



7

Thematic Tours

This chapter includes seven tours that will guide you to important places whose history and geography relate to a particular theme. All are full-day tours and will be most easily completed by car, for which we include point-to-point driving directions. Frequently, in addition to the main sites, we suggest nearby sites of interest to visit or organizations at which you may meet with staff members or arrange to volunteer. We also provide suggestions for good places to have a meal, although we invite you to choose any of the other restaurants listed in the “Favorite Neighborhood Restaurants” section of each site entry to accommodate your appetite and schedule.

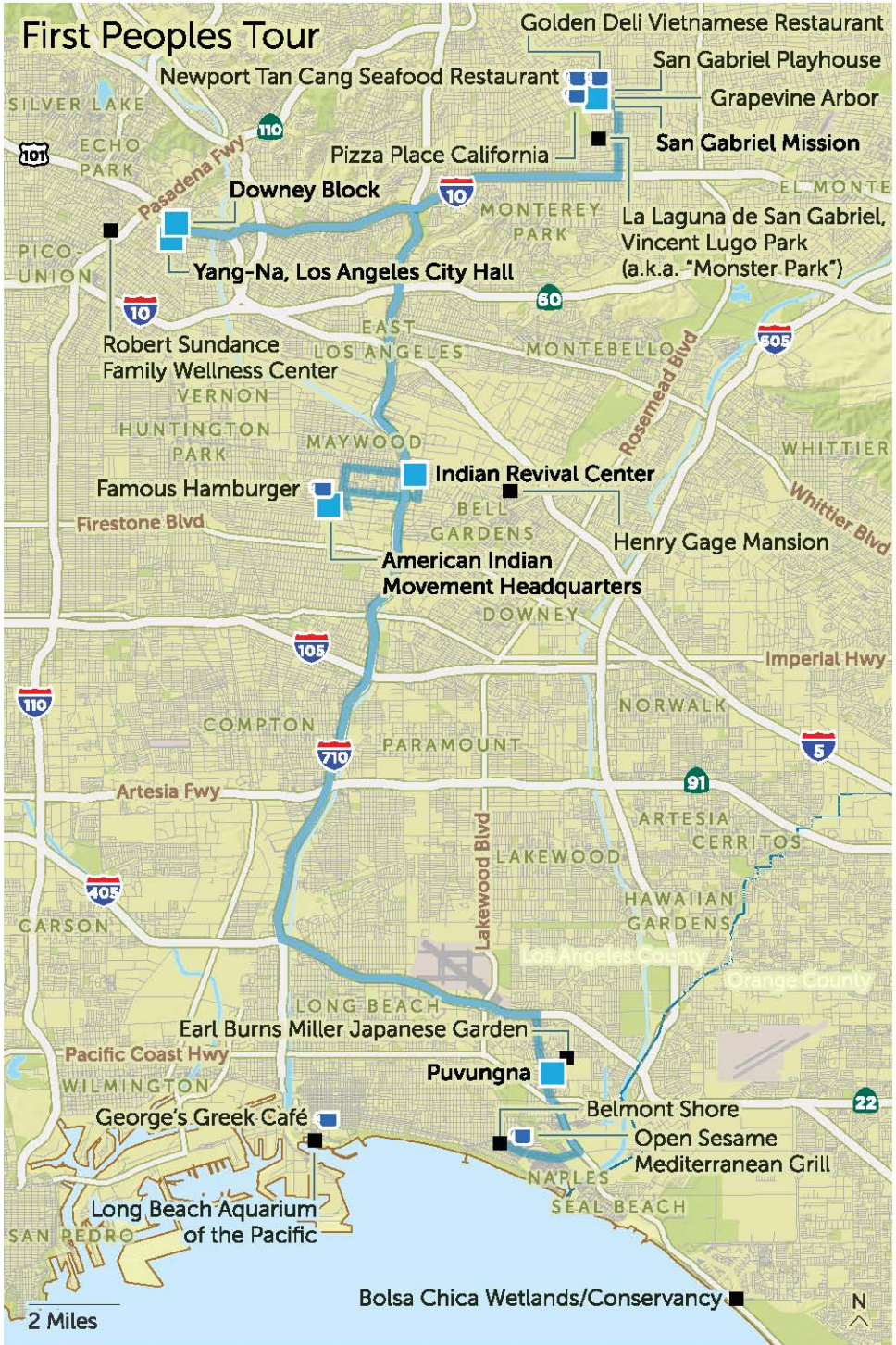
First Peoples Tour

Contemporary Los Angeles has the largest urban concentration of American Indians in the United States. This tour visits important political, cultural, and spiritual sites of American Indians in Los Angeles County. You will travel through North L.A., the Greater Eastside and San Gabriel Valley, South L.A., and the Harbor and South Bay (specifically Long Beach).

Start at **YANG-NA** (200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles 90012), one of the largest villages of the Tongva people and a favorite trading spot for native peoples of the region before Spanish colonization. It is now the site of L.A. City Hall. The city of Los Angeles was founded on or near the site of Yang-Na in 1781, and the Tongva people were forced into the missions at San Gabriel and San Fernando. During the American period, they were auctioned off as slave laborers at the

nearby **DOWNEY BLOCK** (312 N. Spring St., Los Angeles 90012), just around the corner from city hall. To get to the Downey Block from Yang-Na/city hall, walk north on Spring Street, make a right on Temple, and go to the corner of Temple and Main. Here, during the 1850s and 1860s, native peoples who had been imprisoned for crimes such as vagrancy or loitering were auctioned off, usually to Anglo and Mexican ranchers, for servitude.

The next stop is the **SAN GABRIEL MISSION** (428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel 91776). From the Downey Block, drive northeast on Main Street and take the first right, onto Aliso Street. Merge onto U.S.-101 south via the ramp on the left side. Take a slight left to get onto I-10 east heading toward San Bernardino, and travel for almost 7 miles. Exit at San Gabriel Boulevard and turn right at East Mission Road. The mission will be on the left side. Beginning in 1771, Tongva peoples were lured to this place with food, converted to Catholicism, and forced to perform agricultural and some manufacturing work. An estimated 6,000 indigenous people died here during Spanish rule. This mission was also the site of an unsuccessful uprising led by two young Indians, Toypurina and Nicolas José, in 1775. Call ahead if you wish to arrange a guided tour of the mission (although you may want to critique and challenge the official narrative), or explore the church, museum, gardens, and gift shop on your own. The mission is open seven days a week (except holidays) from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 17.



Stop for lunch in the neighborhood surrounding the mission. We recommend Pizza Place California (303 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel 91776; 626-570-9622), which serves pizza and a variety of pan-Asian dishes; or Lunas Mexican Restaurant (343 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel 91776; 626-576-7653), featuring fresh Mexican food. Both are located on Mission Drive very close to the mission.

After lunch, travel to southeast L.A.'s working-class suburbs, which now house some of the densest residential concentrations of American Indians, as well as some of the most historically important sites of American Indian activism in the county. First up is the **INDIAN REVIVAL CENTER** (5602 E. Gage Ave., Bell Gardens 90201), a church and hub of political activity that formed during the federal government's urbanization and relocation programs of the 1950s. To get to the Revival Center from the San Gabriel Mission, return to San Gabriel Boulevard and turn left so that you are traveling back toward I-10. Merge onto I-10 west heading toward Los Angeles. Take exit 21 heading toward I-710 South/Long Beach, merge onto Ramona Road, continue on to State University Drive, then get on I-710 south. Travel about 6.5 miles on the 710 freeway and exit at Florence Avenue. Turn left at Eastern Avenue, then turn left at Gage Avenue. The church will be on your left. It frequently hosts visiting indigenous speakers from across the nation, as well as cultural, political, and spiritual events.

Nearby are the historic offices of the **AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT** (4304 Clara St. no. 1, Cudahy 90201), where AIM activists

organized actions such as occupations of abandoned federal land, protests against governmental injustices, and resistance to state violence. To get there from the Indian Revival Center, head west on Gage Street toward Specht Avenue and travel 1.3 miles, turn left at Atlantic Avenue and drive for about 1 mile, and then turn right at Clara Street. The apartment complex that once housed the AIM offices will be on your left. Please respect the privacy of residents.

The last site on the tour is **PUVUNGNA** (1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach 90840), in Long Beach, about 20 miles from the AIM offices but well worth the trip. To get there from the AIM offices, head east on Clara Street and turn left on Atlantic Avenue. Turn right on Florence Street and merge onto I-710 south heading toward Long Beach, then take I-405 south toward San Diego. Exit at Bellflower Boulevard and follow the signs for Bellflower Boulevard South. Turn left at Los Coyotes Diagonal and turn right at North Bellflower Boulevard. Make a right on East State University Drive and then turn left on Earl Warren Drive to enter the CSU Long Beach campus. Park in the first lot on the left. Walk north from the parking lot to arrive at Puvungna. This was once a Tongva village, and a very important one, for it was the birthplace of Chungichnish, their god and lawgiver, as well as a place of instruction and a burial ground. Given the site's location on the campus of Cal State Long Beach, it has also been an important site of student and community activism protesting repeated threats of development.

End the day at Belmont Shore, a relaxing

beach town within the city of Long Beach. Check out East Second Street between Pacific Coast Highway and Livingston Drive, where you'll find lots of charming little shops, eateries, and coffee shops. To get there from Puvungna, continue traveling south on Bellflower Boulevard and turn left at CA-1 (Pacific Coast Highway) south. Make a right on East Second Street, find a place to park, and walk around this enjoyable area.

Radical People-of-Color Movements of the 1960s and '70s Tour

This tour takes you to some of the places associated with the radical social movements among people of color in L.A. during the late 1960s and the 1970s, especially the Chicano Movement, Black Power Movement, and the American Indian Movement. You'll spend most of your time in the Eastside and South L.A., where most Black, brown, and red people lived at that time.

