LOS ANGELES
STATE HISTORIC PARK

Interpretive Master Plan

August 23, 2006

A state park vision statement describes the "desired future experience" for visitors to the park. The Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) vision helps direct future development through illustration of its "once-in-a-century opportunity" to create a verdant place in the heart of the city where visitors from all social, economic and cultural backgrounds can discover and celebrate the rich cultural connections to Los Angeles history.

Vision

Visitors to Los Angeles State Historic Park will enjoy a rejuvenating respite from the urban landscape in an open space environment. Visitors will experience the environment through interpretive media and landscape features that recall the historical events of the region. Educational programs and activities will appeal to the interests of many visitors – from the local to the global community, will be varied in media and scope, and will emphasize the City of Los Angeles' cultural, historic, and commercial heritage.

~ *Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan*, May 2005

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1. INTRODUCTION

If you were to have visited Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) when California State Parks purchased the property in 2001, you might have wondered why it was being considered for inclusion in the venerable State Park System. The former Southern Pacific Railroad yard was a flat, 32-acre "brownfield"[1] in need of cleanup and remediation. A new light-railway line had been built through it and it was surrounded by a somewhat dilapidated industrial area. Yet the 32-acres held a hidden value both in the ground through its unique and associated archaeological remains and in the stories associated with this specific land use history and the historical context it represented. Here the voices of Los Angeles' past could be explored and the current city experienced.

Those who understood its history and its strategic location adjacent to the Los Angeles River and the core of the historic city, saw it becoming a distinctive public space—"the veranda" to the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Within one of the most populated cities in the world, visionaries dreamed of a park that offered a place of tranquility, mystery, and discovery – a special destination that would hold its place in history and evolve into a world class park for all to enjoy.

Visions for those experiences began to develop from the urbanized former brownfield. Sounds of the "Gold Line" light rail and urban surroundings became a gentle murmur, visitors could listen for the faint voices of neighbors on their way home, sometimes speaking in unrecognizable but familiar languages, or for birds chirping and squawking, and leaves rustling in a breeze. The park represented a natural bridge to the river, the ocean, the mountains and the flatlands. That urban setting, with its mirror-like buildings reflecting the muted hues of sunset as evening lights slowly begin to fill the sky, help to illuminate the urban/natural dichotomy.

Local citizens, historians, planners, and activists understood this value and gathered together the resources and support over the last decade for its creation as a park. State Parks quickly moved to understand this value after its acquisition in 2001, and with the help of a legislatively mandated Advisory Committee made up of local citizens, scholars, professionals, and activists, received both direction and validation on a vision. This guidance directed park staff toward the development of a General Plan which was approved by the State Parks Commission in June 2005.

[1] Brownfield: an area which may be contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

The LASHP General Plan proposes several conceptual land uses (cultural activities, recreation, gardens and natural open space) as part of the future development of the Park site. State Parks understands the unique opportunity that the Park provides and has decided to establish the long-term development plan through a competitive design process that will result in a conceptual plan for specific facilities and development of the park.[2] Once the design has been selected, development of the park will be pursued, although this may take several years. As funding and planning are finalized, information in this Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) document will be used to guide both the interim public use and a long-term blueprint for the interpretive development of the park. This plan supports the implementation of sustainable and practical interpretive activities and programming.

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of Los Angeles State Historic Park is to provide the public with a place to learn about and to celebrate the ethnically diverse history and cultural heritage of Los Angeles, with an emphasis on its evolution, to an economic and industrial metropolis of the 21st Century with extraordinary influence throughout the world. The Park will contribute to the emerging Los Angeles River Greenway, stretching from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. The Park will bring a wide range of visitors together to examine and experience the complete story of Los Angeles. It will be a sanctuary from the dense, urban environment that surrounds it. The Park will connect abstract historical and social patterns to the personal experiences of Angelenos and visitors from throughout the state, the nation, and the world.

~ *Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan*, May 2005

[2] This version of the Los Angeles SHP IMP will be updated upon completion of the Conceptual Design Competition in 2007. Many of the land use and facility recommendations in this draft should be considered "conceptual" and many will be subject to change.

Purpose of Los Angeles State Historic Park

The purpose of the park is to preserve the site's primary cultural resource values and provide opportunities for illuminating Los Angeles' greater cultural history. Los Angeles' past is tied directly to the specific land uses and extant cultural resources of LASHP. The associated historical trends and movements of Los Angeles' cultural history are reflected in the property's land use history, from its establishment and growth as a remote frontier community into the 21st century megalopolis and international economic power that it is today. The Declaration of Purpose for Los Angeles State Historic Park conveys the specific mission and overarching considerations for establishing future management of the Park and its programs.

Legislative Background

Since the closure of the Southern Pacific Railroad yard in 1992, many Los Angeles community organizations and individuals have not only realized the cultural value of the property (it was listed at City Historical Landmark in 1971 to recognize the Southern Pacific's historic River Station) but also the opportunity for developing the land into a park to restore much needed open space – a deficiency of the surrounding area. Various groups valued the property for its link to the Los Angeles River and to the inner city. It was included in design charrette products, and conceptual and local community plans throughout the 1990s.

In 2000, with a local developer moving forward with an industrial project for the property, a coalition was formed called the Chinatown Yard Alliance to fight the proposed industrial development. The coalition prevailed and stopped the project, rallying around the site's nickname, "Cornfield." When California voters passed the Park Bond Act of 2000, $33 million were allocated to acquire the site, after a feasibility report identified its potential as a state park. On February 23, 2001, Governor Gray Davis signed legislation authored by State Senator Richard Polanco (Senate Bill 1177) establishing the Cornfield Advisory Committee. The Committee was charged with assisting California State Parks in planning for interim and permanent land uses and facilities for the newly acquired property.

The Cornfield Advisory Committee consisted of thirty-six members, representing the surrounding communities and property owners, environmental justice and civil rights organizations, historians, business leaders, educators, local/state/federal governmental agencies, and non-profit groups. The Committee met numerous times over a two-year period, working together with California State Parks staff in developing a park vision, reviewing Interim Public Use plans, making recommendations on park name and classification, participating in public meetings, and providing input for the site's General Plan. In February 2003, the Cornfield Advisory Committee submitted to the Director of

California State Parks a report recommending a park vision based upon four concepts: connectivity; cultural/historical; recreation; and, transportation.

On June 10, 2005, the California State Parks and Recreation Commission approved the General Plan and named and classified the property as Los Angeles State Historic Park. The General Plan codified a vision and purpose, identifying LASHP's unique opportunity to complement existing regional state historic parks and giving direction for partnering with other institutions and organizations to interpret a more comprehensive history of the greater Los Angeles area.

Purpose of the Interpretive Master Plan

Los Angeles State Historic Park provides California State Parks an opportunity to represent not only the stories and history of this significant property but also to use its unique history and location to provide interpretation of the greater trends, movements, and events that shaped Los Angeles' past and present. This direction comes from the Park's recently completed General Plan which emphasizes that the entire Park is to be considered an interpretive site, and should be designed to function as an interpretive and cultural facility, as well as an inviting open space and gathering-place for the local community and visitors from around the world. The General Plan also identifies necessary management and project plans that will be needed to develop facilities and programs appropriately.

The Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) is considered one of these essential management plans. This IMP is based extensively on direction provided in the LASHP General Plan--particularly Chapter 4: The Plan. A number of suggestions and recommendations are included in this IMP to provide a conceptual roadmap for developing and delivering interpretive programs and services.[3] Specific interpretive plans will be produced with recommendations for interpretive facilities, structures, and sites, ensuring that historical research, environmental reviews, thematic development, visitor studies and flow plans, exhibit designs, curriculum standards, etc., are current, accurate, relevant and consistent with the vision for LASHP as outlined in the General Plan.

[3] This version of the IMP provides various recommendations for interpretive facilities and programs (see Section 4). The park has yet to be opened for full public use (as of Spring 2006) and no regular use patterns have been established, and the long-term Park Conceptual Design project has yet to be completed, the facilities and use recommendations in this IMP should be considered as conceptual, but not specific requirements. The Plan will be updated at the conclusion of the Conceptual Design Project phase to incorporate the latest conceptual planning.

2. INTERPRETIVE CONSIDERATIONS

Select Cultural/Historical Context

Within one of Los Angeles' oldest industrial zones are families and neighborhoods whose roots tie directly to the city's early history and growth. Surrounding Los Angeles State Historic Park – beyond the concrete and asphalt, cars and trucks, transmission lines and warehouses – one can find the communities of the William Mead Homes, Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Elysian Park, and Lincoln Heights. Working class residents of today are living in the same places that the area's earliest settlers and immigrants called home.

The cultural roots of Los Angeles go back to pre-historic times with the arrival of the Tongva (Gabrielino) people, who were among the most populous, wealthy, and successful California Indian groups. The Tongva culture was marked by an extensive oral tradition and a distinctive set of rituals, games, artwork, myths, songs, and stories. For several centuries it is believed the Tongva village of Yang-na or Yabit, was located along the bench lands adjacent to the Los Angeles River in the vicinity of the park property.[4]

Although Euro-American contact had occurred two centuries before, Spanish Colonial settlers first arrived in Alta California in 1769. The noted Portola Expedition of that year traveled across the park property and camped along the nearby river. They named it for the jubilee day of Nuestra Senora de los Angeles de Porciuncula—also noting that the location would provide a good site for a civilian agricultural settlement. As typical of the Spanish Colonial frontier the soldiers, missionaries, and settlers of the time represented a mixture of European, African, and Indian lineage. It is no surprise that in 1781, when the Spanish Colonial government established El pueblo de la Reina de los Angeles along the Rio de Porciuncula, many of its initial settlers reflected this diversity.[5]

One of the first improvements made was an irrigation ditch, the *Zanja Madre*. This first Los Angeles "public works project" provided a direct connection that directed the river's water to the pueblo and its agricultural lands. The *Zanja Madre* crossed along the bluffs that served as the northwestern boundary of the current park's property and traveled at various points through the park parcel. The ditch reflected the initial and essential

[4] Dillon 1994; McCawley 1996

[5] Trautlein 1973; Kelsey 1976; Mason 1998; Crespi 2001

relationship of the water to Los Angeles' development and its prosperity. Typical of the pueblo lands north and east of the plaza, the authorities established the property as common planting lots. The pueblo's system of providing common lands and water to individuals proved successful and by 1817, the pueblo reportedly had over 53,000 grape vines under cultivation.[6]

After Mexican Independence in 1821, the social, political, and economic situation changed in isolated frontier Alta California. In contrast to the autocratic direction of the centralized Spanish Colonial government and the church-led mission system, the rise of Mexican Republicanism opened the country to the ideals supportive of representative government and private property. The Mexican government quickly legalized trade with foreign vessels, officially opening ports to the hide and tallow trade, and identifying the need for more and larger grazing lands to increase commerce. This eventually led to the secularization of the Mission system and distribution of its lands through private land grants to prominent *Californios*, including new immigrants from the United States, Europe, and Mexico.[7]

As the largest of the civilian pueblos in the territory, Los Angeles soon became a powerful economic and political force. Large *rancho* land grants surrounded the pueblo lands and provided great wealth to the upper, land-owning classes (*gente de razon*). Such wealth and power put Los Angeles and its leaders in regular conflict with the smaller territorial capitol at Monterey during the revolutionary politics of the 1830s and 1840s. Occasional events such as the discovery of gold in nearby Placerita Canyon in 1842 also drew new immigrants.[8]

At the time of the United States occupation during the War with Mexico, Los Angeles was the largest and most prosperous of the Alta California pueblos. The discovery of gold in Northern California in 1848 soon had its effect on the Southern California town. Thousands of Argonauts traveling the Southern Overland route traveled through Los Angeles in the early years of the Gold Rush. Conversely, the City gained a fairly large permanent population when in the 1850s, close to 10,000 Sonoran miners, forced out of the northern gold fields by anti-Mexican discrimination, settled in an area that became known as "Sonoratown" (near present-day Main and North Broadway Streets just southwest of the park). These "new immigrant" Mexicans helped keep Los Angeles' Hispanic population in the majority until after the Great Boom of the 1880s[9]

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[6] Gumprecht 1999; Newland and Dallas 2006; Ord Map 1849; City Archives
[7] Robinson 1948; Monroy 1990; Hackel 1997; Nunis 1997
[8] Tays 1936; Monroy 1990; Poole and Ball 2002
[9] Pitt 1966; Griswold del Castillo 1979

Not as directly prosperous from the Gold Rush as was San Francisco and Sacramento, Los Angeles did see some economic benefit in the 1850s from the sale of cattle and wine to its northern neighbors. The brief prosperity of the cattle industry was decimated by drought and floods and other environmental factors by 1865. Los Angeles' wine makers, however, prospered during the 1850s and 1860s. The Spanish Colonial winemaking pioneers such as the Abilas, reportedly had vineyards on the park property. They were bolstered by new winemakers in the 1820s and 1830s. American Joseph Chapman and Frenchmen Jean Louis Vignes and nephews Pierre and Jean Louis Sainsevain, among others, helped make wine Los Angeles' chief product well into the 1870s, when over 6 million vines were planted in the Los Angeles area.[10]

Vignes also was the first to plant an orange grove in Los Angeles in 1834. American immigrant William Wolfskill started the first commercial grove a few years later near today's Fourth and Alameda and by the mid-1850s it was reportedly the largest in the United States and a "show place" for Los Angeles' agricultural promise. Although Wolfskill and others would experiment with dozens of potential agricultural products, it would be citrus that would provide the first agricultural "gold rush" for the Los Angeles region with the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the 1870s.[11]

The sale and purchase (of the current park parcels) for development of Southern Pacific's first yards and depots proved to be a major catalyst for Los Angeles' exponential growth over the next century. First, the Southern Pacific triggered the rapid rise from a small, remote agricultural area into a prototype for industrial agricultural in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Soon after, the region would see the oil, manufacturing, motion pictures, and aircraft industries take advantage of Los Angeles' climate and developable real estate.[12]

The civic victory in securing Los Angeles as the terminus of the Southern transcontinental railroad at River Station resulted in more than the creation of a regional agricultural center. Los Angeles, using its victory for the railroad terminus, quickly leaped past its other regional rival, San Diego, in the development of what is today the world's third largest port, rail, and air transport centers. The region's leaders soon secured, with at times great environmental and social costs, the water, power, and transportation infrastructure that served and dominated not only the city but all of Southern California. It is this

[10] Forbes 1932; McKee 1948; Kindall 1959; Gumprecht 1999
[11] Gumprecht 1999; Wilson 1965
[12] Starr 1985, 1990; Mullaly and Petty 2002; Orsi 2005

infrastructure that has helped allow Los Angeles to become the international economic power it is today.[13]

The current park property played a significant role in this meteoric transformation. The original Southern Pacific Railroad yards and the River Station as it was historically known, served as the core for Los Angeles' burgeoning agricultural and industrial development. Capitol Mill, Standard Oil, Baker Iron Works, along with other industrial plants and warehouses, were located in proximity to the railroad yards and facilities. The land became a microcosm for what was happening in Los Angeles and its coming of age as an industrial metropolis.[14]

Socially and culturally the city grew and evolved as well. The exponential population growth saw a succession of migration and immigration. The arrival of the railroads triggered a "Boom" in the 1880s. Population growth continued through the 1920s, when a large population of mostly Anglo-Americans moved from the Midwest and East seeking the utopian visions promoted by the railroads and citrus crate images. These, of course, were not the only existing or new residents to Los Angeles. However, they soon came to dominate the civic power, control the urban form and create the historical identity.[15] This population growth pattern would continue through the interwar and post-World War II eras, sparked by development friendly urban planning and the growth of the automobile culture and landscape.[16]

In the mid 20th century, the once active center of Los Angeles' rail freighting operations at River Station were relocated to more suburban locations and facilities. However, during and after World War II, the River Station continued to serve as an important early "inter-modal" facility where rail and truck freight interacted. By the 1970s, the railroad and industrial landscape that once dominated the River Station and surrounding neighborhoods had deteriorated. Old industrial properties were abandoned and closed up and the once frantic pace of activity slowed. On October 1, 1992 the Southern Pacific Railroad ended its activities and closed the property that had brought them to Southern California, and had served as the catalyst for the growth of industrial Los Angeles.[17]

This brief cultural/historical overview provides context for setting the historical activities, events, and trends of the Los Angeles State Historic Park property into the greater Los Angeles story. This should be considered a starting point for the

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[13] Erie 2004
[14] Newland and Dallas 2006
[15] Starr 1985; 1990; Deverall 2004
[16] Fogelson 1967; Bottles 1990; Hise 1997
[17] Mullaly and Petty 2002

examination and consideration of the storylines, themes, and topics that may be addressed at the Park. Research and interaction with scholars, stakeholders, and the public should be on-going to assess the interests and needs of those visiting the Park.

Existing Conditions

Cultural Resources and Interpretive Collections

Interest in the historical importance of this property is not new. The property's use as Southern Pacific Railroad's River Station and yards for over 100 years justified the property's listing as a City Historical Monument in 1971.[18] Recent investigations and studies have identified the entire 32-acre park as an archaeological site due to the presence of sub-surface remnants from over 120 years of use as a railroad facility. Other archaeological features from before the railroad era may also exist and cannot be discounted.[19] The intense focus of community members, planners, and scholars over the last decade has also uncovered cultural and historical linkages to this small piece of land that offer context to Los Angeles' greater story.[20]

The site's historical significance and associations transcend its historic land uses, and extant cultural resources, with its links to the origin of Los Angeles' meteoric rise from remote frontier community to 20th century urban megalopolis and international economic power. Its association with the first documented public works project (*Zanja Madre*) and early agriculture; the donation of land to the Southern Pacific Railroad to bring the transcontinental connection to Los Angeles in the 1870s; its role as a pioneer, hub and catalyst for the city and region's unprecedented commercial, industrial, and social growth; and its ground-breaking role in the center of an environmental justice and neighborhood empowerment struggle, all make it a unique place for tracing Los Angeles' cultural history from its origins to today[21]

Nearby and adjacent historical resources like the recently uncovered portions of the *Zanja Madre* on MTDB and private property, and associated buildings, such as the Capitol Milling Company, Standard Oil, and N.Y. Suspender Factory/California Ice Company buildings, can be considered potential cultural/historical resources for interpretation and education purposes.

