



Las Angelitas del Pueblo

Newsletter – Spring 2019

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
www.lasangelitas.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Las Angelitas Events

2019 Awards Luncheon (and Summer General Meeting):

Monday, June 10, 11 am, Avila Adobe

Summer Docent Training Class:

Five Wednesdays starting July 24

If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a docent, have them e-mail training@lasangelitas.org for information

Fall General Meeting

Monday, October 14, 10 am

Pueblo Events

Cinco de Mayo

Saturday & Sunday, May 4 – 5, 11 am – 9 pm
(Tour Office Closed)

LA Opera: “Via La Zarzuela”

Saturday, May 18, 1 pm – 4 pm
(Note Date Change; Tour Office Closed)

Ecuador Independence Day Parade & Festival

Sunday, August 4, 11 am – 6 pm

Los Angeles City Birthday Celebration

(including bike/walk tracing the historic Pobladores route starting at the San Gabriel Mission at 6 am)

Saturday, August 24, 6 am – 1 pm

Mexican Independence Day

Saturday & Sunday, September 14-15,
10 am – 8 pm

Muertos Art Walk (Seasonal marketplace featuring arts and crafts and other Dia de Los Muertos-themed handiwork from local L.A. artisans)

Saturday, October 5, 10 am – 8 pm

Sacred Memories Art Exhibit

October 15 – November 17
Thursday – Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

Spring General Meeting

By Dave McMenamin, President



Despite it being the hottest day of the year (so far), we had an informative and fun Spring General Meeting on April 8. I called the meeting to order and covered many of the recent developments within Las Angelitas. This included introducing four of the new students in docent training: Amanda Gries, Crystal Rosas, Patricia Cortes and Cindy Gualpa. I also presented the officer nominations for the coming year (July 2019 – June 2020) from Don Sloper:

President: Dave McMenamin

Vice President: Richard Flores

Treasurer: Kate Probst

Secretary: Joyce Pais

Tony Valdez moved to accept these nominations by acclamation, Marilyn Lee seconded and the motion passed. See the President's Message on page 2 for the summary the remainder of my comments.

Chris Espinosa then provided a detailed update of the status of various projects within the Pueblo (see page 3). The meeting was followed by Chris leading his wonderful behind-the-scenes tour (see page 3).

Upcoming Meetings: A reminder that the Awards Luncheon will be Monday, June 10 at 11 am in the Avila Adobe. If you have not received an e-mail invitation to this luncheon, please e-mail news@lasangelitas.org. Please RSVP by replying to the invitation e-mail by Monday, April 29. The Fall General Meeting will be on Monday, October 14 at 10 am.

President's Message

We have made great progress in several of our Las Angelitas projects, as I summarized at the Spring General Meeting on April 8.

Financial Matters: We have finally completed the change in signatories on our bank account, and have renewed our corporate status with the state. We received a response in March from the IRS about our application last year for renewal of our nonprofit status, which said that we will have a resolution in either 90 days or 180 days.

Dues: The Board voted to suspend dues for 2019 (which means that we will not be collecting dues for 2019).

Non-Tour Volunteer Opportunities: We currently have the following volunteer opportunities (please e-mail news@lasangelitas.org or call Dave at 818-434-9463 if you are interested):

Assistant Secretary: Assist the Secretary as needed, especially during times the Secretary is on vacation. The specific duties would be determined by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary.

Webmaster: Update and maintain the Las Angelitas website. At a minimum, this involves changing information about docent training classes and periodically checking that links to other websites still work (which is easy).

Tour Scheduling and Statistics: Entering the data from the tour sign-in sheets into a spreadsheet, which automatically calculates the tour statistics. This requires coming to the office the last day of the month or early in the next month to complete the tour statistics and to create the tour sign-in sheets for the new month.

Docent Training Coordinator: Responding to inquiries about docent training, maintaining a list of potential trainees, and e-mailing reminders about registering for upcoming training classes. Also coordinating the posting of information about docent training to various sites.

Las Angelitas Email Addresses: A reminder that we are now using the following lasangelitas.org e-mail addresses:

news@lasangelitas.org: All general messages to the membership, including announcements of meetings and field trips, newsletter and other items of general interest.

training@lasangelitas.org: Information about docent training with potential students, and with students in the current docent training class.

info@lasangelitas.org: General information requests from our website (which has links for this email address).

Years of Service Pins: We are implementing a new set of years of service pins for 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, etc.:



These pins are yours to keep (you do not need to turn them back when you get your next pin).