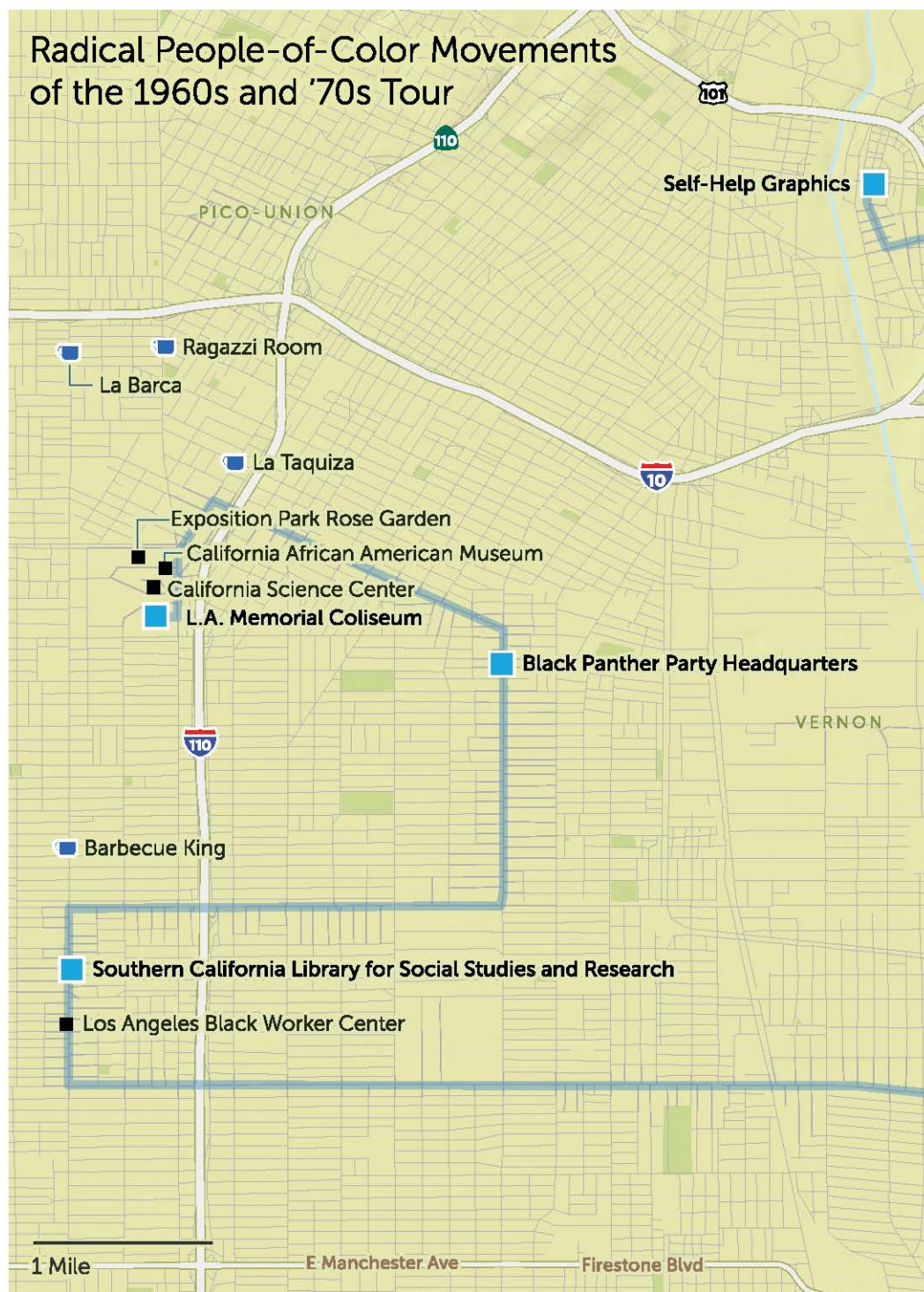
Start at **SELF-HELP GRAPHICS** (1300 E. First St., Los Angeles 90033), a community-based arts center that contributed to the Chicano Movement by supporting artists who created art reflecting the reality and perspectives of the Chicana/o and Latina/o communities. Self-Help Graphics is on the corner of Anderson and First Streets in a former warehouse with the lettering "Ocean Queen" still visible on its exterior. Its galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Check their web site ([www.selfhelpgraphics](http://www.selfhelpgraphics.com)

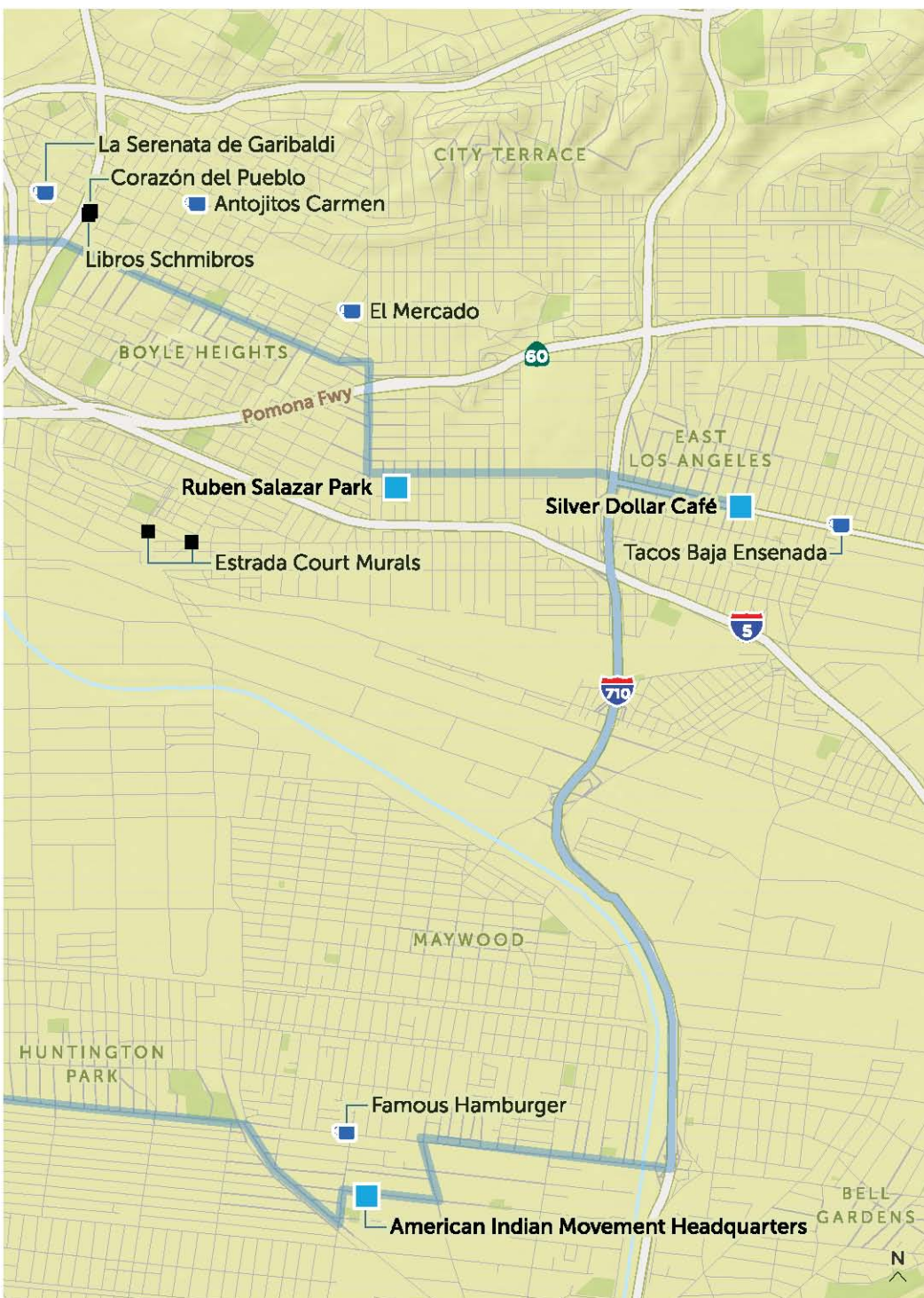
.com) for workshops and special events.

Next, stop by **RUBEN SALAZAR PARK** (3864 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90023), the site of the Chicano Moratorium in August 1970, which was the largest ethnic antiwar demonstration in U.S. history. Thirty thousand mostly Chicana/o demonstrators marched to Salazar Park (then named Laguna Park) from Belvedere to protest the fact that Chicanos were being disproportionately drafted and killed in the Vietnam War, even while they experienced discrimination and oppression at home. Upon their arrival, the demonstrators were met with intense police brutality; three people died and hundreds were injured or arrested. The park was renamed Salazar Park in honor of Mexican journalist Rubén Salazar, who was sympathetic to the Chicano Movement and who was killed while covering the event. To get to the park from Self-Help Graphics, travel east on First Street for one mile. Turn right on Soto Street, and left onto Whittier Boulevard. In 1.6 miles, you will see the entrance to the park on your right.

To see the actual place where Salazar was killed, travel to the former site of the **SILVER DOLLAR CAFÉ** (4945 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90022). To get there from Salazar Park, head east on Whittier Boulevard for about 1.6 miles. The site will be on the left. Salazar had ducked into this store, which was then a bar, after reporting on the march, but he was hit in the head by a tear gas projectile fired by an L.A. County sheriff's deputy, who was never brought to justice. Before leaving East L.A., grab some lunch from El Mercado (3425 E. First St., Los Angeles 90063), an

Radical People-of-Color Movements of the 1960s and '70s Tour





East L.A. institution and extensive marketplace with numerous food options. For a closer option, try the Ensenada-style fish and shrimp tacos at Tacos Baja Ensenada (5385 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles 90022). To get to Tacos Baja Ensenada from the Silver Dollar, travel half a mile east on Whittier Boulevard.

After lunch, travel about 8 miles to the former **AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT HEADQUARTERS** (4304 Clara St. no. 1, Cudahy 90201), where AIM activists strategized and organized actions such as occupations of abandoned federal land, protests against continued governmental injustices, and resistance to state violence. From the Silver Dollar Café, go west on Whittier Boulevard for about three-quarters of a mile, then turn left on Eastern Avenue. After 0.2 miles, turn left to merge onto I-710 south toward Long Beach. Drive for about 3.6 miles on I-710 south, then exit on Florence Avenue toward Bell. Turn left at Atlantic Avenue, then take the third right, onto Clara Street. The apartment complex that once housed the offices of the L.A. branch of the American Indian Movement will be on your left.

