



MUSIC·CENTER

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

OVER 70 YEARS IN THE MAKING
FOUR WORLD-CLASS THEATRES
ONE CITY'S MECCA FOR THE ARTS

For arts and entertainment lovers in Southern California, the Plaza at the Music Center of Los Angeles County is Los Angeles's town square. Now sporting four world-class theatres, the Music Center sits at the crown of Bunker Hill, forming the western end of Los Angeles's Civic Center Mall, the Paseo de los Pobladores. The Music Center is at the heart of the cultural offerings along Grand Avenue.

ARCHITECTURE

The Music Center Plaza and the theatres around it (1964-1967) were designed in the late 1950s/early 1960s style of New Formalism. New Formalism combined civic authority and classical monumentality using arches, columns, and rich materials such as marble, granite, or man-made composites. The original complex is an excellent example of New Formalism's geometrical forms that contrast lights and darks. The country's other two major performing arts centers — Lincoln Center in New York and Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. — were also built in this style.

The original Music Center architects were Welton Becket and Associates, who designed the buildings and everything in them, including furnishings, lighting, wall and floor finishes, and even the restaurant dinnerware. Architect Frank Gehry has also designed the interior finishes of his Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Music Center's newest addition.



Dorothy "Buff" Chandler at the opening of "her" hall. She is flanked by then-conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Zubin Mehta (l), who led the concert that night, and Welton Becket, (r), architect of the Music Center.

Otto Rothchild Collection, The Music Center Archives.

California and a leading figure for many years of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She is credited with having saved the Hollywood Bowl in 1951.

From the mid-1950s on, Chandler relentlessly and almost single-handedly persuaded Los Angeles's political and business leaders that the city needed a major performing arts center. She attracted widespread community support, including student groups and volunteers from all walks of life. No contribution was too small. Chandler even had "Buck Bags" made up for volunteers to solicit donations on the streets and at local events.

When the Music Center opened in 1964, *TIME* magazine blazoned Dorothy "Buff" Chandler on its cover. "Chandler... almost single-handedly raised a staggering \$18.5 million," *TIME* wrote, "and organized a company to float another \$13.7 million in bonds. It was perhaps the most impressive display of virtuoso money-raising and civic citizenship in the history of U.S. womanhood."



The architecture of Walt Disney Concert Hall continues the themes of geometrical forms — now gone slightly wild with contrasting lights and darks — in reflective and nonreflective surfaces. Frank Gehry, based here in Los Angeles, has contributed an architectural language all his own to many projects worldwide, such as Bilbao's Guggenheim Museum and Seattle's Experience Music Project.

HISTORY

From the 1930s on, Los Angeles's leaders identified the need for a large civic auditorium. It took 30 years and the sheer determination of one woman to make it happen: Dorothy Buffum Chandler.

Daughter of a department store magnate and wife of *Los Angeles Times* publisher Norman Chandler, Dorothy Chandler was not content to rest on others' laurels. She was a major force on the local volunteer and charitable fundraising scene, and at the *Times* she instituted an annual award for women's achievements. She was a Regent of the University of



On her death in 1997 at the age of 96, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan eulogized, "[Dorothy Chandler's] imprint will be part of Los Angeles for many centuries to come. In culture, she certainly was the most outstanding leader in the history of the city."

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

In 1987, Walt Disney's widow, Lillian Disney, gave an initial gift of \$50 million for a concert hall as a tribute to her husband. The Disney family's gifts have enabled the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Master Chorale to move to a specially built concert hall, opening up space in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for the Los Angeles Opera to expand its season, as well as for Music Center Dance and other events.

Los Angeles County provided the land and installed the underground garage. Meanwhile, above ground, a whole new kind of architecture was created as the Music Center proudly moved into the 21st century. It is fitting, too, that the new hall stands on a piece of the original 11-acre parcel that Los Angeles County designated 40 years ago for the creation of the Music Center.



