

WELLNESS ■ SELF-CARE

# 21 Places Every Arts and Culture Lover Should Visit in Los Angeles

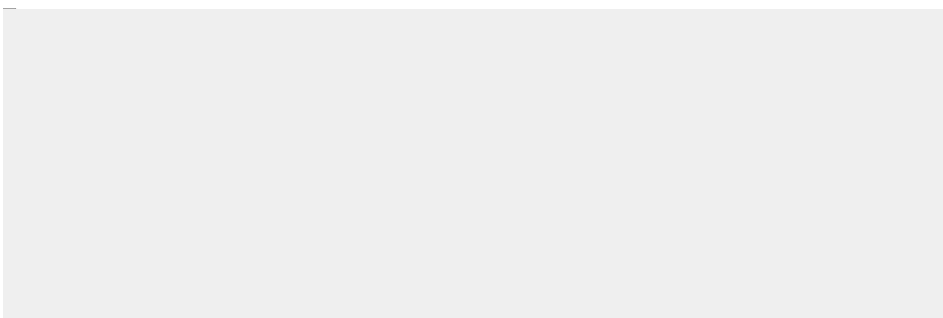
written by [GABÉ HIRSCHOWITZ](#) UPDATED OCT 11, 2020

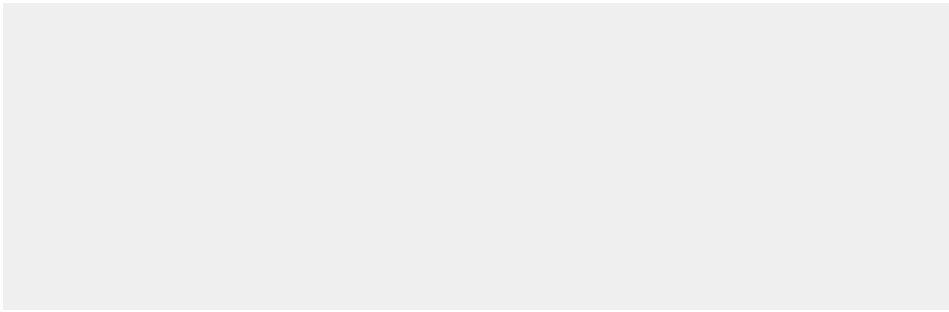
GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

Growing up in Los Angeles, I have been surrounded by an infinite amount of culturally enriching opportunities. This city has so much to offer: amazing restaurants, incredible art scenes, outdoor music venues, charming coffee spots, gorgeous hiking trails, picturesque beaches, farmers markets, beautiful boutique stores, historic landmarks, sculpture gardens, concert halls, theatres, and more. These extraordinary experiences have certainly influenced me; I've always enjoyed discovering unfamiliar places that I didn't know existed.

I especially love exploring hidden pockets of Downtown Los Angeles as I'm fascinated by its enchanting energy and unconventional beauty. I often focus my adventures on art, photography, architecture, and delicious food. I'm constantly observing new details, even when I'm revisiting familiar sites. As French novelist Marcel Proust once said, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." In no particular order, here are 21 inspiring places every arts and culture aficionado should visit throughout Los Angeles.

