

WORD OF MOUTH: CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

EXPLORING AND CELEBRATING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Posted by Julie Wolfson

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To celebrate LA's Chinatown, it's crucial to understand and appreciate its dynamic past. In the 1870s, the original Chinatown began in downtown LA between El Pueblo Plaza and Old Arcadia St and expanded east. In 1931, a California Supreme Court decision upheld the construction of the new [Union Station](#) on the site of Old Chinatown, leading to the formation of the [Los Angeles Chinatown Project Association](#) and plans to develop the new Chinatown on Broadway—where it remains today. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, construction of several landmark buildings and plans for shops, restaurants and apartments created the framework for what became [Chinatown Los Angeles](#). The new Chinatown was planned, owned and operated by Chinese Americans to acknowledge culture and progress, and Chinatown Central Plaza was built to be the heart of the community. Today, many of the founding families still own the buildings that make up the vibrant, ever-evolving neighborhood.



Chung King Road

This pedestrian street on the northeast corner of Chinatown was built in the 1930s and now houses a mixture of antique, printing and book stores, as well as galleries. Alex Cheung Company sells jade, antiques and art, and cloisonné vases and ceramics line the shelves. [Tierra Del Sol Gallery](#) is part of the Tierra Del Sol Foundation, a non-profit that empowers people with developmental disabilities by providing resources to establish careers in the arts. The current exhibition, Jackie Marsh's first solo show there, represents the artist's adoration for animals and flowers through colorful works on paper and ceramic figures. Nearby, [Print Shop LA](#) is set up for screen printing, risograph and textile printing services and classes with [Press Friends Machine](#).

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