

The Bowtie Project Education Program

THE BOWTIE PROJECT IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND CLOCKSHOP TO
ACTIVATE AN 18-ACRE FORMER RAIL YARD ALONG
THE LOS ANGELES RIVER.



Clockshop

2806 Clearwater Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039

T: (323) 522-6014

Clockshop.org



BOWTIE

#BowtieProject

Clockshop



Funding provided by
California State Parks
Foundation.

What is the Bowtie Project?

THE IDEA



In 2014, California State Parks invited Clockshop to curate site-specific artworks and public programs on an 18-acre former rail yard adjacent to the LA River that will one day become a public park. The land was nicknamed “the Bowtie” because of its distinctive shape.

How can we use this site to inspire artists and future park visitors alike?

SITE HISTORY



The site was deeded from the city of Los Angeles to Southern Pacific Railroad in 1873. For most of the 20th century, it operated as part of a 247-acre train car switching facility. California State Parks purchased the land in 2003. In the future, the Bowtie Project will be an important part of LA River revitalization.

The first Bowtie Project artwork was unveiled in March 2014.

Clockshop is an arts and culture non-profit located in Frogtown, the community directly across the river from the Bowtie.

[Visit Clockshop.org/Bowtie](https://www.clockshop.org/Bowtie)

to learn more about past and upcoming performances, artworks and events at the Bowtie Project.

Where is the Bowtie Project?

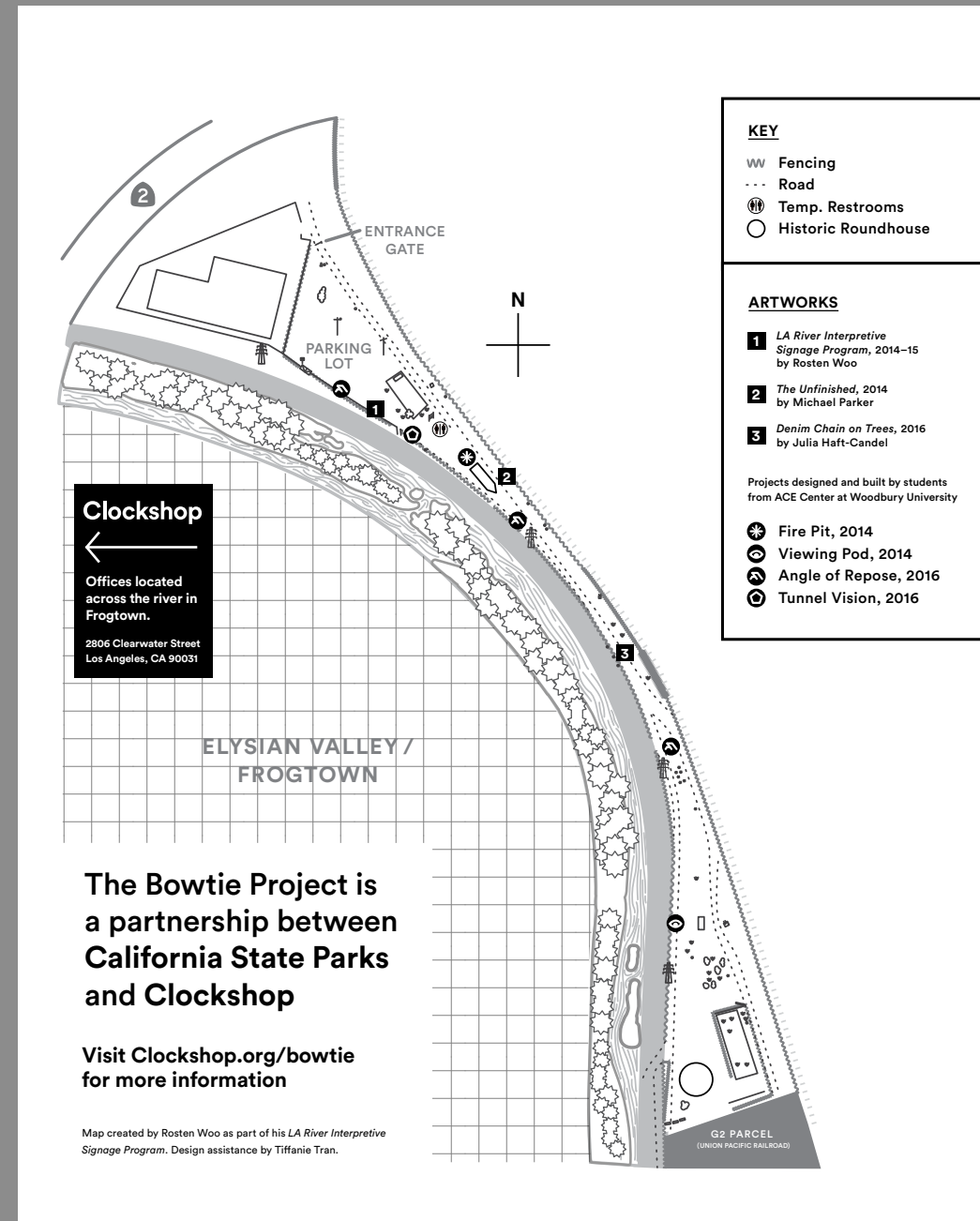


THE BOWTIE PROJECT IS LOCATED ON THE BANKS OF THE LA RIVER IN A "SOFT-BOTTOM" SECTION KNOWN AS THE GLENDALE NARROWS. THE SITE IS BORDERED TO THE NORTHEAST BY ACTIVE RAILROAD TRACKS AND TO THE SOUTH BY THE 41-ACRE TAYLOR YARD PARCEL, G2.