## The Getty Center

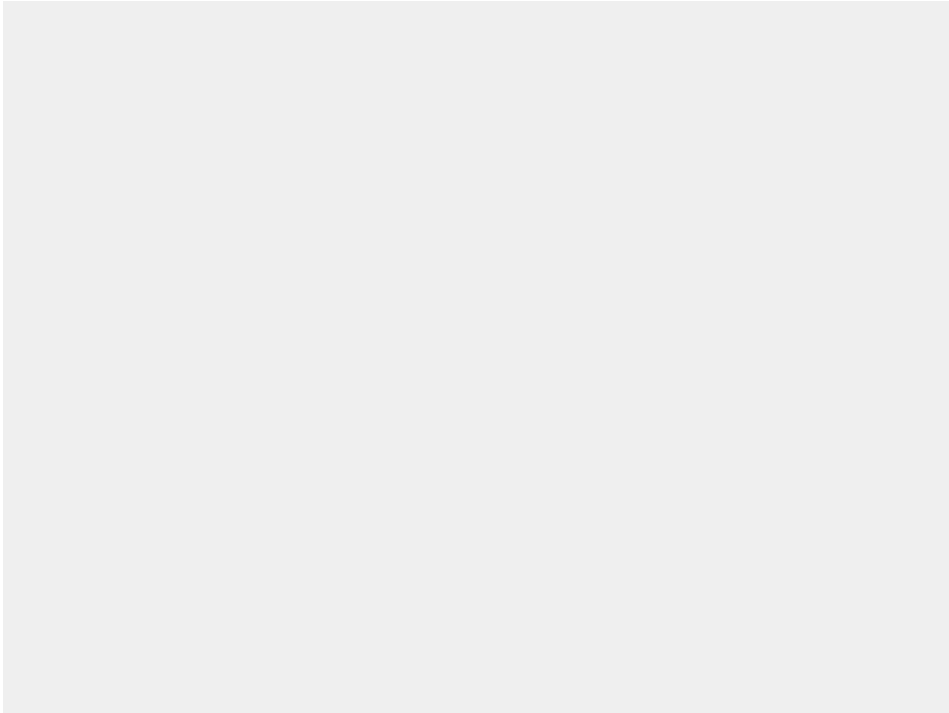




THE GETTY CENTER

The [Getty Center](#) is located in the Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles and is one of two locations of the J. Paul Getty Museum. The Center branch of the museum features pre-20th-century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, and decorative arts; and 19th- and 20th-century American, Asian, and European photographs. In addition, the Museum's collection at the Center includes outdoor sculpture displayed on terraces and in gardens and the large Central Garden designed by Robert Irwin. New plants are constantly being added to the palette. Irwin's statement, "Always changing, never twice the same" is carved into the plaza floor, reminding visitors of the ever-changing nature of this living work of art. The Getty Center is truly one of my favorite places in all of Los Angeles.

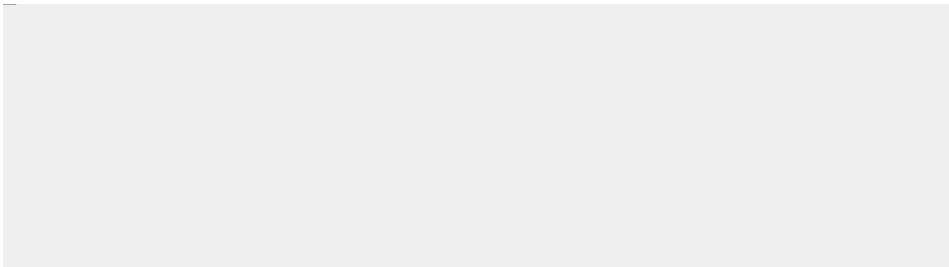
**The Getty Villa**

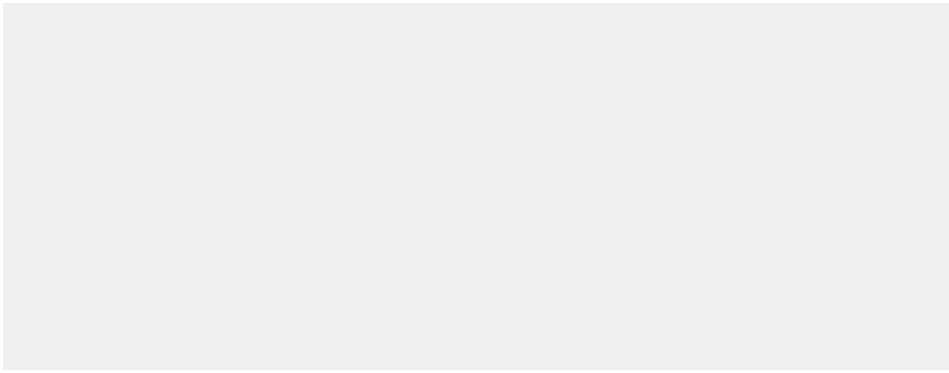


THE GETTY VILLA

The [Getty Villa](#) in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles is the other location of the J. Paul Getty Museum. It is an educational center and museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece and Rome, within Roman-inspired architecture and surrounded by Roman-style gardens. The museum sits on a hill overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean. The Getty Villa hosts live performances in both its indoor auditorium and its outdoor theatre.

