



DCA @ BARNSDALL PARK



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
Barnsdall Gallery Theatre
Hollyhock House
Barnsdall Arts Center
Barnsdall Junior Arts Center

BARNSDALL PARK

A site of architectural and social significance, cultural populism, and community engagement, artists of all sorts have contributed for decades to making Barnsdall Park a municipal treasure.

—SHANA NYS DAMBROT, LA WEEKLY

Tucked in the heart of “Old Hollywood” on the crest of Olive Hill overlooking a dynamic metropolis, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs manages five of the city’s cultural treasures in Barnsdall Park: the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery; Barnsdall Gallery Theatre; Hollyhock House, Frank Lloyd Wright’s masterwork created for the unconventional and visionary heiress Aline Barnsdall; Barnsdall Arts Center; and Barnsdall Junior Arts Center.

A jewel in the city’s crown, Barnsdall Park has been a beloved creative destination for LA residents and visitors for close to ninety years. This historic and idyllic campus provides the perfect setting for experiencing art that pushes artistic boundaries and nurtures new generations of creators.

ALINE BARNSDALL, FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, AND EARLY MODERNISM

An independent woman with a passion for the arts, Barnsdall’s interest in the future of the American stage led her to Chicago in the 1910s where she ran an experimental theater company and met the pioneering and exacting architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

A trip to California in 1915 turned Barnsdall’s attention to Los Angeles, and in 1919 she purchased the 36-acre site in the east Hollywood neighborhood of Los Feliz. She hired Wright to help her develop “The Olive Hill Project,” an early experimental arts colony on the nation’s cultural frontier. It was Wright’s first project in Los Angeles and represents his earliest efforts to develop a regionally appropriate style of architecture for Southern California. Built between 1919 and 1921, plans were developed for an ambitious complex that included a theater for the production of avant-garde plays, live/work space for artists and actors, a school for young people, and Hollyhock House, Wright’s stunning landmark residence.

Barnsdall’s relationship with Wright was quite stormy, and eventually she abandoned her grand project. Yet she never lost sight of her vision for the park as a center of creativity. When, in 1927, she deeded the land and its Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structures to the City of Los Angeles, it was with the proviso that the estate be used as an art park for the Los Angeles public.

It would not be too fine a point to credit Barnsdall with opening Los Angeles to an entirely new way of being and seeing—a Modernism pictured in photographs and in Hollywood films and best conveyed in the residential architecture of Wright and Richard Neutra and Rudolf Schindler, titans of architecture who were introduced to the region through her project. Barnsdall’s vision is now a reality—transmuted in a multitude of forms and media by the city’s artists into the internationally recognizable image of the Los Angeles we know today.

For almost ninety years, the Park has been a civic treasure, and in 2007, The Aline Barnsdall Complex—the land and its groundbreaking architectural masterpiece—was designated a National Historic Landmark.



“We can’t learn anything from Europe. They have to learn from us.”

—FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TO ALINE BARNSDALL



Aline Barnsdall's Olive Hill Project



POWER UP



CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Aline Barnsdall's gift reflected her passion for the arts and led to the creation of the Municipal Arts Department, which developed into today's City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). That legacy forms the core of DCA's mission to preserve LA's rich cultural heritage and engender high quality arts experiences in all its neighborhood arts and cultural centers, including Barnsdall Park. Generations of Angelenos remember peak experiences they shared at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (LAMAG), Barnsdall Gallery Theatre (BGT), Barnsdall Arts Center (BAC), Barnsdall Junior Arts Center (JAC), and Hollyhock House (HH).

In the historic and bucolic setting of the Park, visitors from throughout the world have experienced the cultural diversity of the city's population. The Park and its facilities have welcomed scores of arts organizations bringing thoughtful and provocative programming to Barnsdall. Artists, curators, foundations, and thought-leaders in wide ranging disciplines collaborate with DCA on important historic and cutting edge contemporary art exhibitions at the 10,000 square foot Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. DCA-led programming supports the symbiotic relationship between LA, its artists, its history, its wide-ranging cultural institutions, and its identity as an international art capital driven by the creative sector.

The Barnsdall Gallery Theater provides arts organizations affordable space for professional and community-based music, theater, dance, mixed-media, and spoken word performances. DCA's BAC and JAC host engaging art and architecture programs for young people, adults, and seniors. The interpretative exhibition programs linked to Hollyhock House offer additional unique and educational opportunities for LA's residents and visitors.

DCA's active involvement with "the greater city" continues and confirms Barnsdall's original vision of the Park as a center of innovation and imagination dedicated to the arts and creativity, and devoted to serving the people of Los Angeles.

DCA is critical to LA's cultural landscape. The Department supports innovative programming—from the smallest, community-based organizations to the city's largest and most prestigious cultural institutions. The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park has a long tradition of showing the work of emerging artists, so it was a perfect collaborator for the inaugural year of the Hammer's *Made in L.A.* exhibition.

