Civic Center and Little Tokyo

Inspired by Heart of LA

Brought to you by:

NIANTIC

1. Grand Park
2. Hall of Justice
3. Triforium
4. Los Angeles City Hall
5. Los Angeles Times Building
6. Weller Court / Friendship Knot

7. Japanese Village Plaza
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12. Noguchi Plaza
Civic Center

   Stretching between City Hall and the Music Center, this 12-acre park connects Bunker Hill to the Civic Center. Part of the Grand Avenue Project, it opened in 2012 and includes a popular interactive fountain, several performance areas, and signature fuchsia park furniture.

2. Hall of Justice  211 W. Temple St.
   The Hall of Justice is the oldest surviving government building in the LA Civic Center. In front (visible just down Temple Street) is Embodied, a bronze statue described by its artist Alison Saar as a “figure of grace and virtue to represent the spirit of justice.”

3. Triforium
   Northeast corner of Main St. and Temple St.
   Triforium is a 60-foot high, concrete public art sculpture by Joseph Young, mounted with 1,494 Venetian glass prisms, light bulbs, and an internal 79-bell carillon located at Fletcher Bowron Square.

4. Los Angeles City Hall  200 N. Spring St.
   This iconic building serves as the center of the city’s government, housing the mayor’s office as well as the offices of the City Council. Opened in 1928, it was designed by architects John Parkinson, Albert C. Martin, and John C. Austin to be “Modern American” in its style—incorporating classical elements and monumental styling with Art Deco.

5. Los Angeles Times Building  202 W. 1st St.
   This 1935 Moderne building, designed by Gordon B. Kaufmann (Hoover Dam, Santa Anita Park), was the fourth home of the daily newspaper. The other three were located across the street on the northeast corner of N. Broadway and W. 1st St. This site was the location of LA’s two previous City Halls.

Little Tokyo

6. Weller Court / Friendship Knot  123 Astronaut Ellison S Onizuka St.
   Well-known to residents of Little Tokyo, Weller Court hosts several local restaurants and tucked away nightlife haunts. Fulfilling Los Angeles’ percent-for-art requirement, Weller Court set aside funding for Shinkichi Tajiri’s Friendship Knot, a striking (and Instagrammable) work of public sculpture that serves as a symbol of “unity between two cultures.”

   Opened in 1978, this open-air mall of shops and eateries is a hub for cultural events and street performances. It’s also home to Mikawayaya, a century-old traditional bakery that introduced mochi to the US.

8. 1st St. Historic District  1st St. between Judge John Aiso St. and Alameda St.
   Long the commercial center and heart of Little Tokyo, this block was declared a National Historic Landmark District in 1995. A living museum for sure, many of the current shops and restaurants have been here for generations. Embedded in the sidewalk is a public art project by artists Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Sonya Ishii that includes a timeline of the neighborhood’s history.

9. Go For Broke Monument  361 E. 1st St.
   This is the first monument in the mainland US that commemorates the heroic role of the segregated Japanese American units of WWII. Its name comes from the motto of the 100th Battalion. Designed by architect Roger Yanagita, the monument was dedicated in 1999 and is inscribed with the names of 16,126 Nisei soldiers.

   This is the largest museum in the US dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry. You’ll also see the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Built by Japanese immigrants in 1925, this was the first structure in Los Angeles designed specifically as a Buddhist temple. In front of the museum stands the “Oomo Cube,” a Rubik’s Cube sculpture with photographic panels and internal lighting. Artist Nicole Maloney used OOMO as shorthand for “Out of Many, One.”

11. Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple  505 E. 3rd St.
   For more than 100 years, this temple has served Los Angeles’ Buddhist community. In fact, it was the first Japanese Buddhist temple in LA. Founded in 1904 by Rev. Junyo Izumida and originally located on 4th St., the temple relocated several times in its early days to various sites in Little Tokyo and finally to Boyle Heights in 1926, where it remained for the next 50 years. The present temple, built in 1976, returned this important congregation to its roots in Little Tokyo.

12. Noguchi Plaza  244 S. San Pedro St.
   Designed by sculptor and designer Isamu Noguchi, this plaza is a one-acre open space that hosts cultural events. Crowning the space is the monumental To the Issei Noguchi sculpture, a tribute to the first generation of Japanese immigrants.