

TIMELINE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR

Year	Key Events	Expansion	Attend	Some Highlights
1921	So. Pacific Railroad Carnival: Merchants Expo	Downtown Pomona, So. Pacific Railroad		
1922	Pomona City Council Fair Board formed; L.E. Sheets 1 st Pres. LA County Fair name reg. \$53,000 raised for Fair	Pomona buys 43 acres for Fairgrounds; 4000 seat grandstand built plus cattle, barns, livestock bldgs., tents and admin ; Opens Oct 17 and ran 5 days to Oct 22	49,461	How to make your own toothpaste from orange by- products demo. Admission: 50 cents a day
1923	\$75,000 bond approved for permanent bldgs.;	Grandstand for horse racing built 62 acres purchased (105 total)		Fashion: 'knickers' and 'flappers' common; Boys: 'newsboy caps' and 'lace-up shoes,' Girls: dresses w/stockings and Mary Jane shoes
1924	Clinton Afflerbaugh becomes 1 st paid manager (til 1960)	Women's Activities Bldg (<i>Home Arts</i>)	93,163	
1925	Fair held in September		102,991	
1926	New Entrance to Fair	Permanent Admin Bldg built (\$10G)		
1927				
1928	Fair Internationally popular; newspapers in Europe			
1929	First Fair Queen crowned (publicity idea)			
1930	Master Plan for growth of Fair created	Palace of Agriculture built (800 x 135) "Largest Exhibit Bldg in the World" Bldg 4 cost \$250,000 seated 16,000		Venetian theme
1931	Depression hits local communities		233,350	

1932	Tri-County Fair with Riverside-Orange (Thru '37); Fairgrounds deeded to County of Los Angeles	New Concrete & Steel Grandstand built with 12,000 sf exhibit hall underneath for household arts; Gov Rolph dedicates it Sept 17. New horse and cattle barns.		Spirit of the Harvest: 1000 varieties of fruits and vegetables were on display: such as 42 varieties of grapes, 19 varieties of avocados and 17 of pears.
1933	Pari-mutual wagering legalized; first to allow fans to bet in California		334,759	Cowboy Actor Monty Montana rides to the racetrack alter on 'Comanche to weds Louise Archer .
1934	Fair extended to 16 days			Millard Sheets presents 100 paintings and Watercolors from the Southland's best artists Fair Admission \$1.35
1935	Fair extended to 17 days (thru 1980)	Lagoon, 3 new horse barns,		Wine competition begun (continues today as longest running and one of most prestigious in the nation Millard Sheets presents Original Works by Finest Contemporary Artists Fine Arts
1936		New Arts and Crafts Bldg (Admin II today)		
1937	WPA helps Fair	Fine Arts, New Admin Bldg and construction of Fairplex 5 & 6 (350 x 100) completed		
1938	WPA helps Fair	Fairplex 7 & 8 (350 x 100) completed for rabbits/poultry and youth exhibits		Child screen star Shirley Temple visits Fair while fairgoers consumed three tons of popcorn, 18,000 hot dogs and 24,000 hamburgers.

1939	Sculpture Contest for front of Fine Arts	Child care center Home Arts bldg		Lawrence Tenney Stevens wins sculpture contest/Fine Arts Bldg First blood transfusions involving animals (mother-newborn) save calf's life.
1940	LA Co Board of Supervisors turns over operation of Fairgrounds to Fair Assoc.			
1941	Palace of Agriculture (Bldg 4) burns down on October 3 just 3 days after Fair closes.			
1941-1947	U.S. Army takes control of Fairgrounds except for Admin Bldg.	During 6 years of Army control , Fairgrounds were used as temporary relocation center for Japanese, desert training center, ordinance command shop, and German & Italian POW camp. 35 acres annexed for trailer park on grounds		
1948		Agricultural Bldg (4) rebuilt (149 x 800); largest bldg. west of Mississippi River. New cattle and swine barns	1,254,503 2 nd largest in U.S.	Thummer the Pig introduced as Fair's official mascot
1949	Fair Association purchases 62 acres for parking lots			
1950		New Sports Plaza/Carnival moves; casting pond in Plaza ; Fun Zone created; Entry arch built 100' wide and 40' high with neon lettering.		Millard Sheets Gallery presents Masters of Art : including 48 masterpieces and 28 sculptures from 40 top U.S. galleries
1951				World's largest man-made ski jump w/artificial snow:

				225' high and 500' long. Millard Sheets Gallery presents <i>One World of Art:</i> with 22 masterpieces in painting, sculpture and ceramics from around the world. Competitive Art Awards Moise Potvin's Hand Carved Miniatures
1952		Ornate Flower & Garden Bldg; Landmark Clocktower built; Mexican Village		
1953		Pomona Raceway		NHRA held SC Championship Drag Races; 375 cars History of American Painting
1954		Fairplex 8 built (100' x 200') for Home Builders new products show.		John Svenson carves his giant Ranchero (Leads to creation of Redwood Court in 1961) House Beautiful Exhibit in Fine Arts; art in daily living; artist/craftsman displays
1955				Fred Morrison sold his flying discs at the fair; two college kids get rights to create and market their own version: the Frisbee from Wham-O
1956				Western living displays
1957	Millard Sheets resigns as Director of Fine Arts after 25 years of leadership			Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus appears at first Fair ever. Hathaway 200lb pumpkin

				story
1958				
1959		Parking for 10,000 cars created east of Fair; Tunnel under White Ave completed		
1960				World's largest man-made ski jump returns w/artificial snow: 225' high and 500' long.
1961		Redwood Forest completed with Ranchero		Largest drag racing crowd ever attends NHRA Winternationals Redwood Court attraction
1962		Monorail begins mile-long service around core of Fairgrounds with 14 24-seat electronically operated passenger cars. Storybook Farm opens (now called California Heritage).		Art in Action program (ran for many years throughout Fairgrounds).
1963				
1964		Sports Plaza Marina opens with water skiing demo.		The Three Stooges visit the Fair
1965		Golden Empire Mine replica opens; modeled after the famous Golden Empire Mine in Grass Valley, CA begun in 1856.		
1966				Gov. Pat Brown and Gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan visit Fair
1967				
1968				Art of Japan: landscapes, textiles, woodcuts, pottery, etc
1969				
1970				

