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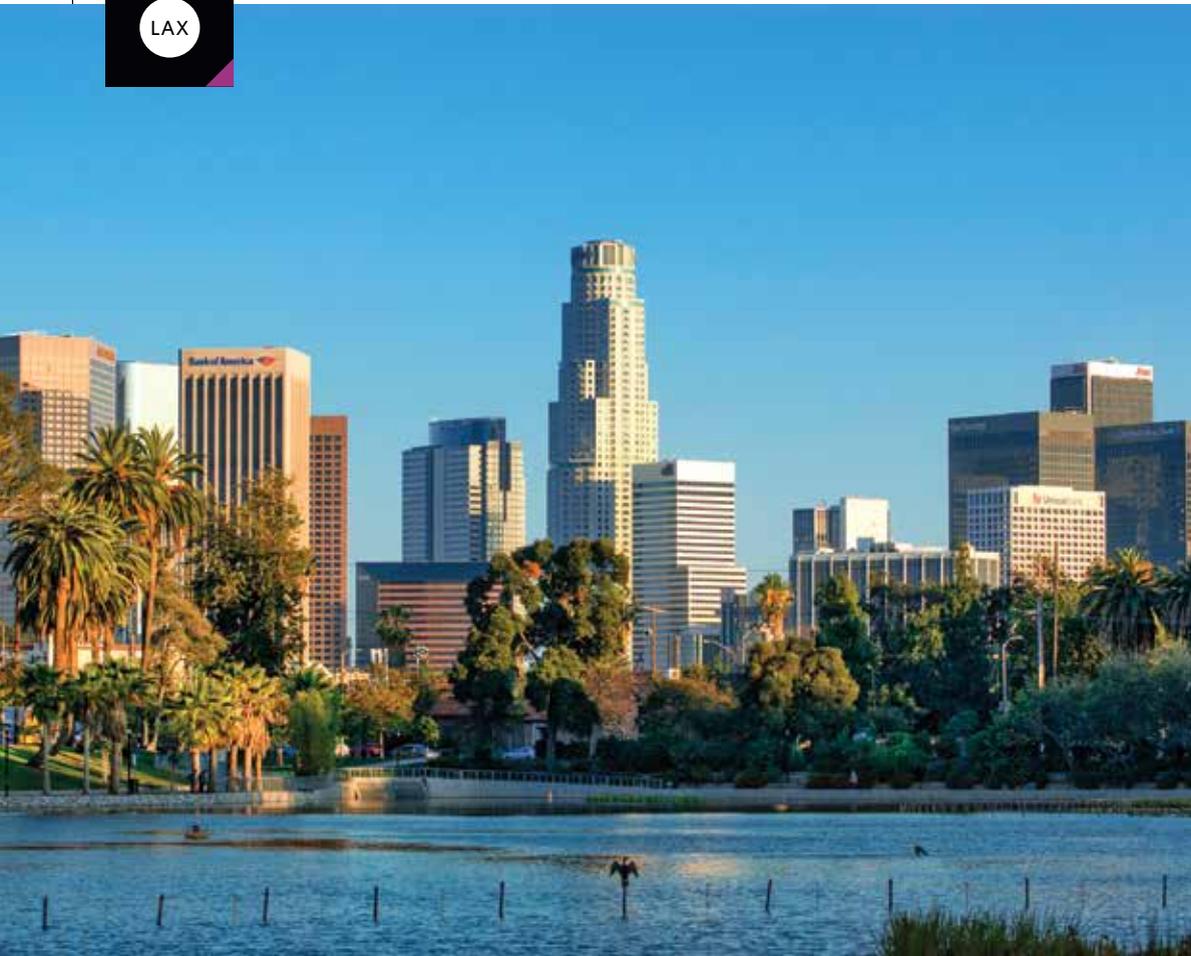
LAX

# Los Angeles

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CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Downtown Los Angeles; Santa Monica's Expo light rail line; Animation gallery at Moore's Deli in Burbank; The Port of Los Angeles' "theater of the sea" in San Pedro.

# L.A. Influential

LOS ANGELES MIGHT BE KNOWN FOR BEING FABULOUS, BUT THIS RENAISSANCE METROPOLIS IS ALSO RESILIENT, AMBITIOUS AND INDUSTRIOUS. — DAVID FERRELL

► Image-makers have helped to define Los Angeles, shaping the allure of a singularly evocative place. This is the palm-lined playground of the stars, a laid-back beach town of eccentrics, a swath of near-paradise where the beautiful people share grand dreams and incomparable sushi. The deeper truth about

LA is that for all its flash and style, its limousines and pool parties, the city's truer nature is its rippling economic muscle. Los Angeles is the powerhouse of the West, a highly diverse, striving metropolis positioned for further growth thanks to resources that simply can't be bought: an inviting climate, space and an ideal locale for advancing Pacific Rim trade.

