

SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION



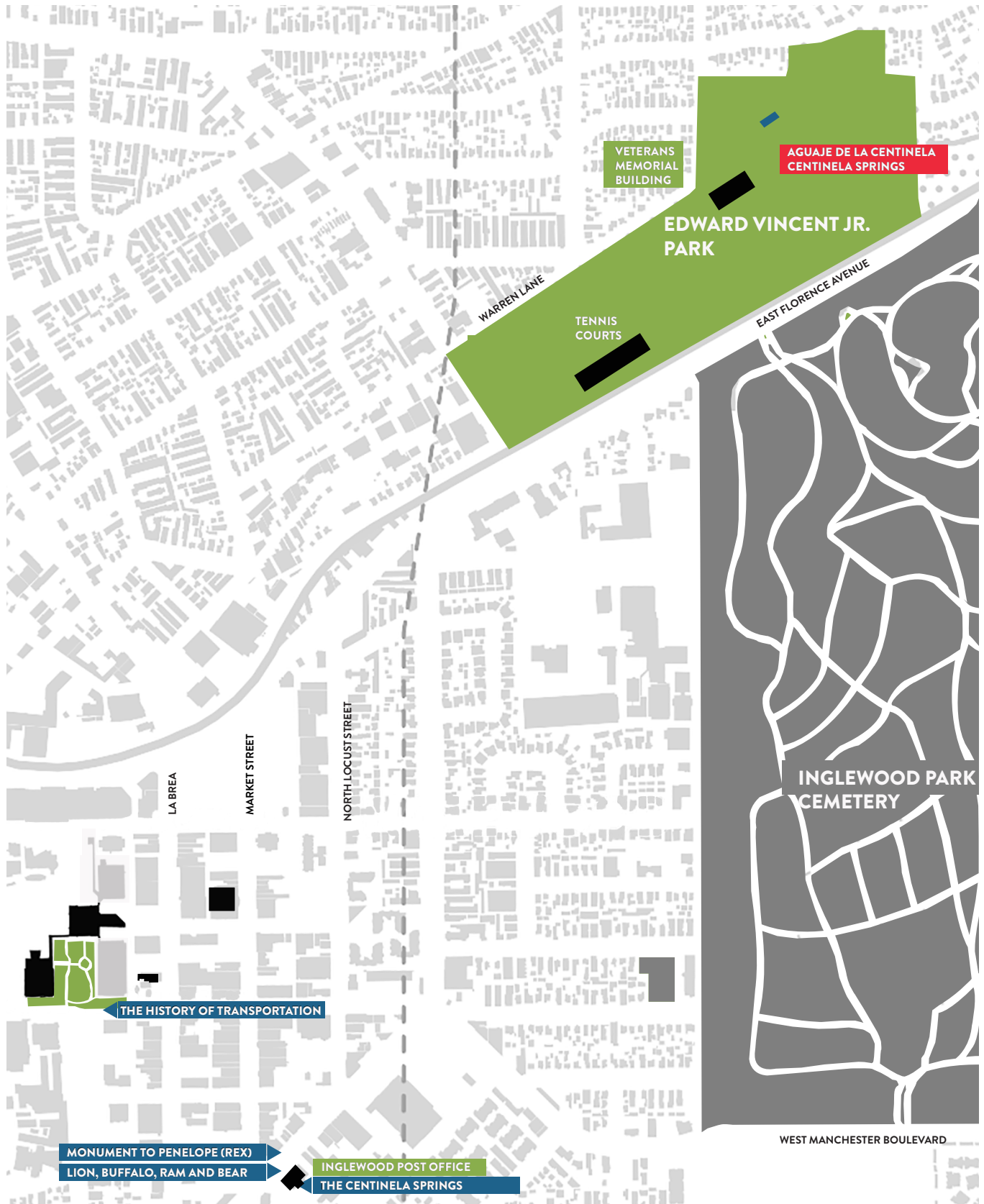
The Works Progress Administration was a national initiative as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. In addition to trying to end the Depression by combining much needed infrastructural improvements with the employment of out of work architects, engineers, artists, craftsmen and builders. Thousands of Federal Buildings at all scales and all types were commissioned throughout the country. After 75 years it is difficult to appreciate the scale of the endeavor and to appreciate how transformative it was. But the idea of bringing high quality buildings of lasting character deep into the public realm and integrating art into architecture was a whole new direction. Federal Buildings were to set the standard for many years to come.

