



## 2019 Winner

El Pueblo de Los Angeles



A Great Place is memorable to the community and individuals that use the space.

El Pueblo is a historic district located in the heart of Los Angeles. It is the site where forty-four settlers of Native American, African, and European heritage journeyed for more than one-thousand miles across the desert from present-day Mexico in September 1781 to establish a farming community. Today, El Pueblo serves as a living museum that continues to fulfill its unique role as the historic and symbolic heart of Los Angeles and original birthplace of the City.

El Pueblo embodies the foundation and evolution of Los Angeles, as demonstrated through its rich historical context and diverse cultural resources. Food festivals, receptions, concerts, health fairs, dance performances, art exhibits, and other cultural activities take place here. Not only is El Pueblo a popular tourist destination — drawing more than 2 million visitors annually, it is also very much a destination for Los Angeles' diverse communities.



El Pueblo continues to serve as a hub for cultural immersion and a place of remembrance for the community with notable assets that include the Chinese American Museum, Avila Adobe, Olvera Street, Italian American Museum, Pico House, and Museum of Social Justice.

A Great Place contributes to the vibrancy and/or livability of a community.

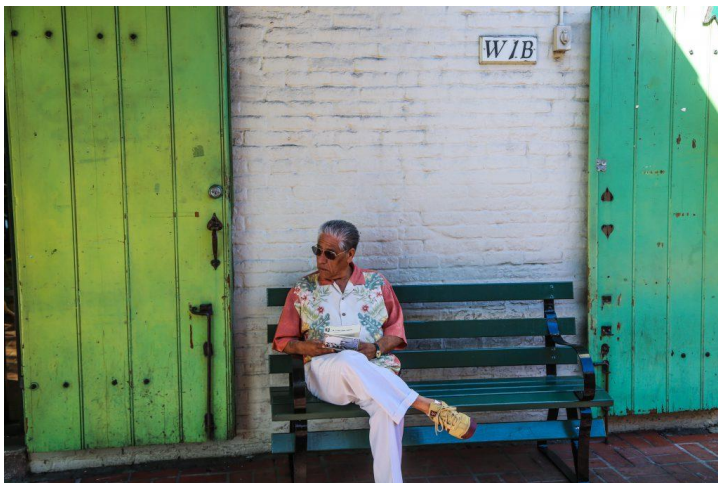
El Pueblo Historical Monument has eight museums and galleries. The major events and cultural programming, along with its museums, are free to the public. El Pueblo functions as a gathering place for music festivals, Las Posadas, Dia de Los Muertos, LA Opera Zarzuela annual performance, Blessing of the Animals, Shakespeare in the Park, Cinco de Mayo celebration, and the Lantern Festival among others events.

El Pueblo is located directly across the street from Union Station — Downtown Los Angeles’ major transit hub. Its sites are directly accessible by light rail, AmTrack, regional train lines, and an extensive bus network. A common site to see are hundreds of Dodger fans enjoying lunch on Olvera Street prior to boarding the express shuttle bus to Dodger Stadium.



A Great Place contributes to a resident’s day-to-day quality of living, encouraging human contact and social activities.

El Pueblo contributes and encourages human interaction and social activities not only through its cultural events but also through its design. The open-air markets along Olvera Street are particularly conducive to human interaction. A Great Place from a planning perspective includes linkages to the surrounding community. El Pueblo is within walking distance of Downtown Los Angeles, and accessible by foot, bicycle through Los Angeles’ continuous investment in bike infrastructure and public transit at Union Station.



El Pueblo recently installed additional mid-block crosswalks to improve access to new museums and nearby commercial development. The City’s management of the site has ensured consistent tree trimming, maintenance of sidewalk furniture, flourishing outdoor dining culture, and the installation of historical markers to promote the significance of this historic monument.



A Great Place has a visually interesting design and architectural features and it may also be historic. The majority of the storefront shops located near the Los Angeles Plaza Park have been locally owned and passed down for nearly 100 years. From La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Ángeles — a Spanish style church — to the oldest standing building in Los Angeles — Avila Adobe, El Pueblo encompasses architectural and historical features that are indicative of the history of Los Angeles and California. El Pueblo was declared a state historic monument in 1953 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

El Pueblo showcases historic buildings from the Spanish Period (1818) Avila Adobe, Our Lady Queen of Angels Church, and the Los Angeles Plaza, and throughout the building boom of the 1870s and 1880, featuring notable buildings like the Pico House, Garnier Building, and Merced Theater. The most recent addition of El Pueblo's historic period includes the early modern development of Los Angeles up until 1932. During this time, Olvera Street Mexican Marketplace (an early example of cultural tourism), Italian Hall, the Plaza Substation (Henry Huntington's Los Angeles Railway building), and the America Tropical mural by David Alfaro Siqueiros were introduced to the general vicinity.



- 1781 – Founding of El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles under Spain (Governor Felipe de Neve)
- 1818 – Avila Adobe completed
- 1818-1822 La Placita Church
- 1821 – Mexico Gains Independence from Spain
- 1825 – Los Angeles Plaza location “finalized”
- 1835 – Los Angeles raised to status of City by the Congress of Mexico (from “Pueblo”)
- 1846-1848 – Mexican – American War
- 1850 – California Statehood under the United States
- 1855 – Masonic Hall
- 1870 – Pico House Hotel
- 1871 – Merced Theater
- 1877 – Vine Street renamed for Judge Agustin Olvera
- 1890 – Garnier Building
- 1907-08 – Italian Hall
- 1926 – La Plaza United Methodist Church
- 1930 – Olvera Street Mexican Marketplace Opens
- 1932 – “America Tropical” painted by David Alfaro Siqueiros
- 1953 – El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park (Operated under State, LA County, LA City)
- 1990 – City of LA becomes lead in operating El Pueblo Historical Monument