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All compliant submissions may be accessed as follows:

- **“Initial Submissions”**: Compliant submissions received no later than by 4:00 p.m. Thursday of the week prior to the meeting, which are not integrated by reference or exhibit in the Staff Report.
- **“Secondary Submissions”**: Compliant submissions received after the Initial Submission deadline up to 24-hours prior to the Commission meeting are contained in this file and bookmarked by the case number.
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If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.

INITIAL SUBMISSIONS

The following submissions by the public are in compliance with the Commission Rules and Operating Procedures (ROPs), Rule 4.3a. Please note that “compliance” means that the submission complies with deadline, delivery method (hard copy and/or electronic) AND the number of copies. The Commission’s ROPs can be accessed at <http://planning.lacity.org>, by selecting “Commissions & Hearings” and selecting the specific Commission.

The following submissions are not integrated or addressed in the Staff Report but have been distributed to the Commission.

Material which does not comply with the submission rules is not distributed to the Commission.

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If you are using Chrome, the bookmarks are on the upper right-side of the screen. If you do not want to use the bookmarks, simply scroll through the file.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.

Patrick Pascal
3311 Lowry Road
Los Angeles, CA 90027

February 18, 2018

Mr. Steven Luftman
Los Angeles CA

Dear Mr. Luftman,

I write you today in strong support of your efforts to preserve the Wallace Beery House through Historic Monument application. As the author of, "Kesling Modern Structures" I have had the privilege to visit nearly all of his extant streamline homes and the Beery House at 947 N. Martel Ave in Los Angeles is perhaps his most creative and best-preserved examples of this famous designer/builder's acknowledged importance.

Not only does this design directly relate to the modern, rapid-paced aesthetic of Los Angeles in the 1930s. This home uniquely represents important aspects of both Hollywood history and Los Angeles' emergence as a world leader in the 20th-century modern architectural design movement.

This home was, along with another important and striking Kesling-designed structure at Harper and Waring streets, was built by Wallace Beery while he was the nation's number-one male, box-office draw. This period was also during one of Hollywood's greatest and most historic periods. Additionally, the world-renowned architectural photographer, Julius Shulman, is famous for being discovered and first employed by the architects Schindler and Nuetra, but before he was discovered by these important modernists, Shulman honed his skills photographing Kesling buildings—often using his, now famous, Kodak vest-pocket camera. It was Julius Shulman's explanation, advocacy and sharing of his Kesling-related work that compelled me to write the work on Mr. Kesling.

In their seminal guide, "Architecture in Los Angeles", noted architectural historians David Gebhard and Robert Winter repeatedly highlight the remaining examples of Kesling's work using words like "splendid, dramatic, courage(ous)".

Julius Shulman, David Gebhard and Robert Winter were not the only architectural and/or historical authorities to recognize Kesling's work. California State Librarian, Kevin Starr, wrote, "...a fusion of taste, style, attitude and affordability... William Kesling was committed to making... a modernist mode serves the daily purposes of middle-class life."

The two-time Case Study House participating architect and noted USC professor, Pierre Koenig was another admirer of Kesling's work, taking particular regard for his skill at delivering quality modern living at a reasonable value. It was through the efforts of Dr. Koenig's architectural office that floorplans of Kesling's homes were created.

To-date, over one-third of Kesling's moderne homes have vanished. What I have summarized here is just the briefest explanation of why preserving these remaining Kesling buildings is so vital to the character and history of Los Angeles. 947 N. Martel, could well be his best home—extant or otherwise. It should not also vanish.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Patrick Pascal

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Dear Commissioners,

Please designate First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument.

My name is Austin Ringelstein. For the last five years, I have worked in historical, archaeological and cultural resources jobs in Los Angeles. Recently, I completed a report on the African American Heritage of the Santa Monica Mountains for the National Park Service. In this statement I'm not speaking on behalf of the National Park Service but rather as a researcher and a concerned citizen who cares deeply about our shared heritage and the importance of preserving the historical sites representative of the ongoing struggle for civil rights in this nation. The First Baptist Church of Venice is one of these sites.

