



Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2001
FROM: CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT AND FY 2002 WORK PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council receive and approve the annual report and FY 2002 work program for the Cultural Heritage Commission.

BACKGROUND:

Section 2.80.090 of the Municipal Code requires the Cultural Heritage Commission submit an annual report of its activities no later than October 31 of each year. The Code also requires that report include attendance records for the members of the Commission.

The attached report documents major reviews conducted during the past year and identifies the subcommittees which work on behalf of the Commission. The attendance record and work program are included as attachments to the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Valentine
for:

Kennon Miedema
Chair, Cultural Heritage Commission

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2001

CITY OF PASADENA

The Cultural Heritage Commission is a nine-member body whose purpose is to administer the duties specified in Title 2, Chapter 75, of the Pasadena Municipal Code. The Commission also administers the duties specified in Title 17, Chapter 52, pertaining to design review in landmark districts. Each commissioner is an appointee of a member of City Council (with two members appointed by the Mayor). The Council as a whole approves individual appointments. Commissioners serve three-year terms and are limited to no more than two consecutive terms. Qualifications for serving on the Commission include: (a) residency in the City, and (b) knowledge of the City's historic, architectural and cultural heritage.

Representative of the Bungalow Heaven and Garfield Heights Landmark Districts participate as a full member of the Commission on matters specifically affecting those districts. The landmark district representatives are nominated by the local neighborhood association and approved by City Council; they have the same term limitations and qualifications as other Commission members. The landmark district representatives must also reside and own property within the subject district.

In addition to administering provisions of Chapters 2.75 and 17.52, the Cultural Heritage Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council on matters concerning historic preservation. This advisory function includes forwarding recommendations to the City Council on:

- 1) *the designation of qualified historic resources as landmarks, historic treasures and landmark districts;*
- 2) *legislation which recognizes, protects and promotes historic resources and districts; and*
- 3) *legislation that provides incentives for historic preservation.*

The Commission also is advisory to the Design Commission for proposals to alter certain City-owned properties and to the Planning Commission (or zoning hearing officer) for zoning or planning actions affecting buildings over fifty years old. It also forwards recommendations and comments on environmental impact reports to the Planning Commission and City Council.

The Pasadena City Council adopted Chapter 2.75, the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, in 1976 to promote "...the recognition, preservation, protection and use of cultural resources [that] are required in the interest of the health, prosperity, social and cultural enrichment, and general welfare of the people." Activities of the Cultural Heritage Commission support this mission statement.

The Cultural Heritage Commission meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Hearing Room of the George Ellery Hale Building (Permit Center). During fiscal year 2001, the

Commission held 19 regular meetings and 6 special meetings. The special meetings addressed the following subjects:

- The Draft Environmental Impact Reports for the Raymond theater re-use project (joint meeting with the Design Commission) and the East Pasadena Specific Plan.
- Landmark designations for the First Lutheran Church and the Volney Craig house;
- The Draft Civic Center/Mid-Town District Project Refined Concept Plan (joint meeting with the Design Commission);
- The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Ambassador College Campus (joint meeting with the Design Commission);
- Design Guidelines for Historic Districts (two workshops);
- Reviews of nominations of ten individual Arts and Crafts properties and two districts to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Reviews of three nominations (Hermitage, 2121 Monte Vista; Women's City Club, 150 N. Oakland Ave.; Merrill House, 1285 Summit Ave.) presented to the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to meetings of the Commission, the City's historic preservation program encompasses other activities that address the purposes stated in the code. These activities are in the areas of recognition and protection and promotion of the use of historic resources and public education.

RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

The City's program to recognize historic resources involves the following activities:

- 1) *identifying buildings, structures, objects and sites that are important representations of the City's history;*
- 2) *researching and documenting information to establish why a building, structure, object or site is important;*
- 3) *nominating and designating buildings, structures, objects, and sites as Pasadena historic treasures or landmarks; or for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; and*
- 4) *nominating residential neighborhoods for designation as landmark districts.*

Since the beginning of the historic preservation program in 1976, City staff, aided by volunteers and interns, has focused on identifying, documenting and designating the City's cultural resources. Out of this 25-year effort, the City has completed, as the centerpiece of its historic preservation program, 48 intensive-level surveys of historic buildings and sites. Some of the surveys completed earlier, as in the Central District, are outdated and have been or are now being revised. During fiscal year 2001, consultants and staff worked on the survey of the Fair Oaks-Orange Grove Specific Plan area. All surveys comply with the requirements of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation.