1971				
1972				Fairgoers consumed 80,000 lbs of hot dogs, 30,000 lbs of hamburgers and one million tortillas
1973				
1974				Ray Charles, Dottie West and Rick Nelson perform at the Fair
1975				
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1980		CDC Child Development Center opens doors. One of the best in the state.		
1981				Norma 'Duffy' Lyon of Toledo, Ohio sculpted a Clydesdale horse out of one ton of butter. Sand Painting highlights Art of the American Indian
1982				
1983				Beach Boys perform at the last stand at the Grandstand as Fairplex halts further evening entertainment until 1996 Images of Africa: World Photography exhibit
1984	Fairgrounds name changed to Fairplex to encourage year-round use as show and exposition complex	Fairplex 4 (Ag. Bldg) is renovated to create 105,500 sf of indoor exhibit space.		NHRA Winston Select finals at Pomona Raceway

1985		Racetrack lengthened from one-half mile to five-eighths mile.		Japanese Dragon Kites China in Fine Arts
1986	Racetrack renamed Fairplex Park	Racetrack Grandstand and clubhouse renovated ; lighting added. Circle of restaurants renovated to become Sunset Cabana : a modern Food Fair		Night harness racing debuted
1987				Night harness racing discontinued after 2 years
1988	LA County and LAC Fair Assoc sign 56 lease for use of Fairgrounds ext. to 2044			Neil Bush from Texas, son of President George Bush, challenges local congressman, Dick Drier , in a hog calling contest
1989	\$27 million bond issued for development	Renovation of Bldgs 5,6,7 and 8 (134,400 sf) Trains moved adjacent to Golden Empire Mine to make more room for barns.		
1990		Monorail renovated with 40 seat cars and new station		First thoroughbred sale
1991	Fairplex CDC merges with La Verne child care program	Ground breaking for on-grounds Sheraton Suites Hotel	1,612,097	
1992		247 Suite Sheraton Hotel opens		
1993		NHRA completes \$4.5 million renovation of drag strip. Sky Ride completed		
1994		Fine Arts Bldg renamed and dedicated as the Millard Sheets Gallery		
1995	James E. Henwood named President/C. E.O. of Fairplex			
1996		Monorail Ride and station torn down ; Mexican Village renamed Fiesta Village		Nightly Grandstand entertainment returns to

				Fairplex as legendary entertainer Bob Hope visits the Fair
1997				“UFO Encounter’s” makes its world premiere at Fair; 75 th anniversary marked by 75 cent entrance to Fair.
1998		NHRA Motorsports Museum opens in what was Home Arts Bldg		
1999	Fairplex establishes three 501© non-profit organizations: Millard Sheets Gallery, Fairplex Child Development Center and the Fairplex Education Foundation			WOW exhibit debuts in 7A; Dino Quest: Search for the Lost Expedition fills all 43,000 sf of Fairplex 7A
2000		Thunder Alley added on Redwood Street		
2001	Park closes on 9-11 after terrorist attack in the East; Fund Raising drive for red Cross nets \$250,000 for 9-11 victims.	Court of the Redwoods renovated; Ranchero moved to front of Millard Sheets Gallery; Livestock area becomes Fairview Farms combining animals and agriculture Fiesta Village becomes Plaza de las Americas		
2002		Flower and Garden Pavilion, Clock Tower and Plaza de Las Americas celebrate 50th anniversary		Williams fire incinerates hills above Fair Sept 22-Oct 1
2003		CDC adds classroom ; helps 175 children. NHRA Sports Museum becomes Wally Parks NMRA Sports Museum Clock Tower restored to original red color it wore from 1952 to the 80s		Millard Sheets Gallery recreates vignette of 1954 House Beautiful exhibit in gallery.

2004	Junior Fair Board established	Citrus Empire Model Railroad takes exhibit from under grandstand off-site; replaced by Tapestry of Tradition (Village of Broadway); Education Expo and America's Kids move to 7A		
2005		Clock Tower removed ; temp structure replaces it Millard Sheets Gallery gets new ADA approved front entry		
2006	Seven founding fathers of fair inducted into the LA County Fair Association Hall of Fame in April	Winter Wonderland designed for Fairplex 8		World Finals at Auto Club Raceway
2007	LACFA welcomes Fred Freehling, Clyde Houston and Robert Lewis to Hall of Fame	Millard Sheets Gallery becomes the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts to reflect Fairtime and year-round educational programming and goals		Wines of the World Competition becomes the Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition
2008	LACFA welcomes Fred Sarah Ludwick, Wally Parks and Millard Sheets bring total inductees to 21. The 18-day fair with Mondays and Tuesdays closed continues.	Ground breaking for Trade and Conference Center begins		
2009		Second Sky Ride built		
2010		Circle of restaurants is eliminated		