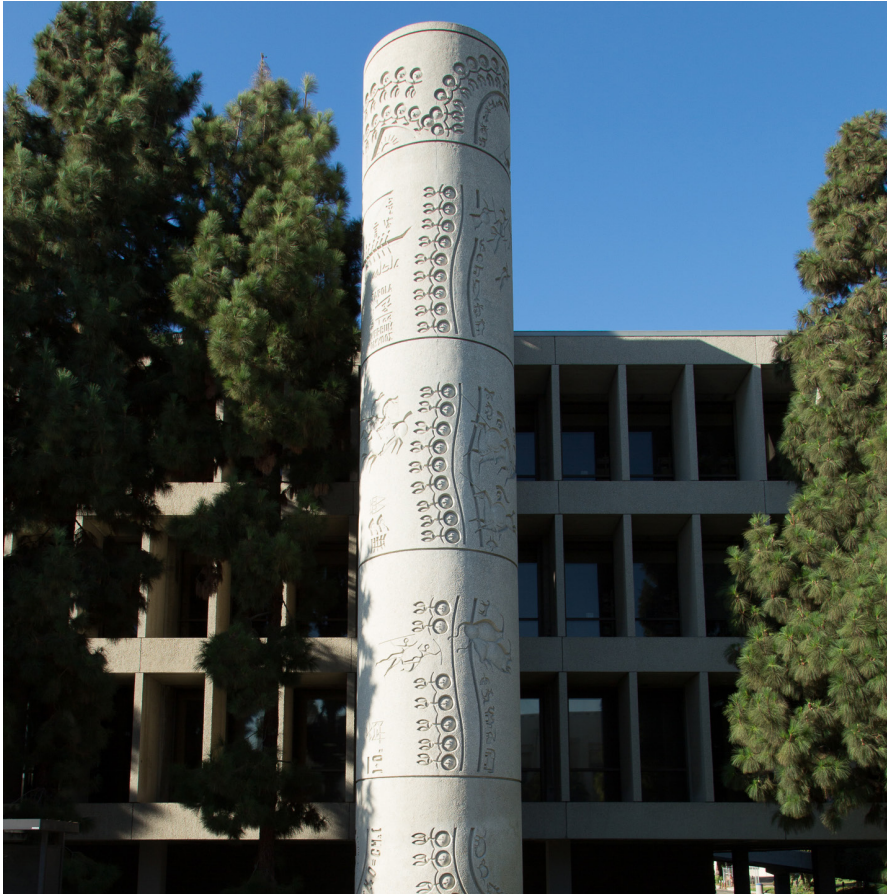




## SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE INGLEWOOD CIVIC CENTER

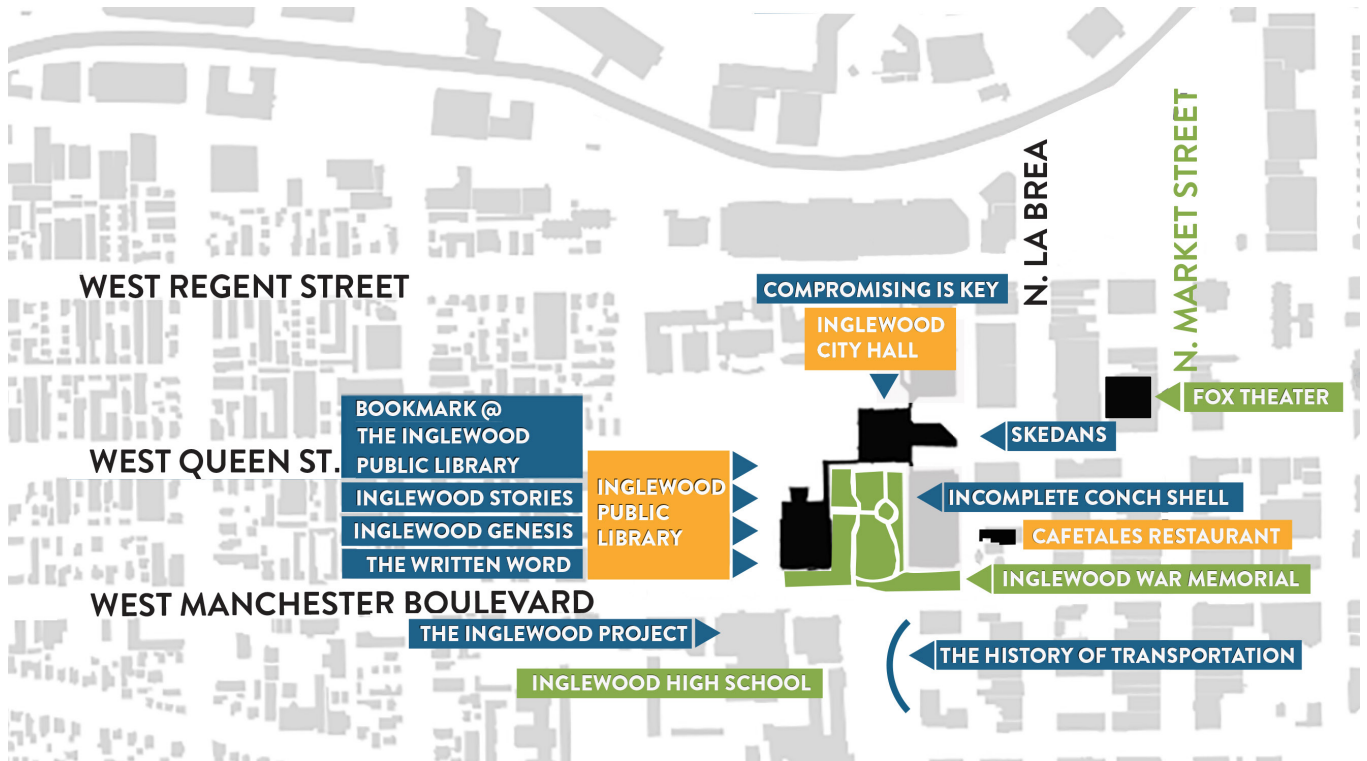


Every tour of Inglewood should begin with the **Civic Center** which has always been the heart of the City. The Civic Center proper is 29 acres encompassing a collection of public buildings from police headquarters to public health facilities. But the heart of it are the 3 blocks between City Hall and Grevillea Park. Set around a pedestrian park are **City Hall** and the **Public Library** designed by Charles Luckman with Robert Herrick Carter. Inglewood's finest public artwork is here: *Skedans*, *The Written Word*, *Incomplete Conch Shell* and especially *The History of Transportation*.

Cultural landmarks: **Inglewood High School** and the **Inglewood War Memorial** and **Market Street** attest to the pivotal role downtown Inglewood has played in city life. **Cafetales Restaurant** was designed by Martin Stern, Jr. who went on to design many of the casinos in Las Vegas. This tour is a wonderful way to get to know Inglewood.



# SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE INGLEWOOD CIVIC CENTER





# SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE INGLEWOOD CIVIC CENTER

## TOUR STOPS

### 1. Inglewood City Hall (1973)



1 West Manchester Boulevard