The City's survey program has led to designations, which, at the end of fiscal year 2001, include of 53 designated landmarks, four historic treasures, two landmark districts and several properties and districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Listing of an additional 10 National Register properties and two local landmark districts are in the pipeline.

In addition to surveys, the Commission also researches and evaluates the significance of properties for City-sponsored or permitted projects subject to state and federal environmental reviews. This work includes projects that require initial studies, environmental impact reports and federal Section 106 reviews.

Activities between July 1, 2000 and June 30, 2001, that recognize the city's cultural resources are:

Landmark/Historic Treasure/Landmark District Designations

Commission members attended neighborhood meetings and worked with neighborhood representatives in three residential areas of the city to present information on and give assistance to residents/owners in landmark district designations.

No new landmarks or historic treasures have been designated in this fiscal year.

Historic Building Survey Program

The Commission reviewed a preliminary historic resources survey of the North Fair Oaks/Orange Grove Specific Plan area; a final review of this survey is scheduled for November 2001.

The intensive-level historic resources surveys include significance evaluations for buildings eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for local landmark designation. The surveys also define areas that are potential historic districts. In their final form, the surveys also include neighborhood histories, which document settlement patterns, ethnic history, and building styles.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Program and the National Register of Historic Places

The CLG program offers federal funds, distributed through the State of California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO), to qualified preservation projects in local jurisdictions. In 2001, the City received a \$25,000 grant to complete a National Register of Historic Places thematic nomination of approximately 175 significant multi-family properties in the City constructed from approximately 1900 to the mid-1950s. Disbursement of these funds will occur in FY2002.

Since 1987, the City has been awarded a total of \$211,975 in CLG funds, one of largest amounts in California. The resources from this program have substantially broadened the reach of the City's cultural heritage program.

PROTECTION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

The Cultural Heritage Commission acts in accordance with the purpose statement in Section 2.75.110 of the municipal code. Its objectives are as follows:.

- 1) *safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving improvements which reflect elements of the city's cultural history;*
 - 2) *strengthen civic pride in the beauty and notable accomplishments of the past, to promote their continued use today and encourage excellence in the building of the future;*
 - 3) *protect and enhance the city's attractions to residents seeking a pleasant way of life, tourists and visitors, and thereby, to support and stimulate business and industry;*
 - 4) *enhance the visual and aesthetic character, diversity and interest of the city;*
 - 5) *promote the private and public use and preservation of historic districts and structures for the education, appreciation and general welfare of the people;*
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- 6) stabilize and improve property values;
- 7) strengthen the economy of the city; and
- 8) take whatever steps are reasonable and necessary to safeguard the property rights of the owners whose property is declared to be a landmark or is located in an area designated as a landmark district.

A primary responsibility of the Commission, closely linked to the City's procedures for land-use entitlements and the Permit Center, is reviewing applications for Certificates of Appropriateness. These applications are for demolitions of buildings over 50 years old, alterations to designated landmarks, and major alterations and/or new construction in landmark districts. The Commission also reviews: major alterations (in public view) to buildings that qualify for landmark designation, requests for inclusion in the City's historic sign inventory, and relief from the requirement prohibiting demolition of structures over 50 years old without building permits for replacement projects. Some of these responsibilities, mostly plan check reviews and alterations to buildings in the landmark district, are delegated to the staff.

Between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001, the Commission and staff reviewed the following:

Designated Historic Resources

Reviews of exterior alterations to landmarks -----	0
Applications to demolish landmarks -----	0
Reviews of the works of Greene and Greene -----	0
Reviews in Bungalow Heaven	
Commission reviews -----	1
Staff reviews -----	30*
Reviews in Garfield Heights	
Commission reviews -----	0
Staff reviews -----	12*
Relief from 2-car covered parking requirement -----	4

50-Year-Old Building Review

Exterior alterations to over 50-yr-old bldgs. (staff review/plan check) -----	500*
Alterations to landmark-eligible buildings (staff review) -----	30*
Alterations to landmark-eligible buildings (Commission review) -----	3
Applications to demolish buildings (Commission review)	
landmark-eligible buildings -----	2
structures of merit -----	8
buildings rated insignificant -----	21
Applications to renew expired approvals -----	1
Waivers from replacement building permit -----	6
Applications for relief from 3-year prohibition on building permit -----	1

* Indicates estimated number

This level of activity is approximately the same as the previous year, except that plan review and over-the-counter activities, have increased over the past year.

