

CITY OF LOS ANGELES RECEIVES SECOND CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

The City of Los Angeles has received a \$20,000 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant from the State of California to assist the Office of Historic Resources (OHR) in developing a tailored guide for community participation in SurveyLA, the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey.

The City achieved its long-awaited Certified Local Government (CLG) status during 2007, providing official confirmation that Los Angeles now has in place the elements of a comprehensive and effective historic preservation program. CLG status makes the City eligible to apply for annual grants funded through the federal Historic Preservation Fund, and awarded by the State Office of Historic Preservation.

The OHR has targeted its CLG grant applications to

the SurveyLA project, as this program will reach and benefit the entire city. With its first CLG grant last year, the OHR produced a multi-lingual SurveyLA informational brochure, translated the SurveyLA educational video, and put in place the first phase of a volunteer Speakers Bureau program.

While the Speakers Bureau is an excellent tool to communicate the importance of the city-wide survey, some communities are grappling with how to organize themselves to participate in the project. Since the OHR has limited staff, the new CLG grant will enable the office to work with a contract consultant to expand upon the existing outreach programs by developing "MYhistoricLA: A Guide to Neighborhood Participation in SurveyLA." This instructional guide will provide an organized structure for neighborhoods to collect information on potential historic resources and

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The MYhistoricLA Guide will help communities identify resources of social and cultural significance, such as Chinatown's Central Plaza Gates.

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OHR AND SURVEYLA WEB SITES WIN APA AWARD

The American Planning Association, Los Angeles Section has recognized the Office of Historic Resources and SurveyLA websites with its "Innovative Use of Technology" award. APA recognized the websites for their creative use of new technology to foster public engagement in historic preservation planning, and for their easy navigability and engaging design.

Last year, the OHR created the City's first historic preservation websites to highlight the new, comprehensive preservation program for the second largest city in the nation and to foster public participation in the City's preservation activities. One website,



Office of Historic Resources Homepage

www.preservation.lacity.org, demystifies the historic preservation programs of the OHR. The second, a linked website found at www.surveyla.org, spotlights SurveyLA.

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districts, and thereby contribute directly to SurveyLA.

The menu of options for neighborhood activities will range from large-scale, day-long events to smaller gatherings or quiet research. For example, members of the community can conduct walking tours to develop lists of potentially significant properties, while others can complement these field findings with research on the identified properties. Volunteers can also transcribe oral histories with long-time area residents, providing valuable primary source accounts that may not have been available to the public before. All of this information will be con-

solidated and preloaded into the SurveyLA field database to give surveyors as much information as possible when they step out into the field to conduct the surveys.

The multi-lingual guide, to be completed during 2009, will be available from the OHR in both CD and hard copy notebook format and promoted through the Speakers Bureau, SurveyLA website, OHR E-Newsletter and other venues. The OHR will distribute the guide to the City's 90 Certified Neighborhood Councils, local chambers of commerce, historical societies, neighborhood and homeowners associations, and museums and cultural institutions.

WEB SITES WIN APA AWARD (CONTINUED)

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Both sites were designed by the web development firm Urban Insight, with all content created by the OHR's staff and funding and technical support provided by the Getty Conservation Institute. The two websites have been averaging approximately 4,000 visits monthly by nearly 3,000 unique visitors from more than 60 countries.

The OHR site serves as a portal to all aspects of historic preservation planning, detailing the City's preservation programs and the benefits of preservation. It also contains easy-to-follow guides on topics such as how a historic landmark or district is recognized, "frequently asked questions" about the historic designation process and the City's historic districts, and links to key preservation resources. The OHR site contains a photo gallery with hundreds of images of Los Angeles landmarks and historic districts in every corner of the city, to convey excitement about historic preservation and the diversity of Los Angeles' cultural heritage.

The SurveyLA website is meant to explain the citywide survey process and will provide regular project updates as the survey progresses. The site is linked to the Planning Department's GIS-based parcel information database (ZIMAS) and will con-

tain a state-of-the-art database on historic properties as survey results become available. It features screenshots that guide users on how to access information in the City's GIS system to find historic designation information on any property in Los Angeles.