We will also have a special pin for the Docents of the Year.

New Name Badges: We are going to create new name badges including the year joined for all Active Members. See sample below:

Dave McMenamin
Las Angelitas del Pueblo
2016

Docent Training: The next docent training class will be on five Wednesdays starting July 24. If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a docent, have them e-mail training@lasangelitas.org for further information.

We have also implemented a new method of training new docents. This method consists of self-study, shadowing tours given by veteran docents, and practicing and mentoring by me or another docent.

We are also using VolunteerMatch.com to present Las Angelitas as a volunteer opportunity.

Saturday Tour Office Closures: The Tour Office will be closed on two Saturdays in May for the following events:

May 4: Cinco de Mayo

May 18: LA Opera

New Pueblo Map on Outer Office Counter: There is a new Pueblo map on the counter on the right as you enter the Tour Office. This has a number of points of interest that are not on other available Pueblo maps, but which are sometimes asked about for scavenger hunts. The map is accompanied by two keys, one in alphabetical order by point of interest, the other by the codes on the map.



News

Current Pueblo Projects

The following summarizes Chris Espinosa's comments at the Spring General Meeting concerning construction projects.

Merced Theatre/Masonic Hall/Pico House: The original construction project for these buildings was split into two phases because the bids for the entire project were so high. Phase I will start in the middle of this year, and includes updating the seismic retrofitting and the mechanicals (plumbing, heating and electrical). Once Phase II of this project is complete, The Merced Theatre and Masonic Hall will become the site for Channel 35, the public access TV station for Los Angeles.

Restroom Remodel: The remodeling and expansion of the main restrooms on Olvera Street, in the hallway across from Mr. Churro, is scheduled to be completed this summer. This project doubles the size of the men's room and triples the size of the women's room. This project encountered two layers of concrete on the floor, since the last remodel did not take out the old floor, and no foundation underneath some of the buildings. The archeologist for the project has recovered 20 boxes of archeological fragments.

Chinese American Museum Expansion: The plans for this project are complete and the permits pulled, but the bids for it came in over half a million dollars over budget. Therefore, more money is needed to continue, possibly County Proposition A money or by splitting the project into two Phases.

LA Plaza Paseo Walkway: Construction on the walkway to connect to LA Plaza Village (the residential-retail development between Spring and Hill Streets) started in March. Phase I of LA Plaza Village, between Spring and Broadway, is scheduled to be completed this year. The description of this project from the LA Plaza blog, provided by Chris, is attached at the end of the newsletter.

Alameda Esplanade: The goal of this project is to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections between Union Station and the surrounding community, especially the Pueblo. The \$18 million-\$19 million dollar project is fully funded and the environmental impact study has been approved. The goal of the project involves a widening of Alameda on the Union Station side and shutting down some lanes on Los Angeles Street to allow for a winding pedestrian walkway up the high-differential grade from Alameda to the Plaza and new bike lanes, as shown in the conceptual design. It also includes converting the right-hand lane on Arcadia Street to bus parking. This project is

in the design phase, including public meetings. It is scheduled to start in 2020.



Homeless Shelter: The shelter has permanently housed about 7 people to date. El Pueblo Management has been working with The People Concern, the non-profit that runs the shelter, on workshops for residents, which include resumé building, arts and crafts, and virtual reality demonstrations.

Behind-the-Scenes Tour

As part of the Spring General Meeting, Chris Espinosa lead his always fun and interesting behind-the-scenes tour of the Pueblo. We started with the first floor, courtyard and second floor of the Pico House. This was followed by the first and second floors of the Merced Theatre. We then took the tunnel from under Main Street to the courtyard of the Chinese American Museum. We learned from Carol Beck that when she was giving tours of the tunnels, the area below the sidewalk in front of the Merced Theater contained some coffins (one of the items sold by William Abbott, who built the Merced).

We then went to the future Water Museum in the Hammel Building, viewing the Zanja Madre that was exposed during construction of the sun protection for America Tropical. This view of the Zanja Madre will be part of the Water Museum when it is completed. We finished on the roof of the Hammel Building next to America Tropical, always a highlight.