Inglewood's Civic Center complex is anchored by its nine-story City Hall by Charles Luckman Associates architects. The building's high rise design resulted from his desire to create a civic icon for Inglewood which would be a recognizable landmark in the low Los Angeles skyline. Luckman was also inspired by his collaboration on Skidmore Owings and Merrill's Lever House in Manhattan completed in 1952 as well as by Kallmann and McKinnell's Boston City Hall which opened in 1969. He framed Inglewood's Civic Center by setting it back from Manchester Boulevard and La Brea Street with Robert Herrick Carter's landscaping. The only signpost marking the La Brea Avenue entry is Tony DeLap's Skedans sculpture. Cars are discretely guided to parking structures below the facility or adjacent to City Hall.

City Hall has many of the hallmarks of the International Style. Even though the building is organized with a ring of offices around each floor plate, each facade is treated differently to respond to its orientation. The building incorporates a bevy of technical features then considered state-of-the-art: it is constructed of poured-in-place concrete, the windows are set back with concrete 'bris soleil' or sunscreens, tinted glass, and (typical of the time) it was fully air conditioned throughout.

Robert Herrick Carter's role on the project was a true collaboration. His landscaping of the plaza thoughtfully manages to knit the multi-level complex together and provide a green carpet of vegetation for the concrete buildings. Carter took full advantage of Inglewood's microclimate and even included flowering coral trees in his design. In the half century since the complex was completed, the trees have grown and the plants in the gardens today look like a mature version of the original design.