The African American history of Venice runs deep. For over a century and a half, African American people had to work very hard to fight for their own self-determination in this community. During the early 1900s, tens of thousands of African Americans—only one generation removed from slavery—migrated out of the South to escape oppressive Jim Crow laws that were designed to keep them in bondage. In a 2018 interview, I learned about how one recently deceased African American resident of Venice left the south because his brothers were lynched. To the people running from the lynching's, burnings, and violence of the south, the golden shores of California represented a beacon of hope for at least some semblance of freedom and opportunity.

Here in California, however, African Americans encountered other types of racism in the form of restrictive housing covenants and "de facto" segregation that restricted where they could work, live, and recreate. Racism came in many forms, some subtle, others not. To understand the tenor of racist attitudes in the Venice area, we can look at the persistent pressures that white supremacists and members of the Ku Klux Klan inflicted on the black community. For example, the Ku Klux Klan on more than one occasion burned crosses on the lawns of African American families living in Venice. In 1908, a mob of 300 men, women, and children chased a black man down a half mile stretch of the beach in Venice, threatening to lynch him. In 1920, a white sheriff and his brother assaulted and shot an African American man on the beach at the mouth of Topanga Canyon because he wanted to take his family out for a picnic.

These stories do not seem to be within the consciousness of a wider audience, but they are still very much embedded within the historical fabric of the communities who had to work so hard to overcome much of the oppression. The victim of the incident at Topanga Beach was the grandfather of an African American elder who still resides in Venice. Her father, who was also present to see his father get beat up and shot, was 7 years old at the time of the incident. Two years after this incident (1922), 800 members of the Klan held an initiation ceremony in Santa Monica Canyon for 300 new members. The event was so big that "automobiles were parked at the entrance of Santa Monica Canyon for more than a mile" (Riverside Daily Press March 30, 1922). On account of racist local policies, in the 1920s, African Americans were restricted to

swimming in municipal pools one day of the week, only on the day before they were to be cleaned.

Despite these major challenges with racism, many African Americans who moved to the Venice area maintained positive attitudes and found creative ways to build good futures for themselves and their families. The son of enslaved people, Alphonse Joseph Henry was a fisherman in Louisiana before he moved to Venice where he became the city's first black cement contractor. He laid cement on Rose and Main streets, which at that time, were mostly bare land with dirt. (Jataun Valentine interview by author June 25, 2018)

Some Venice residents, such as members of the Reese and Tabor families, were able to climb the social ladder through their hard work and ingenuity to become distinguished citizens of Venice. History also indicates that their aptitude to form strong bonds with white residents such as Abbot Kinney, seemed to have been central to forming the rich cultural identity that Venice is known for. Arthur Reese (1883-1963) moved to Venice from New Orleans in 1905. Recognizing his artistic talent, Abbot Kinney hired Reese as the Head Decorator and Maintenance Supervisor of Venice of America, so that Kinney could achieve his dream of building his grand amusement into "the Coney Island of the West." In 1910, after other pleasure piers were built in the area, Reese convinced Abbot Kinney to have a Mardi Gras in Venice to bring people back to the Venice Pier (Chideya 2005). Reese designed floats for Mardi Gras and other celebrations. A well-respected businessman, Arthur Reese gained membership to civic organizations normally controlled by Anglo Americans such as the Venice election board and the Venice Chamber of Commerce.

It is also well known that Irving Tabor, the son of enslaved people, established a close relationship with Abbott Kinney as his confidante, business partner, and chauffeur. When Kinney died he willed his house to Tabor, but racist housing covenants prevented him from residing at the Grand Canal location. In a resourceful move, Tabor sawed the home in half and used a team of mules to transport the home to its present location on 1310 6th Avenue in the traditionally African American Oakwood neighborhood of Venice. This action shows that even though African American people in Venice were limited by institutional racism, just having even some limited freedoms from oppressive Jim Crow laws allowed for the self-determination to carve out their own vibrant community life in Oakwood.

