
The Historic Women of DTLA



...A IN A DREAM"
...JAPANESE
...ROOTS
...KAI

Throughout DTLA's rich history, women have been at the forefront of the development of our neighborhood.



From artists to architects, these pioneering women made an impact on DTLA. Our district also continues to be the center for women's revolution.



Biddy Mason

Bridget “Biddy” Mason, won her freedom in 1856 and settled in Los Angeles to work as a midwife. Ten years later, she bought land on the Spring Street block between 3rd and 4th, where she built an orphanage. Later, she founded the first African American church in the city on the same land. But for Mason, this purchase was just the beginning. By the time she died in 1891, she had amassed a fortune of \$6-7 million in today’s dollars, making her the richest black woman west of the Mississippi.

Biddy’s legacy is displayed at Biddy Mason Park, on the same block where her home used to be.



1900
Los Angeles mourns and reveres Grandma Mason.



Spring Street
Fourth and
is the finest
of Los Angeles
city of corners
including 1274
1890.



FIRST A. M. E. CHURCH
8TH AND TOWNE AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

Mary Pickford

The silent film era found a home in Downtown Los Angeles, thank to stars like Mary Pickford. In her prime, Mary became “America’s Sweetheart” and along with Charlie Chaplin, D.W. Griffith and her husband Douglas Fairbanks, she co-founded the United Artists studio. They all founded The United Artists Theater, which is now inside the Ace Hotel. The lobby interior was inspired by Pickford’s visit to Spain while honeymooning there with Douglas Fairbanks.

She went on to produce films after she retired from acting in the early 1930s, and helped found both the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Motion Picture Relief Fund.





Julia Morgan

Amongst architects, Julia Morgan, is a California icon. Born in 1857 she designed more than 700 buildings. She was also the first woman to be admitted to the architecture program at l'École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and the first woman architect licensed in California.

Morgan's more famous work includes the Hearst Castle but Morgan also pioneered the aesthetic use of reinforced concrete, a material that proved to have superior seismic performance for earthquakes.

Morgan left a mark on Downtown Los Angeles when she completed the Herald Examiner Building on 11th and Broadway on behalf of the Hearst Family.





A high-angle, wide shot of a massive crowd of people gathered for a Women's March event in Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA). The crowd is densely packed, with many individuals wearing bright pink hats. The scene is filled with energy and a sense of community. In the background, a street lamp and some signs are visible, adding to the urban setting. The overall atmosphere is one of a large-scale public demonstration.

THANK YOU
HISTORIC
WOMEN OF
DTLA!