—ANN PHILBIN, DIRECTOR, HAMMER MUSEUM

LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY

The Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery is the flagship exhibition space for the City of Los Angeles. LAMAG showcases the work of emerging, mid-career, and established artists whose contributions enhance the culture of the city and help make creativity LA's number one economic engine.

The Gallery's reputation for supporting Los Angeles artists and cultural communities through its exhibitions is unparalleled. Prior to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art becoming important forces in the local art scene, the gallery was the premier space for the exhibition of contemporary art—presenting seminal work by the region's most influential artists, many at the earliest stages in their careers.

The original gallery, a temporary structure designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, was built in 1954. The spacious 10,000 square foot gallery opened in 1971, presenting and interpreting successive waves of artists and movements. Today, exhibitions of contemporary art are developed by DCA's curatorial staff and with invited guest curators. For the past fifteen years, LAMAG has premiered the artwork of the recipients of DCA's annual City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships and has collaborated with important arts and cultural institutions.

CIVIC VIRTUE

Through the lens of history, the Gallery's legacy is rich. *Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center* placed LAMAG front and center in the fulcrum of Post War and contemporary art in the region. Part of the Getty's massive survey, *Pacific Standard Time: Art in Los Angeles 1945-1980*, *Civic Virtue* showcased the work of the artists, curators, and community activists whose contributions helped to define Los Angeles as an international artistic center.

A host of groundbreaking solo and group exhibitions from the 1960s to the present have tapped into the concerns of successive generations of pioneering artists—illuminating LA's art and architectural history, examining the contributions of overlooked communities, and exploring and interpreting topical issues.

Civic Virtue, DCA's Pacific Standard Time exhibition recovered the important histories of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center and the pivotal roles they played in the development of modern art in Los Angeles. *Civic Virtue* reminded us not only of the city's illustrious past, but of the ongoing need for civic engagement in the arts.

—JOAN WEINSTEIN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GETTY FOUNDATION

LOST IN LA AND MADE IN LA

Through the Gallery, DCA continues to develop relationships with contemporary artists, curators, foundations, and institutions—facilitating cultural exchange and dialogue across boundaries of style, taste, media, and geography. Recent collaborations include *LOST (in LA)* curated by Marc-Olivier Wahler and presented in partnership with FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange) and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris; *Made in L.A. 2012*, the first in a series of biennial exhibitions focused on emerging artists in the region organized by the Hammer Museum and LA×ART; and *Doris Duke's Shangri-La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art*, featuring ancient and contemporary works by artists of Islamic background.





Artists who have exhibited at LAMAG include:

MARTHA ALF
KIM ABELES
LISA ADAMS
LITA ALBUQUERQUE
CARLOS ALMARAZ
JOHN ALTOON
PETER ALEXANDER
MICHAEL ASHER
JOHN BALDESARRI
DON BACARDY
GUY DE COINTET
BILLY AL BENGSTON
KARL BENJAMIN
HANS BURKHARDT
FATEMEH BURNES
VIJA CELMINS
MEG CRANSTON
TONY DELAP
JOHN DIVOLA
MERION ESTES
LORSER FEITELSON
LLYN FOULKES
HARRY GAMBOA
DIANE GAMBOA
JOE GOODE
MARK STEVEN GREENFIELD
RED GROOMS
HANS HAACKE
DAVID HAMMONS
JAMES HAYWARD
MAX HENDLER
GEORGE HERMS
ULYSSES JENKINS
SISTER MARY CORITA KENT
MATSUMI KANEMITSU
ED KIENHOLZ
HELEN LUNDBERG
CONSTANCE MALLINSON
JOHN MASON
JOHN MCCRACKEN
JOHN MCLAUGHLIN
MICHAEL C. MCMILIAN
ED MOSES
BRUCE NAUMAN
JOHN OUTERBRIDGE
ROLAND REISS
MARTHA ROSELER
ED RUSCHA
BETYE SAAR
PETER SHIRE
JULIUS SHULMAN
EDMUND TESKE
PATSI VALDEZ
JUNE WAYNE
CHARLES WHITE
BOB WILHITE

FLAX was honored to partner with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs on *LOST (in LA)* and to introduce Los Angeles to some of the most exciting artists working in France today. FLAX's collaboration with DCA aims to energize and benefit LA well into the future.

—ELISABETH FORNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLAX (FRANCE LOS ANGELES EXCHANGE)

BARNSDALL GALLERY THEATRE

Nestled in the Park below the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, the 299-seat proscenium stage theater provides much-needed access to diverse performing artists. The reasonable rental rates are available to individuals and organizations for theater, dance, music, spoken word, lectures, film screenings, and other special events. The proscenium stage is 14' 5" high, by 29' wide, by 26' deep; and the theater is equipped with sound, lighting, HD digital, 16mm film, slide, and video projectors as well as: dressing rooms; spacious upper and lower lobbies; a box office; and refreshment counters. BGT fosters creativity and new audiences by offering performers, community groups, and filmmakers an affordable space for the presentation of diverse forms of creative expression.