The First Baptist Church of Venice was one of the major centerpieces of this life and remains a major cultural marker of the African American community to this day. Irving Tabor's wife, Ethel Tabor was very involved with the First Baptist Church, as were many other important members of the black community. A newspaper article from 1939 (see at end of letter) announced how the First Baptist Church put on "An Evening of Music" by the George Garner Negro Chorus for **4,000** people in Venice. The article went on to describe how, "All in it was a beautifully arranged performance: beautifully executed and beautifully received; reflecting great credit to Arthur L. Reese, general chairman of arrangements and to George Garner, conductor, for "An evening of Music' which will not soon be forgotten." This is one of many examples of the church's significant impact on the community. Obviously, many people were profoundly touched by the cultural and spiritual guidance of the church.

The First Baptist Church of Venice is a sacred communal site, charged with history. The recent proposal to replace the historical Church with one white man's mansion is symbolic of how gentrification can pitch individual aggrandizement against sacred places of community importance. In this case, the threat of this form of gentrification is particularly racist.

Due largely to gentrification over the years, accentuated by the influx of the tech industry, many of the older black families have been priced out of their own community. Jataun Valentine, whose grandpa built her house in 1927 on Vernon, explained to me recently how African Americans who left the Oakwood neighborhood before gentrification, after their parents died for example, are in a difficult situation. "Now with gentrification in Venice, it's terrible because the ones who want to come back, they can't. The average house is worth over a million dollars now but it's just driving out the people of color." The proportion of black residents in Venice, CA currently stands at around 5%, almost cut in half from 9.6% in 1980. This is part of a larger trend in all of Los Angeles where the black population has declined by 100,000 since the 1980s. Still the exodus of the black community from Oakwood appears to be even more significant. The African American population in Oakwood sharply declined from 45% in 1970 to 22% in 1990 and 16% in 2000. It is unclear what this percentage is today but given the trend, probably under 10% ?

A police gang injunction adopted in 1999, but still in use today despite a more peaceful Oakwood social environment, seems to be compounding with the gentrification process. The gang injunction allegedly gives law enforcement extensive powers, which they use to discriminate against members of the black community. As a result, they have felt targeted, often for something as simple as socializing with a friend in the street. The "harassment fueled gentrification" has made the Oakwood population of color often not feel welcome in their own traditional neighborhood (Carroll 2016) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/dec/01/venice-gentrification-oakwood-african-american-california>.

It is evident that, despite the progress made in civil rights in the United States, the struggles against discrimination that the Reeses, the Tabors and the rest of the African American community have faced in the past, racism continues in new ways today. Institutional racism cloaked in the veil of economic growth is still racism. The replacement of the church with a mansion would be the cherry on the top of a white supremacist Sundae. As Rory Carroll of the Guardian put it, "African Americans helped to build Venice a century ago, gifting Los Angeles a coastal resort, but were banned from owning homes along the boardwalk and canals, which were reserved for white folk" (2016). Now they are being pushed out of the same community that they were forced to settle in one hundred years ago (Oakwood).

Let us all for once, break these cycles of racism. Let's honor the solidarity built between Venice innovators such as Abbott Kinney, Arthur Reese, Irving Tabor, and the strong women who were alongside them but don't as much get mentioned. Let's honor the spirit and struggles of the black community in Venice by preserving their spiritual home in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Austin Ringelstein

Negro Citizens Of Venice Do Themselves Proud

By O. O. OVERR

The First Baptist Church of Venice, California, gave to the populace of the Beach cities, "An Evening of Music," featuring the George Garner Negro Chorus—an unusual departure from the beaten track in the field of "Resort" entertainment—at Ocean Park's Municipal Auditorium, Thursday evening August 2nd.

The more than four thousand, delighted attendants listeners, speaks volumes for, both the business acumen displayed by the Rev. G. Albert Miller and his energetic committee, and the ever-increasing popularity, of the noted Negro Conductor and his Chorus of two hundred and fifty-eight trained voices.

