



OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES INFO BRIEF

# About the HPOZ Program

## WHAT IS AN HPOZ?

While many outsiders may view Los Angeles as an imposing megalopolis, it is truly a city of great neighborhoods. Just slightly off the beaten path, in communities throughout the city, are remarkably intact historic neighborhoods.

Recognizing the need to identify and protect neighborhoods with distinct architectural and cultural resources, the City has developed an expansive local historic district program known as Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). In HPOZs, additional zoning regulations provide for review of proposed exterior alterations, additions, and new construction for all properties within designated districts.

The City adopted the HPOZ ordinance in 1979, and Angelino Heights became Los Angeles' first HPOZ in 1983. Today, the City of Los Angeles has 35 designated local historic districts, or HPOZs. HPOZ areas range in size from neighborhoods of approximately 50 parcels to more than 4,000 properties. While most districts are primarily residential, many have a mix of single-family and multi-family housing, and some include commercial and industrial properties. HPOZs are established and administered by the Los Angeles City Planning Department (in concert with the City Council). Individual buildings in an HPOZ need not be of landmark quality on their own: it is the collection of a cohesive, unique, and intact gathering of historic resources that qualifies a neighborhood for HPOZ status.

