

INGLEWOOD ART AND CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING
TOUR



Welcome to our Art
& Culture Walking Tours of Inglewood California.

Discover local arts and culture through six tour guides available through
Inglewood's Community Centers, public counters and Inglewoodpublicart.org/explore.



INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER WALKING TOURS



- 1) The History of Transportation
- 2) Inglewood War Memorial
- 3) Civic Center Landscape Design
- 4) Incomplete Conch Shell
- 5) Inglewood City Hall
- 6) Portable Public Art Collections

- 7) Compromise is Key
- 8) Inglewood Forever
- 9) Skedans
- 10) Beckmen YOLA Center
- 11) Cafetales Architecture
- 12) Inglewood Public Library

- 13) Inglewood Stories
- 14) Self Evident (for Sally Hemings)
- 15) Inglewood Genesis
- 16) The Written Word
- 17) The Inglewood Project

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



1

The History of Transportation Helen Lundeberg, Artist

1940, Petromosaic mural
230 S. Grevillea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301

The History of Transportation by Helen Lundeberg shows the history of human transportation in the Centinela Valley, including Inglewood. The mural, comprised of 60 panels with crushed rock set in mortar, showcases technological changes in transportation from walking to horses and carts, to railroads and propeller-driven airplanes. A playful small white dog appears throughout the artwork's 240' length.



The History of Transportation was a commission from the Federal Works Progress Administration, and is the largest mural in that program. The mural was originally built along one of Inglewood's most traveled commuter arteries. After auto incidents destroyed two of the sixty panels, a multifaceted, four-year conservation effort began. The mural was re-installed in 2009 on city property specially landscaped as Grevillea Art Park. It faces Inglewood High School and is perpendicular to the bustling Manchester Boulevard.



The relocation was led by Landscape Architect Randall Meyer and Associates with restoration and interpretive kiosks by Sculpture Conservation Studios in partnership with the Feitelson/Lundeberg Art Foundation.



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2

Inglewood War Memorial

Designer unknown

1970, Monument

City Hall, 1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

The *Inglewood War Memorial* is sited on the green expanses fronting City Hall's Manchester Boulevard entrance. The memorial is comprised of a marble obelisk on a granite base before a flag court. The center panel on the granite base holds the words:

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

Service veteran's names are on the plinth. A stone eagle, a symbol for bravery, watches over a relief of a sword and wreath, referencing those lost in combat. Honoring residents who served their country, Inglewood's memorial rededication ceremony is observed each Memorial Day.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



3

Civic Center Landscape Design

Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect

1973, Landscaping

1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

The gracious *Civic Center landscape* by Robert Herrick Carter frames City Hall and the Library with plantings and hardscape in four unique approaches. The Manchester Boulevard approach combines broad and deep green lawn with flowering jacaranda and coral trees and public art.

Robert Herrick Carter was born in Los Angeles in 1919 and studied architecture at USC. Through his horticulturist father, Carter became very interested in commercial landscaping even though landscape architecture was not then an established profession. Carter was the first to plant flowering trees in Los Angeles's commercial buildings, adding palm trees to commercial landscapes. He is responsible for introducing native plants and the non-native lilac-flowered jacaranda to public spaces. His Los Angeles projects include the airport, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Century Plaza Hotel, Universal City and the Zoo. He won many awards and design prizes before his death in 1989.

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WALKING TOURS



4

Incomplete Conch Shell

Jack Zajac, Artist

1972, Sculpture
City Hall Entrance, 1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood,
CA 90301

In *Incomplete Conch Shell*, sculptor Jack Zajac reveals his fascination with the natural world. Blending traditions of surrealist and romanticist art, *Incomplete Conch Shell* bisects the marine shell's central chamber with blunt geometry. Both organic and abstract, the curvaceous work sits in strong contrast to the geometric architecture of City Hall.

Incomplete Conch Shell is made of Carrera marble and 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. The artwork is displayed on a circular pedestal on the west lawn of the Civic Center.