A beautifully designed, souvenir program of fourteen pages, announced the affair was being given for the benefit of the First Baptist church of Venice, of which the Rev. Miller is pastor, interim; and it may be said without fear of successful contradiction, there had been no saint of endeavor on his part and that of his loyal sponsors to make the evening a glowing success from every angle.

A series of readings, by Mrs. Ollie Ann Robinson, who showed distinctive merit as a dramatic reader, another departure from the ordinary was highly creditable. Her audience seemed much pleased with her rendition.

Perhaps the most gripping of all the programmed numbers, were the solo series: "Ave Maria," (Gounod); "Trees," (Rousbach) and "Song of the Soul," (Greehl); by Madam Carrie Daniels, soprano.

Mrs. Daniels, a full-throated, voluminous vocalist whose upper range is so full, so flawless, registers with an ease that belie human ability. To the writer, it would seem well to say, to those who have had the good fortune to hear Tetrazini, and have been so unfortunate as not to have heard Madam Daniels, let it suffice to say: you have missed a valued opportunity to study the two voices from the same angle then reach your own conclusions as to comparison.

She carried her audience in the palm of her hand, as it were, from the prelude of her first number; cradled it into thralldom, then gently set it into release by the

to make the evening a glowing success from every angle.

The committee constituting the usher board, had, doubtless been trained for the occasion, and did yeoman service in handling the masses that literally jammed every bit of available space. This fact was apparent, by and thru the ease and grace with which all were made comfortable. Conspicuous, they were, in evening attire, which, apparently to them, was the working garb of a craft in which they had been thoroughly schooled.

At eight-thirty, the programme was opened with Dr. W. R. Carter as Master of Ceremonies. After invocation was asked, and several impromptu speeches, by the Hon. Mayor of Ocean Park, a City Councilman and Mr. Aurthur L. Reese, general chairman; Mr. Garner took up his baton and swept through—amid thunderous applause—a selection of musical art—gems from such eminent composers as: Cowen, Gounod, Raubach, Greehl; interspersed by a number of Negro Spirituals, of which, "Swing along Chillum", by Marion Cook, seemed to have won the large audience's warmest approval.

the pride of her first husband, cradled it into thralldom, then gently set it into repose by the diminishing cadence of her final note. For a moment the spell lingered—then the audience went mad in applause.

Mrs. Netta Pauly-Garner, the accomplished wife of the conductor, rendered most excellent support. To the chorus, as accompanist; to the program in general, by her marvelous piano renditions in solo-work. She proved to be an artiste in her own right, and was given a tremendous ovation by physical applause, and also in the language of flowers.

All in all it was a beautifully arranged performance; beautifully executed and beautifully received; reflecting great credit to Arthur L. Reese, general chairman of arrangements, and to George Garner, conductor, for "An evening of Music" which will not soon be forgotten.

It requires several large buses of the sight seeing, type, to convey the two hundred seventy-odd members of the organization from their home city, Pasadena, Calif., where conductor, George Garner, international tenor, makes his permanent home.



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Addendum to: HCM Application Form_First Baptist Church_08.28.2018

margaret molloy <mmmolloy@earthlink.net>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 1:38 PM

To: Melissa Jones <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Cc: Ken Bernstein <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "Giessinger, Lambert" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>, Laddie Williams <cwilli7269@gmail.com>, Naomi Nightingale <nightingalenaomi@yahoo.com>, Amanda Seward <amandaseward@artvista.net>, Ivy <iwybeach@protonmail.com>, Adolfo Alzuphar <aalzuphar@scopela.org>, Jon Wolff <jonwolffusa@aol.com>

Hello Ms. Jones,

We asked for these 31, 655 petition signatures significant in support of the historic designation for First Baptist Church application to be included in your staff report.

Can you please also confirm that this will be the case?

This petition has now reached 31, 903.

Appreciatively,

margaret molloy

Grant Historical Status to the First Baptist Church of Venice!

