



SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM 2014

Los Angeles Studio: June 30–July 25

SWA

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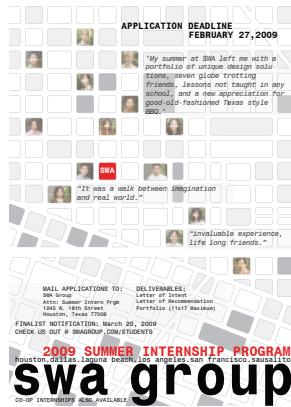
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*“Streets. Streets. Streets. Streets. There is such
a confusion, life there is so intense, so diverse,
so outlandish, it resembles nothing known.”*
—Blaise Cendrars





2014 SWA Summer Program Statement

For nearly 40 years SWA has conducted a summer student program to train focused groups of students in landscape architecture, planning and urban design. Each summer, our students spend four weeks in studio focusing on a collective design problem enhanced with speakers and weekly critiques featuring distinguished design professionals, public officials, local stakeholders and residents. Following the studio, each student moves to one of our seven offices for a four-week internship.

This year, the Los Angeles studio will examine two key underutilized spaces and their potential to be part of the future of greater Los Angeles. The 247-acre former rail yard known as Taylor Yard is currently the focus of revitalization efforts in a key section of the Los Angeles River. Taylor Yard's latent opportunity to be the catalyst for further interventions along the River is limitless, a location poised for a deeper examination by the world's future leading designers. Following studies of Taylor Yard, students will adjust their focus to Union Station and its environs. As the central transportation hub of Los Angeles, Union Station lies ensconced in under-used spaces in the form of parking lots, vacant parcels, and seemingly incompatible patches. By focusing on these marginalized adjacencies, students will be required to find legibility and connectivity in a visually disparate landscape that also represents issues facing Los Angeles at a larger scale.

The summer program affords students a world class opportunity to engage in a project with individuals ranging from clients to stakeholders, exchanging fresh ideas, knowledge, and perspectives. We look forward to welcoming our 2014 studio participants to Los Angeles!

SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM 2014

At SWA, we recognize that cities are a work in progress and we embrace the multi-dimensionality of infrastructure and the opportunities that may result through fresh and innovative thinking in landscape architecture, planning and urban design. We challenge you to join us.

SUBMIT
We encourage full-time students (returning Fall 2014) of landscape architecture, planning, and urban design to apply. Please check our website for more detailed information regarding the application process and for more updated information of the project program as it develops.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Submission Deadline: February 21
Date of Notification: March 3
Los Angeles Studio June 20 - July 23
Office Internship: May 20 - August 23
Hard Copy and Electronic Submissions are Accepted
Send Hard Copy Submissions to:
SWA 2014 Student Program
391 West 9th Street, Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90017

FOR ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS
Subject of Email must be:
SWA 2014 Summer Program
Please send all materials to:
swa@swagroup.com
If questions are ever asked, send via "swa@swa" or other site for downloading (max. of 20MB)

DELIVERABLES
8.5 x 11 format
Letter of Interest
Resume
Letters of recommendation
Digital form of 20
portfolio (max 10 images and primary use front and back)

www.swagroup.com/about-us/students

SWA

STUDENT BIOS



A. Duncan Smith

I was born in Beverley, England and raised in Lexington, Kentucky. After receiving a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University of Ohio, I made brief forays into the worlds of music journalism and audio engineering. Post-college years were spent playing in bands, and cultivating an interest in fine dining chef work in Washington DC and Baltimore, Maryland. My culinary arc culminated in Los Angeles in 2012, as sous chef at Michelin-starred Patina Restaurant. This position inspired extracurricular research into sustainability, urban agriculture, and food justice, and prompted my return to academia. Provoked by an enthusiasm for urban life, art, design, politics, history, and social justice, I joined the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UCLA's Luskin School in 2012. Currently, I am finishing the spring quarter of my first year, having settled comfortably on the departmental concentration of design and development. This arm of planning allows creative expression and community outreach in equal measure.

The diversity of the SWA student cohort will provide an exceptional opportunity to learn outside the classroom, and to apply urban design theory to practice. This summer, and in my career, I hope to explore design strategies that maximize adaptability, flexibility, cultural appreciation, and spatial justice. I want to work towards the de-privatization of the public sphere, and in my own small way, to help make Los Angeles more functional, more beautiful, and more equitable.



