

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first e-newsletter of the City of Los Angeles' Office of Historic Resources – a new, full-service office, part of the Department of City Planning, created to coordinate the City's historic preservation programs. We'll be sending these detailed newsletters periodically to keep you up-to-date on key developments in Los Angeles historic preservation.

In this first issue:

- Introducing...The Office of Historic Resources
- The launch of the citywide Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project
- The Cultural Heritage Commission Year in Review – 2006.

We wish you the very best for 2007, and hope you'll stop by our new Office of Historic Resources on the sixth floor of historic Los Angeles City Hall. We may be reached at:

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Office of Historic Resources staff, from left to right: Lambert Giessinger, Dganit Shtorch, Ken Bernstein, Heather Tarumoto, Edgar Garcia, and Janet Hansen

## THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Among the key goals we have set for the Office of Historic Resources are to:

- Create a comprehensive, balanced, state-of-the-art preservation program
- Complete a pioneering, five-year citywide historic resources survey
- Achieve Certified Local Government status during 2007
- Integrate historic preservation policies into the City's plans and planning processes
- Serve as an expert resource on

preservation for the Department of City Planning and for other City departments

- Provide overall policy coordination and training to assist the City's Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs)

Over the past few months, we've been fortunate to assemble an incredibly talented professional team. We're now very pleased to introduce to you the staff of the Office of Historic Resources:

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**THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES (CONTINUED)**

**Ken Bernstein** is Manager of the OHR. He previously served for eight years as Director of Preservation Issues for the Los Angeles Conservancy, where he oversaw the Conservancy's advocacy and public policy activities. He was Planning and Transportation Deputy to Los Angeles City Councilmember Laura Chick from 1993 to 1998, and worked for three years as Editor of The Planning Report, a monthly publication on urban planning, housing, and transportation issues in Southern California. He has a Master's Degree in Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University.

**Edgar Garcia** is the OHR's Preservation Planner, assisting in the work of the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Mills Act program and in policy development. He worked previously for two years as a graduate intern for Chattel Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and also served as a graduate intern for the Breed Street Shul Project, assisting in the rehabilitation of a significant historic synagogue in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. In 2005, he received a Fellowship from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) to survey and document over 500 historic buildings and structures in Russia. He has a B.A. in History from Yale University and an M.A. in Urban Planning from UCLA.

**Lambert Giessinger** is the lead Architect for the OHR, overseeing the Cultural Heritage Commission, Mills Act Historical Property Contracts, and permit clearance work. He is a licensed architect with nearly two decades of preservation experience, including 14 years as a principal partner of a Hollywood architectural firm. He joined the City in 2002, initially working for the Cultural Affairs Department when it oversaw the Cultural Heritage Commission and Mills Act, and moved to the Department of City Planning in 2004. An active civic leader in his hometown of Pasadena, he serves on the Pasadena City Hall Restoration Oversight Committee, the Pasadena Mayor's Advisory Group, and as a Board Member of Pasadena Heritage. He has a Bachelor and Master of Architecture degree from the University of Southern California.

**Janet Hansen** is Deputy Manager of the OHR and serves as the day-to-day manager of the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey Project. She previously served as Senior Cultural Resources Manager for the consulting firm LSA Associates, and has over 15 years of historic resources consulting experience. From 1999 to 2005, she served as Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Riverside, where she helped build one of the most highly regarded preservation programs in California, and developed a phased plan to complete a comprehensive citywide historic resources survey. She has a B.A. in History/Asian Studies from the University of Oregon, Eugene, and an M.A. in History/Historic Resources Management from UC Riverside.

**Dganit Shtorch** is the OHR's Associate Preservation Architect, assisting in the review of projects affecting City Historic-Cultural Monuments, Mills Act properties, and Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs). She has worked with several private architectural firms, including Killefer Flammang Architects, where she worked on the adaptive reuse of the historic Pacific Electric Building and on the Pegasus Apartments – two of the housing renovation projects that have spurred the revitalization of downtown Los Angeles – and the Broadway at Hollywood project. She has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Southern California, where she also received a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation.