The interpretive collections currently associated with the park are archaeological in nature and date exclusively to the site's railroad era. This material primarily consists of fragments, with a few whole pieces of bottles, dishware, clay bricks, clay tiles, and animal bones. The collection contains

[18] Mullaly and Petty 2002; River Station 1971
[19] Newland and Dallas 2006
[20] Aeschbacher et al. 2000; Deverell 2004
[21] see Newland and Dallas 2006

evidence of the early use of the property. Two stoneware ink bottles, for instance, were recovered near the "printing room" depicted on the 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as a part of the depot and hotel.[22]

Physical Features

The 32-acre former brownfield was basically a flat parcel with little elevation change when acquired in 2001. In 2003, State Parks began construction of interim improvements for public use, including day use and interpretive features. Clean fill soils were imported to provide the site's underlying archaeological features protection, as well as to offer topography for the park improvements. This Interim Public Use project was put on hold in 2005 when the site underwent a physical transformation for the 'Not A Cornfield' public art project. The features of this project were temporary in nature and will be removed by early 2006. However, a few features added by this project are anticipated to remain at the site: a trail around the site's perimeter (approximately one-mile of decomposed granite); approximately 1500 truck loads of agricultural grade soil; four acres of turf; and, a wooden deck with a canopy cover at the north end of the site. These features will be incorporated back into the IPU as it is completed in summer 2006.

At the south end of the Park is the only extant standing structure at the Park, "Millie's." This small, former luncheonette stand had been in operation for close to 50 years. It had been patronized by many who lived or worked in the downtown area. This structure includes a semi-enclosed, metal shed-roofed dining area. Other than Millie's roofed dining area at the southern end and the wooden deck canopy cover at the northern end, there are no trees or shade on the park property.

The noise from the nearby Gold Line light rail is loud, as is the adjacent traffic sounds from Interstate 5 and the Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway (SR 110), a National Scenic Byway designated in 2002 as the first modern urban freeway in America. The property is bordered by two busy streets (North Broadway and Spring Street) which commuters use to by-pass congested freeways. North of the property is the historic Buena Vista Bridge (commonly referred to as the North Broadway Bridge). This architecturally distinctive bridge is bisected by the double track Gold Line which runs through the framed arches.

Biological Features

Viewed from above, the site appears as an oblong parcel that has been carved over time by the Los Angeles River. The northern-most portion of the site is located approximately 150 feet from the western edge of the concrete river channel. The Park is situated on a bench just above the former floodplain of the

[22] Newland and Dallas 2006

Los Angeles River and is bordered to the northwest by the Elysian Park Hills, which rise to elevations over 700 feet above mean sea level.

Naturally occurring vegetation is sparse, limited to weedy growth dominated by plants able to exist in an urban environment. Overall the existing vegetation on-site can be classified as ruderal, generally defined as plants growing in waste places that are not necessarily non-native species. Among the plants observed on site during the General Plan study phase were mulefat, horseweed, prickly lettuce, and bristly ox-tongue.

Much like the vegetation of the site, the wildlife observed during the General Plan study phase generally included those species adapted to surviving in an urban or disturbed environment. Among the wildlife species observed on-site were: birds including killdeer, mourning dove, rock dove/pigeon, red-tailed hawk, and American kestrel; mammals, such as Beechey's ground squirrel; and, invertebrates like the Pallid winged grasshopper and West Coast Lady. More recent observations have included sparrows nesting under the North Broadway Bridge.

Environmental Influences

Surrounding Land Uses and Community Characteristics

The area surrounding the Park is primarily dedicated to regional industrial use, including warehouses and busy transportation thoroughfares. An active bus line runs parallel to the Park, as does a new Metrolink commuter line. The surrounding area contains a number of historic resources such as remnants of the city's first irrigation system, the *Zanja Madre*, and the nearby 1883 Capitol Mill building. Within a few blocks of the site are several commercial establishments, schools, a library, and a number of ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

The southern boundary of the Park is along North Spring Street. The character of this area is currently defined by industrial uses. Situated two blocks to the south is the William Mead Housing complex, the area's first low income housing project and home to approximately 2,500, primarily Latino, residents. The Ann Street Elementary School (K-6) is also nearby. The Chinatown Transit Plaza is located just a few yards from the southwestern end of the Park.

The northern edge of the Park is bordered by North Broadway Street. The character of this area is defined by rolling hills, commercial areas, and neighborhoods. Located in this area is the Solano Canyon neighborhood, a residential community established in the 1880s. Solano Canyon is surrounded by

Elysian Park and the Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway (SR 110), a recognized National Scenic Byway built between 1935 and 1940 as the first modern "freeway." At the northwest end of the Park is the Chinatown community, consisting of a mixture of commercial and residential uses with a relatively high level of pedestrian traffic. The northeast end of the Park is defined by utility and rail easements, the North Broadway Bridge, and the concrete channeled Los Angeles River. To the east, across the river, is the neighborhood of Lincoln Heights—the original East Los Angeles, which was also heavily impacted by the railroad industry.

Restoration efforts focused on the Los Angeles River continue to gain momentum, particularly with the acquisition of the Río de Los Angeles State Park property two miles to the north. This state park is to become an important element of the river greenway project, which will help to link the San Fernando foothills to the Pacific Ocean. A future bike path connecting Río de Los Angeles State Park to Los Angeles State Historic Park is being proposed.

There has been a revitalization trend over the past several years in the downtown area. A number of redevelopment projects are proposed near the Park. They include: adaptive reuse (housing and studio development) of the historic Capitol Mill building complex; an intermodal facility that will provide parking at the Blossom Plaza site; and, Homeboy Bakery, to be located across from the Chinatown Transit Plaza. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps' "Clean and Green" program, which provides environmental service opportunities to youth, ages 13 to 17, has recently moved into a building on North Spring Street, directly across from the Park. Additional residential, office, and retail developments are proposed in the civic center, which will contribute to an emerging mixed-use urban neighborhood.

With all of these development and redevelopment activities, an integral component of the expanding downtown community infrastructure is the area's cultural draws. Just four blocks south of LASHP is El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, commonly referred to as Olvera Street. Adjacent to the Olvera Street historic site is a new project known as La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, which will provide exhibit space and community programs in the historic Vickery-Brunswig Building. All of the aforementioned development, commercial, and cultural activities provide a dynamic template for which the programs at LASHP can enhance, complement, and supplement.

Visitors, Their Needs and Expectations

Potential Park Visitor Profiles and Numbers

It is anticipated that park visitors will comprise two primary groups. The first will be Angelenos, or residents of Los Angeles County. This group is projected to include residents from the neighborhoods surrounding the Park, as well as students and

instructors from the area's schools and colleges. It may also include residents, employees, and visitors from the downtown area, who will use the bus service, rail line, and bike trails to seek open space and activities offered at the Park. The second group is comprised of visitors coming from out of the area, including residents of Southern California and other areas of California, as well as travelers from other states and countries.

Potential visitors from the surrounding communities include: a high population of Asians and Latinos, many of whom live at or close to poverty levels and who are newcomers to the State; a high number of residents who are not English language proficient; people of various ages, from children to seniors; and a rising influx of residents in the redeveloped areas of the downtown city center who may be higher-income professionals. It is anticipated that once the Park is open, many people from these neighborhoods, as well as a great diversity of out-of-town visitors, will use the Park as a place to relax and recreate.

Nearby historic El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument offers an educational and recreational-shopping experience with visitation estimated at one million people annually. It is anticipated that approximately 300,000 visitors may participate in Los Angeles State Historic Park's interpretive tours and other activities when the Park is completed.

Population Trends

The changing demographic patterns of Southern California cities, as well as regions from outside this area, will affect visitor needs, the types of activities, and demand for recreational open space. These factors will undoubtedly affect the educational and interpretive services offered at the Park. Within easy traveling distance are the communities of William Mead Homes, Solano Canyon, Chinatown, Elysian Heights, Lincoln Heights, and downtown Los Angeles. The current shift in zoning from less industry to mixed use housing, office space and retail is changing the character of this area and will increase the desire for open space, recreation, and free-choice or leisure learning.

Special Concerns, Analysis, and Opportunities

Meeting Multi-Lingual Needs

Identifying methods for removing barriers to language, educational, and economic class differences is essential for the Park to provide meaningful experiences that meet the unique needs of the community, as well as echo the interpretive themes of the Park. State Parks' staff and management have identified meeting the multi-language needs of visitors to be among the key considerations. The dense urban environment surrounding the Park is characterized by a very diverse population that reflects the rich cultural heritage of Los Angeles and much of California. California State Parks will be responsive to the needs of this diverse population. The Park has an opportunity

to meet the challenge of multi-lingual needs when planning and developing interpretive and educational programs and facilities. One approach to meeting this challenge will be to utilize staff, volunteers, and community partners with multi-lingual skills. Other opportunities include working with existing volunteer/docent groups from local heritage sites who can provide support for multi-lingual interpretive program presentations and for the development of printed information in multiple languages.

Providing Meaningful Programs and Events

Developing relevant programs and events is essential for the Park to provide meaningful experiences that reflect the Park's vision and meet the unique needs of the community. Park staff and management have identified as a special consideration the need to create programs and events that are consistent with the Park's vision and interpretive themes. The significance of the site as a State Historic Park and its unique role in providing connections between park visitors and the greater Los Angeles story need to be considered as programs and events are developed. One method for ensuring that meaningful experiences are offered is by working with the community to gain input on program and event goals, topics, and content development. Another is to link to already established, as well as newly developing, programming in the surrounding area (i.e. Chinese American Museum, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, Inner-City Arts, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, and Río de Los Angeles State Park).

The property's significance to Los Angeles' cultural history both past and present has been described from the following statement of the Cornfield Advisory Committee's Cultural/Historical Work Group:

The Cornfield site is the conduit to understanding the story of Los Angeles. The resources past, present and future reveal larger cultural, economic and historical narratives reflective of the city at large through time. These resources present a unique opportunity in Los Angeles to forge a connection of people, history and place by opening a window to understanding the past and tracing the present into the future.

The Cornfield site sits uniquely at a vital geographic nexus to Los Angeles' history from its beginnings to the present. It is a vehicle for a revelatory journey through layers of history and culture, a slice through time exposing the dominant, forgotten and ignored stories alike which make Los Angeles so rich and diverse. The site embodies the culture and heritage of the pageantry of peoples in and around the site, the values of a natural, riparian environment, the pre-history of the region as embodied by the Native American village site, the region's agrarian past, the operation of the City's original public water system, and the historical site of a major Southern California railroad and transportation hub. It

expresses the story of struggle, of the conflict and cooperation that the historical flow of peoples in its neighborhoods have encountered and endeavored to resolve.

The value of the Cornfield lies in its potential to connect larger historical and social patterns to the personal stories relevant to the contemporary experience of Angelenos. It will serve as a touchstone through which Angelenos can come to see how they fit into the greater Los Angeles story.

Angelenos have been notorious at obliterating, distorting and forgetting their history. It is noteworthy, for example, that there is no museum devoted primarily to the history of Los Angeles. Cornfield park project, with its clear-cut and innate importance in Southern California's story, provides a rare opportunity to reverse that trend, by allowing an interpretive staff to revive aspects of local history and to relate them to larger patterns of California and American history[23]

[23] Cornfield Advisory Cultural/Historical Subcommittee, 2003.

3. INTERPRETIVE DIRECTION

> "No other available 32 acres holds as much opportunity to enlighten us about the history and culture of Los Angeles and this region…"
>
> Dr. Leonard Pitt, Professor of History, CSUN
> Cornfield Advisory Committee, 2002

Los Angeles today provides homes, employment, communities, and recreational destinations for millions of people. The cultural story of Los Angeles – from its origins some 10,000 plus years ago through the monumental growth and rapid urbanization of the region in the last two centuries – provides a unique vehicle for uncovering the underlying historical truths and myths of the current megalopolis that is called Los Angeles.

The history of the Los Angeles SHP property lends itself as a venue for inquiry into, and dialogue on, the rich heritage and on-going study of the region and its people. Los Angeles has often filled a special niche for study of historical subjects, such as social and ethnic studies, architecture and cultural landscape, labor and economics, industry and commerce, housing and community, environment and land use, and urban studies. A glance at but a few of the more recent studies signal an invigoration in Los Angeles as a subject.[24]

Los Angeles SHP is in a position to take advantage of recent history and historiography, along with the heightened interest in Los Angeles as subject, to encourage, sponsor, and undertake further research for planning and implementing its interpretive programs. These programs should be not only for, or by the academic or scholarly community but also should serve as a venue for social dialogue. LASHP's program content will be rooted in recent scholarship, as well as strive to gather and use, primary source materials on the Los Angeles cultural experience. Park staff should investigate primary records and sources for incorporation into programs. The park should especially serve as an important gathering point for collecting and sharing the first-person stories of the Los Angeles experience in order to help provide a richer and more complete historical narrative. Whenever possible, the park's program should include strong oral history and first person narrative components.

[24] See Scott and Soja 1996; Salas and Roth 2001; Sitton and Deverill 2001; Monahan 2003; Wolch, et al. 2004; Gottlieb et al. 2005; Deverill and Hise 2005.

Interpretive Mission Statement
The interpretive mission is to develop the 32-acre Los Angeles State Historic Park to communicate the statewide significance of the cultural history of Los Angeles, from its origins to today.

Interpretive Period
The interpretive period for Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on a "Flow of History Concept" in order to address the 10,000 plus year history of the area. The Park will provide opportunities to learn about the entire range of Los Angeles' pre-history and history, from its natural resource foundations to its contemporary urban context.

Interpretive Themes
Unifying Theme: Connectivity
Los Angeles State Historic Park's resources reveal natural, cultural, economic, and historical threads reflective of greater Los Angeles over time.

Primary Theme: Flow of History
Subtheme A: People's History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Subtheme B: History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Primary Theme: Environmental Justice
Subtheme A: Water
Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Subtheme B: Environmental Actions
By their actions, people have affected Los Angeles basin's environment, impacting the health of natural systems and communities.

Secondary Theme: Recreation
Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

Expanded Theme Statements

Primary Theme: Flow of History
Subtheme A: Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Overview

Individual stories and personal experiences of the area's native Californians and immigrant communities have the power to resonate in a collective voice that speaks to everyone. Stories associated with the long history of Los Angeles include: the early Tongva/Gabrielino people and their village of Yang-Na; Spanish colonization of the area; the transformation of the land into a Mexican pueblo; the growth of diverse ethnic communities that have contributed to the worldwide cultural influence of the city.

Background Information

Scholarship on the topic of Los Angeles' prehistory and history uncovers a deep and complex historiography that continues to evolve. The brief historiographic essay below is meant to capture the broad ideas, concepts, and subject matter related to the theme. This essay is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of the rich, diverse, and significant scholarship, themes, and/or stories of the people, places, and events associated with Los Angeles' cultural history. It should be thought of as a starting point for the establishment of research and scholarship for program development. Many hundreds of such works exist and listing, or failure to be listed, in the following does not infer judgment on their value or competence.

Ethnography and Indian History

The cultural story of the Los Angeles region dates far before Alta California's historical record of the last four hundred plus years. Archaeological evidence indicates human occupation of the Los Angeles plain and coastal strip from at least 10,000 years before present (B.P.) times. Some scholars have entertained theories of much earlier arrivals in the area, although the exact time of human arrival remains controversial. Over several thousand years the region saw a progression of *paleoindian* and archaic culture groups that some believe may have been the predecessors of the existing Indian populations.[25]

[25] McCawley 1996; Dillon 1994.

The region directly surrounding the park is the known territory of the Tongva/Gabrieleno peoples. The influence of these prehistoric people was far reaching. They held the territory of a large section of Southern California that includes much of the Los Angeles basin and several of the Channel Islands. Previous scholarship believed that the Tongva/Gabrieleno were recent entrants into California, possibly only 1,500 or so years before present. More recent research now proposes that they may have been occupying the area for well over 4,500 years. In either instance, archaeological and ethnographic evidence indicate that the prehistoric Tongva/Gabrieleno were a prosperous, adaptable, and creative people who along with their northwesterly neighbors, the Chumash, were one of the most populous, wealthy, and prosperous California Indian groups.[26]

The study of the region's prehistoric past has evolved significantly from the mostly ethnocentric and often culturally insensitive interpretations of Native American culture in the 19th and early 20th centuries,[27] into the pastoralist images of missionaries and Indians[28] toward the scholarship of the last few decades which has focused on more scientific interpretations of material culture remains, ethnographic studies, and the direct input and participation of the Native American peoples themselves.[29]

This is also true of the cultural studies of the history of native peoples since the Spanish Colonization and American conquest of the region in the historic period. Social, ethnic, and cultural historians of the last few decades have offered more comprehensive studies to reinterpret the historical narrative of the Native peoples. These studies have helped uncover and understand the devastating effects of the Euro-American conquest on the Tongva/Gabrieleno and other native peoples. From the effects of the Spanish Colonial missionaries, soldiers, and settlers[30], to the effect of Mexican Republicanism on land use and economy[31] and beyond to the American Period,[32] scholarship on Native American historical narrative and experience continues to move toward a more thorough and contemplative assessment of their heretofore hidden or suppressed histories.

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[26] McCawley 1996; Dillon 1994.
[27] See Reid 1888; Caughey 1952; Heizer 1974; Warner et al. 1877.
[28] See James 1914; Englehardt 1927.
[29] See Johnston 1962; McCawley 1996; Heizer 1978; Hurtado 1988; Fagan 2003.
[30] Cook 1978; Castillo 1991; Jackson 1995.
[31] Monroy 1990; Gonzalez 1997; Sandos 1997.
[32] Heizer 1974; Haas 1995.

Historiography

The history of Los Angeles is in many ways typical of that of California as a whole. The earliest documentation dates to that of the Spanish Colonial explorers, missionaries and settlers.[33] Narratives of the Mexican Republic Period focused on the internal struggles of the territory and Los Angeles' unique role as leader of secular power and ideals in the "revolutionary politics" of the time. [34]

However, as with much of California's historical narrative of this period, the Anglo American sojourners of the Mexican Republic and early American Periods dominated the early chronicles of the City and community's history from their viewpoint. Nineteenth century Hispanic narrators such as Antonio Maria Osio and Francisco Ramirez[35] were often overshadowed by the works of Jonathan Warner, Benjamin Hayes, and Harris Newmark to name but a few.[36] Even the first person narratives of pioneering Hispanics gathered dutifully by Hubert Howe Bancroft's prolific "history company" in the 1870s and 1880s fell victim to "sweetened," biased, and sometimes patronizing idyllic visions of the City's origins and diverse ethnic residents. [37]

This vision would be greedily swallowed by boosters and promoters who helped craft what later scholar Carey McWilliams would tout as the "Spanish Fantasy Heritage" of the city and region. It was "booster historians" at the turn-of-the-twentieth century such as James Guinn (1901), Charles Fletcher Lummis (1909) and John McGroarty (1923), who not only spun this fantasy heritage of its Native and Hispanic roots to meet the needs of the new dominant Anglo American society's civic, business, and racial ideals, but used it to justify Los Angeles' meteoric rise from frontier community to economic power in but two short generations. As the self proclaimed "City of Destiny," Los Angeles and the Angelenos were bred, taught, and sold to believe that their City was the trendsetter, the place where Americans came to find the American Dream.[38] And the majority of their historical narratives reflected the doctrine of unbridled progress and prosperity that justified the unparalleled economic and demographic growth Los Angeles experienced at the time.