**Greek Theatre**

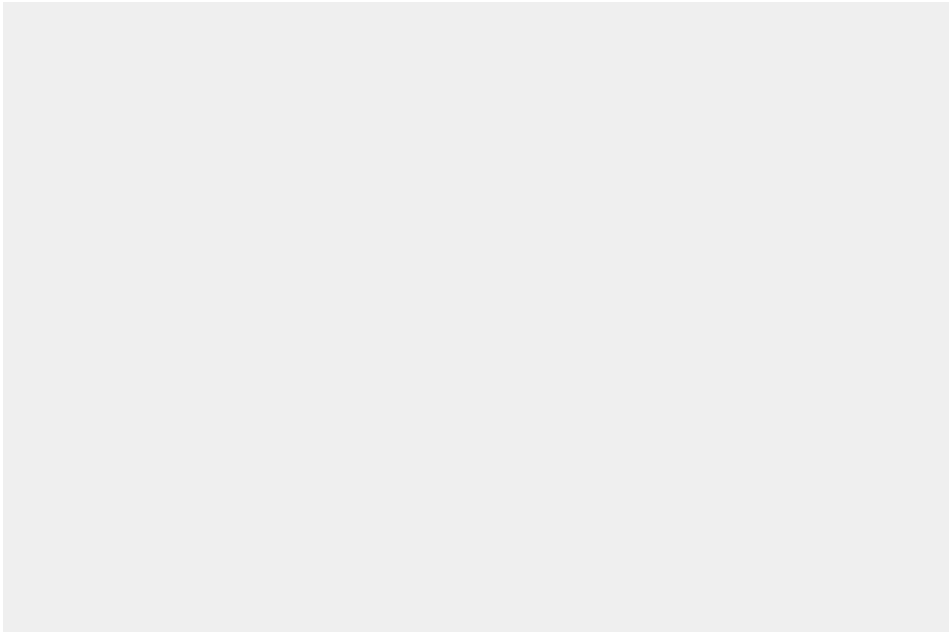




GREEK THEATRE

The [Greek Theatre](#) is located at Griffith Park in Los Angeles. It's used for concerts and stage shows, and it's one of my favorite small outdoor venues around town. Designed by architect Samuel Tilden Norton, the theatre stage is modeled after a Greek temple. There's an incredibly charming and vibrant energy at the Greek. I've seen some amazing shows there including The Lumineers, Maroon 5, Jack Johnson, Rodriguez, The Weeknd, and many more.

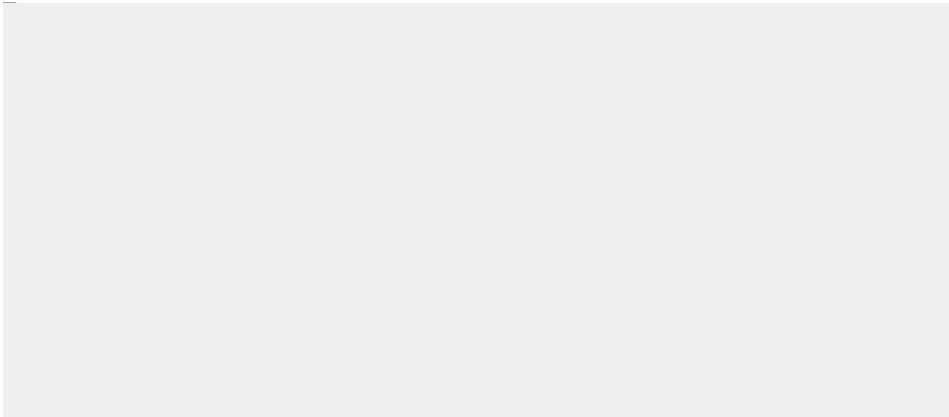
### Griffith Observatory

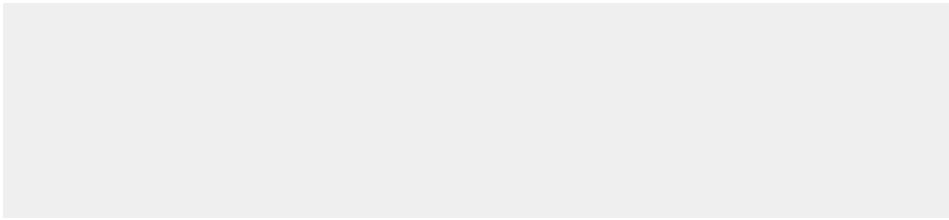


GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

Southern California's gateway to the cosmos! [The Observatory](#) is located on the southern slope of Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park, just above the Los Feliz neighborhood. Visitors can look through telescopes, explore exhibits, see live shows in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium, and enjoy spectacular views of Los Angeles. Très romantique!