There were two Federal construction projects in Inglewood: **the Hillcrest Post Office** and the buildings and the Centinela Park Complex of recreation facilities and the Veterans Memorial. There were several public art commissions completed under the Federal Art Project in conjunction with these projects. Archibald Garner, for instance, sculpted the granite **Centinela Springs marker** and fountain in the park and created a wood mural depicting California residents.

Since many of the works commissioned under the WPA and Federal Art Project were not maintained, over the past 75 years they have fallen into disrepair. The story of Helen Lundeborg's mural **'The History of Transportation'** which was the largest freestanding mural commissioned for the WPA has a happier ending than most and serves as a model for what a dedicated group of preservationists can achieve.



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TOUR STOPS

1. *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.

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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2. The Inglewood Post Office (1937)



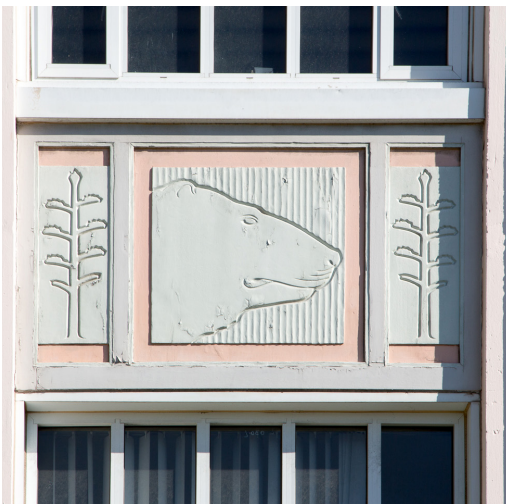
300 East Hillcrest Blvd.

The Inglewood Post Office is the local manifestation of the federal goal to provide post office services to every American community. Significant facilities, quality building materials and dignified art treatments were considered important elements for the civic importance of federal buildings in 1935.

The Inglewood Post Office was built with the help of the Works Progress Administration. Its confluent goals were to employ as many artisans as possible in as geographically diverse areas as possible, using diversely skilled workers to jumpstart the Great Depression economy. Artists were commissioned to create artworks to adorn the post offices, a precursor of today's municipal percent-for-art programs.

The Inglewood Post Office is a cultural landmark for the WPA artworks in the façade and lobby of the building, and for the significant achievement of the city growing large enough to warrant its own post office. Inglewood is served today by Zip Codes 90301, 90302 and 90305, and postal services are available from many commercial suppliers.

3. *Lion Buffalo Ram and Bear* (1937)



300 East Hillcrest Blvd.

Gordon Newell and Sherry Peticolas' four plaster facade reliefs of California's wildlife preside over the Inglewood, California post office entrance. The heads of a buffalo, bear, ram, and mountain lion were created by the pair in 1937 as part of the Works Progress Administration, a program funded by the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP). Each animal is framed by paired panels of California grass or trees.

Newell and Peticolas' commissioned works are seen in other post offices. Among their most significant municipal works are *Eagle* in Colton, *Horseman* in Hollywood, and *Transportation of the Mail* in San Fernando, all in California.

Gordon Newell

Born in Petaluma, CA on Nov. 9, 1905, Newell studied at Occidental College in Los Angeles (1924-25), UC Berkeley (1927-28), and then was apprenticed to Ralph Stackpole for work on the San Francisco Stock Exchange (1929-32). He then moved to Los Angeles where he taught at the Chouinard Art School and Occidental College for the remainder of the 1930s. From 1965 to 1972, he taught at the Sculpture Center in Monterey.



SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Sherry Peticolas

Born in Waterloo, Iowa on February 19, 1904, Sherry Peticolas studied at the University of Southern California with sculptors Merrell Gage and Gutzon Borglum, the instigator of Mount Rushmore's noted carvings. She was active in Los Angeles and worked on the Federal Art Project during the Depression. Peticolas' important municipal commissions in southern California include the Power of Water fountain in Wilshire Center's Lafayette Park. Sherry Peticolas died in 1956.

4. *The Centinela Springs* (1937)

Archibald Garner's *Centinela Springs* are carved mahogany panels installed inside the Inglewood post office at the Postmaster's door. Garner depicts early California residents, native peoples, missionaries and settlers at water's edge. With bowls, canteens and buckets they scoop water from Centinela Springs, a valued early source of fresh water in coastal Southern California. He is known for figurative relief panels and dimensional sculpture in wood, stone, and mosaic.



