

1781 - Foundation of 'El Pueblo de Nuestra Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula' on Mexican territory, a village with 44 inhabitants.

1846-48 - War between the United States and Mexico; California is ceded to the United States.

1850 - California becomes the 31st state of the Union. Los Angeles has 3530 inhabitants.

1876 - The railroad reaches Los Angeles and the population begins to increase.

1911 - The first film studio is set up in the district of Hollywood, soon followed by many others. Californian women obtain the right to vote. This does not happen until 1920 in the other states.

1915 - Universal Studios is set up.

1923 - The legendary HOLLYWOOD letters are erected, 14 metres high and 9 metres wide. They were originally intended to advertise a new real estate project. The original sign, spelling out 'HOLLYWOODLAND', lasted only 18 months.
Creation of Warner Brothers Studios.

1929 - Creation of the Oscars by the *Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*.

1930 - Los Angeles has 1.2 million inhabitants and builds a network of highways. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer becomes the biggest production company in Hollywood: their studios cover 350 square kilometres and employ 6000 people.

1932 - Los Angeles hosts the summer Olympics

1955 - Disneyland opens in Anaheim, in the southern suburbs of Los Angeles.

1957 - Walter Hopps and Edward Kienholz open the Ferus Gallery, which supports young artists. The Venice Beach area becomes home to Beat artists and the hippie movement with a whole generation of artists, musicians, singers and poets (Stuart Perkoff, John Thomas, John Haag, Saul White, Robert Farrington, Philomene Long, to name but a few)

1958 - Beginning of Free jazz with Ornette Coleman.

1959 - Barbie doll is created in Los Angeles.

1960 - Los Angeles County has a population of 6 million.

1961 - Surfing becomes a popular fashion. The Beach Boys debut album.

1962 - The exhibition "New Paintings of Common Objects" at the Pasadena Art Museum marks the rise of pop art. First solo exhibition of Andy Warhol's work at the Ferus Gallery.

1963 - Los Angeles becomes 'America's second art city', after New York, for the number of galleries, artists and collectors.
Walter Hopps organises Marcel Duchamp's first retrospective at the Pasadena Art Museum.

1964 - Debut of The Mothers of Invention (Frank Zappa).

1965 - Opening of the first museum of art in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).
The magazine Artforum leaves San Francisco and moves to Los Angeles for two years. They move into premises over the Ferus Gallery.
Riots in the black district of Watts leave 34 people dead and considerable damage in its wake.
Charles Bukowski begins his column Notes of a Dirty Old Man in an alternative newspaper.
Debut of The Doors (Jim Morrison).

1966 - Ronald Reagan is elected governor of California.
Art schools begin to develop. No other city in the United States has as many art schools with prestigious artists as tutors.

1968 - Large hippie gathering in Malibu.

Writer Joan Didion is voted 'Woman of the Year' by the California press.

1969 - Dennis Hopper's film *Easy Rider* is released. It becomes a cult movie.

A large oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel triggers environmental activism.

1970 - Opening of the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), which will have a growing influence on the international art scene.

Beginnings of Conceptual Art in Los Angeles.

1971 - The Sylmar earthquake causes considerable damage.

1973 - Los Angeles feminist artists open the Woman's Building.

1974 - Opening of the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art (LAICA), an alternative space for performance and videos.

1980 - Los Angeles County has a population of 8.8 million.

1983 - Construction begins on the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the first museum devoted to contemporary art in Los Angeles.

1984 - Los Angeles overtakes Chicago as second largest city in the United States.

The Olympic Games take place in Los Angeles.

1990 - The Hammer Museum is created in Los Angeles.

1992 - Los Angeles is marked by particularly bloody riots triggered by the Rodney King affair, the black American citizen beaten up by Los Angeles police officers.

1994 - The city is shaken by a violent earthquake in Northridge.

1997 - Opening of the Getty Museum

Late 1990s to early 2000s - Many film directors have been fascinated by Los Angeles.

Several films that have become cult movies give a particular angle on the city: e.g. Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994), Curtis Hanson's *L.A. Confidential* (1997), *The Big Lebowski* (1998) by the Coen brothers, David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive* (2001).

2000 - 26 % of the population are under 18 years old, 11,1 % are aged between 18 and 24 years; 34,1 % between 25 and 44 years; 18,6 % between 45 and 64 years; and 9,7 % are aged over 65 years. The average age is 32 years old.

2009 - The Walk of Fame, which was created in 1958 on Hollywood Boulevard, has 2400 stars out of the originally predicted 2500 places.

2012 - The Biennale Made in L.A. created by the Hammer Museum.

2015 - Opening of the Broad Museum, a large space hosting the collection of Eli and Edythe Broad.

2016 - Los Angeles County has a population of 12.5 million.

With over 850 galleries (Blum & Poe, David Kordansky Gallery, Gagosian, Ghebaly Gallery, Hauser Wirth & Schimmel, Honor Fraser, Kristina Kite Gallery, Meliksetian & Briggs, Overduin & Co., Sprüth Magers, Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects...) and museums (the MOCA, the Hammer Museum, the Getty Center, the Los Angeles County Museum, etc.), Los Angeles has more venues devoted to art per head of the population than any other city in the world.

Today, Los Angeles is one of the largest cities in the world and, above all, one of the most sprawling, yet the density of population per square kilometre remains low. Rich and dynamic though it is, this emblematic city of the 'West Coast' spirit and the 'American dream' remains profoundly unequal socially and economically. Nearly 3 million people live below the poverty line. With many social problems and ethnic conflicts, Los Angeles is a conurbation with no real centre, it is like an enormous jigsaw puzzle of 88 districts. There is splendour and misery; gold and dust.