32K supporters

Petition details



Grant Historical Status to the First Baptist Church of Venice!



Mike Bravo started this petition to Mayor of City of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti and 8 others

31,903 have signed. Let's get to 35,000!



Ron Cooper signed 2 hours ago



Brian Miller signed 3 hours ago

Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 3,097 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?



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9/25/2018

City of Los Angeles Mail - Addendum to: HCM Application Form_First Baptist Church_08.28.2018

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Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

bahar mariahamm badi'e <marry1god@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 5:06 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambertgeissinger@lacity.net, savevenice.me@gmail.com, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, lambert.geissinger@lacity.org

Dear Commissioners,

In face of class/economic/race/gender/age, etc. etc. short-sighted, childish, wasteful and irresponsible WARS with no real winners, it's imperative that you would designate the First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument.

The history of the African-American community on the westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and especially the cultural role of the African American in social integration and community spirit of Venice is inherent to the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice. Such places of interaction are worthy of preserving and expansion in its spiritual repute for benefit of all people inclusively.

We cannot call ourselves a "civil society" if we are always willing to belittle the ones who are lesser privileged, oppress and repress them, seemingly insignificant to the rest who are privileged and powerful, lest we be lost souls with plenty of comforts and advancements in luxury, but poor in morals, righteousness and justice, that which true everlasting culture is born of, wouldn't you agree??

History is about the past. It is the stories that make meaning out of events, people and movements and the documentation of those living elements interacting through print and through narrative. It is the ethnographical means and impressions of the past and the present we hold dear for the benefit of the future if we are to have learned our hard earned lessons, lest we forget and repeat our mistakes again, in for setbacks God-forbid.

History cannot be eradicated because wealth privilege, bigotry, political bias, obfuscation or devaluing of people are promoted by futile petty self-serving power bases. Rather, stories are the voices of the past and the present and they keep alive all that's important to one's cultural, social, and religious, spiritual survival. There is a fragility of the universal human spirit that will always depend on this rooted connection, even for the privileged as their lives are often cut-off and self-indulged, there is no lasting fulfillment in that. This is indisputably true for First Baptist Church of Venice as there are 108 years of history associated with this place of worship that many people hold valuable and honorable.

I hope you can recognize and consider to the well being of the diverse community and people as a whole, from the weakest to the strongest, as it was favored, materialized and engraved to this city, world renowned by Abbot Kinney himself, the finding father of our beloved unique artful, creative and vibrantly open-hearted, rare multi-cultural neighborhood of Venice Beach. As contrary to the misleading status quo of today's horrendous flatulent politics, let us make more great history by a move to true way forward? Let's get a grip on what "makes a nation great", not according to Donald Trump, empowering the rich to the detriment of the poor. Let's hold real value to meanings and contrarily let's empower Life as a whole and hear to activate the echo of what the *real* great leader of our time, Mahatma Gandhi had said by example: "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats it's weakest members." and "Our greatest ability as humans is not to change the world but to change ourselves"

May the Truth and the Light bless us to take action for true progress,

Sincerely,

Bahar Badizadegan

Marry1God@gmail.com



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church Of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCH-And-ENV-2018-5306-CE,685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

barbara eisenberg <barbeebarbvenice@yahoo.com>

Sun, Sep 23, 2018 at 8:23 AM

Reply-To: barbara eisenberg <barbeebarbvenice@yahoo.com>

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: melissa.jones@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, savevenice.me@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Cultural Heritage Commission,

It is an important issue as to the preserving of the history of those who helped Abott Kinney build the Venice of America. The actual digging of the canals and the personal history of these persons are ingrained in the fabric of their descendants who still inhabit the area.

Most of the history has already been lost to redevelopment and over development in Venice. It is still quite possible to save even a small part of the Black history in Venice by preserving the Venice First Baptist Church, at Seventh and Westminster, in Venice.

This structure has been central to the residents of Oakwood for over a century and represents more than just 'sentimental value' as crassly put by the Venice Neighborhood Council.

The Church is a physical reminder of the difficult lives of the original families who came to Venice to work and live.

