HOLIDAY BOWL

A PLACE FOR ALL
Opened in 1954 by a group of Japanese restaurateurs, the Holiday Bowl was for 46 years a culinary and recreational nexus for Crenshaw’s African American and Japanese populations, and just about anyone else who came through, The Holiday Bowl was multifunctional, with a coffee shop, bowling alley, bar, and lounge that served up a wide range of food choices. At just about any hour you could get grits and udon, yakisoba and salmon patties, donburi and short ribs, and many other items on a menu that was lengthy and diverse as any in the city.

A PIONEERING LOOK
With its angular facade, bright orange accents, and large plate-glass windows, the Holiday Bowl, designed by architect Hideo Tanaka, was a classic example of the eye-catching Googie architecture that was prevalent throughout Los Angeles in the 1950s. Another prime example of Googie in the area was The Red Pill, located a few miles away at Crenshaw and Foresthill, which was designed by Hideo Tanaka and was commissioned by the Holiday Bowl. The architect of the Holiday Bowl was Hideo Tanaka, who also designed the Eastwood Motel in Los Angeles in the 1950s, and he became an important figure in the Googie architecture movement.

HOLIDAY BOWL AS HISTORY
The local affection for Holiday was so strong, it remained open during the 1992 riot, as it was friended on the block and elsewhere, people continued to show up to bond. Despite valiant efforts to save the Bowl by city preservationists and community members, it was closed in 2010 to make way for new developments. Today, only its glass facade remains.

Next door to the Holiday Bowl was another sometime Crenshaw business with an iconic sign: the Majestic Pontiac car dealership (originally Ken Clark Pontiac.) Majestic was one of many car dealerships that once thrived on the boulevard in the 1950s and 1960s, a testament to the area’s burgeoning middle class. In the 1960s, the number of dealerships on the boulevard peaked at eight: two of the largest remaining were O’Connor Lincoln Mercury, and Crenshaw Motors Ford, the last dealership on the boulevard, shuttered in 2007. Majestic Pontiac, like its neighbor the Holiday Bowl, was long ago replaced, however, a single remnant remains of its former self: the classic neon Pontiac Indian head at the top of the towering dealership center sign.
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

A SHOPPING REVOLUTION

The story begins in Baldwin Hills. Crenshaw Plaza, more popularly known as the Crenshaw Mall, is the retail heart of the Crenshaw area. It’s been a local fixture since it first opened its doors in 1947 as the Broadway Crenshaw Center; an outdoor regional shopping mall that was the first major retail influx on ground level in Los Angeles. The mall was located in the heart of the Crenshaw community, originally built in two separate shopping centers straddling the Baldwin Hills and Crenshaw Manor districts, they were eventually clamped, as single entities. The north end of the site was anchored by a May Company, known as “May’s Crenshaw,” that was designed by Albert L. Martin and dedicated in October of 1947. The other section of the center was initially anchored to the Broadway and a Vons supermarket. Smaller specialty stores included footsteps and Freud’s. In 1954 the plaza was newly torn down and enclosed by mall developer Alexander Hagen. Thus, with the 1950s came the rapid growth of the region, which would become the center of economic activity in Los Angeles and Beyond.

URBAN RENAISSANCE

In 1953, singer Etta James sang the now famous “At Last” at the premier of a movie and the audience fell in love with her beautiful voice. It was then that James' career started to腾飞. In 1955, James released her first album and it sold over a million copies. The album included six original songs and four covers, all of which were hits on the R&B charts. This helped to establish James as a major force in the music industry. In addition to her music career, James also became an activist for civil rights, working with Martin Luther King Jr. and others to fight for equality and justice.