Next up: **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH** (6120 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90044; 323-759-6063; socallib.org), an invaluable archive of L.A.'s radical leftist organizations from the 1930s to the present, as well as a library and community center. From the AIM office, head west on Clara Street toward Otis Avenue. Turn right at Salt Lake Avenue, then left on Florence Avenue. Turn right on Vermont Avenue to head north (total trip is

7 miles). The library will be on your right, about three-quarters of a mile up Vermont, near the corner of Sixty-first Street. If you intend to do extensive research or wish to take a more formal tour, contact the library staff ahead of time to make an appointment. Otherwise, enjoy browsing the library's extensive collection of radical books, posters, films, and ephemera.

Next, travel to the former **BLACK PANTHER PARTY HEADQUARTERS** (4115 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles 90011), where the LAPD initiated a four-hour raid and massacre in December 1969. The FBI had deemed the BPP the greatest threat to the internal security of the United States because of its revolutionary politics. To get there from the library, head north on Vermont Avenue, turn right on Slauson Avenue, then turn left on Central Avenue. The building that was at this address, and which was destroyed in the shoot-out, has been replaced by a paved lot. It will be on your right, between Forty-first and Forty-second streets. The shoot-out was a major factor leading to the eventual demise of the Southern California chapter of the BPP.

The last stop on the tour is the **L.A. MEMORIAL COLISEUM** (3939 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90037; lacoliseumlive.com/joomla). In August 1972, the coliseum hosted the Wattstax concert, which was intended to help the community rebuild after the Watts uprising of 1965. It brought together more than 100,000 people and was the second-largest gathering of African Americans in U.S. history (after Dr. Martin Luther King's March on Washington). To get there from

the BPP headquarters, travel north on Central Avenue, then turn left at Jefferson. Take a left onto Figueroa Street, then make a right at Exposition Park Drive, where you will enter the Exposition Park complex of museums and gardens. The coliseum is located in the middle of Exposition Park and is easily visible. After checking out the exterior of the coliseum, you can spend the afternoon strolling through the Rose Garden or visiting the California African American Museum (open Tues.–Sat. 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sun. 11 A.M. to 5 P.M.; free admission), the Natural History Museum (open 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily; admission \$9 adults, \$6.50 children, students, and seniors), or the California Science Center (open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily; free admission).

Have dinner in the Exposition Park–USC area. We recommend La Taquiza (3009 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 90007; 213-741-9795), which features a mammoth menu of Mexican foods, including their specialty, the *mulita*; or La Barca (2414 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90007; 323-735-6567), a family-style Mexican restaurant. Or stop for a coffee and pastry or a sandwich at the Ragazzi Room (2316 S. Union Ave., Los Angeles 90007; cross street is Hoover; 213-741-1723), a pleasant place to hang out and reflect upon your day. All three restaurants are north of the Exposition Park museums, which are bounded by Vermont and Figueroa.

Queer Politics and Culture Tour

This tour explores the historical development of queer social communities and political movements for LGBT rights in Los Angeles. It travels through the North L.A. and Westside regions of the *People's Guide*, focusing on those neighborhoods that have been and continue to be particularly important incubators of queer social critique and political mobilization.

Begin on Vermont Avenue between Eighth and Ninth streets, a block that once housed the **IF CAFÉ** (810 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90005) and **OPEN DOOR** (831 S. Vermont Ave.), two working-class, racially mixed lesbian bars that were crucial to the development of lesbian culture and community in L.A. from the 1940s to the 1960s—as well as frequent targets of police harassment and abuse.

Next, head to **PERSHING SQUARE** (532 S. Olive St., Los Angeles 90013), which was a popular cruising spot for gay men from diverse racial and economic backgrounds in the 1950s, as well as a common site for a broad array of protests. To get there from the If Café and Open Door, head north on Vermont and turn right on Seventh Street, then turn left at Olive Street. Pershing Square will be on your right. During the 1950s and 1960s, Pershing Square anchored a wide range of bars, apartments, and other centers of gay social life in the surrounding neighborhood, but like the two lesbian bars

on Vermont, this area was subject to near-constant police sweeps and harassment.

Next stop: the former site of the L.A. branch of the **GAY LIBERATION FRONT**, which operated out of the home of gay rights activist Morris Kight (1822 W. 4th St., Los Angeles 90057). In addition to performing his work with the GLF, Kight was instrumental in founding both the gay rights parade now known as L.A. Pride and the organization now known as the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. To get to his former home from Pershing Square, head northeast on Olive Street toward Fifth Street, and turn left on Fifth. Stay left on Fifth as it goes under the freeway and

merges with Sixth Street. Turn right at Burlington Avenue, and take the third left, onto Fourth Street. Kight's former home, and the former offices of the GLF, will be on your right. As this is a private residence, please be respectful of the current occupants.

Now, you'll travel to the Silver Lake and Echo Park neighborhoods of L.A., which have long been queer-friendly places associated with a wide range of alternative communities and counterhegemonic social practices. First up: the historic site of the **BLACK CAT BAR**, now Le Barcito, in the Silver Lake neighborhood (3909 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 90029). In early 1967, this bar

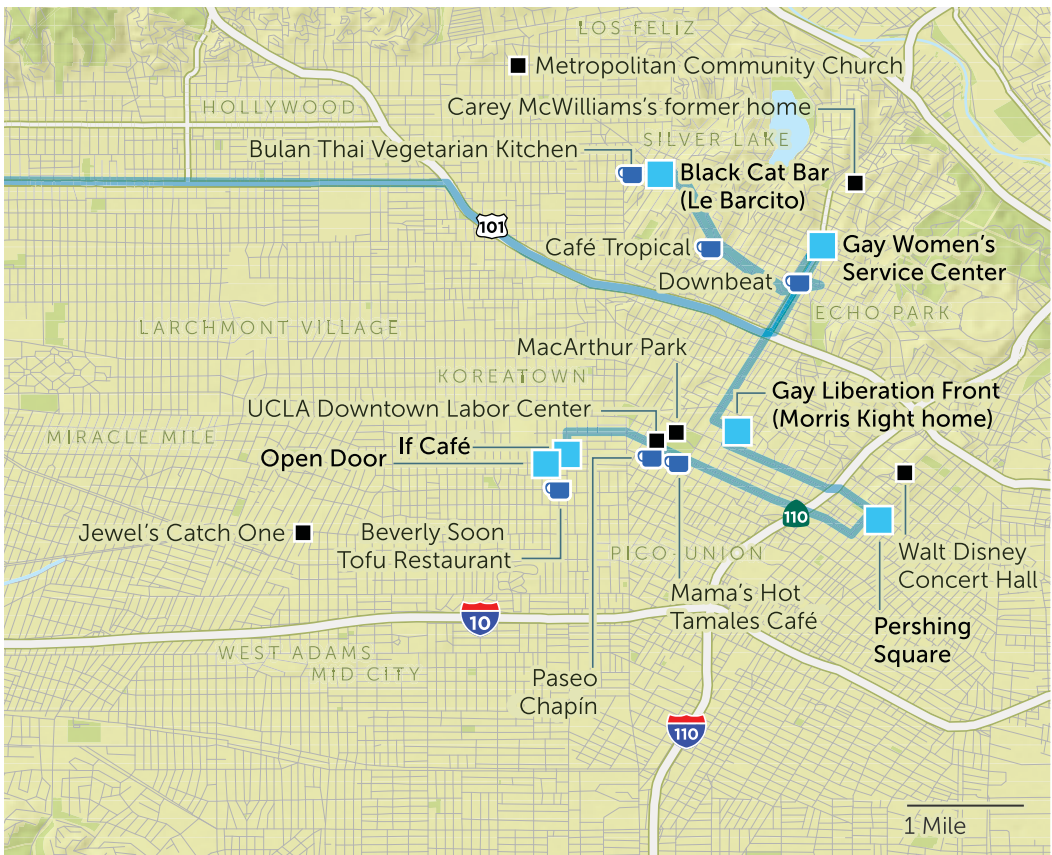


was the site of L.A.'s first known protest for LGBT rights, sparked by an incident of police brutality the year before. The demonstration helped to mark Silver Lake as a gay neighborhood and to establish connections between the emerging gay liberation movement and the movements among other communities of color in L.A. and nationally.

While in the area, spend some time exploring Silver Lake's funky shops and street scene. There are also many wonderful spots here for lunch. Grab an espresso and pastry (the guava cheese pie is highly recommended) at Café Tropical (2900 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 90026; near the

intersection of Sunset and Parkman). For a heartier meal, try Bulan Thai Vegetarian Kitchen (4114 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90029; one-quarter mile from Le Barcito; travel west on Sunset and go left at the split with Santa Monica Boulevard); or Downbeat (1202 N. Alvarado St., Los Angeles 90026), a jazz-themed coffee shop in Echo Park that serves up sandwiches and salads and is on the way to the next tour stop.

Staying in this general area, head to the **GAY WOMEN'S SERVICE CENTER** (1542 Glen-dale Blvd., Los Angeles 90026), founded in 1971, the first lesbian social services center in the United States. To get there from the



Black Cat area, continue east on Sunset Boulevard and turn left on Alvarado Street. Watch for the Downbeat, at 1202 North Alvarado, if that's where you wish to stop for lunch. The former site of the service center will be on your right, about a half mile up the street, at the corner of Alvarado Street and Glendale Boulevard.

The remaining stops on the tour take you to the Westside, to explore places that have been crucial to the more recent development of queer life, politics, and culture in L.A. Head to the **WEST HOLLYWOOD CITY HALL** (8300 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood 90069) and the surrounding city of West Hollywood, which was incorporated in 1984 and is popularly known as the first "gay city" in the United States. From the Gay Women's Service Center, turn around on Alvarado to travel southeast, and turn right to merge onto US-101 north, traveling toward Sacramento. After 2.5 miles, exit on Santa Monica Ave/CA-2 toward Western Avenue. At the top of the off-ramp, turn left onto Santa Monica Boulevard and drive for 2.5 miles into West Hollywood. City Hall will be on your left. If you're so inclined, stop for a cocktail or other refreshment at The Abbey (692 N. Robertson Blvd.; at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd. and Robertson Blvd.), a beautiful bar and restaurant that has been at the center of WeHo nightlife for many years.

