



TO  
.....  
**LIVE AND DINE**  
.....  
**IN L.A.**

Menus from the Collection of  
the Los Angeles Public Library

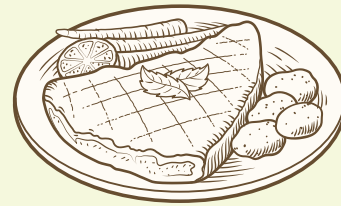
**Getty Gallery, Central Library**  
**June 13–November 13, 2015**



An exhibition of  
The Library Foundation of Los Angeles  
The Los Angeles Public Library

# MENUS AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN CITY

The menu collection of the Los Angeles Public Library is a living repository of meals past, an archive of urban eating that tells us about the changing historical role of food in the city. This exhibition treats menus as vibrant urban texts that allow us to see the city through the lens of dishes and courses, illustrations and typefaces, prices and wine lists. By visiting the food past, menus help us reflect on the food present and the food future in a global city where how we eat—and who eats—tells us so much about who we are.



## PLEASE SEAT YOURSELF AT THE WELCOME TABLE

### Restaurant Menus and Ephemera

The central piece of the exhibition is one long shape-shifting dining table that transforms as you move around it from a lavish banquet dinner to a humble lunch served on a Lazy Susan. The goal is for you to seat yourself at the table section of your choice, interacting and “rubbing elbows” with the strangers you’re sitting next to. At each table section you will find select pieces of the Library’s menu collection on display, all grouped by theme.

1. Feasts, Balls & Banquets  
Menus for the Upper Sets
2. A Cafeteria For All  
“Pay What You Wish—  
Dine Free Unless Delighted”
3. A Lazy Susan City  
Race, Ethnicity, and Menus
4. The Lunch Counter  
Where the City Grabs a Bite
5. Dinner in Jail  
The Theme Menu
6. The Menu as Map  
Culinary Cartographies
7. Fantasy & Form  
Experiments in Design
8. Lights, Camera, Menus!  
Spectacle Menus for  
a Spectacle Town
9. Lord Printing Company  
A Daily Menu Press

## WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE SERVICE TO NO ONE

### Artist Installations

Along the way, your Welcome Table experience will include provocative palate cleansers provided by three contemporary artists, all of whom use food to explore urgent social issues in contemporary Los Angeles, including immigration, incarceration, and public food access.

**Karla Diaz**, Prison Gourmet, 2010–2015

**Haruko Tanaka**, Invisible Kitchen, 2015

**Fallen Fruit (David Burns & Austin Young)**,  
Public Fruit Maps, Lemonade Stand,  
Lemon Wallpaper, Urban Fruit Trails, 2004–2015

### Short Films

We asked three contemporary chefs working in different parts of the city to reflect on their own relationships with food, and with all the stories that food helps them tell. In the spirit of this exhibition, they were also asked to comment on food inequalities in the city and to react to select vintage menus from the Library’s collection.



**Cynthia Hawkins**, Hawkins House of Burgers, Watts

**Micah Wexler**, Wexler’s Deli, Grand Central Market

**Bricia Lopez**, Guelagueta, Koreatown

Producer/Director: Michael Bodie

Editor: Eddie Kim

Cinematographers: Jonathan Schwarz, Mira Lew

Sound Mixers/Boom Operators: Jason Meadows, Brandon Pert

# HUNGER AND FOOD SCARCITY IN THE MODERN CITY

## Library Action Steps

One goal of this exhibition and the larger “To Live and Dine in L.A.” project is to raise awareness about the staggering divides between our celebrated dining pasts, presents, and futures, and the too-often ignored pasts, presents, and futures of our city’s hunger crises. L.A. County was recently ranked the #1 county in the nation for the food insecurity of young people, and it is estimated that nearly 2 in 10 families live in food insecure homes. The USDA named Los Angeles “the epicenter of hunger.”

Throughout the summer of 2015 more than ten branch libraries from Watts to Pico Union to Canoga Park will be offering free hot summer lunches to children. Other branches will be hosting exciting, dynamic public food programs that include local food history sessions, organic gardening workshops, nutrition book displays, diabetes instruction sessions, and much more.

Please visit [LAPL.org](http://LAPL.org) for a full listing of summer programs.



## #MyLAMenu



### Crowdsourced Installation

Don’t forget to visit the #MyLAMenu section of the gallery to leave your mark on the exhibition. Fill in a blank menu with your own ultimate L.A. meal. What dishes sum up your L.A. experience? When you’re finished, just drop it in the collection box and soon your menu will become part of the exhibition wall display.

### Menu Donations

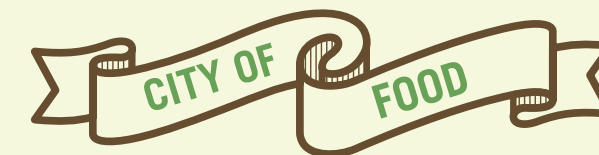
The Library’s menu collection is always growing. If you have menus that you’d like to donate, please drop them into the donation box in the gallery.

### Our Website

Make sure to visit [LFLA.org/live-and-dine](http://LFLA.org/live-and-dine) for more exhibition resources, more menus, and more essays on L.A. food history and food politics.

### Our Book

*To Live and Dine in L.A.: Menus and the Making of the Modern City* (Angel City Press) by Josh Kun, featuring contributions by Roy Choi, Jonathan Gold, Nancy Silverton, Joachim Splichal, and many more is now available downstairs in The Library Store, where sales benefit the Library.



## Wall Mural Photographs

Displayed on the walls around you is a collage of archival photographs from the Library’s collection that highlights different aspects of dining history and restaurant labor in Los Angeles.