5

Inglewood City Hall

Charles Luckman Associates, Architect

1973, Architecture
1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Inglewood's nine-story *City Hall* was designed by Charles Luckman Associates architects as a municipal centerpiece. With hallmarks of Luckman's International Style, *City Hall* is organized with a ring of offices around each floor. Each façade is treated differently, responding to north, south, east or west approaches.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



The building's technical features were then considered state-of-the-art. Poured-in-place concrete provides form and surface. Tall windows, deep-set in the façade, hold tinted glass. *City Hall* was fully air conditioned throughout, an innovation in 1973.

Charles Luckman, born in 1909 in Missouri, studied architecture at the University of Illinois. Graduating in the Depression, he went into sales and rapidly rose to become president of Lever Brothers. After leading the company's commission of Lever House, the first glass skyscraper on New York City's Park Avenue, Luckman decided to return to architecture. He joined William Pereira's firm, then established his own Los Angeles practice. Luckman designed Ingleswood's Forum, the Los Angeles Convention Center and New York's Madison Square Garden.



6

Portable Public Art Collection Multiple Artists

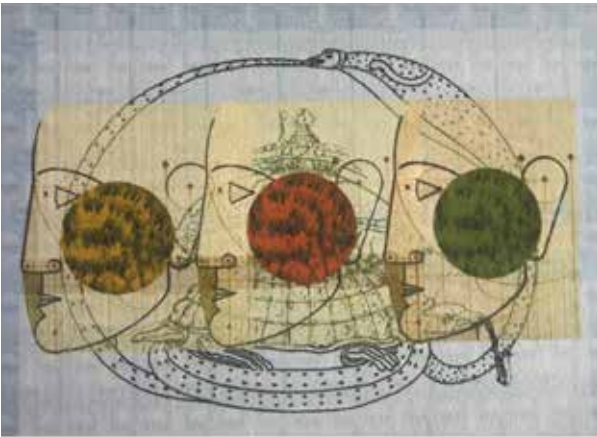
1972 - 2021, Framed fine art in varied techniques
Ingleswood City Hall, 1 W. Manchester Blvd., Ingleswood,
CA 90301

Ingleswood's Public Art Collection includes artworks displayed inside civic buildings. Our *City Hall Print Collection* is comprised of works on paper from regional and national artists purchased when the building was first furnished in 1975. *Love, Ingleswood* is a collection of thirteen works on paper purchased directly from nine Ingleswood artists in 2020.

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An art committee compiled a print collection reflecting the City's investment in contemporary artists and the fine art printers who collaborated on the works. Each of these prints are editioned, numbered and signed by the artist. Our largest print, by artist Gene Davis, is displayed on the 9th floor corridor outside City Council chambers. Other artworks are in small conference rooms and hallways.



Love, Inglewood arose from a nomination process. Inglewood artists, former art commissioners and art advocates were invited to nominate up to three artists who should be represented in the City's art collection. Each artist submitted works for consideration by a museum director, college art instructor and city manager who is also a ceramics artist. These panelists ranked each work and recommended purchases to the Arts Commission.

This collection is installed in three high-traffic areas of City Hall to bring the work and thinking of Inglewood artists inside the halls of government.



7

Compromise is Key

Michael Massenburg with Zenith Girls Home Youth, Artists

2000, Mural
Inglewood City Hall, 1st Floor, 1 W. Manchester Blvd.,
Inglewood, CA 90301

Compromise Is Key is a ceramic tile mural created by youth from the Zenith Girls Home led by Inglewood artist Michael Massenburg.

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The youth created a colorful artwork representing the City's diverse cultures through abstracted faces floating over a handshake spanning the globe.

This mural arose from Inglewood's 1999 Youth Plan, which states "Inglewood youth have a lot of ideas. They want to be more involved in improving the conditions of Inglewood for the present and the future. Inglewood youth want more than token responsibility." Massenburg took this as an action plan for a mural reminding us that compromise is key.