Next stop: the **FEDERAL BUILDING** (11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90024) in Westwood, which has been the site of numerous

protests on behalf of gay rights and HIV/AIDS research, funding, and services. From WeHo City Hall, continue west on Santa Monica Boulevard for 5 miles and turn right on Sepulveda Boulevard. Take the third right, onto Wilshire Boulevard. The federal building will be on your right about a quarter mile up.

Finish the tour at **HIGHWAYS PERFORMANCE SPACE** (1651 18th St., Santa Monica 90404; 310-315-1459; www.highwaysperformance.org). From the federal building, go northeast on Wilshire Boulevard toward Veteran Avenue and turn right on Veteran Avenue. Take the third right, onto Santa Monica Boulevard, then travel for almost 3 miles and turn left at Twentieth Street. Turn right onto Olympic Boulevard, then turn right onto Eighteenth Street. Highways will be on the right side of the street. Check the web site or call ahead to find out what performances, exhibits, or workshops will be available on the day of your visit.

Finish up the day with dinner at Lares Restaurant (2909 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405; 310-829-4550), a Mexican restaurant with a full bar and occasional live music; to get there from Highways, head northeast on Olympic Boulevard, turn right on Cloverfield, and then make a left on Pico Boulevard. Or for delicious, if somewhat pricier, Indian food, try Nawab of India (1621 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica 90403; 310-829-1106); from Highways, head southwest on Olympic, turn right on Seventeenth Street, and turn left on Wilshire Boulevard.

Independent and Alternative Media Tour

This tour is for lovers of alternative and independent news media, libraries, and bookstores. The tour travels through several of the regions described in the *People's Guide*, so you'll get a good sense of the city's diverse neighborhoods, especially the places where working-class, immigrant, and Black communities have lived and developed their own interpretations—in newsprint, on the airwaves, and in fiction and film—of the conditions shaping their lives.

Start at the site of the old **L.A. TIMES BUILDING** (northeast corner of S. Broadway and W. 1st St., Los Angeles 90012), which represents the mainstream, corporate media perspective that independent news sources in L.A. have challenged for more than a century. In 1910, the McNamara brothers (James and John) planted a bomb in this building to protest the paper's staunch antiunion, antilabor politics and hostile coverage of local events. You can clearly see the footprint of the old building on this corner.

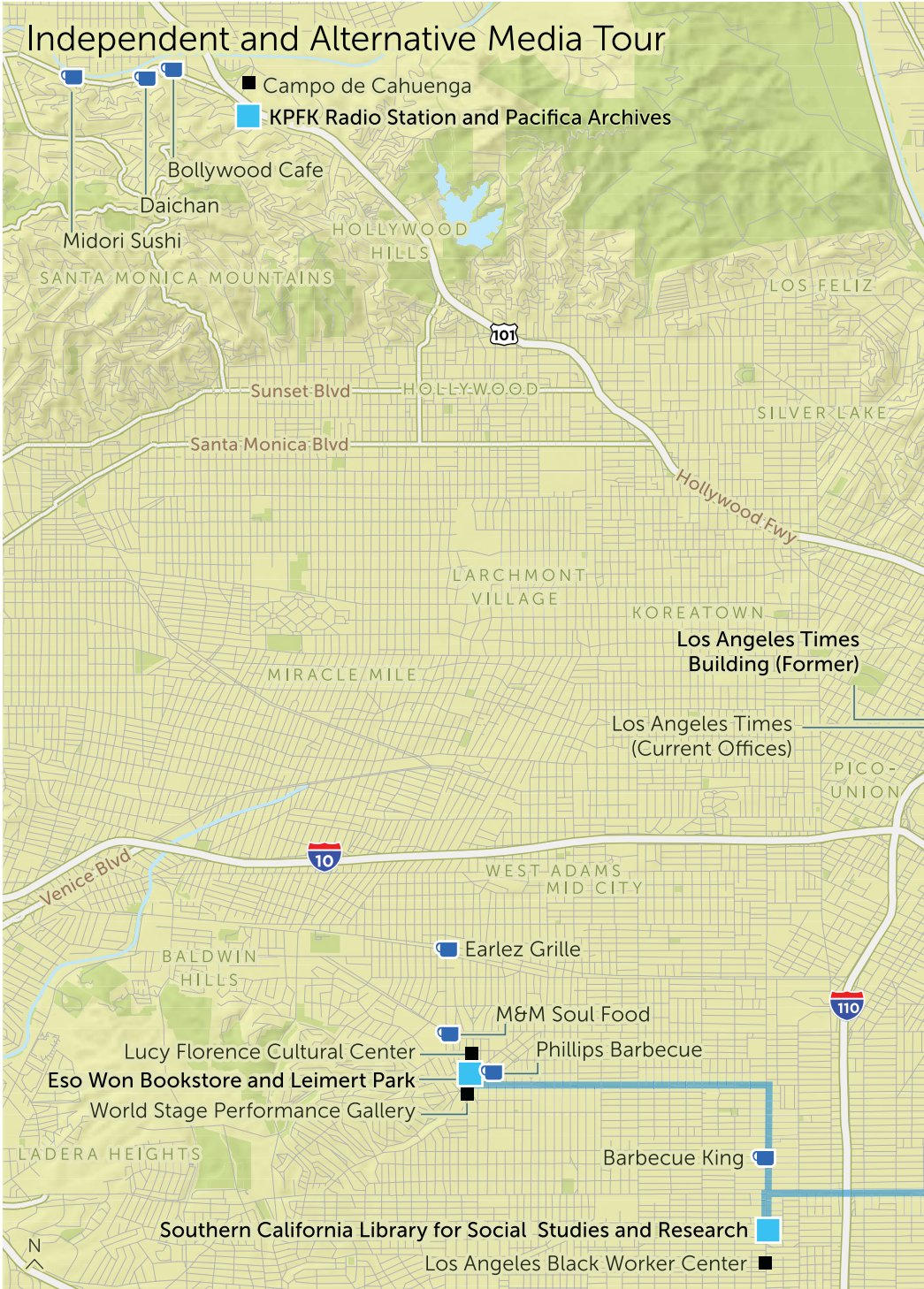
The next two sites feature the historic, now-demolished offices of two independent ethnic newspapers published during the 1910s and 1920s. First up, and very close to the L.A. Times building, is the site of the former offices of the **CABALLEROS DE DIMAS-ALANG** (126–128 Astronaut Onizuka St., Los Angeles 90012), a Pilipino fraternal organization that promoted liberation of the Philippines from U.S. colonialism, in part through

publication of its newspaper, the *Philippines Review*, at this address. From the L.A. Times building, walk southeast on First Street about a third of a mile, and turn right on Astronaut Onizuka Street. The former offices of the Caballeros will be on your left. Before this neighborhood became predominantly Japanese American, these buildings were at the heart of a thriving Pilipino community.

Next, walk or drive to one of the former offices of the **PARTIDO LIBERAL MEXICANO** (519 ½ E. 4th St., Los Angeles 90013), where the Mexican brothers Ricardo and Enrique Flores Magón published their newspaper, *Regeneración*, while in exile in L.A. during the Mexican Revolution. From the Caballeros offices, travel south on Astronaut Onizuka Street toward San Pedro Street and make a right at San Pedro Street. Turn left at Fourth Street. The former PLM offices will be on your left, approximately a half mile from the Caballeros offices. From this address, the Magón brothers promoted worker uprisings against the Porfirio Díaz dictatorship in Mexico, as well as advocated worker ownership and control of land and production.

While in the neighborhood, stop at the Studio for Southern California History (977 N. Hill St., Los Angeles 90012; www.socalstudio.org), a small gallery and museum dedicated to L.A.'s social history, located about 2 miles from the PLM offices (note that the Studio is currently open Friday through Sunday, 12 noon to 8 P.M., and by appointment, but check their web site to verify current hours). To get there from PLM, head southwest on Fourth Street toward Towne Avenue, then turn left on Towne and

Independent and Alternative Media Tour





make a slight left at Central Avenue. Turn left at East First Street and then make a right on Hill Street. The Studio will be about six blocks up the street on your right. Check out the web site ahead of time to see what exhibits and events are happening or to make an appointment with the director.

For lunch, stop at Philippe's the Original (1001 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles 90012; 213-628-3781; www.philippes.com), an L.A. institution specializing in French-dip sandwiches, near the PLM offices and the Studio for Southern California History. From the Studio, walk or drive south on Hill Street, make a left on College Street, then a right on Alameda. Philippe's is at the corner of Ord and Alameda streets, approximately one-half mile from the Studio. Or check out Hop Li (526 Alpine St., Los Angeles 90012; 213-680-3939; www.hoplirestaurant.com), an excellent Chinese restaurant located just around the corner from another address where the Partido Liberal Mexicano had its offices. To get to Hop Li from the Studio, walk or drive south on Hill Street, then turn right on Alpine Street (total trip is about one-third of a mile). The old PLM office at 809 Yale Street is just around the corner.

After lunch, head into South L.A. to check out some of the independent media sources, both historic and contemporary, that have germinated in this part of the city. First up are the former offices of the **CALIFORNIA EAGLE** (4071–4075 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles 90011), the longest running Black newspaper on the West Coast, published from 1879 to 1964. To get there from Philippe's, travel south on Alameda Street for 1.5 miles, turn

right at Sixth Street, then make a quick left onto Central Avenue. The offices of the *Eagle* will be on your right side, near the intersection of Central and Forty-first Street. Here, under the leadership of Charlotta Bass (who later ran for vice president of the United States), the *Eagle* served as a leading defender of the rights and interests of people of color, and tackled racism in L.A. and the U.S. West, as well as elitism within the Black community.

A full run of the *California Eagle*, and an array of many other progressive and radical historical sources, is archived at the **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIBRARY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES AND RESEARCH** (6120 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles 90044; 323-759-6063; socallib.org), the next stop on the tour. To get to the library from the *Eagle* offices, continue traveling south on Central Avenue, then make a right on Slauson Avenue, and then a left on Vermont Avenue. The library will be on your left, near the corner of Sixty-first Street. If you intend to do extensive research or wish a more formal tour, contact the library staff ahead of time to make an appointment. Otherwise, enjoy browsing the library's extensive collection of radical books, posters, films, and ephemera.