The SurveyLA site also includes an interactive component called "MYhistoricLA" that allows the public to participate in the actual survey activities. Sign onto "MYhistoricLA" today to identify and describe potential historic resources in your own neighborhood, for further consideration by the survey teams. We are particularly seeking out buildings and places that may be little-known or may be architecturally modest, but may have social or cultural significance. The information will be entered into the SurveyLA field database and will be available to the professional survey teams who will have handheld PCs in the field.



SurveyLA Website

2008 MILLS ACT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The OHR has received over 50 applications this year for Mills Act Historical Property Contracts, including 21 applications for properties designated as Historic-Cultural Monuments. The Mills Act program allows owners of qualifying historic properties to enter into a ten-year contract with the City of Los Angeles, agreeing to restore, maintain and protect their property in accordance with historic preservation standards in exchange for a potentially significant reduction in property taxes. Qualifying properties include locally-designated Historic-Cultural Monuments and Contributing Properties in Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs).

WORKING GROUP TO REFINE CITY'S CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE

The Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC), together with the OHR and City Council President Eric Garcetti, have convened a 15-person working group to make recommendations that will refine proposed amendments to the City's Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

The Cultural Heritage Ordinance provides the basic framework for the designation and review of City Historic-Cultural Monuments. The OHR and CHC put forward proposed amendments to the Ordinance earlier this year because Los Angeles' basic historic preservation law has been largely unchanged since its initial passage in 1962.

The goal is to create a comprehensive, state-of-the-art historic preservation ordinance that also provides clearer review procedures and enhanced due process for the development community and private property owners. The Cultural Heritage Commission held a series of public hearings in recent months to discuss the proposed changes. While the amendments drew widespread support, several issues were raised at the hearings that deserved further discussion before the ordinance is forwarded on to the City Council.

The working group includes representatives from historic preservation organizations, the development community, business groups, and other interested organizations, plus representatives from several City departments. The group is expected to meet four times during the summer and report back to the Cultural Heritage Commission with recommendations by September.



First meeting of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance working group in June

SURVEYLA VIDEO HONORED WITH CPF PRESERVATION DESIGN AWARD

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) has recognized *SurveyLA: Preserving Los Angeles* with a 2008 Preservation Design Award in the Interpretive Exhibits category. The half-hour educational video, a collaborative effort between the Office of Historic Resources and the City's Information Technology Agency, was created to communicate the importance of the citywide survey and to generate excitement about Los Angeles' rich and diverse historic resources. Emmy award winning Producer/Director, Robert Manciero, was selected to produce the video. The CPF annual awards program will be held in October aboard The Queen Mary in Long Beach.



Bill Watanabe of the Little Tokyo Service Center at the Far East Café

The program is divided into three segments that explain the survey by taking viewers to diverse historic places around the city, including Frank Lloyd Wright's Ennis House, the Dunbar Hotel on Central Avenue, the Far East Café in Little Tokyo, Weatherwolde Castle in Tujunga, Church of the Epiphany in Lincoln Heights, and the Modernist neighborhoods of Crestwood Hills in Brentwood and Balboa Highlands in Granada Hills. Interviews feature local leaders who discuss how the survey will help preserve the places that make Los Angeles special.

The SurveyLA video airs regularly on LA CityView (Channel 35) and can be viewed on their website at http://ita.lacity.org/lacityview35/surveyLA.htm?link=guide/links_neighborhoods.htm and the SurveyLA website at www.preservation.lacity.org/survey/videos. DVD copies of the video will also be available to community organizations in August and can be obtained by contacting Rita Moreno at (213) 978-1192.

SurveyLA Background

SurveyLA: The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project is the first-ever comprehensive inventory of our city's historic resources. The project will bring together all that is known—and much that is presently unknown—about Los Angeles' built heritage and make this information readily accessible on the web to shape decisions by policymakers, developers, planners, community organizations, and property owners.