As modern Los Angeles became the urban phenomenon of the 20th century, pioneer scholars such as sociologist Emory Bogardus,[39] economist Rockwell Hunt, anthropologist Manuel Gamio,[40] and lawyer, scholar, and social critic Carey

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[33] See Costanzo 1992; Nunis 2004.
[34] Bancroft 1886; Tays 1943.
[35] See Osio 1996; Pitt 1966.
[36] Warner and Hayes 1877; Bell 1881; Newmark 1930.
[37] Bancroft 1886.
[38] See McWilliams 1948; Starr 1985; Kropp 1999; Deverell 2004).
[39] Bogardus 1927; 1930
[40] Gamio 1931

McWilliams,[41] searched for, and exposed the multi-ethnic stories and histories that had paralleled the rise of the economic and cultural dominance of the region. Most specifically they uncovered the narratives of the Mexican and Mexican American populations of the region that as historian William Deverell noted had been "whitewashed" from the record.[42] Such studies, aside from the success and acclaim of McWilliams' work, generally continued to be overshadowed by the progress focused local histories produced from Professor Owen Coy's prolific local history program at USC or those from the halls of venerable archival institutions such as the Southwest Museum and Huntington Library.

And it was those early scholars of the "hidden" ethnic histories of Los Angeles who in the 1960s and 1970s set the precedent for the opening of the "New Social History" to examine those stories and narratives of the under-represented, or misrepresented groups and individuals that still made up a large segment of Los Angeles' population.[43] Fueled also by the Civil Rights Movement of the times, Chicano, African American, Asian American, Native American, and Women's Studies programs soon provided new, voluminous, sophisticated, and insightful analyses and voices to the Los Angeles historical narrative.[44] These scholars have been the inspiration of much of the recent study of the Los Angeles story that provides innovative scholarship in the social, economic, political, and urban history of the region, and subsequently the state and nation.[45]

In the last two decades or so, Los Angeles has become a lightning rod for students and scholars in urban planning, sociology, and history alike. Scholarly programs at major universities such as UCLA, Cal State Northridge, Long Beach State, UC Irvine, Occidental, and USC all now have active Los Angeles or Southern California studies programs. Partnerships and dialogues between longtime cultural institutions, universities, civic and local community groups are growing as residents, visitors, and policy makers look to find common ground for understanding and interacting as inspired by the so-called "LA School."[46] For most of these programs, the opportunity for civic dialogue, both to discuss the individual, as well as the collective history and narrative, is a key to helping their goals to provide Angelenos a better opportunity to understand and decipher not only the past, but the present, and to hopefully guide the future.

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[41] McWilliams 1946, 1948, 1949
[42] Deverell 2004
[43] See Pitt 1966; Griswold del Castillo 1979; Romo 1983; Rios-Bustamonte 1993.
[44] See De Graff 1970; Ruiz 1987; Haas 1995; Hayashi 1995; Monroy 1990; 1999; Hise 1997.
[45] See Avila 2004; Orsi 2004; Erie 2004; Wild 2005; Flamming 2005; Sides 2005 and compilations such as Salas and Roth 2001; Sitton and Deverell 2001; Wolch, et al. 2004; Gottlieb et al. 2005; Deverell and Hise 2005.
[46] See Monahan 2003; see also Davis 1990; 1998.

With a similar mission, LASHP park programs need to tap into the current flow of scholarship and partner with the numerous institutions and organizations to find a niche for fostering, encouraging, and presenting the on-going study, dialogue, and experience of Los Angeles' cultural story.

Social Memory

Although perseverance, strength, and pride are among the enduring values for the communities and neighborhoods surrounding LASHP, their histories of struggle, discrimination, disenfranchisement, and injustice also reflect major trends and events in Los Angeles' history. The past vigilantism against Indians and Hispanics of the 1850s and 1860s, the Chinatown Massacre of 1871, the forced relocation of old Chinatown to old Sonoratown in 1933 to make way for Union Station, the severing of Solano Canyon and Elysian Park for the Pasadena Freeway in the 1940s, and the relocation of the Chavez Ravine community in the 1950s for proposed public housing projects and later Dodger Stadium, all had direct connections and/or impacts on the physical landscape, continuity, and psyche of the people and communities surrounding the former River Station yards.[47]

Today, the people and communities of the local surrounding neighborhoods recall these years. In their personal stories and memories, the feelings of disenfranchisement in regard to their issues and concerns for the once active and vibrant industrial and working class neighborhoods. Yet, the social and personal histories of the area along with the less than pleasant tales of railroad hobos and transients living in dugout caves beneath the Broadway Street Bridge, the rounding up of poor vagrants to county work camps and the repatriation of Mexican and Mexican-American workers from the freight docks of River Station in the 1930s, along with the lost promises of playgrounds and parks from the City and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1950s, all provide narratives of Los Angeles' history that have often been overshadowed or hidden from the greater civic story.[48]

Success stories are also often just as hidden. The story of New Chinatown re-establishing itself near the park along North Broadway helps to provide context for the greater history of the Angelenos. Although displaced in the bitter 1930s battle over the Union Station site, Chinese community leaders took advantage of opportunities to recreate their new neighborhood. Following the moniker to "Cooperate So As To Achieve", and taking advantage of new laws to recognize Chinese-American veterans of World War I and Pro-Chinese sentiment during World War II, New Chinatown became a solid and successful business and residential community. Its population doubled in the 1950s, after the Communist

[47] Pitt 1966; Dillon 1994; Greenwood 1996; Cuff 2000; Aeschbacher et al 2000
[48] Aeschbacher et al 2000; Garcia and Flores 2005

takeover of China triggered a new wave of immigration. Additional immigrants from Southeast Asia would also arrive and settle in the decades after the Vietnam War.[49]

Thus the communities around River Station continued to follow the patterns of earlier immigrant groups in adding to the 20th century ethnic mix of Los Angeles. In 1990 the population of Chinatown and the surrounding communities of Solano Canyon and the William Mead Housing Project (established in 1943) continued to hold onto their heavily ethnic majorities.[50]

Perhaps one of the greatest success stories in Angelenos' recent history is the formation of the Chinatown Yard Alliance and its ultimate contribution in helping to create Los Angeles State Historic Park. The Alliance brought together an unprecedented group of over thirty-five community, civil rights, traditional environmental, environmental justice, religious, business, and civic organizations and leaders.[51]

Under the moniker of the Chinatown Yard Alliance for the Cornfield (an old railroad worker's nickname for the lower yard used to help associate the historic uses of the property as open, common public land)[52], a heroic effort was made to stop the Majestic Realty warehouse project. The Chinatown Alliance challenged the determinations of the City of Los Angeles and Majestic Realty that the property no longer had any historical significance since closing of the River Station as a rail yard. Soon other concerns as to the economic viability of the warehouse project also cast shadows over its success. In 2001 the Chinatown Yard Alliance, with legal help from the Environmental Justice in Los Angeles Project, successfully challenged the project's environmental review process and effectively "derailed" the project. Although still a recent event to this planning document, the efforts of the Chinatown Yard Alliance and its individual members and organizations, may prove over time to be one of the most important environmental justice and "Quiet Revolution" community empowerment stories in the City's annals.

Community involvement continued after the acquisition of the property by California State Parks in 2001. In order to ensure that the community continued to be involved in the park planning process, Senate Bill 1177 was passed, establishing a Cornfield Advisory Committee. This committee consisted of thirty-six members representing the communities and property owners surrounding the Park, environmental justice and civil rights organizations, historians, business

[49] Dillon 1994; Aeschbacher et al 2000.
[50] [1990 census numbers: 42% Asian; 17% AfrAm; 30% Hispanic; 11% White].
[51] Garcia and Flores 2005.
[52] Newland and Dallas 2006.

leaders, educators, local/state/federal governmental agencies, and non-profit groups.

A 2003 report completed by the Cornfield Advisory Committee identified important historic events and significant stories of people's struggles to be further investigated for representation in the Park, including:

- Immigrants who first arrived and settled in this area
- The discrimination suffered by many ethnic groups in area
- The Chinese Massacre – the lynching of Chinese in nearby El Pueblo more than 100 years ago
- Exploitation and deportation in the 1930s, and later, as thousands of Mexican immigrants were sent back to Mexico out of Union Station
- Chinatown Yard Alliance – coalition of community groups that successfully fought City of Los Angeles and developers to save land from warehouse development.[53]

Consideration of these and other historical themes, topics, events, and personal stories will help us to better understand the people and place that is Los Angeles. Interpretive programming at the Park will provide a broad approach for reflecting Los Angeles' "Many Histories and Many Voices."

Primary Theme: Flow of History
Subtheme B: History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Overview

The park site has been a route of transportation and commerce throughout its history. Located within bustling transportation and river corridors the Park provides a place to reflect on the commercial and industrial activities that have shaped the city.

The park's specific land use history reveals its historical and cultural significance. Its prominent location on shelf-land above the Los Angeles River provided a physical nexus to this essential natural resource in the semi-arid region. Prehistoric culture groups such as the Tongva/Gabrieleno utilized the area for thousands of years prior to Euro-American contact. Documented commercial activities date from the settlement of the area in the 18th Century through Los Angeles' growth from small frontier community to a 21st century urban metropolis. The site's role in early water development (*Zanja Madre*) and

[53] Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee 2003.

agriculture, and the Southern Pacific Railroad's actions as a catalyst for industrial and infrastructure development and population growth parallel Los Angeles' urban, economic, and social histories [54]

Background Information

From prehistoric to Spanish Colonial times, through over a century as a major railyard, the Park property has been associated with numerous activities that reflect the evolution of the transportation, infrastructure, and commercial growth in Los Angeles.

Village of Yang-Na

The Tongva/Gabrieleno people, living in the village of Yang-Na located in the general vicinity of the park property wielded influence over territory that included much of the Los Angeles basin and several of the Channel Islands. The Tongva/Gabrieleno, especially in the late prehistoric and protohistoric periods had a complex social system and highly adaptive culture. They practiced a hunting/gathering economy with a strong maritime influence. Trade and intermarriage with neighbors and distant groups was typical. Technological innovations and specialized skills such as canoe building and other crafts, as well as healing, were organized and highly regarded. The Yang-Na area in the vicinity of the park property would have been a part of this trade system.[55]

In August 1769, when the Spanish Colonial expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá arrived at, camped, and crossed the future park property, they found an active Tongva/Gabrieleno village (Yang-Na). Fr. Juan Crespi and engineer Miguel Costanzo documented the journey and from them comes the first descriptions of the area around today's Park. From these first Spanish descriptions and recommendations came the idea to locate a civilian agricultural settlement nearby.[56]

El Pueblo

Governor de Neve ordered a new pueblo to be established to take advantage of the river and fertile river valley to assure its success as an agricultural community. Although all land was deemed the property of the King of Spain, the pueblo was assigned one square league of land for its use. The Governor directed that house lots (*solares* or *sitios*) be established around a public plaza and assigned them to each settler family. The original plaza appears to have been located somewhat northeast of the current plaza that is the center of El

[54] See Newland and Dallas 2006 for detailed narrative and citations to the specific land use history.
[55] McCawley 1996; Dillon 1994.
[56] Costanzo 1992; Crespi 2001; Estrada 2003.

Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. In addition, large planting lots (*suertes*) were laid out between the plaza and river to the south and east and also assigned to individual settlers. The remaining lands were either set aside for future settlers or as common planting lands (*propios*). The land to the north of the plaza up to the river (including the Park property) was originally established as common planting lots (*propios*). [57]

Early Commercial Enterprises: Agriculture

One of the first and most important tasks undertaken was the excavation of the *Zanja Madre*, or main irrigation ditch to bring river water to the plaza and fields. The settlers took advantage of local Indian labor to dig the ditch from the intake at a brush and pole dam located on the river just north of the current North Broadway or Buena Vista Bridge location. The presence of the *Zanja Madre* through the lot of the future park property made it valuable to the new community, although its location was considered "out of town" well into the 1870s. [58]

The earliest record of documented agricultural use of the park property dates to 1804, although it may have seen some planting earlier. The prominent Avila family was reported to have used the property. According to the testimony of their great-grandson in 1914, the Avilas had been some of the first to plant vineyards and had done so on the lands that became the Southern Pacific Railroad's rail yards (current park property). These vineyards may have been some of the earliest in Los Angeles and the predecessors to Los Angeles' first important industry. By 1817 City records indicate a formal grant of the area to Francisco Avila.[59] In that same year the Pueblo reportedly had over 53,000 vines under cultivation and in the early 1820s was producing over 325 gallons of wine annually. Viticulture continued as Los Angeles' top agricultural activity into the 1860s.[60]

Shortly thereafter change occurred in Los Angeles and Alta California. In 1821 Mexico won its independence from Spain and Alta California had become a territory of the new Mexican Republic. The political and social control of the military and religious leadership began to switch to the secular and private sector—and also to native born *Californios*. Being the largest civil settlement in the territory (over 650 residents by 1820), Los Angeles and Angelenos began to have more and more economic and political influence. The Mexican Government opened up trade with foreign ships and legalized immigration of

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[57] Poole and Ball 2002; Estrada 2003; Dillon 1994; Ord Map 1849.
[58] Gumprecht 1999; Deverell 2004; Dillon 1994.
[59] Avila Property File, Stearns Papers LACA
[60] Bancroft 1886; Deverell 2004; Mason 1998; Poole and Ball 2002; Dillon 1994; Harlow 1976; McKee 1948.

foreigners. Many of these visitors, some from New England and Europe, found Alta California to their liking, converted to Catholicism, and became Mexican citizens.[61]

One of the more well known of these immigrants, Abel Stearns, became the next documented owner and user of the park property. In 1843 Stearns appears to have purchased the land including the lot directly south of the current park property where he established a mill for grinding local grains. The Stearns Mill, currently the site of Capitol Mills, reportedly replaced an earlier mill built by another early American immigrant, Joseph Chapman, in the 1830s. Although Chapman had one of the largest vineyard holdings in the pueblo in the 1820s and 1830s, it is uncertain if he used the current park property. Stearns owned the mill and park property until his death in 1871, when it transferred to his wife, Arcadia Bandini de Stearns.[62]

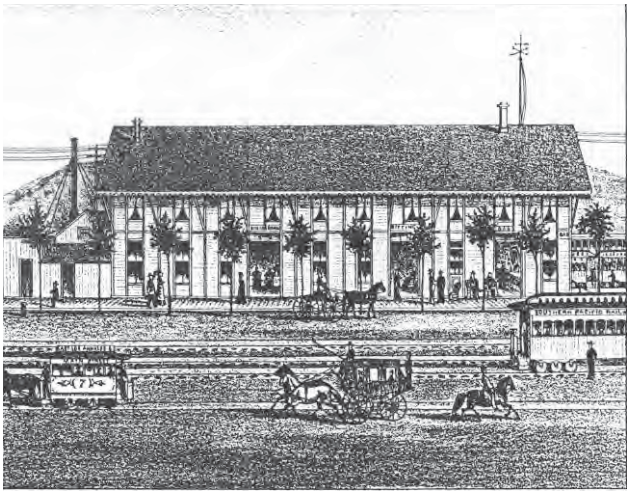
Southern Pacific Railroad's River Station

It was at this time that the development of the property changed rapidly and radically. Los Angeles had been considered a potential terminus or hub for a southern transcontinental railroad since the federal railroad surveys of the early 1850s. Although San Diego appeared to have an advantage with its natural harbor, local citizens and leaders continued to promote Los Angeles and its agricultural prowess and river water supply as the logical choice to bring a railroad. In 1872 the Southern Pacific Railroad Company offered to build a rail connection north to San Francisco and Sacramento and then east to Yuma and beyond. They requested payment in the value of 5% of the county's total land value, the existing Los Angeles and San Pedro railroad (built in 1869 from L.A. to Wilmington), and land for use as a station and yard. Later that year the citizens approved a bond issue for the funds and to comply with the other demands of the railroad.[63]

[61] Monroy 1999; Nunis 1997.
[62] Fedewa 1970; Wright 1977; Deverell 2004; City Clerks Records, LACA.
[63] Mullaly and Petty 2002; R. Orsi 2005.

Construction of the rail line from both directions commenced the next year and by 1876 had connected Los Angeles to the north and the transcontinental railroad. The Southern Pacific (SP) quickly built a small freight house and depot on the future park property facing San Fernando Street (North Spring) that opened as Los Angeles Junction or the "River Station" in 1875. Over the next decade Southern Pacific would purchase the north parcel, referred to on some maps as the Bull Ring, and continued to expand its facilities. In 1879 the two-story Pacific Hotel, with its featured "parlor sitting room" and 25-minute meal service for through passengers was opened next to the depot.[64]

Passenger traffic was such that a new depot and hotel with a restaurant had replaced the original depot by 1883 to take advantage of the completion of the southern transcontinental route to New Orleans. The SP then moved the original depot building to the southern end of the property and incorporated it into a newly expanded freight house. By the mid-1880s a 26-stall roundhouse with turntable, coaling & wood house, full set of maintenance shops, and most importantly for the citrus industry, a large icing facility, had been built on the expanded property.[65] For the next decade the River Station served as the main headquarters for SP's operations and passenger and freight service. As early as 1880 the SP had become the town's largest employer with 300 employees and over a hundred living in the new residential and commercial neighborhood surrounding the station property.[66]



The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad caused a short boom in the 1870s. Los Angeles' population more than doubled during the decade going from 5,728 to 11,170 by 1880.[67] What today appears to be modest growth continued to reflect a diverse multi-ethnic population. By the 1870s, in addition to the existing Hispanic, Indian and naturalized Mexican populations, small but active French and Italian communities had established themselves in areas to the north and west of the plaza near the Roman Catholic church and cemetery on Buena Vista Street (North Broadway). Spurred by fishing, road, and railroad construction a small Chinese community, numbering roughly 200, had been established by 1870 in old "Negro Alley" southeast of the plaza and along

[64] Mullaly and Petty 2002; Thompson and West 1880; Stevenson Map 1876; 1884.
[65] Stevenson Map 1876; 1884; Sanborn Map 1888.
[66] Mullaly and Petty 2002.
[67] Mullaly and Petty 2002.