Last stop: **ESO WON BOOKS** (4331 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles 90008; 323-290-1048; www.esowonbookstore.com), an independent Black-owned bookstore in Leimert Park, about 4 miles from the Southern Cali-

fornia Library. From the library, head north on Vermont Avenue and make a left on Vernon Avenue. Travel 2.2 miles on Vernon and turn right on Eleventh, take a quick left on Forty-third Street, then take the second right, onto Degnan Boulevard. Eso Won Books will be on the left. Spend some time browsing this bookstore's thoughtfully curated selections.

Finish your day by grabbing a bite at M&M Soul Food (3552 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Los Angeles 90008; 323-299-1302); Phillips Barbecue (4307 Leimert Blvd., Los Angeles 90008; 323-292-7613); or, for lots of vegetarian options, Earlez Grille (3630 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles 90008; 323-299-2867). Head across the street from Eso Won to the World Stage Gallery (4344 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles 90008; 323-293-2451; theworldstage.org), a renowned music and cultural center that sponsors workshops and cultural events most afternoons and evenings (check their calendar at their web site).

You can make your tour of L.A.'s independent media a two-day (or more!) affair by arranging to volunteer at **KPFK RADIO STATION AND PACIFICA ARCHIVES** (3729 Ca-huenga Blvd., North Hollywood 91604; 818-985-2711; www.kpfk.org), particularly during their fund drives that occur throughout the year, or inquire about internships. Call the volunteer and outreach coordinator at 818-985-2711, or visit www.kpfk.org/volunteer, for more information.

Economic Restructuring and Globalization Tour

This tour illustrates the changing nature of the Los Angeles economy in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, as the city has transformed from a vibrant hub of high-wage, often unionized manufacturing to a site of low-wage manufacturing, high-end and low-end service work, and global circuits of multinational finance, production, labor, and migration.

Begin in the morning at the **FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER** plant (2323–2525 Firestone Blvd., South Gate 90280), a factory built in 1928 that once employed 2,500 well-paid, unionized workers. This plant represents the heyday of manufacturing in Los Angeles from the 1920s through the 1960s, when hundreds of factories dominated the landscape of this area and a strong working-class culture developed. The whole complex is still intact, and it now houses the South Gate Industrial Park and the South Gate Community Adult School, both of which represent Los Angeles' new manufacturing economy (which is predominantly low-wage, nonbenefited), as well as, in the case of the adult school, a collaboration between city governments and industry to prepare workers for such jobs.

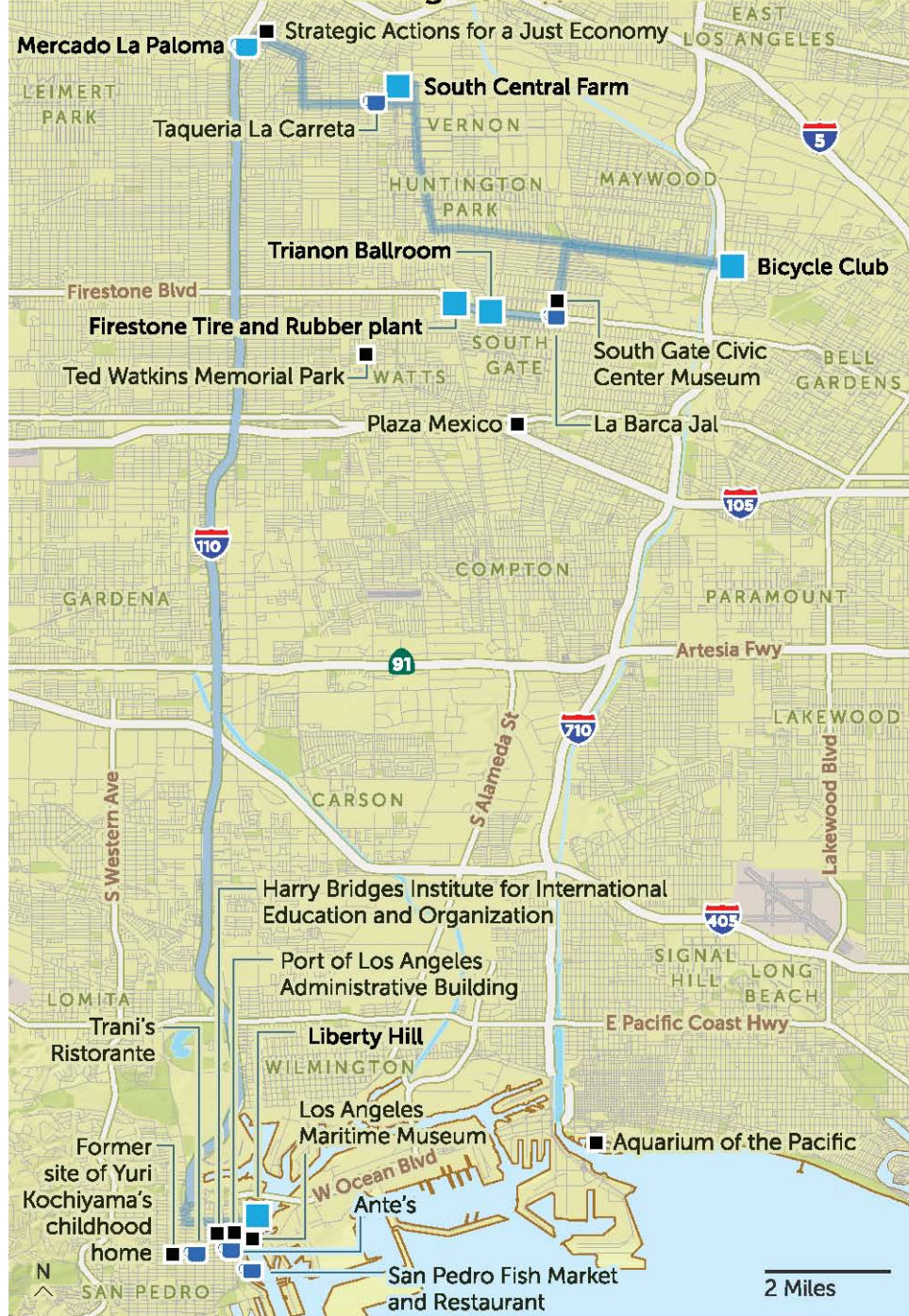
From Firestone, walk or drive east on Firestone Boulevard for approximately one-half mile to the former site of the **TRIANON BALLROOM** (2800 Firestone Blvd., South Gate 90280), a dusty lot at the time of this writing, but once a thriving ballroom where working-class migrants from the Midwest

(especially young single women) who worked at the area's manufacturing plants gathered for music, dancing, and socializing. Take the time to examine the contemporary industrial landscape along the way. Since the closure of Firestone and other branch plants in the 1970s and 1980s, most of the factories in this area now employ nonunionized workers, who are paid low wages to produce and assemble furniture, apparel, or electronics. The area's many warehouses coordinate shipping from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the Inland Empire and beyond.

Next, drive 4.6 miles to the **BICYCLE CLUB** (7301 Eastern Ave., Bell Gardens 90201), a casino built in 1984 that the city promised would revitalize southeast L.A.'s economy after the decline of manufacturing and the associated loss of corporate tax revenues. With its reliance on gambling as a strategy of economic development, the Bicycle Club represents the desperate measures taken by city governments in the aftermath of deindustrialization and Proposition 13. To get there from the Trianon Ballroom, head east on Firestone Boulevard toward Long Beach Boulevard and turn left at California Avenue. Then turn right at Florence Avenue, and make another right, onto Eastern Avenue. The casino will be on your right.

From the Bicycle Club, drive 7 miles to the former site of the **SOUTH CENTRAL FARM** (4100 Long Beach Ave., Los Angeles 90058). To get there, continue briefly south on Eastern Avenue, then make a U-turn to go north on Eastern, and turn left at Florence Avenue. Turn right at Alameda Street. The

Economic Restructuring and Globalization Tour



former South Central Farm will be on your right. At the South Central Farm, immigrant workers—a great many of whom were and are employed in south and southeast L.A.’s contemporary manufacturing economy—created a community farm to grow food and medicinal plants that would supplement their low wages and lack of health insurance. The farmers situated their presence and occupation of public land within larger processes of labor migration compelled by free-trade policies such as NAFTA and the dislocation of poor people from the land in Mexico and Central America. The farmers were forcibly evicted in 2006 by L.A. County sheriff’s deputies on behalf of a wealthy industrial property owner, whose ownership of the land was hotly disputed and perhaps illegal—and who has proposed to build yet another warehouse or truck-switching facility on the site.

For lunch, head to the Mercado La Paloma (3655 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90007; 213-748-1963; www.mercadolapaloma.com), approximately 2.8 miles from the South Central Farm. Go south on Alameda toward Vernon Avenue, turn right on Vernon, then turn right on Avalon Boulevard. Make a left onto Jefferson Boulevard and another left onto Grand Avenue. The Mercado will be on your right. There is pay parking right in front of the Mercado, or free parking on the streets nearby or in the adjacent Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot. The Mercado is a small business incubator that seeks to address high rates of poverty by creating healthy economic development strategies, as opposed to gambling or other

extractive and socially damaging industries. Restaurant options include several regional varieties of Mexican food (Oaxacan, Yucatecan), Thai, and North American foods, as well as an excellent *panadería*; several craft vendors also sell their goods here. You may also wish to stop by Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (152 W. 32nd St., Los Angeles 90007; 213-745-9961; www.saje.net), a community organization housed in a former garment sweatshop that is spearheading community-led economic justice initiatives. To get there, just continue north on Grand Avenue, pass Jefferson, and turn right on Thirty-second Street. Since this is a busy office and workspace, be sure to call ahead to find out if any events are happening, arrange to volunteer, or schedule a meeting with staff.