Emily King

I am currently pursuing an MLA/MArch degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and have completed two years of architecture and one year of landscape. After growing up in Knoxville, Tennessee, I went to Miami University (OH) to receive my undergraduate degree in marketing.

As a former business major, I was initially drawn to design because it allowed me to create and test a greater array of more tactile ideas than I was exploring in my marketing degree. However, since making the transition and gaining greater insight into the design field, I found myself very fascinated by the inherent interdisciplinary aspects the field has and the potential social agenda that exists in so many projects. I decided to also study landscape architecture when I realized that the areas of projects that intrigued me most are the ecological factors and the broader picture of how the site gets perceived. My unique trajectory into landscape architecture is something I feel has enriched my design process and the way I conceptualize problems



Lovisa Kjerrgren

Growing up in Stockholm, Sweden, I had my mind set on becoming an archaeologist or a florist. Today I am neither dusting dinosaur bones nor arranging bouquets, but as a master student of landscape architecture, I am digging into the layered histories of space and place that surround us and work to compose resilient designs where both people and plants can flourish.

Through design studio and municipal internships, hands-on park maintenance and non-profit engagements, I have explored various aspects of work within the field. More than a job, I find landscape architecture to be a way of seeing the world — exploring the everyday, trying to grasp the complexity of its fluxing processes and relationships at all scales, and envisioning ways to facilitate sustainable change through planning and design.

I am intrigued by the concept, qualities and conflicts of place, of the 'why' as much as the 'how' of urban life. I view places as the coming together of multiple co-existing stories and through my design process, I strive to synthesize diverse considerations and create coherent narratives as contemporary conversations between memories of the past and visions for the future.



Marie Salembier

My name is Marie Salembier. I grew up in Paris and moved to New York City to pursue a career in fashion. I was drawn into the fields of landscape architecture, urbanism and ecology a few years ago. I first learned about plants and their requirements to thrive in different settings. I then extended my interest to ecosystems and their interactions. I joined the Master of Landscape Architecture of New York City College and It has been a real life changer.

I am very excited about the impact landscape architects can have in today's world. I am particularly interested in how humans shape their living environments and how we are shaped by our surroundings. Through sensible design interventions I want to find a just and respectful balance between the interconnected systems in place.

I am very grateful for the unique opportunity SWA is offering us. I am also looking forward to share ideas and perspectives with people as passionate as I am about Landscape Architecture.



Sam Sikanas

I believe my rural Michigan upbringing, my warm heart, and my artistic sensibility are the strongest influences on my design work. My hometown was something I wanted to escape when I was younger, a place that seemed vast, but suffocating at the same time. The open fields, forests, and lakes were in contrast to the closed minds. When I left to study Environmental Sciences at the University of Michigan, I focused my academics on cities, a place I saw opportunity. Working with, and living in, the city of Detroit during this time, I saw inequality and blocks to that opportunity. Combining my love for people and the environment, I came to landscape architecture, the perfect occupation for me.

I'm currently pursuing my Masters of Landscape Architecture at the University of Michigan, where I am particularly interested in temporary landscapes, in communication, and in public health. I'm excited to come to Los Angeles so I can put my experiences to use in a new environment, surrounded by inspiring people.



Sarah Fallahi

As a MLA student in advance program, having a B.Arch and MLA degree, I possess a keen interest in how the ecology and social dynamics of designed places shape the human experience of the landscape at multiple scales.

From my earliest days as an architecture student, I have learnt to not only be concerned with design, with form and with geometry, but also at the same time concerned with tactile, beautiful and poetic experience of just being in the world.

I have long been fascinated with painting and drawing and think one of the amazing ways to know the world is to wander around and drawing. By knowing about the world, people, society and natural process, I try to be more reflective, instead of just being intuitively responsive.



Bingjie Shi

I am currently pursuing a dual degree in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Prior to attending graduate school, I studied Architecture at Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing.

I hope to explore the potential of multi-scale landscape framework with urban and architectural settings to create attracting, comfortable, resilient, flexible, and productive urban public spaces that generate neighborhoods as well as fulfill environmental services.



2014 SWA Summer Student Program

While the Los Angeles River may drift through the San Fernando Valley, bending into downtown Los Angeles before dispersing into the Pacific Ocean, the sound of its rushing flows are now reverberating through California's capital and across the country into the halls of congress. As part of the effort to raise one billion dollars and revitalize one of the nation's most iconic and storied streams, lands adjacent to the River have also become critical to revitalization. Though dense development along the 52 mile reach of the river constricts opportunities for natural expansion, the Taylor Yard G2 parcel may provide the answer to large-scale revitalization efforts that have continued effects upon future development throughout the larger Los Angeles River watershed.