MUSIC CENTER

135 North Grand Avenue • Los Angeles, California 90012 • phone: 213.972.7211

W A L T D I S N E Y C O N C E R T H A L L

A 2,265-seat concert hall. Exterior: stainless steel and limestone. Interior: unique, vineyard-shaped hall with Douglas fir walls and ceiling.

LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC

- Led by world-renowned conductor/composer Esa-Pekka Salonen
- Founded 1919; winter home at Dorothy Chandler Pavilion 1964-2003
- Summer home: Hollywood Bowl; worldwide touring
- Free neighborhood and youth concerts, public school residencies

For information, please call 323.850.2000 or visit www.laphil.com

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

- Led by dynamic young conductor Grant Gershon
- Founded in 1964 by Roger Wagner
- Full concert season and numerous education and outreach programs
- Presented first Sing-Along Messiah in U.S. in 1979
- Featured on more movie soundtracks than any other choir in the nation

For information, please call 213.972.7282 or visit www.lamc.org

W.M. KECK FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S AMPHITHEATRE

A 300-seat outdoor amphitheatre for children's programming

NADINE AND ED CARSON AMPHITHEATRE

A 150-seat outdoor amphitheatre for informal educational, experimental, and musical performances

REDCAT - ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER

A multi-media arts center operated by the California Institute of the Arts, including a flexible 200-300 seat theater for innovative music, dance, theater, and film/video, and a 3,000-square-foot contemporary arts gallery

FOUNDERS ROOM AND GARDEN

Special amenities for the Music Center's major donors and guests

The Patina Group at the Music Center, with chef and founder Joachim Splichal, bring Patina's renowned services to the fine dining restaurant in the Concert Hall, as well as to the Concert Hall Café. Patina is open for lunch, dinner and late-night supper and reservations are recommended. The Concert Hall Café has self-serve offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For information on catering, call 213.972.7565.

D O R O T H Y C H A N D L E R P A V I L I O N

A 3,200-seat multi-use theatre. Exterior: tapered fluted columns, contrasting white quartz aggregate and dark-gray granite. Interior: honey-toned onyx walls, Venetian tile-covered columns, gilt ceiling.

LOS ANGELES OPERA

- Artistic Leadership by General Director Plácido Domingo and Music Director Kent Nagano
- Founded 1986
- Performs perennial favorites, rare masterpieces, and new works, as well as concerts and vocal recitals
- Nationally recognized education and community outreach programs

For information telephone Customer Service 213.972.8001 or visit www.losangelesopera.com

MUSIC CENTER EDUCATION DIVISION

- Over 15,000 children's performances and programs annually
- Sends arts education programs into more than 600 schools
- Sponsors annual Bravo Award for teaching in the arts
- Holds annual Spotlight Awards for talented high school-aged artists and performers

The Patina Group at the Music Center provides dining opportunities for lunch and dinner at the new Kendall's Brasserie on Grand Avenue and banquet and special event facilities at the newly redesigned Music Center Banquet Hall or in the Pavilion's beautiful Grand Hall. For information, call 213.972.7565 or visit www.patinaingroup.com.

M U S I C C E N T E R P L A Z A

The 225,000-square-foot Plaza is a central gathering place in Los Angeles, and the site of many private, civic and Music Center special events, celebrations, and galas. The original reflecting pool was replaced by a playful fountain by WET Design in 1989.

SCULPTURE

The 30-foot bronze sculpture titled "Peace on Earth" was created by Jacques Lipchitz. The nearby "Dance Door" was sculpted by Robert Graham.

Dining options include Pinot Grill and the Spotlight Cafe.

