



## COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS COMPLETION OF ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORIC CONTEXTS

On October 6th, the Office of Historic Resources (OHR) and the organization Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP) co-hosted a community symposium to highlight the completion of SurveyLA's Asian Americans in Los Angeles Historic Contexts. The contexts, published online by the OHR earlier this year, are part of a National Register Multiple Property Submission (MPS) titled "Asian Americans in Los Angeles, 1850-1980" funded by an Underrepresented Communities Grant awarded to the City of Los Angeles by the National Park Service.

The Asian Americans in Los Angeles historic contexts were developed by the OHR and project consultants in partnership with Asian American community leaders. The MPS tells the layered stories of the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and Thai communities of Los Angeles as it guides the identification and designation of historic places that are significant in association with the Asian American communities of Los Angeles.



Wat Thai of Los Angeles Buddhist Temple in Sun Valley.

In celebration of October as Filipino American History Month, the community symposium was held at the historic Filipino Christian Church at 301 N. Union Avenue in Historic Filipinotown. The church, designated Los Angeles' Historic-Cultural Monument #651, was nominated for listing in the National Register Historic Places as part of the MPS project and is currently under consideration.

The symposium brought together scholars, preservationists, students, and the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community to learn about the MPS and how they can aid historic preservation efforts to increase the amount of significant sites recognized and designated under local, state, and federal programs as associated with Los Angeles' Asian American community.

The day opened with words of welcome from Councilmember David Ryu, the first Korean American to serve on the Los Angeles City Council and only the second Asian American to serve on the council. Sara Delgadillo Cruz of the OHR presented highlights

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## WHAT MAKES A HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT?: A SHORT PRIMER

The staff of the Office of Historic Resources are often asked: "How do you determine whether a building or site merits designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument?" This short primer on historic designation aims to demystify how a resource (building or site) is determined to be "monument-worthy," or eligible to be designated a Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM).

### Age Alone is Not Enough

Contrary to common belief, the age of a building or site does not deem it

significant or eligible for designation. Not all aged buildings are "historic"; it's possible for a building that is over 100 years old to not meet any of the criteria necessary for its designation as a historic building.

The converse is also not necessarily true as not every HCM is "old." The City of Los Angeles does not have a minimum age requirement that a building or site must meet in order to be eligible for designation. Cinerama Dome Theatre in Hollywood opened in 1963 and was designated HCM #659 in 1998, only 35

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## HPOZ SPOTLIGHT: VINEGAR HILL HPOZ

In this issue, we feature the Vinegar Hill HPOZ, an architecturally diverse neighborhood located in the San Pedro Community Plan area. The original Vinegar Hill HPOZ, bounded by 9th Street to the north, 11th Street to the south, Centre Street to the west, and Palos Verdes Street to the east, was adopted by City Council in 2001. In 2013, the Vinegar Hill HPOZ was expanded to include commercial and additional residential structures resulting in an HPOZ now roughly bounded by 8th Street to the north, 14th Street to the south, Pacific Avenue to the west, and Harbor Boulevard to the east.

Developed between 1886 and 1927 by harbor businessmen, Vinegar Hill features structures built in Queen Anne, Victorian, American Foursquare, Craftsman, and Period Revival architec-

tural styles. With its tree-lined streets and convenient access to both downtown San Pedro and the harbor, Vinegar Hill quickly became a popular residential community for immigrants, many of whom worked at the nearby port. According to legend, Vinegar Hill draws its name from the then-common practice of in-home wine-making that occurred in many of the first residences. Although the scent of vinegar is not present today, many of the original single-family residences remain intact, making Vinegar Hill the perfect destination for a fall walking tour.

The route presented in the map below provides a quick but rewarding tour to experience the essence of the City's southernmost HPOZ. Venture off on your own to explore the larger San Pedro neighborhood.

### VINEGAR HILL HPOZ MAP & WALKING TOUR







## MELISSA ALOFAITULI JOINS HPOZ TEAM

The OHR's Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) team has a new unit head, as of October 2018, with the addition of City Planner Melissa Alofaituli to supervise the HPOZ planners.

Melissa was previously the project manager for the update of the South Los Angeles Community Plan, one of the largest geographies in the city, with a population of over 270,000 people. The Plan has won widespread praise, including from the Editorial Board of the Los Angeles Times, and recently was recognized by the American Planning Association with its Los Angeles and California Chapter Award of Excellence for a Comprehensive Plan by a Large Jurisdiction.