The survey findings will have a multiplicity of benefits and uses: it will help direct future growth, shape the revision of Los Angeles' 35 Community Plans, streamline environmental review processes, provide opportunities for public education, assist in disaster planning, and spur heritage tourism and the marketing of historic neighborhoods and properties.

The J. Paul Getty Trust and the City of Los Angeles have entered into a grant agreement for SurveyLA under which the Getty has committed to providing up to \$2.5 million to the project, subject to certain matching requirements by the City. The survey is organized in two phases, to be completed over a five-year period. The first two years of the project comprise the "Initiation Phase" during which survey tools and methods will be developed and tested. Field surveys and evaluations will occur in the "Implementation Phase," years three through five of the project (2009 to 2011). The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) is also providing technical and advisory support for SurveyLA separate and apart from the grant funding. For more information visit the SurveyLA website, www.surveyla.org.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION PROPOSED FOR GRIFFITH PARK

The Cultural Heritage Commission is currently reviewing perhaps the largest Historic-Cultural Monument nomination ever – in both page count and land acreage – for the 4,218 acres of Griffith Park. The nomination was prepared by the consulting firm ICF Jones and Stokes and submitted by Griffith Van



The Griffith Observatory, a Historic-Cultural Monument in Griffith Park.
 (photo by ICF Jones & Stokes)

Griffith, the great-grandson of Col. Griffith J. Griffith, who donated more than 3,000 acres to the City of Los Angeles in 1896 for public park use.

Several features of Griffith Park already have Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) status: the Griffith Observa-

tory (HCM #168), Fern Dell Nature Area/Gabrieleno Indian Site (HCM #112), the Hollywood Sign (HCM #111), the Feliz Adobe (HCM #401), and the “Little Nugget” railcar (HCM #474).

The nomination identifies more than 30 additional

“historically sensitive resources” within the park, including the Greek Theatre (1930), Merry-Go-Round (1926, installed 1937), the Vermont Tennis Courts (1927), Municipal Plunge (1927), Wilson Harding Golf Clubhouse (1937), the Mt. Hollywood Tunnel (1927), and Travel Town Transportation Museum (1952-62). Among the “non-contributing” or non-historic features of the park identified in the nomination are the Los Angeles Zoo, Autry National Center, Marty Tregnan Golf Academy, and Roosevelt Municipal Golf Course.



The Municipal Plunge, built in 1927, is one of multiple “historically sensitive resources” identified in the Griffith Park HCM application
 (photo by ICF Jones & Stokes)

The nomination is tentatively scheduled for initial Commission consideration on August 21. To monitor the agendas of the Cultural Heritage Commission, sign up online to receive the Commission’s agenda at: <http://parc3.lacity.org/ens/index.cfm>. The CHC agenda is listed under the Planning Department.

OHR THANKS ITS INTERNS

The OHR is benefiting from the work of four outstanding interns this summer.

Gary Chan is the OHR’s Getty Multicultural Summer Intern, supported by a grant from the Getty Foundation. He is an Urban Studies major at Stanford University, and has a strong interest in urban design. He grew up in Glassell Park and was class valedictorian of Eagle Rock High School.



Gary Chan, Kristina Nugent, and Andrew Goodrich

Andrew Goodrich is an Urban Studies and Planning major at the University of California, San Diego, and a native of Palm-dale, who has a strong interest in preservation, urban and regional planning, and Los Angeles history.

Kristina Nugent is a Master’s student in Historic Preservation at Columbia University. She has worked as an intern at the New York Landmarks Conservancy’s Sacred Sites program, and at the Smithsonian’s Office of Historic Preservation. She has a B.A. in Architectural History and Political Science from UC Berkeley.

Evan Garcia attended UCLA as an undergraduate and has a Master’s degree in History from UC Irvine, where he focused on Los Angeles history. He delivered his second-year research paper on juvenile curfew enforcement in Los Angeles to the Society for the History of Children and Youth’s 2005 conference. Evan was raised in Lakewood and Long Beach, and currently lives in Santa Monica with his wife and daughter.



