

INGLEWOOD ART AND CULTURE

# CRENSHAW CORRIDOR

WALKING  
TOUR



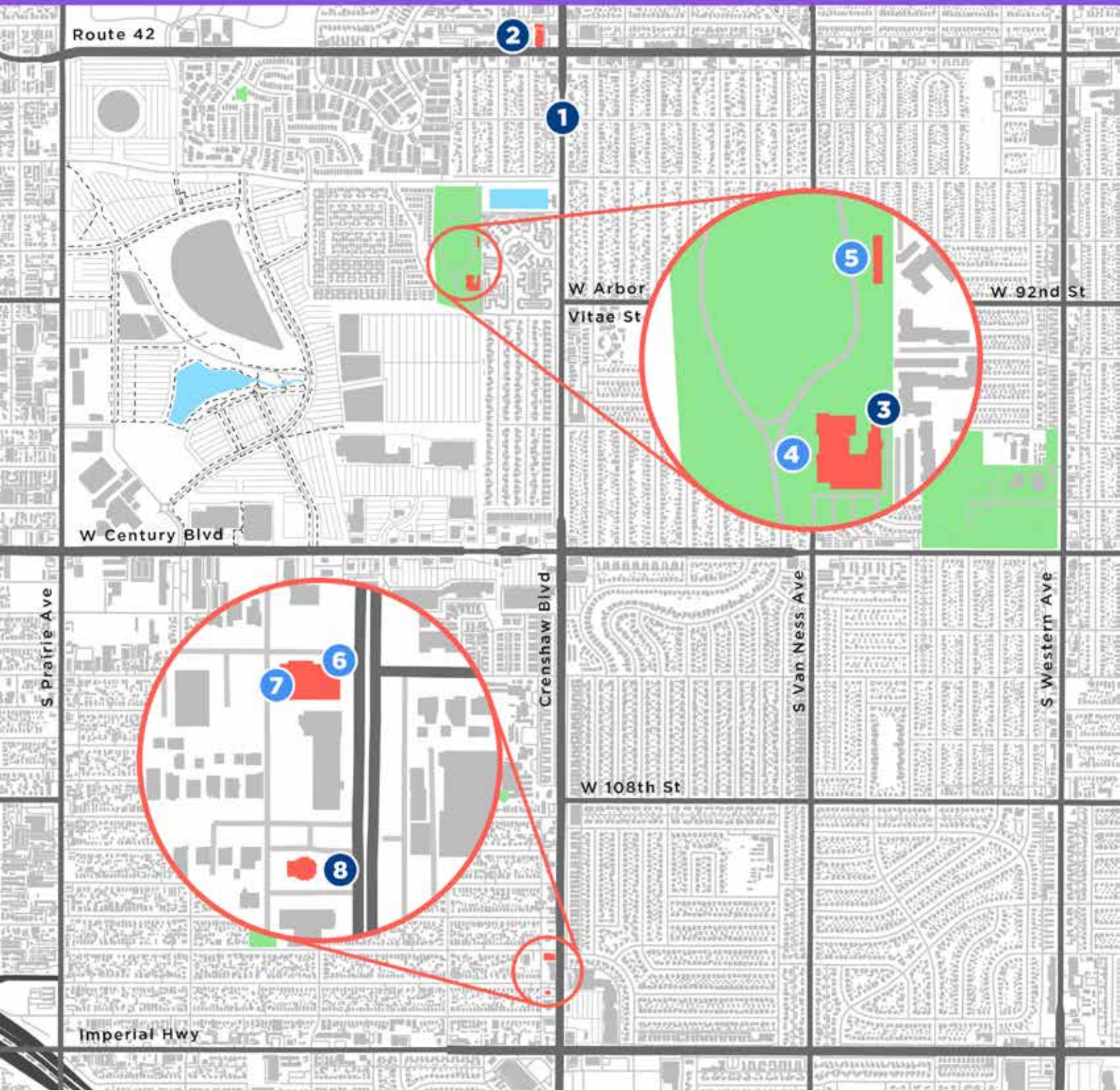
Welcome to our Art  
& Culture Walking Tours of Inglewood California.

Discover local arts and culture through six tour guides available through  
Inglewood's Community Centers, public counters and [Inglewoodpublicart.org/explore](https://www.inglewoodpublicart.org/explore).





# INGLEWOOD ART & CULTURE CRENSHAW CORRIDOR WALKING TOURS



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## Crenshaw Boulevard / Inglewood

Historical commerce and cultural area  
Crenshaw Boulevard between Florence Avenue and  
Imperial Highway, Inglewood CA

Since the City's founding, *Crenshaw Boulevard* has served as a cultural thoroughfare. A north-south boulevard, Crenshaw is a 23-mile long street in west-central Los Angeles County, starting in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. It runs north through the cities of Torrance and Inglewood, in Los Angeles' Crenshaw neighborhood and ends in the Wilshire District. The recent LA Crenshaw District development expands on Inglewood's cultural footprint.

The arterial is named after George Crenshaw, a banker and real estate developer working in the 1900s through 1920. Mr. Crenshaw built Wellington Square in West Adams in 1912 and central LA's historic LaFayette Square in 1913.



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## Academy Theater

Simon Charles Lee, Architect

1939; Historic cultural venue, now repurposed.  
3141 Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood CA 90305

The *Academy Theater*, noted for a streamline aesthetic, circular forms and glass block, the exterior naming spire is circled by a helical light illuminating the 'Academy' name. A classic of Art Moderne style structure, it was originally designed to house the Academy Awards, but never did. The facility, operating as a church since 1976, is now named Academy Cathedral.