Happenings in the Pueblo

Lantern Festival



Smokey Bear 75th Birthday Art Exhibit



Farewell to an Old Friend

As you probably know by now, the southern Moreton Bay Fig tree collapsed on March 2 during the Lantern Festival. Fortunately, no one was injured. At the Spring General Meeting, Chris Espinosa reported that there have been numerous suggestions about replacing this tree, from California Oak or Sycamore trees to an Indian Garden. The LA Conservancy has suggested that another Moreton Bay Fig be planted here that uses genetic stock from the existing trees. The photos below show the tree's final fate. Some of the wood is being repurposed by Angel City Lumber (turning it into benches, etc.) and by others such as Jackie Hadnot (who carved the new cross at the head of Olvera Street a couple of years ago).



Happenings in the Pueblo: Blessing of the Animals

Additional Photos: <https://www.laanimal.com/olvera-street-2019.html>



Exhibits in the Pueblo

Lightscapes: Re-envisioning the Shanshuihua

Through November 10, 2019, Chinese American Museum
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm



From www.camla.org: "Lightscapes: Re-envisioning the Shanshuihua 光之景: 山水畫的當代想像 presents works from Nick Dong and Wu Chi-Tsung, two Taiwan-born contemporary artists. Re-imagining the philosophies of Chinese landscape paintings, the exhibition brings forward new media works and immersive light-based installations that are not often explored within this genre."

Greyhound Diaries: Economic Inequality in the U.S.

Through May 29, 2019, Museum of Social Justice
Thursday – Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm

From www.museumofsocialjustice.org: "Over 12 years and 120,000 Greyhound miles, Doug Levitt has written songs and stories, and has created photographic images of fellow bus riders. Inspired by Depression-era projects, he has performed at a range of places from VAs, shelters, and prisons to the Kennedy Center, Woody Guthrie Center, and Southern Poverty Law Center."



Leo Politi's Los Angeles Works of Love and Protest

Through May 19, 2019, Italian American Museum
Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 3 pm



Spotlight on the Pueblo: Garnier Building



Original Garnier Building

The following is based on the “Garnier Building” section in the History Department’s *History of the Buildings in El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument*.

The Garnier Building, together with the 405 Los Angeles Street Building, is the home of the Chinese American Museum. The Garnier Building was built in 1890 by Philippe Garnier, an immigrant from France who was a prominent businessman, and who served on the board of the influential Farmers and Merchants Bank. It was designed by Abraham M. Edelman, who was responsible for several important buildings in the city, including the Wilshire Boulevard Temple.

The Garnier Building is a brick and sandstone building designed specifically for Chinese tenants, and is the oldest and most significant building of the original Chinatown in Los Angeles. In the early 1950s, the southern part of the building was demolished to make way for construction of the 101 freeway. The remaining part was rebuilt, with an arcade on the southern side that was not part of the original building.

The building's basement was originally used mainly for storage. The ground floor and mezzanine levels had commercial shops, including the Sun Wing Wo, a general merchandise store located in the building from 1900-1948.

In Chinese tradition, the upper floors of a building are closer to heaven and to the gods, and thus more appropriate than the lower floors for locating temples, schools or organizations that exert authority. The second floor contained Chinatown's leading fraternal and social organizations, schools, and religious institutions, which not only helped resolve differences between Chinese organizations and individuals and care for the elderly and needy, but also acted as liaison with the dominant American society. This was extremely important because of the prejudicial attitudes expressed against the Chinese in Southern California following the Chinese Massacre of 1871 and the Chinese Exclusion Acts of 1882-1943.



Garnier Building Today

These groups included the following:

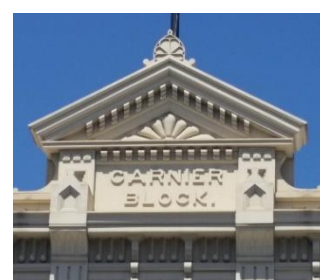
- The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (Chung Wah), the umbrella organization for the community that fought anti-Chinese legislation and mediated disputes.
- The Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, which opposed discrimination and in registering Chinese American citizens to vote
- The Wong Gon Ha Association for single men, including those who lived in the Garnier
- The Christian Chinese Mission School (1897-1905)
- The Chinese Mission (1901)
- The Chinese Chambers of Commerce (1912)
- The China Empire Reform Association (1913)
- The Chinese English School (1913)
- Chinese Laundrymen's Association (in 1894, there were 42 Chinese laundries in Los Angeles, and by 1936 there were 200).

The Garnier Building is also sometimes called the Garnier Block, which is confusing because the Plaza House building across Main Street from the Pico House (north of the Vickrey/Brunswick Building), has “Garnier Block” inscribed on its pediment. The Plaza House was also developed by Philippe Garnier.

