heights. During the boom of the 1880s, Cummings capitalized on the neighborhood’s growth by constructing an elegant commercial block, seeking to coincide the inception of his new hotel business with the opening of the Los Angeles Cable Railway—a streetcar that came from downtown along 1st Street, transporting riders into Boyle Heights.

Both the streetcar and the new hotel were instrumental in encouraging the rapid growth of this new suburb, with the hotel actively serving the influx of new families and businessmen flocking to the area. The Cummings Block was built at a cost of \$22,000 and was designed by prominent architect W.R. Norton. The Queen Anne-Italianate-style, four-story structure had five first-floor storefronts, decorative brickwork, and a distinctive corner turret.

In the decades that followed, the building fell into disrepair and neglect. By the 1980s, it was operating as the Boyle Hotel—however, it was better known as “Mariachi Hotel,” because it was a popular residential hotel for many local mariachis. In 2007, the non-profit East LA Community Corporation (ELACC) purchased the building, and later that year it was declared a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. Following a major restoration by ELACC, the Boyle Hotel-Cummings Block reopened in 2012 as affordable housing. The ground floor storefronts were also renovated and house the popular La Monarca Bakery and Libros Schmibros Lending Library.

## 9 Libros Schmibros Lending Library

103 N. BOYLE AVENUE



Libros Schmibros is a Boyle Heights-based nonprofit lending library seeking to bring low- and no-cost books into the hands of the community. It was founded in 2010 by native Angeleno David Kipen—an acclaimed journalist and broadcaster, and the Director of Literature for

the National Endowment for the Arts (2005–2010)—and native Los Angeles Eastsider Colleen Jaurretche—a renowned scholar of modernist literature, and a professor at UCLA. The lending library has since put over 20,000 books into circulation in Boyle Heights and beyond. Libros Schmibros also develops and hosts a variety of community events that celebrate the beauty and power of the written word, including a children’s story hour.

### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:



Return to E. 1st Street and head east to continue the walk.  
Stop to read Stanchion #4: Mariachi Plaza.

## 10 Mariachi Plaza

E. 1ST STREET BETWEEN BOYLE AVENUE AND BAILEY STREET

As early as the 1930s, the area between Boyle Avenue and Bailey Street functioned as an informal gathering place for mariachis seeking work. However, it was not until the early 1980s that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Metro began formulating a plan to transform the gathering space into a legitimate public square. On November 22, 1992—the feast day of Santa Cecilia—the ground breaking for the new *Plaza del Mariachi de Los Angeles* took place. Six years later, the State of Jalisco, Mexico, funded the





In addition of a traditional Cantera stone kiosk to the plaza, which was designed, hand-carved, and assembled by renowned Guadalupean stone artisan Juan Pablo Salas. In 2001, Jalisco continued to support the developing plaza with the donation of seventeen wrought iron benches, representing municipalities in Jalisco. A statue of Lucha Reyes (María de Luz Flores Aceves)—known as the “mother of ranchera music”—stands behind the kiosk, acting as a muse to the local mariachis. Mariachi Plaza has taken on the identity as the historic gateway to Boyle Heights and is the location of many celebrations, festivals, and community events.



#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Before continuing the walk, explore some of the sites in Mariachi Plaza.

### 11 J&F Ice Cream Shop

1703 MARIACHI PLAZA

Owner and long-time resident Minerva Villa opened the J&F Ice Cream Shop in 2009, just as the Metro Gold Line Extension was being completed. Along with its signature ice cream, J&F also serves

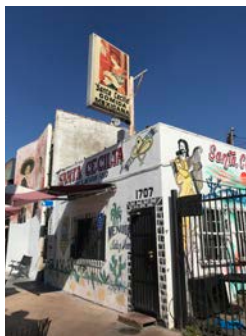


juices, smoothies, malts, and Mexican specialties like aguas frescas, bionicos, diablitos, and raspados. There are the usual flavors, as well as ones that are novel to most non-Latinos, such as nopal cactus, plantain, and mamey sapote. J&F is also a favorite local spot for tortas and a variety of Mexican candies.

### 12 Santa Cecilia Restaurant

1707 MARIACHI PLAZA

Established in 1994, this little restaurant is appropriately named Santa Cecilia, after the patron saint of musicians. Armando Salazar, chef and owner, is originally from Zacatecas, Mexico, and his menu includes authentic specialties, such as “costillos” (ribs) that melt right off the bone, served with his special salsa de molcajete. Every November, the feast day of Santa Cecilia is celebrated at Mariachi Plaza with a procession of mariachis. Chef Armando provides food each year, and sets up tables with special preparations. This occurs either the Tuesday before or after the feast day of Santa Cecilia.





### 13 Juan Solis Murals

1703 MARIACHI PLAZA

Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, and raised in East Los Angeles, Juan Solis began painting when he was 12 years old. He spent eight years at the Academia de Arte Yepes—a free mural academy for young artists, established by renowned painter and muralist George Yepes. Under Yepes’ mentorship, Solis developed his distinctive style and technique. Painted in 1994, *El Corrido de Ricardo*



*Valdez* was Solis’ first mural commission. The two large panels feature figures of men and women in traditional folkloric dress, representing the cultural heritage of Mexico’s various regions and vast ethnic diversity. Two more murals followed—*La Virgen de Guadalupe* and *Castellanos*—which have both become iconic to Mariachi Plaza. *La Virgen* was restored by Solis in 2015, and can be found in the breezeway next to Santa Cecilia Restaurant. *Castellanos* is on the Boyle Avenue wall of the plaza buildings, and although portions of the mural have been defaced, painted over or added to, the upper portions remain vibrant and intact.



### 14 Mariachi Plaza Metro Station (*El Niño Perdido*)

1831 E. 1ST STREET

Metro’s Mariachi Plaza Station opened in 2009 as part of the Gold Line Eastside Extension. The entrance to the station is located in what many consider to be the heart of the community. Its large scalloped canopy features diamond-shaped glass cut-outs, which reflect their festive colors onto the escalators below. The bronze sculpture below the canopy, titled *El Niño Perdido*, was created by Alejandro de la Loza—an artist born in Mexico City and raised in Boyle Heights. When envisioning the piece, Loza took inspiration from the popular Mexican instrumental song “*El Niño Perdido*,” which translates as “The Lost Child.” A favorite among mariachis, the hundred-year-old song is centered around two trumpeters playing at a distance from one another, one representing a parent and the other representing a lost child. At the end of the song, the two trumpeters will often meet face-to-face, signifying the reunion of the parent and the child. Additional works in the collection can be found below, within the station itself.





### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Walk to the intersection of E. 1st and Bailey streets. Stop to read Stanchion #5: Early Founders. Then, visit a few sites on the north side of E. 1st Street.

## 15 Eastside Luv (ESL)

1835 E. 1ST STREET



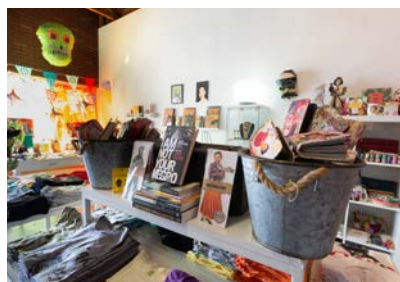
Guillermo Rangel Uribe opened ESL in 2006 as the harbinger of a nightlife resurgence in Boyle Heights. Uribe was born a block away, at White Memorial Hospital, and came of age during the Eastside backyard music and DJ scene of the 1980s. He graduated college with a degree in engineering and worked in

that field for about a decade until deciding to return to his first love of nightlife entertainment. After finding the perfect location for his idea—an old 1940s-era building that had been operating as a bar called the Metropolitan—he made an offer, and Eastside Luv was born. ESL (pun intended) features local artists, dancers, poets, comedians, DJs, and musicians. With art exhibitions, popular theme nights, and other events, the club fuses the best of traditional Mexican musical heritage with contemporary Latinx hybridity for an eclectic and always-interesting night out along the burgeoning 1st Street arts corridor. In 2012, artist and Boyle Heights native, Robert Vargas, painted the larger-than-life mariachi mural on the Bailey Street side of the building.

## 16 Espacio 1839

1839 E. 1ST STREET

In 2008, artist Nico Avina and his partner (now wife) Myra Vasquez opened Teocintli on 4th Street, across from Roosevelt High School—Avina's alma mater—where they sold Chicanx-centric gear, folk art, and books, hosted poetry and



music performances, and curated art exhibitions and workshops around social justice issues. In 2012, Avina, alongside collaborator Marco Amador, reprised that commitment in Espacio 1839—a much larger space that includes a glass-enclosed sound studio for podcasts and community radio ([radioespacio.org](http://radioespacio.org)). From apparel and accessories, to books and vinyl, Espacio promotes awareness of the political climate while empowering young people to become self-sustaining artists of conscience.

## 17 Together We Find Purpose Mural

1841 E. 1ST STREET



On the facade of the building between Espacio 1839 and Street Tacos and Grill is a 2019 Sergio Daniel Robleto mural titled *Together We Find Purpose*. The artwork was curated by Galo Canote and conceived with community input to not only promote Street Tacos, but to convey a message of neighborhood culture, empowerment, and pride.



## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

At Bailey Street, cross to the south side of E. 1st Street. Head west to see sites 18–19. Then, return east to continue the walk.

### 18 Cerda's Upholstery

1812 E. 1ST STREET

The two-story building between Yeya's restaurant and an unnamed alley was built in 1885, making it one of the oldest structures in the neighborhood. As such, it's been home to a number of businesses over the years. For decades, it's been home to Cerda's Upholstery, established in 1967. Owner Fernando Cerda and crew specialize in manufacturing custom furniture, as well as repairing and restoring vintage furniture and car interiors.



### 19 House of Trophies & Awards

1820 E. 1ST STREET



In 1988, Joe Campos and Pedro L. Prieto opened Boyle Heights' Casa Prieto Trophies. Campos was a veteran of the trophy business, having formerly worked at Dodge Trophy and Awards Company, which had moved to Los Angeles in the 1930s and for years provided awards for the Oscars and Emmys. In 1992, Campos bought out Prieto for sole ownership of the trophy shop and changed its name to House of Trophies. Soon after, Saul Gonzalez and Dante Bullock partnered with Campos until Campos' death. Today, House of Trophies & Awards, Inc. continues with Gonzalez and Bullock at the helm, manufacturing a variety of achievement-honoring products, including trophies, crystal awards, plaques, medals, and more.

### 20 Casa Prieto Sporting Goods

1832 E. 1ST STREET

Casa Prieto was established in 1975 by Mexico-born Pedro L. Prieto—a former welterweight prizefighter who moved to Boyle Heights on a boxing visa at the age of 19. Originally specializing in uniforms, the shop later branched out into sporting goods and trophies. Casa Prieto is a Boyle Heights landmark, and has been serving neighborhood teams, leagues, and athletes of all ages for over forty years.





**21 La Casa del Mariachi**

1836 E. 1ST STREET



La Casa del Mariachi specializes in custom-tailored trajes de charro—the ornately embroidered suits worn by mariachis. Owner and tailor, Jorge Tello, began learning the trade in his stepfather’s shop in Guatemala when he was nine years old. He immigrated to the United States and found employment at Arte Charro, where he made his first traje de charro in 1984. Six years later, the store’s owner passed away, and Tello took over the business. In 2002, he and his sister Patricia opened La Casa del Mariachi, where “El Maestro” (as Tello is now widely known) has been designing suits for everyone from Plácido Domingo to the Three Amigos, and, of course, many local mariachis.