Transforming Taylor Yard will consist of a two-week examination and exploration into how direct interactions with the Los Angeles River can be realized through innovative and bold design at varying scales.

Like Taylor Yard, the Union Station site faces many challenges linking to nearby neighborhoods and districts. Vehicular infrastructure such as the 101 Freeway and the vast span of roadways hinders pedestrian movement through these spaces. Additionally, the fabric of downtown districts is made up of incompatible land uses further contributing to disconnected experiences. As Union Station expands and transforms, the peripheral connections it creates or ignores becomes of utmost importance to the success of its environs and to its role as a regional transportation hub. With potential futures of high speed rail and an Angelino population expanding into untouched territory, there is significant value placed on this gateway to the city. But how will it exceed the desires of existing communities while shaping visitors' first impressions? The revitalization of Union Station and its surroundings is in focus as Los Angeles is reinventing itself and redefining what it means to be a 21st century city.

Liminal Space: Transforming the Taylor Yard G2 Parcel

SUMMARY

The selection of the Taylor Yard G2 parcel as the site for weeks 1 and 2 comes at the heels of the Los Angeles City Council's move to enter into negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad Company to purchase the parcel in December of 2013. Referred to as the “crown jewel” of LA riverfront properties, the site is ideal for the development of a large water cleansing landscape and public green space in an area of the city with limited park access. Students will develop ideas for making the parcel both iconic/unique and functional from an ecological standpoint.

Week ONE: June 27- July 3 FRAMEWORK

Gabe Mason

Matthew Ells

Visiting Associate: Xiao Zheng

Students will be provided with a folder containing analysis and background information regarding the Taylor Yard G2 Parcel and it's adjacent communities in an effort to jump quickly into thinking projectively about the future of the site's 44 acres. The week will focus on developing a diagrammatic master plan strategy outlining a potential future for the site as the first major intervention along the length of the LA River. The work for week 1 will be completed in groups of 2 or 3.

Week TWO: July 5-11 INTERVENTION

Matthew Ells

Gabe Mason

Visiting Associate: Chih-Wei Chang

The second week of the program will focus on further developing the defining elements of the masterplan. Students will each work individually on a portion of the strategy developed in week 1, producing a set of illustrative drawings to present at the Taylor Yard final review on July 11th.



WEEK ZERO June

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
					27 3:00 PM Friday afternoon orientation at SWA Group after students arrive in LA and get to know SWA!	28 10:00 LA River Tour of River Improvement Overlay District (lower reaches) PM First Impressions Discussion

WEEK ONE June/July

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
29 AM/PM Get to know LA!	30 AM Assign Master plan due 7/3 11:00 Steve Dwyer of US Army Corps LA River Introduction at SWA Group Lunch: 12:30-1:30 2:30 Tour of Taylor Yard with Megan Whalen of LA Bureau of Engineering, LA River Office	1 AM/PM Work Day	2 AM Draft Pin-up PM Work Day	3 AM Studio work session 3PM: Pin up for Review PM After pin up, distribute design assignment due 7/11	4 4th of July BBQ!!!!	5 AM/PM Work day and site visit

WEEK TWO July

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
6 AM/PM Work day and site visit	7 9AM Studio Session 12:00pm - 1:00pm: Lunch 1:30pm Travel to LA River Center 2:00pm Meet with Omar Brownson, head of Los Angeles Revitalization Corporation PM Return to SWA for studio session	8 9AM Studio Session Desk Crits PM Studio Session	9 9AM Studio Session Desk Crits PM Studio Session	10 9AM Studio Session Desk Crits PM Studio Session	11 AM Studio Session 3PM Pin up for Review	12 Introduction to Site AM 10:00 "Union Station" Walking Tour by Los Angeles Conservancy Collect Video, Sounds, Interviews, etc. 12:30 Picnic at LA Historic Park or Lunch at Phillippe's PM: 2:00 First Impressions/ Discussion

Urban Convergence: Revitalizing the Environs of Union Station

Why study Union Station and its surrounding historical districts?