The pediment on the Garnier Building has the date the building was completed, 1890, and the name “P. Garnier.” The following are the pediments on the two buildings:



Garnier Building



Plaza House

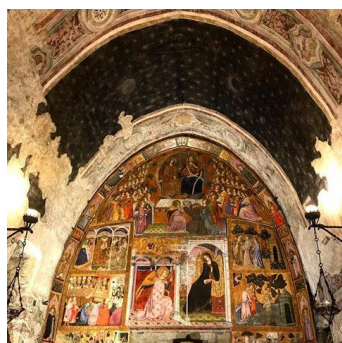
Spotlight on the Pueblo

La Placita Annunciation Mosaic

The Annunciation mosaic above the Main Street door of La Placita was added in 1981 to commemorate Los Angeles's bicentennial:



It reproduces a detail from the fresco in the apse of the Portiuncula Chapel in Assisi, Italy (which itself is located within the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels):



Plaza Methodist Church Drinking Fountain



Up the stairs to the right as you enter the Plaza Methodist Church are the drinking fountain above and its associated photo, with the following explanation:

“Katherine B. Higgins, Plaza Methodist missionary, was fondly called ‘The Angel of the Plaza’ because of her decades-long pioneering social work in the area’s poor and needy neighborhoods. She stands with a young Mexican boy by a drinking fountain at the Plaza Community Center (ca. 1919-1925). The point of this photo is that this fountain was the first ever in Los Angeles to be intentionally made available to people of all ethnicities and races, expressing Plaza Methodist’s conviction that all people are equal and should be treated as such. Not until World War II and the Civil Rights era did Los Angeles finally become a racially and ethnically more integrated city, and old segregation policies come to an end (Plaza Historical Society Archive).”

Join Las Angelitas on Social Media!

Please take a moment to check out our website, as well as our other online pages:



<https://www.facebook.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo/>



<https://www.instagram.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo>



<https://www.yelp.com/biz/las-angelitas-del-pueblo-los-angeles>



Search for [Las Angelitas del Pueblo](#)

Editor: Lindsay McMenamin

Contact me with history tidbits, news or notes, and interesting articles written by you:

news@lasangelitas.org

Deadline for next newsletter: June 20, 2019

Tour Statistics (Number of People Toured)

	January	February	March	Total
2019:	292	449	833	1574 *
2018:	328	792	690	1810
2017:	309	718	504	1531

* January 2019 missing the first 8 days

La Voz. The blog of LA Plaza

19 Mar 2019

Construction of LA Plaza Paseo Begins

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, the premier story-telling institution of Los Angeles Latino history, began construction of phase one of the LA Plaza Paseo Walkway on March 11, 2019.

The landscaped, block-long pathway between the LA Plaza museum and the historic La Placita Church, extending from Main Street to Spring Street, includes historical signage about the city's rich past, from the indigenous Gabrielino-Tongva settlers through the years of rule by Spain, Mexico and the United States. Construction of this phase of the Paseo Walkway is funded by the Los Angeles County Parks and Open Space District (Prop A), LA Plaza, and Trammell Crow.

When completed, it will create a direct pedestrian pathway stretching approximately four city blocks connecting to Union Station and the new LA Plaza Village residential-retail complex, serving as the city's first historic pedestrian pathway and linking the city's primary historic monuments of Ft. Moore, La Placita Church, LA Plaza, Olvera Street and Union Station.

The Walkway is designed to help Angelenos and visitors learn about Los Angeles history. From a new iconic landscaped archway on Main Street -- standing as a welcoming point attracting visitors to the Walkway and Museum -- through a series of historical signs and monuments, the Walkway will provide visitors with snapshot histories of the city as they learn about the many historical structures in the area.

The Paseo Walkway will also serve as a new recreational space in the congested downtown historic core, with lush native landscaping and trees and tables and chairs, where visitors can relax, enjoy a meal and take in the historic sites around them. "The renovated LA Plaza Paseo Walkway adds an important new chapter to the historical narrative of the El Pueblo Historic Monument district," said John Echeveste, LA Plaza CEO. "Located in the historic heart of the city, the Paseo Walkway will link together the many historic elements of El Pueblo. LA Plaza is pleased to play a key role in the restoration of El Pueblo through the Village and Walkway projects."

The Historic Paseo Walkway is scheduled for completion in June 2019.

The project is designed by SWA Design Group of Los Angeles, with Brightview as general contractor, and Cowley Real Estate Partners as project manager.