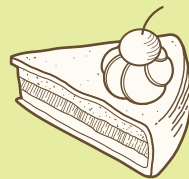
### South Wall

Pioneer Super Market interior, 1934 • Watts shoppers, James W. Jeffrey, Jr., ca. 2000 • Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, Hollywood, Carol Westwood, 1994 • 6th Street from Los Angeles Street, William Reagh, 1967 • Ship’s Westwood, Anne Laskey, 1978 • Willie Soo Hoo wedding reception at Joy Yuen Low, Harry Quillen, 1948 • Opening, La Boheme Room, Little Joe’s Restaurant, Meriman Photo Art Company, 1950 • Valley gourmets preserve age-old custom of dining, Jeff Goldwater, 1962 • Trout dinner, Midnight Mission, Carroll Photo Service, 1931 • Crowd at Belmont Grill, 1933 • Indian teacher in Valley visit, 1956 • Los Angeles County Courthouse, 1959 • Event at Musso’s Restaurant, 1934 • Alpha 66 fundraiser, 1972 • Graduation dinner at the Me Mo Club, 1940 • Lucca’s Restaurant table, 1951 • Guests at Last Chance Café, ca. 1945 • Mickey Rooney, Lana Turner, Artie Shaw trade stories, 1940 • Four people having lunch in a diner, ca. 1960 • Group in restaurant, 1947 • Dining at Joy Yuen Low Café, ca. 1941 • Sharing a meal in Chinatown, 1958 • L.V.M. Café, 1952 • John and Robert Ilejay, Casimiro C. Obra, 1950 • Sailors at Terminal Island Prison, 1942 • Assistance League Tearoom, Steve Young, 1964 • Mexican personality works in kitchen, ca. 1950 • Cantonese dishes have exotic air, Bob Martin, 1963 • Sailors at Terminal Island Prison, 1942 • Far East Café employee, ca. 1960 • Assistance League Tearoom, Steve Young, 1964 • Conscientious objectors camp, 1942 • Girls making fry bread, ca. 1930 • Eating at Buffingtons’ Coffee Shop, 1942 • Danny Kaye showing culinary skill, 1964 • Deli display, 1969 • Display of sausages, Cudahy Packing Co., 1928 • Christmas charity, 1934 • Venus Perez, Pioneer French Bakery, Cheryl Himmelstein, 2003 • Individuals saving more, but spending more, 1960 • Woman cashier in market, Echo Park, Gary Leonard, 1997 • Van de Kamp’s employees • Crowd of shoppers at Grand Central Market, 1946 • Prepare for rush, 1959 • Pioneer Super Market interior, 1934 • Watts shoppers, James W. Jeffrey, Jr., ca. 2000

### North Wall

Kelbo’s, 11434 W. Pico, West Los Angeles, 1950s • Grand Central Market 75th anniversary, Mike Sergieff, 1987 • Knott’s Berry Place, Buena Park, 1945 • Harvesting oranges, 1939 • Park and palm trees, Glendale, Herman Schultheis, ca. 1938 • A picnic at Laguna Beach, 1890s • Grand Central Market, William Reagh, 1951 • Street vendor, Main Street, Stone Ishimaru, 2007 • Packing corn for market, 1926 • Kelbo’s, 11434 W. Pico, West Los Angeles, 1950s • Display of sausages, Cudahy Packing Co., 1928 • Jamie Parker at Big Daddy & Sons food stand, Cheryl Himmelstein, 2004 • Empanada Factory, Venice, Cheryl Himmelstein, 2004 • Taix French Restaurant, ca. 1956 • A&W drive-in, Santa Monica, Anne Laskey, 1979 • Lion dance outside Joy Yuen Low restaurant, Harry Quillen, 1949 • Tail o’ the Pup stand at night, David Clark • Bob’s Big Boy, Wilshire Boulevard, Anne Laskey, 1978 • Snack stand customers at Grand Central Market, William Reagh, 1966 • Mee Fong Café, Chinatown, Herman Schultheis, ca. 1937 • Watts Coffee House, James W. Jeffrey, Jr., ca. 2000 • Groundwork Coffee, Venice, Cheryl Himmelstein, 2002 • Customers at a Currie’s Ice Cream parlor, Herman Schultheis, 1930s • Atomic Café, William Reagh, 1982 • McDonnell’s Drive-in • El Dorado Restaurant, Main Street, Stone Ishimaru, 2007 • Banquet at the Biltmore, 1951 • Inside the Club Casa del Mar in Santa Monica, ca. 1926 • Pup Eat ’n Sup on Beverly, Herman Schultheis, ca. 1938 • Elleven South condominiums, Gary Leonard, 2005 • Daddy Grants Old Time Pit Barbecue restaurant, ca. 1930 • Forbidden Palace restaurant in New Chinatown, Harry Quillen, 1950 • Catering truck along Main Street, Stone Ishimaru, 2007 • Original Mexican Café of Olvera Street, Herman Schultheis, ca. 1937 • Original Pantry goes monumental, James Ruebsamen, 1982 • Tony’s Burger stand in downtown, Gary Leonard, 2005 • Outside of Don the Beachcomber restaurant, Gary Leonard • Korean food in Los Angeles, Michael Haering, 1977 • Tama-le restaurant, East Los Angeles • Ambassador Hotel dining room, Kopec Photo, 1926 • Japanese food catering truck, Carolyn Kozo Cole, 1998 • Big-Buy Foods grocery store, Boyle Heights, Virgil Mirano, 1998–1999 • Christmas charity, 1934 • Soochow Café, Herman Schultheis, ca. 1937 • Deli display, 1969 • El Torito, various locations, 1979 • El Paseo Inn, 20 Olvera Street, Los Angeles, 1960s

**John F. Szabo**  
**City Librarian**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **CREDITS**

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