**22 Santa Cecilia Mural**

1838 E. 1ST STREET

Tucked inside a narrow driveway, this mural was created from the collaboration of artists Galo Canote (curation and lettering), Cache (his signature characters), Ezra (the gazebo), and Sergio Daniel Robleto (Santa Cecilia). The artwork is a tribute to the traditions and his-



tory of Mariachi Plaza and Santa Cecilia. Since its creation in 2017, the mural has been vandalized several times. Community members attempted to paint over and fix the markings on Santa Cecilia’s face before Robleto restored it in 2019.

**23 Casa Fina (formerly La Serenata de Garibaldi)**

1842 E. 1ST STREET



Jose and Aurora Rodriguez opened the first La Serenata de Garibaldi location in Boyle Heights in 1985, specializing in their own Mexican family recipes. In 1995, they opened a second location in Rancho Park, and in 1998, a third location opened in Santa Monica. Then, after 32 years of thriving

business, the original location abruptly closed in 2017. A few months later, on Cinco de Mayo, Josefina López stepped in with restaurateurs Alonzo Ricardo and Emmanuel Deleage to open a new destination restaurant called Casa Fina. López is known as the writer of *Real Women Have Curves*, founder of Casa 0101 (see page 24), and as a community activist—she also has culinary training from Le Cordon Bleu in Paris. Casa Fina welcomes guests into a vibrant and festive atmosphere filled with traditional and folk details, colorful art-filled walls, fresh authentic Mexican fare, and patroness López’s warmth and community spirit.





### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Continue to the end of the block, then stop to read Stanchion #6: Ellis Island of the West. Continue east on the south side of E. 1st Street.

## 24 Korbek Hall & Bakery (former site)

1870 E. 1ST STREET



The Korbek Hall building, c. 1891.

After arriving in Boyle Heights in 1882 and opening his first bakery four years later, John Korbek built the two-story brick building at the southwest corner of 1st and State streets. The ground floor housed two commercial fronts, one being the Korbek Bakery, while the rear contained the family living quarters. A spacious ballroom

with a stage and electric lighting took up the second floor. Korbek hosted an invite-only grand opening on New Year's Eve of 1891 in the new hall with many of the city's elite. The hall was used for events, such as music recitals, theater productions by the Boyle Heights Dramatic Club, public civic meetings, and occasional guest speakers, like radical temperance leader Carrie Nation. More recently, the hall was home to a popular nightclub called El Leon de Oro during the 1970s and 80s. Sometime later, it also housed the city council's 14th district field office until it moved to Boyle Heights City Hall at E. 1st and Chicago streets.

## 25 Jim's Burgers #10

1901 E. 1ST STREET

James Angelopoulos, a Greek immigrant, opened the first location of Jim's Burgers in Bell, in 1957. In the 1970s, Jim's Burgers grew into a fairly large chain, comprised of nearly 30 locations, each recognizable in their varied but eye-catching Googie-style signage. Nick Frousakis, also a Greek immigrant, opened the Boyle Heights location in 1972. Pale-blue neon illuminates the roof and kitschy space-age sign, which is topped by a neon atom. Their pastrami sandwich is a hybrid of Jewish, Mexican, and American innovations, served on a French Roll instead of rye, and perhaps the city's only pastrami sandwich served from a drive-thru.



## 26 La Casa del Músico

1900 E. 1ST STREET

In the 1970s, Ruben and Margarita Ortega sold music from a small stand near what is known today as Mariachi Plaza. As musicians began asking for strings for their instruments, the Ortegas decided to open a store, and, in 1979, it officially became La Casa del Músico. Over time, the Ortegas began adding songbooks, instruments, and



accessories to their stock at the suggestion of customers. Although the store initially catered to local mariachis, it also serviced jazz and rock musicians, including the legendary Bob Dylan, who once visited the store. Today the store is owned and operated by the Ortega's nephew, Noel Jaramillo, a musician in his own right, and his wife Joanna. La Casa del Músico sells an array of instruments including trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, flutes, violins, guitars, vihuela, tololoche, double bass, and guitarron, as well as accessories, songbooks, and recorded music.

## 27 First Street Pool & Billiard Parlor

1906 E. 1ST STREET



This building dates as far back as 1911, and in the years after World War II, it was the veteran-operated surplus store, Doughboys. Since 1989, it's been a pool hall and live music venue known as First Street Pool & Billiard Parlor, owned by Marco Cordova and Lila Gallarza. The bands and DJs offer a mix of punk, cumbia, ska, and more. In 2018, artist Sergio Daniel Robleto painted a new mural on the facade (with Galo Canote curating), titled *Orale! Let's Move on to Progression, Aye!* Its stylistic similarity to the work of East Los Streetscapers and their iconic 1979 mural, *Filling Up on Ancient Energies*, is intentional and includes cameos of celebrated ELS muralists David Botello and Wayne Healy. Inside is a second mural by Robleto titled *Xochiquetzal*—a large-scale likeness of the bar's owner in the form of an Aztec goddess.

## 28 Learning Works @ HB

1916 E. 1ST STREET



Learning Works @ HB is a partnership between Pasadena-based Learning Works Charter School and Homeboy Industries—the well-known program that seeks to assist and rehabilitate at-risk youth, ex-gang members, and the recently incarcerated. Learning

Works @ HB is located in a 1925 brick building, where Father Gregory Boyle first built his “Jobs For a Future” program (which became Homeboy Industries) from 1997 to 2007, before they later relocated to a gang-neutral territory between Chinatown and Dogtown. The original Homegirl Café was also originally located just down the street. In the 1950s, the red brick building was home to the William R. Whitaker Company, which manufactured tools and parts for aircraft. In 2011, Homeboy and Learning Works came together to turn the building into a school that serves youth returning from juvenile detention or dropouts. The eastern wall of the school is covered by a large mural emblazoned with Homeboy's missional and well-known motto, “Jobs not Jails.”

## 29 Felipe Bagues Mortuary

1930 E. 1ST STREET

The building at 1930 E. 1st Street has gone by many names, but has, since its construction in 1915, always served as a funeral parlor. First was the C. R. Vesper Mortuary, operated by Wisconsin-born mortician Charles Richard Vesper (it was also the Vesper family residence). By the 1920s, it was known as C.R. Vesper & Son. Charles died in the home in 1940, after which it became Vesper & Agins Chapel.

Felipe Bagues, meanwhile, opened Bagues & Sons Mortuary in a former burlap factory in East Los Angeles in 1928. In 1936, Bagues moved to a new location on Brooklyn Avenue (later Cesar E. Chavez Avenue). Bagues' son, Manuel, entered the family business in the 1950s. In 1975, the old Vesper Mortuary became Bagues & Solorio Mortuary. In 1978, it was renamed Felipe Bagues Mortuary. The original Bagues & Sons Mortuary in East Los Angeles closed permanently in 2014. Phillip Bagues III, a third-generation mortician, died in 2017. Still a family operation, the mortuary continues to serve the Eastside community.



### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:



Continue heading east on the south side of E. 1st Street about a block and a half (pass under the freeway). Take note of 2 sites across the street once you pass Cummings Street.

## 30 Hollenbeck Youth Center

2015 E. 1ST STREET



The Hollenbeck Youth Center began when local business people wanted to find a way to help neighborhood youth who were being negatively affected by the rising rates of violence, gangs, and drugs in the 1970s. Under the leadership of Daniel Hernandez, a graduate of Roosevelt High School and a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who joined the center in 1981, the community partnered with the Hollenbeck Division of the LAPD with a mission to help these at-risk youth. The center organizes the Inner-City Games, an annual holiday toy giveaway known as the Miracle on First Street, and other athletic and educational events. Many celebrities and notable people have participated in these events, including past Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Maria Shriver, Tom Arnold, Danny Glover, Cardinal Roger Mahony, Jay Leno, Muhammad Ali, Dax Shepard, Oscar De La Hoya, and others. The games offer a variety of sports competitions and involve thousands of Los Angeles youth. The center receives help and support from various corporate sponsors, professional and amateur athletes, teachers, local business partners, and law enforcement.

**31 Al & Bea's**

2025 E. 1ST STREET

Albert and Beatrice Carreon opened their restaurant, Al & Bea's, in 1966. The small eatery, situated in front of a Victorian home, is nestled in a tight space between larger commercial neighbors. The menu, on the other hand, is surprisingly large. For over 50 years, their specialty has been classic, well-made burritos, which have earned rave reviews from both the *LA Weekly* and *Sunset* magazine, and most importantly, throngs of loyal customers who line up daily to eat at this popular neighborhood spot.



**32 LA Luchador Mural**

2026 E. 1ST STREET



In 2014, Los Angeles artist GERMS (Jaime Zacarias) painted a mural titled *LA Luchador* on the facade of Hardware Studio. Painted in his signature surrealist style, the mural depicts a red-tentacled creature in a luchador mask. GERMS, a native of South Los Angeles, mentored under Gilbert “Magú” Luján of the famed Chicano art collective, Los Four. The Art-Center College of Design graduate’s work has been exhibited at Thinkspace, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, and elsewhere. The project was part of Latagráfica, a campaign launched by Red Bull, which featured the aesthetics of street art for a limited edition series of soft drink cans.

**WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:**



Continue heading east on the south side E. 1st Street. Stop to read Stanchion #7: The Hollenbecks. Then, at St. Louis Street, cross to the north side of E. 1st Street.

**33 Meralta Theater (former site)**

2033 E. 1ST STREET

The earliest directory listing for a theater at 1st and St. Louis streets was the New Lyceum, in 1913. In 1917, the New Lyceum was purchased by two ex-vaudeville performers, Pearl Merrill and Laura Peralta. Combining their last names, the women renamed it the Meralta. By 1926, they built two more movie houses, one in Culver City and one in Downey, both also called the Meralta; however, neither structures remain today. The Boyle Heights Meralta theater was already under new ownership when it underwent extensive remodeling in 1939, which included a neon-lit tower sign and marquee, new seats, and a “cry room, reached through the ladies lounge.” It remained the Meralta Theater



The Meralta Theater, c. 1939.



until 1964, when it was sold again and briefly renamed the Kinema East Theater, screening primarily Japanese language New Wave films until at least the end of 1965. In the 1970s and 1980s, it was a Spanish language theater called Teatro Azteca. Today, the former movie house functions as a church for Victory Outreach ministries.



#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Take a short walk up St. Louis Street to see site 34. Then, return to the south side of E. 1st Street to continue the walk.

### 34 Vladeck Center (former site)

126 ST. LOUIS STREET



A banquet at the Vladeck Center, c. 1950.

This 1941, two-story building with its subtle Art Deco details, was a Public Works Administration (WPA) project. Named after Baruch Charney Vladeck, a prominent East Coast socialist labor organizer and publisher, the Vladeck Center served as an active meeting hall for Yiddish trade unionists and leftist political groups. The center also

hosted Yiddish school programs for local Jewish children. In the late 1940s, it served as one of the organizing centers for the Jewish and Mexican American coalition that helped elect Edward Roybal to the city council as its first Mexican American councilmember. By 1961, it was no longer a community center, and, in 2004, it was slated for demolition to accommodate the expansion of the new Hollenbeck Police Station. Again, a Jewish and Mexican coalition came together, this time to permanently save a local structure with cultural significance from the wrecking ball.