### Hammer Museum

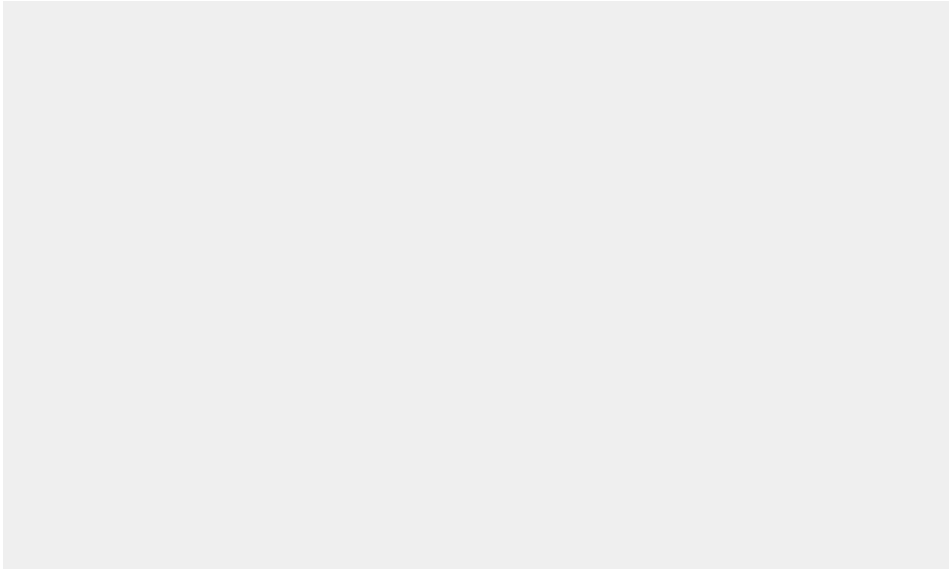




HAMMER MUSEUM

The [Hammer Museum](#), which is affiliated with the University of California, Los Angeles, is an art museum and cultural center known for its artist-centric and progressive array of exhibitions and public programs. The Hammer Museum also hosts a rotating selection of programs throughout the year, from lectures, symposia, and readings to concerts and film screenings.

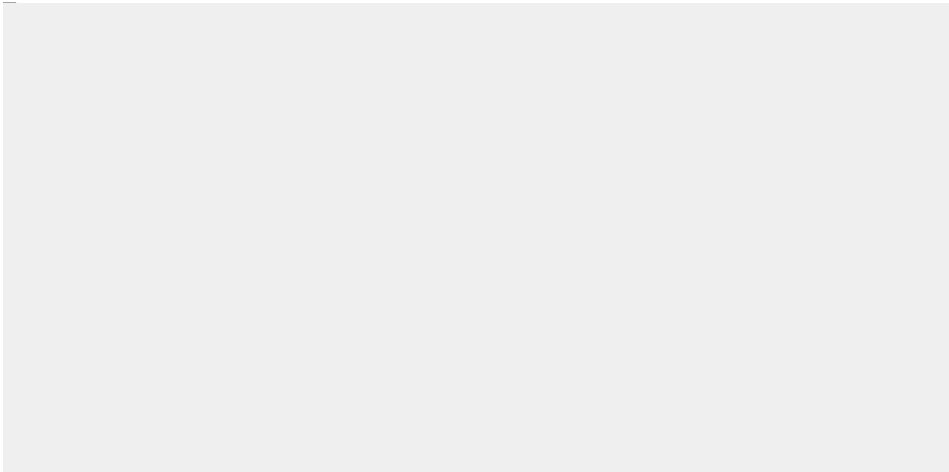
### Hollywood Bowl



HOLLYWOOD BOWL

The [Hollywood Bowl](#) is a 1920s amphitheater that is used primarily for music performances. It's one of my favorite outdoor venues in the world. I love arriving early to enjoy a delicious dinner before the show. It's the perfect evening spent with family and friends! A few of my past favorite concerts at the Hollywood Bowl include The Rolling Stones, Coldplay, Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers, Jay Z and Mary J. Blige, Wilco, and John Legend.

### Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)



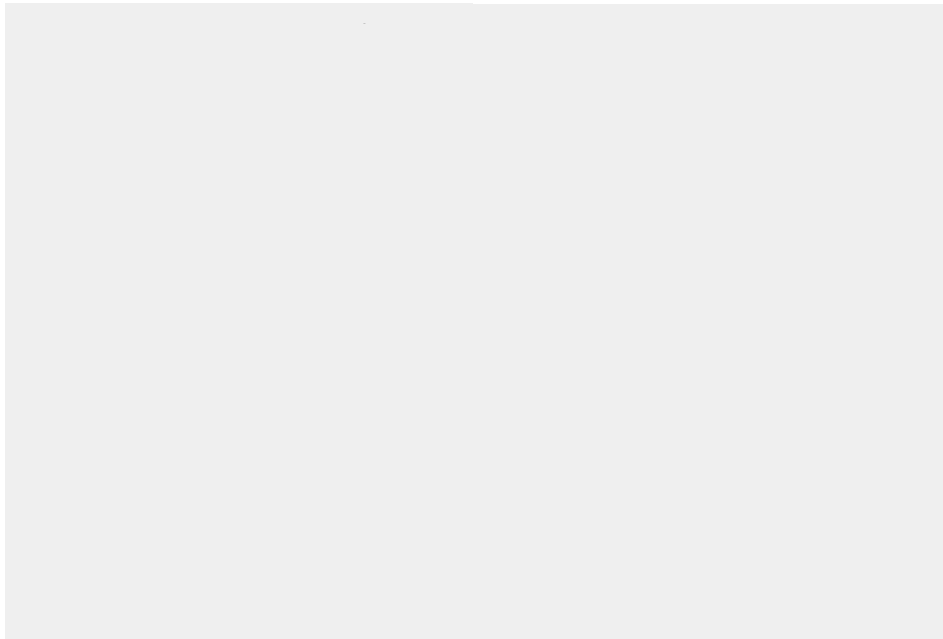
LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART (LACMA)

Since its inception in 1965, the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art \(LACMA\)](#) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes more than 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly

the entire history of art. In addition to art exhibits, the museum features film and concert series.

I especially love the magnificent Pavilion for Japanese Art. It's a part of LACMA containing the museum's collection of Japanese works that date from approximately 3000 B.C. through the 20th century. The building itself was designed by renowned architect Bruce Goff. There's such peaceful and beautiful energy in this space.

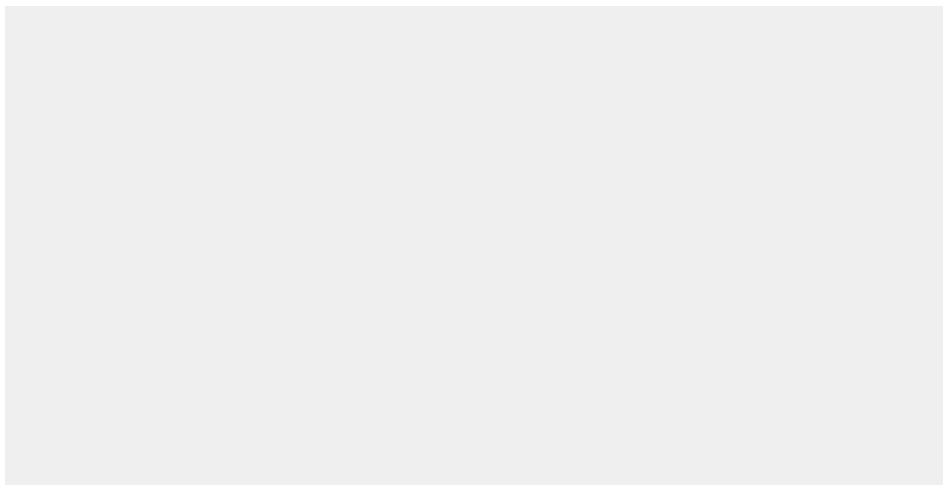
### The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA)



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

Founded in 1979, [MOCA](#) is the only museum in Los Angeles devoted exclusively to contemporary art. It is committed to the collection, presentation, and interpretation of work produced since 1940 in all media, and to preserving that work for future generations. In a remarkably short time, MOCA has developed one of the nation's most renowned permanent collections. Now numbering over 6,800 works and steadily growing, this invaluable cultural resource provides extensive opportunities for education and enjoyment to thousands of national and international visitors. Today the museum is housed in three unique facilities: MOCA Grand Avenue, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, and MOCA Pacific Design Center.

