

MAR VISTA

SELF-GUIDED TOUR #1

ART ON VENICE BOULEVARD

August 2026

BEFORE EXPLORING

Swipe left and right to navigate this map. Prepare for your tour with sunscreen, proper footwear, water, and friends with four legs or two. Enjoy a snack along the way. Do not disturb tenants nor violate private property. Be mindful of your surroundings. This tour is approximately 1.2 miles and takes about one hour if starting and ending at #1. The @ symbol is for Instagram contact.



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Find us at
WEBSITE: MARVISTA.ORG
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MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

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Thank you and sources:

Danny Jensen, Los Angeles City Historical Society; Lenore French, TransformationArts.org; Carole M. Kealoha, Los Angeles Public Library; www.tongvapeople.org

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WADE

25

STEWART

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BOISE

4

VENICE BLVD

WASATCH

5

6

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8

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COLONIAL

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24

11

CENTINELA AVENUE

PACIFIC

OCEAN VIEW

12

23

19

20

22

21

GRAND VIEW

13

18

17

MOUNTAIN VIEW

14

16

15

INGLEWOOD

All art descriptions in quotes are from the artist. Those marked with * are part of the Downtown Mar Vista Beautification Project, developed on behalf of CD-11 and LANI-Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative with Transformation Arts.

MAP NOT TO SCALE

Sacred Flower & Law (2021)*

MERAKAI ART COLLECTIVE

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS - CAN YOU FIND THEM ALL?

Five medallions were installed on five streetlights along Venice during the pandemic. Based in Los Angeles, artist Erick Reyes' career began circa 2015 showcasing digital art pieces influenced by sacred geometry. He later developed his own style of subconscious abstract art painting. [@_merakiartcollective](#)

Also be sure to check out the words of wisdom underneath the official bike lane signs along the route.

1. Whale Tail* (2021) SEI SHIURA

3796 STEWART

An interpretation of the theme of the Mar Vista neighborhood as "Ocean View" (from Spanish). Sei Shimura is an award-winning designer and artist born in Tokyo, raised in New York, and now based in Los Angeles. [@sei.shimu](#)

2. Coral Reef (2021) JESSICA SHANDLER

12623 VENICE

A beautiful coral reef, in keeping with the theme the Mar Vista "Ocean View" translation. Jessica Shandler is a henna artist based in Los Angeles. The influence of her henna works can be seen in her murals. [@jchan_arts96](#)

3. LAX 293 (2022) JULES MUCK

12601 VENICE

4. Untitled (2022) THAO FRENCH

12567 VENICE

"Thao French is a multidisciplinary artist known for her brutalist floral art and for founding Mindful Murals™, a creative social enterprise with the mission of bringing communities together through the power of art."

Mindfulmurals@gmail.com

5a. Venice Energy (2025) TOMMY WONDER & NASE POP

12525 VENICE

“The bright and vibrant energy of LA—especially Venice Beach—inspired the palette and the way we combined our names. The result is a fusion of Wonder and Pops.”

@nasepop / @tommy_wonder

5b. (unknown) (2016)

12523 A/B VENICE

Peek behind the liquor store to see another wondrous mural.

6 Awesome Clouds (2017) DJ NEFF

12517 VENICE

“This client commission was inspired by cartoons and video games. The smiling cloud sign was the inspiration to imagine the world surrounding it. A world that feels joyful, and optimistic, full of love and growth.” @DJN3FF
Characters by @mole.patrol

7. Octopus (2016) DJ NEFF

12515 VENICE

“This pole shape became the concept of a tank containing a giant Pacific red octopus. It has an emotional awareness as it investigates a small fish, lending empathy to another despite its own captivity.”@DJN3FF

8a. Elephant (2015) DJ NEFF

12511 VENICE

“With a combination of Holi elements and geometric designs, the artist Neff creates a bold and colorful juxtaposition. At the time of painting he lost a dear friend and fellow artist, Krush TWS. Can you spot the hidden letters KRUSH in honor?” @DJN3FF

8b. (Mariachi player) @G52CUBE (G52)

12511 VENICE (ABOVE)

**9. (Skateboarder and critters) @MADSTEEZ (MARK PAUL DEREN), @KATCH1, @RICHUNO
12503 VENICE**

The murals are on the side of the Stohl Building, built in 1926 as the Mar Vista State Branch, the first bank in Mar Vista.

10. 3796 Colonial Ave:

Deepfaking Sam Altman (2025) DARIN BALABAN

The owner of the building was with Beautify Earth and wanted to advertise this documentary movie.