Barnsdall Park, one of Los Angeles' treasures, continues to be our venue of choice. The beautiful grounds, the view of Hollywood spread out below us, the theatre stage, and the opportunity to work with LA's Department of Cultural Affairs makes Barnsdall Park the ultimate showcase for Thai traditional arts and culture.

—VIBUL WONPRASAT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, THAI COMMUNITY ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER



BARNSDALL ARTS CENTER

Offering adult classes in a variety of art forms and media—painting, sculpture, jewelry, bookmaking, weaving, photography, ceramics, and silversmithing—the popular programs at the Barnsdall Arts Center include traditional studio art courses, as well as folk and ethnic arts and innovative contemporary art practices. With a legacy dating back to 1946, high quality arts instruction is the mandate of the Center. Originally located in Frank Lloyd Wright's Residence "A"—the "Arts & Crafts Building"—Barnsdall Art Center now shares space with the studios of the Junior Arts Center. BAC continues to offer an environment where creativity is encouraged and Los Angeles' artistic heritage is celebrated through education and hands-on art making.

BARNSDALL JUNIOR ARTS CENTER

The Barnsdall Junior Arts Center is one of the most popular hubs of art making for children and teens in greater Los Angeles. For more than four decades, JAC has offered classes in painting, ceramics, and wide-ranging art techniques to LA's young people and their families. The menu of art classes and the quality instruction makes JAC a unique learning environment, with fun and foundational creative experiences for budding artistic minds.



HOLLYHOCK HOUSE

I've lived in Los Angeles for twelve years and during that period there are some things I've discovered I just can't live without. Frank Lloyd Wright built a number of extraordinary residential buildings in LA, and none is more extraordinary than Hollyhock House.

—RICHARD MEIER, ARCHITECT

Complemented by a modern theater, galleries, and art studios, Hollyhock House now comes closer than ever to realizing Barnsdall's vision as the centerpiece of a functioning arts complex. Built in 1919, Hollyhock House was named after Barnsdall's favorite flower and incorporates an iconic abstract floral motif that has become a signature of Frank Lloyd Wright's Southern California architecture. One of his first attempts at bringing the outdoors indoor, Wright referred to the style as *California Romanza*—using the musical term meaning “freedom to make one's own form.”

Hollyhock House is enshrined in the pantheon of Wright's work and the residence has been named one of the most significant structures of the 20th century by the American Institute of Architects. Recognizing its role in the heritage and history of the United States, in 1997 Hollyhock House was declared a National Historic Landmark. DCA provides conservation services, educational programming, and individual and group tours of this historic site that offer a window into Aline Barnsdall's life and artistic vision and her extraordinary partnership with one of the greatest architects of the twentieth century.

YOU ARE INVITED

On a hilltop in the heart of Hollywood, in one of the city's most diverse and accessible communities, DCA welcomes LA residents and visitors to experience the creative environment nurtured at Barnsdall Park. This engaging and historic location is the perfect place to experience art and participate in cultural activities like:

- EXHIBITIONS
- PLAYS
- DANCE PERFORMANCES
- FILM SCREENINGS
- ARCHITECTURAL TOURS
- ART CLASSES
- FESTIVALS
- CONCERTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- RECEPTIONS

Become a part of Aline Barnsdall's vision of a creative community on Olive Hill. Enjoy the unparalleled cultural treasures DCA has to offer at Barnsdall Park!

Please contact DCA for information about our programming, partnerships, and rental rates at Barnsdall Park and other DCA facilities:

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1400
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TEL 213.202.5500
FAX 213.202.5513
WEB culturela.org

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BARNSDALL PARK - LOS ANGELES
MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY PHOTO COLLECTION;
POWER UP (A, B, C, D) (1965)
BY SISTER MARY CORITA KENT,
COURTESY OF THE
CORITA ART CENTER,
IMMACULATE HEART COMMUNITY,
LOS ANGELES

ABOUT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (DCA)

DCA generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 40 million annual overnight and day visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grantmaking, marketing, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and building partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

COMMUNITY IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR MISSION

DCA acknowledges and thanks the following groups for their invaluable contributions and support of our cultural treasurers in Barnsdall Park—the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery; the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre; Hollyhock House; the Barnsdall Art Center; and the Barnsdall Junior Arts Center:

- BARNSDALL ART PARK FOUNDATION, BARNSDALL.ORG
- BARNSDALL ARTS CENTER STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BARNSDALLONLINE.COM/CLASSES
- LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY ASSOCIATES, LAMAG.ORG

BARNSDALL PARK

In 1926 I gave this park to the city; the recreation center and playgrounds for the use of children, the house for the uses of art, and the grounds for the pleasure of all. Will these artists and art loving people, also the fathers and mothers of the children who play here, and those old "HOLLYWOODIANS" who have loved the hill for many years, JOIN ME IN FORMING A COMMITTEE TO INSURE IT FUNCTIONING PERMANENTLY UNDER THESE CONDITIONS OF THE DEED?

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A much-needed vision of art
created and presented, not for
art's sake or for profit, but for
the public good.

—SHARON MIZOTA, LOS ANGELES TIMES, JANUARY 2012