Union Station just celebrated 75 years of being in operation, serving Los Angeles and its regional connections as a transit hub. Considered a 'gateway' to the City, the station borders Civic Center, the L.A. River and several neighborhoods of significant cultural importance including Chinatown, El Pueblo, and Little Tokyo. As the City continues to grow and transform, Union Station and its immediate surroundings must respond and change to meet future development, transportation and civic needs. Though poised to function as the transportation heart of the City, the area is currently lacking the essential linkages that will breathe life into this destination and its adjoining districts. Vacant lots, parking lots, and underused sites create a segmented urban fabric and disjointed pedestrian connections. Haphazard development occurs with the absence of an orchestrated land use direction. The 500-acre study area has the potential of benefiting the current and future residents as well as the predicted 100,000 daily passengers who will frequent the multimodal hub.

The two week workshop investigates Union Station and the adjacent neighborhoods at multiple scales, from master plan to site design. Week One looks at the station and its surroundings, from Civic Center to Chinatown and the L.A. River and further connections to adjacent historical neighborhoods. The students are to first identify the issues, develop key strategies, then select a site to apply these strategies for week two. Visionary designs will meet the aspirations of the City to revitalize the Union Station environs, setting the standard for public transportation and the pedestrian experience.



Week THREE: July 14-18 -FRAMEWORK

Shannon Scovell

Michael Hee

Visiting Associates: Ashley Langworthy, Zachary Davis

Students will be provided a wealth of information regarding Union Station and its surrounding districts. Students will be tasked with synthesizing the data, researching precedent projects, and translating their overall site impressions to develop a strategy to intervene on the site. Specific sites will be selected by students for which they will create a draft conceptual program.

Week FOUR: July 21-25 - INTERVENTION

Shannon Scovell

Michael Hee

Visiting Associate: Natalia Beard

The key strategies developed in week three will be further studied at a smaller scale, identifying materials and details utilized to create an overall atmosphere for the specific sites. Media exploration is encouraged to help convey the students' design ideas. During this final week, students will also organize the work produced in previous weeks for a final presentation.

WEEK THREE July

SUN

13

Recharge

AM
11:00 Brunch
at House

PM
1:00 Dodgers
vs Padres

MON

14

Planning
AM

Introductions to
visiting Associates
Assignment #1
Overview - Master
Plan (Analyze/
Synthesis, and
Identify Strategy
(Due 7/18)

12:00pm - 1:30pm:
Lunch

2PM
Council District 14
Planning Director
Presentation
(Tanner Blackman)
SWCA
Environmental
Consultants (John
Dietler)

Return to SWA for
work session

TUES

15

Connections

AM:
LA Metro, Linkages
Study (Aliya Popatia)

12:00pm - 1:30pm:
Lunch

PM
Introduce Great
Streets Initiative
Work Session

WEDS

16

Production

AM
Studio Session -
Desk Crits

12:00pm - 1:30pm:
Lunch

PM
Work Session

THURS

17

Production

AM/PM
Work Day

FRI

18

Internal Pin Up
AM

Work session

3PM: Pin up
for Internal
Review. Present
Assignment #1

PM
After pin up,
distribute
Assignment #2
(Due 7/25)
Select site for
Week 4

SAT

19

Museum Day

Chinatown Galleries,
The Brewery, Arts
District, LA Public
Library, etc.

WEEK FOUR July

SUN

20

Free Day

MON

21

Design

AM
Introduction to
visiting Associates.
Review previous
week.
Site introductions
Assignment #3(1
hour site analysis
exercise)

12:00pm - 1:30pm:
Lunch

PM
Return to SWA for
work session

TUES

22

Production

AM
Studio Session -
Desk Crits

PM
Work Session

WEDS

23

Production

AM
Studio Session -
Desk Crits

PM
Work Session

THURS

24

Hustle

AM/PM
Work Session

FRI

25

Final

AM
Work Session

3PM
Pin up for Final
Presentation @
Union Station or
LA River Center
(TBD)

