



**2018 Winner**

**Azusa Civic Center**

**Submitted by: City of Azusa**

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The Azusa Civic Center contributes to its resident's quality of life and encourages human contact and social activities.

The Azusa Civic Center is a gathering place for the entire family. It contributes to the quality of life through its open spaces by providing opportunities for active recreation and outdoor community events. The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony known as the Winter Family Fiesta is a community event that is attended by Azusa's multigenerational families. Inaugurated in 1916, this holiday event has evolved throughout the years to its current celebration including live petting zoo, entertainment, pictures with Santa, imported snow, sleds and even a synthetic ice skating ring.



Our City's Library hosts an annual Summer Reading mini-carnival at Veterans Freedom Park to celebrate our student's reading efforts. Families gather around games, activities and community resources.

The REVEL Canyon City Marathon and Half Marathon is a Boston qualifying race that is attended by athletes from all over the country. Beginning in the beautiful San Gabriel Mountains National Monument on State Route 39, runners complete their trek at the Azusa Civic Center. Runners are greeted by their family and friends and get to enjoy a community event featuring live-entertainment, a beer garden and vendor booths.

Public City facilities such as the Senior Center provide a central gathering space to hold events that bring families and members of the community together. Offering a sense of space, the Civic Center's iconic water fountain (a gift from the City's sister city, Zacatecas, Zacatecas Mexico) is a stately backdrop used by many families for graduation, quinceanera and wedding photographs.

The Azusa Civic Center has visually interesting design, architectural features and is historic.

In 1928, the City completed the construction of City Hall and the municipal auditorium now known as the Azusa Auditorium. City Hall and the Azusa Auditorium are reminiscent of mission and Spanish architectural style. Its intricate details make the building one of a kind. Today, the Civic Center is the focal point of community involvement and the city's identity. Its historic buildings and memorials are of symbolic importance. Located on historic Route 66, the Auditorium is on the national registry of historic places.



The Azusa Civic Center is a safe environment that is welcoming for all.

The Civic Center is home to the Barnes House known by many as the Sister City House. At this facility many local resources provide services to the Azusa community and region. A partnership with our local higher education institution, Azusa Pacific University (APU), allows their nursing students to provide blood pressure check-ups at no cost. This is critical in our community given its growing elderly population who often does not have the resources to obtain simple health monitoring. The Barnes House is also used by our Library's Neighborhood Connections program where a bilingual Community Resource Specialist provides access to resources on employment, housing, health care, education, citizenship, family services, senior services and food amongst others. The Barnes House allows Azusa Residents and the region to receive confidential assistance.

The Service Core of retired Executives (SCORE) provide one-on-one mentorship to local businesses in Azusa and the region twice a month. Such service is available at no cost and has impacted many businesses and entrepreneurs in the East San Gabriel Valley.

The Azusa Civic Center is unique and is a reflection of our local culture and history.

The Civic Center is a symbolic focal point of Azusa. Existing monuments honor those who have served and are currently serving their country and their community. Our Veterans Tribute Monument located on historic Route 66 and highly transited highway, honors WWII Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and Korean Veterans with special memorial plaque tributes. Celebrations take place such as the Memorial Day Celebration and Korean Armistice Day in partnership with Azusa Veteran's Committee, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Fraternal Order of Eagles, VFW Color Guard and Korean Veterans to honor those who have served their community.

Annually, the Azusa Rotary Foundation sponsors a program called 'Azusa Field of Glory'• an inspirational and patriotic display of U.S. Flags for a week through Veterans Day in November. Flags are sold to honor veterans, service persons, first responders and others and the proceeds are used to help fund and benefit service person family support, veteran's support and recognition, and local youth leadership programs. The flags are displayed on our City Hall's lawn and are illuminated at night in accordance with U.S. Flag display protocol. This is truly a very heartfelt and moving display.

The Durrell House Museum houses historical artifacts that keep the Azusa history alive. Maintained and operated by the Azusa Historical Society, the Museum is open every Sunday for visitation and group tours.

The Azusa Civic Center incorporates a multi-modal transportation framework that includes pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and vehicles.



The Civic Center is conveniently located within a mile radius of a regional multi-modal transit center that includes a Metro Gold Line light rail station, Foothill Transit bus station and a 250 space parking structure. Enhanced pedestrian connections to the Metro Azusa Downtown Station and Foothill Transit bus station make the Civic Center accessible to all.

The Civic Center served as a hub station for the 626 Golden Streets event, the first multi-jurisdictional open streets event linking the Metro Gold Line stations from South Pasadena to Azusa. Despite the rainy weather, the Civic Center hosted pedestrians and bicyclists.