Melissa Alofaituli, the new head of the OHR's HPOZ Unit.

munity Plan Implementation Ordinance (CPIO) included strong protections for the rich historic resources identified in the plan area. The CPIO also created additional protections for several "character residential" neighborhoods that have unique architectural or historic characteristics, but which were not designated as HPOZs.

Following the adoption of the South Los Angeles Plan last year, Melissa has been launching the update of additional Community Plans in West Los Angeles and Palms-Mar Vista.

Melissa has a B.A. from the University of Puget Sound and Master's in Planning from USC. She served the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic.

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of the five historic context statements, including notable sites identified through the project. Kari Fowler of Historic Resources Group, who prepared the National Register nomination for Filipino Christian Church, presented a summary of the church's history, including the important role it played in the growth of Los Angeles' Filipino community.



Former Assemblymember Warren Furutani, keynote speaker of the event.

The keynote speaker was Warren Furutani, longtime activist and leader in the AAPI community who has served as State Assemblymember, Board Member and President of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, and as a member of the Los Angeles Commu-



Small groups discussed the community contexts.

community leaders, each discussing the value of the historic context for their own community: Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal for the Filipino American context, Eugene Moy for the Chinese American context, Kristen Hayashi for the Japanese American context, Chancee Martorell for the Thai American context and Christina Park for the Korean American context.

Lastly, participants had group discussions by community to share ideas on how the contexts can shape future work, including nominations for historic designation at the local, state and national level; the identification, preservation, and interpretation of historically significant sites and figures; and the creation of community-based historic markers and landmarks.

To read the Historic Contexts, click on the links below:

[Chinese Americans in Los Angeles](#)  
[Japanese Americans in Los Angeles](#)  
[Korean Americans in Los Angeles](#)  
[Filipino Americans in Los Angeles](#)  
[Thai Americans in Los Angeles](#)

nity College Board of Trustees. He offered a moving testimony on the power of physical "touchstones" to history. Drawing upon his early role as a community activist and leading the first pilgrimage to Manzanar, Mr. Furutani expressed how meaningful it was to make the trek from Los Angeles to the Owens Valley in 1969 to the physical location that served as a Japanese American World War II concentration camp.

Michelle Magalong of APIAHiP led a panel discussion with five



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years after it opened. The Greek Orthodox Saint Sophia Cathedral opened in 1952 and was designated HCM #120 in 1973, 21 years after it opened. “Binoculars” by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen at the Chiat/Day Building in Venice was 9 years old and also the “youngest” landmark at the time it was



The “Binoculars” at the parking entrance to the Chiat/Day Building in Venice.

designated HCM #656 in 1998.

In general, to be eligible for HCM designation, it is necessary for enough time to pass since the completion of the resource to provide sufficient perspective to evaluate its significance within a historical context.

1. Is identified with important events of national, state, or local history, or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community;
2. Is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age.

Note that a Monument does not need to meet all three criteria to be eligible, it only needs to meet one. Some Monuments meet two or three of the criteria. However, a potential Monument could be significant for its role in only history, only for its association with an important person, or only for its architecture or design, in order to be considered worthy of designation.

Let’s take a closer look at each of the criteria for designation:

### What can be nominated?

The City’s [Cultural Heritage Ordinance](#) criteria for designation allows for the designation of “any site (including significant trees or other plant life located on the site), building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles.” Note that the ordinance allows for the designation of a wide array of resources. Buildings make up the majority of HCMs, including varied residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings. HCM designation may also be bestowed to “structures,” including bridges, stairways, traffic medians, and public art. Open spaces such as Griffith Park and Echo Park are HCMs and include historic structures, individual trees, and tree groupings. Other examples of HCMs include the grouping of Deodar Cedar trees in Granada Hills, the Mexican Fan Palms of Avalon Boulevard in Wilmington, Eagle Rock and its natural features in the community of Eagle Rock, and the Stoney Point Outcroppings of Chatsworth.

### Designation Criteria

The City’s criteria for designation are fairly straightforward: there are only three. In an amendment to the Cultural Heritage Ordinance that took effect in April 2018, these criteria were numbered for the first time and slightly reorganized so that their content and order also mirror similar criteria used for the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.