Alameda, where the Union Station sits today.[68] Such was the cosmopolitan nature of the citizenry in the 1870s that visitor B. F. Taylor noted in 1878 that Los Angeles was a place in which one could hear Spanish, German, Italian, French, Chinese, and English spoken regularly.[69]

The success of the Southern Pacific Railroad also helped sell Southern California and Los Angeles to the rest of the country. When the Santa Fe Railroad completed its transcontinental line to Southern California in 1885, a price war was triggered, and the Great Land Boom of the 1880s began.[70] A year later, SP made an agreement to allow the Santa Fe to use its River Station for passenger service, and for a short while, it was noted on timetables as the "Union Depot." Within two years the population of Los Angeles grew to over 50,000. Streetcars, paved streets, sewers, and a new water system were needed to deal with the massive growth. Suburban neighborhoods soon spread out to the east across the river and to the south and west of the old plaza and downtown. In 1889 the Los Angeles Electric Railway Company built trolley lines down both Buena Vista (North Broadway) and San Fernando (North Spring) in an effort to connect these "streetcar suburbs" to downtown. The line on San Fernando Street required a large viaduct to lift the line above the multiple SP tracks that crossed the street adjacent to the Capitol Mill. Southern Pacific also built a raised catwalk across the center of the rail yard to allow workers safe passage to and from North Broadway. [71]

With such an expansion in traffic, the new depot at River Station proved inadequate to handle the volume. In May 1887, only a year after completing new additions to the 1883 depot, SP announced plans to build a grand new station two miles south on Alameda near 4th Street. In 1889 the ornate Arcade Depot was opened and served as the main SP passenger terminal until 1915. The River Station depot/hotel continued operations until it was demolished in 1902 to make room for expanded freight service. Shortly after the turn of the century the Southern Pacific purchased a brick storefront building on San Fernando Street to serve as the yard office and as a commuter stop, until passenger service at River Station ended in 1924.[72]

With the Arcade Station handling the majority of passenger service, River Station was expanded to handle the massive volume of freight, mostly from Southern California's burgeoning citrus industry. In 1897 the River Station freight yards were extended another 1,500 feet down Alameda Street where several massive shipping houses were built. It was about this time that the turntable,

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[68] Poole and Ball 2002; Estrada 2003.
[69] Dillon 1994.
[70] Dumke 1944.
[71] Fogelson 1967; Mullaly and Petty 2002; LA Electric 198x; Sanborn Map 1906.
[72] Mullaly and Petty 2002; River Station Files 1876-1920.

roundhouse, and maintenance shops were dismantled and shop activities moved to a new and larger Los Angeles General Shops across the river in Lincoln Heights.[73]

For the next twenty-five years River Station took on the role of nerve center for Southern Pacific's multi-million dollar freighting operations in Los Angeles. State engineer's noted at the time that "The present freight business is the backbone of Los Angeles commerce, and upon it depends the growth and prosperity of the city."[74] Los Angeles' sudden and massive transformation into an economic and industrial power literally passed through the River Station. By the 1910s, River Station employed four to five hundred workers on around-the-clock shifts. They moved nearly 85,000 freight cars a month through the yard.[75]

The intensive railroad activity also had its effect on the nature and development of the area surrounding River Station. The former agricultural areas around River Station quickly became surrounded with railroad and other industrial activities. In 1885 Herman Levi and Jacob Loews purchased the Capitol Mill and expanded it into a five-story structure with its own railroad siding. Standard Oil built one of its first refinery facilities on Aurora (now Baker) Street adjacent to the river and the rail yard. The Baker Iron Works on North Broadway, along with numerous foundries, manufacturers, and other shops soon found proximity to the rail yards invaluable, filling the area east of the station with a mixture of industrial plants and warehouses that mixed with the small bungalows and boarding houses of the railroad workers.[76] At the same time the City's new water department lined the *Zanja Madre* with concrete and brick to improve efficiency and sanitary concerns. By 1905 the old zanja system that had been the original water source for the pueblo had been replaced with the new system, set to handle the influx of Owens Valley water for the region.[77]

By the turn of the twentieth century the rapid growth of the facilities and activities at River Station were but a small microcosm of what was happening in Los Angeles. In 1900, Los Angeles had doubled its population over the previous decade and was now a city of over 100,000 residents. During the next several decades the exponential demographic and economic growth of the region would be unprecedented. Starting with the Great Boom of the 1880s, thousands of new residents, mostly from the Midwest and Eastern United States, transformed the city's demographics into an Anglo-American majority who came to fulfill the new Southern California version of the American Dream. Sold

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[73] Mullaly and Petty 2002; River Station Files 1876-1920; Sanborn Maps 1906; River Station Map 1913.
[74] Mullaly and Petty 2002:51.
[75] Mullaly and Petty 2002; LA Times 5/1/1901; River Station Files 1876-1920.
[76] Census 1900; 1910; Sanborn Map 1906; River Station Map 1913; Mullaly and Petty 2002.
[77] Layne 1952; Dillon 1994; Gumprecht 1999.

on mass marketed visions of year-round sunshine in an Arcadian paradise, these new residents quickly transformed the 19th century village into an urban and suburban metropolis in less than a generation.[78]

Economically, the success of the railroads triggered a financial boon for the citrus industry that made it one of the most profitable industries in the country and inspired local and federal leaders to build a free harbor at San Pedro. Soon after the local petroleum industry and the invention of the gasoline-powered automobile brought added industrial might, suburban sprawl, and individual mobility, to the region. Los Angeles became a center for manufacturing household and other goods. By the 1920s the motion picture and entertainment industry would also settle its burgeoning economic and cultural force on the region. Thus the city and county's continued growth, into the millions during the 1920s, solidified it as not only a national demographic and economic power but also as a purveyor of mass culture.[79]

The suddenly older, industrial areas, such as River Station and its surrounding ethnic and working class neighborhoods (Sonoratown, Solano Canyon, El Pueblo, Old Chinatown, Lincoln Heights, and the riverfront), saw a different version of Los Angeles' industrial and economic growth. The ethnic Mexican, Italian, German, Irish, and Chinese communities, who often provided the workforce for the railroads and the rapidly growing industries along the riverfront, continued to exist within the urban industrial landscape of the area. In 1908 the city zoned these neighborhoods east of North Broadway within Industrial District #1, although they still were home to thousands of poor and working class residents. The idyllic visions of life in Southern California found on the sides of citrus boxes, in promotional pamphlets, or in the new palm tree lined suburbs of the burgeoning city were not the same experiences of those who were now living in what many contemporaries deemed "the wrong side of the tracks." [80]

Rise of Metropolitan Los Angeles and Decline of River Station

The economic and industrial growth that had been literally passed through and around River Station in the first quarter of the century had helped set the foundation for Los Angeles' coming of age as a metropolis. The economic clout of the oil, film, citrus, manufacturing, rail and shipping industries suddenly dominated West Coast business. The Great Boom of the 1920s cemented Los Angeles as not only the new economic and industrial power but also as a prominent financial center. In addition, the new motion picture industry and subsequent entertainment machine, helped to create and promote Los Angeles

[78] McWilliams 1946; Fogelson 1967; Starr 1985, 1990.
[79] Starr 1990; Sitton and Deverell 2001; Bottles 1987.
[80] Deverell 2004; Wild 2005; Monroy 1999.

throughout the world as the land of the American, and subsequently California, dream lifestyle.

With the population growing exponentially each decade, and the reliance on the automobile, vast suburban sprawl soon occupied tracts of land throughout the city and county, following the newly-paved boulevards, highways, and eventually freeways to provide Angelenos with their suburban dream homes. Although the Great Depression of the 1930s slowed Los Angeles' growth rate, the boom of World War II and the Post-War proved even more prosperous than the inter-war years, adding the Aerospace Industry to the region's economic prowess. Post-war Los Angeles' growth rate neared 50% and from the end of World War II through 1970, more than 30 new cities would be incorporated as 4.5 million new residents migrated into the metropolitan region. [81]

As Los Angeles spread out and decentralized so did the Southern Pacific Railroad. The expansion of freight traffic was such that in 1925, SP transferred supervision of its freight operations from River Station to its newer, much larger facilities at Taylor Yard two miles north on the east side of the river. From this point onward, River Station became an adjunct facility to Taylor Yard. In 1931, SP also completed a new double-track line along the east bank of the river to reduce the amount of freight routed through downtown. Although transformed in status, River Station continued to be an important facility. In 1935, it became

the key station for SP's "Overnight" *Coast Merchandise Express* freight trains to San Francisco and Portland. During and after World War II, the River Station site served as an important early "inter-modal" facility, where rail and truck freight interacted. In 1953, SP initiated some of the first trailer-on-flat car (TOFC) container service at River Station. By the 1960s, River Station still served the few remaining industrial clients, although year by year businesses and factories also

[81] Fogelson 1967; Hise 1997; Erie 2004.

moved out to newer and larger industrial complexes away from the city center.[82]

By the 1970s, the railroad and industrial landscape that had dominated the River Station and its surrounding neighborhoods was deteriorating. Old industrial properties was abandoned and closed up and the once frantic pace of activity slowed. The opening of newer, larger yards and facilities throughout the five county metropolitan areas signaled the demise of the "downtown" Taylor Yard and River Station as rail facilities. Although Southern Pacific renamed River Station the "Spring Street Intermodal Center" in 1984, the formal closure of Taylor Yard in September 1985 foretold the River Station's fate. On October 1, 1992, Southern Pacific ended formal rail activities and closed the property that had brought them to Southern California, and had once been the hub of early industrial Los Angeles.[83]

Primary Theme: Environmental Justice
Subtheme A: Water
Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Background Information

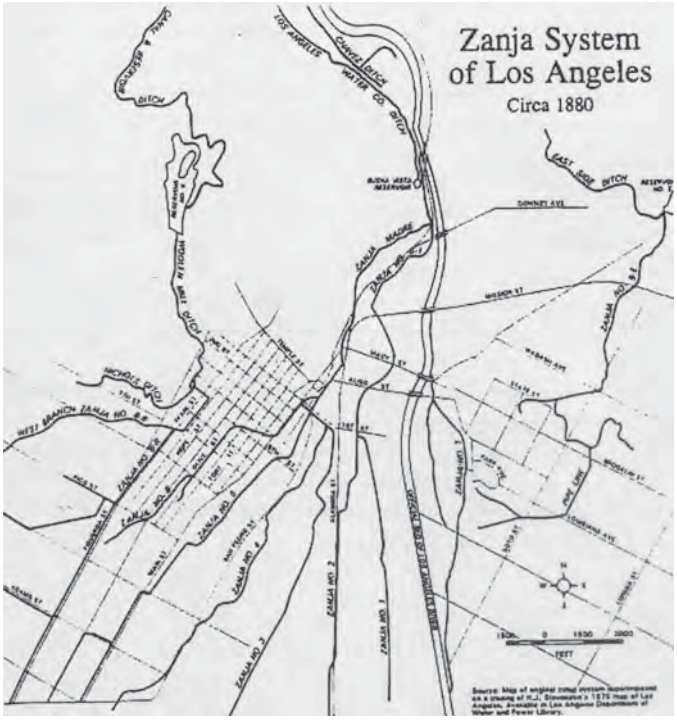
On August 2, 1769, the Gaspar de Portolá Expedition arrived at the river and valley that they would name in honor of the festival day of *Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de la Porciuncula* (Our Lady of the Angels of Porciuncula), which they celebrated the day prior. This description from Fr. Juan Crespi of the river and valley comes from his original diaries:

> This river flows on down nearly at ground level through a very green, lush, wide-reaching valley of level soil some leagues in extent from north to south; ...which runs continually onward with a great amount of trees, lie very large, very green bottomlands, looking from afar like nothing so much as large cornfields... to my mind this spot can be given the preference in everything, in soil, water, and trees, for the purpose of becoming in time a very large plenteous mission... and so we have proclaimed it The River and Valley of *Nuestra Senora de los Angeles de la Porciuncula.*[84]

[82] Mullaly and Petty 2002.
[83] Mullaly and Petty 2002; Cenzatti et al. 2000.
[84] Crespí 2001:337-339.

Public Distribution of Water: Zanja Madre

The importance of the river in the siting, development, and early success of the pueblo of Los Angeles is related in the previous background sections. Specifically the *Zanja Madre* and irrigation system that connected the river to the plaza traveled through the lots of the future park property. The *Zanja Madre*, or main ditch, entered the north end of the current Park property and was cut along the high bank that is now separated from the Park by the MTA light rail line. This location's higher elevation from the bottom lands to the east and south of the plaza helped propel the water through the system. The *zanja* system was the first, and most successful and essential, public works project for the new *pueblo.*[85] This connection to the river and its subsequent distribution system helped make the fledgling frontier settlement an agricultural success, when many others in Alta California struggled. It also served as an important symbol for the community, such as its regular use in the annual *Baños de Las Virgenes* (Bath of the Virgins) ceremony (it is believed that the early name of North Broadway as Bath Street was linked to this association).[86]



The area's association with water was further enhanced after the Flood of 1815. From that event until another flood in 1827 the main channel of the river had shifted to along the route of today's Spring Street. Pueblo residents were forced to move the original plaza to its current location. In the 1820s the water table had saturated the area along today's "Spring Street" due to springs, known as the "Avila Springs," flowing in the vicinity of where College Street now meets Alameda Street .[87]

After the establishment of the *pueblo* and the development of the *Zanja Madre* on its western boundary, the future park property's focus during the Spanish and Mexican Republic periods continued to be associated with agriculture and additional attempts to secure and distribute a consistent water supply. During the 1850s and 1860s the *zanja* system, although scorned by the Americans as

[85] Ord Map 1849; Moore Map 1868.
[86] Gumprecht 1999; Deverell 2004; Dillon 1994.
[87] Gumprect 1999; Estrada 2003

antiquated and unhealthy, was expanded and a city position of *Zanjero* (ditchman) created to oversee the system.[88]

Private Distribution of Water: Water Wheels

In addition to the public water distribution system, private water companies were formed. One of the first was William Dryden's purchase of the old Avila Springs. Dryden formed the Los Angeles Water Works Company and in 1858 erected a 40-foot water wheel along the *Zanja Madre*, as well as a brick reservoir in the plaza. A photograph and several maps of the 1858 water wheel appears to locate it along the bluff to the west of the park property north of Bishops Road's intersection with North Broadway. The wheel lifted water from the *Zanja Madre*, to the bluff along Broadway where it ran in wooden pipes, down to the reservoir at the plaza. Storms and floods during the heavy winter of 1861 reportedly destroyed the water wheel, as well as the dam and intake for the *Zanja Madre*, ending Dryden's system. Another water wheel and dam would be erected just north of the park property along the river in 1865 by Jean Louis Sainsevain, nephew of pioneering French vintner Jean Louis Vignes. This wheel lifted water to North Broadway and stored it in a reservoir next to the Roman Catholic cemetery (now site of the catholic high school). This water wheel would be damaged in the Floods of 1867 and made obsolete in 1870 with the completion of a new river intake and reservoir further upstream.[89]

Death of a River

The massive industrial development of the Southern Pacific Railroad yards at River Station and the surrounding areas soon changed the relationship of growing Los Angeles to the river. As many recent historians have explained, this was linked to concerns that civic and business leaders of the early 20th century had for the area's most unpredictable and destructive resident—the Los Angeles River. For the 19th century community, the regular and destructive flooding episodes of the river were the price paid for its supplying the small frontier community with a steady water source in the arid region. Yet, after the railroad companies' major capitol improvements – bridges and miles of track – were regularly washed out during the major flood years of 1883-84, 1885-86, and 1889, the river became an enemy of the city's economic future. When the Floods of 1913-14 and 1916 caused damage in the millions of

[88] Gumprecht 1999; Aeschbacher 2000.
[89] Moore Map 1868; Dillon 1994; Gumprecht 1999; Aeschbacher 2000.

dollars to not only railroad property but also industrial and residential areas that now crowded the river in numbers not seen previously, the City Engineering Department began major plans for installing flood control measures on the river.[90]

The "problem" with the river however, also triggered some early attempts at dealing with the physical, social, economic, and aesthetic issues associated with its taming. As early as 1907, Progressive era social reformer Rev. Dana Bartlett had called for a "City Beautiful" plan that would have built a series of decorative bridges over the river. Railroads and roadways would travel along a reclaimed park-like esplanade paralleling the river that could be planted to hide adjacent industrial buildings and warehouses. City Beautiful planning expert Charles Mulford Robinson followed with a report calling for a parkway system that radiated out from the city center. Businessman and civic leader Joseph Mesmer followed Bartlett and Robinson's plans with his own concept a few years later. Mesmer's plan had similar goals but a different aesthetic, calling for the concreting of the channel to create miles of parapet walkways with beautifully landscaped park lands adjacent to the river yet concreted to provide some semblance of flood control.[91]

The last and most notable of the landscape architects were Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. and Harland Bartholomew and their plan developed in 1930. Although Olmstead, son of the famed park builder and designer of Central Park, and Bartholomew, designer of Westwood Village, had great credentials, their plan for miles of riverfront parkways did not inspire City business and political leaders to come forward with the funds or the leadership to implement it.[92]

When the devastating Flood of 1934, which killed dozens of poor people living in the "Frogtown" neighborhood along the river, and the larger Flood of 1938 killed nearly one hundred and destroyed millions in property, the urgency for flood control changed. Limited to a scope of Depression Era budgets and expensive and time consuming acquisition of lands adjacent to the river, the Army Corps of Engineers moved forward with a goal of controlling floods – not creating parks. Armed with $70 million, the Army Corps was set loose and within a few years had widened and deepened most of the River into a concrete flood control channel. With little or no aesthetic value, the "new concrete river" of the engineers did control destructive flooding, but also, as many critics, scholars, and now historians have noted, created a physical and symbolic dividing line between the industrial landscape of Los Angeles and some of its most disenfranchised residents and neighborhoods.[93]

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[90] Gumprecht 1999; Deverell 2004; Orsi 2004.
[91] Gumprecht 1999; Deverell 2004.
[92] Hise and Deverell 2000.
[93] Gumprecht 1999; Deverell 2004; Orsi 2004.

At the turn of the 20th century, the Los Angeles region experienced several devastating floods that caused enormous amounts of property damage and significant loss of human life. To 'control' the river, the Army Corps of Engineers began to channelize the 52-mile stretch of the main channel and the river's major tributaries. Today, over 95% of the region's historic wetlands have been destroyed.[94]

Saving the Los Angeles River

When in the 1990s the Southern Pacific Railroad, and its new owners, the Union Pacific Railroad, looked to divest itself of the River Station property, the community and other interested parties, took advantage of the opportunity and the changes in local government empowerment to address their needs and concerns. By the late 1990s, the civic landscape had changed from the days when government, civic, and business leaders removed whole communities with little or no voice from those directly affected.

