



SUGAR HILL

West Adams, Los Angeles, CA

We will begin the neighborhood walk at 10:00am from Paul R. Williams's designed First AME Church (2270 S Harvard Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90018).

Sugar Hill is known as the oldest Black neighborhood in LA. Recognized for its arts and architecture scene, it attracted many famous and influential Black artists, musicians, and filmmakers in the 40s. Black Sugar Hill residents brought some of the most prominent civil-rights cases to the Supreme Court as they challenged racially restrictive covenant laws and fought for Black homeownership rights in California and the U.S. Construction of the Santa Monica Freeway in 1964 physically split the neighborhood in half and resulted in the displacement of residents, demolition of their homes, and an extreme increase in pollution burden to the area. Presently, it is experiencing an arts and culture revival, led by small businesses, community organizers, and nonprofit organizations.

- 1 FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (FAME) CHURCH**
Oldest church founded in 1872 by Blacks in LA. Designed by Paul Revere Williams.
- 2 RINDGE RESIDENCE**
West Adams Heritage Association (WAHA).
- 3 'ALLEN HOUSE'**
Residence built in 1902 with a unique walled garden that was added in 1928. Named after Ricard Allen—influential Black leader who founded the AME Church. Location of FAME Food Pantry (March 25, 9am- 12pm)
- 4 HATTIE MCDANIEL'S HOUSE**
Residence of trailblazing actress, singer-songwriter, and civil-rights activist who fought for Black homeownership. McDaniel was the first Black actor to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy in 'Gone With the Wind'.
- 5 DEAD-END**
Neighborhood street dead-ends due to the routing of the Santa Monica Freeway through Sugar Hill in 1954, demolishing one of LA's most prosperous Black communities.
- 6 NORMAN O. HOUSTON'S HOUSE**
Successful Black businessman and president of GSM who became the first Black homeowner in the neighborhood. Houston was one of eight defendants who fought and won the landmark case Tolhurst v. Venerable in 1945, granting the rights of homeownership to Blacks in the area.
- 7 RICHARD-SMITH-BEAVERS HOUSE**
Home to several prominent Blacks—most notably Louise Beavers who was a famous Black actress and one of the eight defendants who fought and won the landmark case Tolhurst v. Venerable in 1945.
- 8 GOLDEN STATE MUTUAL (GSM) LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING**
Designed by Paul Revere Williams (first Black architect to become a member and fellow of AIA) in 1949, GSM was the largest Black-owned company in the western US. Contain murals and a private collection of African American art.
- 9 ENGINE HOUSE NO. 18**
Fire station designed by John Parkinson in 1904. Currently home to ECF Art Center.