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Short History of the Venice lifeguard Headquarters



The current three-story Lifeguard facility located at 2300 Ocean Front was built in the mid-1960's and dedicated on November 29th, 1969. This building served as the Los Angeles City Lifeguard Headquarters at Venice Beach replacing the old lifeguard headquarters, which was located at the Sunset Pier Bath House from 1947 until the completion of the new building.

The hexagon-shaped building housed the administration and dispatch center for the City Lifeguard Service under the Department of Recreation and Parks. The Lifeguard

Chief and staff were here managing the Beaches of Venice, Will Rogers, Dockweiler, Cabrillo as well as Hanson Dam and Crowley Lake. In 1975 the City's Lifeguard service merged into the County Lifeguard service (Department of Beaches). The year prior to the city merger, the City of Santa Monica merged its lifeguard service into the county. This created a seamless cost-efficient service with no jurisdictional disruption from Long Beach to the Ventura County Line and Catalina (72 miles of coastline and Catalina). All County wide Lifeguard administrative services were relocated to the Venice facility. As time went on the Department of Beaches merged with Small Craft Harbors creating the Department of Beaches and Harbors. In 1994 the Lifeguard Division of the Department of Beaches and Harbors were transferred to the management of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. As the Lifeguard Division took on additional responsibilities many units were relocated to Manhattan Beach (Bruce's Beach) where the old Department of Beaches facility was remodeled to house many of the additional functions.

In 2015 the remaining personnel vacated the 2ND AND 3RD story buildings and moved to Manhattan Beach. The upper two floors have remained vacant ever since. The ground floor continues to house the Lifeguard and Beach Maintenance for Venice Beach (Vehicles, heavy equipment and supplies).

The current Los Angeles County Lifeguard Division has a remarkable history of service, dating back to the early 1900's. With well over a century of service there remains no location to capture its rich history. If the building is deemed to be structurally safe this could serve as an outstanding location to display historic items and iconic photography celebrating three different lifeguard services in one location. With remarkable views from the top floor providing a 180-degree perspective of the entire Santa Monica Bay and surrounding areas the location would provide guests with a one-of-a-kind perspective of some of the most visited coastlines in the world. The location has ample parking to accommodate guests visiting the building year round and could be modeled after the L.A. County Fire Museum in Bellflower by creating a Board of Directors consisting of current and retired Lifeguards as well as volunteer Lifeguards to be docents and hosts for when the facility is open to the public.

Prepared for the possible demolition of the upper two floors of the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters and potentially establishing a Lifeguard Museum