

proofs



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The Studio has moved! (2 blocks)

After four years on Alpine Street, the Studio moved to 977 N. Hill Street in the heart of the 1938 "New Chinatown" development. The new space allows for more flow and is larger for more displays of history information. This location provides for many more visitors seeking local history. The photo below shows the new location and a new addition--a seed bomb machine provided by the **GreenAid & the Common Studio** (www.thecommonstudio.com). Seed bombs are made to brighten "grey spaces" in need of indigenous flowers. Be sure to read Nancy Bautista's review of the Studio's grand re-opening.



The Studio's mission is to critically chronicle and disseminate the region's social history in order to foster sense of place.

Studio News Notes

The Studio received
a \$30,000 grant from

Lauren Bon and the Metabolic Studio for 2010 - 2011. This grant will assist the Studio in fulfilling its mission to critically chronicle and disseminate the region's social history in order to foster sense of place and social responsibility. Thank you **Lauren Bon**, **the Metabolic Studio** and **the Annenberg Foundation**!

The Studio's annual fundraiser "An Affair in April" held on April 24 was successful in every sense of the word: \$4,000 was generated through ticket sales, the raffle, and donated items including artwork from **Michael Amescua**, **Leo Limón & Linda Vallejo**; book donations from **Bob Drwila**, **Jon P. Goodman**, and **Catherine Gudis**; and delicious buñuelos from **Maria Bautista**. Thank you to **Nancy Bautista**, **Max Benavidez**, **Bing** from **Hop Li's Restaurant**, **Adam Bush**, **Catherine Gudis**, **Pierre Julia**, **Christian Lainez**, **Monica Pelayo** and everyone else who donated their time or a special item to make the night memorable. As is the Studio's tradition, superstar **Lennie Bluett** entertained the crowd and **Lady Bug the clown** reminded all of us that we are still young. Finally, thank you to **Steve Duncan** who took beautiful photographs of the night's festivities.

Strawberries and the Veterans Administration

Over the last year, the Studio has been honored to participate in a project at the **Veterans Administration** in West Los Angeles with **Lauren Bon** and **the Metabolic Studio**.

This project intertwines strawberries and sculpture and has been designed around events in which the public may meet with veterans and learn about the issues they face. These issues and the experience have been integrated into an installation for an exhibit entitled **EATLACMA** at the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**. For more information on this ever-evolving project please visit www.strawberryflag.org.



On June 24, 2010 the Studio turned 4 years old! As our birthday present to you, we have made our "On this Day in LA" iPhone application FREE. Designed by multimedia programmer **Bjorn Littlefield-Palmer**, this dynamic iPhone application launches an interactive calendar that displays an entry for today's date that relates to Southern California history. Entries date back as far as 1769 and continue through 2000. Ms. Littlefield-Palmer painstakingly programmed this app for the Studio and the care shows. The searchable application does not require an Internet connection to operate and includes humorous and compelling facts related to the social history of the region, researched by the Studio. This app may be obtained through iTunes. If you like it, be sure to give it a great review!

NEW EXHIBIT:
Love is Living
Large in
Los Angeles

Join us Saturday
September 4, 2010 from
12-10 pm to celebrate
our newest exhibit:
*"Love is Living Large
in Los Angeles"* which
opens in conjunction with
the recognized birthday
of the founding of the



pueblo of Los Angeles, September 4, 1781. This exhibit focuses on different individuals who contributed to building a community across Southern California history and includes an exhibit dedicated to activists, athletes, artists, business leaders, writers, lawyers, preservationists, workers and other individuals who "lived large" in Los Angeles by a life actively engaged towards building a better good.