300 East Hillcrest Blvd.

Inglewood historian Anne Cheek La Rose wrote, "Garner's original design was larger than the ...commission was awarding for the work. Rather than compromise his vision, Garner purchased the additional material cost out of his own pocket. Additionally, his studio was not large enough to house the panels as he worked, so the carving was done in his friend, Gordon Newell's, studio."

Garner's works were created through the Treasury Section of the Fine Arts (TRAP). Similar to the Works Progress Administration, the Section was part of government's efforts to provide work for all Americans throughout the Great Depression. The program was an early example of reserving some of the construction budget for acquiring art works for public buildings. When commissioned, artists were given guidelines for their selection of themes. Typically, the artists' designs were inspired by the locale.

Archibald Garner

Archibald Garner was born in Onida, South Dakota in 1904. Garner was a pupil of San Francisco artists Ralph Stackpole and Ruth Cravath in the 1930s. Moving to Los Angeles, he studied at the Chouinard Art School. Garner was one of the many artists who worked on the Astronomer's Monument at the Griffith Observatory in Griffith Park in Los Angeles. His bas reliefs in other post offices including Transportation of the Mail in the San Diego post office and Justice in a post office in Fresno. Law, Garner's limestone statue, depicts a young woman with a tablet stands in the lobby of the Federal Courthouse in Los Angeles. In addition



SELF GUIDED TOUR: THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

to his commissions for TRAP, Garner worked for 20th Century Fox, the film company, as a sculptor. Archibald Garner died in 1969.



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5. Monument to Penelope (Rex) (1939)

This petite bronze sculpture memorializes Penelope, a dog noted locally in Inglewood for following a postman along his route. The collie, rendered in careful detail by an unknown sculptor, is a small but beloved tribute to an exceptional animal companion.

An inscription on the fountain base states: "A faithful dog which followed the mail carrier on Route Fifteen in Inglewood daily for more than thirteen years. This fountain was erected through popular subscription received from citizens and friends to animals." November 25, 1939.



700 Warren Lane

6. Edward Vincent Park(1934)

Edward Vincent Park, the largest park in Inglewood at 55 acres, is integral to the history of Inglewood. Originally called the Centinela Park, it was developed to protect the land and watershed around Centinela Springs.

Today, recreational amenities include a pool complex with an Olympic regulation-sized pool, training pool, wading and bathhouse. There are full basketball courts, softball and soccer fields, eight tennis courts and three parking lots.

Buildings for gatherings and events include the 1934 Veterans' Memorial Building, 1934; a black box theater/community playhouse with room for 60; and an outdoor amphitheater seating 1000. It is a cultural landmark and crown jewel of the Inglewood Parks, Recreation and Library Services department.

The park was rechristened Edward Vincent Park to honor the much loved former Inglewood politician, Edward Vincent, Jr. A tireless Inglewood booster, Vincent had a hand in much of Inglewood's development in the 1960s.

7. Aguaje de la Centinela: Centinela Springs(1939)

Rancho Aguaje de la Centinela was chosen by settlers for its ready source of fresh artesian water. The spring water made the Rancho Centinela attractive for farming crops and herds.



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700 Warren Lane

Archibald Garner was commissioned to create the monumental water fountain to mark the spring at the center of what was originally Centinela Park. Garner constructed three basins from irregular granite boulders to quench human, horse, and canine thirsts. Although the drinking fountain is no longer operational, Centinela Springs still flow underground.

Garner's fountain bears three plaques. The inscriptions read:
"FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL GOD'S BLESSING OF SWEET WATER TO ALL HIS CREATURES"
MARKED BY CALIFORNIA HISTORY AND LANDMARKS CLUB
MARCH 2, 1939

AGUAJE DE LA CENTINELA (CENTINELA SPRINGS) ON THIS SITE BUBBLING SPRINGS ONCE FLOWED FROM THEIR SOURCE IN A DEEP WATER BASIN WHICH HAS EXISTED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE PLEISTOCENE ERA. PREHISTORIC ANIMALS, INDIANS, AND EARLY INGLEWOOD SETTLERS WERE ATTRACTED HERE BY THE PURE ARTESIAN WATER. THE SPRINGS AND VALLEY WERE NAMED AFTER SENTINELS GUARDING THE CATTLE IN THE AREA.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 363
PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTINELA VALLEY
OCTOBER 9, 1976. A second monument was created in 1970 for the re-dedication of the Centinela Springs.

Archibald Garner

8. Veterans Memorial Building (1934)



700 Warren Lane

The building is part of the Park Complex.