Shiny Day (2025) LUCRETIA TORVA

“I like to spread good cheer with my murals using colorful, shiny, eye-catching objects.” @torvasm

Kaleidoscope Kelp (2025) EVAN MEYER

“This piece highlights the critical role that kelp forests play in marine ecosystems, as a joint initiative between Beautify Earth and Blue Robotics, to reconnect people to nature and community.” beautifyearth.com / evanmeyer.io

**11. (unknown) (2025) KENNY SCHARF
12421 VENICE**

The grandchildren of the original owners of this 1964 self-serve car wash commissioned Scharf to do two new murals for their 2025 reopening.

**12a. The United Workers (2021) JULES MUCK
12257 VENICE**

“I was very sad to paint [this], as the owner made me paint over the memorial of [musicians] Lemmy, Bowie and Lou Reed, all of which were painted on or the day after each died.” @muckrock

12b. Little Reminders (2019) ERIKA LANE

3790 OCEAN VIEW AVE (UTILITY BOX)

A collaboration with Mitchelito Orquiola who now lives in the Philippines. Touched up after tagging in 2024.

poetrylane.art @mitchelitoorquiola

13. (Mar Vista Bowl retrospective)

JONAS NEVER

12125 VENICE

The Grand View facing exterior mural features a colorful visual history of the Mar Vista Bowl. @NEVER1959

14. Freedom (2015) CRISTALLINA FISCHETTI

3781 MOUNTAIN VIEW (UTILITY BOX)

“A colorful, vibrant piece meant to heal, uplift, and inspire from this LA and London-based artist.”

@abstract_medicine

15. Mar Vista Branch Library (2019)

12006 VENICE (UTILITY BOX)

FRONT AND SIDE PANELS: **A Bad Case of Stripes**

by Çiğdem Akbay

“An homage to the children’s book by David Shannon and the lima bean agricultural history of Mar Vista.”

SIDE PANEL: **Welcome to Mar Vista**

BACK PANEL: **Lima Wood**

Artist Kimberly Karukoh @koko_and_co_

Gifted by SPARC. Art curated by @chigmaproductions, approved by CD-11 Mike Bonin, funded by DCA.

16. Blue Woman in Thought (2016)

MARCEL “SEL” BLANCO

12034 VENICE BLVD

“A woman gazing outward as birds take flight, symbolizing imagination and freedom. Growing up in West Los Angeles, Sel created this piece as a way to give back to the neighborhood that shaped and continues to inspire him.” @sel_dog

17. Whales' Song (2021)* JEN LAVITA

12102 VENICE

Gliding effortlessly through a dreamy oceanscape, this mural depicts whales singing a song of their beauty.

@JenLevitaArt

HIDDEN TREASURE! Between 12114-12120 Venice is a mural by **Love Annie (Annie Preece)** created for Mission Harbor Behavioral Health.

18a. Love, Mar Vista (2019) DJ NEFF

12120 VENICE

“The concept is that of a classic postcard which showcases the different themes of community within Mar Vista. The letters represent: M = music, A = arts, R = biking, V = coffee, I = yoga, S = landscape (canals), T = farmers’ market, A = bowling.” In 2026 DJ performed extensive renovation to the wall and mural with funding from CD11 and the Farmer’s Market; the images are different. @djn3ff assisted by @mitchelitoorquiola

18b. Life & Death (2023)

ART: MITCHELITO ORQUIOLA & JEN LAVITA;

WORDS: ERIKA LANE

VENICE AND GRAND VIEW (UTILITY BOX)

“An evolving portrait gallery of influential people we lost and commemorate. The poem was written in 2023, the art has been changing since the originals were created in 2017; the most recent completed in 2024.”

@JenLevitaArt

18c. Curiosity WORDS: JOHNNY CHO

VENICE AND GRAND VIEW

(UNDER BIKE LANE STREET SIGN)

An LADOT haiku.

19a. Peace For All (2016) DESIGN: CHALAVIE - ART: MITCHELITO ORQUIOLA, JEN LAVITA, CHALAVIE, BETHANY RICHARDS

12207 PACIFIC

“This mural was done for the community to promote a sense of unity, love and peace that we all share just by being a part of the same fabric of Mar Vista. A poem by Erika Lane is woven into the design.” @JenLevitaArt

19b. A Vital Call for Healing (2016)

POEM: ERIKA LANE

“I wanted the words to go with the theme of cycles, cleaning, etc. because it is shared with the dry cleaner wall.” poetrylane.art

20. Alley Art

3815 - 3809 GRAND VIEW

A collaboration between multiple artists: @love.pinkriches, @being.bethanymae, @wikidcanvas, and Mitchelito Orquiola

What it is to be (2019) WORDS: ERIKA LANE

“This place holds a special place in my heart because it is just me & my poetry, and much longer than all of my other words around the city. It is more in depth, and requires you to take a second to stop and read it.”