### 35 St. Louis Drug Company

2100 E. 1ST STREET

The corner building at 1st and St. Louis streets is more than a century old. Its tenant, St. Louis Drug Company, has been there nearly as long—since 1920. Around 1967, Sam Wolkowitz, an employee at the drugstore for seventeen years, purchased the business and continued to operate it for many years.

Since the late-1980s, the store has been owned by Raju Bhaktal, who has also been the long-term pharmacist. In addition to shelves lined with typical drugstore items, you will also find a vegan-friendly bakery. In 2018, El Sereno native Amy Tam and her business partner, Boyle Heights



native Andres Fuentes, created Cake Girl and began baking and selling all-natural vegan treats from behind the original fountain counter. Also worth noting is the mural *Bridges to East LA*, painted in 1993 by Ernesto de la Loza on the pharmacy's exterior side wall. Keep walking around to the back of the building, and you'll find a newer mural titled *Our Lady Queen of Angels*, curated by Galo Cante, and painted by Sergio Daniel Robleto and Shandu. The image is a tribute to El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles, the Spanish civilian town founded in 1781, which is now the great city of Los Angeles.



### 36 Casa 0101

2102 E. 1ST STREET

Casa 0101 is a nonprofit community theater founded in 2000 by Mexican-born, Boyle Heights-raised playwright, restaurateur, and activist Josefina López, writer of *Real Women Have Curves*. Casa 0101 operated for 11 years out of a small converted bridal shop, and in 2011, moved one block east to its current expanded location (the original space was renamed “Little Casa”). The 99-seat theater produces, on average, about seven plays per year. Casa 0101 additionally offers many arts education classes for youth and adults, presents art exhibits, and mentors playwrights and actors. Around the corner, off of St. Louis Street, is a colorful mural by Liliflor Ramírez, painted in 2012, that includes López’s likeness in an ode to her many contributions to the Boyle Heights community.



#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Continue along the south side of E. 1st Street. Stop to read Stanchion #8: Activism, Politics & Patriotism. Then, continue to the corner of E. 1st Street and Chicago Street.

### 37 Boyle Heights City Hall

2130 E. 1ST STREET



Boyle Heights City Hall is the centerpiece of the neighborhood’s civic core. The Mediterranean Revival-style building was constructed in 1924 and is formally known as the Chicago Building. It was home to Hollenbeck Masonic Lodge No. 319 from the time of its construction until at least the early 1950s. A round blue medallion with the square and compass symbol of the Freemasons can be seen high above the entryway (the “G” in the middle stands for God and Geometry). The building was purchased by the City of

Los Angeles in 2007, and was closed, repaired, and renovated after suffering damage during the 2008 Chino earthquake. It reopened in 2013, and today, as it has for many years, serves as a home and meeting place for numerous community and civic groups. It also houses the field office for Council District 14.

### 38 Dolores Huerta Square

INTERSECTION OF E. 1ST AND CHICAGO STREETS

In 2019, the intersection of East 1st and Chicago streets became “Dolores Huerta Square.” Dolores Clara Fernández Huerta is a labor activist known for, among many other things, her role as a civil rights organizer, and as the originator of the famous phrase “¡Sí, se puede!” Huerta was born in New Mexico and raised in



Councilmember José Huizar, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Dolores Huerta at the 2019 dedication of Dolores Huerta Square.

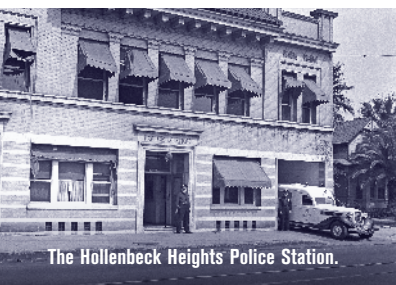
Photo by Samanta Helou Hernandez

Stockton, California. In 1962, she co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers, alongside Larry Itliong and Cesar Chavez. The Dolores Huerta Foundation was launched in 2002, and to this day, Huerta continues her work as an activist.

### 39 Hollenbeck Community Police Station

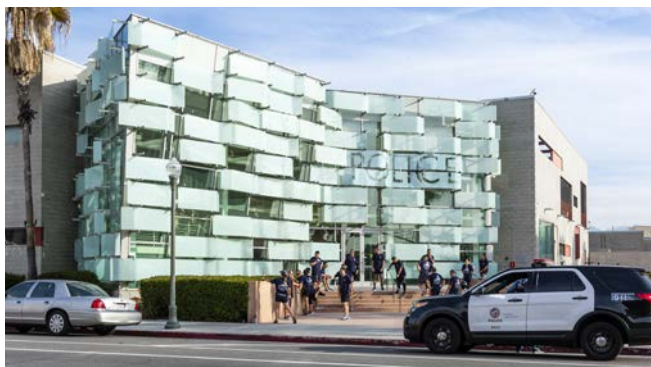
2111 E. 1ST STREET

In its early years, Los Angeles was patrolled by citizen militia groups like the Los Angeles Rangers and the Los Angeles City Guards. The first semblance of an official city police department took shape in 1869 when six officers were hired and paid out of funds collected, for the most part, from fines and fees. The first Boyle Heights police station was built in 1895 but was dismantled just a few months later. The first proper station was the Boyle Heights



The Hollenbeck Heights Police Station.

Station, which opened its doors in 1913 at 2015 E. 1st Street. In 1923, it was renamed the Hollenbeck Heights Police Station—part of a push to rebrand the neighborhood of Boyle Heights, which also saw the Boyle Heights Intermediate School renamed as Hollenbeck Junior High School (now Hollenbeck Middle School). In July 1964, the station relocated a block east to its current location. The old station, meanwhile, sat empty for a decade—although it was used as a film location in the 1972 police drama *The New Centurions*. It was later demolished and replaced by the Hollenbeck Youth Center. The 1960s-era station was also demolished, and

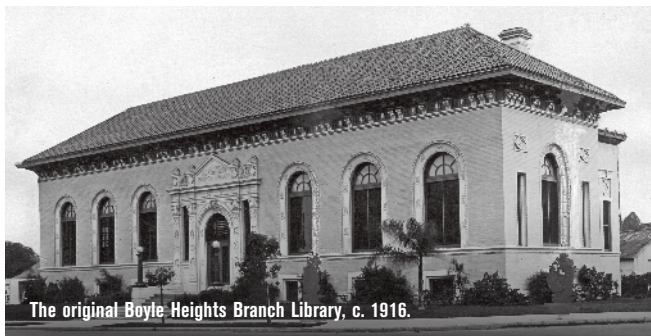


the current one, designed by David C. Martin, opened in 2009. Martin—son of architects Albert C. Martin Jr. and grandson of Albert C. Martin Sr.—is perhaps best known for having designed the tallest structure in the Los Angeles skyline, the Wilshire Grand Center. In 2010, Hollenbeck Station was officially renamed the Rudy de Leon Hollenbeck Community Police Station, after the department's first Latino commanding officer, who died just a couple of weeks after the new station's opening.



## 40 Benjamin Franklin Branch Library

2200 E. 1ST STREET



The original Boyle Heights Branch Library, c. 1916.

Library service in Boyle Heights dates back to 1889 with the formation of the Boyle Heights Library Association, which had a free reading room and books available for rent. In 1899, the reading room was taken over by the Los Angeles Public Library as its first delivery post and sub-station, located in the Boyle Heights Drug Store at 1952 E. 1st Street. This was a logical spot for the station because mule car service was operating along 1st Street, as far as Cummings Street (right near the drugstore). The facility was open three days a week and run by community members. By 1910, the library was circulating over 25,000 items, and the station was established as the first branch library of the Los Angeles Public Library system. In 1915, looking to upgrade the library's

presence, the city purchased the idle cable car powerhouse property at the southeast corner of 1st and Chicago streets, using funds from the Carnegie Foundation. Opened in 1916, the Boyle Heights Branch Library became the fourth of six Carnegie libraries to be built in Los Angeles and was enthusiastically celebrated with a three-day street festival. In the late 1920s, the library was renamed the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library and continued to serve its diverse and multilingual community by circulating hundreds of books in Spanish, Russian, Yiddish, Polish, and other languages. Unfortunately, in 1971, the 6.5-magnitude Syl-

mar-San Fernando earthquake rendered the library unsafe, and soon after, it was demolished. During the construction of a replacement structure, the library temporarily relocated to the International Institute on Boyle Avenue, and, in 1976, the new library opened to the public. Two years later, the library commissioned the famed Goetz Art Studio to create murals for the inside of the new building. *The Four Elements* is a brightly-colored 8-panel installation that still adorns the library's interior today. In 2016, the library's exterior entry area was reimagined as a public gathering space by the firms Lyric Design & Planning and Berry and Linné. "Todos Juntos," as it is called, includes three colorful pylons etched with verses (in Spanish and English) from the poem *Blanco* by the late Mexican poet laureate Octavio Paz.





### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

At this point you may either continue the walk along E. 1st Street (skip to site 43), or take a Side Stroll north one block on Chicago Street.

## CHICAGO STREET SIDE STROLL (0.1 MILES) →

### 41 Ross Valencia Community Park

NORTHEAST CORNER OF E. 1ST STREET AND CHICAGO STREET

This corner pocket park is the result of a promise made good from Councilmember José Huizar, to honor and remember legendary resident and World War II Navy veteran, Ross Valencia. Known as “Mr. Boyle Heights,” Valencia was a tirelessly active community member who founded the Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce and co-founded the L.A. City Chicano Employees Association. He championed Mexican American rights and served as former CD14 Councilmember Art Snyder’s Chief Deputy for 11 years. Valencia died in 2008 at the age of 81.



### 42 Hollenbeck Presbyterian Church

132 N. CHICAGO STREET

Hollenbeck Presbyterian Church was the first Presbyterian church established east of the river and is one of the oldest wooden churches still standing in Los Angeles. The first service of the Boyle Heights Presbyterian Church (as it was first known) was officiated by Reverend William S. Young on December 28, 1884, in a local meeting space called Kintz’s Hall. The following year, work started on a church building on jointly-owned land that was donated by several prominent early residents of Boyle Heights, including John E. Hollenbeck and William H. Workman. Generous monetary donations included Mr. Hollenbeck’s contribution of one-fifth of the cost for construction of the church. As the community grew, so did the need for a larger building and parsonage, and on September 2, 1895, the new church’s cornerstone was laid by Elizabeth Hollenbeck. A large bell (which no longer remains) was also donated by Mrs. Hollenbeck, in memory of her husband who died in 1885. The church was designed in the popular Queen Anne style of the time, with Gothic, Romanesque, and Craftsman details throughout. Beautiful stained glass windows were gifted from local residents, including Nancy Workman, although through the years, some of the windows were damaged and replaced. Today it houses the Iglesia Baptista Unida under Reverend Carlos Arce, who serves a large Hispanic congregation from the area.



Boyle Heights Presbyterian Church, c. 1895.

**43 Redz (former site)**

2218 E. 1ST STREET

In a neighborhood where members of the LGBTQ+ community have historically been expected to supplant their identity and orientation in favor of their ethnicity, Redz provided a rare safe space where Mexican and Mexican-American lesbians could celebrate the intersection of all their identities. The popular bar opened in the 1950s as Redheads and operated for over 50 years. Although the original Redz shuttered in 2015, memories of the neighborhood lesbian bar live on in the glossy red exterior.

**WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:**

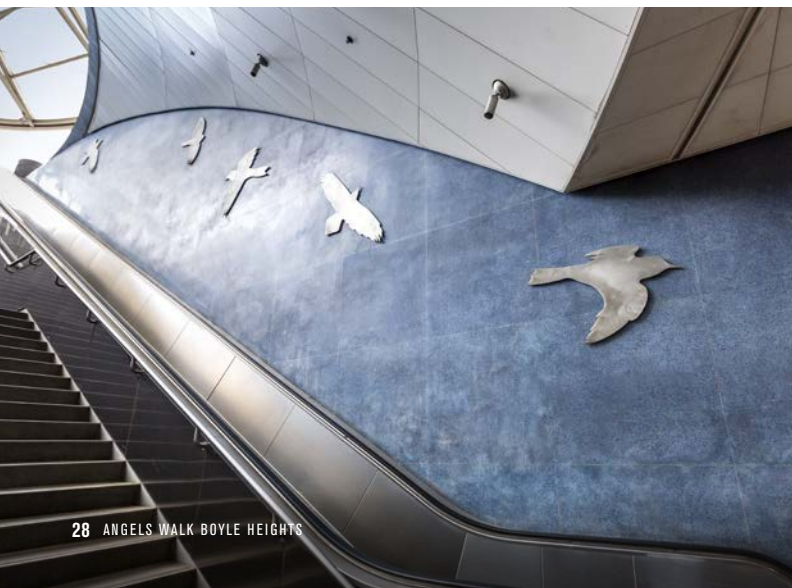
Continue along the south side of E. 1st Street. Stop to read Stanchion #9: Japanese Boyle Heights. Then, continue another block and a half until you reach the Soto Metro plaza. Stop to read Stanchion #10: Transit in the Heights. Before continuing the walk, look across Soto Street to see site 45.

**44 Soto Metro Station (Landings)**

INTERSECTION OF E. 1ST STREET AND S. SOTO STREET



The Soto Metro Station opened in 2009 as part of the Gold Line Eastside Extension. There are connections there with Metro's Rapid 751, as well as several local lines. Nearby attractions include the Peabody Werden House and the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library. There are numerous restaurants nearby, including El Sarape, Las Palmas, Lupita's, Vicky's, Los Antojitos, Karla's Bar, Redz Angelz, Mariscos Cuyutlan Colima, Mi Ranchito, and Los Angeles' oldest Japanese restaurant, Otomisan. Japanese artist Nobuho Nagasawa created the art piece called *Landings*, which depicts migrating birds and a metal nest sculpture with a glowing fiberglass egg. According to the artist, she intended to acknowledge the "importance of Boyle Heights as a landing place for people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds."





## 45 Peabody Werden House

2400 E. 1ST STREET

Built in the 1890s, the Peabody Werden House was named after Josiah Peabody—a journalist and business manager at the *Los Angeles Times*—and William Werden—a bookkeeper at the South Refining Company. The house sat undisturbed for over a hundred years on the northeast corner of 1st and Soto streets. This historic Queen Anne two-unit structure captures the essence of the early period of development in the late 1880s when Boyle Heights was a growing fashionable suburb. In 2016, the new owners of the property, East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), hired Page & Turnbull to temporarily relocate the historic house across the street onto a vacant lot owned by Metro. Future preservation plans include rehabilitation and restorative work to transform the building into a community space.



### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:



Head north on the west side of Soto Street about half a block (past the newsstand). Stop to read Stanchion #11: Boyle Heights Ball. Continue north one more block, and stop to read Stanchion #12 Evergreen Cemetery, then continue one more block. Stop to read Stanchion #13: Chicano Arts Movement.

## 46 El Corrido de Boyle Heights Mural

2300 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE (SOTO STREET SIDE OF BUILDING)



Painted in 1983 by the legendary East Los Streetscapers—David Botello, Wayne Healy, and George Yepes, among others—this colorful and dynamic mural, celebrating traditional Mexican music on the east-facing wall of the former Payless ShoeSource store, was actually the third work on that particular surface. The first was a 200 square-foot heart rendered in aerosol by Frank Romero, and the second was *Our People*, a mural by a team that included Barbara Carrasco, John Valadez, Carlos Callejo, Leo Limón, and others. When the city required earthquake retrofitting that compromised the earlier artwork, Payless commissioned the mural that is now an emblematic icon of Boyle Heights. Joyous faces populate “The Ballad of Boyle Heights” as well as the likenesses of local musician Margarito Gutierrez on the violin, and famous entertainer, El Piporo (Eulalio González Ramírez) on the accordion.

### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:



Make your way around the intersection of Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and Soto Street, crossing first to the east side of Soto.

## 47 King Taco #9

2400 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE



Raul Martínez, Sr. founded the beloved local Mexican restaurant chain, King Taco, in 1975, when he opened his first one in Cypress Park. Six months earlier, he was serving tacos out of a converted ice cream truck, which he parked in front of a bar on Brooklyn Avenue (later Cesar E. Chavez), therein inventing

the modern taco truck. Martínez can also be credited for popularizing the soft tortilla street taco and tacos al pastor in Los Angeles. Martínez and his brother later opened El Tauro, recognizably related to King Taco in its unmistakable sauces. King Taco returned to Boyle Heights around 1983 when the ninth location opened on this corner in a pair of buildings that had formerly served as service stations, a dry cleaner, and a florist. Raul Martinez Sr. passed away in 2013, but King Taco continues to thrive with over 30 locations across the Los Angeles area.



## 48 Farmacia Ramirez

2403 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE



Boyle Heights' "Farmacia del Buen Servicio," has been serving the community since 1953. Its founder was Eddie Ramirez, who enrolled at UCLA's pharmacy college in 1940. Ramirez grew up in Boyle Heights, supporting himself by selling fruit until he developed tuberculosis and was given six months to live. He beat the disease and continued his education at USC, where he graduated in 1951. Two years later, he bought a drugstore where he had shined shoes as a youth. He ran for Congress in 1968, and, in 1970, he ran for governor of California. In 1973, he moved his pharmacy to its current location, a building that had formerly



Currie's Ice Cream, c. 1946.

been home to a Currie's Ice Cream shop. Ramirez and his wife, Dolores, reared seven children, all but one of whom entered the healthcare field. Today, Eddie's son Michael runs the pharmacy.



## 49 **The Greatest Love Mural**

2403 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE (SOTO STREET SIDE OF BUILDING)

Paul Botello was born and raised in East Los Angeles and began assisting his older brother David Botello, cofounder of East Los Streetscapers, on murals at the age of eight. The fascinating mural on the side of Farmacia Ramirez was painted in 1992 as a response to the Los Angeles Riots. The pharmacy's owner, Eddie Ramirez, is credited with commissioning the mural as a gift to the community. Darker than his usually vibrant works, it's not without hope, love, and redemption. It has been described in more than one review as "Chicano Gothic," thematically representing the spiritual quest for the coexistence of science and religion, and the unifying of man and woman with nature and God. Some of Botello's other works can be found at the Pueblo del Sol Community Center and Metro's Gold Line Indiana Station.



### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Continue north along Soto Street just past the bus stop. Stop to read Stanchion #14: Brooklyn & Soto. Then, return to Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, cross the street at Soto, and head west on the north side of Cesar E. Chavez to continue the walk.

## 50 **Brooklyn Avenue Neighborhood Corridor**

E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE - THE BLOCKS NEAR SOTO STREET

Brooklyn Avenue was renamed Cesar E. Chavez Avenue on March 31, 1994, on what would've been the 67th birthday of the civil rights and labor activist. Many in Los Angeles objected to the renaming, not out of any objections to Chavez, but out of attachment to Brooklyn Avenue and, in some cases, the feeling that renaming the historic Jewish corridor would amount to an erasure of neighborhood history. More than 1,500 signatures were gathered to preserve the Brooklyn Avenue name, but the mayor and city council unanimously voted for the change. To accommodate the opposition, they designated the area the Brooklyn Avenue Neighborhood Corridor, just three weeks before the street was renamed

Elmer Zellman and his employees inside his men's clothing store, Zellman's Menswear, c. 1935.





Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. Brooklyn Avenue was so-named initially to attract prospective home buyers from the East Coast. By the 1920s, Boyle Heights was home to a thriving community of working-class Eastern European Jews. In its heyday, it boasted kosher bakeries like Boston Bakery (2320), Brooklyn Rye Bakery, Detroit Bakery, Warsaw Bakery, and Raskin's. There were restaurants and delis like The Famous, and Canter Bros. (2323), markets like Jack's (2811), and jewelers like S. Schonholtz & Sons (2214). There was also a Yiddish cinema, the National Theatre (2222), as well as the offices of newspapers like *Der Pasifik Folks-Zeitung* and *Di Frayhey*t. There were Jewish-owned hardware stores, plumbers, tailors, and the headquarters of Jewish organizations like the communists' Cooperative Center (2708). Bundists and Zionists publicly debated one another at the intersection of Brooklyn and Soto. In 1938, members of the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC), the United



Protest against Nazi violence, c. 1938.

Anti-Nazi Conference (UANC), and residents marched together down Brooklyn Avenue to protest Nazi violence toward the Jews of Germany and Austria in the days following Kristallnacht. In 1962, Daniel Thompson invented the Thompson Bagel Machine above his father's bakery, Thompson Brothers Bakery (2222). The last of the Jewish businesses on Cesar E. Chavez, Zellman's Menswear, closed in 1999.

### 51 Phillips Music Company (former site)

2403 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE

Bill Phillips opened Phillips Music Company on Brooklyn Avenue in 1936. He left Rochester, New York, to join the Navy, and after completing his service (during which time he became a jazz musician), he moved to City Terrace to be near his extended family living in Boyle Heights. From the 1930s to the early 1990s,

Phillips Music Company sold instruments, sheet music, records, appliances, television sets, and sporting goods. More than just a store—it was a popular and inclusive hangout for neighborhood kids of Mexican, Jewish, and Japanese descent who explored each other's cultures through their shared love of music. Phillips was an active community member as well, volunteering his time as a music teacher, offering work opportunities to young customers, and supporting civic causes. Even after moving his family to a new neighborhood, Phillips continued working at the store into his eighties—bringing his enthusiasm for business, culture, music, and service to the neighborhood.



Phillips Music Co., c. 1950.

## 52 Canter Bros. Deli (former site)

2323 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE

Canter's Deli, open 24 hours a day, has been a staple of the Fairfax district since 1948. The restaurant first opened in 1931 on Brooklyn Avenue—the hub of Jewish commerce and social life in Boyle Heights at the time. Ben, Joe, and Ruby Canter were Russian-born Jews who emigrated to the United States and opened their first deli in Jersey City in 1924. In 1929, at the onset of the Great Depression, the deli closed, and the Canters decided to move west and try their luck in Los Angeles. Their new deli, Canter Bros. Delicatessen, boldly advertised steak chops and sandwiches (in both English and Hebrew) from the large glass-pane storefront. The most popular sandwich, naturally, was pastrami on rye. After a family dispute, Joe and his son Seymour struck out on their own, opening Canter and Son Delicatessen a few doors down. In 1948, Ben opened a new Canter's Deli on Fairfax. In 1953, it moved a couple of doors down to its current location. The original Canter's remained in operation in Boyle Heights until at least 1967. The single-story building still stands, and some of the white brick inlay details can still be seen if you look closely.