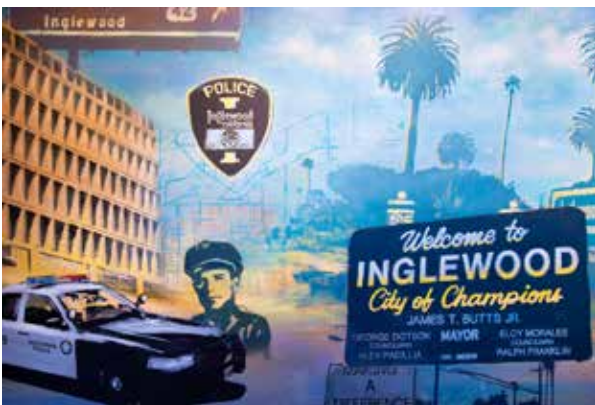


8

Inglewood Forever Ryan Graeff, Artist

2015, Painting on panels
Inglewood Police Department Lobby, 1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

In *Inglewood Forever* artist Ryan Graeff takes the viewer on a visual journey of discovery. In this site-specific work in the Police Department lobby, Graeff fused original photographic images of the Centinela Adobe, Forum, Randy's Donut and vintage police cars into a unified, painted field of Inglewood. The photographs are screened onto three panels installed as a portable mural.



Graeff's blue and orange palette draws on southern California retro style. His clouds part for the Space Shuttle's historical passage through the City. Presenting Inglewood's fallen police officers, lost in the line of duty, alongside the City's landmarks and landscapes, *Inglewood Forever* is a visual tribute of dignity and thanksgiving.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



9

Skedans

Tony Delap, Artist

1975, Sculpture

Inglewood City Hall, La Brea Entrance, 1 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Skedans is a site-specific columnar steel sculpture by Tony DeLap. The 50' upright form consists of seemingly solid sides supporting an open core. *Skedans* rises from a wide octagonal base that housed an early flow fountain designed by Charles Luckman and Associates.

Skedans invokes a historic tribal government site for indigenous peoples in the Queen Charlotte Islands of British Columbia. DeLap frequented the area on vacations and was inspired by ancient trees and totems rising from the shallow waters. He brought the form and inspiration to Inglewood's government center. *Skedans*, restored in 2017, is an early example of contemporary public art in architecture.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



Credit: Charles White



Courtesy: LA Philharmonic



10

Beckmen YOLA Center (BYC)

2021, Cultural Education Facility
101 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301

The Beckmen YOLA Center is the first permanent home of the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles organization (YOLA), part of the world-renowned Los Angeles Philharmonic Association led by Gustavo Dudamel. The YOLA program was inspired by Venezuela's revolutionary El Sistema training for young musicians.

YOLA was founded in 2007 as a way to engage and train area youth, ages 6 to 18, in the skills and discipline needed to perform instrumental music through a free musical education program. The *LA Phil* and its community partners provide free instruments, intensive music training and academic support to students from underserved neighborhoods, empowering them to become vital citizens, leaders, and agents of change. The Beckmen YOLA Center is the fifth iteration of the program and the first permanent facility built to support the effort.

Friend of the LA Phil and renowned architect Frank Gehry renovated the 1965 facility, preserving the building's footprint and façade while creating a professionally proportioned convertible auditorium space for student performances. The architect excavated the floor and raised the roof to provide the perfect acoustic span for experiencing symphonic sound. The performance space is surrounded by practice rooms and class rooms to 'send a message to the world and signify dignity to our youth's efforts and aspirations.' The *Los Angeles Philharmonic* was formed in 1918.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



11

Cafetales

Martin Stern, Jr., Architect

1958, Architecture

115 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301

Cafetales Restaurant is an eye-catching facility on La Brea Avenue. It has been Farmer's Restaurant, and GG's, before closing in 2008. *Cafetales'* paint has dimmed, but its iconic sign, design, and interior details, honor the Googie moment.

Googie is a space-age retro futuristic architectural style. The term arose with Googie's Coffee Shop on Los Angeles' Sunset Strip. The Googie style includes tapered columns, spires, roofs shaped like flying saucers and spaceships in tropical landscape. Buildings were tiled in classic southern California colors of turquoise, avocado, and orange. Inglewood once held ten Googie buildings; today only *Cafetales* and Jet Car Wash remain.

