Background

Much of the public art in downtown Los Angeles dates from the 1980s, spearheaded by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and its percent-for-art program. The program requires that redevelopment projects set aside 1% for public art. The process of commissioning public art is overseen by the CRA and its advisory panels, which comprise professionals working in the downtown area and people living there.

Older sculptures found in downtown previous to the percent-for-art program were often commissioned and placed by local associations and city departments or were part of the decorative aspect of architecture. Downtown also has a large number of murals and street art.

Selected Books and Guides

Placemaking: Public Art in Los Angeles
By the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles

Street Gallery: Guide to 1000 Los Angeles Murals
By Robin J. Dunitz

The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History
By Dolores Hayden
Leavey Library: F 869 . L857H39 1955

Art and the City: Civic Imagination and Cultural Authority in Los Angeles
By Sarah Schrank
Architecture and Fine Arts Library: N 8845 . L67S37 2009
*Little Tokyo*
By Michael Several
Architecture and Fine Arts Library: N 8845 . L 67548 1994

*The Public Art of Los Angeles:*
*Part 1, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument and Adjacent Freeway Murals*
By Michael Several

*Urban Surprises: A Guide to Public Art in Los Angeles*
Edited by Gloria Gerace
Architecture and Fine Arts Library: N 8845 . U 727 2002

**Selected Websites**

Art program at the Community Redevelopment Agency:
[www.crala.org/internet-site/Other/Art_Program/index.cfm](http://www.crala.org/internet-site/Other/Art_Program/index.cfm)

Public Art in Los Angeles:
[www.publicartinla.com](http://www.publicartinla.com)