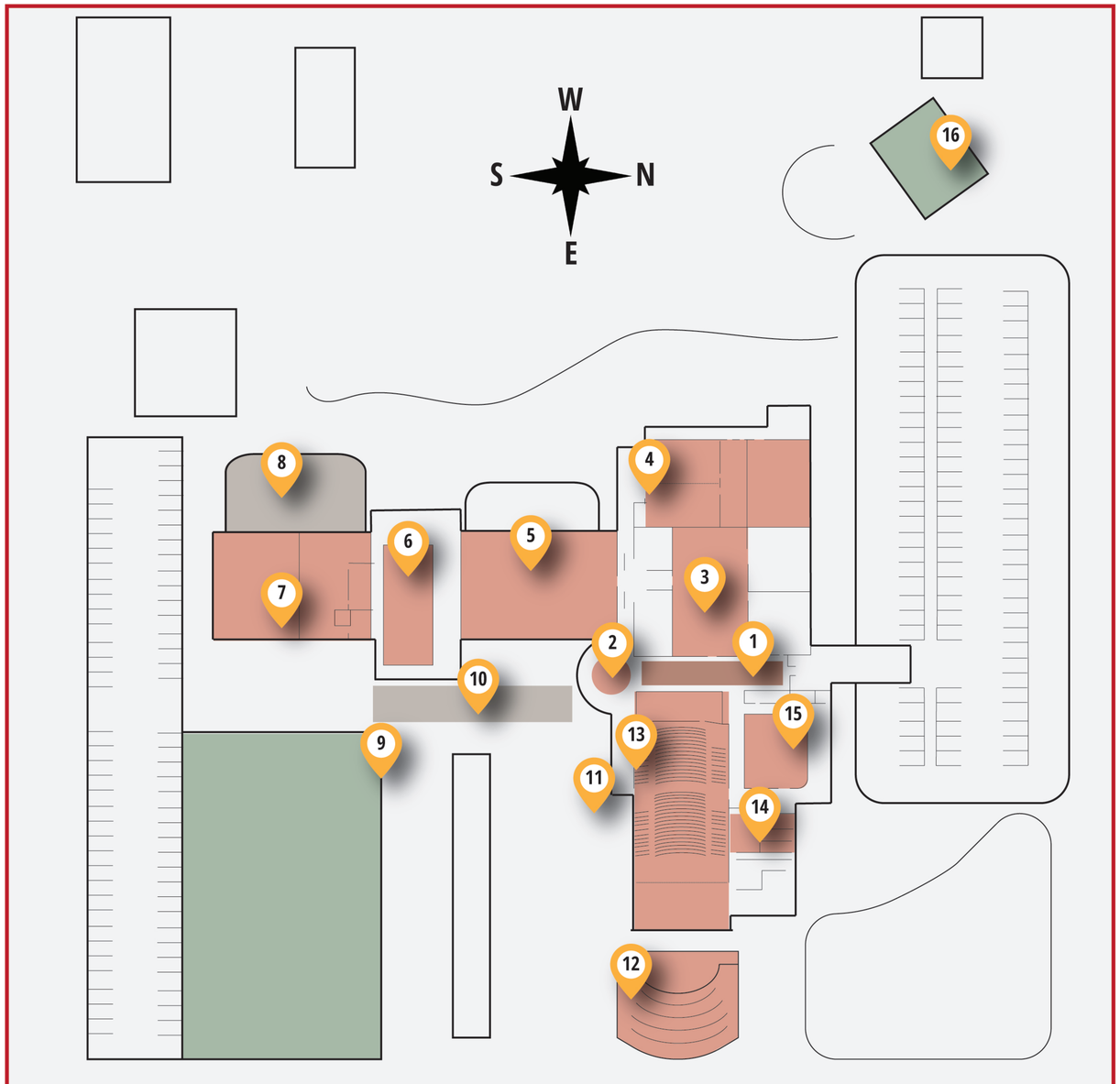


Tour Locations

1. Lobby
2. Rotunda
3. Crete Hall
4. Cottage & Pisano Rooms and Camp Hutchins
5. Kirst Hall
6. Indoor Pool
7. Holz Room & Adventist Health Senior Day Care
8. Julio Gallo Memorial Trellis
9. The Lawn
10. Alumni Plaza
11. The Auditorium - Cornerstone
12. Wishek Amphitheater
13. Charlene Powers Lange Theatre
14. Green Room
15. Fine Arts / Thomas Theatre Gallery
16. Playground, Walking Trail