The illegal, and behind closed door, sale of the property is outrageous and must be rescinded and the church preserved.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Eisenberg
(47 year resident of Venice)



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Supporting Historical Cultural Monument designation for Venice's First Baptist Church, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Tilly, Chris <tilly@luskin.ucla.edu>

Wed, Sep 26, 2018 at 9:18 PM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "lambert.giessinger@lacity.org" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org"

<melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "ken.bernstein@lacity.org" <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "savevenice.me@gmail.com"

<savevenice.me@gmail.com>

Dear Comissioners,

I am writing to strongly support Historical Cultural Monument designation for Venice's First Baptist Church. It is an important and unique landmark of LA history, Venice history, and African American history.

As a 9+ year resident of Venice, I have become increasingly aware of how important this church is to the African American community of Oakwood and Venice, many of whom have direct family ties to the founders and early worshippers at the church.

As a Professor of Urban Planning and someone who has been active in my community (here and earlier in Boston and San Francisco) for over 40 years, I am painfully aware of how often the history of black communities and other communities of color is brushed aside as "not important enough" and replaced, even erased, in the name of progress.

This is an important chance to do the right thing and to help right a historical wrong. Please find in favor of the designation.

Best,

Dr. Chris Tilly

--

Chris Tilly

Professor of Urban Planning

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

[337 Charles E. Young Dr. East](#)

[Los Angeles, CA 90095-1656](#)

[Department](#) phone 310-206-7150

Email tilly@ucla.edu

9/27/2018

City of Los Angeles Mail - Supporting Historical Cultural Monument designation for Venice's First Baptist Church, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and E...

Web <http://luskin.ucla.edu/person/chris-tilly/>



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Elaine Brandt <elainebrandt19@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 4:44 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambert.geissinger@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, savevenice.me@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please designate First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument.

The history of the African-American community on the westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and the role of the African American in developing Venice is inextricably the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

History is about the past. It is the stories that make meaning out of events and people and movements and the documentation of those things through print and through narrative. It is the ethnographical means of imprinting the past and the present for the benefit of the future. History cannot be eradicated because wealth privilege, bigotry, political bias, obfuscation or devaluing of people are promoted by self-serving power bases. Rather, stories are the voices of the past and the present and they keep alive the history that is important to one's cultural, social, and religious survival. This is indisputably true for First Baptist Church of Venice; there are 108 years of history within, around and throughout this place of worship.

Above all what must be recognized as the undeniable significance of the First Baptist Church of Venice and the rich cultural legacy of the early African American enclave of Venice is that our history matters.

Sincerely,

Elaine Brandt

elainebrandt19@gmail.com

310-450-2330



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Karen Brodtkin <kBrodtkin@anthro.ucla.edu>

Mon, Sep 17, 2018 at 9:22 AM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>, "ken.bernstein@lacity.org" <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "savevenice.me@gmail.com" <savevenice.me@gmail.com>

Cc: "lambert.giessinger@lacity.org" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org" <melissa.jones@lacity.org>

Please designate First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument.

The history of the African-American community on the westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and the role of the African American in developing Venice is inextricably the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice.

History is about the past. It is the stories that make meaning out of events and people and movements and the documentation of those things through print and through narrative. It is the ethnographical means of imprinting the past and the present for the benefit of the future. History cannot be eradicated because wealth privilege, bigotry, political bias, obfuscation or devaluing of people are promoted by self-serving power bases. Rather, stories are the voices of the past and the present and they keep alive the history that is important to one's cultural, social, and religious survival. This is indisputably true for First Baptist Church of Venice; there are 108 years of history within, around and throughout this place of worship.

Above all what must be recognized as the undeniable significance of the First Baptist Church of Venice and the rich cultural legacy of the early African American enclave of Venice is that our history matters.

Sincerely,

Karen Brodtkin
803 Amoroso Pl
Venice 90291



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminister Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Noerdlinger Victor <victordoesvideo@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 6:50 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: jones@lacity.org, Save Venice <savevenice.me@gmail.com>, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org

Please designate Venice First Baptist Church as a Historical Cultural Monument.

