



Historical Society of Long Beach

THE 30TH ANNUAL HISTORICAL CEMETERY TOUR

Celebrate 30 years of
living history and
remarkable stories
that shaped Long Beach.

Saturday, October 31, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sunnyside & Municipal Cemeteries
1095 & 1151 East Willow Street
Long Beach Ca, 90806

Visit www.HSLB.org for more details.



30th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour

Halloween + Historic Long Beach = The most fun you'll have in a cemetery!

Cemetery History

1878: Oldest marker in Municipal (City) cemetery, Milton Neece, age 17

1905: 15 acre property (now Sunnyside) sold to Long Beach Cemetery Association

1907: First burials in Sunnyside

1921: Oil discovered on Signal Hill

"The most expensive burial ground in the world"

2020: City of Long Beach acquires Sunnyside

Tour History

1995: First tour, created by HSLB Board President Barbara Barnes and author Claudine Burnett

1996: Docents remained graveside, Board members read scripts and led group tours

Later Years: Docents wore costumes, some acted

Today: Historians Kaye Briegel and Craig Hendricks conduct research, Roxanne Patmor writes scripts

Long Beach Playhouse actors perform in period appropriate costumes

CONTACT

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4260 Atlantic Ave.
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HSLB.ORG

562) 424-2220



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Event Details at a Glance

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Long Beach Municipal & Sunnyside Cemeteries, 1095 & 1151 E.
Willow Street

Parking: Limited on-site; additional parking at Willow Springs Park;
carpooling and bicycle parking encouraged

All-ages, self-guided, rest areas on-site

*Limited Accessibility

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For more information contact:

Jen Malone: 562.424.2220 / jenm@hslb.org

For Immediate Release

The 30th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour Where Every Plot Has a Story

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Long Beach Municipal & Sunnyside Cemeteries
1095 & 1151 E. Willow Street, Long Beach CA 90806

Long Beach, CA – For three decades, the Historical Society of Long Beach has invited residents to walk among the stories that built our city. This Halloween, we mark the 30th anniversary of the Historical Cemetery Tour, a milestone for one of Long Beach's most beloved community events. Explore Long Beach's oldest marked cemeteries--Municipal and Sunnyside on Willow Street—through the Historical Society of Long Beach's self-guided event that includes graveside vignettes and diverse community history told through pictorials, panels, and presentations.

Seven gravesites feature actors from the Long Beach Playhouse portraying locals who lived extraordinary lives, died extraordinary deaths, and ordinary folks who helped the community grow. Period-appropriate costuming is provided by the Long Beach Playhouse. The performances run 10 minutes and will be repeated throughout the event allowing attendees to explore at their own pace.

"There's Water up on that Hill!" features a man who lived where Willow Springs Park is located, one of the first employees of what becomes the Long Beach Water Department. Hear about what it was like growing a graveyard in "Welcome to my Cemetery." Spencer and Lillie Decker were the first operators of Sunnyside Cemetery, and the family ran the business for 84 years! And the Linares family returns to tell the tale about Recreation Park—a green gem for Long Beach with public history going back 100 years. Mean old Jennie Rodgers is back to talk about her daughter, and Abram Cleag's background as an enslaved person on plantations is revealed.

Displays and timelines of Long Beach, LGBTQ+, political movers and shakers, and more adorn the fence separating Sunnyside and Municipal Cemeteries. Lunch-time entertainment includes music with Jewel Box Theater, local Japanese-American experience post-WWII, and a history talk with author and historian, Dr. Craig Hendricks.

The event also includes a Dia de los Muertos installation, Cambodian Memorial Flags, and local authors signing books. The on-site merchandise booth offers books, postcards, and reprints of historical photographs. Stop by community partner tables and talk to Rancho Los Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerritos, or ask Duke K. Fuller about your long-lost relatives lying at rest. Arrive before noon for the full experience. Bring your own refreshments and take advantage of our rest area under the trees. Guests are encouraged to bring reusable water bottle and fill up for free! Water provided by Long Beach Utilities.