## 53 George's Burger Stand

2311 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE

George Sideris opened George's Drive-In in 1967 as a humble burger stand enhanced immeasurably by a towering Googie-style starburst sign. The sign and the illuminated banner around the building advertise the restaurant's specialties: burgers, burritos, pastrami, and shakes. The combination of post-war fast food, Mexican street food, and Jewish sandwiches paints a culinary portrait of mid-20th century Boyle Heights. By then, the Jewish population had mostly left, but the taste for pastrami remained. At George's, pastrami naturally took its place on the menu next to Mexican street food staples and American fast food. Sideris, like many Greek immigrants, arrived in the United States in the 1950s, when Greek immigration rose dramatically. Many Greeks settled in the west and opened drive-in and drive-thru burger joints. Armando de la Torre, Jr. (of Guisados) and chef-partner Robert McCord bought George's in 2018. The duo trimmed down the menu, which had bloated in recent years, restoring focus to the staples that made it well-loved in the first place.





#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Continue along the north side of Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. When you get to Breed Street, cross Cesar E. Chavez and continue south on the west side of Breed Street. Stop to read the final stanchion, Stanchion #15: Breed Street Shul.

### 54 *Resurrection of the Green Planet Mural*

2242 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE



A freshly painted *Resurrection of the Green Planet*, c. 1991.

Ernesto de la Loza's mural *Resurrection of the Green Planet* has existed on the side of El Rincon de Ross ice cream shop since 1991. The mural depicts nature in its most profound way, representing a blend of modern and mythological images to symbolize the hope for environmental protection and human growth. De la Loza played a prominent role in the Chicano mural movement that emerged out of East Los Angeles in the 1970s. Due to defacement, gentrification, and a lack of knowledge, many of his and other artists' original murals have disappeared over the years. *Resurrection* was almost lost in 2008 when the owner of the building received a letter from the City of Los Angeles stating that he would be fined if he did not clean up the graffiti on the mural. To preserve the work, De la Loza chose to revitalize the mural himself, using his own money. The artist's name and a list of the original assistants who helped paint the mural can be found in the upper right corner, above the store's window.



#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

Continue a little further south on Breed Street to see the Breed Street Shul. Note: the Breed Street Shul is currently closed to the public. Only the facade is viewable from the sidewalk.

### 55 *Breed Street Shul*

247 N. BREED STREET

During the first half of the 20th century, Boyle Heights had one of the largest and most influential Jewish communities in the west, and Congregation Talmud Torah—known as the Breed Street Shul—was the largest synagogue west of Chicago. The synagogue was first established near downtown Los Angeles in 1906, then moved to its current location in 1915. The congregation started

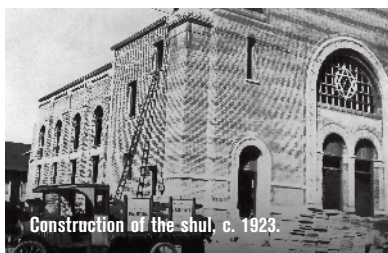




The interior of the Breed Street Shul.

Photo by Bill Aron

primarily as a place of Jewish religious education for children, and a small wooden structure was built for that purpose. The



congregation quickly grew, and it was able to erect a grand Byzantine Revival building in 1923—designed by the notable architect Abram M. Edelman, the son of Rabbi Abraham Wolf Edelman (the first rabbi in Los Angeles).

The Breed Street Shul was known as the “Queen of the Shuls,” and it represents just one of over thirty orthodox Jewish synagogues that once existed in Boyle Heights and City Terrace. By the 1980s, the Shul—still an active synagogue—began to suffer disrepair, neglect, and vandalism. In 1987, it experienced severe earthquake damage causing it to become closed to the public. With the building rendered unusable, it was in danger of being demolished; however, in 1988, the building was designated a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. In the 1990s, the city foreclosed on the property and, in 2000, transferred its ownership to the Jewish Historical Society of Southern California to restore the building and transform it into a museum and cultural community center.



#### WHERE TO GO FROM HERE:

**Congratulations! You have completed Angels Walk Boyle Heights. We hope you have enjoyed learning about both the past and present of this remarkable community.**

There are a number of additional sites to explore in the area. These are listed in the following “Farther Afield” section. Most sites require transportation by car.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The following Farther Afield sites are in the Boyle Heights area, but not along the main walk route. Most sites require transportation by car.

**1 El Pato/Walker Foods**

237 N. MISSION ROAD

Although it's often found in the international aisle of local grocery stores, El Pato's signature spicy tomato sauce is canned in Boyle Heights. It is believed to have been the first mass-produced hot sauce packaged in the United States—and the first American-made hot sauce to be imported to Mexico. The parent company, Walker Foods, began as Walker Manufacturing soon after Irish-born immigrant James Walker started the company in 1905. Their famous hot tomato sauce was launched in 1914, and is recognizable by its bright yellow can emblazoned with a mallard duck (“el pato” is Spanish for “the duck”). The elder Walker passed away in 1947, after which James Jr. took over the company and younger son Robert left to start Walker Products—the first commercial producer of distilled white vinegar in California. In 1999, after Robert's death, his son Robert Jr. merged the companies to create Walker Foods.

**2 William Hayes Perry Residence (former site)**

1315 PLEASANT AVENUE

The opulent home of William H. Perry was located at 1315 Pleasant Avenue in Boyle Heights in what was known as the Mount Pleasant Tract. Today, a large apartment building occupies the land where it once stood. William H. Perry arrived in Los Angeles from Ohio at the age of 21 and would become one of the city's richest men. After making his fortune in the lumber business, he would go on to spearhead the organization of the Los Angeles Gas Company, act as president of the Los Angeles City Water Company, and serve on the Board of Directors for Farmers and Merchants Bank. His Greek Italianate Victorian-style mansion was built in 1876 at the cost of \$10,000 and was designed by prominent architecture firm Kysor & Mathews. In 1975, after years of being severely neglected, the mansion was moved by the Colonial Dames of America to the Heritage Square Museum in Highland Park for restoration. It still stands there today, having been designated a Los Angeles Cultural-Historic Monument and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many Victorian and Craftsman-style homes from the 1800s can be found throughout the residential neighborhood on Pleasant Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The William H. Perry mansion.



### 3 Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Armenian Church

1327 PLEASANT AVENUE

There are two church buildings on the campus of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Armenian Catholic Church. The older one, a modest Spanish Colonial Revival sanctuary, was built in 1921. The other, dating to 1928, served as the third home of the Brownson Settlement House, a Catholic aid organization founded in 1901 and named after humanitarian, philosopher, and writer Orestes A. Brownson. In 1956, the property was given to Father Michael Akian to establish an Armenian Catholic parish—the first in California. Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has remained in constant operation ever since.



### 4 Prospect Park

ECHANDIA STREET - NORTH OF BRIDGE STREET



In 1877, the Brooklyn Heights Land and Building Company donated four acres to the City of Los Angeles for the creation of a neighborhood park on Echandia Street, two blocks north of Brooklyn Avenue, in what was then called the Brooklyn Heights subdivision. In 1889, the city spent

\$1,560 developing the teardrop-shaped park, initially with graded pathways, rare trees and shrubs, and an unobstructed view of the San Gabriel Mountains. Opened in 1891, it was named Prospect Park, most likely to further the “Brooklyn connection,” as there is also the beautifully designed and much larger Prospect Park in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

### 5 LA County Medical Examiner-Coroner

1104 N. MISSION ROAD

Every county in California has a coroner whose job it is to determine the cause and manner of death in specific cases. Los Angeles’ first coroner, Alpheus P. Hodges, was at the same time the city’s mayor. The Department of Coroner was created in 1882. It relocated to its current home in Boyle Heights in 1972. The building in which it’s located—its third home—was built in 1909. It was originally the administration building of the old Los Angeles General Hospital. Frank Dale Hudson and William A.O. Munsell—the duo responsible for the design of the Los Angeles Natural History Museum—were the architects. While the building itself is striking, one of the biggest attractions is inside—the appropriately macabre gift shop called *Skeletons in the Closet*.





## 6 LAC+USC Medical Center (Hugo Ballin Frescos)

2051 MARENGO STREET



LAC+USC Medical Center is a public teaching hospital owned and operated by Los Angeles County. The doctors at the facility are also faculty at the private Keck School of Medicine of USC, located on the adjacent USC Health Sciences Campus. Los Angeles has provided public hospital care since 1858. The Los Angeles County Hospital and the University of Southern California Medical School were first affiliated in 1885. Construction of the towering Art Deco county hospital, designed by Allied Architects

Association, began in 1927, and it opened its doors six years later. It has been featured in numerous films and television series, most famously as the hospital in the long-running soap opera *General Hospital*—appearing in the title sequence since 1975. The hospital closed in 2008, being out of compliance with earthquake and fire safety codes. The replacement county hospital opened that same year. The old hospital stands, mostly vacant, although the ground floor houses offices. Most of the hospital is off-limits, but visitors can still enjoy the exterior architecture and some beautiful ornamental elements. Above the front entrance are a group of statues sculpted by Salvatore Cartaino Scarpitta. On the interior ceiling is a mural of Asclepius (the Greek god of medicine) and his sons, painted by artist Hugo Ballin—one of the region’s foremost muralists, whose works also adorn Burbank City Hall, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the *Los Angeles Times* Building, and Griffith Observatory.

## 7 Malabar Branch Library

2801 WABASH AVENUE

The Malabar Branch Library has its roots in the 900-book depository that was run out of the Brooklyn Heights Methodist Church in 1914. After a bond was passed in 1925 for the construction of 14 new libraries in the city, work began on the Malabar Branch. William Lee Woollett, who had spent much of the previous decade design-



ing grand movie palaces, designed a comparatively restrained red brick Spanish Colonial Revival building—although the ornamental frieze above the front entrance adds a touch of drama. In 1986, it was designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, but had to close for repairs and renovations sustained during the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake. The library reopened five years later.



## 8 El Tepeyac Café

812 N. EVERGREEN AVENUE

Ramon Manuel Rojas—or “Manny” to his friends—opened El Tepeyac Café in 1956. Manuel spent much of his youth working in restaurants, specifically El Tupinamba Café and La Villa Café. Both belonged to his parents, Salvador and Rebecca. El Tepeyac specializes in gargantuan burritos. One, “The Hollenbeck,” is doused with stew. There’s also “Manuel’s Special Burrito Challenge,” in which diners attempt to eat a gut-busting, five-pound burrito in one sitting. Manuel passed away in 2013, but his daughter, Elena, now continues the Rojas family tradition.