Spend the afternoon in the harbor area, about 20 miles south of central Los Angeles, where you can visit numerous places that bear witness to Los Angeles’ immensely important role in the globalization of manufacturing and trade. Your first stop in the harbor area is **LIBERTY HILL** (100 W. 5th St., San Pedro 90731), the site of a critically important struggle in 1923 to protect freedoms of speech and assembly, and one that was key to the eventual birth of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). From Mercado La Paloma or SAJE, follow street signs to find your way to CA-110 south. The freeway will end. Then turn left on Gaffey, left at West First Street, and right at Harbor Boulevard. The site of the 1923 strike and struggle will be on your right. Within a very short walking distance are the

Port of Los Angeles Administrative Building (425 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro 90731) and Harry Bridges Institute (350 W. 5th St., San Pedro 90731; 310-831-2397; www.harrybridges.com). To get to both from Liberty Hill, walk west on Fifth Street toward Palos Verdes Street (one block); you'll see the administrative building on the corner to your left. Continue walking west on Fifth Street about one more block to the Bridges Institute, where you can check out its outstanding labor history library and video collection. Be sure to verify that the timing is right: the Bridges Institute is open Monday through Thursday 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

While in the harbor area, you may wish to take a highly recommended urban ocean boat cruise (Saturdays and Sundays at 4 P.M. in the summer months; \$29.95 adults, \$10 children), offered by the Aquarium of the Pacific. The tour lasts 2½ hours and considers the interplay between trade and manufacturing and the ocean habitat in the port area. You can purchase tickets online or at the aquarium.

Complete your day with dinner in San Pedro. We recommend the San Pedro Fish Market and Restaurant (Ports O' Call Marketplace, Berth 78, 1190 Nagoya Way, San Pedro 90731; 310-832-4251; www.sanpedrofishmarket.com) or, for something more upscale, Trani's Ristorante (584 W. 9th St., San Pedro 90731; 310-832-1220; www.jtrani.com), which specializes in Italian food, or Ante's (729 S. Ante Perkov Way, San Pedro 90731; 310-832-5375; www.antesrestaurant.com), for Croatian.

New Organizing Tour

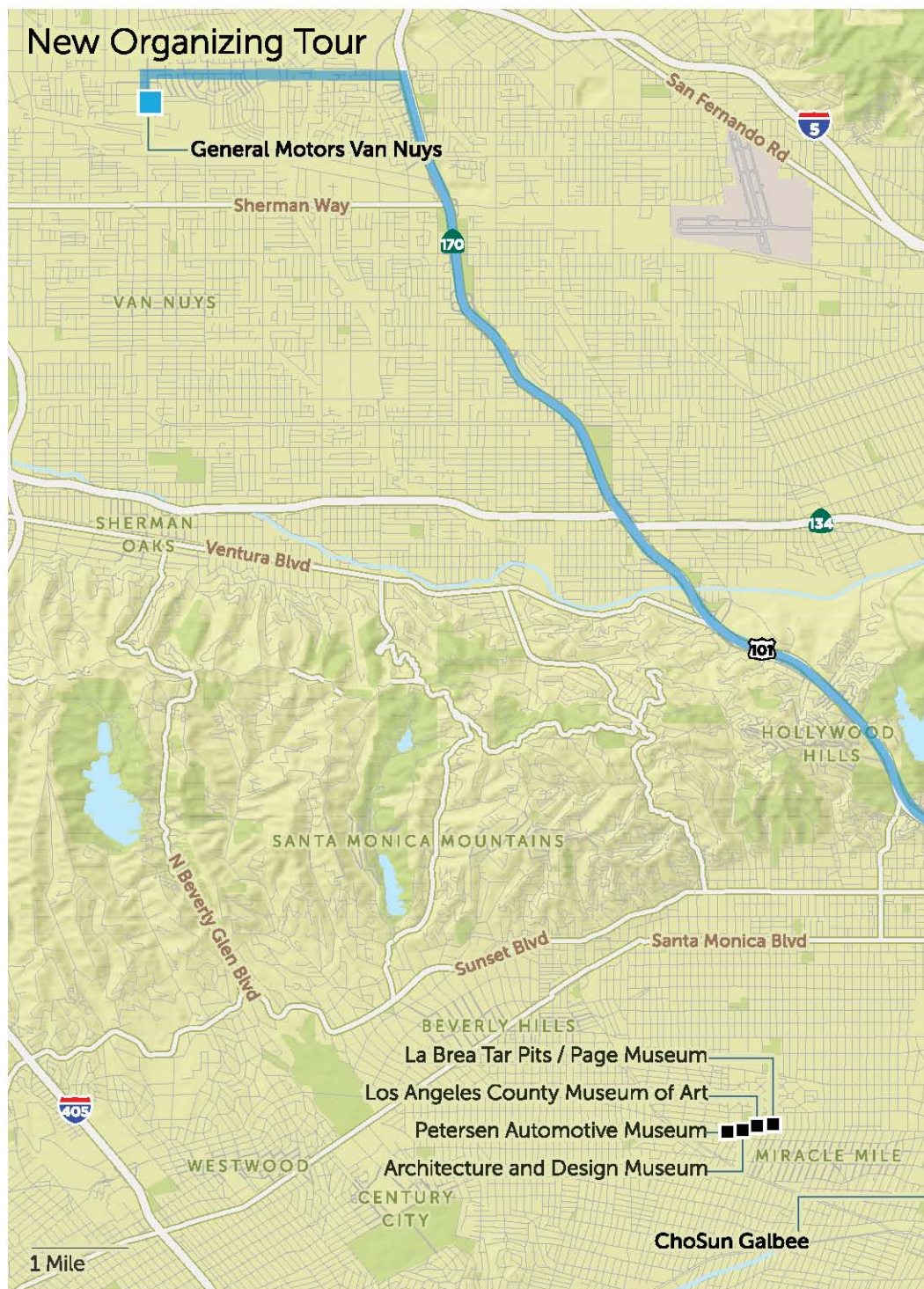
Contemporary Los Angeles is the hub of some of the most dynamic and innovative labor organizing in the country. Since the 1980s, deindustrialization and the increasingly footloose nature of global capital have caused organized labor to reassess its traditional focus on factories and white male workers. Labor leaders have turned their attention instead to the service sector, especially restaurants, hospitality and tourism, and healthcare—all of which are major pillars of L.A.'s contemporary economy—and to the infrastructures and civic resources used by working-class people. Because L.A.'s service industry workforce has grown more diverse in the past half century and includes many Asian and Latina/o immigrants, organizers have also recognized the need to explicitly and actively work across racial, ethnic, gender, and cultural lines—which have historically hindered many unionization campaigns—to build strong alliances. This labor organizing is complemented by an array of social justice organizations centered on issues such as transportation, environmental justice, prison abolition, and youth empowerment. Frequently, organizers connect the struggles of immigrant workers and people of color in Los Angeles with those of people across the region and even around the globe. All of these dynamics are characteristic of the style of labor organizing called the “new organiz-

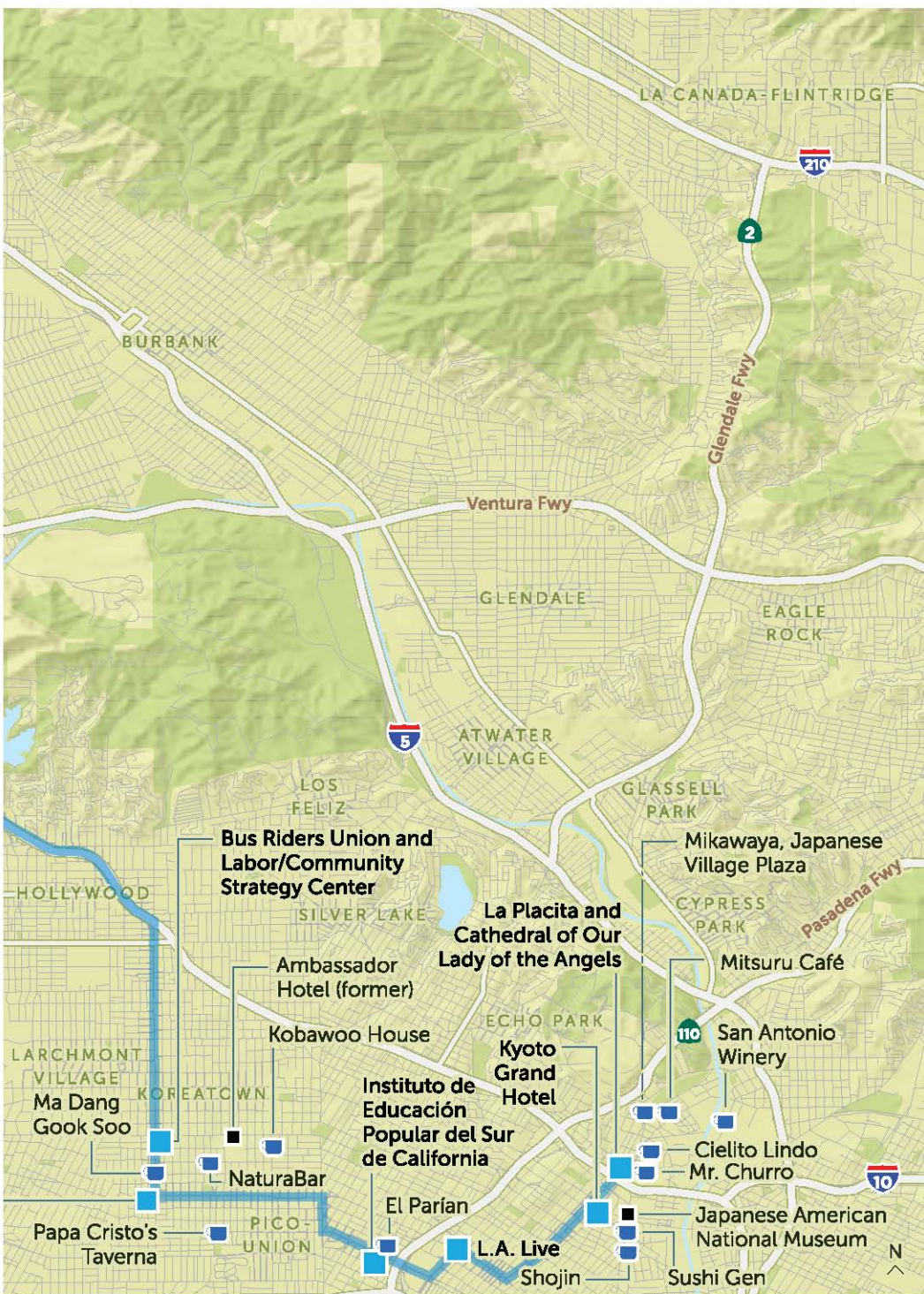
ing.” This tour, centered primarily in the North Los Angeles region of the *People’s Guide*, takes you to several key sites of the new organizing—some of the most important places where a new labor movement for the twenty-first century is being built.