A CULTURAL TOUCHSTONE

Over the years, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza has evolved into a center of black community and culture. In addition to the Pan African Film Festival, the plaza also features the annual Baldwin Hills Village Bazaar Fair. Through the years, it has hosted many popular African American restaurants such as Ganger’s, Charles House, and The Crabcake. Fortier, the Museum of African American History and Culture, and the popular Baldwin Hills Village Bazaar Fair. Through the years, it has featured popular African American restaurants such as Ganger’s, Charles House, and The Crabcake. Further, the Museum of African American History and Culture, and the popular Baldwin Hills Village Bazaar Fair. Through the years, it has hosted many popular African American restaurants such as Ganger’s, Charles House, and The Crabcake. Further, the Museum of African American History and Culture, and the popular Baldwin Hills Village Bazaar Fair.
Angels Walk Crenshaw
Select Stanchions

1 West Angeles Church
2 The Crenshaw Corridor
3 Holiday Bowl
4 Community Builders
5 Los Angeles Sentinel
6 Crenshaw Square
7 Tom Bradley
8 Angelus Funeral Home
9 Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
10 Crenshaw Music Scene
11 Leimert Park Living
12 Leimert Park Village
13 Vision Theatre
14 Leimert Plaza Park
15 Gateway to the Hills

Leimert Plaza Park
Angelus Funeral Home
COLISEUM ST
Leimert Plaza Park
Crenshaw Square
West Angeles Church
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Gateway to the Hills
Crenshaw Square
Los Angeles Sentinel
Tom Bradley

FROM MAIN STREET TO STREET LIFE
When Walter E. Leimert developed the planned community of Leimert Park in 1927, he could hardly have imagined that its core commercial center—bordered by 43rd Street, 4th Place, Degnan Boulevard, and Leimert Boulevard—would become one of the most culturally vibrant spots in Los Angeles.

The area started out as a typical main street, offering goods and services such as shoe repair, furniture, dry goods, and dentistry. In the late 1960s, Degnan Boulevard started incorporating as a nexus of black art and commerce, as visible flight occurrences and Leimert transitioned into a center of black economic and creative exploration. In 1987, artist and impresario Alonzo Davis, along with his friend Dale, opened Brockman Gallery at 4134 Degnan. Determined to create space and visibility for black artists shunned by the mainstream art world, the duo unveiled the careers of renowned artists like painter Elizabeth Catlett and illustrator Ramsess. Next door she opened Crossroads Kaos Network, which offered instruction in the arts to young people. In 1989, the Davis brothers, Alonzo and Dale, opened Brockman Gallery at 4334 Degnan. Determined to create space and visibility for black artists shunned by the mainstream art world, the duo unveiled the careers of renowned artists like painter Elizabeth Catlett and illustrator Ramsess. In the late 1960s, Degnan Boulevard started incorporating as a nexus of black art and commerce, as visible flight occurrences and Leimert transitioned into a center of black economic and creative exploration. In 1987, artist and impresario Alonzo Davis, along with his friend Dale, opened Brockman Gallery at 4134 Degnan. Determined to create space and visibility for black artists shunned by the mainstream art world, the duo unveiled the careers of renowned artists like painter Elizabeth Catlett and illustrator Ramsess. The Crenshaw/LAX light-rail line. Despite the challenges, Leimert Park Village is committed to remaining its multicultural soul. As its openness to change, has also become a regular neighborhood event.

ART AND COMMUNITY COME TOGETHER
Despite the flurry of civil unrest that occurred in 1992, the scene on and around Degnan Boulevard, as many arts advocacy and business networks began recognizing Leimert Park Village as a locus of black art and culture. The World Stage was founded in 1980 by legendary jazz drummer Billy Higgins and poet Ramos Añon. It quickly became known for world-class performances and writing workshops in vistas, gallery-sized spaces. In the 1990s, Degnan added the Dance Collective dance studio, Edge World Books, and 5th Street Dick’s jukehouse. Many of the businesses had staying, but 5th Street Dick’s was that promise made good.

The Village evolves
The area is in transition once again as it adapts to the accessibility created by the presence of the Crenshaw/LAX light-rail line. Despite the challenges, Leimert Park Village is committed to remaining its open heart and soul. The area is in transition once again as it adapts to the accessibility created by the presence of the Crenshaw/LAX light-rail line. Despite the challenges, Leimert Park Village is committed to remaining its open heart and soul.