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LOS ANGELES' NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

The Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council have designated 17 new Historic-Cultural Monuments between April and July 2008. Los Angeles' newest monuments include two houses designed by the prominent architect Paul R. Williams, and a row of over 200 palm trees that have become icons of the Los Angeles skyline.



Blackburn Residence, HCM # 913 (4791 Cromwell Avenue): This two-and-a-half story residence in the hills of Los Feliz was designed for esteemed inventor Bruce Blackburn and his wife Lula. Constructed in 1927, the house is a fine example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, featuring a smooth stucco exterior, red clay tile roof, and the extensive use of wrought iron and decorative molding. The house was designed by Paul R. Williams, one of the city's foremost architects and the first African-American member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).



Avalon Boulevard Mexican Fan Palm Trees, HCM # 914 (between Lomita and West I Street): Planted in 1931, the 218 Mexican Fan Palm Trees lining Avalon Boulevard have become an integral part of the Wilmington streetscape. Originally planted in an effort to beautify the city for the 1932 Olympic Games, the trees were also part of a larger project intended to better connect downtown with the Catalina cruise ship terminal. Today the trees stand over 80 feet tall, and illustrate the "signature skyline trees" commonly associated with Los Angeles.



Victor Rossetti Residence, HCM # 915 (2188 North Ponet Drive): Constructed in 1928 for prominent banker Victor Rossetti, this two-and-a-half story residence in the Los Feliz area is an excellent example of Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture. The residence is one of several area homes designed by the influential Paul R. Williams. The house's most notable features include a red clay tile roof, smooth stucco exterior, and arched entryway.



Petitfils Residence, HCM # 916 (4519 West Cockerham Drive): This single-story Los Feliz area home was constructed in 1926 for oil tycoon Edward Petitfils and his wife Julia. It was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style by Wallace Neff, one of the city's foremost twentieth-century architects. Most notably, the house displays several of the signature design elements used by Neff, including arched doorways, detailed tile work, and wood paneling.



Roland E. Hill House, HCM # 917 (3266 North Bennett Drive): This two-story house overlooking the Cahuenga Pass was designed by renowned architect Roland E. Hill. Completed in 1926, it was one of several area homes constructed in the French Eclectic storybook style. Arched entryways, circular staircases, and a gabled rooftop give the house a whimsical feel, and project a fairy tale image. In addition to private homes, Hill also designed several attractions for Disneyland, including the park's iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle.



Lydecker Hilltop House, HCM # 918 (3820 Buena Park Drive): Designed in 1939 by film special effects master Howard Lydecker, this one-story Studio City house is characteristic of Streamline Moderne architecture. Among the house's most notable features are its prominent curved living room, curved corners, and rounded walls, all of which give the structure an aerodynamic feel. Its design serves as an example of how the movie industry influenced architecture, as the house's interior is often likened to a movie set and showcases Lydecker's cinematic expertise.



UCLAN - Crest Theater, HCM # 919 (1262 South Westwood Boulevard): Originally constructed in 1940, this single-story movie theater near UCLA was financed by Frances Fonda, wife of actor Henry Fonda. It was substantially remodeled in 1987 under the direction of Disney set designer Joseph Musil, who transformed the simplistic Crest into an elaborate Art Deco Revival style theater, complete with chevrons and sunbursts, a stepped façade, and a hand-painted mural depicting Los Angeles' landmarks in 1939. In addition to his work on this theater, Musil was instrumental in the renovation of the El Capitan Theater.



Aoyama Tree, HCM # 920 (135 North Central Avenue): Planted in 1920, this 50-foot tall rubber tree is located on a pedestrian walkway in the heart of Little Tokyo. It was planted to celebrate the founding of the Koyasan Buddhist Temple, which was headed by the Reverend Shutai Aoyama and provided Japanese immigrants with a variety of religious and social services. Though the temple was demolished in the 1950's, the tree remained untouched, and stands as a tribute to the cultural and historical development of the city's Japanese-American community.