Start in the San Fernando Valley at **GENERAL MOTORS VAN NUYS** (7867–8010 Van Nuys Blvd., Panorama City 91402). This place might be considered both the deathbed of the old organizing and the birthplace of the new organizing. This address is now a shopping center called The Plant, but in the 1980s it was the last auto plant in Southern California. A multiracial group of United Auto Workers, including African American, Latina/o, Asian American, and white workers succeeded in keeping the plant open for 10 years after GM first announced its plans to relocate to Canada. Even though the plant eventually did close, leaders went on to form the **LABOR/COMMUNITY STRATEGY CENTER** (LCSC) (3780 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1200, Los Angeles 90010; 213-387-2800; www.thestrategycenter.org), the next stop on the tour, which has been at the forefront of the new organizing in L.A. ever since. One of the LCSC’s most successful and innovative projects has been the Bus Riders Union, which successfully bridges Black, Latina/o, Korean, and white working-class transit users in demanding and creating a reliable, safe, and affordable mass transit system. To get to the Strategy Center from GM Van Nuys, head north on Van Nuys Boulevard

toward Lorne Street. Turn right on Roscoe Boulevard and merge onto CA-170 south, heading toward Los Angeles. Then merge onto US-101 south. Take the Western Avenue exit (which will actually deposit you on Lexington Avenue), then make a right to get on Western Avenue. The Labor/Community Strategy Center is at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, inside the beautiful Wiltern Theatre. Find a metered parking spot nearby and check out both the building and the Red Line stop on the opposite corner, which epitomizes the Bus Riders Union’s fight for transit equity on behalf of working people. Then stop by the organization’s offices on the twelfth floor; call ahead if you wish to schedule a meeting with staff or arrange to volunteer.

The remaining sites on this tour illustrate the range of outcomes associated with the new organizing in L.A. during the past 15 years: some were major successes, some less so. First up is the restaurant **CHOSUN GALBEE** (3330 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 90019; 323-734-3330; www.chosungalbee.com), in Koreatown. To get there from the Labor/Community Strategy Center, continue south on Western Avenue for 0.7 miles, and turn right on Olympic Boulevard. Travel about one block on Olympic, and you will see ChoSun Galbee on the south side of the street. In the late 1990s, the restaurant was the site of a successful organizing campaign among its Korean and Latina/o immigrant workers, who make up the bulk of the workforce in Koreatown’s many restaurants. Led by the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA, which has since changed its name to





Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance), which embraced a multilingual and multi-ethnic approach, workers staged picket lines and demonstrations and were successful in winning back wages and fair working conditions. Today, ChoSun Galbee is one of the few restaurants in Koreatown where basic labor laws are obeyed.

The next stop is the **INSTITUTO DE EDUCACIÓN POPULAR DEL SUR DE CALIFORNIA** (Institute of Popular Education of Southern California), or **IDEPSCA** (1565 W. 14th Street, Los Angeles 90015; 213-252-2952; www.idepsca.org). IDEPSCA uses popular education methods to aid workers in identifying and theorizing the challenges they face, such as economic exploitation and anti-immigrant political sentiment. It also helps them to develop grassroots and cooperative solutions, including day-laborer centers and a housecleaning cooperative that uses environmentally friendly methods. To get to IDEPSCA from ChoSun Galbee, head east on Olympic Boulevard. Turn right on Hoover Street, make a left on Pico Boulevard, then a right at Union Avenue, and a left at West Fourteenth Street. This building, about halfway down the block, once housed refugee families from Guatemala and El Salvador and is now home to IDEPSCA's offices. If you call ahead to find out what is going on that day, you may be able to sit in on a meeting or training or arrange to volunteer.

For lunch, walk or drive to El Parían (1528 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90015; 213-386-7361), just around the corner from IDEPSCA, for excellent *birria*, burritos, or carne asada tacos with homemade tortillas and salsa. From the

IDEPSCA offices, walk southeast on Fourteenth Street to Toberman, make a left on Toberman, and then take the second right, on Pico Boulevard. El Parían will be on your right.

Up next: **L.A. LIVE** (800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 90015). From IDEPSCA or El Parían, head southeast on West Pico Boulevard, then make a left at Figueroa Street. You will almost immediately see the L.A. Live complex on your left, between Pico and Olympic boulevards. The total trip is 1 mile. L.A. Live, which includes the Staples Center, is home to the Lakers and a major concert venue, and is also the product of successful organizing to ensure that community economic redevelopment benefits the working class. In 2001, as part of L.A. Live's development process, the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice won an unprecedented community benefits agreement that secured permanent jobs and preferential parking for local residents, as well as money for parks. The agreement has since become a model for other economic justice groups around the country.

Now travel to the **KYOTO GRAND HOTEL**, formerly the New Otani Hotel (120 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles 90012; 213-629-1200; www.kyotograndhotel.com), where in the mid-1990s hospitality workers waged an unsuccessful unionization campaign that illustrates the tensions, difficulties, and possibilities of the new organizing. From L.A. Live, continue traveling north on Figueroa Street about one block, and turn right on Olympic Boulevard. Turn left at Main Street, and right at Second Street. The New Otani/Kyoto Grand will be at the corner of Second

and Los Angeles streets. The New Otani workers and organizers incorporated English-, Spanish-, Tagalog-, and Japanese-speaking peoples, as well as different generations of activists, in their campaigns. In addition, they explicitly connected their work with the global economy, specifically the hotel's ownership by a Japanese corporation and the city of L.A.'s recruitment of Japanese capital. While in Little Tokyo, stroll through the neighborhood to observe its many memorials and public art projects. You might also wish to drop by the Japanese American National Museum (369 E. First St., Los Angeles 90012; 213-625-0414; www.janm.org). To get there from the New Otani/Kyoto Grand, simply walk northeast on Los Angeles Street and turn right on First Street; the museum will be on your left. And be sure to stop for *mochi* ice cream at Mikawayaya in the Japanese Village Plaza, across the street from the museum (118 Japanese Village Mall, Los Angeles 90012; 213-624-1681).

End the tour at **LA PLACITA** (535 N. Main St., Los Angeles 90012), the historic center of Los Angeles and the city's oldest church. Since the 1980s, the plaza has been the site of activism on behalf of immigrant rights, which is often associated with the New Sanctuary Movement. From the Kyoto Grand Hotel, continue traveling north on Los Angeles Street and turn left on First Street, then take the first right, onto Main Street. The plaza will be on your left, slightly less than a mile from Little Tokyo. Explore the shops, restaurants, public monuments and memorials, and activities at the plaza and nearby Olvera Street. If you're in the mood for a treat,

we recommend taquitos with guacamole at Cielito Lindo (23 Olvera St., Unit E) or decadent churros (plain or filled with chocolate, caramel, or strawberry jam) at Mr. Churro (12 E. Olvera St., near the public restrooms).

Environmental Justice Tour

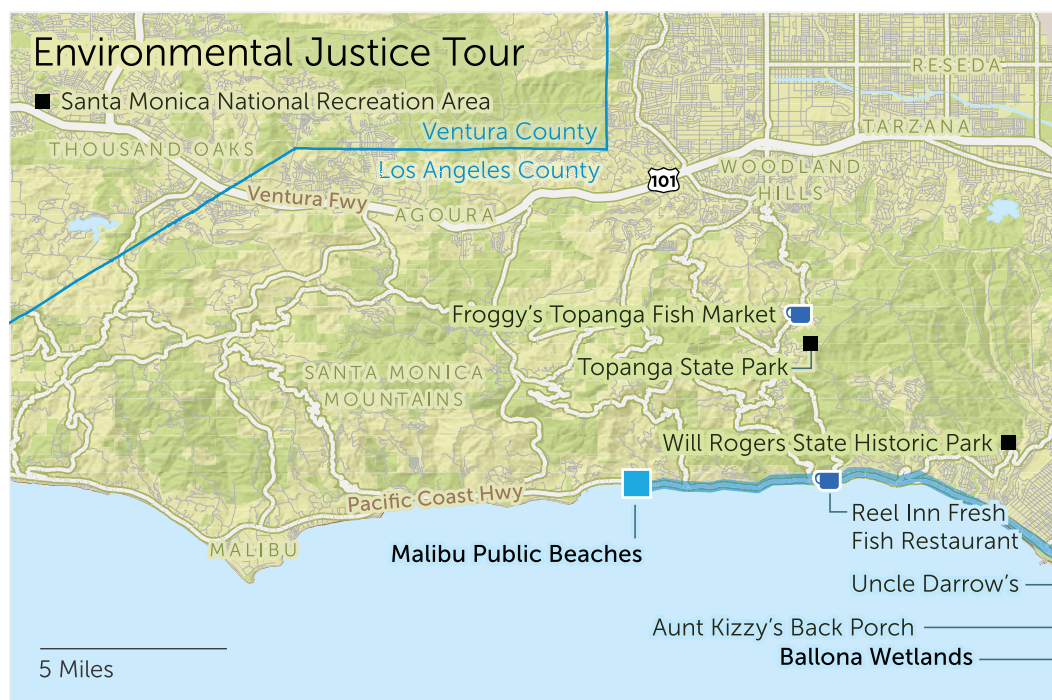
Unlike the mainstream environmental movement, which tends to focus on species protection and the preservation of open spaces absent an analysis of unequal social structures, environmental justice integrates commitments to race, class, gender, and sexual equality with activism for ecological sustainability. This tour illustrates the dynamics of environmental injustice and environmental racism, as well as key places in the birth of L.A.'s environmental justice movement.