The Environmental Movement of the 1950s and 1960s had had a great effect on the role of citizens and communities in land use planning and development. In California, passage of laws such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 1970 now required public input to be considered during development projects. The movement also brought the issues of environmental health, clean water, and public open space and parklands into the mainstream. By the 1990s, the public input process had matured in order to provide "environmental justice" support for underrepresented and disenfranchised individuals and communities. The opening of a voice for civic dialogue to these people and communities also helped ignite the political empowerment of local neighborhood councils and community groups in what is becoming known to planners and urban scholars as the "Quiet Revolution." [95]

In Los Angeles, which had experienced unprecedented urban development and sprawl, one of the environmental issues that caught the attention of many Angelenos during this period was the Los Angeles River. Leading the fight for the river was the grassroots organization, Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR). Formed in 1986, this non-profit group of concerned citizens worked to rally support for the reclamation and restoration of the Los Angeles River and its surrounding neighborhoods "through inclusive planning, education, and wise stewardship." Starting in 1991, FoLAR, joined by scholars, design professionals, citizens, and politicians, focused efforts toward the closed rail yards at Taylor Yard and River Station in furthering river restoration plans and subsequent neighborhood revitalization. [96]

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[94] California State Coastal Conservancy 2000; Orsi 2004.
[95] Pincetl 1999; Gumprect 1999; Cenzatti et al 2000; Monahan 2003; Orsi 2004; Pitt 2000.
[96] Gumprecht 1999; Cenzatti et al. 2000.

In 1998, in a joint planning effort with USC School of Architecture, FoLAR organized four planning sessions in the surrounding neighborhoods. These sessions spawned the "River Through Downtown" Conference that gathered elected officials, community members and activists, design professionals, and environmental groups. From this, FoLAR created a design for the property that would have included mixed-use housing, commercial and retail space, park, recreation, and open space, a school, and a "canal" to represent and interpret the historic *Zanja Madre*.[97] FoLAR's ability to bring these diverse groups together resulted in the partnering of community and business groups in and around Chinatown and the site in an effort to reconnect the surrounding communities and the site to the river.

In 2001, California State Parks sponsored a feasibility study to consider the significance of the property and its possibilities for becoming a state park. When State Park's feasibility study identified the property's potential for contributing to a Los Angeles River parkway and its potential historical significance to the greater story of the City and its people, California State Proposition 12 Park Bond Funds were used to purchase the property for State Parks.[98]

Concurrently, in response to the efforts, needs, and demands of the Chinatown Yard Alliance and neighborhood residents, local and state politicians established a mandated Cornfield Advisory Committee to ensure public input to a vision for the new state park. The Advisory Committee completed their report in Spring 2003.[99] The public input and parks planning process continued, resulting in the State Parks Commission's approval of the classification and naming of the property as Los Angeles State Historic Park in June 2005. In addition, State Parks quickly obtained capitol outlay funds for interim public use (IPU) improvements at the site. These plans also received Advisory Committee and public review and facilities should be available for public use in Summer 2006.

Primary Theme: Environmental Justice
Subtheme B: Environmental Actions
By their actions, people have affected Los Angeles basin's environment, impacting the health of natural systems and communities.

Overview

The Park is a laboratory that enables the study of the choices humans have made and their consequent impacts on the environment.

[97] Gumprecht 1999; Cenzatti et al. 2000.
[98] Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan 2005.
[99] Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee 2003; Flores and Garcia 2005

Background Information

Human Impacts on the Los Angeles River Watershed

Los Angeles State Historic Park lies adjacent to the historic floodplain of the Los Angeles River. The 52-mile river once meandered freely over the coastal plain, through broad valleys shaded by sycamore, cottonwood, and alder interspersed with marshes, ponds, lakes, and impenetrable thickets of willow and wild grape.[100] The watershed had a vast system of freshwater and brackish wetland habitats, riparian woodlands, and coastal dunes.[101] The people, who are now called Tongva/Gabrieleno, lived in at least 40 permanent villages within the Los Angeles River Watershed taking advantage of the abundant wetlands and riparian areas that provided game, seafood, and a variety of seeds, fruit, and root vegetables for their sustenance. [102]

In 1769, the Spanish expedition arrived in search of suitable locations for mission, military, and civilian settlements. Attracted by the ample water supply and fertile soil of the region along the newly named Rio de Porciuncula, the Portola expedition recommended establishment of a civil settlement along the river. Spanish Colonial authorities established El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles in 1781, with its main plaza not far from the location of Los Angeles State Historic Park. The establishment of the Spanish Colonial institutions (Mission San Gabriel in 1771 and El pueblo de Los Angeles in 1781) in the region had a profound effect on the region's wetlands and native habitat. The early Spanish and Mexican settlers built dams and dug canals, known as *zanjas*, to divert water from the main channel of the river to irrigate fields and supply the community with domestic water. The system drained marshes and riparian forests throughout the watershed, and overcultivation of the land eroded the rich floodplain alluvium, reducing much of the coastal plain to barren wash and gravel.[103]

The explosive growth of Los Angeles at the turn of the 20th century also put an enormous strain on an already overtaxed Los Angeles River watershed. Throughout the region, water was siphoned from the river and groundwater for agriculture and municipal use. The construction of the Owens Valley Aqueduct in 1913 reinvigorated the region with a plentiful supply of water but also sealed the fate of the Los Angeles River. The river had been reduced in some areas to a sewage drain by the industries that lined its banks.[104]

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[100] Josselyn 1994.
[101] Garrett 1993.
[102] California State Coastal Conservancy 2000.
[103] Josselyn and Chamberlain 1993.
[104] Gumprecht 1999; Orsi 2004.

With the city no longer dependent on the river for water, there was no need for residents and businesses to be closely located near the river. Development expanded outward from the river's banks onto the coastal floodplain. Prior to development, the valley floors had served as immense settling basins for the infrequent but copious amounts of rainfall from winter storms. Now, large areas were paved over for industry and residential communities, substantially reducing the amount of permeable land and putting more humans and industry in the path of the unpredictable and destructive river floods.[105]

Los Angeles is a biodiversity and endangered species "hot spot"

Despite rampant urbanization, Los Angeles is still surrounded by significant tracts of open space. There are few places in the country that are as rich and diverse in habitat and plant and animal communities.[106] In particular, the Los Angeles River and its tributaries continue to harbor a rich biota in its soft-bottomed and channelized sections. The Audubon Society has documented over 200 bird species that use the Los Angeles River for foraging, nesting or as a stopover on the Pacific Flyway migratory path.[107] Ironically, the clash of development with Los Angeles' rich biodiversity has also made the region the endangered species "hotspot" of the continental United States.[108]

Turning a Brownfield into a Greenfield

Brownfields are industrial properties that range from old gas stations and abandoned rural dumps, to urban petrochemical complexes and abandoned railyards. The expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of these properties may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. It is estimated that there are between 450,000-600,000 brownfields in the United States. Fueled by the environmental justice movement and the need to provide inner city communities with much-needed open space and the adoption of "smart growth" policies that seek to limit urban sprawl, the conversion of brownfields into greenfields became more rather commonplace in our cities.[109]

The conversion of the abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad yard into Los Angeles State Historic Park is a once-in-a-century opportunity to create a park in one of the most park-poor communities in Los Angeles. LASHP will also serve as a catalyst for the long-term vision of a Los Angeles Greenway along the maligned and neglected 51-mile corridor of the Los Angeles River.

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[105] California State Coastal Conservancy 2000; Gumprecht 1999; Orsi 2004
[106] Clarke and Fisher 1997.
[107] Garrett 1993.
[108] Wolch, Pastor, and Dreier 2004.
[109] Trust for Public Land; Environmental Justice book 2005.

Secondary Theme: Recreation
Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

Overview

From vast areas of open space to smaller pockets of intimate space, recreation in the Park can represent an expression of – and connection to – cultural identity and heritage. Public spaces such as parks have provided generations of Angelinos with an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while maintaining family and community traditions.

Background Information

Recreation as a Window to LA's Land Use Past

Angelinos' need for recreational open space has been constant, ever since the beginning of Los Angeles' urbanization. For the neighborhoods surrounding Los Angeles State Historic Park and the Los Angeles River, a historical legacy of unfulfilled visions and opportunities exists.

From the early 20th century a number of visionary plans centered around providing recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River. As noted earlier, Progressive era social reformer Rev. Dana Bartlett, "City Beautiful" planning expert Charles Mulford Robinson, and businessman and civic leader Joseph Mesmer all had unfulfilled plans for beautifully landscaped park lands adjacent to the river in the first few decades of the last century.[110]

The most notable, but also unfulfilled plans for adding open space and parks to the rapidly urbanizing region was from famed landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. and Harland Bartholomew. Although Olmstead, son of the famed park builder and original planner of the California State Park System, and Bartholomew, designer of Westwood Village, had great credentials, their plan for miles of riverfront parkways did not inspire City business and political leaders to come forward with the funds or leadership to implement.[111]

Therefore engineers moved forward with a goal of controlling floods--not creating parks. Armed with $70 million the Army Corps was set loose and within a few years had widened and deepened most of the River into a concrete flood control channel. With little or no aesthetic value the "new concrete river" not only did not control the destructive flooding but also, as many critics, scholars, and historians have noted, created a physical and symbolic division

[110] Deverell 2004; Gumprecht 1999.
[111] García and Flores 2005; Deverell and Hise 2003.

between the industrial landscape of Los Angeles and some of its most disenfranchised residents and park-poor neighborhoods.[112]

Even the area's most established recreational open space resource, Elysian Park, has endured constant threats. Created in 1886, the park originally had 550 acres, ultimately growing to over 600 acres. Over the years the park boundaries have shifted and been chopped away: portions slid in 1937; another was turned over to the Police Department for a training academy; in 1940, 30 acres were severed by the Pasadena Freeway; and, in 1959, another 30-acre parcel was ceded to the Dodgers baseball franchise, in exchange for an equal segment located between Rose Hill and the Arroyo Seco.[113]

In the past twenty years, a shift in attitudes towards the development of Los Angeles' urban parks has come from those who argue against a view of the city and humans as separate from nature.[114] As noted in the multi-disciplinary UCLA study, "Cornfield of Dreams," the now named Los Angeles State Historic Park has the opportunity to help connect people with their natural environment. This connection is summarized from the report:

> This environmental turn in the conception of the park sees the park not as an oasis of greenery in the urban world, but rather as a manifestation of the ecosystem which supports the entire urban area. Similarly, there is some realization that the "park as nature" is inseparable from the "park as recreation" and that therefore a more inclusive way of creating parks needs to be developed.[115]

Recreation as Cultural Identity and Heritage

The cultural roots of recreation in the Los Angeles area reach beyond the creation of urban parks and outdoor spaces during the past few centuries.

For the Tongva/Gabrielino, their settlements included large cleared areas which were used as playing fields for races and games.[116] The people enjoyed a variety of games and contests, such as dice, hoop and pole games, and races.

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[112] Deverell 2004; Gumprecht 1999; Orsi 2004.
[113] Pitt 1997; Cuff 2000.
[114] García and Flores 2005; Louv 2005; Aeschbacher et al 2000.
[115] Aeschbacher 2000.
[116] McCawley 1996.

These games were not only fun but also mentally and physically challenging. Traditional games included: hoop and pole, played with reed poles and four-inch hoops of willow wrapped with buckskin; *chaawchawkel*, a dice game played by two contestants; *chuurchorke* (peón), a guessing game played by two teams of four players each; and shinny, a field game in which the ball or puck is moved with a stick.[117]

In the midst of all this healthy competition, people were aware of the dangers of excess, as demonstrated in the Tongva story of Coyote and Water.

> Coyote came to the edge of a small river one day. Looking over the bank, he saw that the water ran very slowly. "How about a race?" he asked, looking sly. "All right," the water answered, very calmly. Coyote ran along the bank at full speed until he was so tired he could hardly stand. Then he looked over the bank, only to see the water running smoothly on.[118]

Recreation for Latinos in Los Angeles often involved *fiestas*. Activities included bull and bear fights, bullfighting, horseracing, *carrera del gallo*, rodeos, cock fights, games of chance (like Monte), music, dancing, special foods, and pageantry.[119] Many fiestas were associated with holy days of the Catholic Church.

Within the decades following statehood, however, such recreational and social activities became less associated with religious activities and more associated Mexican nationalism and cultural identity.[120]

> Before the Anglo-American period, community celebrations had religious overtones. But as the city became more and more an Anglo-controlled center, Mexicans found it less important to publicize their religion and more important to emphasize their political ideology and ethnic origin. Fundamental loyalties shifted away from the Church and landlords and toward idealistic sentiment of Mexican nationalism.[121]

Other ethnic, national, and regional groups in Los Angeles also found ways to celebrate and promote their cultural identities within their new home. In addition to the tokenistic participation in larger municipally created events as "La Fiesta" or the "Mission Play," the local Mexican, Italian, Chinese, and French

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[117] Gendar 1995; McCawley 1996.
[118] Gendar 1995.
[119] Pitt 1966; Monroy 1990.
[120] Monroy 1999.
[121] Rios-Bustamante 1982.

communities in the vicinity of the current park integrated their cultural traditions through music, theater, festivals, and social gatherings. [122]

Recreational festivals and celebrations continue to expand in scope as Los Angeles' ethnic diversity grows. Vibrant activities that display the area's complex cultural heritage, include: African American Heritage Celebration; Chinatown Golden Dragon Parade; LA Greek Fest; Los Angeles Korean Festival; Nisei Week Japanese Festival; Polish Film Festival; Reel Rasquache – Festival of the U.S. Latino Experience in Film and Art; Senior Talent Show; and, Thai Cultural Day to name but a few.[123]

Recreation as a Means of Connecting Cultures

The diverse ethnic festivals and community events in Los Angeles provide important venues for enhancing cultural identity and preserving cultural heritage. Yet, these types of recreational activities also allow various people with other ethnic traditions to better understand and appreciate the area's broader cultural heritage. In general, recreation has the ability to promote positive contact between different ethnic groups, opening communication in a non-threatening atmosphere. During recreation and leisure time, people are less concerned with differences and more concerned with having fun.[124]

Recreational activities like gardening can help to activate social and cultural memories. For instance, a garden could be created by growing medicinal herbs used by the area's former Tongva residents and by the current Latino and Chinese residents. In this way, residents could combine knowledge and traditions to create a garden that connects cultures and communities.[125]

Other forms of recreation such as games are deeply rooted in cultures around the world. One such universal game is cat's cradle, known in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Western Hemisphere, and the Pacific. String games, as well as board/table games, street/playground games, field games, and party/festival games have been adapted by diverse ethnic groups yet retain similar traditions that have stood the test of time.[126]

Recreation and Cultural Connections as a Source of Discovery

For over 100 years, the area around Los Angeles State Historic Park has served as the city's backyard – a conglomeration of railroad tracks, warehouses, and

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[122] Poole and Ball 2002; Deverell 2004; Pitt 1997.
[123] City of Los Angeles 2005.
[124] California State Parks 2005.
[125] Aeschbacher 2000.
[126] Grunfeld 1975.

factories, heaps of scrap metal, pallets, and other materials and equipment needed to keep the industrial corridor operating from day to day. This area at the same time held mystery – places where only the owners and workers had access, where varieties of goods and products came and went at all hours. They were places of discovery and yet familiar, like our own backyards, tool sheds, carports, and garages.

Nearby are some of the city's oldest neighborhoods and communities. William Mead Homes, Solano Canyon, and Chinatown, among others, each containin an assortment of commercial buildings and markets, playgrounds and schools, homes and libraries. Neighborhoods like many others, yet each with its own cultural and historic identity, ethnic ties, and common language. Like the streets of industrial activity, these neighborhoods and communities can seem like foreign worlds unto themselves. Indeed, many are home to people who have recently traveled hundreds or thousands of miles just to live here, sacrificing family, friends, and their own familiar surroundings in hopes of a better life.

For those who take time to explore these surroundings, a world of discovery awaits. For the casual walker or bicyclist, the details become much more apparent. Becoming aware of everyday places and ordinary things like power lines, railroad right-of-ways, alleys, fences, even highway interchanges can open up larger ideas that invigorate the mind and entice understanding. Awareness can build to mindfulness and the enduring pleasure of seeing and thinking about what one notices.[127]

Unfortunately, the outdoor experiences that older generations enjoyed are hardly a reality for today's youth. Increasingly, nature is becoming more of an abstraction than reality – something to watch, to consume, to wear, and to ignore. A child today can tell you about the Amazon rain forest – but not about the last time he or she explored the woods in solitude, or lay in a field listening to the wind and watching the clouds move.[128]

In his groundbreaking book, *Last Child in the Woods*, child advocacy expert Richard Louv identifies the lack of children's connections with the natural world as "nature-deficit disorder." Yet, Louv encourages readers that the solution is in our own backyards.[129] For hundreds of thousands of children that live in the area, Los Angeles State Historic Park will hopefully become their backyard.

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[127] Stilgoe, 1998.
[128] Louv 2005.
[129] Louv 2005.

4. INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

This section has been developed to identify the types of facilities, programs, and services that could enhance visitor experiences at Los Angeles State Historic Park. These recommendations are created more in the spirit of interpretive opportunities rather than as definitive concrete projects. Suggested interpretive facilities include:[130]

- Orientation Plazas
- Visitor Center
- River to City Trail
- Archeology Discovery Sites
- Storytelling Circles
- Cultural Gardens
- Multi-purpose Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater
- Workers' Park – Celebration Areas
- Pedestrian Bridge

Educational and Interpretive Goals

California State Parks' envisions considerable usage of the Park by school groups from the greater Los Angeles area. The California Department of Education's Frameworks and Content Standards will be utilized when planning and developing interpretive facilities and programs for the park, to support and sustain relationships with the educational community. The Park's General Plan identifies seven Educational/Interpretive Goals in Chapter 4: The Plan. These goals and their respective guidelines – combined with suggestions generated at interpretive planning workshops with many communities surrounding the park, form the basis for the interpretive recommendations. These Educational and Interpretive Goals are:

- Develop interpretive facilities and programs that encourage the public to share Los Angeles' cultures, experiences, perspectives, and histories.

- Assist the Department in meeting its goal of increased diversity by reducing barriers, strengthening partnerships, and providing interpretive facilities and programs that encourage public participation.