M A R K T A P E R F O R U M

A 750-seat theatre designed for experimental theatre. Exterior mural features a stylized expression of the movement of dance.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

- Founded in 1967 by American theatre authority Gordon Davidson
- Has won four Tony® Awards, three Pulitzer Prizes, many other honors
- Sponsors new play development, especially by youth, disabled artists, and Latino, African American, and Asian playwrights
- The Center Theatre Group performs at both the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre

Tickets: 213.628.2772 or visit www.marktaperforum.com

A H M A N S O N T H E A T R E

A 2,000-seat auditorium for large theatre and musical performances.

Tickets: 213.628.2772 or visit www.ahmansontheatre.com

Information

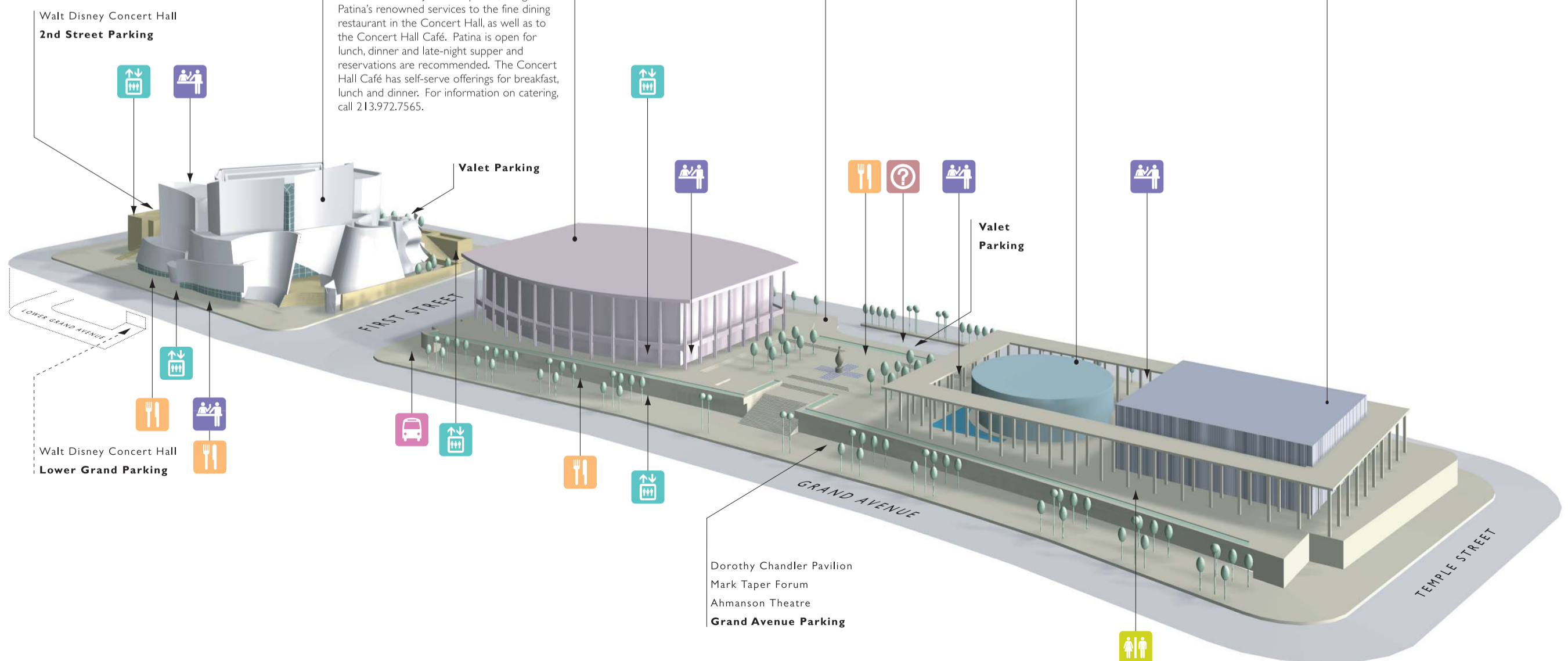
Box Office

Elevator

Dining

Bus Service

Restrooms



GET TO THE MUSIC CENTER



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