

# SurveyLA

Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey

Be a Part of SurveyLA!

SurveyLA is the city's first-ever comprehensive effort to identify and record its diverse historic resources. Over the next few years, historic preservation professionals will be surveying all of Los Angeles' communities to identify buildings, neighborhoods, and places of unique architectural, historic, or cultural significance. 2011 marks Year Two of the field survey effort, which includes the communities of Cahuenga Pass, Canoga Park, Encino, North Hollywood, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Tarzana, Toluca Lake, Valley Village, West Hills, Winnetka, and Woodland Hills.

Historic resources surveys often focus on the architectural character of properties. SurveyLA is innovative because it also captures the social, historical, and cultural significance — the stories — associated with properties and places throughout the City. SurveyLA is organized around the philosophy that you know the historic resources of your own community better than anyone, like the "hidden gem" down the street that should become better known. SurveyLA wants to tap into your unique knowledge to inform the City about what is historically and architecturally significant in your community.

To learn more about SurveyLA, what it means to your community, and how you might participate, please join the City of Los Angeles' Office of Historic Resources for the:

## South Valley Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

7 - 9 pm

Marvin Braude Constituent Services Center

14410 Sylvan Street

Van Nuys, CA 91401

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Bryan Fahrback, Outreach Consultant at Historic Resources Group, at [bryan@historicla.com](mailto:bryan@historicla.com) or 626-793-2400.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is SurveyLA?**

The Office of Historic Resources is launching SurveyLA – Los Angeles’ first-ever citywide survey of historic resources. SurveyLA will locate and document places that reflect important themes in the city’s history and development. Los Angeles has a remarkable and diverse architectural heritage: from unassuming Craftsman bungalows to flamboyant Art Deco towers, from pioneering suburban residential tracts to sleek Modernist icons, and from a remarkably intact historic downtown to places of deep cultural significance. SurveyLA represents one of the largest and most ambitious survey initiatives in the United States. This multi-year project is partially funded by a matching grant from the Getty Foundation, with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) providing technical and advisory support. Find out more at [www.SurveyLA.org](http://www.SurveyLA.org).

### **What is a Historic Resources Survey?**

A historic resources survey is a process of identifying, researching and documenting properties that reflect important themes in the city’s growth and development. Historic resources include buildings, structures, objects, natural features and groupings of resources (historic districts). Examples of types of resources that may be included in SurveyLA are residential neighborhoods, individual houses, banks, bridges, religious buildings, courtyard apartments, motion picture studios, and parks.

### **Why Do We Need a Citywide Survey?**

SurveyLA resulted from a five-year study conducted by the GCI, which determined that only about 15 percent of Los Angeles has been previously surveyed to identify historic resources. Without a survey, places that matter to Angelinos may be lost to demolition. Information gained from the survey will give property owners and developers greater certainty about the historic significance of a site up-front so they can plan accordingly. It will also inform thoughtful decision-making by City officials, property owners, residents and preservation professionals. Survey results will shape community plans, facilitate environmental review processes, assist in disaster planning and tourism efforts, and provide educational opportunities. As the project progresses, survey data will be available to the public on the SurveyLA web site. The survey will not directly result in the designation of properties as City historic landmarks, which requires more in-depth research and an application process.

### **How Will the Survey Be Conducted?**

The survey begins with background research on a property, area or district to provide a basis to evaluate its significance. Survey teams will then conduct field inspections to identify the resource’s architectural, physical, and visual qualities and characteristics, assess the impacts of changes or alterations, and document overall condition through photography. The field inspections are conducted from the public right-of-way only. Survey teams will not need to obtain access to private property or building interiors, nor ask questions of property owners or residents. The survey evaluations will be completed by consultant teams that meet professional qualification standards in the field of historic preservation. The teams work under the supervision of the Office of Historic Resources.