

TONGVA PARK + KEN GENSER SQUARE

Park Names

Ken Genser Square

On October 2, 2012, Santa Monica City Council unanimously voted to name the 1-acre site in front of City Hall, Ken Genser Square.

Mayor Ken Genser served on the Santa Monica City Council for 21 years, since 1988. He was elected Mayor three times by City Council in 1992, 2000, and 2008. Ken was Mayor Pro Tempore in 1991 and 1999. He led on issues ranging from affordable housing and tenant protection, land use and zoning policies to environmental quality, workers' rights, park improvements, public safety, and funding for the schools.

As a lifetime Santa Monica resident, Ken began his 30 year career serving the public through appointment to a City Task Force for Revision of the Housing Element and was Chair of the Goals and Policies subcommittee from 1980 to 1982. He was a founding member of Community Corporation of Santa Monica, serving from 1982 to 1988. He was appointed as a Planning Commissioner from 1983 to 1985. Ken served as a board member of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation from 1985 to 1988.

Tongva Park

On February 12, 2013, after extensive public input, the Santa Monica City Council voted Tongva Park as the final name for the park which had been called Palisades Garden Walk during the planning and design phases. The name honors/highlights the area's original inhabitants. Council members said that the new park is "a singular place on this planet which deserves a singular name" that will "reintroduce the Tongva language and the history of the people."

Tongva Park is named for the rich culture and traditions of the indigenous Tongva people who have lived in the Los Angeles area for thousands of years, deeply connected to the original arroyos, native landscape, springs, and the 'breath of the ocean' that are symbolically represented here in this park for the enjoyment of the community and its visitors for generations to come.

Find out more about the Tongva online:

- Gabrielino Tongva Springs Foundation: www.gabrielinosprings.com
- Gabrielino Tribe: www.gabrielinotribe.org
- Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe: www.nativeamericanencyclopedia.com/gabrielino-tongva-tribe
- Official Tribal Council: www.tongvatribes.net