Miles Davis (2019) ART: NIKKI PORTMAN; WORDS: ERIKA LANE

“The first mural I did for Mar Vista so it holds a special place in my heart along with Miles himself.” @portman_studios

21. (Mar Vista history) JONAS NEVER

12200 VENICE

@NEVER1959

22. for marty with love (2014)

CHRISTINA ANGELINA + DJ NEFF

12218 VENICE

“We thought a girl with a feather boa would look cool.”

@starfightera (Christina Angelina) + DJ Neff

23. Mr. BBaby (2021) MR B BABY

12404 VENICE

Mr. B Baby is based in East L.A., and in a 2026 interview with L.A. Taco, they said “I think the overall theme behind most of my work is... to celebrate my Latino culture.” Most murals feature the cute blue critter named “Chucho”. @mrbbaby

24. The Music Box MITCHELITO ORQUIOLA, JEN LAVITA, NIKKI PORTMAN

SE CORNER OF VENICE AND WADE (UTILITY BOX)

“Featuring local musicians that we know and love.

Citizen Cope has been in the neighborhood for years and is amazing. His real name is Clarence Greenwood.”

@portman_studios / @jenlavitaart

Corrections? Suggestions for future sites
or future maps? Contact us!

BOARD@MARVISTA.ORG

**GO TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR A
SHORT HISTORY OF MAR VISTA!**

MAR VISTA HISTORY

From farmland and Victorian architecture to farmers' markets and public art, the neighborhood of Mar Vista has transformed dramatically over the past 120+ years. This charming, laid-back community is now home to eclectic restaurants, independent shops, historic homes, and much more. Enjoy your exploration of Mar Vista's noteworthy art, architecture, and historical spots that make Mar Vista a wonderful place to visit and live.

TIMELINE

Starting 3,500 years ago, the Indigenous Tongva people lived in the Los Angeles Basin. The village of Saangna (Saan) was located by the river near Playa del Rey and Marina del Rey.

1819 The area we now know as Mar Vista was the center of a vast Mexican land grant named Rancho La Ballona.

1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo formally ended the Mexican–American War and California falls under U.S. control.

1850 California becomes the 31st state of the Union.

1902 Los Angeles Pacific Railroad builds a line down the middle of what will become Venice Blvd. (for a time known as Electric Ave.), connecting downtown Los Angeles to the sea at Ocean Park. One stop along the route, known as the Venice Short Line, is located near modern-day Centinela Ave. and Venice Blvd. →

1904 Ocean Park Heights became the first neighborhood near Venice/Centinela, featuring 196 acres of former farmland (mostly lima beans or celery) that are subdivided for homes. The subdivision was named after the resort community of Ocean Park just south of Santa Monica.

1916 Some community members vote to incorporate the area into a city, but the effort fails after a majority votes against the idea.

1924 A Chamber of Commerce was formed by local businessmen following the community's decision to establish a regional post office. Since Ocean Park had its own post office, it became evident that Ocean Park Heights needed to be renamed to avoid any confusion between the communities. Juanita Romero, a pioneer resident of Ocean Park Heights, proposed Mar Vista (which translates to "ocean view"). The name was derived from a new subdivision located two blocks west of the Chamber's headquarters, called Mar Vista Park.

1926 The community of Mar Vista voted to be annexed to the city of Los Angeles in 1926, the 70th community to do so, but it wasn't formalized until the following year.

1927 After Mar Vista is annexed to Los Angeles, the city takes over the county-operated library branch at 12117 Venice Blvd.

1940 The city of Los Angeles installs one of the first traffic signals in Mar Vista at what the newspaper the Venice Vanguard called "the dangerous intersection of Venice and Grand View." →

1948 Architect Gregory Ain designs the Mar Vista Tract, consisting of 52 single-story homes featuring modern design with open floor plans and free-flowing landscaping.

1950 The famous Red Car trolleys make their last journey down Venice Boulevard on September 18, following the Pacific Electric Company's decision to replace rail service on the Venice Short Line with "motor coaches".

1951 Venice Blvd. becomes a divided four-lane highway with two lanes on each side, running east and west. Previously, both sides of the railway had traffic running in both directions. The former railway is converted into parking spaces.

2003 A new, 12,500-square-foot Mar Vista Library Branch opens with more than double the space of the former library to accommodate more books, people, and computers.

2007 The Mar Vista Community Council votes to create the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, an initiative developed by community members and local business owners. The market has since grown into one of L.A.'s most beloved and features dozens of farms and food vendors, plus DJs, live music, and more.

2017 Mar Vista is selected as one of the first Great Streets projects, an initiative that adds protected bike lanes, new and enhanced pedestrian crosswalks, community art installations, and other improvements along Venice Blvd.