



NEWS RELEASE

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Marin County Launches New Mobile App about the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Civic Center Building

“Wright at your Fingertips”

The Marin County Department of Cultural Services, in partnership with the Department of Information Services & Technology, has launched a downloadable mobile app (available on iPhone and Android) showcasing the history of the Marin County Civic Center designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The interactive app includes historic and recent photographs of the Civic Center building, drone videography, 360 degree photographs, plans and blueprints of the building process, and other historic information about Wright’s history in Marin County.

The app begins with a drone video shot both inside and around the building and grounds and offers a self-guided tour for Civic Center visitors who want rich and in-depth information about the history of the building and about Wright in Marin County. It also serves as a resource for Wright fans and enthusiasts worldwide who want information about the architect and have a desire to delve deeper into the images and rich media content on the beloved Civic Center building.

App sections include:

- Frank Lloyd Wright in Marin County – tells the story of Wright, his architectural philosophies and how they are showcased in the Marin County Civic Center and the Berger House in San Anselmo, California
- Civic Center Building History – highlights the tumultuous story of how two powerhouse women in the 1950s (Vera Shultz and Mary Summers) selected Wright to design the Marin County Civic Center and how it all almost didn’t come to pass; this section also features historic plans, sketches, and drawings by Wright alongside historic photographs of the building construction and opening dedication shots
- Architectural Exteriors – showcases the building from dawn to dusk with beautiful and atmospheric photographs by Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation photographer Andrew Pielage
- Architectural Interiors – offers behind-the-scenes access to the Marin County Board of Supervisors Chambers and their private balcony, tales about the custom furniture designed by Wright but built by inmates from San Quentin’s wood shop, a sneak peek into the iconic Marin County Library, a rare look at the inside of a Hall of Justice courtroom, and more

- Civic Center Campus – learn more about the Civic Center campus including the Wright-designed United States Post Office, the Marin Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium designed by William Wesley Peters, and the Marin County Fairgrounds
- Plants & Landscaping – learn about the care and consideration Wright took to select each and every interior plant as well as the exterior landscaping surrounding the building; “relax” in the Café garden; learn about where Wright first came to see the Civic Center site and his response when he got there
- Offices – take a virtual tour of the Civic Center offices with 360 degree access; “walk” down the Wright-designed mall spaces; get access to all your Civic needs from jury duty to building permitting

The app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play Store to accommodate all mobile devices including iPhone, iPad, and all Android phones and tablets. The App is available in English and Spanish.

About the Marin County Civic Center

The Marin County Civic Center (1957) is one of the last major works of Frank Lloyd Wright’s career and his only realized project for a government entity. An innovative design that simultaneously houses in one structure all of the functions of county government and serves as a focal point for civic and cultural engagement, it dramatically illustrates the kinship of architecture to the surrounding landscape with long horizontal buildings that gracefully link the crowns of three separate hills. Wright boldly projected the main government building as a bridge joining one hill to the next with a series of graceful arches sheltered under barrel-vaulted roofs. Its forms and colors relate it to surrounding hills and to the mountains of the Coastal Range in the distance.

Widely considered to be the greatest American architect of the 20th century, Wright expressed organic architecture by integrating buildings with the natural world, melding form with space to create spatial drama. Inspired by nature and technology and seeking an alternative to European models, he used materials and structural forms in often new and innovative ways that relate to the geographically diverse United States.

A group of 10 buildings—including the Marin County Civic Center—designed by Wright, have become the first works of modern architecture nominated by the United States to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

The Marin County Civic Center is also a state and National Historic Landmark (designated in 1991).

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Docent-led tours of the Civic Center take place on Wednesdays at 10:30am and on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30am between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

More info: marincenter.org.

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