[130] The current version of the Los Angeles SHP IMP will be updated upon completion of the Conceptual Design Competition in 2007. Many of the specific land use and facility recommendations in this draft are to be considered conceptual and will be subject to change within the overall vision, mission, and guidelines of the General Plan.

- Maximize the use of interpretive facilities to enhance visitor experiences with the park's resources, the surrounding environment, and the region's year-round temperate climate.

- Explore traditional, new, and innovative technologies and techniques for developing the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

- Create meaningful educational and interpretive opportunities to promote lifelong learning.

- Create a comprehensive strategy for supporting ongoing interpretation and educational programs for the Park.

- Strive to achieve park management goals through interpretation, including public safety, land use, critical resources, human impacts, resource management strategies, and other issues.

Interpretive Concepts

Los Angeles State Historic Park is a blank slate that is full of potential as a cultural landscape. The following concepts are reference points for park development to ensure that the Interpretive Recommendations are incorporated to protect, enhance, and perpetuate the historical significance of the property.

Portals

Los Angeles State Historic Park is a portal to Los Angeles. The idea of "portals" or "gateways" is intrinsic to the sense of place for this Park, linking cultural, natural, and recreational heritage to people, places, and events. As one travels through the Park, portals provide a constant reminder of the significance of the many stories of Los Angeles.

Flow of History/Cultural Layers

The Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan discusses a Preferred Park Concept entitled "Los Angeles Flow of History." The concept emphasizes the transformation of the site from a former rail yard and brownfield to a verdant park and gathering place to examine, experience, and celebrate more than 10,000 years of the history and culture of Los Angeles.

The Flow of History is not linear and finite, but is layered and growing. As knowledge of the history of the property and the surrounding communities is gained and documented from multiple perspectives, the search for more information should always be pursued and act as a place holder for the future to ensure the story is never ending.

Connectivity

Los Angeles State Historic Park is centered in the heart of the City and is viewed as a cultural tapestry woven over time, stitching the varied historic events into one dynamic story. This story is directly connected to the nearby Los Angeles River. Over the years, this area has been severely disturbed as railroads have been built, the river has been channelized, and highway development has bisected neighborhoods. Reuniting Angelinos and visitors with the river and with the historic evolution of the site is an essential component of the connectivity concept.

Circulation throughout the park should connect visitors with thematic stories that resonate with the hopes, struggles and triumphs of the people of Los Angeles and inspire visitors to investigate meanings and relationships that helped shape the area historically. Regional connectivity using informal or formal media to historic neighborhoods, historic parks, museums, trails, and other points of interest outside the park boundaries is an essential component of the connectivity concept. They offer a microcosm of the evolving human landscape that is the distinct phenomenon of Los Angeles.

Design Considerations

As the park is designed, the following should be considered to meet the Park's Interpretive Direction and Themes addressed in the previous section, as well as the Interpretive Concepts discussed above:

Multiple Historic Perspectives

- Include the lesser known, untold stories of Los Angeles
- Leave room for unfinished and evolving stories
- Capture the many layers of history
- Address issues such as cultural identity, social justice, and displacement of communities

Educational/learning landscapes

- Promote experiential learning
- Optimize the surrounding environment as an effective setting for learning
- Accommodate diverse learning styles for formal and leisure learning

Surrounding Communities

- Recognize the cultural significance of neighborhoods, historic sites, structures, and objects
- Provide interpretive connections between the park and the surrounding communities

Additional design considerations should include: flexibility of spaces; operations/maintenance; storage needs; and, visitor safety.

Orientation Plazas

Points of entry into a park can provide both a transition into a park and a connection with a park's surroundings. Orientation plazas at Los Angeles State Historic Park will serve as welcoming gateways that lead visitors on their journey through the park. These spaces will reinforce the concept that the Park is a portal to the broader stories of Los Angeles.

Recommendation for orientation plazas at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Establish access points into the Park and develop design standards for these "gateway" areas that will create a sense of arrival and establish an initial identity and sense of place for the Park. Design standards and guidelines for access points should distinguish primary and secondary gateways. (Aesthetics 4)

- Create a sense of entry and arrival at the Park. Provide easily accessible orientation and information that will permit visitors to choose from a range of available park experiences. (Access 1)

- Explore opportunities to provide convenient and safe pedestrian and cycling access throughout the Park, with connections from communities along North Broadway. Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to consider pedestrian bridge possibilities over the Gold Line right of way. (Access 4)

- Use the area's natural and cultural features as design references for developing the interpretive facilities, integrating a variety of public art media to enhance the visitor experience. Consider incorporating elements, such as simple, shade-producing roofing structures, grass, and trails, to delineate the former location of the park's significant natural and cultural resources. (Interpretation 18)

- Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story. (Interpretation 8)

- Develop visitor use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation. (Facilities 4)

Interpretive Objective(s):
Visitors will
- Be interested to learn about the history of Los Angeles during their visit to this historic park.

- Understand why Los Angeles is recognized as a magnet for immigration.

Interpretive Theme: Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history.

Interpretive Methods and Media:
- Portals, exhibits, signage, art, and hardscape features will direct park visitors into the interpretive flow of the park.

- Incorporate the existing "Millie's" structure into a visitor contact station.

Visitor Activities:
- Gateway and initial orientation to the Park.

- Meeting place for groups and visitors.

- A place for posting public announcements.

Visitor Center

Within a state park, a visitor center is among the first places where visitors will go to obtain a general orientation to the park's resources. Interpretive exhibits and other media can be included to enhance visitor understanding of the park's key messages.

The recommendation for a visitor center at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Determine if a statewide and regional need exists for an interpretive facility that could provide expanded opportunities for interpretive media and educational programs, and evaluate the feasibility and benefits of providing such a facility. A structure could be located within, or in close proximity to the park. (Interpretation 7)

- Coordinate interpretive programming with other California State Parks in the Los Angeles region, enhancing significant stories associated with the area's cultural heritage, such as Pío Pico State Historic Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, and the Taylor Yard Site (Río de Los Angeles State Park). (Interpretation 5)

- Consider the development of an interpretive feature in or preferable nearby to the Park that provides permanent and temporary exhibits interpreting the cultural history of Los Angeles. A facility could also provide park orientation and visitor information services. The design should be integrated with the surrounding open space and outdoor interpretive exhibits and activity areas. (Interpretation 6)

- Use a holistic interpretive planning approach for the site that connects the interpretive themes and messages of the Park with the creative use of open space. Develop outdoor interpretive facilities that can serve as multi-use areas to reduce development of the Park's open space. Determine the specific needs for the park's interpretive services that require indoor space. General needs may include space for: exhibits, exhibit fabrication and storage; museum collections, offices, meetings, workshops, conferences, lectures, and training; library and research areas; interpretive program supplies and equipment and an alternative location for outdoor interpretive programs during inclement weather. (Interpretation 15)

- Create accessible interpretive facilities and programs, which include a well-trained staff, which can effectively provide educational and interpretive services that meet visitors' diverse needs. Employ guidelines, such as *All*

Visitors Welcome: Accessibility in State Park Interpretive Programs and Facilities and *California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines.* (Interpretation 3)

- Offer park programs that meet the diverse needs of students, parents, instructors, and schools. This includes programs such as, in-school programs, after-school programs, remote learning programs, student internships, professional mentoring, and student service projects. (Interpretation 21)

- Establish a program to preserve and interpret the personal stories and experiences of the people associated with the area's multi-faceted history. Use methods such as oral history, written first person narratives, and photographs, maintaining a current contact list. (Interpretation 24)

- Partner with educational institutions using the latest technology to create virtual learning opportunities for long distance visitors. (Partnerships 7)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will
- Become aware of the people, places, and events that have shaped Los Angeles over time.

- Be motivated to continue their visit in the Park's outdoor exhibits.

- Understand that Los Angeles SHP is a portal to other sites in Los Angeles.

- Engage in virtual experiences of the Park and of other sites within Los Angeles and the California State Park system.

- Learn more about using their five senses in the park.

Interpretive Themes:

<u>Unifying Theme: Connectivity</u>
Los Angeles State Historic Park's resources reveal natural, cultural, economic and historical threads reflective of greater Los Angeles over time.

<u>Primary Theme: Flow of History</u>
Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Primary Theme: Environmental Justice
Water
Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Environmental Actions:
By their actions, people have affected Los Angeles basin's environment, impacting the health of natural systems and communities.

Secondary Theme: Recreation
Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history

Interpretive Methods and Media:

- Permanent exhibitions: 3-dimensional, tactile and/or computerized interactive map for visitors to experience the layers of history and specific land use changes over time; interactive stations depicting the local history of the various ethnic communities and neighborhoods of the area; exhibits with objects and text interpreting the people, places, and events that have shaped Los Angeles and its global influence; diorama(s) or model(s) depicting the evolution of the site, including the railroad era and displays of the site's archaeological materials.

- Temporary exhibitions: displays of materials/collections from other State Parks, museum institutions, groups, or individuals related to the Park's interpretive themes.

- Discovery room: "Friends and Families of Los Angeles" – a "living" exhibit that allows visitors of every age to create and share their personal experiences connected to Los Angeles through various media (audio, visual, written, artistic, etc.)

- Classroom/studio: record oral histories; document cultural demonstrations/techniques; generate live broadcasts of interpretive programs to educational groups [i.e. Parks On-line Resources for Students and Teachers (PORTS) distance learning programs]. Workshops, demonstrations, and lectures: related to the area's arts, culture, and history.

- Auditorium/performance space: lectures, conferences, and presentations related to the Park's interpretive themes.

- Demonstrative kitchen for preparing and interpreting foods prepared by different cultures.

- Interpretive sales/food service area: publications and souvenirs related to the Park's interpretive themes such as crafts made by local artisans of various cultural groups. Refreshments that represent the foods of the diverse ethnic communities of Los Angeles.

- Boardwalk/Interpretive overlook: a physical connection between the Visitor Center and the significant vistas of the site, such as the view of the downtown Los Angeles skyline and the Broadway Bridge with hills and mountains in the distance. This may also serve as a type of "trailhead" for visitors to continue their journey throughout the Park.

Space for Other Activities:

- Information counter with space for visitor-staff contacts, park brochures and a resource kit check-out and storage areas.

- Visitor comfort areas including coat/package check, restrooms, seating areas, water fountains.

- Research / Archive Center with workspace, library, and secure storage.

- Workroom/Classroom and supplies/equipment storage area to support programs for school group visits, Junior Rangers, and outreach (include space for 2-4 portable interpretive "discovery" carts and portable audio-visual equipment)

- Collections storage having temperature and humidity controls with security.

- Staff offices and related storage

- Interpretive sales area with secure storage and office space

- Food service and storage space with eating areas.

River to City Trail

Trails in parks provide pathways to discovery. A trail at Los Angeles State Historic Park can provide a physical link throughout the site's 32 acres with interpretive connections to the multi-layered history reflected in the surrounding area.

The recommendation for an interpretive trail at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Provide meaningful interpretation that incorporates multiple perspectives, including those of the park visitor. (Interpretation 2)

- Consider incorporating an interpretive trail throughout the Park that acts as a spine or thread to unify site development and interpretive themes. This trail could be a symbolic timeline that allows for the chronological/sequential presentation of important elements of the history and culture of Los Angeles. (Access 6)

- Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies, as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story. (Interpretation 8)

- Provide learning experiences that engage one or more of the senses to enhance the intellectual understanding of park messages. (Interpretation 17)

- Create a variety of visitor experiences by providing visitors with positive natural fragrances and sounds, such as the scent of landscape plantings and the sounds of birds and water. Consider buffering traffic and transit line noise with appropriate materials. (Aesthetics 5)

- Parkwide vegetation management should establish a native vegetation framework that enables it to become part of the regional Los Angeles River natural open space network and supports the Park's connectivity goals. The framework should use naturalistic native plant associations that will emulate the historic landscape of the Los Angeles Basin and provide a visual identity to the Park. This framework should allow specific landscape treatments for

specific areas of the Park that would be compatible with the overall vegetation concept. (Natural 5)

- Develop interpretation for park visitors explaining how nonnative species can alter all types of vegetation communities. In addition, interpretation should address how non-native plants become established in the absence of a native ecosystem in an urban environment. (Natural 15)

- Explore opportunities to link pedestrian and cycling trails within the Park with neighborhood and regional transportation systems, including regional trails. (Access 3)

- Explore opportunities to provide convenient and safe pedestrian and cycling access throughout the Park, with connections from communities along North Broadway. Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to consider pedestrian bridge possibilities over the Gold Line right of way. (Access 4)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will

- Understand that the Los Angeles River has supported families and communities - migrants and immigrants - for thousands of years.

- Remember that the development of the City of Los Angeles depended on the Los Angeles River.

- Appreciate the engineering and labor it took to create and maintain the *Zanja Madre* and the water wheel in order to divert water from the Los Angeles River.

- Gain a better understanding of the importance of the area's industrial history.

- Discover the variety of individuals, communities, and events that are associated with Los Angeles' past.

- Find out how the world has impacted Los Angeles, and how Los Angeles has impacted the world.

- Develop connections to the pre-history flora and fauna found in wetland or riparian habitats indicative of the Los Angeles River.

Interpretive Themes:
Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Water
Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history

Interpretive Methods and Media:

- Create a timeline that captures the varied stories of individuals, communities, places, and events that represent the ethnic, cultural, labor, and social history of Los Angeles (i.e. Peoples' History).

- Create physical connections to serve as portals from the park to surrounding community and other Los Angeles cultural and natural sites (i.e. linkages to other museums and parks).

- Construct a viewing platform with a clear line of sight to the original *Zanja Madre* located near the park's perimeter.

- Develop a realistic or artistic representation of the original *Zanja Madre* and waterwheel.

- Create a multi-sensory experience with a variety of native plants.

- Produce publications in a variety of formats (self-guiding brochure, trail guide, activity booklets, and souvenir booklet) in multiple languages.

- Develop interactive video and audio guides using portable devices (i.e. cell phones, iPods)

Visitor Activities:
Self-guided and guided walking tours.

Archaeology Discovery Sites

Archaeology provides a physical link to the past. A few artifacts and features have been located at Los Angeles State Historic Park, reflecting the site's use as a railroad station and yard. However, many other artifacts and features have yet to be discovered and await future investigations, including those from the pre-railroad era of the California Indian, Spanish and Mexican periods. Nearby archaeological finds include remnants of the historic *Zanja Madre* lying a few yards outside of the current park boundaries.

The recommendation for Archaeology Discovery Sites at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Explore the possibilities for interpreting the sub-surface cultural resources of the site's transportation-era past, through excavation and exposure, as well as publications, public programs, and identification markers. (Interpretation 9)

- Conduct archaeological surveys, site recordation, testing, and evaluation for cultural resources within the Park. Nominate those resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources. (Cultural 1)

- Establish academic and scholarly partnerships and enable volunteers to assist in conducting historical research, archaeological fieldwork, site monitoring, and interpretive programs. (Cultural 4)

- Develop criteria for determining which archaeological sites and features are appropriate for on-site public interpretation through excavation and exposure. Assure that such interpretive programs balance site interpretation with protection and preservation as directed in Departmental and professional guidelines for the treatment of cultural resources. (Cultural 10)

- Integrate potential recreational uses with other operational facilities to ensure that the planning, design and construction preserve and emphasize key elements of the natural and cultural environment. (Recreation 2)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will

- Understand how water played an vital role in the development of the area.
- Gain a broader understanding of how the railroad contributed to the growth of Los Angeles.
- Become familiar with the general lay-out of the land during the railroad era (location of various structures and track) and the types of activities that occurred there.
- Learn how the River Station served as a vital transportation center for over a century.
- Remember that the railroad yard became so developed that part of it had to be moved to what is now Río de Los Angeles State Park (Taylor Yard).
- Appreciate the amount of manual labor it took to keep the railroad yard functioning.
- Understand the importance of preserving the Park's cultural resources.

Interpretive Themes:
History of Place:
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

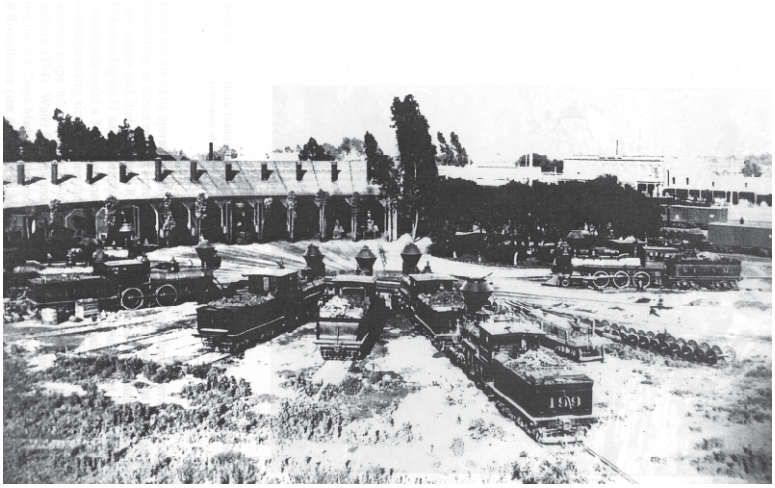
Water:
Water has played an integral role in the growth of Los Angeles from the Spanish period to the present.

Interpretive Period: 1869-1991

Interpretive Methods and Media:

- Simulate the original railroad turntable, allowing a single person to turn the table with a pole.
- Create replica archaeological discovery sites, including some of the key features still preserved underground, like the *Zanja* Madre, as well as associated objects that have been excavated. Locate these discovery sites as close to their original sites as is feasible.

- Provide interpretive panels that incorporate historic photographs depicting the workers, passengers, freight, rail cars, structures, and the overall rail yard.



- Produce printed materials to engage visitors: self-guiding brochure; "treasure hunt" type hand-out for children; reprint of Sanborn map(s).

- Publish an overview of the cultural resources at Los Angeles State Historic Park directed toward an adult audience.

Visitor Activities:

- Self-guided discovery areas.

- School curriculum incorporated within Park programs and activities.

- Programs for visitors linked to annual "Archaeology Month" in May.

Storytelling Circles

Storytelling is a powerful method of communication. For many cultures, it is the vital link in preserving traditions and significant memories. Storytelling can be used at Los Angeles State Historic Park to enhance and preserve the diverse stories of the city's rich, complex, and sometimes controversial heritage and to provide physical and visual connections with the surrounding area that reflect these unique stories.