Start at the **LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER AND GARDENS** (570 W. Ave 26, Los Angeles 90065; 323-221-8900). The River Center, which is open Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., features a free, self-guided exhibit on the history of the L.A. River (including historical efforts to cement the waterway), its current status (11 miles of natural river habitat have been restored), and a vision for the river's future. The River Garden Park, at the corner of San Fernando Road and West Avenue Twenty-Six, right at the entrance to the River Center and Gardens, is open daily from sunrise to sunset. It features a fountain, benches, and a lovely green space as well as a bicycle staging area, since numerous bike trails meet here. After checking out the

River Center's exhibits, you can walk along the river trail that begins at nearby Riverside Drive and check out a few of the "pocket parks" that are an important part of the greening effort in this high-density neighborhood close to several major freeways. To do so, from the River Center and Gardens continue down West Avenue Twenty-Six, make a right on Figueroa Street, cross over the 5 freeway, then make a right on Riverside Drive and look for the trailhead. Small pocket parks in the vicinity include Egret Park, which features native plantings and interpretive displays of river wildlife, and Steelhead Park, which has a small outdoor amphitheater. Walk as far as you like along the pedestrian/bike trail.

Next, you'll travel to the heavily industrial suburbs of south and southeast Los

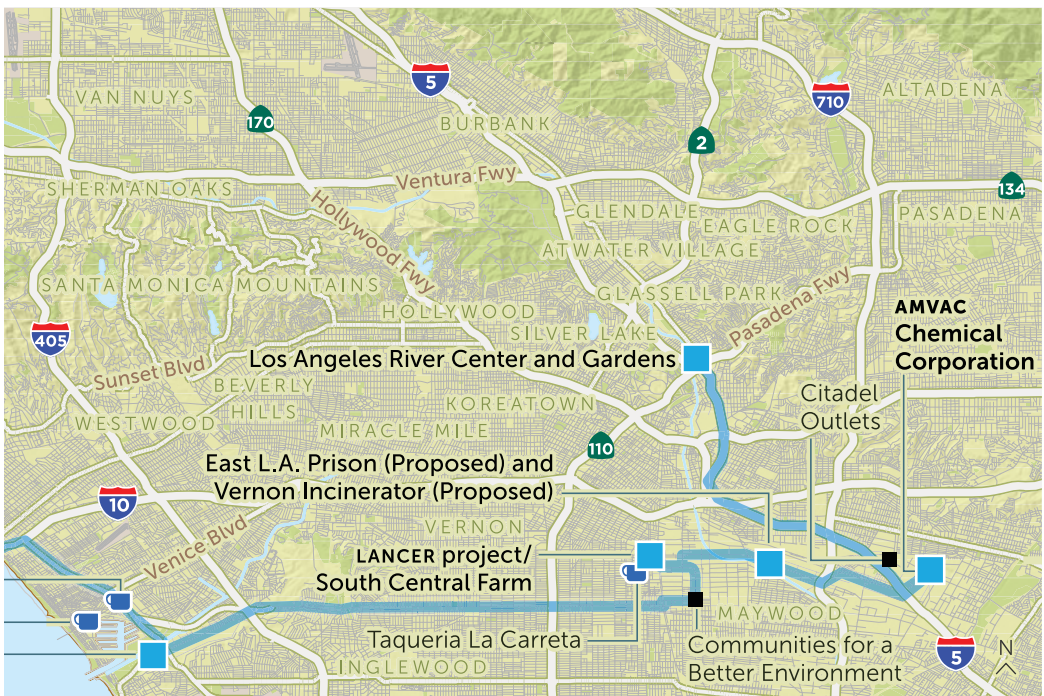
Angeles County, which are primarily home to Latinas/os, African Americans, and native peoples. The next three locations to visit are the sites (both existing and proposed) of major producers of industrial, chemical, and toxic waste pollution, but they also bear witness to histories of resistance to environmental toxicity among working-class people, people of color, and immigrants of many different national origins. Though their exteriors are benign and unassuming, the impacts of the activities that take place in these landscapes (or would have taken place, if not for concerted grassroots resistance) are profoundly unjust. First up is **AMVAC CHEMICAL CORPORATION** (2110 Davie Ave., Commerce 90040), a manufacturing plant that produces pesticides that have been banned in the United States; it distributes them for use in



less-industrialized countries. To get there from the L.A. River Center, head southeast on West Avenue Twenty-Six toward Jeffries Avenue, then turn right and merge onto I-5 south. Exit at Washington Boulevard toward Commerce and turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp onto Washington; then turn left at Gayhart Street. Take the first right, onto Davie Avenue. AMVAC's production facility will be on your right.

Next, travel to the proposed site of the **VERNON INCINERATOR** (3961 Bandini Blvd., Vernon 90058), about 4 miles away from AMVAC, in the industrial city of Vernon. To get there from AMVAC, head southwest on Davie Avenue toward Corvette Street, and turn left at Gayhart. Turn right on Washington Boulevard and drive approximately 2 miles, then turn left at Atlantic Boulevard. Take the

ramp to Bandini Boulevard and turn right at Bandini. The proposed site of the Vernon incinerator will be on your right. Here, the City of Vernon had agreed to allow California Thermal Treatment Service to build a hazardous waste incinerator that would release many tons of hazardous waste each year into the surrounding communities, without requiring a full environmental impact report. The Mothers of East L.A. (MELA) saw this proposition as a blatant act of environmental racism, since Latina/o and Black communities are already disproportionately burdened with such facilities, and mobilized to successfully defeat the project. While this site sits empty now, imagine what could have been there—yet another toxic polluting facility in a predominantly Latina/o, low-income neighborhood.



Next up: the former site of the **LANCER PROJECT** and, more recently, the **SOUTH CENTRAL FARM** (4100 Long Beach Ave., Los Angeles 90058). In the mid-1980s, a group of mostly African American women formed Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles and successfully defeated the city's plan to locate a waste-to-energy incinerator, called the LANCER project, at this address. Then, after the urban uprising in 1992, a group of mostly Latina/o immigrants created a community farm on this site that was meant to address and partly ameliorate the negative environmental impacts of facilities such as AMVAC and the Vernon incinerator on poor and working-class communities of color. Although the farm was destroyed by L.A. sheriff's deputies on behalf of a wealthy property owner in 2006, you can still get a sense of what the farm—which was the largest urban garden in the United States—was like before its destruction. To get there from the Vernon incinerator, head northwest on Bandini Boulevard toward Downey Road; travel on Bandini for 1.4 miles and continue on as Bandini becomes Thirty-seventh Street. Turn left at Santa Fe Avenue, take the second right, onto Vernon Avenue, and turn right at Long Beach Avenue. The former farm site will be on your right.

Stop for lunch at **TAQUERIA LA CARRETA** (1471 E. Vernon Ave., Los Angeles 90011; 323-232-7133), a popular neighborhood Mexican restaurant known for its quesadillas made with homemade tortillas. From the South Central Farm, make a U-turn so you are heading south on Long Beach Avenue, back

to Vernon Avenue. Turn right on Vernon Avenue. The taqueria will be on your right, at the corner of Vernon and Compton avenues.

While you're in the area, you may wish to drop by Communities for a Better Environment (5610 Pacific Blvd., Huntington Park 90255; 323-826-9771; cbecal.org), an environmental justice organization that advocates toxin-free communities in Los Angeles and California. CBE also offers a "Toxic Tour" that goes into greater depth about toxicity, health risks, and environmental justice activism in this part of the city. To get there from the LANCER/South Central Farm site, drive south on Long Beach Avenue, then turn left at Vernon Avenue; curve right to follow Vernon Avenue as it turns into Pacific Boulevard, heading south. Or, from Taqueria La Carreta, head west on Vernon Avenue (back toward the former South Central Farm), and follow it as it turns into Pacific Boulevard. The organization's offices will be on your left. Call ahead if you wish to arrange to volunteer, schedule a meeting with staff, or find out when a Toxic Tour will be offered.

To visit the remaining sites on the tour, head out to the Westside, where you can examine the flip side of environmental justice: overdevelopment and privatization of public environmental spaces within more privileged communities. The first Westside location is the **BALLONA WETLANDS**, one of two remaining wetlands in L.A. County. To get there from the South Central Farm, go south on Alameda Boulevard (you'll need to make a quick right on Vernon, then a left

to stay on Alameda) and then turn right at Slauson Avenue. Turn left at Jefferson Boulevard and pass Lincoln Boulevard. Make a U-turn and park alongside the marsh on the south (eastbound) side of Jefferson Boulevard. Originally occupying more than 2,000 acres, most of Ballona was destroyed in the 1950s and 1960s by oil development and residential and commercial construction, such as the nearby upscale Playa del Rey project. Since 1978, environmental activists have been working to restore the wetlands. To date, they have succeeded in recovering hundreds of acres. The freshwater marsh has an excellent public trail, with interpretive signs, along the perimeter. Friends of Ballona Wetlands also offers occasional community programs and can arrange guided tours; call (310) 306-5994 to make arrangements.

Spend the rest of the afternoon, and perhaps catch the sunset, at the beach: specifically, **MALIBU PUBLIC BEACHES** (using the Geffen Accessway at 22126 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu 90265). There, you can examine the attempted privatization of some of L.A. County's most beautiful public spaces by wealthy homeowners who block access

by the public, especially the poor and working-class people you saw, and perhaps met, earlier in the tour. To get there from the Ballona Wetlands, take the beautiful Pacific Coast Highway, which winds along California's magnificent coastline; compare this landscape with the industrial suburbs where you spent your time earlier today. Begin by heading northeast on Jefferson Boulevard, and turn left at Lincoln; then travel for 3.6 miles and make another left at Ocean Park Boulevard. Turn right at Neilson Way, and continue on as Neilson Way becomes Ocean Avenue. Turn left at California Incline (signs will direct you toward the Pacific Coast Highway), and make a slight right onto the Pacific Coast Highway; follow it for about 9 miles. The Geffen Accessway and the beaches beyond will be on your left.

Finish the day with dinner at the Reel Inn Fresh Fish Restaurant (18661 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu 90265; 310-456-8221; www.reelinmalibu.com), a favorite among Malibu locals; just turn around and head east on the Pacific Coast Highway, back toward Santa Monica, for 4.5 miles. The restaurant will be on your left.