**Heather Tarumoto** is the OHR's Management Assistant, providing support to the citywide survey project and to all OHR activities. She is returning to the Department of City Planning after serving in 2004 and 2005 as an Executive Administrative Assistant in the Department's Executive Office, supporting the work of two Deputy Directors. In 2005 and 2006, she worked at the Griffith Observatory, as Management Assistant for the Department of Recreation and Parks, managing concession contracts and other consultant services for the Observatory project. She has a Bachelor of Science and a Master's of Business Administration from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.



## LOS ANGELES LAUNCHES CITYWIDE HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

The City of Los Angeles is taking a significant step to identify and protect its rich built heritage by embarking on the first-ever citywide Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey. The project is now officially underway! The OHR and the Getty Conservation Institute have released a Request for Proposals (RFP) this month, with responses due by February 21, to identify firms to assist with the first phase of the project.

Only 15% of the city has previously been surveyed to identify potential historic resources, leaving important historic sites at risk, and leaving developers and property owners frequently surprised or exasperated by 11th-hour preservation efforts. The five-year survey project will provide valuable information to City officials, neighborhood associations, and preservation groups, and much greater, up-front certainty for developers and property owners.

The survey is partially funded by a generous \$2.5 million, five-year grant from the J. Paul Getty Trust. Additionally, the Getty Conservation Institute, which has played a crucial leadership role in preparing detailed studies outlining the purpose, benefits, and best practices of a citywide survey, is providing significant technical and advisory support to the project.

While the survey will be proceeding on a very aggressive schedule, we will also be counseling patience throughout the process. A comprehensive survey in a city the size of Los Angeles cannot be completed overnight. Los Angeles comprises 466 square miles and 880,000 separate legal parcels — an area larger than eight of the nation's largest cities combined.

Rather than proceeding neighborhood by neighborhood and looking at each property in a vacuum, the project will be organized around a more methodical, thematic approach that will streamline the survey process. The grant agreement with the Getty therefore envisions the first two years of the Survey Project as an "Initiation Phase" that will structure the field-work phase of the survey. Property-by-property survey evaluations will not occur until years three through five of the project (Fall 2008 to Fall 2011).

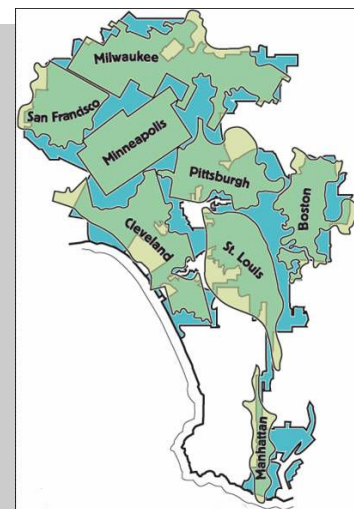
The two-year Initiation Phase will include the following activities:

**Preparation of a Citywide Context Statement** to guide and simplify the site-specific survey work that will follow. This comprehensive document will provide an organizing framework for the entire survey by identifying Los Angeles' key patterns of development, historic themes, property types, and architectural styles. State and Federal guidelines on historic resource surveys strongly recommend preparation of a context statement to structure large-scale survey projects.

**A Field Guide to Survey Evaluation:** The Office of Historic Resources will be overseeing preparation of a detailed manual to help ensure that large survey teams apply consistent, objective evaluation criteria and standards across the entire city

**Inter-departmental coordination:** Numerous City departments presently generate and utilize historic resource survey information, typically for a single purpose, without sharing this information with other agencies. The Office of Historic Resources is already working with other agencies pursuing survey work to ensure that these new survey initiatives become part of the overall citywide survey project.

