

Civic Center Landscape Features

Significant Lighting

The most prevalent lighting fixture in the Civic Center Historic District are the Van Ness single pendant luminaires mounted on trolley poles. The trolley poles on which the light fixtures sit were engineered in anticipation of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915, during which 60,000 people were expected to ride the trolley per hour on busy days. Each of the 259 trolley poles that were constructed were affixed with lighting, making Van Ness Avenue the “best lit thoroughfare in the city.” In 1936, the Public Utilities Commission replaced the small electric lights with the single tear-drop luminaires that don the trolley poles today.

Other historic lighting in Civic Center include the ornate light poles specifically designed for the War Memorial Court and City Hall as well as the trident street lights with globe luminaires on a cast iron post that line the entirety of Market Street.



MIG, Inc.

Ornate iron lamp post with globe at War Memorial Court. Dates to 1932.



MIG, Inc.

Market St Path of Gold street light with globe luminaires on cast iron post. Dates to 1915.



MIG, Inc.

Van Ness single pendant luminaire on a trolley pole at Symphony Hall. Dates to 1915 and 1936.



MIG, Inc.

Ornate metal light pole on the southeast corner of City Hall. Dates to 1915.