Ordinance Revisions

Under the FY 1999 Certified Local Government grant agreement, the City continued to develop drafts of a revised Cultural Heritage Ordinance for inter-departmental review. This project is linked to the larger program of updating the General Plan, revising the zoning code, and updating the City's design guidelines. Commission members have dedicated several meetings to discussions about proposals in the revised ordinance. A draft revised ordinance will be presented to the Planning Commission and the City Council in early 2002.

Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URM)

In October 1993, after the City Council adopted a new URM ordinance, City staff began reviewing plans for seismic reinforcement of all URM buildings in the City. This ordinance allows the Cultural Heritage Commission to deny the demolition of URM buildings, which meet special criteria for rating as a "qualified historic structure." The ordinance also has design guidelines for seismic bracing of historic and non-historic buildings. The Commission reviewed and approved demolition of one URM building.

Zone Change Reviews/Master Plans/Specific Plans

In FY 2000, the Commission reviewed and forwarded recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council on the East Pasadena Specific Plan and the North Fair Oaks/Orange Grove Specific Plan.

Environmental Reviews

The Commission reviewed and commented on environmental impact reports for the Paseo Colorado and the Raymond Theater projects.

Reviews of City Projects

City staff and consultants presented plans for the seismic retrofit and new addition to City Hall.

Appeals and Calls for Review

In FY 2001, none of the decisions of the Cultural Heritage Commission were appealed or called for review.

Advisory Role-Other Commissions/Committees/Task Forces

Traditionally, members of the Commission serve on several other commissions, committees and task forces. By code, one commissioner serves on the Design Commission. One member, at the request of the chair, also attends meetings of the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee. In addition, one commission member has been serving on the Civic Center Task Force. Collectively, the time spent by Commission members on these committees represents many hours of volunteer service to the community.

PROMOTING USE OF LANDMARKS/PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Chapter 2.75 specifies the powers and duties of the Commission to promote the use of cultural resources and provide public information about the City's cultural resources and historic preservation methods and issues. These duties are:

- 1) *To encourage public understanding of and involvement in the unique architectural and environmental heritage of the city through educational and interpretative programs;*
- 3) *To recommend and encourage the protection, enhancement, appreciation and use of structures of merit; and*
- 4) *To render advice and guidance on rehabilitation of cultural resources.*

FY2001-2002 Work Program for Cultural Heritage Commission

- Review and adopt historic preservation ordinance revisions;
 - Review and adopt design guidelines for historic districts;
 - Review and adopt Central District Survey;
 - Review and comment on a draft Mills Act program;
 - Review surveys and approve new landmark districts (Washington Square, Banbary Oaks);
 - Review and approve National Register nomination of multi-family properties (CLG Grant);
 - Advisory reviews of major City projects;
 - Training session on guidelines, specific plans, and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and urban design.
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Attendance for Cultural Heritage Commission

2001 Fiscal Year - Annual Report
 July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

2000

COMMISSIONERS	Sp. Joint			Special			Sp. Joint								
	7/3	7/17	8/7	8/21	9/5	9/18	10/2	10/10	10/16	11/2	11/6	11/20	12/4	12/11	12/18
Cole, Barbara	x	x	x	C	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	C	x	x
*Flores, Guadalupe				A									A		
Jones, Kelly Craig	x	x	x	N	x	x				x	x	x	N		
Lomas, Jerry		x		C	x	x	x						C		
Miedema, Kennon		x	x	E	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	E	x	x
Trader, Dale	x	x	x	L	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	L	x	x
Valentine, Jessica	x	x	x	L	x	x	x			x	x	x	L	x	x
Winter, Robert	x		x	E	x	x				x	x	x	E	x	x
				D									D		

2001

COMMISSIONERS	Sp. Joint			Sp. Mtg.										
	1/2	1/16	1/16	2/5	2/20	3/5	3/19	4/2	4/16	4/30	5/7	5/21	6/4	6/18
Cole, Barbara	C	x	x	x		x	C	x	C	x	x	C	x	x
*Flores, Guadalupe	A						A		A	x		A		
Jones, Kelly Craig	N	x	x	x			N	x	N	x		N	x	x
Lewis, Dan	C						C	x	C	x	x	C		
Lomas, Jerry	E			x			E	x	E	x		E		x
Miedema, Kennon	L	x	x	x	x	x	L	x	L	x	x	L	x	x
Shulman, Randy	L						L	x	L	x	x	L	x	x
Trader, Dale	E	x	x	x	x	x	E	x	E	x	x	E	x	x
Valentine, Jessica	D	x	x	x	x	x	D	x	D	x	x	D	x	x
Winter, Robert	-	x		x	x		-	x	-		x	-	x	x

*In attendance when Bungalow Heaven on Agenda.