The recommendation for storytelling circles at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies, as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story. (Interpretation 8)

- Identify areas, resources, or events in or around the Park with potential significance to Los Angeles through use of historical accounts, oral history interviews, and other means. Document, record, and interpret these areas, resources, or events. (Cultural 6)

- Reach as many visitors as possible by offering multi-sensory and multi-lingual interpretive opportunities in a variety of locations and settings throughout the Park. (Interpretation 4)

- Establish a program to preserve and interpret the personal stories and experiences of the people associated with the park's multi-faceted history. Use methods such as oral history, written narratives, and photographs, maintaining a current contact list. (Interpretation 24)

- Conduct research on the Park site's history and its association with historic activities, events, groups, individuals, and sites that reflect important trends and peoples that make up Los Angeles' cultural story. Facilitate ongoing research and interpretation of the Park's cultural resources within the broader context of Los Angeles' cultural history. (Cultural 2)

- Conduct oral histories to help capture the stories and experiences of those who worked or lived at or near the site as well as those who fought to save the property from commercial development. (Cultural 3)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will

- Be able to learn about the personal histories associated with the people of Los Angeles, including their contributions and the obstacles they have overcome or still face (i.e. migrants and immigrants; segregation; effects of the Great Depression; the Bracero Movement; Zoot Suit Riots; Chinese Massacre; WWI-Japanese Americans deported to Manzanar; Chavez Ravine; Los Angeles Times Bombing).

- Have an opportunity to engage with members of different communities that represent Los Angeles, including long-time residential communities (i.e. Solano Canyon Community, William Mead Homes, and Lincoln Heights) and those communities that have been destroyed/displaced (i.e. Chavez Ravine neighborhood and the Tongva village of Yang-na).

- Discover what has brought people to Los Angeles over time, including the visitor's own story.

- Feel a connection with the people and history of Los Angeles story.

- Recognize that they are part of the Los Angeles story.

- Be proud of their personal stories.

Interpretive Themes:
Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Recreation:
Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history.

Interpretive Methods and Media:

- Special areas/spaces throughout the park (with view of specific communities, if possible) to facilitate storytelling and related activities for small groups (10-12 people). Storytellers can include residents of the area, roving interpreters, and living history re-enactors.

- Storytelling Circle surfaces (benches, tables, pathways, walls, shelter structures, etc.) that contain personal stories.

- Electronic devices (portable or built into the Storytelling Circles) that contain diverse perspectives and personal stories, with multi-lingual options (i.e. audio and video).

- Printed materials: storytelling circles self-guiding brochure; stories of LA souvenir booklet; activity booklets.

Visitor Activities:

- Programs: storytelling; puppet shows; Angelino family reunions.

- Workshops: creating family genealogies, collecting oral histories; writing personal stories.

- Hands-on Activities: listening to writing, and reading personal stories.

Cultural Gardens

Gardens provide multi-sensory experiences that can be enjoyed by all ages. Plants and planting techniques that reflect the multiple layers of the area's cultural heritage can be used to create a rich palette that enhances visitor understanding and appreciation for the diverse people of Los Angeles.

The recommendation for cultural gardens at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies, as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story. (Interpretation 8)

- Allow for specialized landscape treatments in Park Element areas (i.e. Garden Open Space, Cultural Activities, Recreation Open Space) that serve interpretive, cultural, or recreation purposes. Such landscaping should use non-invasive vegetation and be compatible with the overall parkwide vegetation management. (Natural 10)

- Provide learning experiences that engage one or more of the senses to enhance the intellectual understanding of park messages. (Interpretation 17)

- Consider interpreting the site's agricultural past by providing multi-sensory experiences related to the growing of food. This could include programs and facilities that support historic methods of cultivating and harvesting crops, as well as a contemporary farmer's market. (Interpretation 10)

- Provide a flexible system of open space opportunities that serve a broad cross-section of the City's residents and statewide visitors. (Recreation 1)

- Create a variety of visitor experiences by providing visitors with positive natural fragrances and sounds, such as the scent of landscape plantings and the sounds of birds and water. Consider buffering traffic and transit line noise with appropriate materials and techniques (for example, the sound of cascading water masking unwanted traffic noise). (Aesthetics 5)

- Conduct research on the Park site's history and its association with historic activities, events, groups, individuals, and sites that reflect important trends and peoples that make up Los Angeles' cultural story. Facilitate ongoing research and interpretation of the Park's cultural resources within the broader context of Los Angeles' cultural history. (Cultural 2)

- Develop interpretation for park visitors explaining how nonnative species can alter all types of vegetation communities. In addition, interpretation should address how non-native plants become established in the absence of a native ecosystem in an urban environment. (Natural 15)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will

- Become aware of the plants and trees that are native to the area and their connection to the Tongva culture.

- Be able to identify the flora and fauna of the Park and the surrounding area, including plants, insects, birds, and mammals.

- Gain a broader understanding of the plants that have been introduced to the area and their connection to the various people who have migrated and immigrated to Los Angeles.

- Discover the variety of plants used to create the ethnic foods of Los Angeles' vast culinary palette.

- Participate in the growing, harvesting, processing and using of native and imported plants and their associated products.

- Become familiar with the places in Los Angeles where other native plants and cultural gardens can be found.

- Have hands-on experiences tending agricultural plants that are related historically to the site.

- Gain a better understanding of where food comes from and how it is grown.

- Become familiar with Los Angeles' agricultural past (wine and orange industries).

- Learn about methods they can be practiced at home and programs they can participate in that are sensitive to future ecology and water conservation issues.

Interpretive Themes:
History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Environmental Actions
By their actions, people have affected Los Angeles basin's environment, impacting the health of natural systems and communities.

Recreation
From vast areas of open space to smaller pockets of intimate space, recreation in the Park can represent an expression of – and connection to – cultural identity and heritage.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history

Interpretive Methods and Media:
- Demonstration garden containing both native plants and plants introduced to the area (including labels).

- Wayside panels interpreting the connections between the plants and Los Angeles' cultural heritage.

- Printed materials to provide a self-guided tour of the garden; souvenir booklet with color photographs and plant stories/recipes by migrants and immigrants living in the surrounding communities; activity booklet for families.

- Vineyards, citrus grove, orchards, and crops.

- Representation of *Zanja Madre*.

Visitor Activities:
- Programs may include food preparation and demonstrations, tasting using plants grown in the garden.

- Demonstrations of traditional uses of plants.

- Hands-on activities designed specifically for children, teens, adults, and seniors related to proper plant/garden care and maintenance. Informal/casual walk in the garden; photography; drawing/painting; nature study.

- Hands-on activities that use heirloom seeds and planting techniques representing the area's early agricultural period.

Multi-purpose Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheater

Outdoor classrooms allow visitors to come into direct contact with their environment. A multi-purpose outdoor classroom/amphitheater at Los Angeles State Historic Park will provide a flexible facility that can support large groups of people for a variety of programs within the backdrop of contemporary, historic, and natural surroundings that reflect the broader Los Angeles story.

Recommendation for a multi-purpose outdoor classroom/amphitheater at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Create spaces throughout the Park that foster personal reflection, civic engagement, and a variety of modes of public storytelling – from plays and poetry readings to musical performances and movies, as well as educational and interpretive programming, cooking, festivals and parades, demonstrations (music, dance, living history, theatre, etc.), cultural events, workshops, farmer's markets, contests, nature-viewing, and gardening. Maximize the use of the city skyline as a backdrop while creating these spaces to enhance the visitor's connection with the broader Los Angeles story. (Interpretation 8)

- Use a holistic interpretive planning approach for the site that connects the interpretive themes and messages of the Park with the creative use of open space. Develop outdoor interpretive facilities that can serve as multi-use areas to reduce development of the Park's open space. Determine the specific needs for the Park's interpretive services that require indoor space. General needs may include space for: exhibits, exhibit fabrication and storage; museum collections, offices, meetings, workshops, conferences, lectures, and training; library and research areas; interpretive program supplies and equipment and an alternative location for outdoor interpretive programs during inclement weather. (Interpretation 15)

- Provide visitor use facilities that offer the opportunity for diverse visitor experiences. Facilities will be placed to maximize visitor and staff use while minimizing negative effects on viewsheds, cultural or natural resources, or user conflicts. (Facilities 1)

- Provide a flexible system of open space opportunities that serve a broad cross-section of the City's residents and statewide visitors. (Recreation 1)

- Reach as many visitors as possible by offering multi-sensory and multi-lingual interpretive opportunities in a variety of locations and settings throughout the Park. (Interpretation 4)

- Develop programs and partnerships with local schools, youth groups, colleges, and universities that are in alignment with state educational standards and the park's significant resources. (Interpretation 20)

- Develop and strengthen partnerships and relationships with local park departments, museums, cultural institutions and other public institutions to encourage collaboration to develop interpretive facilities and programs that meet the needs of the area's residents and those of other Californians, and that complement or enhance existing facilities and programs in the Los Angeles area. (Interpretation 13)

Interpretive Objectives:
Visitors will
- Be able to enjoy an array of performances representing the arts and culture of Los Angeles.

- Learn about the evolution of Los Angeles' unique arts and culture.

- Be able to attend a variety of interpretive programs that will acquaint them with the unique history of the site and of the region.

- Participate in multi-institution presentations to encourage community participation and increase local awareness of current issues.

- Benefit from institutional partnerships that utilize the facility for training presenters, teachers, artists and students.

Interpretive Theme:
Peoples' History
Los Angeles' story over the past 10,000 plus years embodies the struggles and triumphs of its diverse residents and communities.

Interpretive Period: Flow of history.

Interpretive Methods and Media:
- Seating for viewing of the North Broadway/Buena Vista Bridge and downtown city skyline.

- Outdoor surfaces and/or areas for temporary and permanent exhibit installations reflecting the arts and culture of Los Angeles.

Visitor Activities:

- Programs: movies/film, live theater/plays, local school theatrical productions, musical concerts, and poetry readings featuring Los Angeles and its people as the primary subject.

- Workshops, demonstrations, and lectures related to the area's arts and culture (i.e. murals, California music, Los Angeles' film history).

- Special children's programming.

Workers' Plaza – Celebration Areas

Areas that provide connections between cultural heritage and recreation can provide enhanced visitor experience. A park-like setting modeled after an historic one used by railroad workers during their breaks will create a sense of connection with visitors who are also on a break – whether it be a lunch break from the downtown office, a break from homework, or a vacation for out-of-town guests. Larger areas will provide open space for spontaneous activities such as playing, picknicking, or just roaming over the landscape – as well as for interpretive programs and events.

Recommendation for a Workers' Plaza and celebration areas at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Develop visitor use facilities to accommodate changing visitor uses and accessibility needs, population demographics, and increases in visitation. (Facilities 4)

- Use the most current subject matter research and interpretive techniques to provide opportunities for increasing the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant cultural resources of the region. (Interpretation 1)

- Explore the possibilities for interpreting the sub-surface history of the site's transportation-era past, through excavation and exposure, as well as publications, public programs, and identification markers. (Interpretation 9)

- Conduct research on the Park site's history and its association with historic activities, events, groups, individuals, and sites that reflect important trends and peoples that make up Los Angeles' cultural story. Facilitate ongoing research and interpretation of the Park's cultural resources within the broader context of Los Angeles' cultural history. (Cultural 2)

Interpretive Objective(s):

Visitors will

- Be able to relax in an area similar to the one early railroad workers used to take their breaks.

- Become familiar with Los Angeles' railroad workers and their jobs.

- Be invited to participate in or observe various types of recreational activities and pastimes associated with Los Angeles' diverse ethnic groups over time.

Interpretive Theme:
Recreation
Los Angeles State Historic Park provides a unique place for reflection, relaxation, recreation, rejuvenation, and inspiration.

Interpretive Period: circa 1895

Interpretive Methods and Media:
- Re-create circa 1895 park-like landscape developed during the site's early railroad era for the railroad workers.

- Interpretive panel(s) or other media (e.g. tiles) with historic photographs depicting the park-like setting.

Visitor Activities:
- Picnic area within an historic-type landscape.

- Demonstrations/hands-on period pastimes (music, games, etc.).

- Storytelling by roving interpreters or living history re-enactors.

Space for other Activities:
- Open space for spontaneous activities such as playing games.

- Open space to serve as celebration areas for interpretive programs and events.

Pedestrian Bridge

Foot bridges provide a physical link between places and allow elevated vantage points by which people can explore their surroundings. A pedestrian bridge at Los Angeles State Historic Park can create connections between visitors and the site's former rail yard workers as they traversed a similar raised walkway while offering enhanced vistas and experiences as one is suspended above the ground.

Recommendation for a pedestrian bridge at Los Angeles State Historic Park is based on the following Guidelines from Chapter 4 of the Park's General Plan.

Guidelines for Interpretation:

- Use the most current subject matter research and interpretive techniques to provide opportunities for increasing the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant cultural resources of the region. (Interpretation 1)

- Provide meaningful interpretation that incorporates multiple perspectives, including those of the park visitor. (Interpretation 2)

- Explore the possibilities for interpreting the sub-surface history of the site's transportation-era past, through excavation and exposure, as well as publications, public programs, and identification markers. (Interpretation 9)

- Identify areas, resources, or events in or around the Park with potential significance to Los Angeles through use of historical accounts, oral history interviews, and other means. Document, record, and interpret these areas, resources, or events. (Cultural 6)

- Create a sense of entry and arrival at the Park. Provide easily accessible orientation and information that will permit visitors to choose from a range of available park experiences. (Access 1)

- Establish access points into the Park and develop design standards for these "gateway" areas that will create a sense of arrival and establish an initial identity and sense of place for the Park. Design standards and guidelines for access points should distinguish primary and secondary gateways. (Aesthetics 4)

- Explore opportunities to provide convenient and safe pedestrian and cycling access throughout the Park, with connections from communities along North Broadway. Coordinate with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to consider pedestrian bridge possibilities over the Gold Line right of way. (Access 4)

Interpretive Objective(s):
Visitors will

- Have an elevated view and experience above the Park.
- Understand that a raised walkway once provided workers safe access to and from North Broadway when the site was a rail yard.
- Appreciate the area's long use as a transportation and river corridor.

Interpretive Theme:
History of Place
The movement of people and products has enabled Los Angeles to become the megalopolis it is today.

Interpretive Period: circa 1880s-1920s

Interpretive Methods and Media:

- Create a raised walkway similar to one built during the site's railroad period.
- Interpretive panels depict the site's historic and pre-historic "layers" as a transportation and river corridor (historic images and accounts over time; geographic and natural features).
- Interpretive markers or appropriate landscape treatment will denote the location of original walkway's pylons that still exist beneath the ground.

Visitor Activities:

- Gateway and initial orientation to park or to the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Physical connection to North Broadway side of the Park.
- Overlook the entire park and surrounding neighborhoods.

Safety and Security

Every public institution or park has security needs that effect and are affected by its surroundings and usage. In a highly urbanized area like that surrounding Los Angeles State Historic Park, it is crucial to devote time and effort to planning for the safety of the visitors, volunteers, and staff that will be on this site. A strong consideration will be for the security of the buildings, structures, displays, and artifacts or equipment that may be used or stored nearby.

Site safety will need to integrate many internal and external concerns, not limited to the following:

- Safety of visitors; warning or directional signage, hazard identification and abatement, child safety and accessibility. Facilities will be designed for universal access.

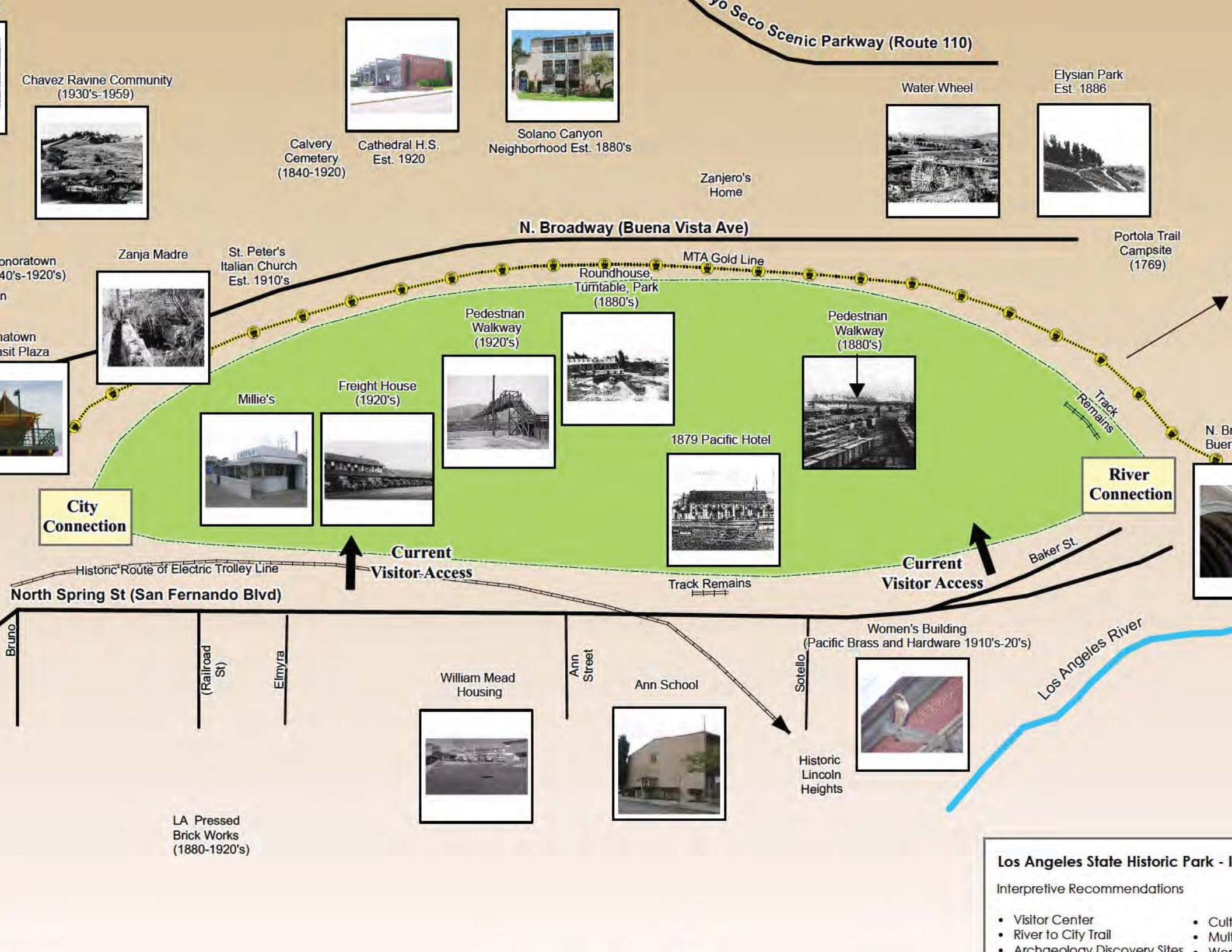
- Safety of volunteers and staff; safe workplace practices, proper training, adequate monitoring and clearly posted emergency procedures.