[LINK TO MAP FILES](#)

Bowtie Project
2780 W. Casitas Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

The Bowtie Project is in the Glassell Park neighborhood, adjacent to Atwater Village and Cypress Park.



The Bowtie Project is a partnership between California State Parks and Clockshop

Visit Clockshop.org/bowtie for more information

What is the Bowtie Project Education Program?

The Bowtie Project Education Program uses the Bowtie as a classroom. Students of all ages are introduced to new ways of thinking about art and the environment.

The Bowtie Project Education Program encourages student-driven site exploration, discussion-based processing, and creative response. Field trips are designed on a case-by-case basis, and customized to meet specific needs. Cross-curricular content engages students in thinking about the connections between art and landscape. Students may participate in one-day site visits, multi-day units inspired by a single Bowtie artist project, and/or guided site exploration. Clockshop works with artists, CA State Parks, and National Park Service rangers to execute this program.

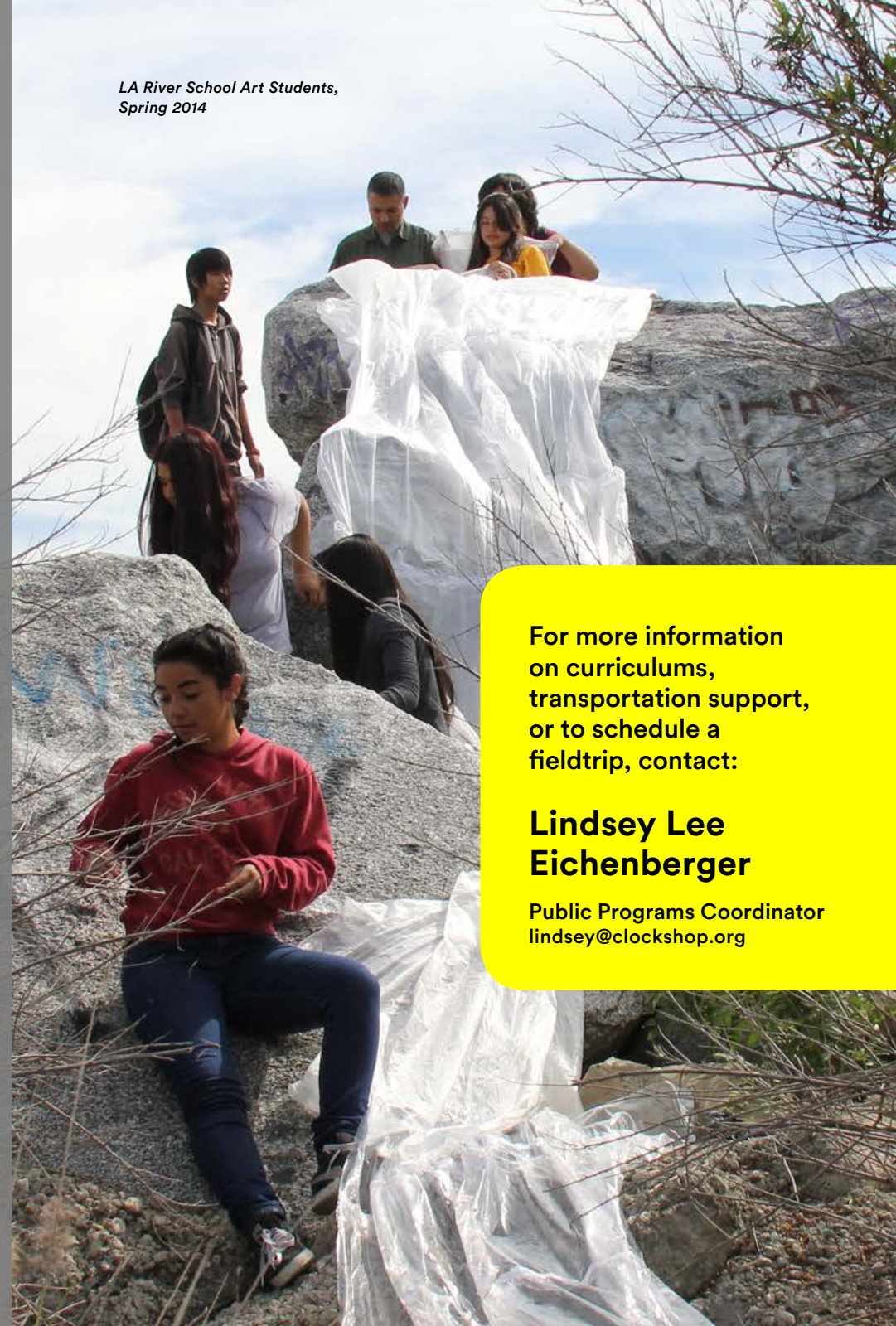


ALL PROGRAMS CAN BE ADAPTED TO MEET CURRICULUM NEEDS.