Historical Timeline

Lodi Union High School

Early History

- 1913 - Lodi Union High School built
- 1923 - Auditorium built to seat 1,180 people
- 1974 - School burned down due to arson
- 1979 - Site acquired by City of Lodi to build a community center

Period of Growth

- 1980 - First Corporate donation of $50,000 by General Mills, Inc.
- 1982 - 3-acre park construction completed
- 1986 - Fine Arts Complex completed
- 1989 - Senior Complex construction completed
- 1990 - Senior Complex landscaping and irrigation completed
- 1991 - Senior Patio construction completed
- 1992 - Trellis replacement
- 1993 - Design development of auditorium and site completed
- 1994 - Kirst Hall patio construction completed
- 1995 - Brick plaza dedicated

Further Expansion

- 1996 - $10 million loan for the Performing Arts Theatre and Conference Center secured from the City of Lodi
- 1998 - Performing Arts and Conference Center dedicated
- 2002 - Rotunda chandelier installed

Present Day

- The facility plays host to a wide variety of musical groups, business conferences, city commissions, theatre events, wedding receptions and youth activities.

Hutchins Street Square

Produced by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Dept., Lodi Historical Society, and the Hutchins Street Square Foundation

Hutchins Street Square

HISTORICAL

Walking Tour Guide

125 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi

Lodi.gov

City of Lodi
Hutchins Street Square
Charlene Powers Lange Performing Arts Theatre

City of Lodi Parks and Recreation

Hutchins Street Square

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR GUIDE

Aerial view of Lodi Union High School in 1950

This self-guided walking tour takes you through over 100 years of Lodi history as it was experienced by thousands of students, faculty, volunteers, construction workers, performers, theater-goers, and city personnel since 1913. Each of the Square's gathering spaces are described as they are used today and as relevant, in the past. Anecdotes and historical facts about the people and places that make up this community complex are woven into the telling of the Hutchins Street Square story. Enjoy your trip!

1. Lobby | 2. Rotunda

The lobby was designed by the firm of Wenell Mattheis Bowe Architects, creating a connection between the old high school cafeteria, music building and auditorium. The columns, which create the lobby spin from the Oak Street entrance to the Rotunda, rest on a stone plinth with a backdrop of patterned bird's eye maple and mahogany wood paneling. A granite and mahogany desk has the Lodi Union High School (LUHS) ticket grates from the original auditorium box office. The Rotunda features a plaster dome, black terrazzo floor, and patterned clerestory windows. The chandelier, created by Lightspann Illumination Design Inc. and installed in 2002, matches the design of the light sconces in the theatre.

3. Crete Hall

The original high school cafeteria added to the campus in 1957 is now used for conference meetings and intimate dinner events. It has a full service kitchen and small conference room for break out space. A generous donation from the Michel Crete family in Woodbridge contributed to the renaming of this former multipurpose room.

4. Cottage & Pisano Rooms, Camp Hutchins

These spaces are in the southwest corner and connect to the gallery. They serve as meeting and intimate event space supported by a catering kitchen. The Cottage Room flows out into a patio garden, lined with oak trees and good for viewing the mature coast redwood grove that surrounds the activity field. The Cottage Room is named after contributors Terry and Rose Knutson former owners of The Cottage Bakery in Lodi. The Pisano Room commemorates Dave Vaccarezza's grandmother, Anna DeLama, a Lodi pioneer and was supported by a contribution from the Vaccarezza Family. Adjacent to the Cottage and Pisano rooms is Camp Hutchins, a child day care facility by Adventist Health. This building beginning in the early 1960's housed the boys wrestling room.

5. Kirst Hall

Previously the high school boys' gymnasium, this space was gutted in 1982 by the California Conservation Corps in anticipation of the renovation which was completed in 1990. The plaster was removed from the walls to reveal the red brick beneath. Kirst Hall connects to the conference gallery and rotunda for conference functions. The hall opens to the grand entry plaza and to an intimate enclosed patio, patterned with grass areas, flowering pear trees and red roses climbing the walls. The roses are reminiscent of those planted along the pergola of the old high school to shade the walk.