## 9 Forsyth Memorial School for Girls (former site)

506 N. EVERGREEN AVENUE



The Forsyth organization was founded in 1884, and the Boyle Heights location was housed in a Mission Revival-style building designed by Henry M. Patterson and constructed in 1914. Forsyth was an all-girls boarding school that served mostly Mexican students, with the curriculum focusing primarily on

teaching domestic skills, patriotism, and Presbyterian theology. In 1934, the school closed and the building reopened as the Hebron Community Center. From 1945 to 1947, the structure was home to Evergreen Hostel, which housed Japanese Americans recently freed from World War II internment camps—including many who lost their homes and jobs. In 2015, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

## 10 Paramount Ballroom

2708 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE

This three-story brick building with Italianate-style details has always been a community gathering place of one kind or another. Built in 1925, and known as The Cooperative Center, it first served as a hub for Jewish communists and labor groups. In the late 1940s, the space transformed into a music venue called the Paramount Ballroom, and, for the next several decades, played host to an endless stream of diverse musical talent. One could dance and listen to the likes of Count Basie, Tito Puente, Arsenio Rodriguez, Lalo Guerrero, Little Stevie Wonder, and others. Actress Rita Hayworth’s father taught dance lessons here, and for a short time in the 80s, a punk club known as The Vex thrived here. More recently, Boyle Heights-native Mario Christerna, along with property owners Frank Acevedo and Austin Low, restored and revived The Paramount as a performance venue and bar, committing to build on the historical legacy the building holds. With the addition of the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory and Brooklyn Ave. Pizza Company on the ground floor, this legendary site continues to welcome a new generation.



# FARTHER AFIELD

## 11 Candelas Guitars

2724 E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVENUE



For three generations, the Delgado family has been handcrafting high-quality acoustic guitars that are as rich in beauty, soul, and history as their family's legacy. Candelas Guitars began in Coahuila, Mexico, in the early 1910s. Brothers Porfirio—a skilled carpenter—and Candelario—a businessman with a passion for music—noticed a need for luthiers (guitar builders) in Mexico, and the two set out to fill the gap.

By the 1960s, the brothers had established four successful stores, selling their handcrafted instruments in Juarez, Tijuana, and Los Angeles—on Sunset Boulevard and in Boyle Heights. Today, the store in Boyle Heights is the only Candelas that remains. Tomás Delgado, the grandson of Porfirio, continues the family business, carrying on the tradition of skillfully-made acoustic instruments.

## 12 Los Cinco Puntos

INTERSECTION OF E. CESAR E. CHAVEZ AVE., INDIANA ST., AND LORENA ST.

Los Cinco Puntos (Five Points) refers to the intersection formed by Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Indiana Street, and Lorena Street. Although in 2019 Los Angeles County approved its redesign as a roundabout, it contains two islands that host two war memorials dedicated in 1947 and 1960. These honor



the Mexican-American men and women who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. This group has the highest percentage of Medal of Honor winners of any minority in the United States. On December 20, 1969, Los Cinco Puntos was the starting location of the first Chicano Moratorium march in East Los Angeles in protest of the Vietnam War. It's not the only intersection in the Eastside known as "Cinco Puntos" (there's also one in Lincoln Heights), but it's the only one that also lends itself to a neighboring restaurant, Los 5 Puntos, opened in 1967 by Connie and Vincent Sotelo, Jr., and run today by their sons.

## 13 El Mercado

3425 E. 1ST STREET

El Mercado de Los Angeles, or "El Mercadito" as it is sometimes known, is a combination of a cultural center, swap meet, farmers market, food court, and live music venue. The structure was built in 1968 by Air Force captain, Arturo P. Chayra, and his brother, Benjamin. The selection of vendors at the time reflected the neighborhood's diversity, with Japanese, Jewish, Italian, and Mexican





options. Expansions, alterations, and evolutions have turned it into a scene unlike any other in the city. Vendors hawk wares both inside and out of the expansive space. Since 1986, Pedro Rosado, a retired janitor, has been its owner. His relationship with the market started in 1971 when he opened a bookshop there. In 1977, he became El Mercado's manager. Rosado was also responsible for inviting Jose Luis Gonzalez, of Goetz Art Studio & Gallery, to adorn and decorate the entire building. For three decades, Gonzalez directed its transformation into an artistic showpiece, adding murals, mosaics, wood carvings, and tile floor designs. He also created the Pasillo de los Monumentos (Hall of Monuments), which features 54 hand-painted tile panels of various Mexican landmarks.

## 14 Evergreen Cemetery/Chinese Cemetery Shrine

204 N. EVERGREEN AVENUE



Established in 1877, Evergreen Cemetery is the oldest nondenominational and first privately owned cemetery in Los Angeles. With over 300,000 internments across 67 acres, it's also one of the largest. Buried within it are pioneers, politicians, and paupers. As a cemetery, it is notable for having never banned patrons based on race or ethnicity—a common practice at the time. Since its founding, Evergreen has annually buried the remains of unclaimed and unidentified Angelenos in a single mass grave. The cemetery is also home to memorials for several veterans groups, including Civil War soldiers and Japanese-American World War II vets. The Precious Burners of the Chinese burial section is one of the oldest memorials, dating back to 1888. It consists of twin furnaces and a ceremonial altar, located close to a burial site rediscovered during construction of the Metro Gold Line in 2005. In 1990, the memorial was designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument. In 1992, the shrine was acquired by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California for restoration, and today it's visited annually by observers of the Qingming Festival, or "Tomb-Sweeping Day"—an important festival observed by ethnic Chinese around the world.

## 15 Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

3064 E. 1ST STREET

Of the various populations that contributed to Boyle Heights' historic diversity, its Black community is most often overlooked. Small but substantial, it was centered near Evergreen Cemetery, and a church situated at its southern edge was a community centerpiece. In the 1920s, Mount Olive Baptist Missionary Church was established, and, in 1924, a conflict between factions over control of the church caused a schism in the congregation. In 1936, a new Mission Revival-style church, named Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, was completed. The church building still bears that name, although it is currently home to a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal congregation.



## FARTHER AFIELD



## 16 Konko Church of Los Angeles

2924 E. 1ST STREET

Konko, or Konkokyo, is a sect of Shinto, the traditional religion of Japan. In 1926, a group of Konkokyo practitioners began gathering in Los Angeles, and, in 1929, they established the Konko Church of Los Angeles. The humble white structure was designed by architect Yos Hirose and finished in 1938. Its founder, Taichi Tsuyuki was, like many Japanese community leaders, incarcerated during World War II. In Tsuyuki's case, he was separated from his family and interned at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station. During World War II, a local group of Latino evangelicals assumed temporary care of the church. The current head minister, Alfred Yoshi Tsuyuki, born in Boyle Heights in 1941, is the founder's son. Konko Church is also the birthplace of Shotokan Karate of America, the first and oldest karate organization in the United States.

## 17 Haru Florist

2844 E. 1ST STREET



Japanese Angelenos have played a prominent role in floriculture for over a century. By the 1910s, the Japanese were raising flowers on large farms throughout much of Los Angeles County. In 1912, Japanese flower growers founded both the Southern California Floral Industry Association and Japanese Market (later known as the Southern California Flower Market or "Flower Mart"). Henry "Hank" Nobu and Ruth Yoshimizu opened Haru Florist (haru means spring in Japanese) in 1954. Hank passed away in 2004, and Ruth is retired. Today, their daughter, Karen Nobuta, runs the shop with assistance from her daughters. It is the only remaining Japanese-owned florist in the neighborhood.

## 18 Rafu Chuo Gakuen Japanese Language School

204 N. SARATOGA STREET



Rafu Chuo Gakuen is one of Los Angeles' numerous Japanese language schools and a rare example of a secular Japanese institution in Boyle Heights. Japanese language education began in the United States in the late 19th century. Many Japanese immigrants enrolled their children in such

schools—or Gakuen—hoping to keep Japanese culture alive in their offspring. The roots of Boyle Heights’ Japanese language school are in Tokiwa Gakuen, established in 1929. The school relocated to its present location in 1932 and was renamed Rafu Chuo Gakuen (“Rafu” is a contraction of “Rashogiri-fu,” a Japanese name for Los Angeles). It closed during the incarceration of Japanese during World War II and resumed operation in 1947. Four years later, it became affiliated with the Kyodo System—a formal organization of Japanese language academies. New classroom buildings were added in 1959, and the campus was expanded and improved in subsequent decades.

## 19 Tenrikyo Church

2727 E. 1ST STREET

Tenrikyo Church was established in 1934. Devotees of the Japanese religion, developed in the 19th-century by Nakayama Miki, first met near Hollenbeck Park on Cummings Street.

Yos Hirose designed the current church building in 1937, and construction was completed two years later. During World War II, a Black congregation assumed temporary ownership of the church, and after the war, many returning Japanese lived at the church for a time. A rectory, also designed by Hirose, was added in 1950, and more buildings followed in later years. Today, there are millions of followers, and the Boyle Heights location serves as the headquarters for all Tenrikyo Churches in America and Canada.



## 20 Rissho Kosei-Kai Buddhist Temple

2707 E. 1ST STREET



Rissho Kosei-Kai Buddhist Temple is non-monastic and organized by the Rissho Kosei-kai lay movement. The “Japanese new religion” was established by Nikkyo Niwano and Myoko Naganuma in 1938. Today, the church occupies the original location of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, which relocated to Little Tokyo in 1976. The original building was designed

in 1926 by Yos Hirose, although several additions have been made over the years. Before moving into its current location, congregants met in a private home beginning in 1959.

## 21 Japanese Hospital (former site)

101 S. FICKETT STREET

Although Japanese Angelenos played a prominent role in medicine since the 1910s, they were often denied employment and admittance to many hospitals and, thus, were forced to establish their own. In 1915, a nurse

named Mary Akita was instrumental in founding Little Tokyo’s Turner Hospital. By the 1920s, seventy percent of California’s midwives were Japanese, and Japanese ran many of Los Angeles’ maternity homes and hospitals. In 1926, a group of physicians—Kikuwo Tashiro, Daishiro Kuroiwa, Fusataro Nayaka, Toru Ozasa,





## FARTHER AFIELD



Japanese Hospital nurses.

and Matsuta Takahashi—were barred from creating their own hospital by the California Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan on the grounds that Japanese were not allowed to lease land. The case of *Tashiro v. Jordan* went to the U.S. Supreme Court, and, in 1928, the Japanese prevailed. Architect Yos Hirose designed the Japanese Hospital in 1929, and, six years later, it merged with the older Turner Hospital. After moving to Lincoln Heights and changing its name to City View Hospital in 1962, the Japanese Hospital closed its doors. The Fickett Street location was designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in 2016.

## 22 Otomisan Restaurant

2506 1/2 E. 1ST STREET

In 1956, a couple remembered today only as “the Setos” opened Otomi Café. Their choice of name was perhaps inspired by enka singer Hachiro Kasuga’s hit song “Otomi-san,” which, by the previous year, had sold over a million copies. In the early 1970s, Otomi was purchased by Aki and Tomi Seino and was apparently renamed Otomisan. After Aki died in 2005, Tomi closed the shop. Six months later it was acquired by the owner of a nearby dry cleaners, Yayoi Watanabe. It is the oldest operating Japanese restaurant in Los Angeles.



## 23 Casa Del Mexicano

2900 CALLE PEDRO INFANTE

Casa del Mexicano is Los Angeles’ oldest Mexican cultural center. The idea for a center benefitting Mexican Angelenos was first conceived at the Mexican Consulate in 1929, the same year the United States began the mass deportation of Mexican Americans to Mexico. The first center, located in East Los Angeles, was dedicated on Cinco de Mayo, 1931. For decades it was a popular destination for visiting Mexican politicians, celebrities, and dignitaries. In 1950, it moved to its current home, a building constructed in 1904 for Euclid Heights Methodist Church. In 1983, the street on which it stands was renamed Calle Pedro Infante, after the popular Mexican actor and singer of the 1940s and 1950s. By the 1990s, the center had fallen on hard times, and in 2004, new owners shifted



its focus to being an event space. Mexico City-native Hugo Martinez Tecoatl painted the extensive interior murals from 2010–2012. In 2013, operations were taken over by the East LA Community Corporation, which renovated the space and restored its traditional role as a community center and gathering place. The space hosts a variety of events, including language classes and music workshops. A community garden was also started to encourage the growing of local and organic food.