#### **Charles Luckman, Architect**

Charles Luckman was born in 1909 in Kansas City, Missouri, and studied architecture at the University of Illinois. He graduated in 1931 in the midst of the Depression. Professional jobs were rare, so he joined the advertising department of the Colgate Palmolive Peet Company. He soon became a sales manager with the Pepsodent Company where he was credited with quadrupling profits. When Lever Brothers purchased Pepsodent, the board named Charles Luckman the



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company president leading to his 1937 Time magazine cover at the age of 27.

As president of Lever Brothers, Luckman was personally involved in commissioning Skidmore Owings and Merrill to design Lever House, the first glass skyscraper on Park Avenue in New York City. After the building was completed, Luckman decided to return to architecture. Joining William Pereira in Los Angeles, they designed many buildings including the LAX Theme Building and Boston's Prudential Tower. Later leading his own practice, Luckman designed the Los Angeles Convention Center, New York's Madison Square Garden, and the Inglewood Forum. Luckman died in 1999.

### **Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect**

Robert Carter was born in Los Angeles in 1919 and studied architecture at USC. His father was a horticulturist, and Carter became very interested in commercial landscape in the forties. Landscape architecture was not really considered a profession at the time. Planting around new buildings was rarely an intentional part of the overall design scheme. Carter was the first to plant flowering trees in Los Angeles's commercial buildings, and one of the first to add palm trees to gardens and landscapes for non residential buildings. He is responsible for introducing species like jacaranda to public spaces. His local projects include the airport, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Century Plaza Hotel, Caltech, ARCO headquarters for Atlantic Richfield Company, and the Zoo, among many others

In the 1960s, he began greening deserts by using native plants; he also designed projects in Saudi Arabia. He won many landscaping and design awards before his death

## **2. *Skedans* (1975)**

*Skedans* is Tony DeLap's site-specific commission for Inglewood's Civic Center. Funded from the National Endowment for the Arts Art-in-Architecture Program in 1972, it was an early precursor to contemporary public art efforts.

*Skedans* refers to a Canadian Indian village in the Queen Charlotte Islands of the North Coast of British Columbia which was a tribal government site. DeLap frequented the area and was inspired by ancient trees and totems rising from the shallow waters. He brought the form and inspiration to Inglewood's government center.



1 West Manchester Boulevard

DeLap worked with the Civic Center complex architects Charles Luckman



## SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE INGLEWOOD CIVIC CENTER

and Associates to design a centerpiece monument for Inglewood City Hall. Skedans is a 50' tall upright column, standing on a 10' tall and 20' wide octagonal base that housed an early flow fountain.

### Tony DeLap

Tony DeLap is an artist working between painting, sculpture and public art. A pioneer of West Coast Minimalism and Op-Art, DeLap challenges the viewer's perception of reality. His studio works are in museum collections in the United States, Europe and Asia. His public art has been commissioned by many cities including the City of Santa Monica.

An artist educator, DeLap is an emeritus professor at the University of California Irvine. He studied fine art, illustration and graphic design at several colleges. His lifelong interest in magic and illusion inform his art practice. He lives in Corona del Mar, California.

### 3. *Compromising is Key* (2000)

*Compromising is Key* is a ceramic tile mural created by youth from the Zenith Girls Home working with Inglewood artist Michael Massenburg. Youth worked with adults, institutions, and government agencies to create a colorful artwork representing the diverse cultures of Inglewood. It is permanently installed at the street level entry to City Hall.



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This mural, and others in this series, arose from the Inglewood Youth Plan, adopted in 1999 by the City. The introduction states:

"Inglewood youth have a lot of ideas. They want to be part of making Inglewood a safe, healthy, nurturing place for youth and families.

Inglewood youth want to be more involved in improving the conditions of Inglewood for the present and the future. Inglewood youth want more than token responsibility."

### Michael Massenburg

Michael Massenburg is an artist and educator committed to working with community youth. In addition to his own work in public and studio art, Massenburg co-founded Inglewood Cultural Arts, the arts and education non-profit. He served on the Inglewood Arts Commission and participated in the 1997 Cultural Arts Master Plan.

Madison Square Garden, and the Inglewood Forum. Luckman died in 1999.