SAT

26

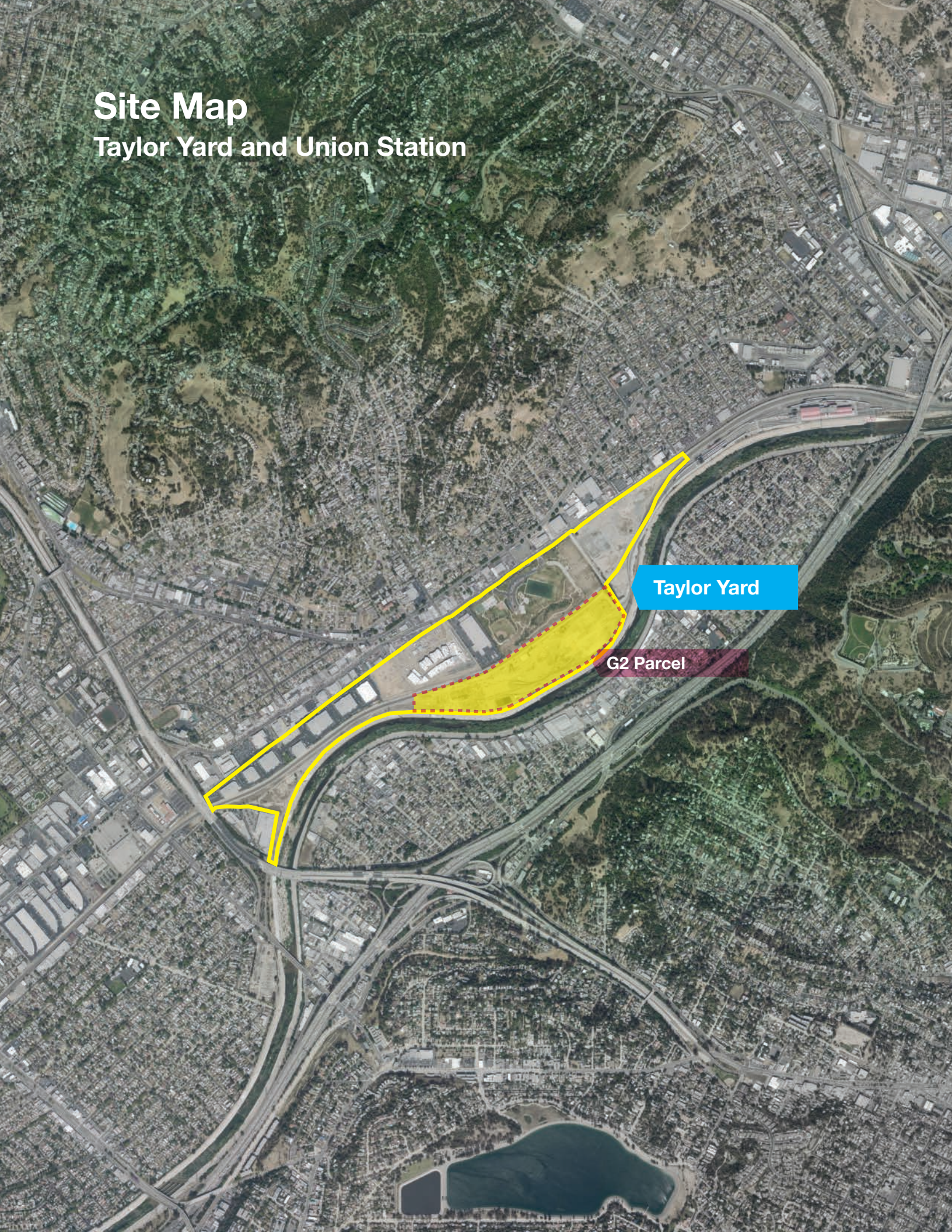
Travel to respective
offices

27

Travel to respective
offices

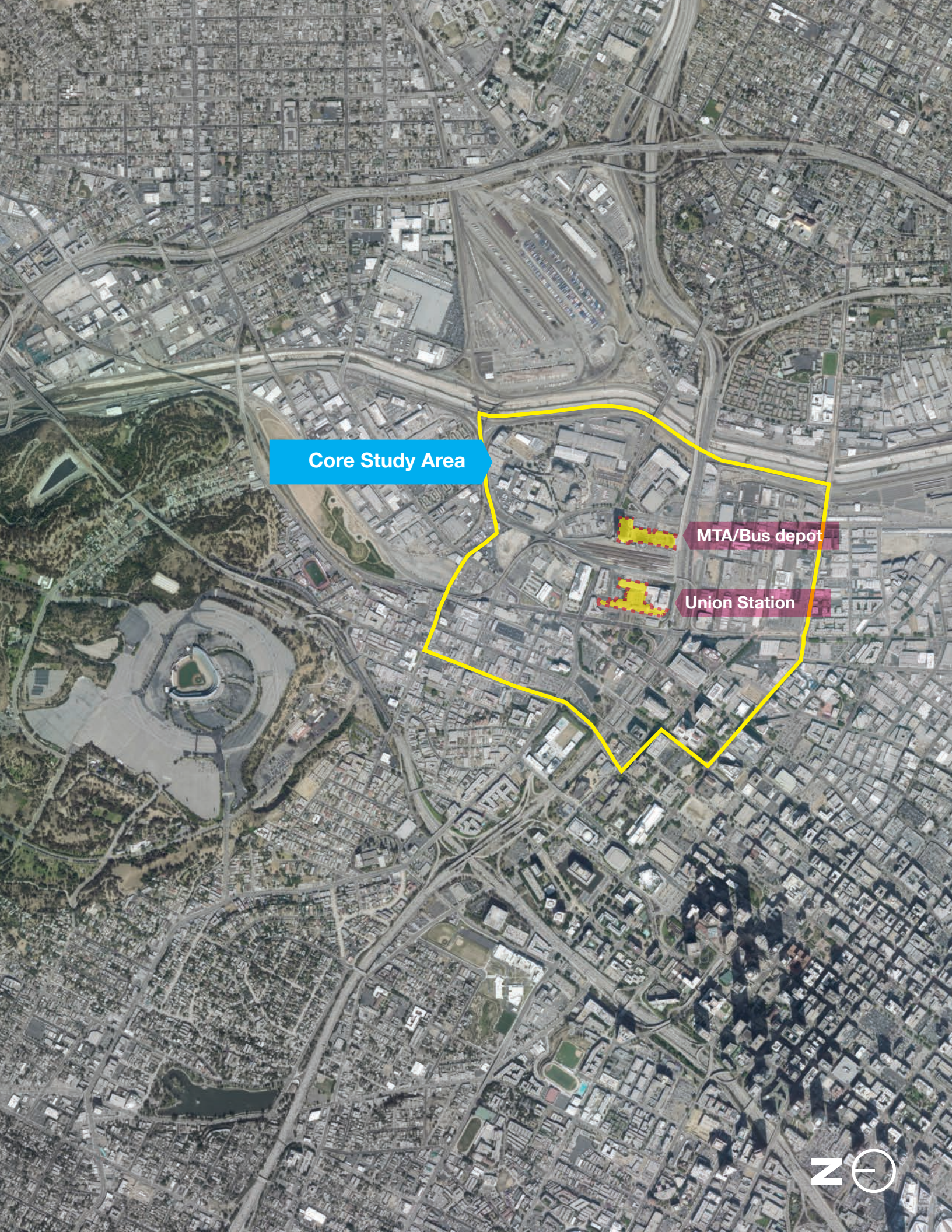
Site Map

Taylor Yard and Union Station



Taylor Yard

G2 Parcel



Core Study Area

MTA/Bus depot

Union Station









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University of Southern California Libraries/
Special Collections
