

[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/ Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

The "Rainbow Bridge" overpass creates safe passage over the Metro Blue Line and commercial train tracks that separate a middle school in Watts from the nearby neighborhood. A Wayside Systems Facilities maintenance team repainted the community icon after Metro took ownership of the overpass earlier this year. The two-man team restored the bridge in three days and repaired all the fixtures that light the bridge at night. Photo by Jimmy Stroup.



## Wayside Systems Team Restores Watts "Rainbow Bridge"

By JIMMY STROUP

(Sept. 28, 2007) Metro's Wayside Systems Facilities restored a bit of history recently when a team repainted the so-called "Rainbow Bridge," a pedestrian overpass just south of the Blue Line 103rd Street station.

The agency acquired ownership of the overpass earlier this year after it had languished in disrepair since it was originally painted with the rainbow theme in 2003. Wayside Systems restored the 48 steps on the east side and the 47 steps on the west to their unique brilliance with only three days of work.

"We took full ownership recently and repainted it the way the community had wanted it, and did it in time for the Watts Towers events this weekend," said Randolph Gordy, manager of Wayside Systems

Facilities. "It cost us \$3,500 in labor and \$500 in paint. Not too expensive, really."

The Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival is Sept. 29 and the Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival is Sept. 30. ([PDF](#))

Gordy said Metro wanted to finish the overpass before the events began. Wayside Systems also touched up the 103rd Street station to make sure Metro was looking its best for all the extra visitors for the free festivals.

"It was sort of a labor of love. It's important to the community," Gordy said. "Every year we'll repaint and we'll have graffiti crews out there to touch it up regularly, if it should get tagged."

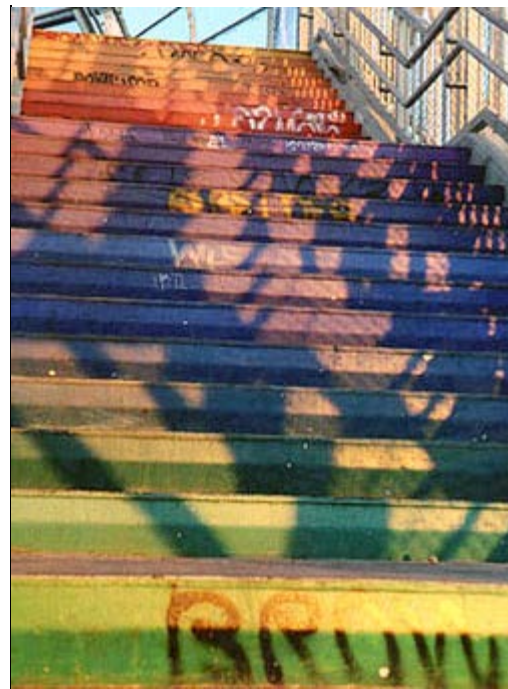
### **For the community**

The bridge was originally painted with the rainbow theme as a means of encouraging ownership among local residents. Known as a "Passage to Peace" project, community leaders hoped to inspire community involvement, as well as promote anti-gang, anti-graffiti and anti-drug messages.

Metro also replaced and repaired the light fixtures in the overpass. The free Watts Towers events should draw quite a crowd and Gordy said the agency wanted to be sure the bridge was as safe as it was neat to look at.

The Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles is also redoing the parking lot surrounding the west side of the overpass, which will lend a finished look to the whole area once it's completed in a few weeks.

The Watts Towers events are both from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and take place at the Simon Rodia Watts Towers, on 107th Street, south of the Blue Line



The "Rainbow Bridge" in Watts south of the Metro Blue Line's 103rd Street station had fallen into disrepair in 2003 when community leaders organized the funds and people to repaint the pedestrian overpass. (File photo) Below, students travel up and down, east and west, on the steps recently repainted by Wayside Systems Facilities. (Photo by Jimmy Stroup)



103rd Street station. The Day of the Drum and the Watts Towers Jazz festivals are both free. ([PDF](#))

---

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)