- Minimum of 12 students to schedule a field trip.
- Clockshop does not offer LA River or environmental education programs exclusively; all programs focus on the intersection of art and the environment.

Please visit our friends at FOLAR to learn more about LA River-specific opportunities.

LA River School Art Students,
Spring 2014



For more information on curriculums, transportation support, or to schedule a fieldtrip, contact:

Lindsey Lee Eichenberger

Public Programs Coordinator
lindsey@clockshop.org

What will you see at the Bowtie Project?

THE UNFINISHED

Michael Parker, 2014

The Unfinished is a 137-foot obelisk-shaped excavation that is a to-scale replica of an Ancient Egyptian archeological site known as "The Unfinished Obelisk." Other artists, such as Katie Grinnan and Rafa Esparza, have staged performances on the obelisk.



What will you see at the Bowtie Project?



Right: Larchmont Village Girl Scouts Troop 459, Spring 2014

LA RIVER INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE PROGRAM

Rosten Woo, 2014–2015

The *LA River Interpretive Signage Program* is a collection of bilingual signage that fits into the California State Parks model of historical and natural interpretive signage. Three signs describe some of the ecological and governmental processes relevant to the Bowtie Project site. In addition, a narrative walk leads viewers through the site, identifying points of interest and speculation. Visitors can take the walk by borrowing a pamphlet from a box on site or by following along via an audio guide at BowtieWalk.org.



What will you see at the Bowtie Project?

DENIM CHAIN ON TREES

Julia Haft-Candell, 2016

Denim Chain on Trees is a site specific sculpture by LA based artist Julia Haft-Candell at the Bowtie Project. Inspired by Haft-Candell's previous sculptures of small porcelain chains, this project enlarges those forms to a monumental scale. The assembled work is draped over a series of truncated palm trees overlooking the Los Angeles River.



What will you see at the Bowtie Project?



TUNNEL VISION AND FIRE PIT

Woodbury Architecture + Civic Engagement Center
(ACE Center) Students, 2014–2016

Throughout Fall 2014 and Spring 2016, undergraduate and graduate architecture students from Woodbury University participated in a design studio that focused on enhancing public facilities at the Bowtie. Resulting structures include 2 riverfront viewing pods made from reclaimed steel and wood, an inground fire pit with removable seat backs, and several benches installed along the length of the site.



What Else is There To Discover?

LA RIVER

The Bowtie Project sits along the Glendale Narrows, a soft-bottom portion of the approximately 51 mile long Los Angeles River. A walk down the channelized banks puts visitors right at the edge of one of the most lush and vibrant natural ecosystems along the river today. This section of the once neglected waterway is slated to receive up to \$1 billion dollars towards restoration of the riparian habitat.



*Right: Sotomayor Learning Academies
9th Grade Students, Spring 2015*

What Else is There To Discover?

NATIVE PLANTS + WILDLIFE

The Bowtie Project contains a variety of native plants, many of which are representative of LA's early flora. In a patch of dirt between the river bank and the flat land grows California buckwheat, white sage, bush sunflower, and yerba santa. Coyote brush, Mule fat, and elderberry trees grow throughout the flat lands of the site, and in the river bottom is a smorgasbord of non-native and invasive vegetation including willows and fountain grass. A variety of creatures such as cottontail rabbits, ground squirrels and mice call the Bowtie home. In 2015, game cameras were placed on site to learn more about coyotes, which are known to roam the site at night. Herons and egrets, cormorants, ducks, sandpipers, flycatchers and raptors are just some of the purported 300 species of birds that use the LA River and the adjacent area throughout the year. Spring and summer bring many swallows, while year-round birds include the black-necked stilts and killdeer, both of which nest on the concrete river banks.



Plant & wildlife information courtesy of our friends at the National Park Service.

Oaks School Students
with NPS Ranger, Fall 2015



What Else is There To Discover?

HISTORIC STRUCTURES

Measuring 95 feet in diameter, the large circular structure known as the Roundhouse was used by Southern Pacific railroad to service trains and locomotives. CA State Parks has deemed this structure historically relevant and is committed to its preservation. The Roundhouse has also been used as a performance site for Bowtie artists.

The Bowtie site was decommissioned as a train yard in 1996. The site is littered with structural detritus, such as building foundations, sign frames, and an oil well derrick.



**"THE KIDS HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE BOWTIE. THEY
DESCRIBED IT AS MIND-OPENING AND INSPIRATIONAL.
OUR TEACHERS WERE REALLY HAPPY WITH THE
ACTIVITIES AND THE TIME THEY GOT TO SPEND OUTSIDE,
DISCOVERING WHAT IS SO CLOSE TO OUR CLASSROOMS."**

**RAMSES MARTINEZ, ART TEACHER
LA RIVER SCHOOL**



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