6. Indoor Pool

In 1913, Principal William Inch oversaw construction of the science building, shop, auditorium and the second story swimming pool in the gym, called Inch's Folly. It was wedged between the girl's and boy's gymnasiums. Left uncovered, high school swim classes and water sports teams endured swimming in a mix of fog and steam in the winter and in the summer some adventurers would sneak into the pool over the roof for late night summer swims. With a generous donation from Lodian William Holz, the pool was renovated as an indoor therapeutic swim facility and the pool was covered with a skylit roof.

7. Holz Room & Adventist Health Senior Day Care

Funding given by William Holz also supported the renovation and reuse of the old Girl's Gymnasium as the Adventist Health Adult Day Care Services facility. This project, completed in 1989, was the first Hutchins Street Square improvement project and the catalyst for the City's contribution of $10 million in 1996 to the completion of the master plan.

8. Julio Gallo Memorial Trellis

Dedicated in 1995, funds were raised by the Lodi District Grape Growers to construct the trellis design to resemble the structure that Julio himself built in his backyard "complete with grape vines."

9. The Lawn

This was the location of the Lodi Union High School Main Building and Science Building. Dozens of photos of the LUHS main building entrance capture the scale and grandeur of this Classical Revival building. This building had to be demolished after the fire after being deemed unsafe.

10. Alumni Plaza

There are over 4,000 bricks stamped with a personalized message from each of those who donated to the Square project. The plaza also features 16-inch bronze discs centered in the large squares of concrete to honor individual classes that contributed to the renovation.

11. The Auditorium - Cornerstone

In February of 1914, the original 1,180 seat auditorium was ready for it's first public event with the senior play. It continued to be used for many community events including lectures and a Women's Club play.

12. Wishek Amphitheater

Named after a former Farmers & Merchants Bank Senior Executive, Carl Wishek Sr., the renovated exterior of the main entrance to the auditorium showcases the classic Greek columns as a grand backdrop for the outdoor theater's live grass platforms and terrace seating area. All surrounded by an engraved brick wall enclosure of a space that can seat 300 people.

13. Charlene Powers Lange Theatre

Saving the exterior of the old high school Auditorium was a primary element of the architectural program for the theater. The interior was demolished and a new concrete and steel shell was constructed inside the old brick walls, preserving the classical column features of the original auditorium. The interior features 789 seats with the main entrances relocated to mid-house. It was decided to reconstruct the interior and locate the stage at the opposite end of the building from it's original location.

14. Green Room

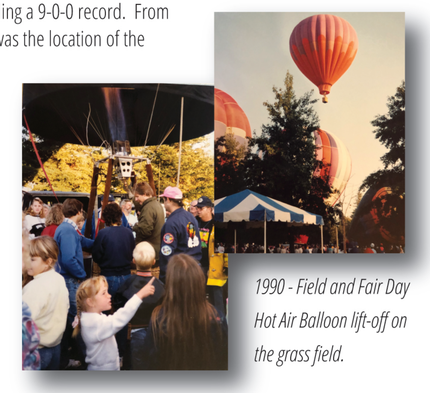
Positioned near the stage for the use of performers, this room features the theatre's "wall of fame" recognizing the many famous acts that have drawn thousands of patrons to the theatre over the years. The Green Room is also used for meetings and other support functions.

15. Fine Arts/Thomas Theatre Gallery

The Fine Arts Facility was rebuilt from the shell of the music building in 1986 thanks to generous donations from the Farmers and Merchants Bank, Bank of Stockton and Stockton Savings. Known as the Thomas Theatre Gallery, this was the old music room which is now used for dance classes, an art gallery and a performance room. Many of the adjacent practice rooms used by the high school are still used for music classes today.

16. Playground, Walking Trail (Athletic Field)

Historically used for all Lodi Union High School physical education classes and for sporting competitions until the construction of the Lodi Grape Bowl in the 1930's, the Athletic Field was partially taken up by emergency portable buildings after the 1974 fire. Fun Fact: the 1928 Lodi High Football team was one of only two unbeaten, untied teams in the schools 78-year football history compiling a 9-0-0 record. From 1980 until 1997, this was the location of the annual Field and Fair Day, which always started with a sunrise lift-off of numerous hot air balloons. This area now provides a large grass field for community activities, a stage that is used for the annual Music in the Park events and a playground.



1990 - Field and Fair Day Hot Air Balloon lift-off on the grass field.

"I feel that in the future Lodi will want and need a community center which could open a world of new interests to all ages. Purchase of the old high school site would be the best investment the City could make for all the people of Lodi."
- Sheri Mallori, 1979, Old LUHS Site Foundation board member in her City Council plea to acquire the site