12

Inglewood Public Library

Charles Luckman Associates, Architect

1973, Architecture

101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Inglewood Public Library reflects the style and materials of City Hall design, but its approach includes an unusual orientation and circulation flow. At the time, a typical building flow opened on the property's street address. Luckman flipped the Library to face the central plaza, making it more like a college campus. Pedestrian and auto traffic journey around the site.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER

WALKING TOURS



Luckman altered the building's access with a dramatic entry ramp to the elevated main floor lobby. A Lecture Hall is a separate building. A three-story emergency stairwell is encased in a bumped-out column on Manchester Boulevard. The Library is made of poured-in-place concrete with an innovative, multi-site public art treatment.

Charles Luckman, born in 1909 in Missouri, studied architecture at the University of Illinois. Graduating in the Depression he went into sales and rapidly rose to become president of Lever Brothers. After leading the company's commission of Lever House, the first glass skyscraper on New York City's Park Avenue, Luckman decided to return to architecture. He joined William Pereira's firm, then established his own Los Angeles practice. Luckman designed Ingleswood's Forum, the Los Angeles Convention Center and New York's Madison Square Garden. In 1946 President Harry Truman appointed Luckman to the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Luckman died in 1999.



13

Inglewood Stories

Michael Massenburg, Artist

2015, Mural

Inglewood Public Library, Lobby, 101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Inglewood Stories is Michael Massenburg's homage to his City. In the acrylic and digital collage mural, he blends Inglewood's past and present in atmospheric painted passages. Today's generations and diverse ethnic communities are depicted amid historic streetcars and a 2012 photo of NASA's Space Shuttle travelling on Inglewood streets.

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Massenburg used photographs, postcards and letters from the Inglewood Public Library Special collections alongside his original photographs.

In the top right of the artwork, a 1936 postmark and cancelled stamp accompany a handwritten letter from an Inglewood resident to President Theodore Roosevelt. Thematically uniting the artwork is the writer's central question to the President: Are we family?



14

Self Evident (for Sally Hemings)

Tori Ellison, Artist

(2015) Bronze Sculpture
Inglewood Public Library, 2nd Floor, 101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

Self Evident (for Sally Hemings), a wall-mounted sculpture by Tori Ellison, explores American diversity through a dress. The sculpture holds the family tree of the enslaved Hemings, her half-sister Martha Wayles Skelton and Sally's master President Thomas Jefferson. Hemings and Skelton had the same white father. Jefferson married Martha and took Sally as a household slave. After Martha's death, intimacies between Hemings and Jefferson produced pregnancies. Hemings made Jefferson promise their children would be freed at age 21. This story is told in the adjacent plaque.



Self Evident (for Sally Hemings) drew on Ellison's studies of slaves' dresses in Jefferson's Monticello estate. Inglewood City Council proclaimed April 16, 2016 as Sally Hemings Day.

INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CIVIC CENTER WALKING TOURS



15

Inglewood Genesis

June Edmonds and Lockhaven Community Center Youth, Artists

2000, 2013, Glass Mosaic
Inglewood Public Library, 1st floor, 101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

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 glass tiles from Venice Italy set into mortar. The artist assembled drawings from diverse youths into a coherent whole. She taught them how to work with the mosaic tiles which were cut in 2000, but not assembled until 2013 by art conservator Duane Chartier.

Inglewood Genesis was commissioned through Inglewood Cultural Arts, an artist-run non-profit organization who contracted professional artists to facilitate community art on City facilities prior to the current public art effort.



16

The Written Word

Tom Van Sant, Artist

(1972) Bas-relief wall treatment in 3 locations
101 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90301

The Written Word is Tom Van Sant's public art treatment for three concrete facades of the Public Library. His concrete cast treatments are on exterior stairwell column facing Manchester; the lower level of an

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WALKING TOURS



... interior lobby; and an exterior wall of the Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall.

Van Sant explores written expressions of numbers, letters, theories, and histories from global cultures including Egyptian hieroglyphics, Polynesian counting systems, European cave painting, and mathematical equations. *The Written Word* required special reversed concrete molds a technique requiring a high degree of craft. This poured-in-place concrete bas-relief is one of the largest in the world.



17

The Inglewood Project

Richard Wyatt, Artist

1987, Mural

Inglewood High School Manchester Blvd. Façade, 231 S. Grevillea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301



Richard Wyatt's four-panel artwork 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. The artwork is made of acrylic paint on prepared block wall and is owned by the Inglewood Unified School District.