## 24 **Women Empowerment Mural**

2800 E. 4TH STREET



In 2017, fifteen-year-old Alhambra resident Isabel Peinado unveiled her self-described feminist mural, *Women Empowerment*, on the side of Ray & Roy's Market. The artwork depicts an eclectic assemblage of female activists, artists, entertainers, and professional pioneers alongside the words "To You, with Love Para Ustedes, con Mucho Cariño y con Todo Mi Corazon." Peinado and her crew spent over 600 hours on the mural, which was undertaken as a Girl Scout project. The corner store on which it was painted was opened in the late 1940s by a Japanese father and son, Ray and Roy after they returned from internment after World War II. Today it is operated by only its third owner, Yolanda Diaz.

## 25 **Nichiren Buddhist Temple**

2801 E. 4TH STREET



The Nichiren order is a branch of Mahayana Buddhism based on the teachings of the 13th-century Japanese priest Nichiren. The first Nichiren Shu temple in the United States was established in Los

Angeles in 1914 by Reverend Kanjo Asahi. In 1933, the Nichiren Order of North America was established, and by the following year, Los Angeles practitioners were meeting in a building located at 2800 E. 3rd Street. During World War II, the belongings of hundreds of Japanese Americans were stored in the church, which was vandalized and looted several times. In 1969, architect Joe C. O'Dell designed the current temple, which occupies the same block, and was completed in 1970.

## 26 **Brown Beret Headquarters (former site)**

2641 E. 4TH STREET

The Brown Berets are a social justice organization founded by high school students Vickie Castro, Jorge Licón, David Sanchez, Rachel Ochoa, and Moctesuma Esparza. They originally organized as Young Citizens for Community Action in 1966. The following year, they changed their name



## FARTHER AFIELD

to Young Chicanos for Community Action, and, inspired by the black berets of the Black Panthers, adopted brown berets as part of their uniform. The Brown Berets operated out of several headquarters in their early years, including



this 1927 brick building. It was from there, during 1969 and 1970, that they organized the anti-Vietnam War protests known as the Chicano Moratoriums, the biggest and final of which resulted in the participation of around 30,000 protesters, 150 arrests, and the deaths of two Brown Berets—Angel José Diaz and Lyn Ward—along with fellow protestor Gustav Montag and *Los Angeles Times* journalist Ruben Salazar.

## 27 Theodore Roosevelt High School

456 S. MATHEWS STREET

Theodore Roosevelt High School is named after the 26th president of the United States, who died three years before completion of the Art Deco-style school in 1922. The school's sports teams are known as the "Rough Riders," the nickname of the

1st United States Volunteer Cavalry in which Roosevelt served as a lieutenant colonel during the Spanish–American War.

The school's mascot, Teddy the Bear, is another reference to the popular president. In the school's early days, there was a large number of Japanese students, and in 1931, the Roosevelt High School Japanese Club created Heiwa En, the Garden of Peace. In 1942, Teddy Roosevelt's fifth cousin, and then-president,

Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066; as a result, roughly one-third of the student body was placed in internment camps.

In March 1968, Roosevelt students played a key role in the historic East Los Angeles Walkouts (Chicano Blowouts). In 1996, artist Nelyollotl Toltecatl painted the school's 400-foot-long exterior mural (along 4th and Mott streets), *Anahuac: Our Future Belongs to Us*, depicting the conquest and colonization of the Americas.



Roosevelt students in their GAA (Girls Athletic Association) sweaters, c. 1944.





## 28 St. Mary's Catholic Church

407 S. CHICAGO STREET

In 1896, Bishop George Montgomery announced the creation of a new Roman Catholic parish in the city. It was the fifth Catholic church to be built in Los Angeles and the first in Boyle Heights. Initially suggested by Mayor William H. Workman in 1886, a brick church was dedicated almost a decade later, on November 14, 1897. The first priests who served the church were Irish. In 1907 the Sisters of the Holy Names were brought in to open and staff St. Mary School—the third parochial school in the archdiocese.



The first St. Mary's church, c. 1897.

The original church was designed by R.B. Young in a Romanesque design and was constructed by John Hanlop. Hanlop donated a high white and gold altar and side altar. The little church also had a 3/4 ton bell—one of the last cast in the United States. In the early 1900s, the church served a very diverse parish,

reflective of Boyle Heights at the time, including Irish, Mexican, German, Basque, Italian, Austrian, French, Canadian, Peruvian, Chilean, Philippine, and Swiss parishioners. The original structure was demolished in 1923, and a new church, constructed the next year, stands today. Known as “The Grand Old Lady of Boyle Heights,” the larger Byzantine-style church was dedicated in 1926 by Bishop John J. Cantwell. Designed by Thomas Franklin Power, the structure includes a bell tower that was originally over 135 feet high (and which included the bell from the first church). Later, a pipe organ by Kilen of St. Louis was acquired. In 1987, the church sustained damage from the Whittier Narrows earthquake, leading to multiple repairs. During the restoration process, the bell tower had its height reduced, and some of the church murals and embellishments were painted over. Artwork by Candelario Rivas, T. Mura, German artist Theodore Brash, and Chicano muralist George Yepes have graced the church. The parish has a longstanding history of social activism, including its involvement in founding the United Neighborhoods Organization (UNO), as well as acting as a consistent catalyst in helping newly arrived immigrants integrate into the community.



## FARTHER AFIELD

**29 2nd Street Residential Historic District**

E. 2ND STREET, BETWEEN BOYLE AVENUE AND INTERSTATE 5



Spanning two blocks of E. 2nd Street, between Boyle Avenue and Interstate 5, the 2nd Street Residential Historic District is an exemplar of streetcar suburbanization in Boyle Heights. A part of the original Workman and Hollenbeck Tract subdivided in the late 1870s, the 2nd Street District saw significant development from 1883 to 1923. Late-Victorian era architecture populates the district; however, none of the residences possess identical features, indicating that the buildings were financed and constructed by individual owners. With the 1st

Street streetcar line just a block away, the district's rapid growth in the late 19th century is a testament to the power of transit to grow new communities quickly. Also notable, at the end of E. 2nd Street, where the street meets the 5 freeway, is the 2nd Street School, which was founded in 1895.

**30 Simon Francois Gless Farmhouse**

131 S. BOYLE AVENUE

**NOTE: THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY - DO NOT DISTURB THE RESIDENTS**

In 1878, Basque immigrant Gaston Oxarart acquired Rancho Los Encinos, located in the San Fernando Valley. Upon his death, his nephew, Simon Francois Gless, took on the management of his uncle's complex estate. In 1886, after marrying Juanita Amestoy, also from another prominent Basque family, Gless settled in Boyle Heights and worked as a farmer and rancher. The couple built this lovely Queen Anne-style home in 1887. Gless had

a working farm on the property that originally extended 150 feet to the south. A testament to the family's prominence in the community is the naming of Gless Street

after them. As Boyle Heights evolved in the early 1900s, the Gless home became the Hebrew Shelter Home and Asylum, and later served as the Jewish Home for the Aged from 1916 until 1922. Most of the home's original woodwork and ornaments are still intact, including the patterned wood, brick masonry, and the spindle work balustrades. Actress Sharon Gless is a descendant of Simon and Juanita Gless. In 2010, the house was designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.



Simon and Juanita Gless.

### 31 Jewish Home for the Aged (former site)

345 S. BOYLE AVENUE

The Jewish Home for the Aged, a branch of the Hebrew Sheltering Society, was established at a private residence located at 131 Boyle Avenue (the Gless Farmhouse) in 1916. The organization served recent immigrants, the homeless, and the elderly, and the

first president was a local grocer and Polish immigrant, Simon Lewis. The association acquired more real estate over time and built a large complex in 1930 at 345 Boyle Avenue, facilitating up to 350 residents. The Mediterranean Revival-style Emil Brown Auditorium, designed by Jewish architect Max Maltzman, is the only historic building still standing. Two Stars of David, engraved on the facade and looking down over a Japanese garden and koi pond, are among the hints of its previous purpose. Other buildings on the property included an on-site synagogue, kosher kitchen, and a building named for actress Mary Pickford, who was a significant donor. These buildings were demolished following the 1987 Whittier Narrows earthquake. The Jewish Home relocated to Reseda in 1967, and since 1974 the site has been owned by Keiro Senior Healthcare, who runs it as the Keiro Retirement Home.



### 32 Max Factor House

432 S. BOYLE AVENUE

Max Factor (Maksymilian Faktorowicz) was a Polish beautician, inventor, and founder of global cosmetics giant Max Factor & Company. He was responsible for the signature looks of many Hollywood stars, such as Clara Bow's bob, Jean Harlow's platinum hair, Joan Crawford's overdrawn lips, and Lucille Ball's false eyelashes. He was born in the Russian Empire and immigrated to the United States in 1904, first settling in Missouri. In 1908, he married Jennie Cook, and the couple moved to Los Angeles, where he founded Max Factor & Company in 1909. Like many Eastern European Jews, he moved to Boyle Heights in 1923, purchasing a 1909 Craftsman home designed by Charles E. Shattuck. Factor also never learned to drive and liked the home's proximity to public transit. In 1929, he moved to a much less modest home in Beverly Hills.



### 33 International Institute of Los Angeles

435 S. BOYLE AVENUE



The International Institute was established in 1914 by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to assist immigrant women in adjusting to American life through various workshops and support services. The Institute originally comprised two branches, but these were merged into



## FARTHER AFIELD

one location in 1916 in a large home at 1315 Pleasant Avenue. In 1924, it relocated to a temporary space until the two-story Spanish Colonial Revival multipurpose center, with offices, an auditorium, and a centerpiece



An English class for Korean women.

courtyard, was built in 1933. With its resources, staff, and active participation from one of the most diverse immigrant populations in the city, the International Institute assisted numerous women and girls in navigating the complex path to citizenship, while fostering greater cross-cultural understanding through multi-ethnic festivals and presentations. Their mission to help immigrants in this country continues today.