Veteran movie palace architect S. Charles Lee worked with Fox Theatres in-house designer Carl G. Moeller to showcase Hollywood glamour and luxury. Lee's first theater commission was the Tower Theater in downtown Los Angeles. It was billed as "the finest thousand-seat theatre in America" in 1927. Lee designed over 250 palaces across the greater Los Angeles area.



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## Darby Park / MLK Community Center

Recreation and sports facility  
115 N. Market St., Inglewood CA 90301

Darby Park serves Inglewood as a significant, 14-acre outdoor recreation area with tennis, basketball, skateboards and field sport facilities and playgrounds. There is also a thriving pickleball community. The refurbished running track is a gathering place for area walkers of all ages. The Los Angeles Dodgers RBI program, co-sponsored by the Dodgers Foundation, organizes games for all ages, with a batting facility on site. The park's Martin Luther King Community Center

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holds a basketball court, dance studio and community artworks.

Darby Park is named for Raymond V. Darby, the Inglewood businessman who was elected Mayor in 1930 and then to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1934. He was noted as an advocate for good roads, flood control and especially aviation business development.



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## On Your Mark

Lucy Blake-Elahi, Lead Artist

2000, ceramic tile mural  
3400 West Arbor Vitae St., Inglewood, California 90305

*On Your Mark* is a ceramic tile mural by AbilityFirst / Harry A. Mier Center students with the supervision of public artist Lucy Blake-Elahi. Working with a group of developmentally disabled children and adults, she created silhouettes of leaping youth leap, inspired by the drawings and paintings of group members. Four tile portraits show some of the workers.



AbilityFirst is a regional nonprofit organization established to provide help children and adults with disabilities. Inglewood's Mier Center, at 8090 S. Crenshaw, works to look beyond disability and see capabilities first. They empower individuals with autism, cerebral palsy, down syndrome and other intellectual/developmental disabilities with creative and movement activities including *On Your Mark*.

Lucy Blake-Elahi is a multi-media artist and art activist as a public artist and educator teaching art in local colleges and universities. Blake-Elahi earned her MA from Pratt Institute and BFA from the State University of New York in New Paltz.



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## **Parks Make Life Better**

Wayne Healy and Michelle Glass, lead artists

2015, painted mural

Darby Park Handball Court , 3400 West Arbor Vitae,  
Inglewood, CA 90305

Parks Make Life Better is a collaborative mural by artists Wayne Healy and Michelle Glass and community members. The lead artists trained five youths to complete this site-specific mural on an unusual shaped wall in Darby Park.

Healy developed an eight-week introductory course to figure drawing, mural design and color mixing. Glass developed the team, finding individual talents and team challenges for the young artists. Inspired by the motto 'Parks Make Life Better,' the final artwork's bright colors are framed under sweeping parabolas. All age groups are represented using Park activities from salsa dancing to skateboarding, swing sets to strollers.



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## **Iconic Abstractions**

Jody Zellen, Artist

2016, brushed stainless steel

Inglewood Public Library. Imperial/Crenshaw Branch  
exterior, 11141 Crenshaw Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90303

*Iconic Abstractions* artist Jody Zellen celebrates Inglewood's architecture with graphic silhouettes of iconic design features. The artist selected photographs from the Inglewood Public Art web pages then digitally manipulated the images, mirroring and repositioning them to create graphically bold silhouettes. The resulting

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eleven laser-cut stainless steel works were designed for and installed within the lunettes on the north and east sides of the Library.

Zellen's architectural sources are the Academy Theater, Cafeteles Restaurant, Debbie's Cleaners, The Forum, Hollywood Park Casino, Inglewood City Hall, Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood War Memorial, Jet Car Wash, Randy's Donuts and Rudolph Schindler's speculation residences.



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### The Infinite Library

Susan Simpson, Artist

2016, brushed stainless steel  
Inglewood Public Library. Imperial/Crenshaw Branch  
interior, 11141 Crenshaw Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90303

The Infinite Library is Susan Simpson's site-related sculpture celebrating the wonder and infinite possibilities offered in a library. The Infinite Library is a series of dioramas and peepholes showing world-wide library experiences. The diorama boxes reveal five actual libraries and an imaginary one. One diorama depicts a library boat on Laos' Mekong River; another shows a residence full of rescued books in a war-torn country. The peepholes reveal animated bookmobiles: an elephant in Thailand, burros in Columbia and a Kenyan camel. These source books are available on the Library's reference shelf. This artwork may be viewed during regular library hours.

Susan Simpson is a Los Angeles artist and puppeteer creating tiny theaters, display cabinets and kiosks. She has exhibited her work in venues across the United States and Europe and won a Jim Henson Foundation award in 2017.





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### The Brolly Hut

Victor Miller, architect

1968, Architecture

11205 Crenshaw Boulevard, Inglewood, California 90303



Inglewood's Brolly Hut is a prime example of Los Angeles' umbrella-shaped burger restaurants. Victor Miller designed the Brolly during the height of London mod culture. Embracing Googie architecture, he designed an umbrella-shaped roof, signage and interior light fixtures inspired by the British brolly, a parasol or bumbershoot. The diminutive building has expansive glass windows and bold interior tiles.

Celebrated in 2012 by the Getty Research Institute's Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980, and on Ice Cube's Architectural Landmark Picks alongside the Forum and Cockatoo Inn, the Brolly is a hut worth seeing.