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LOS ANGELES' NEWEST HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS (CONTINUED)

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Yamashiro, HCM # 921 (1999 Sycamore Avenue): Developed between 1911 and 1914, this seven-acre property in the Hollywood Hills was designed to house the art collection of German cotton barons Eugene and Adolph Bernheimer. The property features an exotic villa, landscaped Japanese gardens, and an authentic pagoda, all of which were designed in the Japanese Revival style and helped fuel the historicist and exotic revivals that swept across Hollywood in the 1920s. The estate has operated as a restaurant since the 1960s and boasts one of the city's most spectacular views.



Edward A. "Tink" Adams House, HCM # 922 (2331 West Cove Avenue): This single-story residence in the Silver Lake area exhibits several character-defining features of the International style and traditional Japanese design. Completed in 1966, the house features a low-pitched gabled roof and a modernist-style garage, and is surrounded by an intricate Japanese garden. The residence was designed for graphic artist Edward "Tink" Adams, who founded the school that would evolve into the acclaimed Art Center College of Design.



Kennedy-Solow House, HCM # 923 (6606 Maryland Drive): This two-story residence in the Park La Brea area was designed for Louis Kennedy, and was later the home of accomplished film processor Sidney P. Solow. Completed in 1926, the house exhibits characteristics of both the Spanish Colonial and Monterey Revival styles. The house was constructed by noted developer H. Cedric Roberts, who also built the first all-electric model home and helped design several of the city's largest housing tracts in the post-World War II era.



Bigford Residence, HCM # 924 (1546 South 5th Avenue): Constructed in 1912, this two-story residence in Arlington Heights exhibits character-defining features of Craftsman architecture. Among the house's most significant features are its wide front porch, wood shingle siding and built-in cabinetry. Although the architect is unknown, the house illustrates the quality of craftsmanship that characterized residential architecture during the Arts and Crafts period.



Residence at 212 South Wilton Place, HCM # 925 (212 South Wilton Place): Constructed in 1908, this two-story residence in Hancock Park was designed in the Classical

Revival style. Paired columns, a dominant front porch, and a symmetric façade give the house a grand, imposing feel, and largely reflect Classical architecture. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing feature of the Wilton Historic District, one of the first residential enclaves built for the city's upper-middle class.



Kinney-Tabor House, HCM # 926 (1310 South Sixth Avenue): Constructed in 1906, this two-story Craftsman residence in Venice originally housed a social club before it was converted into the private home of the community's founder, Abbot Kinney. After Kinney's death, the house was inherited by long-time friend Irving Tabor who, as an African-American, was impelled by racial covenants to move the structure from the Venice Canals to the neighborhood of Oakwood. The house's interior features an original glazed tile fireplace emblazoned with the Kinney family seal.



Sturdevant Bungalow, HCM # 927 (721 Amoroso Place): Constructed in 1914, this single-family bungalow in Venice exhibits a variety of design elements of Craftsman style. Most notably, the house features a full-width front porch, a fireplace constructed of stone and cast-concrete logs, and original fixtures and wood molding throughout the interior. The house's simple design is characteristic of Venice's early residential architecture.



Chateau Alpine, HCM # 928 (918 – 928 ½ South Serrano Avenue): Located near Koreatown, this courtyard apartment complex was constructed in 1936 by the Surety Building and Finance Company. The complex exhibits a number of features consistent with the French Norman Revival style, including steeply pitched roofs, star-shaped chimneys, and decorative crown molding throughout the interior.



Oliver Flats, HCM # 929 (407 – 409 North Orange Drive): This two-story duplex in the Melrose area was designed by German-born carpenter and architect Paul Stockigt. Completed in 1927, the residence is characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. Among the house's notable features are an arched lancet entrance, gabled roof, and intricate woodwork throughout the interior. The level of detail throughout the house stands as a reminder of the quality of construction and the purity of design that characterized the work of European craftsmen.