### 34 Hollenbeck Park

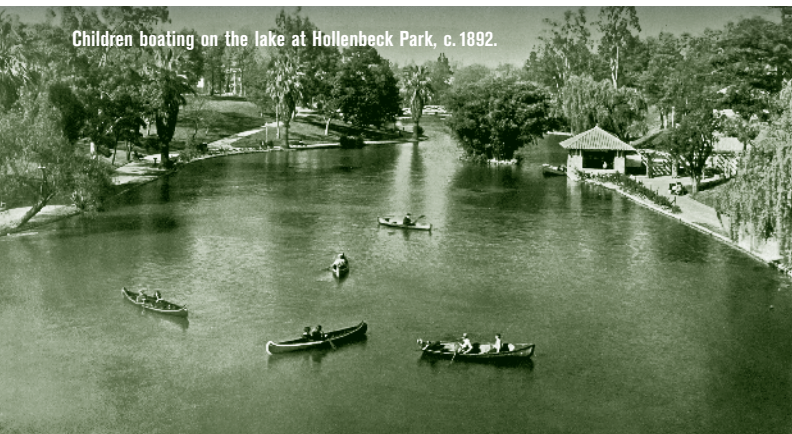
415 S. ST. LOUIS STREET



At nearly 23 acres, Hollenbeck Park is Boyle Heights' principal urban recreational space. The park was created during the City Beautiful Movement on land donated by William H. Workman, his wife Maria Elizabeth Boyle, and Elizabeth Hollenbeck (widow

of John E. Hollenbeck). The park's central feature, its picturesque lake, was largely created by damming two preexisting waterways, which formerly flowed into the Los Angeles River. The Victorian-style grounds opened in 1892 and featured exotic trees, a greenhouse, a fountain, a bamboo island, a menagerie, a bandshell, and a boathouse from which visitors could rent canoes and bicycle boats. The park was also popular as a filming location and can be seen in *The Fortification Plans* (1915), *Haunted Spooks* (1920), *Run 'Em Ragged* (1920), *It's a Gift* (1923), *Dog Heaven* (1927), *Men O' War* (1929), *Dollar Dizzy* (1930), and *Pajama Game* (1957). The park has gone through many changes over the decades with its old bridges—including the 4th Street bridge, decorative Hollenbeck Park Bridge, and historic 6th Street bridge—all long gone (the latter was replaced by the current pontoon bridge). The original boathouse and its stone masonry replacement are also gone (although the foundation of the second boathouse remains). For decades, the 5 Freeway has loomed over the park, its support pillars rising from the lake. The park retains a second bandstand, built in 1931, and also features a newer skate park.

Children boating on the lake at Hollenbeck Park, c. 1892.



## 35 Santa Fe Coast Lines Hospital

610 S. ST. LOUIS STREET



In 1905, the Santa Fe Coast Lines Hospital Association opened a 150-bed, multi-story Mission Revival-style hospital on a four-acre parcel at 610 S. St. Louis Street to serve the Atchinson, Topeka and Santa Fe employees and their families throughout the southwest. To meet the demands of the increasing number of railroad workers, the entire structure was razed, and a new facility was opened in 1925, with several editions and expansions, including a neighboring nurses' dormitory, added over several decades. Though a busy and well-staffed hospital, it nevertheless blatantly segregated nonwhite patients from white patients until at least the early 1960s. The hospital was sold to a private medical company in the mid-1980s and renamed the Linda Vista Hospital. Permanently closing in 1991, the derelict building became a popular television and movie location. Between 2012 and 2015, the structure and the nurses' dormitory were refurbished and are now Hollenbeck Terrace, a low-income housing facility for seniors. The building itself is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument.

## 36 The Los Angeles Orphan Asylum (former site)

917 S. BOYLE AVENUE

In 1856, the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul began operating an orphanage in Los Angeles out of an ex-mayor's former residence. Known originally as Institución Caritativa, it incorporated as Los Angeles Orphan Asylum in 1869. In 1890, the cornerstone was placed in Boyle Heights for a towering new red sandstone building to house the orphanage. A beautiful example of Romanesque architecture, it was designed by Curlett, Eisen, and Cuthbertson, Architects—the same firm responsible for the original Los Angeles County Courthouse. Both buildings were completed in 1891. Both buildings, too, were damaged in the destructive 1933 Long Beach earthquake. The courthouse was demolished in 1936, but the orphanage continued to operate until 1953 when the Sisters relocated their operation to Rosemead and re-christened the orphanage as Maryvale. Shortly after, the Boyle Heights orphanage was demolished, and the location has been mostly covered over by the 5 and 10 freeways.



The Los Angeles Orphan Asylum,  
c. 1938.

## FARTHER AFIELD

37 **Sears, Roebuck and Company**

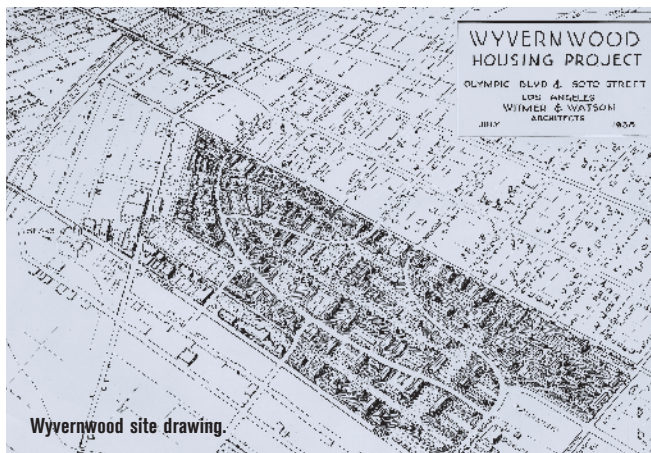
2650 E. OLYMPIC BOULEVARD

The soaring Art Deco Sears, Roebuck and Company product distribution center is the tallest structure on the Eastside outside of the LAC+USC Medical Center. When completed in 1927, it topped out at the city's height limit, which remained in place until 1956. George Nimmons Company designed it, and Scofield Engineering Company handled construction. The retailer was founded in Minneapolis in 1886 as R.W. Sears Watch Company. In its heyday, the Boyle Heights facility managed mail order operations for the entire western United States, with roller-skating employees handling orders in the vast facility. Sears ended its mail-order operations in 1992, and most of the building was abandoned except for the ground-floor retail store. In 2004, developer MJW announced its intention to redevelop the 13-acre complex as a mixed residential and retail property. In 2013, developer Izek Schomof purchased it and unveiled a similar redevelopment plan. In the meantime, the building was designated a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

38 **Wyvernwood Garden Apartments**

2901 E. OLYMPIC BOULEVARD

Completed in 1939, Wyvernwood Apartments was the first of Los Angeles' historic garden apartment complexes. Garden apartments were designed according to the principles of the Garden City Movement, which gave apartment complexes the appearance of tightly knit residential communities placed within vast, green park spaces—or villages within a city. Architects David J. Witmer and Loyall F. Watson designed the minimal traditional-style buildings, and Hammond Sadler was the landscape architect. Three years later, the trio collaborated again on the nearby Estrada Courts garden apartment complex, also in Boyle Heights.



Wyvernwood site drawing.



## RESTAURANTS

(LISTED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE ENCOUNTERED ALONG THE WALK)

**Tacos El Hermano** 1220 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**Purgatory Pizza** 1326 E. 1st Street *Artisanal & Vegan Pizza*

**Café Con Leche Bakery** 1506 E. 1st Street *Cafe & Bakery*

**La Monarca Bakery**

101 Boyle Avenue *Mexican Bakery*

**J&F Ice Cream Shop**

1703 Mariachi Plaza

*Ice Cream, Smoothies & Sandwiches*

**Santa Cecilia Restaurant**

1707 Mariachi Plaza *Mexican*

**Yeya's** 1816 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**Un Solo Sol** 1818 E. 1st Street

*Latin American (Vegetarian/Vegan)*

**Eastside Luv** 1835 E. 1st Street

*Wine Bar & Nightclub*

**Las Palomas** 1837 E. 1st Street *Bar*

**Street Tacos and Grill** 1843 ½ E. 1st Street *Mexican – Tijuana Style Tacos*

**Birrieria De Don Boni** 1845 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**La Placita** 1859 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**Casa Fina** 1842 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**Xelas** 1846 E. 1st Street *Bar (Craft Beer/Food) & Nightclub*

**Capuyo Café**

1850 ½ E. 1st Street *Specialty Coffee*

**Jim's Burgers**

1901 E. 1st Street *Burgers & More*

**L.A. Super Tortas**

1908 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

**Tortilleria San Marcos**

1927 E. 1st Street *Mexican Food & Grocery*



Xelas Craft Beer Bar



# RESTAURANTS + MORE

El Sol 1949 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Al & Bea's 2025 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Cake Girl 2100 E. 1st Street (inside of St. Louis Pharmacy)  
*Plant-Based Bakery*

Salva Market 2108 E. 1st Street *Market*

Los Antojitos  
2122 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Lupita's Restaurant  
2214 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Redz Angelz 2218 E. 1st Street *Bar*

Mariscos Cuyutlan Colima  
2270 E. 1st Street *Mexican / Seafood*

Vicky's 2308 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Pizza Beer & Wings 2321 E. 1st Street *Bar & Grill*

Mi Ranchito 2325 E. 1st Street *Mexican*

Karla's Bar 2329 E. 1st Street *Bar*

Las Margaritas LP 137 N. Soto Street *Mexican*

McDonald's 245 N. Soto Street *Fast Food*

La Michoacana  
2328 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue  
*Ice Cream & Treats*

King Taco #9  
2400 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue *Mexican*

Wok on Soto 305 N. Soto Street *Chinese*

Taco Bell/KFC 320 N. Soto Street *Fast Food*

El Pavo Bakeries

2327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue *Mexican Bakery*

Mi Jacalito 2319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue *Mexican*

George's Burger Stand  
2311 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue *Burgers, Pastrami & More*

Neveria El Rincon De Ross  
2242 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue *Ice Cream, Raspados, Juices & Treats*



Cake Girl



Casa Fina



## LOCAL EVENTS

**Taste of Boyle Heights (ELACC)** *May*

**Boyle Heights Community Market** *Sundays – Mariachi Plaza*

**Día de Los Muertos Celebration (SHG)** *November*

**Santa Cecilia Festival** *November*

**Mariachi Festival** *November*

**Noches de Serenata / Paseo del Arte** *December*

## MORE

**City of Los Angeles General Information** 311

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1870 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033

(323)526-9332

[www.josehuizar.com](http://www.josehuizar.com)

**Council District 14–City Hall Phone**

(213)473-7014

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**Boyle Heights Historical Society**

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[www.boyleheightshistoryblog.blogspot.com](http://www.boyleheightshistoryblog.blogspot.com)

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[www.theeastsiderla.com](http://www.theeastsiderla.com)

**L.A. Taco**

[www.lataco.com](http://www.lataco.com)

**Brooklyn and Boyle**

[www.brooklynboyle.com](http://www.brooklynboyle.com)

**Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles**

[www.muralconservancy.org](http://www.muralconservancy.org)

**OMULA – Organizacion de Mariachis Unidos de Los Angeles**

**Mariachi Plaza Los Angeles**

[www.mariachiplazalosangeles.com](http://www.mariachiplazalosangeles.com)

**Mariachi Heritage Society**

[www.mariachiheritagesociety.com](http://www.mariachiheritagesociety.com)

**Self Help Graphics & Art**

[www.selfhelpgraphics.com](http://www.selfhelpgraphics.com)

**LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes**

[www.lapca.org](http://www.lapca.org)

**Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum**

[www.homesteadmuseum.org](http://www.homesteadmuseum.org)

**Los Encinos State Historic Park**

[www.los-encinos.org](http://www.los-encinos.org)



*This walk is dedicated to the long-time residents who gave their talents and efforts for the community of Boyle Heights, who are no longer with us—Ross Valencia, Lucy Delgado, Rebecca Delgado, Arturo Herrera—and others. They gave tirelessly of their time and energy, helping to sustain Boyle Heights into the future.*

*– Boyle Heights Historical Society*

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