### Natural History Museum



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

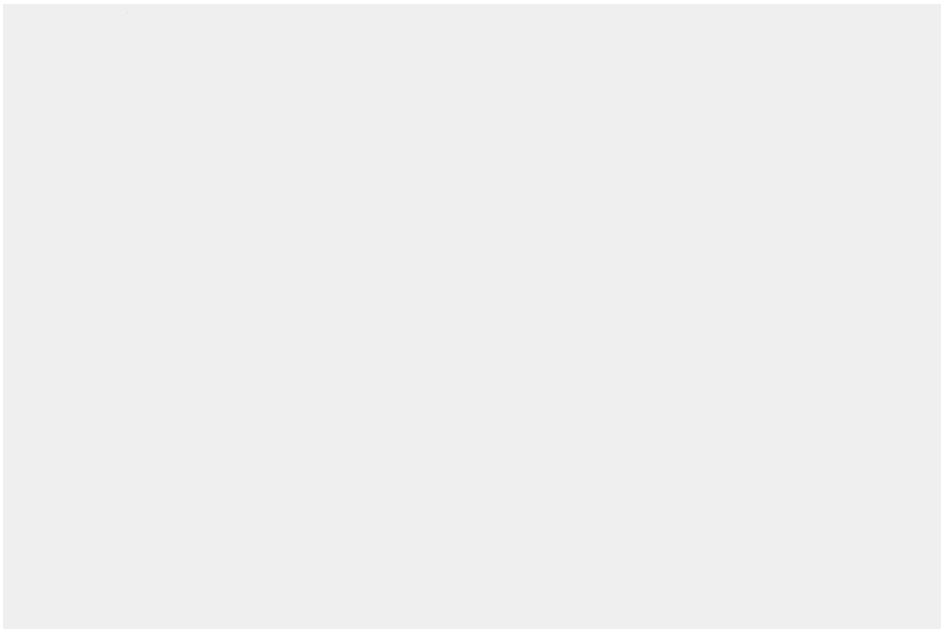
The [Natural History Museum of Los Angeles](#) (NHM) is the largest natural and historical museum in the western United States, and its collections include nearly 35 million specimens and artifacts and cover 4.5 billion years of history. The mission of the museum is to inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds.

### Norton Simon Museum

#### NORTON SIMON MUSEUM

The [Norton Simon Museum](#) is an art museum located in Pasadena, California. It is known around the world as one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled. The Norton Simon collections include European paintings, sculptures, and tapestries; Asian sculptures, paintings, and woodblock prints; and sculpture gardens displaying many sculptors' work in a landscape setting around a large pond. The museum contains the Norton Simon Theater, which shows film programs daily, and hosts lectures, symposia, and dance and musical performances year-round. From 1996 to 1999, the Museum underwent a major interior renovation by Frank Gehry. It is a beautiful work of architecture that blends structural passion with the tranquility of its surroundings.