A Monument may be designated if it:

#### 1. Historic Events and Broad Historic Patterns

To meet the first criterion requires a finding that the place in question “is identified with important events of national, state, or local history or exemplifies significant contributions to the broad cultural, economic or social history of the nation, state, city or community.” Sometimes these historic associations are tied to a specific “event.” The site of Campo de Cahuenga, HCM #29, was recognized as the site of the signing of the treaty that ended the Mexican-American War in California, and led to California’s transfer from Mexican to American rule. The Black Cat, HCM #939, a Silver Lake bar, was designated for its role in a police raid on New Year’s Day, 1967, and subsequent protests at the site that constituted the first significant LGBT civil rights demonstrations, pre-dating New York’s Stonewall riots by more than two years.



Campo de Cahuenga, the site of the treaty that ended the Mexican-American War in California.

Other times, the historic associations are more with broad patterns or trends in history. The Venice West Café, HCM

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#979, was designated as a significant gathering place for the “Beat Generation” of the late 1950s and early 1960s, influencing the development of mid-20th century Bohemian counter-culture in the Venice community.

The language in the Ordinance also allows for the designation of places that reflect the broader “cultural history” of Los Angeles. For example, the Bob Baker Marionette Theater, HCM #958, was designated for its more than half-century-long association with the history of puppeteering in Los Angeles and with puppeteer Bob Baker, who entertained generations of Los Angeles families.

### 2. Historic Personages

To meet the second criterion requires a finding that the potential Monument “is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history.” Some “historic personages” are political figures, such as the boyhood home in Southeast Los Angeles of the Nobel Prize winning diplomat Ralph J. Bunche, HCM #159, or the nearby Gilbert W. Lindsay Home, HCM #726, which was the residence of a long-serving African American City Councilmember.



Bukowski Court in Hollywood, home to Charles Bukowski from 1963-1972.

convey its significance. Bukowski Court, HCM #912, is a multi-family complex in Hollywood that was the home of internationally recognized novelist and poet Charles Bukowski from 1963-1972. Although it was not Bukowski’s only residence in Los Angeles, these courtyard apartments were his residence during one of the most productive periods of his career and the complex itself figured heavily in his work.

The Charlotte and Robert Disney House in Los Feliz, HCM #1132, where Walt Disney first lived when he moved to Los Angeles is an instructive example. Although

Walt Disney lived at the home for less than a year, it was at this location that he created his first animation studio that would become the Disney empire.

In contrast, a Valley Village apartment where Norma Jean Dougherty (later Marilyn Monroe) lived for one year with her in-laws as a teenager during World War II, before she became famous, was declined for HCM designation because the association with her career was not as strong and because she lived in many other Los Angeles area residences during the peak of her career.

### 3. Architectural Style and Architects/Designers

The third criterion – “Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a style, type, period, or method of construction; or represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age” – is really in two parts. The first portion asks whether the nominated resource “embodies,” or is an excellent example of, a particular architectural style or a property type. A large number of Historic-Cultural Monuments are designated as important examples of their architectural style. The Stahl House (Case Study House #22), HCM #670, is designated as an iconic example of a Mid-Century Modern residence. La Casa de las Campanas, HCM #238, in Hancock Park is an outstanding example of Spanish Colonial Revival residential architecture.

Other HCMs are designated because they embody a property type, rather than an architectural style. The Edinburgh Bungalow Court (HCM #1105) was designated as a type. The bungalow court is a multi-family housing property type that is distinctively Southern Californian. Similarly, the Munch Box (HCM #750), a small 1950s hamburger stand in Chatsworth, was designated as an excellent example of a walk-up food stand.



Edinburgh Court, designated as a distinctive example of the Southern Californian bungalow court..

The second part of the third criterion, “represents a notable work of a master designer, builder, or architect whose individual genius influenced his or her age,” refers to the architect or designer who created the proposed Monument in question. This criterion asks, first, whether the architect, builder, designer (or

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## LOS ANGELES HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE ADDRESSES INTERSECTION OF PRESERVATION AND HOUSING

The Office of Historic Resources, in partnership with the Los Angeles Conservancy, hosted its bi-annual Los Angeles Historic Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

This year's conference featured a special focus on the intersection of historic preservation, affordable housing, and the challenge of increasing housing supply – a topical focus given the current crisis in housing affordability and homelessness throughout Los Angeles.

The opening keynote panel on housing and preservation was moderated by Saul Gonzalez, KCRW reporter and host of the multi-part series *There Goes the Neighborhood: Los Angeles*. State Assemblymember Laura Friedman, who began her activism as a volunteer for the Los Angeles Conservancy Modern Committee, cautioned against pitting historic preservation against those who are advocating for affordable housing: “We have to stop using historic preservation to block new housing – just stop it...We need to find opportunities to build new housing and to allow new infill development.”