Historian, songwriter and musician, Darryl Holter, will perform on Saturday night as part of the opening reception. Holter has intertwined his research on Woodie Guthrie, Los Angeles and labor rights into both academic argument and into music. His songs use the hitherto unpublished lyrics of Woodie Guthrie--this is a treat not to miss in addition to the lovely exhibit. Some highlights of the exhibit include:

Oscar Zeta Acosta
Charlotta Amanda Bass
Jesse Belvin
Karen Boccalero
Pearl S. Buck
Aurora Castillo
Clifford Clinton
Rebecca Lee Dorsey
Pancho Gonzalez
Woodie Guthrie
Dorothy Healy
Barbara Jury

Mary Corita Kent
Ralph Lazo
Walter Lindley M.D.
Apolinaria Lorenzana
Carey McWilliams
Bridget Biddie Mason
Kiyoshi Okamoto
Mary Paik Lee
Ethel Andrus Percy
Leo Politi
Robert Rosebrock



Upton Sinclair
Christine Sterling
Frank Wilkinson
H. Gaylord Wilshire
Fernando Valenzuela
& many more!

"Love is Living Large in LA" image provided by Michel Martinez.

*The Studio's
Grand Re-Opening
by Nancy Bautista*

The Studio opened the doors of its new location at 977 North Hill Street on Saturday, July 10. Regular studio friends, members and supporters (and a couple of new ones) warmly welcomed the re-released exhibit **Law & Disorder** which is scheduled to run until August 21, 2010. **Law & Disorder** investigates moments in Southern California history that lead to legislative reform, as well as episodes of vigilantism and mob behavior in the form of riots and/or rebellions. The role of civil disobedience and how law enforcement reacts to such instances of protest is also discussed while clarifying the differences between de facto and de jure forms of policy and behavior. Finally, this exhibit displays hidden forms of crime within our society including human trafficking, gang formations, disability rights, and crimes against children. The opening reception officially kicked off the Studio's new hours of operation, Friday – Sunday, noon – 8 p.m. and/or by appointment.



Above: Abraham Cervantes, Monica Pelayo & Rosa Mazon at the re-opening.



New hires, interns and studio staff successfully presented the space to everyone that was anxious to come in, many of whom stopped by on a daily basis two weeks before the opening and during the space's restoration and remodeling
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.

At left: Studio Board member Bob Drwila accepting the key to the seed bomb machine from Daniel Phillips of GreenAid. The seed bombs cost two quarters and will brighten your neighborhood's grey zones.

Profiles in Courage: Ofelia Esparza

Each issue of [proofs](#) includes a profile on one of our oral history interviewees. The Studio met the beautiful and gentle [Ofelia Esparza](#) when working on the [Self-Help Graphics & Sister Karen Bocalero](#) history project in collaboration with [Dr. Angela Vergara's](#) California State University, Los Angeles ([CSULA](#)) class. Ofelia is a renowned artist and altar maker born and raised where she still resides, East Los Angeles. In 1945, she attended [Belvedere Middle School](#) where she invited her future husband to the Sadie Hawkins' Dance.

She candidly admitted not following Belvedere's strict dress code and recalls sporting big pompadours and "fingertip" coats (the Zoot Suit style for girls). On her 11th birthday, Ofelia witnessed discrimination against Mexicans at the [Los Angeles Theater](#). While waiting in line to watch the movie for [Me and My Gal](#) with her brother, a theater worker approached a couple standing in front of them and asked them to leave. The girlfriend was outraged that her boyfriend, a soldier in full uniform, was not allowed to enter the show. The worker asserted that management simply "[wanted to avoid trouble like the Zoot Suit Riots,](#)" but Ofelia's brother was so upset that he immediately intervened and asked Ofelia to leave with him. CONTINUED ON PAGE 10.



Above: a recent photograph of Ofelia provided by www.amigos208.com

Dear Nancy, Can I Ever Thank You Enough?

by Sharon Sekhon, Executive Director for the Studio

Ever since Nancy Bautista joined the Studio three years ago, we have benefited from her patience, creativity, intelligence & humor. For many of us, the Studio won't be "the Studio" without this amazingly cheerful and steadfast friend. However, in this same passion, we are extremely proud of the steps she has taken towards helping our world; in the fall when she begins work on her Masters degree in Social Work at USC she will undoubtedly learn new ways to help Los Angeles and the world at large. While Nancy will no longer be at the Studio on a regular basis as in the past, she has promised to visit us regularly to keep me (in)sane.

