

# John Anson Ford Amphitheatre Historic Concrete Repairs

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

SUBMITTED BY WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.

The John Anson Ford Theatres (the Ford) is tucked into the hillside in Los Angeles, California. The Ford, originally constructed in 1920, consists of a 1,200-seat exterior amphitheatre, an 87-seat interior theatre, and a multi-purpose space. The original wood structure was destroyed by fire in 1929. A new outdoor amphitheatre, constructed



predominantly of cast-in-place concrete and designed to recall the gates of Jerusalem, was constructed and reopened in 1931. In 1976, the theatre was renamed in honor of John Anson Ford. Today, the Ford hosts diverse programs including dance and music events throughout the summer months. The Ford has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places



and is included in the California Register of Historical Resources.

The amphitheatre is constructed with architectural concrete that was cast with a varied finish, texture, and color. Originally exposed and uncoated, over the past 50 years the concrete was covered by several layers of coatings. Deterioration, including corrosion of embedded steel elements, resulted in surface spalling and delamination of the existing concrete.

A field investigation was performed, including a condition assessment, as well as a detailed coating removal study with trials and mock-ups. A restoration program, including the goal of returning the concrete in the amphitheatre to the original 1931 exposed condition, was started in 2013 and completed in 2014. The completed repairs were successful in matching and maintaining the character of the iconic architecture of the Ford amphitheatre. All work was performed in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the

Treatment of Historic Properties.

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OWNER

**Los Angeles County Arts Commission**

*Hollywood, CA*

PROJECT ENGINEER/DESIGNER

**Levin & Associates Architects**

*Los Angeles, CA*

REPAIR CONTRACTOR

**Spectra Company**

*Pomona, CA*

MATERIALS SUPPLIER/MANUFACTURER

**J.E. Tomes & Associates**

*Blue Island, IL*