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### 4. Inglewood Public Library (1975)

Inglewood's **Public Library** lies adjacent to City Hall on the 29 acre Civic Center campus. Charles Luckman Associates added unusual features of this building including its orientation, organization and circulation flow. A building's front façade at the time, typically faced the property's main street. Luckman's innovation was to flip the Library to face the Civic Center's central plaza. Pedestrian and auto traffic were taken on a journey around the site.

Luckman embraced the International Style in the building's orientation. The entry ramp is dramatically moved away from the façade. The functional Lecture Hall is a separate building accessed from the second story plaza. A three-story stairwell is encased in a bumped-out column on Manchester Boulevard.

The Library is made of poured-in-place reinforced concrete, a technique that requires precise wooden molds made on site. The material of choice for many significant public buildings of the era, it allows the creation of precise sculptural facades. Using it allowed artist Tom Van Sant to create *The Written Word* artwork poured in place in specialized molds made for three different Library walls. The technique is not used as widely today, likely due to the expense and level of craftsmanship it requires.

#### **Charles Luckman, Architect**

Charles Luckman was born in 1909 in Kansas City, Missouri, and studied architecture at the University of Illinois. He graduated in 1931 in the midst of the Depression. Professional jobs were rare, so he joined the advertising department of the Colgate Palmolive Peet Company. He soon became a sales manager with the Pepsodent Company where he was credited with quadrupling profits. When Lever Brothers purchased Pepsodent, the board named Charles Luckman the company president leading to his 1937 Time magazine cover at the age of 27.

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He began to work on greening deserts by utilizing native plants in the 60's and designed projects in Saudia Arabia. He won many awards.



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### **5. *The Written Word* (1975)**

*The Written Word* is Tom Van Sant's public art treatment for three distinct concrete facades of the Inglewood Public Library. The work is cast into the concrete surfaces of the exterior stairwell column on Manchester; the lower level of an interior lobby; and an exterior wall of the Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall.

Van Sant explores the development of written thought in numbers, letters, theories, and histories from diverse cultures in diverse times. Egyptian hieroglyphics, Polynesian counting systems, European cave painting, and Einstein's mathematical equations are some of the many images to inspire library patrons with the wealth of words found inside the library's walls.

Van Sant was commissioned through the National Endowment for the Arts Art-in-Architecture program to work with Civic Center architects Charles Luckman and Associates. This artwork required special molds built in reverse so the texts and drawings would be correctly read, a technique requiring a high degree of craft. *The Written Word* is one of the few examples of a poured-in-place concrete bas-relief in the Los Angeles basin and one of



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the largest to employ this technique in the world. concrete areas of the Inglewood Public Library. The work is cast into the concrete surfaces of the exterior stairwell column on Manchester; the lower level of an interior lobby, and an exterior wall of the Lecture Hall.

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### Tom Van Sant

Tom Van Sant is a sculptor, painter, and conceptual artist with major sculpture and mural commissions for public spaces around the world. His art is collected globally. His professional skills and interests include architecture, planning, education, an advanced technical invention.

Van Sant was a Fellow with the MIT Institute for Advanced Visual Studies and founder of the GeoSphere Project, the environmental display system for Earth's resource management. He has received numerous national awards for his work in art, architecture, astronomy and kite making. A polymath who earned his BA from Stanford University and MFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Van Sant was born in 1931. He resides in the Pacific Palisades



101 West Manchester Boulevard

### 6. *Inglewood Stories* (2014)

*Inglewood Stories*, three-story montage by artist Michael Massenburg, combines images of Inglewood's past and present blended in atmospheric painted passages. Inglewood's diverse generations and ethnic communities are depicted next to images of historic streetcars and NASA's Space Shuttle that travelled through Inglewood streets in 2012. The 1936 postmark and cancelled stamp in the top right of the artwork support a handwritten letter





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from an Inglewood resident to President Theodore Roosevelt. Thematically uniting the artwork is the writer's central question to the President: are we family?

Massenburg selected photographs, postcards and letters from the Inglewood Public Library Special collections to accompany his original photographs.

### **Michael Massenburg**

Michael Massenburg is an artist and educator committed to working with community youth. In addition to his own work in public and studio art, Massenburg co-founded Inglewood Cultural Arts, the arts and education non-profit. He served on the Inglewood Arts Commission and participated in the 1997 Cultural Arts Master Plan.

