



An Introduction

The Studio for Southern California History (Studio) is a non-profit resource center in Los Angeles' Chinatown. The Studio's mission is to critically chronicle & disseminate the region's social history in order to foster sense of place and social responsibility. The Studio fulfills its mission through exhibits, an oral history program, walking tours, workshops, online projects, public forums, a reference library of nearly 1,200 publications and other related programming.

The Studio has partnerships with local historical societies, museums, and colleges like the University of Southern California, California State University Los Angeles, and the University of California Los Angeles among others. The Studio works with local high school and middle school teachers on creating lesson plans that integrate local history and follow state standards for social studies.

The Studio shares Southern California history in as many ways as possible; we seek to make it accessible and relevant to its visitors. The Studio's gallery exhibits include an interactive timeline that invites visitor participation. The timeline makes a visual argument about change over time and often shows local events in juxtaposition against national or international ones. The timeline includes video excerpts showing some of the Studio's oral histories and short documentaries that relate to the exhibit's theme. Most importantly, the timeline invites visitors to add their own entries by writing on the wall and to challenge or augment what the Studio presents. In addition to traditional ways of sharing history like its museum space, the Studio's programming seeks to show how one may read history through the built environment through walking tours. In December 2009 the Studio introduced the "On this Day in LA" iPhone application that shares daily entries related to history. Ultimately, the Studio seeks to make the history of the region more accessible through programming both in the physical world and online through the LA History Archive at www.lahistoryarchive.org where all of its recorded programming is shared in multimedia format.

Interested in learning more?

- Visit us at our Gallery in Chinatown at 977 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 just south of the 110 Exit/Entrance at Hill Street.
- Visit us online at our website at www.socalstudio.org.
- Join us for a Walking Tour
 - Check out our website for more information.
- Follow us on Facebook to learn about upcoming programming and issues related to local history.

Support the Studio by

- Become a member—check out our website for more information and levels of commitment.
- Refer someone for an oral history--do you know someone whose history should be collected as part of the Southern California experience?
- Participate in the "My Neighborhood Photo Essay Challenge"—it asks you to share why your neighborhood is home through photographs and an essay. Visit our website for more info.
- Tell A Friend--if you like what you see with the Studio, you can support us by becoming a Fan through Facebook.com or by becoming a Friend of the Studio through myspace.com.

Because my history matters. . .