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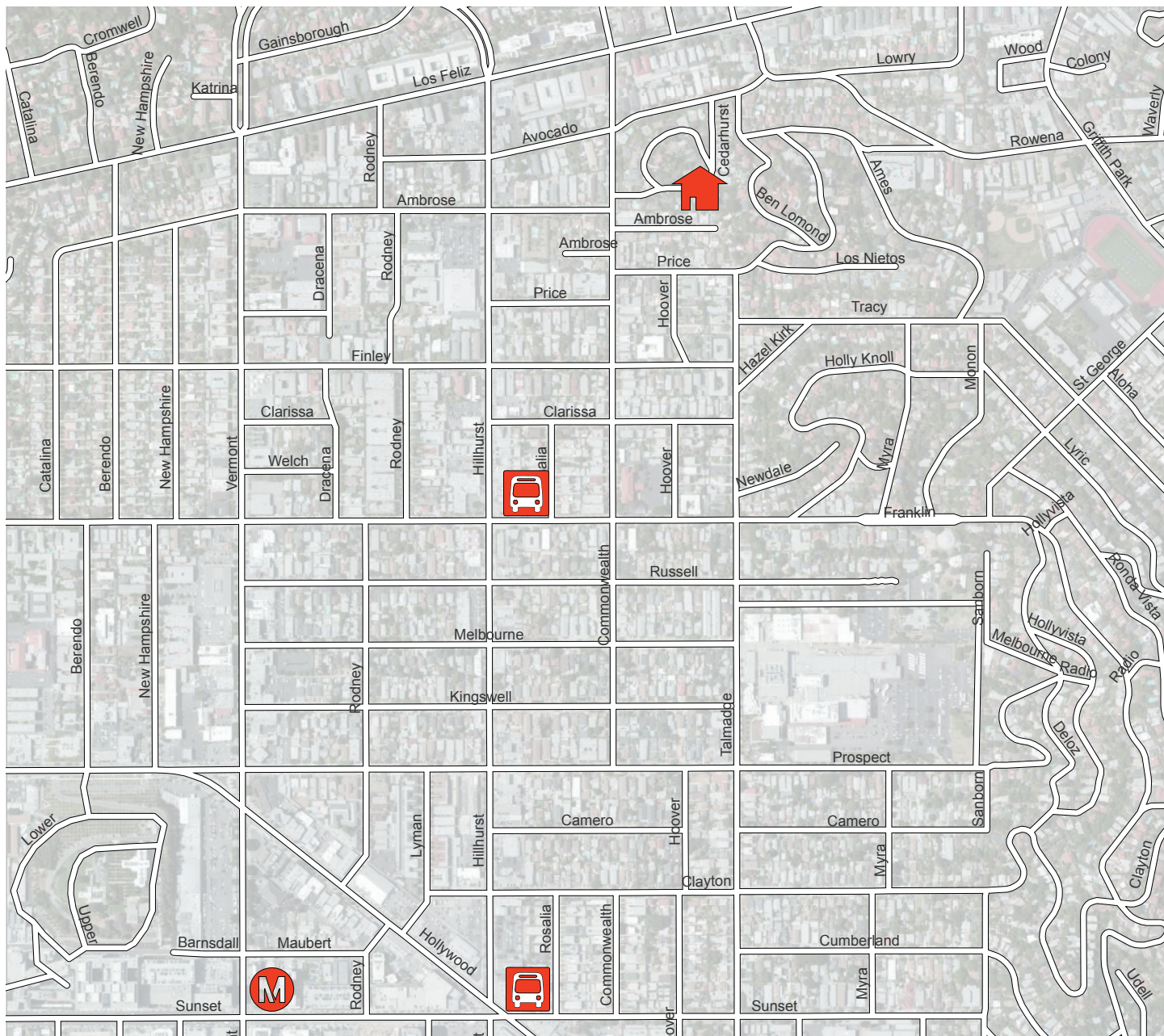
Domestic

Buffalo Bayou, Houston, TX
Colorado River, Denver, CO
Guadalupe River Park, San Jose, CA
Napa River, Napa, CA
Rio Salado, Tempe, AZ
San Antonio River, San Antonio, TX
Schuylkill, Philadelphia, PA
South Platte River, Denver, CO
Wilamette River, Portland, OR
Milton Street Park, Los Angeles, CA

International

Cheonggyecheon, Seoul, South Korea
Don River, Ontario, Canada
Rio Besos, Barcelona, Spain

LOS FELIZ NEIGHBORHOOD MAP AND INTERN HOUSE LOCATION



Intern House Location:
2141 Cedarhurst Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027



Transportation from House to SWA:

Bus: Take Dash Bus at Hillhurst and Franklin stop to Sunset and Vermont stop. Go to Metro Station located at Sunset and Vermont