Dear Nancy: Thank you for all that you have given me and for the dedication and respect you have consistently given the Studio's work. This institution is deeply indebted to your work. Congratulations on the next chapter of your already amazing life's journey. Be sure to remember your history and how power operates. I love you and already miss you!

MY NEIGHBORHOOD by Michelle An

Growing up in Southern California, I was able to take advantage of the various public beaches, parks and public spaces. Although much of these landmarks have changed from my childhood recollections (some for the better, others not so much), they remain a vital part of the community. My community is not regionally based within city boundaries, but consists of destinations throughout southern California. Instead, they represent time spent with family, childhood innocence, and a sense of adventure in the eyes of a youthful girl.

Columbia Park: Located on the intersection of 190th Street and Prairie Avenue in Torrance in California.



Parks were a favorite recreational activity of the family. It was open to the public and free. We spent our weekends riding swings and slides throughout the summer. We would run around the huge grass field without a care in the world. I was just a toddler in this particular picture but I'm sure I enjoyed the change of scenery from playing at home! It reminds me of a time when we still had time to enjoy a little bit of nature, although man-made. My favorite part about the park was the huge fire engine that we were able to climb inside. One park that we often visited even housed an enormous replica of a ship.

It's amazing what little was needed to entertain a child. Just give them open space, whether on the sandy beaches or grassy parks, and kids can entertain themselves for hours before falling asleep on the car ride home. I still pass by the park on my way to school and admire the many families who picnic and play with their children.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.

This essay is part of the Studio's ongoing "My Neighborhood Challenge;" see back page for more details.

Happy Summer Studio Members!

A message from Adam Bush,
President of the Board of
Directors for the Studio.

At right: Adam Bush generously sharing
buñuelos made by Maria Bautista at
last Spring's fundraiser, An Affair in
April. Photograph by Steve Duncan.



As we enter our fifth year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the Studio's most recent accomplishments. We have grown (please come see our new space, its wonderful!); we have received grants to help us develop our membership base (thank you, Candelaria Foundation!); and we are launching the LA History Archive this Fall in October.

The fifth year of the Studio also overlaps with the fifteenth anniversary of the publication of Dolores Hayden's *The Power of Place*—a text which teaches that “the sharing of information between human beings provides a transformative context for one’s relationship to place.” Hayden’s book has helped to shape the work of the Studio since its inception and, with our overlapping birthdays, the Studio has been invited, this coming November, to present at the American Studies Association on the curricular and public history interventions the Studio has produced. At the conference in San Antonio, Texas, to a national contingent of teachers, researchers, and community members, we will present a panel on the Studio’s work. I, along with Executive Director Sharon Sekhon and Board members, Professors Catherine Gudis and José Alamillo, and Studio tour-guide extraordinaire Monica Pelayo will gather to present the Studio’s work to foster an environment of collaborative learning, a connection to place and the urgency of social change.

The collaborations the Studio has fostered-- in its home base in Chinatown, throughout K-12 classrooms, and with other community organizations—have centered a responsibility of civic engagement, public scholarship, and pedagogy in developing alternative means of documenting Southern California history. This past year, returning both for the Studio’s April fundraiser and a January meeting, the Studio took on an additional role—reminding me of how we can build networks of friends, institutions, and colleagues across place in ways that allow you to feel the power of home wherever you are. Thank you all for supporting the Studio’s mission and continually reminding me of the power of Southern California.

Adam Bush, Board President

MICHELLE AN'S MY NEIGHBORHOOD ... CONTINUED FROM 6
Pismo Beach, California: Looking for sea crabs and shells.