- Safety of community; no havens or hide-outs for undesirable behavior, proper posting of any necessary codes of conduct, clearly defined park boundaries, patrols, neighborhood watch and emergency response procedures planned with local agencies.

- Safety of buildings, structures and equipment; graffiti abatement-perhaps utilizing programs already chosen by local authorities, security lighting and alarm technology, proper fencing, low-profile valuables storage or display and the possibility of on-site or nearby ranger housing.

- Safety of artifacts and/or historic documentation; proper methods of storing and displaying museum objects in accordance with State Parks museum collections policies and practices.

Interpretive Connectivity Map – see insert from PDF file


yo Seco Scenic Parkway (Route 110)
Chavez Ravine Community
(1930's-1959)
Calvery
Cemetery
(1840-1920)
Cathedral H.S.
Est. 1920
Solano Canyon
Neighborhood Est. 1880's
Zanjero's
Home
Water Wheel
Elysian Park
Est. 1886
N. Broadway (Buena Vista Ave)
Portola Trail
Campsite
(1769)
onoratown
40's-1920's)
n
natown
nsit Plaza
Zanja Madre
St. Peter's
Italian Church
Est. 1910's
MTA Gold Line
Roundhouse,
Turntable, Park
(1880's)
Pedestrian
Walkway
(1920's)
Pedestrian
Walkway
(1880's)
Track
Remains
Millie's
Freight House
(1920's)
1879 Pacific Hotel
City
Connection
River
Connection
Current
Visitor Access
Current
Visitor Access
Baker St.
Historic Route of Electric Trolley Line
North Spring St (San Fernando Blvd)
Track Remains
Bruno
(Railroad
St)
Elmyra
William Mead
Housing
Ann
Street
Ann School
Sotello
Women's Building
(Pacific Brass and Hardware 1910's-20's)
Los Angeles River
Historic
Lincoln
Heights
LA Pressed
Brick Works
(1880-1920's)
Los Angeles State Historic Park -
Interpretive Recommendations
• Visitor Center
• River to City Trail
• Archaeology Discovery Sites
• Cult
• Mult

5. INTERPRETIVE SUSTAINABILITY

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers bring dedication, interest and expertise to a park. The kinds of enrichment that an active, multi-interest volunteer program provides can make the park experience wonderful for visitor, staff and community alike. In a wide-spread urban area like Los Angeles, it is critical to welcome community members and groups from across the region and invite them to work with State Parks for the betterment of all.

Potential Job Descriptions for Volunteers

Researcher Information on the park site will be further enhanced by researchers who will delve into the study of the history and of the area and its surrounding environments. Investigations at libraries and archives will research a wide array of topics to help support the development and interpretation of the park.

Writer and Photographer Volunteers with the urge to create may have a special opportunity in the park. Knowledgeable, creative people will be needed to assist with documenting changes, developing new materials and providing exciting perspectives in a variety of projects. A special need is photos or videos of educational programs and special events.

Language Translators Volunteers will be critical for making the park and its history available to visitors from around the world. Original historic documents will need to be translated into English, and park information will be translated into many languages. In addition to basic signs, brochures and other written information will be needs for interpreters for tours and presentations, to make this Park an informative and welcoming experience for all.

Oral History Collector Volunteers will help to seek out personal histories of people who experienced a time period or specific event related to the park's themes. Video or audio recordings of recollections will be used to form a connection with the park and the past. Special training and assistance will be provided to volunteers.

Visitor Service Volunteer Under staff direction, volunteers will work directly with the public. Duties may include staffing the Visitor Center, tours, on site and off site, talks, storytelling, living history, demonstrations and special events. Volunteers may present historic crafts, art experiences, expressing the words and ideas of historic figures or acquainting visitors with the cultural richness of the region. All are possibilities to explore.

Trail Leader Groups will be led on the River to City Trail and other routes by Trail Leaders. These volunteers will be trained on the history of the site and in methods for presenting that information to the public. They will work mostly in the outdoors; get to enjoy scenery and the changing seasons first hand. Audiences will vary from school groups to foreign dignitaries and from local community groups to first-time visitors.

Trial Makers These docents will help maintain trails throughout the park, and will work with State Parks staff to help keep them at their best. Construction, history and botany are all areas that will be explored by this team. Native plant restoration and invasive plant removal will be on-going programs that will be integrated with other community efforts to restore the green space by the Los Angeles River.

Volunteer Patrol Volunteers will work closely with State Park staff members to help maintain a pleasant and safe environment for visitors, volunteers and staff at Los Angeles State Historic Park. Specialized training and active staff support will be offered to these volunteers, who will be the friendly, reassuring face that the community will see in the park.

School Group or Children's Activities Volunteer Either on site or in the classroom, volunteers will help to increase a sense of community in our future citizens through art and craft projects, interesting historic activities and keep-your-senses-aware walks that represent the park. These activities will be supported with specialized training for school program presenters to support educational content standards and specially-designed continuing training to keep participants active, interested and engaged. Background checks will be required for volunteers working with children.

Advocate Advocates support the Park by attending public meetings that would be pertinent to issues connected to the operations of Los Angeles State Historic Park. Volunteers will be needed to attend local planning meetings, and to communicate with the park management to provide planning updates. Individuals should be available to attend at least one planning meeting a month in order to help the park stay in close contact with the local communities.

Webmaster Los Angeles State Historic Park A computer-literate volunteer will help monitor and improve the park's presence on the Web. Website creation and review, Podcasts, PowerPoint slideshows, webcams and other technologies will be used by the volunteer to assure a presence in the world arena of information.

Cooperating Associations and Other Partnerships

Cooperating associations are non-profit organizations dedicated to enhancing the educational and interpretive programs in California State Parks. The role of a cooperating association is to provide support and funding to a California State Park's activities. The state park retains its role over park operations and management. For the long-term sustainability of the relationship between a cooperating association and California State Park, both entities must actively engage in open and regular communication.

The creation of a cooperating association for Los Angeles State Historic Park would benefit the Park's interpretive sustainability by providing support and funding for the educational and interpretive programs recommended in this Interpretive Master Plan. At the root of creating such a non-profit organization is board development. A board that includes members of the community, whose experience, knowledge, and skills reflect a solid understanding of the Park's interpretive direction and recommendations, as outlined in this IMP, will ensure that the Park's interpretive programs, services, and facilities are a priority.

Other partnerships that the Park should continue working with or establish include:

City of Los Angeles (City) Council District One, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Department of Engineering has been active throughout the planning process with an ex-officio membership on the Cornfield Advisory Committee and co-sponsor of many public meetings. The City assisted in translation services, outreach and public programming. The City retains a thirty foot easement that runs adjacent to the park on the east side. Future development of the site and programming are instrumental to ensure the surrounding community is a full partner in the stewardship of the park. State Parks also retains ownership of the Hellman-Quon building located at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. State Parks is planning on opening an office in the Hellman-Quon by 2008.

County of Los Angeles was a full partner in the planning process for the park development and had an ex-officio member on the Cornfield Advisory Committee. Future opportunities exist to create partnerships and coordinate services with the full range of programs offered by county parks.

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is responsible for the transportation system for Los Angeles County. The Metro Gold Line runs adjacent to the park on the west side. A piece of the historic Zanja Madre irrigation system has been preserved in the cliff, which is located below Broadway Avenue next to the tracks. Potential partnership opportunities to

interpret the Zanja Madre and special programs (docent) should be coordinated with agency cooperation.

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument (El Pueblo) is located in the oldest section of Los Angeles, less than ½ mile southwest from LASHP. In 1953 a strong effort to preserve the area resulted in the creation of a State Historic Park operated jointly by the State of California, County and City of Los Angeles. Legislation was passed in 1989 that provided exclusive operation of El Pueblo to the City of Los Angeles. Twenty seven historic buildings remain and have been either converted to museums, concessions or other public uses to interpret the story about the people of different ethnic groups, who settled in Los Angeles since 1781. During the planning of the LASHP, several meetings were held at El Pueblo. Collaborative efforts between the city and state staff has occurred and will continue as the two parks partner to interpret the story of Los Angeles.

La Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation is an organization that is working closely with the County of Los Angeles to create a multidisciplinary cultural complex across from El Pueblo (expected to open in 2007) that will showcase the Mexican American contributions to Los Angeles history, art, culture and food. The cultural complex will house performing arts studios, a visual arts space, a history and genealogy resource center and a teaching kitchen. Opportunities exist to develop educational programming with the Foundation and Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has three schools within close walking distance of LASHP (Solano Elementary, Ann Street Elementary, Castelar Elementary). It has participated in developing programming and design standards for LASHP and the Interpretive Master Plan. Opportunities exist to develop curriculum-based programming specific to K-12 frameworks. The California State Parks' PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) Distance Learning Program is also partnering with local schools in LAUSD to bring content specialists into classrooms.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (MRCA) works in cooperation with other local government partners to acquire parkland, participate in vital planning processes, and complete major park improvement projects. The MRCA provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, park construction services, park operations, fire prevention, ranger services, educational and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year, and is one of the lead agencies providing for the revitalization of the Los Angeles River.

Institute for Urban Research and Development (IURD) was founded in 1996, and promotes community development by facilitating the self-empowerment of people and communities. We advance social, cultural, economic and political

concerns through community-based research, public policy advocacy, educational activities, non-profit program development and direct community services.

Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College (UEPI) is a community oriented research and advocacy organization based at Occidental College. UEPI serves as the umbrella for a variety of affiliated programs addressing work and industry, food and nutrition, housing, transportation, regional and community development, land use, and urban environmental issues.

Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) is a locally-based nonprofit that has been helping young people develop themselves by participating in environmental conservation projects and classes since 1986. LACC offers a combination of conservation, education and youth services to each participant to prepare them for the future of their choice. Their Clean and Green program is headquartered across from LASHP at Spring and Ann streets. On several occasions, LACC has participated in interpretive and general planning for the Park.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLIPI) is implementing a collective vision for the Los Angeles region promoting a coherent web of parks and open space, schools, and transportation related to the human health and economic vitality of the diverse cultural urban landscape. CLIPI has been an active partner in assisting with the planning and development of Los Angeles State Historic Park by providing California State Parks staff with research and findings on the value of urban parks and their benefits for all Angelenos, water quality and habitat restoration. Executive Director, Robert Garcia was an active member of the California State Parks Cornfield Advisory Committee to develop a long-term vision for the historic site.

Center for Research in Engineering, Media and Performance (REMAP) is a program that brings artists and engineers together to examine the sources and processes of new techno-cultural changes that explore new modes of expression, interrogate cultural biases of technology and create pragmatic tools for community-specific applications. The Angeles District and REMAP are currently exploring a partnership that bridges technology with historical data.

Other groups and organizations that have played an integral role in developing a vision for the Park and are recognized as partners include:

- Chinatown Yard Alliance
- Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles/Chinatown Community Advisory Committee

- Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Friends of the Los Angeles River
- Northeast Trees
- Chinese Historical Society
- Annenberg Foundation
- William C. Velasquez Institute
- The River Project
- State Parks Foundation
- St. Peter's Italian Church
- Latino Urban Forum
- William Mead Housing Resident Advisory Council
- Solano Canyon Community Garden
- Homeboy Industries
- California Endowment
- Cathedral High School
- Metropolitan Water District

Interpretive Concessions

Concessions in LASHP should enhance visitor experiences and expand recreational opportunities. A concession program should relate to the Park's interpretive messages and its goals and objectives. Concessions businesses should offer merchandise that promotes the interpretive themes, and cultural arts and crafts programs, as well as sell refreshments..

As stipulated in the LASHP General Plan, a concession plan should be developed before potential concession opportunities are offered in the Park. Overall, concessions in the Park should ensure that visitors will:

- Experience businesses that display special knowledge and skills appropriate to the interpretive goals of the park.

- Enjoy interpretive businesses that have a special connection to the cultural past.

- Be able to visit unique businesses that reflect a specific historic era not found elsewhere in Los Angeles.

- Be given a wide spectrum of choices for serving family groups, and people of all ages and diversity.

- Benefit from businesses that reflect historical, cultural, ethnic and geographic themes related to the history of LASHP.

- Develop business support processes (incubator business models) that have the potential to create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, activate interest in the history of commerce, and strengthen local economies.

Research Needs

In order to make the area's history more accessible to visitors, opportunities to create Living History programs have been included in the interpretive recommendations. Suggestions for character development to depict the Park's broad interpretive period, or "Flow of History" that will need further research include:

- Member(s) of the Tongva/Gabrieleno Village of Yang-Na.

- Member(s) of the Portolá Expedition 1769 Spanish expedition the first Europeans to arrive in the area.

- Original Settlers of the *Pueblo*, La Reina de Los Angeles 1781. The first settlers arrived from Sonora and Sinaloa.

- Member(s) of the Francisco Avila Family. They planted vineyards on the current Park property. The earliest record of agricultural use of the Park property dates to 1804. By 1817, the Pueblo de Los Angeles reportedly had over 53,000 vines under cultivation. Viticulture was the *pueblo's* top agricultural activity until the 1860s.

- Resident(s) of "Sonoratown", circa 1850s. Much of Los Angeles' growth during the early Gold Rush days came from the close to 10,000 Sonoran miners who had come to California, but had been expelled from the gold fields in the early 1850s because of discrimination. Many who returned from the fields to Los Angeles congregated northwest of the plaza, along present-day Main and North Broadway streets.

- William Wolfskill and ranch hands, late 1850s. For years after William Wolfskill's arrival in 1857, he cultivated the largest citrus groves in the United States.

- A *Zanjero*, a city position created in the 1860s to oversee the *zanja* water system.

- Arcadia Bandini de Stearns, late 1800s. Daughter of a prominent Mexican *Californio* family, Bandini de Stearns donated property to Southern Pacific Railroad for use as a station and yard in 1873.

- Southern Pacific Railroad Workers, 1875-1991. Among the jobs over time: 1875 – workers at the first "River Station" freight house and depot; mid-1880s–

employees of the new depot and hotel/restaurant, roundhouse with turntable, and icing facility. As early as 1880, SP had become the town's largest employer – with 300 plus employees and over 100 of them living in the new residential and commercial neighborhood surrounding the station property; etc.

- Resident(s) of Old Chinatown, 1930s. This time period includes the forced relocation of this community to the Sonoratown area along North Broadway to make way for the building of Union Station.

- Resident(s) of Solano Canyon and Elysian Park, 1940s. This time period include the severing of the neighborhoods for the construction of the Pasadena Freeway.

- Resident(s) of Chavez Ravine, 1950s. This time period includes events leading to the forced relocation of the entire neighborhood for proposed public housing and later Dodger Stadium.

Future Interpretive Planning

This Interpretive Master Plan includes Interpretive Recommendations that identify the types of facilities, programs, and services that would enhance visitor experiences at Los Angeles State Historic Park. These Interpretive Recommendations have been created more in the spirit of interpretive opportunities rather than as definitive, concrete projects. As funding is sought and project development moves forward, it is important to complete specific Interpretive Plans to ensure that the most current information is addressed (visitor needs, media options, historical/cultural research, etc.) Items not identified in this Interpretive Master Plan should be explored during project-specific interpretive plan development.

Future Acquisitions

The potential exists to augment and support interpretation at the Park. Supplies and equipment will be needed to begin the development and implementation of interpretive programs at this new State Historic Park. A basic reference library will be required to assist with ongoing research.

Until the Park has a dedicated space to safely exhibit and store interpretive collections, acquisitions should be limited to those items that are relatively easy and cost effective to replace and that do not have special preservation requirements.

Potential Plan Phasing

Potential phasing of the Interpretive Master Plan is based on the key ideas found in the Interpretive Recommendations section. The phasing below is divided into two components: Phase I identifies items that can begin immediately, while Phase II identifies items that will sustain the overall interpretive program.

Phase I: Building a Sense of Place

A. Develop a volunteer program.
- Duty statements
- Recruitment strategy
- Interpretive program development
- Training and evaluation
- Recognition and awards

B. Continue to strengthen community partnerships.
- Community outreach
- Possible volunteer pool
- Assistance with research needs
- Create a presence in the community

C. Develop Cooperating Association(s).

D. Begin to implement Interpretive Recommendations.
- Community outreach
- Calendar of interpretive programs and special events
- Project planning
- Program development
- Facility development

E. Identify potential interpretive concessions.

Phase II: Interpretive Sustainability

A. Continue high-quality volunteer programs.
- Expand programming
- Evaluations
- Recognition and Awards
- Enrichment and Ongoing Training

B. Maintain tradition of strong community partnerships.

C. Maintain effective relationship with Cooperating Association(s) to benefit park operations and interpretive programming.

D. Continue implementing and refining Interpretive Recommendations.

E. Assess ongoing improvements to Interpretive Concessions.

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Over 300 people shared their hopes and ideas for Los Angeles State Historic Park through workshops, school visits, and document review during the Interpretive Master Plan process. Their comments and suggestions are the basis for the interpretive recommendations found in this document. Much appreciation is extended to the following individuals/affiliations who contributed generously to the Los Angeles State Historic Park Interpretive Master Plan:

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Joe Linton, FOLAR (Friends of the Los Angeles River)

Lisa Marr, Not A Cornfield and Echo Park Film Center
Dianna Martinez, California State Parks
Toby Mazzie, business owner
Frances McMeeken, California State Parks
Anthony Morales, Gabrieleno-Tongva of San Gabriel
Arlene Morales, Gabrieleno-Tongva of San Gabriel
Dan Mendoza, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes
Pedro Natividad, Not A Cornfield
Jim Newland, California State Parks
Debra J.T. Padilla, SPARC
Leonard Pitt, CSUN
Donna Pozzi, California State Parks
Alexandra Puerto, Occidental College
Jorge Luis Rodriguez, Stage of the Arts
Juan Rodriguez, KGB (Kolor Graphics Bureau)
James Rojas, Latino Urban Forum
Kathleen Roman, Stage of the Arts
Barbara Romero, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority /Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Dee Roybal, Gabrieleno-Tongva of San Gabriel
Solano Avenue Elementary School – Richard Hickcox, Principal and the students of Miss Gutierrez, Miss Schwarz, Mr. Ramirez, Miss Bradshaw, Miss Garrison, and Mrs. Foon
Bill Rumble, Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council
Bruce Saito, Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Craig Sap, California State Parks
Ron Schafer, California State Parks
Cynthia Shu, Gabrielino High School
Fabiola Vilchez, Office of Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg
Karin Volpp-Gardela, Inner-City Arts
Fabian Wagmister, UCLA
Adam Willens, Office of Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg
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