## **7. *Inglewood Genesis* (2014)**

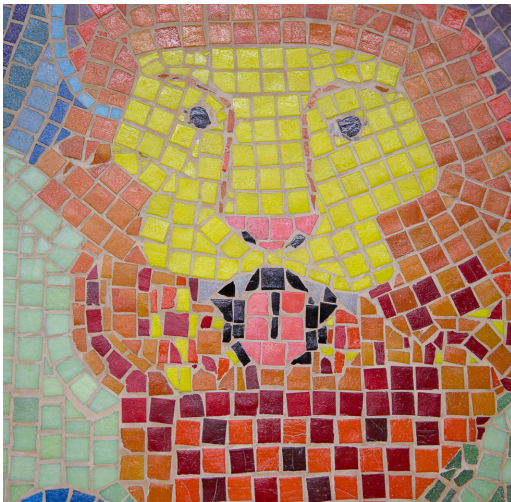
*Inglewood Genesis* is a mosaic tile mural based on drawings made by youth at the Lockhaven Community Center, a City recreational facility. The mural is comprised of thousands of tiny Venetian glass tiles set into mortar. The artist assembled the diverse youths' drawings into a coherent whole and taught them how to work with the mosaic tiles.

*Inglewood Genesis* was one of the first Venetian glass mosaics created by June Edmonds. Since then, she has gone on to create many more mosaics.

The mural was created over the summer of 2000 and stored in pieces until summer 2012. In 2013 it was assembled on an aluminum support by an expert art conservator, it was installed on the Library's first floor.

### **June Edmonds**

June Edmonds is a Los Angeles artist and educator. Her public art has been commissioned by the City of Los Angeles, the LA transit authority and private clients. Edmonds earned her MFA from Tyler School of Art and works with youth as an art instructor in public schools and museums. She was raised in greater LA and spent her childhood summers in New York City.



101 West Manchester Boulevard



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### 8. *Bookmark @ The Inglewood Public Library* (2014)

*Bookmark @ The Inglewood Public Library* is an interactive temporary project by (fer) studio. The designers used decommissioned books to comment on the transition that libraries throughout the country are experiencing. Older reading materials are transitioning from printed matter into e-books and electronic media. This artwork repurposes some of the 10,000 books decommissioned by Inglewood Public Library to create an ongoing 'work in progress'.

Patrons are invited to help finish building / writing the final chapter for 10,000 books by partaking in the formation of the 'writer's blocks' book furniture and the mesh fabric of the tossed 'crumpled page'. Patron participation will not only mark the reader's place and contribution of this project at the Inglewood Public Library, but it will also help to leave a celebratory mark for the respective writers of these books forever.

(fer) studio architects describe *Bookmark* as a way to 'respect the books that have enlightened the lives of many and as an act of placemaking to strengthen the connection between people and the places they share'.

#### **(fer)Studio**

(fer)Studio is an Inglewood based Architecture and urban design firm begun in 2002. It is one of the few architecture firms that also ventures into the realm of public art. The work ranges at all scales from exhibitions and interiors to the larger one of urban design, both local with projects in Culver City and throughout Los Angeles and nationally with The Green Building in Louisville, Ky. In Inglewood, they have produced concept designs for Market Street and for the Living City. It is led by Christopher Mercier and Douglas Pierson who met working at Frank Gehry's office.



1 West Manchester Boulevard

### 9. *Incomplete Conch Shell* (1972)

In *Incomplete Conch Shell* sculptor Jack Zajac draws inspiration from the natural world. Blending traditions of surrealist and romanticist art, *Incomplete Conch Shell* bisects the marine shell's central chamber with blunt geometry. The marble form is displayed on a circular pedestal on the west lawn of the Civic Center. Organic and abstract, the curvaceous work sits in strong contrast to the geometric architecture of City Hall.

*Incomplete Conch Shell* was purchased for the newly opened Inglewood Civic Center with funds made available through the Art-in-Architecture Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.



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### Jack Zajac

Jack Zajac is an artist renowned for his bronze and marble sculpture. Born in 1929 in Ohio, Zajac's family moved to California when he was fifteen. He credits early work at Kaiser Steel Mill to enable him to attend Scripps College and explore the world of art.

