

LA^{as}SUBJECT

Collectively preserving, archiving, and sharing the history & culture of the Los Angeles region since 1994.

L.A. as Subject Directory Portal Purpose Statement Finalized May 31, 2019

The main purpose of the L.A. as Subject Directory Portal is to connect the public to the institutions and individuals caring for, collecting, and making accessible the primary sources that document the histories of Los Angeles and the surrounding regions. For the Directory to continue to be robust and relevant, it requires active and collective maintenance by the *entirety* of the L.A. as Subject archive membership.

L.A. as Subject archive members entered into the Directory must commit to keeping their Directory information current.

In addition:

- LAAS Archive members must have (but not need to be entirely made up of) archive collections* and describe how they connect to the subject of Los Angeles.
- LAAS Archive members must be the creators, custodians, and/or collecting body of the archive collection.
- LAAS Archive members must make your collections openly accessible either onsite or remotely (i.e. digital library, exhibits, regular public programming)
- When providing access, LAAS Archive members are doing so with the intent of serving the public good and not for profit or personal financial gain.

Through this cooperative authorship, the L.A. as Subject Directory Portal becomes an invaluable publicly available resource to anyone who can benefit from greater engagement with archives. It also provides a centralized dynamic space where each L.A. as Subject archive member can promote, advocate for, and bring awareness to their collections.

The purpose and collective efforts associated with the building of the Directory ultimately makes it a gateway to the less visible archives and collections held by entities and communities, large and small, that have the common goal of celebrating and sharing the diverse stories and cultural heritage of Los Angeles.

**According to the Society of American Archivists, archives are "the non-current records of individuals, groups, institutions, and governments that contain information of enduring value." (SAA, 2015). This means that archival records are:*

- *Primary sources, not secondary sources*
- *Created by individuals, groups, and institutions in the course of their work*
- *Often unpublished and not intended for publication*
- *"Raw" and uninterpreted*
- *Not the current records of an institution or individual*
- *Selected for preservation because of "enduring value"*

In addition, archival collections are not predominantly made of reproductions of primary sources that are held in other institutions.