There is limited onsite parking for compact automobiles. Parking is available at nearby Willow Springs Park where there is an entrance to the Municipal Cemetery and the event. Carpooling is recommended and bicycle parking is available.

Presale Tickets \$32.50, Day of Tickets \$45, Youth ages 5-18 \$10, Under 5 free!

To learn more about the Annual Historical Cemetery Tour please visit: <https://hslb.org/historical-cemetery-tour>



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One-Sheet: Media

Costumed actors perform stories:

- A Mexican-American PGA golfer instrumental in making Recreation Park golf course public
- An early city engineer and water department employee who lived at the site of what is now Willow Springs Park
- The first Long Beach Police Officer shot in the line of duty
- A woman killed by a train as she left a funeral
- The family who served as caretakers of Sunnyside Cemetery for 84 years

Why This Event Matters to Your Audience

- It draws 1,000–1,500 attendees every year, making it one of the largest single-day local history events in Long Beach.
- It is the only public event and programming held at these two historic sites — Municipal and Sunnyside Cemeteries both located in the Central area.
- It reflects the full diversity of our city's story, from immigrant trailblazers to civil servants to the Cambodian American community's resilience.
- It's sustained entirely through community support. As a small nonprofit, HSLB relies on partnerships to keep programs like this going.



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The 30th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 31, 2026 / Sunnyside and Municipal Cemeteries

Celebrating 30 years of living history and remarkable stories that shape Long Beach.

Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities

Show your support and represent your business.

On the last Saturday of October, HSLB hosts an exciting self-guided tour in two of the City's oldest cemeteries, Sunnyside and Municipal. This living history celebration attracts over 1,200 people, engages more than 60 volunteers, and garners support from City agencies and community leaders. The all-ages event features graveside performances, a Dia de los Muertos ofrenda, and much more in a unique, park-like setting. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society of Long Beach, a 501(c) nonprofit organization that collects, preserves, and presents local history.

Name _____ Company _____

Name to acknowledge you by _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Sponsorship Level
Amount \$:

Type:

Advertising
Amount \$:

Program ad size:



2026 Historical Society of Long Beach Advertisement Specifications

Full-Page Ad
8" wide x 10" high
Vertical

Quarter-Page Ad
4" wide x 5" high
Vertical

Half-Page Ad
8" wide x 5" high
Horizontal

Business Card Ad
3.5" wide x 2" high
Horizontal

Artwork Specs:
Black and white
jpeg or pdf format 300 dpi
Email artwork to: programs@hslb.org

Historical Society of Long Beach 4260 Atlantic Ave Long Beach, CA 90807 www.hslb.org

Looking to contribute in another way?

In-kind Contributions are welcomed
Refreshments, advertising, rentals, and other items are needed.
Please contact us at 562-424-2220

Payment Information

Payment Method

☐ Check ☐ Credit/Debit Card ☐ Invoice

CC# _____ Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Ad and Payment Deadline: September 12th, 2026

Contact: Outreach Coordinator

Phone: 562-424-2220,

Email: outreach@hslb.org

Mail: 4260 Atlantic Ave, Long Beach CA, 90807

Submit artwork to: programs@hslb.org in jpg or pdf

Tax ID # 95-6111591 [Click here for online link to sponsorship](#)



facebook:@HSLB.LB Instagram:@Historicalsocietyoflongbeach www.hslb.org



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RECENT COVERAGE

- Long Beach Local
- Press-Telegram Long Beach
- The Los Angeles Beat
- www.TimeOut.com
- Hollywood Gothique
- Southern California Haunt List
- Kids Guide Magazine
- Stage Agent



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AWARDS

- **Hollywood Gothique's 2014 Halloween Haunt Award Nominees**
- **Best Play in a Non-Theatrical Setting:** HSLB's 19th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour
- **Best Short Play or Vignette:** Fighting Injustice with Tacos from HSLB's Historical Cemetery Tour
- **Best Non-Haunt Halloween Event:** HSLB's 19th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour



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See you there!