**Information Management upgrades and web site enhancements** to provide more detailed and user-friendly information on the historic status of individual properties throughout the city. The Survey Project will capture all City of Los Angeles survey data in a single, centralized location — the city's ZIMAS Geographic Information System. The Department has already begun to incorporate existing historic resource data into ZIMAS to help ensure that sites of historic significance are not demolished without appropriate review. The Department of City Planning will be developing a powerful survey database to allow web users to query for detailed information on the City's historic resources.



The Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey represents an ambitious undertaking: a comprehensive inventory of a municipality that is larger than eight of the nation's largest cities combined.

## CITYWIDE HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY (CONTINUED)

**Innovative Technologies:** The project will utilize the preservation field's most cutting-edge information management technologies. Survey teams will conduct their field work using the latest technologies – hand-held computers linked to specific parcels via a satellite-driven Global Positioning System (GPS).

**Community Outreach and Participation Strategy:** The Office of Historic Resources will be developing a comprehensive outreach program to elicit meaningful community input on the Survey Project. In the project's Initiation Phase, community members will help shape survey strategies that will identify not only sites of architectural significance, but also sites of social and cultural significance to Los Angeles' diverse communities.

**Pilot Surveys:** The Initiation Phase of the

project will include the preparation of two or three Pilot Surveys, beginning in the Fall of 2007, to test the methodology of the survey work to follow.

We encourage you to review the Request for Proposals (RFP) released by the OHR and the GCI for the project's Historic Context Statement and Field Guide. To view the RFP, see [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org), and click on the RFP from the Department's home page.

The survey project marks a coming-of-age for historic preservation in Los Angeles. In the coming months, you will be hearing much more about the survey, and we look forward to collaborating with all segments of the Los Angeles community in building creative partnerships that will take full advantage of this exciting opportunity.

## 2006: CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION YEAR IN REVIEW

The Office of Historic Resources provides staff support to the City's Cultural Heritage Commission, which oversees the designation and protection of more than 850 Historic-Cultural Monuments (designated landmarks) citywide. The Commission meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1010 of City Hall.

The past year was a busy one for the Commission:

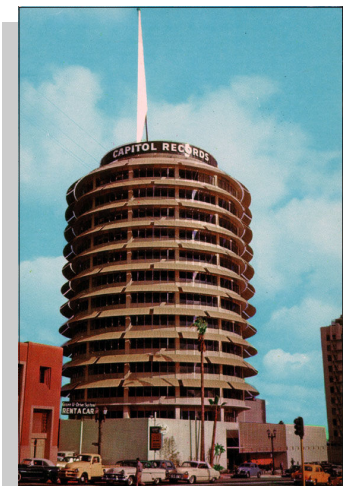
- The Commission and the City Council approved 28 new Historic-Cultural Monuments
- Among the notable sites designated as Historic-Cultural Monuments were the Capitol Records Building in Hollywood, Weatherwolde Castle in Tujunga, the Paul R. Williams-designed 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA in South Los Angeles, and the Los Feliz Brown Derby building.
- A record 51 new Mills Act Historical Property Contracts were approved in 2006, providing significant property tax relief to support rehabilitation of significant historic properties. This brings the

total number of Mills Act contracts to 316.

For the January 4, 2007 Cultural Heritage Commission meeting, the Office of Historic Resources staff put together a more detailed Year in Review of the Commission's activities, with photos of each of the designated Monuments. To review this PowerPoint presentation, go to [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org), and look under New Features.

In recent months, we've enhanced the staff reports to the Commission and have begun making these reports more publicly accessible, through PDF files hyper-linked to each agenda item on the web versions of the Commission agenda, available at [www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org), under "Meetings/Hearings/Workshops."

In a future e-newsletter, we'll be profiling the five members of the Commission: Mary Klaus-Martin, Richard Barron, Alma Carlisle, Carlos Singer, and Stanley Stalford.



Hollywood's iconic Capitol Records Building was one of 28 sites that were declared City Historic-Cultural Monuments during 2006.