The lack of acknowledgement of Black People's historical contribution to the development of the west side of Los Angeles is nearly non-existent. It does not show up in the local history books somehow, and it's story can be heard and told every Sunday outside of the sacred First Baptist Church of Venice. The Church is a flagship, a light tower, a monument of truth, a reflection of the history of the surrounding Venice Beach that it is situated in. Due to the gentrification of the area it is ever more important to preserve distinguished properties of authentic character and history such as this church.

If the physical evidence of the black communities contribution to the area of and surrounding Venice, then we are at risk of false history being perpetuated further.

Thank You for your time,
Sincerly
Victor Noerdlinger

3712 Beethoven St.
Los Angeles CA, 90066

--

Victor Noerdlinger
530-448-3369



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and 2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminister Avenue, Venice 90291

semayfield@aol.com <semayfield@aol.com>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 8:41 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, savevenice.me@gmail.com

I would like to express my support to the Office of Historical Resources Cultural Heritage Commission for granting historical status to the First Baptist Church of Venice. A resident of Venice since 1974, I fully appreciate the importance of preserving signifiers of the history and character of this unique community such as the Baptist Church. In rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods like Venice, it is essential for beloved and iconic places to continue on as a vital link to the past and a legacy for future generations.

Thank you.

Suellen Mayfield



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice

Marie Kennedy <mariekenned@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 25, 2018 at 10:32 AM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, savevenice.me@gmail.com

September 25, 2018

Marie Kennedy
673 Mildred Ave.
Venice, CA 90291

Cultural Heritage Commission
Office of Historical Resources

Re: First Baptist Church of Venice
CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE

Dear Commissioners:

Please designate the First Baptist Church of Venice as an Historic Cultural Monument.

The history of the African American community and the role of African Americans in developing Venice is inextricably tied to the First Baptist Church of Venice. The church dates back to a sad era in Los Angeles history—a time when racial covenants were numerous. In Venice, Oakwood, where the church is located, was the only area where African Americans could live, even though it was African Americans who built Venice. This church was an important center for this segregated community. It is critical that it be maintained for community use in Oakwood and not be allowed to become the property of yet another wealthy developer.

Sincerely yours,



Marie Kennedy
mariekenned@gmail.com
310-439-1655



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminister Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Becky Dennison <bdennison@vchcorp.org>

Mon, Sep 24, 2018 at 5:52 PM

To: "chc@lacity.org" <chc@lacity.org>

Cc: "lambert.giessinger@lacity.org" <lambert.giessinger@lacity.org>, "melissa.jones@lacity.org"

<melissa.jones@lacity.org>, "ken.bernstein@lacity.org" <ken.bernstein@lacity.org>, "savevenice.me@gmail.com"

<savevenice.me@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please designate First Baptist Church of Venice as a Historic Cultural Monument. The history of the African-American community on the westside of Los Angeles (including Venice and Santa Monica) and the role of the African American in developing Venice is inextricably the history of the First Baptist Church of Venice. Venice Community Housing is supportive of this designation for many reasons, but it aligns with our mission to preserve and protect the diversity of Venice - past and present.

History is about the past. It is the stories that make meaning out of events and people and movements and the documentation of those things through print and through narrative. It is the ethnographical means of imprinting the past and the present for the benefit of the future. History cannot be eradicated because wealth privilege, bigotry, political bias, obfuscation or devaluing of people are promoted by self-serving power bases. Rather, stories are the voices of the past and the present and they keep alive the history that is important to one's cultural, social, and religious survival. This is indisputably true for First Baptist Church of Venice; there are 108 years of history within, around and throughout this place of worship.

Above all what must be recognized as the undeniable significance of the First Baptist Church of Venice and the rich cultural legacy of the early African American enclave of Venice is that our history matters.