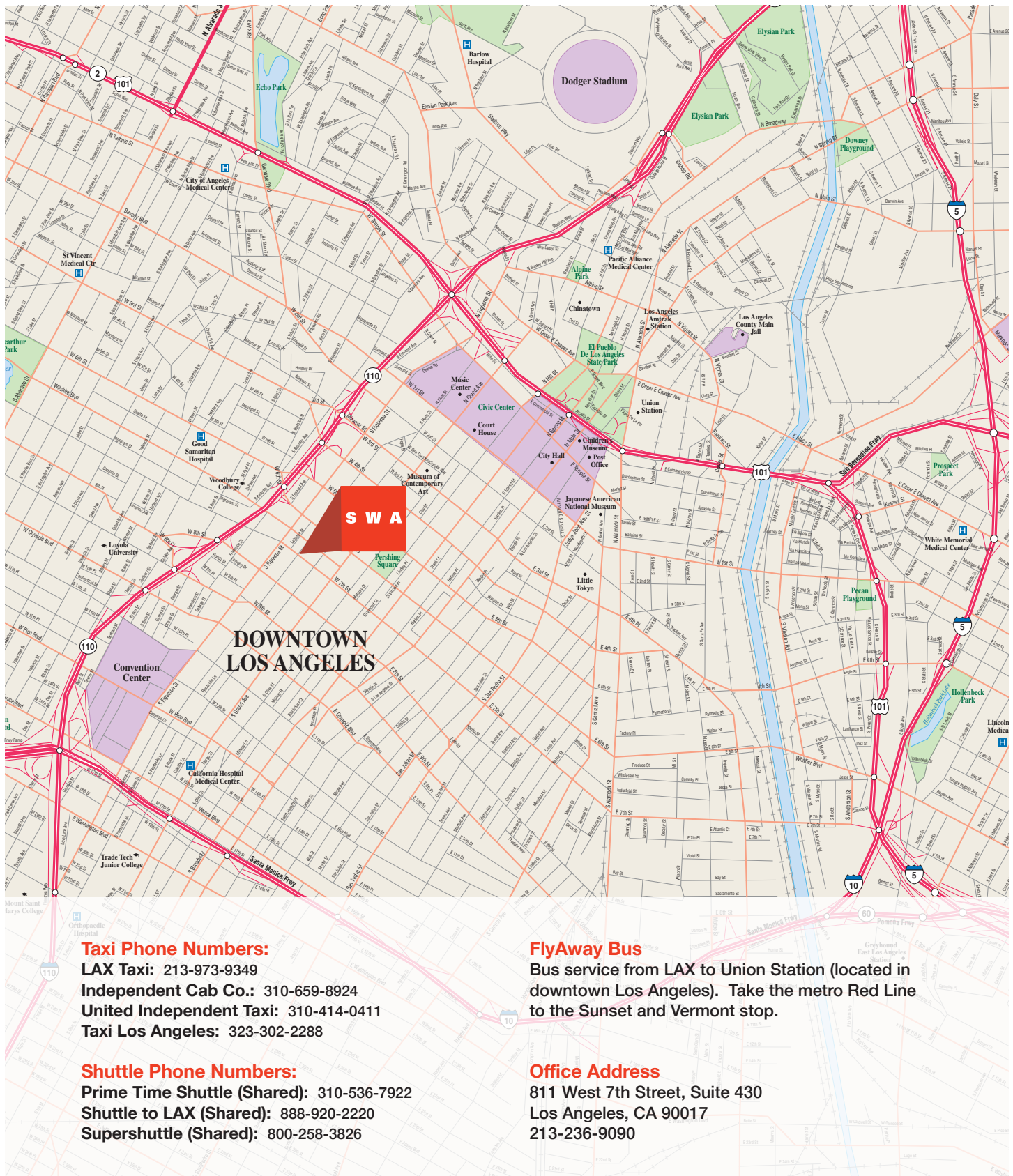


Metro: From Sunset and Vermont Station (Los Feliz), go towards Union Station. Get off at 7th and Figueroa stop (Office is located at 811 W. 7th St., Suite 430)

Directions from LAX to House:

- Start out going East on World Way/Center Way (0/1 mi.)
- Merge onto S. Sepulveda Blvd. / CA-1 S toward I-105 (0.7 mi.)
- Take the Imperial Hwy West / I-105 E ramp toward Imperial Terminal (0.1 mi.)
- Merge onto I-105 E toward Norwalk (6.5 mi.)
- Merge onto I-110 N toward Los Angeles (8.1 mi.)
- I-110 N becomes CA-110 N (0.5 mi.)
- Take US 101 N exit toward Ventura and merge onto US 101 N
- Take the Silver Lake Blvd. exit and turn left onto Silver Lake Blvd.
- Turn right onto Hillhurst (1.5 mi.)
- Turn right onto Ambrose Ave
- Turn left onto N Commonwealth Ave
- Take the first right onto Cedarhurst Dr

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES MAP AND L.A. OFFICE LOCATION



Taxi Phone Numbers:

LAX Taxi: 213-973-9349

Independent Cab Co.: 310-659-8924

United Independent Taxi: 310-414-0411

Taxi Los Angeles: 323-302-2288

Shuttle Phone Numbers:

Prime Time Shuttle (Shared): 310-536-7922

Shuttle to LAX (Shared): 888-920-2220

Supershuttle (Shared): 800-258-3826

FlyAway Bus

Bus service from LAX to Union Station (located in downtown Los Angeles). Take the metro Red Line to the Sunset and Vermont stop.

Office Address

811 West 7th Street, Suite 430
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-236-9090

Emergency Contact Info:

Martina Dolejs
Office Manager, Los Angeles
Cell: 213-308-3186

Ying-Yu Hung
Managing Principal,
Los Angeles
Cell: 415-254-9064