This represents a different aspect of the beach for me. In my youth it was more about playing in the sand, building sand castles and looking for interesting sea creatures. It was more about enjoying the waves and not caring about how we looked or how much sand we got between our toes. The beach holds numerous memories for me as I spent time there with family when I was younger and with friends as I got older. In our youth, we didn't care about how dirty our clothes got, although my parents would beg to differ once we got in the car smelling like the beach and bringing in extra sand baggage.

The Los Angeles Zoo, Griffith Park.



My brother admired the giraffes but I was more interested in climbing the fence. I am not only amazed at the huge giraffes in this picture, but also at the fact that my parents took a picture of me climbing the protective fence between the audience and the animal instead of stopping me! My mom always told me that I liked to climb things, even at the most inappropriate times. There's something to be said about the blind courage of children, unafraid of the world at large.

The Zoo was definitely a thrill to visit as a child. The various animals, previously only seen through books, were finally right before our eyes! It developed early on an admiration of various non-domesticated animals. I especially began to appreciate endangered and precious animals like pandas and polar bears from this early exposure to the zoo.

Skypark Plaza, located off Hawthorne and 234th Street.



Skypark Plaza mainly houses office buildings, but we visited the place particularly for its green space during my childhood. The mini waterfall, green shrubbery, and numerous trees made this development a great place to spend time. In high school, my brother even attended an SAT afterschool program within the vicinity. Although the same landscape remained, we didn't appreciate its simple beauty as much as before. Now it houses numerous restaurants and provides a great place to stroll after a meal with friends. It also provides a great space to ponder and reflect, away from the busy schedule and toil of school and work. The plaza is ever expanding and renovating but there is something to be said of its humble beginnings.

In addition to being this quarter's "My Neighborhood Photo-Essay Challenge" WINNER, Michelle An is a graduate student in public history at the University of California Riverside and is currently interning at the Studio for Southern California History. Are you up to the challenge???

GRAND REOPENING ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Community members and Chinatown tourists swarmed in and out of the Studio and in between Dots cupcakes, Hop Li eggrolls and fruit and vegetable platters, all dialogue centered around Southern California's history. Visitors that learned about the Studio for the first time joyously welcomed its mission and were delighted to add their history to the interactive exhibits. Specifically, one couple from Wyoming was so thrilled about the Studio that they requested to have their picture taken inside and outside the new space so they could show everyone "back home" the unexpected treasure they discovered on their night out; one of them even suggested donating their oral history to the Studio's collection!

Opening day came and went too fast so if you missed it, please make sure to come by and (re)discover Law & Disorder. Old Studio-goers may be pleasantly surprised to see that the walls now permit more interactivity since they reach a very high ceiling and new visitors may enjoy the Studio so much they may consider becoming a member. Many thanks to all who made the transition to North Hill Street a success and do feel free to spread the word about the Studio and its new location.

PROFILE IN COURAGE ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Ofelia was so distressed that her special birthday outing was unexpectedly cancelled that she convinced her brother to stay. Though they stayed, he has never let her forget the event and taught Ofelia that discrimination against one means discrimination against all.

Ofelia served as an educator until 1999, when she retired from City Terrace Elementary School. Before receiving her teaching credential from CSULA in 1975, Ofelia was recruited to become a teaching aid for Spanish speaking students, although a couple of teachers at her school questioned bilingual education. At one of the faculty and staff meetings, a teacher expressed confusion with the bilingual education initiative because she believed "Democracy means the majority" and "why should classes be taught in Spanish when most of the country speaks English?" Ofelia quickly responded stating, "the essence of a Democracy is that you do not accommodate the majority, you integrate the minority for everyone to have equal opportunity." Surprised by her own strength, Ofelia was determined to go back to school and earn her teaching credential.

Under a 1969 title 7 government grant Ofelia joined the College Opportunity Program (COP), which required a teaching aid position and full time student status. COP provided special Spanish language teacher training from the University of Texas, Austin. Soon after, in 1972, she transferred from East Los Angeles College to CSULA where she graduated and earned her teaching credential. Ofelia taught from 1975-1999, when she retired; the 1998 crackdown on bilingual education highly persuaded her to stop working.