Becky Dennison

Executive Director

Venice Community Housing (VCH)

720 Rose Avenue

Venice, CA 90291-2710

(310) 399-4100, ext 101

FAX: (310) 399-1130



Venice Community Housing

Celebrating 30 years

Building affordable housing and communities since 1988



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

Letter of Support for First Baptist Church of Venice Historical Cultural Monument Status

Austin Ringelstein <austin.ringelstein@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 3:34 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org

To Whom it May Concern,

Please see the attached document.

Sincerely,

Austin Ringelstein



Some Thoughts for the Hearing 10-04-2018.docx

3006K



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church of Venice, CHC-2018-5305-HCM and ENV-2018-5306-CE, 685 Westminster Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

Maggie Kenedy <maggie.kenedy@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 27, 2018 at 1:42 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, melissa.jones@lacity.org, ken.bernstein@lacity.org, Save Venice <savevenice.me@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is my letter of support for the preservation of First Baptist Church of Venice, California.

I am a second generation Los Angeleno. I lived in Venice from 1978 - 2013. My grandfather and his brothers would go to dances in Venice in the 1920's. I believe in preserving history in our city. African American contributions and culture in Venice needs to be preserved and recognized.

**Thank you,
Maggie Kenedy**



venice church 092718 (3).rtf
41K



Planning CHC <chc@lacity.org>

First Baptist Church in Venice, 685 Westminister Avenue Venice, CA 90291

Ingrid Mueller <ingridinvenice@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 7:41 PM

To: chc@lacity.org

Cc: Ken Bernstein <Ken.Bernstein@lacity.org>, Melissa.Jones@lacity.org, lambert.giessinger@lacity.org, Save Venice <savevenice.me@gmail.com>

Re: CHS - 2018 - 5305 - HCM
ENV - 2018 - 5306 - CE

Much respected Commissioners,

The Monument designation of this historic beacon of hope for the Venice Oakwood Community of 3 to 5 generations of African-American neighbors will reconfirm 108 years of hard work building canals, the pier, designing and constructing homes and churches and their love for Venice.

As a 30-year resident at now Landmarked Lincoln Place Apartments in East Venice, quite frankly, I feel like a Babe in town compared to the descendants of the 1911 founders of FBCV, their oral histories, cultural bonds, collection of 100-year-old photos, 75th FBCV Anniversary Book, and their commitments to continued shared experiences.

Honoring. Respecting. History. Culture. Monument Designation.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely, indeed.
Ingrid Mueller
[1050 Doreen Place #3](#)
Venice, CA 90291
1.310.392.3791

SECONDARY SUBMISSIONS

The following submissions by the public are in compliance with the Commission Rules and Operating Procedures (ROPs), Rule 4.3b. Please note that “compliance” means that the submission complies with deadline, delivery method (hard copy and/or electronic) AND the number of copies. The Commission’s ROPs can be accessed at <http://planning.lacity.org>, by selecting “Commissions & Hearings” and selecting the specific Commission.

All materials in response to a Recommendation Report or additional comments which were received by the Commission Executive Assistant electronically no later than 24 hours prior to the Commission meeting AND which do not exceed ten (10) pages including exhibits are included in this file.

Material which does not comply with the submission rules is not distributed to the Commission.

ENABLE BOOKMARKS ONLINE:

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If you are using Chrome, the bookmarks are on the upper right-side of the screen. If you do not want to use the bookmarks, simply scroll through the file.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.

DAY OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS

The following submissions by the public are in compliance with the Commission Rules and Operating Procedures (ROPs), Rule 4.3c. Please note that “compliance” means that the submission complies with deadline, delivery method (hard copy and/or electronic) AND the number of copies. The Commission’s ROPs can be accessed at <http://planning.lacity.org>, by selecting “Commissions & Hearings” and selecting the specific Commission.

All submissions distributed to the Commission during the Commission Meeting are included in this file.

Material which does not comply with the submission rules is not distributed to the Commission.

ENABLE BOOKMARKS ONLINE:

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If you have any questions, please contact the Commission Office at (213) 978-1300.