In the early 1970's Zajac was a leading artist who exhibited in Rome, Zurich and Jerusalem through the Art in Embassies program of the United States Information Service. His work is in museum collections at the Hirshhorn, MOMA, San Jose Museum of Art and Walker Art Center and many other public and private collections. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Rome Prize and has been honored with solo exhibits. His solo shows, seen at California Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College and New York's Forum Gallery, among others, were reviewed in *Artforum*, *Art International*, *Art in America*, *Time Magazine* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Living and travelling internationally, Zajac currently resides in central California.



1 West Manchester Boulevard

### 10. *Inglewood War Memorial* (1947)

The Inglewood War Memorial is located on a grassy knoll in front of City Hall's Manchester entrance. The memorial consists of an obelisk and flag court. Engraved on the middle stone panel of the obelisk is the following:

"To keep forever living the freedom for which they died. We dedicate this memorial to our dead in World War II, Korea and Vietnam."

Names of service veterans are on the plinth. A stone eagle, the American symbol for bravery, watches over a relief of a sword and wreath, western symbols of lives lost in combat. Inglewood residents served their country in war. The City holds a rededication ceremony at the memorial every year on Memorial Day.

The Obelisk was originally erected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1947 in Grevillea Mall across from Inglewood High School. It was moved to its present location in 1970.



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### 11. *The History of Transportation* (1940)

*The History of Transportation* by Helen Lundeberg shows the history of human transportation in the Centinela Valley, including Inglewood. The mural demonstrates technological changes in transportation from walking to horses and carts, to railroads and propeller-driven airplanes.



Grevillea Art Park  
230 S. Grevillea Ave.

*The History of Transportation* was a commission from the Federal Works Progress Administration and the largest mural in that program.

The mural, now in Grevillea Art Park, was originally sited along one of Inglewood's most traveled commuter arteries. After car accidents destroyed two of the sixty panels, a multifaceted, four-year conservation effort began. Artisans constructed replacement panels for the originals, acknowledging the replacements with an intentionally simplified mosaic style. After restoration, the mural was re-sited on specially landscaped City property as the primary work in Grevillea Art Park. It faces Inglewood High School along the City's busy Manchester Boulevard.

Lundeberg's original drawings for *The History of Transportation* are in the collection of the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. Art Conservator Rosa Lowinger details the enormous effort of restoration, made possible by the City, the Getty Conservation Institute, and many individuals in her podcast.

#### **Helen Lundeberg**

Helen Lundeberg (1908-1999) was a nationally noted artist. Her works are included in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., the Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and numerous other public and private collections.

She moved to California with her family at age four and began studying art in 1930 at the Stickney Memorial School of Art in Pasadena. Between 1933 and 1942 Lundeberg worked on New Deal projects, first executing lithographs and then designing murals. She has become one of California's most revered artists, creating critically acclaimed paintings in a variety of unique and individual styles.



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### 12. Inglewood High School (1905)

The Inglewood Union High School District (IUSD) was created in 1905 and Inglewood High School was its primary location. As few students at the time continued to college, high school occupied an important position in civic and social life. Formal school districts, school boards, school taxes and high schools serving greater Los Angeles had started soon after California established statehood in 1850.



231 South Grevillea Avenue

The Inglewood Union School District originally encompassed the Centinela Valley communities of Inglewood, Wiseburn, Hawthorne and Lennox. This district was split twice and, in 1944, became the Inglewood Unified School District.

IUSD curriculum has changed to reflect the changing community's educational needs. For instance, when Inglewood was agricultural, the High School maintained a teaching farm at Kelso and Inglewood Avenue.

Respected Inglewood teachers include Gladys Waddingham who taught Spanish. Assigned to Inglewood school district in 1922 she retired 45 years later after teaching over 10,000 students. The Inglewood Public Library Auditorium is named in her honor. Waddingham wrote several books including *The History of Inglewood* and *My Memories of Inglewood High*.

Teacher Mary Boykin came to Inglewood High School when it was ordered to desegregate in the early 70's. She taught English for 40 years and inspired her former students to film her speaking about the period. The videos are posted on YouTube.

Outstanding faculty continues to serve Inglewood High School today. Students may participate in academic decathelons, Give Back lessons or the AVID elective, which supports students as they challenge themselves by taking rigorous classes. Athletics figure prominently with afterschool teams in basketball, soccer, tennis, track and field and volleyball for boys and girls; and field hockey and softball for girls and baseball and wrestling for boys. School colors are green and whitegreen and white.



