

# YMCA Neon Sign

**2000 Youth Way**

**1962**

**Midcentury Modern**

**Status: Local Landmark**



This exterior neon sign was designed by notable local architect Charles Wickett, who had also served as treasurer for the Fullerton YMCA. The red, white, and blue neon sign was produced and installed by the Nu-Art Neon Sign Company, established in Fullerton by Louis Reinhardt in 1946.

Supported by three steel tubes, the 15-foot-tall neon YMCA sign, positioned west of the building entrance, has been dramatically perched above North Harbor Boulevard, one block south of the St. Jude Medical Center, since 1962. One of the few remaining neon signs in Fullerton, it reflects the design work of two notable Fullerton residents – Charles Wickett and Louis Reinhardt – while becoming a familiar and recognizable symbol of the Fullerton YMCA, one of the city’s oldest organizations.

In designing the exterior sign, Wickett used the YMCA’s standard and recognizable logo popular from 1897 to 1967, which featured the boxed letters YMCA imposed over a red triangle. (The three sides of the triangle represent mind, body, and spirit.). The simple contemporary letters meet the identification needs of the organization, but equally important, the sign can be easily seen at a distance and in a short space of time by automobile drivers and passengers traveling on Harbor Boulevard.