Although she no longer teaches at a school, Ofelia is a super volunteer at Self-Help Graphics, where she began working with Sister Karen in 1980. Ofelia recognizes the importance of art in education and continues making, and teaching others how to make, beautiful Dia De Los Muertos/Day of the Dead altars. Ofelia has experienced great change over time and smiles when reminiscing about a time when only two art coordinators existed for the entire Los Angeles School District.

If you want to learn more about Ofelia Esparza, check out her clips on youtube & if you know someone the Studio should interview, please let us know.



The Studio at its former location.

A New Phase in History Making

by Nancy Bautista

The Studio for Southern California History is no longer located at 525 Alpine Street, Suite 103 but is continuing its mission at 977 North Hill Street, right before the 110 freeway entrance.

New people are also joining the Studio family as the Administrative, Education & Research Director leaves for graduate school.*

The Studio's first 4 years at the Alpine location were pivotal in developing this incredible Southern California history resource center. It was on Alpine Street where one person took on the job of chronicling and disseminating the social history of Southern California and where many soon joined in on the struggle to preserve Los Angeles history. Were it not for the old location, the Studio might have taken longer to recognize the wildly diverse history found right on that street. Nearby one can spot: a **Leo Politi mural** at **Castelar Street Elementary School**; **Alpine recreation center** where the old and young come together to get fit; **pigeon park** (the only one of its kind) where community members feed the pigeons on an empty lot at the corner of Castelar and Alpine Streets; and **Friends Electronics** where anything can be repaired no matter its condition. Everything the Studio needed was in walking distance from 525 but now the Studio will simply walk a little more to keep in that location's loop.

Beyond a museum & workspace, 525 Alpine also became a home for many and the friendships that began there may now transition and continue at the improved location. The Studio was sad it could no longer afford the rent at Alpine Properties but the North Hill location has already provided a more promising outlook: the Studio is in a more tourist trafficked section of Chinatown; there are delicious boba and dim sum places across the street; a psychic is our neighbor; and best of all, during gridlock hours a lot of drivers must reflect on the **California Casualties** display (of all those Californians who have died in our current wars).

The new location is starting to feel a lot more like home and we are undoubtedly lucky to claim two different parts of Chinatown. New and exciting things are scheduled for the upcoming months, and if you want to take part in the action make sure to check out volunteer opportunities on our website.

Cheers to the new location!

* Nancy Bautista would like to sincerely thank her Studio family for all the knowledge, help and support she received from the time of her internship back in March 2006 to the present and beyond. Ms. Bautista will be preoccupied with obtaining her Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California but promises to continue volunteering at the Studio forever. If you need to contact her, just holler at her cell phone.

Are you up to the Challenge???

My Neighborhood Photo-Essay Contest

The Studio seeks to cover neighborhoods across the region that reflect the truly unique and diverse communities set well apart from traditional stereotypes. Examples of past winners are featured on the LA History Archive at www.lahistoryarchive.org.

The next deadline is September 19, 2010.

Each submission must include the following information:

Photographer's Name

Home Address (Number Street, Apt #)


City, State, Zip code

Home Phone Number

E-mail address (if applicable)

500-1,000 Word Essay

5 - 10 Photographs with title, location and date



You could
win an iPod
Nano!

More information on the Challenge is available at www.socalstudio.org.

Support the Studio -- Become A Member!

Benefits include:

- A 2010 Studio Guide to LA History (\$9 value!);
- A subscription to proofs the Studio's newsletter;
- A 25% discount on Studio products;
- Membership rates with Partners like TOWN HALL LA (www.townhall-la.org);

Membership categories

Student/Senior \$25

Individual \$55

*Friend \$75

Family \$100

(2 adults & 2 kids)

Patron \$250

Supporting \$500

**Benefactor \$1,000

***Fees are annual ***