The Horace B. Dibble House (HCM #157), featured in the Lincoln Heights HPOZ tour.



From left to right: California State Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Chancee Martorell (Thai Community Development Center), Andrew Gross (Thomas Safran & Associates), and moderator Saul Gonzalez (KCRW).

Chancee Martorell of the Thai Community Development Corporation noted that our historic build-

ings offer important opportunities to meet the affordable housing crisis, as her organization has done at the historic Halifax Apartments in Hollywood, a historic building that was rehabilitated for 46 units of affordable multi-family housing.

Andrew Gross of Thomas Safran and Associates, for-profit developers of affordable housing, pointed to their Norwood Learning Village project, 29 units of new affordable housing within the University Park Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ), designed to be compatible with the architectural typologies of its historic neighborhood.

An afternoon session at the conference focused on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), or “granny flats,” within HPOZs and historic settings. Recent changes in State law have streamlined the ADU approval process and generated an unprecedented wave of new ADU applications; however, these State requirements also prohibit local governments from imposing their usual “discretionary” design review requirements. The Office of Historic Resources is therefore reviewing ADU applications within HPOZs through a process that conforms with State law, as a staff-level review and approval, applying only the HPOZ design requirements that are considered “objective” or quantifiable.

The OHR's Janet Hansen led a panel called “Beyond SurveyLA: Using L.A.'s Historic Resource Inventory for Community Planning,” discussing how Los Angeles' first citywide historic resources survey can help guide long-range planning in each community, as the City updates all 35 of its Community Plans over the next six years.



The Lincoln Heights HPOZ tour ended at the Epiphany Church (pictured).

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sometimes engineer) was a “master” who had broad influence during their time. And secondly, it asks the Cultural Heritage Commission and City Council to determine, even if the individual was a “master” architect, builder, or designer, and whether the building or structure in question is “notable” within the context of the individual’s entire body of work.



The Laurelwood Apartments in Studio City were designed by master architect R.M. Schindler.

Numerous HCMs have been designated based on associations with master architects, including the Laurelwood Apartments in Studio City (HCM #228) by R.M. Schindler, the Freeman House (HCM #247) by Frank Lloyd Wright in the Hollywood

Hills, and Richard and Dion Neutra’s VDL Research House (HCM #640) in Silver Lake.

Other proposed Monuments have been declined either because the architect did not have widespread influence or because the proposed Monument was not as significant within the designer’s body of work. For example, a single-family residence in the Rampart Village neighborhood built by architect Winchton L. Risley did not qualify for designation since Risley appears to have worked on only a handful of projects over his career. The Goldman House in Encino, while designed by Richard Neutra, who is clearly recognized as a “master architect” was declined because the house had been significantly altered and no longer qualified as a “notable work” of Neutra.

The staff of the Office of Historic Resources evaluate nominations for Historic-Cultural Monument based on these criteria and prepare a professional staff recommendation for consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission and, if approved by the Commission, the City Council.

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lic as a Community Economic Development Advisor, training residents in skills that would economically benefit women and families in rural and underserved communities. She also worked for the Hollywood Community Studio and Los Angeles Community Studio, engaging communities around key urban planning issues in Los Angeles.

Naomi Guth, who has been the City Planner skillfully guiding the HPOZ team since 2016, will be joining the Westside Community Planning team in Melissa’s former position.

The OHR thanks Naomi for her leadership dedication to the HPOZ program, particularly during a period of rapid expansion for the City’s historic districts.

## LOS ANGELES HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS CONFERENCE ADDRESSES INTERSECTION OF PRESERVATION AND HOUSING

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Lincoln High School served as the setting for the conference.

The conference was held at Lincoln High School, designed by Albert C. Martin in the PWA Moderne Style. The school was one of five campuses that took part in the 1968 East Los Angeles Walkouts (Blowouts), a pioneering event in the Chicano civil rights movement. Earlier this year, the National Trust for

Historic Preservation included the five walkout schools, including Lincoln High, on America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

Lincoln High alumnus Moctezuma Esparza, now a prominent entertainment executive, entrepreneur and community activist, led a session on the 1968 blowouts and discussing Lincoln High’s role in this early activism. The Lincoln High Alumni Association also led a walking tour of the historic campus at the end of the day’s events.

The event concluded with additional walking tours of the Lincoln Heights HPOZ, “Lincoln Heights Discoveries” (including historic Lincoln Park), and the El Sereno Berkshire Craftsman District HPOZ.