"Los Angeles is one of the best places in the world to do business," says Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, a fourth-generation Angeleno who took office in 2013. Having shaken off the recessionary doldrums, the city is remaking itself on every front. Downtown will soon boast the second-tallest skyscraper west of Chicago—the 73-story Wilshire Grand Tower, currently under construction. At Playa Vista on the Westside, where reclusive tycoon Howard Hughes once erected aircraft hangars, luxury homes and offices fill a prime portion of innovation center Silicon Beach.

Los Angeles County's manufacturing sector, already the biggest in the nation, will soon see huge investments going into improvements of ports, transportation systems and Los Angeles

International Airport. The MetroRail public-transit system is opening a key train link between downtown and Santa Monica, while the long-neglected Los Angeles River is being reimaged into a ribbon of parks, natural habitats and dining. The magic extends to Universal Studios Hollywood, where Hogwarts Castle soars above the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

"LA is definitely going through a renaissance," says Tracy D. Gray, managing director of The 22 Capital Group and a longtime downtown resident. Her neighborhood, the Arts District, reflects the dramatic transformation of the city core that started with the opening of Staples Center in 1999 and subsequent construction of the adjacent L.A. Live entertainment complex.

"A lot of creative minds love being [here]," says Michael Kelly, executive director of the Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy and Jobs. From fashion to clean energy, "LA has always been a design center for the world's marketplace." Much of the design work to put a man on the moon was done here, in Downey, and today's cutting-edge firms are inspiring other compa-

nies and sectors to join in on the innovation. The Port of Los Angeles, the nation's top gateway for international trade, sits side by side with the Port of Long Beach, which ranks second. Together, they form a superport that provides thousands of jobs and accounts for nearly half of the containerized goods entering the United States, notes Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino.

LA is spending \$1 billion as part of a long-range plan to improve the harborfront. Ports O'Call Village, an iconic marketplace, will be overhauled in 2017 and rebranded as San Pedro Public Market, enhancing what Buscaino calls a "theater of the sea." Diners looking out on the main channel have a front-row view of arriving cargo ships, some of them—such as the record-setting *Ben Franklin*, which can transport 18,000 containers—as big as floating mountains. At a century-old pier in San Pedro, LA officials, in partnership with private enterprise, will convert old warehouses into state-of-the-art marine research center AltaSea.

Education and research are priorities in Los Angeles, a region packed with 111 academic institutions. Renowned campuses such as UCLA, USC and Caltech (Albert Einstein was once a visiting professor) are famous for research in a wide range of fields.

World-class hospitals, including Cedars-Sinai, City of Hope and Children's Hospital Los Angeles, draw the sick and injured from across the globe. "There's definitely a medical tourism market for Los Angeles because people are seeking out the highest-quality medical care," says Bill Allen, president and CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

And, of course, sunny LA is a hotbed of sports, from bicycling and beach volleyball to pro teams such as the Dodgers and Lakers. NFL football returns this fall, with plans taking shape for a spectacular new stadium in Inglewood. The city was chosen to host the 2018 NBA All-Star Game, and officials are bidding to bring back the Summer Olympic Games in 2024.

"This has always been an aspirational place," says Garcetti. "Whether Angelenos have lived here all their lives or moved here from the other side of the world they share a spirit of ambition and creativity that makes this city a hotbed for innovation and economic diversity—of course, the weather doesn't hurt, either."

"It's a fascinating time to be in Los Angeles," adds Kelly. "A lot of people say this is where the future is happening." ▽

My Los Angeles

## ERIC GARCETTI

MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES

**LOCAL ROOTS:** I'm a proud fourth-generation Angeleno, a rare thing in a city where 62 percent of the population is made up of immigrants or children of immigrants. I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, in Encino, during the height of the valley girl craze in the 1980s—fer sure.

**FAVORITE EATS:** LA's the best food town in the world right now. I love Roy Choi's food; get the shortrib tacos sold out of his Kogi food trucks or visit his new restaurant in Watts, LocoL, that is revolutionizing affordable, fast food that is also nutritious, inventive and very tasty.