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### 13. *The Inglewood Project* (1987)

Richard Wyatt's four-part mural at Inglewood High School juxtaposes a Native Californian's weathered face with an altered southwestern landscape. In the work, images of traditional adobe and sandstone constructions contrast with modern concrete architecture. Adjacent to Inglewood's Civic Center, the Inglewood Project appears to darkly comment on contemporary and disappearing cultures.



231 South Grevillea Avenue

#### **Richard Wyatt**

Richard Wyatt studied at the Otis Art Institute and the University of California Los Angeles. He created his first mural at age 12 at a sidewalk art contest. Wyatt often weaves cultural history into his murals. He is one of LA's most noted muralists. His monumental work is located throughout Los Angeles including in the Watts Towers, Capitol Records in Hollywood, White Memorial Hospital, Ontario Airport, the Metro Stop at Wilshire and Western, and the East Portal in Union Station.

### 14. **Market Street**

Market Street is the heart of downtown Inglewood, changing as the city changes. When Inglewood was a farming community in 1908, people travelled to the specialty shops on Market Street and Commercial Street (which became La Brea).



With the 1920s prosperity, the age of automobile came to Market Street. Banks, movie theaters and sidewalks were added. In 1927 chain stores arrived. SH Kress was built at 233 S. Market Street using architecture to create a signature style. JC Penney moved into 139 S. Market Street in 1940. Their store was so successful they expanded it in 1954. The late 1960's brought Inglewood Civic Center construction, with city and county facilities built blocks south of Market Street.

During the 1990s a major effort was made to rehabilitate Market Street. Certified as a California Main Street Community Project enabled the developers to qualify for government funding for street trees, wider sidewalks and lighting. The neighborhood saw some upgrades and some shops on the street gained new tenants.

In 2017, the LA Metro will open the light rail Crenshaw line with a station on Florence Boulevard near Market Street. A Senior Activity Center is slated to open on Regent and Locust Streets. Market Street is sure to be transformed again.



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### 15. Cafetales Restaurant (1957)



115 South La Brea Avenue

The advent of the automobile in Los Angeles led to a space-age retro futuristic architectural style. Critic Douglas Haskell coined the term 'Googie' to describe it in 1952 after Googie's Coffee Shop, built in 1949 on the corner of Sunset Strip and Crescent Heights. Googie's was demolished in 1989, but the style was popular for small commercial buildings, coffee shops and car washes. Hallmarks of Googie architectural style include tapered columns, spires, and sweeping roofs shaped like flying saucers and spaceships. Often there were tropical landscapes. Buildings were rendered in futuristic colors - turquoise, avocado, and orange. The style inspired Disneyland's Tomorrowland and the Jetsons television cartoon.

Inglewood embraced the Googie architectural aesthetic, sporting four Googie coffee shops, a bowling alley, drugstore, motel, and three car washes. Only one Googie coffee shop - Cafetales - and one Googie car wash - Jet Car Wash - remain intact.

The coffee shop, now known as Cafetales Restaurant, has been through several incarnations since the late 50's. Originally named Sherri's, this coffee shop was next called Farmer's Restaurant then rechristened GG's until it closed in 2008. Cafetales' paint has dimmed, but its sign, design, and interior details, including rocks and space ship allusions, remain to remind of us of the Googie style.

#### ***Martin Stern, Jr.***

Martin Stern, Jr. was born in New York in 1917. His family moved to Beverly Hills and he stayed in California to study architecture at the University of Southern California. After World War II, he set up a small Los Angeles practice. He pioneered Googie architecture with three designs for Ships coffee shops. The first opened in Culver City in 1956; the second in Westwood; the third on La Cienega. Stern's exuberant aesthetic proved perfect for Las Vegas. His Vegas hotels beginning with the Sahara (1959), ushered in the tall hotels that began populating the city. He designed the Sands Hotel in 1964; the Flamingo in 1967; and the Mint in 1968.

Stern designed the International Hotel next to the Las Vegas Convention Center in 1970. Stern created a new model for the urban resort hotel, transforming it with space-age design and theme restaurants. Stern's reshaping of Las Vegas was completed in 1973 with the MGM Grand, now Bally's Las Vegas. Martin Stern died in Los Angeles in 2001.