#### Olvera Street

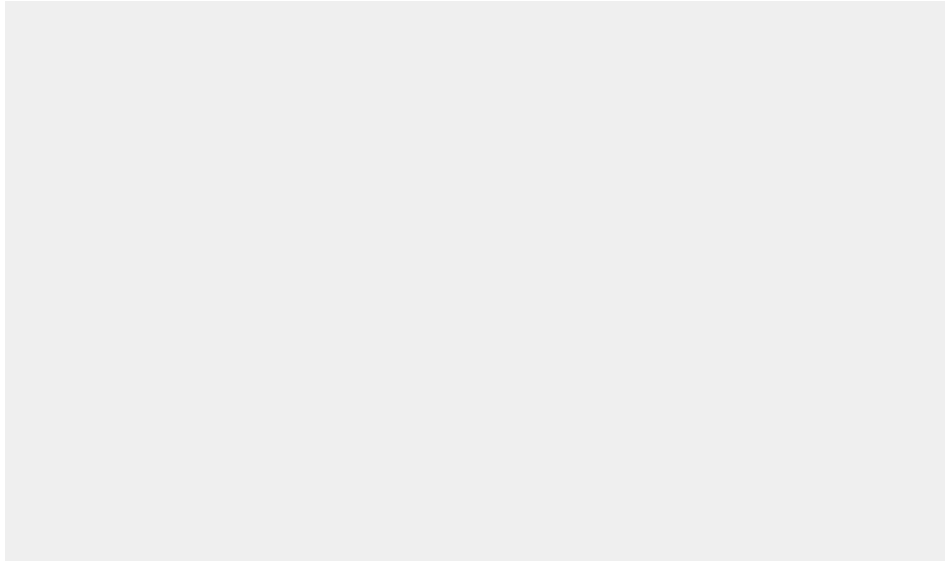


CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

[Olvera Street](#), known as “the birthplace of Los Angeles,” is a Mexican marketplace that recreates a romantic “Old Los Angeles” with a block-long narrow, tree-shaded, brick-lined market with various structures, painted stalls, street vendors and cafés. Olvera Street was created in 1930 “to preserve and present the customs and trades of

early California.” Many of the merchants on Olvera Street today are descendants of original vendors. My favorite discovery? The delicious dulce de leche churros dipped in cinnamon and sugar!

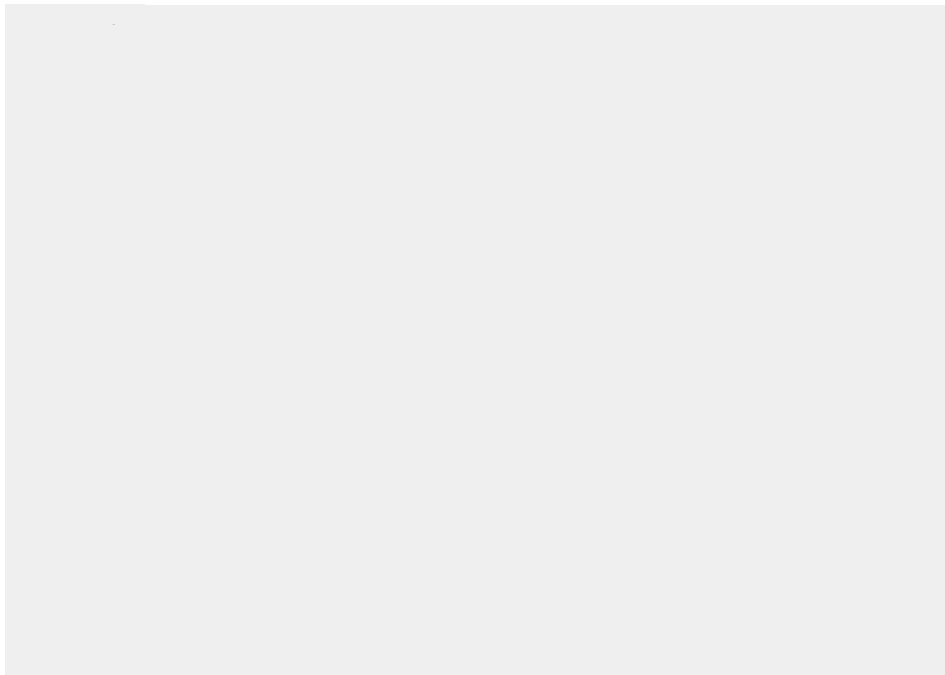
## Skirball Cultural Center



SKIRBALL CULTURAL CENTER

Open to the public since 1996, the [Skirball Cultural Center](#) has established itself as one of the world's most dynamic Jewish cultural institutions and among the leading cultural venues in Los Angeles. Its mission is to explore the connections between 4,000 years of Jewish heritage and the vitality of American democratic ideals. It seeks to welcome and inspire people of every ethnic and cultural identity in American life.

## The Huntington



THE HUNTINGTON

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens (or [The Huntington](#)) is a collections-based educational and research institution. In addition to the library, the institution houses an extensive art collection with a focus on 18th and 19th-century European art and 17th to mid-20th-century American art. The property also includes approximately 120 acres of specialized botanical landscaped gardens, most notably the “Japanese Garden”, the “Desert Garden”, and the “Chinese Garden.”

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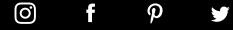
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