**ONLY HERE:** LA surprises you daily with cultural collisions and combinations you can't find anywhere else in the world. It's also a city where urban life and nature collide. I'd go to one of the stables along the LA River and ride a horse into the adjacent Hollywood Hills or grab a kayak and get in the river itself. You'll even get a couple of fun rapids while you see the nature that has been reborn along the river in recent years.



My Los Angeles

# LINDSAY CHAMBERS

PRINCIPAL,  
LINDSAY  
CHAMBERS DESIGN

**LOCAL ROOTS:** I moved to Los Angeles four years ago from San Francisco to launch my interior design firm's LA office. I love it here and, much to my parents' disappointment, I don't think I'm moving back home.

**MUST-DO:** LA is so diverse; it all depends on how you want to experience it. I love hiking Griffith Park and seeing the Hollywood sign, grabbing a drink at Hotel Bel Air or visiting the 40-plus art galleries at Bergamot Station.

**ONLY HERE:** The Getty Center, beyond its impressive art collection, is a breathtakingly beautiful structure. Touring the grounds is an adventure in itself.

**TRAVEL ADVICE:** It might sound cliché, but traffic really is something to plan for. If you are heading to the beach from downtown, try to travel during the middle of the day. Plan dinners close to your hotel if you have to travel during peak hours or leave plenty of time to arrive for your reservation.



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** The Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall adds a distinctive shape to the LA skyline; The forthcoming Wilshire Grand's sky deck will feature panoramic views.

responsible for many West Coast live-work-play-learn projects as well as the rehabilitation of the historic Bradbury Building and ground-up transit-oriented developments such as Pasadena's Santa Fe Railroad Depot.

The city has invested more than \$4 billion in LAX (the world's busiest origin-and-destination airport), \$1.2 billion in its ports and \$16 billion on new transit lines, according to the Los Angeles Coalition for Economy and Jobs. The conundrum of development has always been traffic. Los Angeles City is home to 3.9 million people; the county has more than 10 million—and they're all on their way somewhere.

Keller says that the less Angelenos rely on single-driver cars and car ownership, the denser their city can be. He adds that commercial real estate needs jobs to grow, but not just any jobs. "Accretive jobs. Jobs with pensions, benefits and extra money in the bank."

Southern California, he says, is recovering from the stagnation of FIRE (financial, insurance and real estate) jobs with the emergence of TED (technology, entertainment and design). When banking industry laws changed in 1995, California institutions such as Bank of America moved their headquarters out of state. Occidental Petroleum moved its headquarters to Houston in 2014.

But one booming industry has endured. The San Pedro neighborhood of LA is home to the largest harbor in the United States, the Port of Los Angeles. At 43 miles long, it is the home of sustainable longshoreman jobs and sees the importation and exportation of roughly \$1 billion of goods on a daily basis.

In addition to the revamping of San Pedro's Ports O'Call Village (which will emerge as dining and entertainment center San Pedro Public Market in 2017), the marine institute and research center AltaSea will open at the end of 2016 on city dock No. 1, the original berth for ships com-

ing from the Panama Canal.

"We're the Brooklyn of Los Angeles," says Jack Baric, a filmmaker and community activist who works with longshoremen, the Chamber of Commerce, business owners, real estate agents and developers to bring jobs and development to the harbor.

A vibrant town center overlooks the enormous cranes, which work 24 hours a day to load and unload cargo containers. Walk around the neighborhood and you'll find mom-and-pop restaurants as well as artistic enclaves. In contrast to San Francisco's famous Fisherman's Wharf tourist site, here real fishermen actually bring back daily catches, including calamari that ends up on appetizer menus across the United States.

Some of that calamari might well end up back downtown, where architect Martin is passionate about his latest project. The Wilshire Grand Redevelopment Project on 7th Street and Figueroa, will include a mixed use building with offices, entertainment space, and a high-end hotel. This 73-story tower is slated to be the tallest building west of Chicago and, unlike many tall buildings in LA, it won't have a helicopter pad. Since 1974, any building taller than 75 feet was required to have one for firefighting helicopters—an ordinance that effectively flattened the skyline. Since helicopter rescues are dangerous and rare, the code was changed in 2014 to allow builders to forgo the pad as long as they provided other safety measures. With this building, Martin has opted for four-foot-thick concrete walls, an extra stairwell and a firefighters-only elevator.

The Wilshire Grand will be topped by a 150-foot spire with a navigational beacon, in homage to the Charles Lindbergh beacon at the top of City Hall. Guests will be able to walk around the top of the building to see the vista—all the way to the Pacific, the southern basin, the mountains and the reborn city skyline. ▼